

2 – 8 December 2019 DUCK MIGRATION FORECAST

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HEADLINES:

- 1) Our WSI predicts migration of mallards in the Mississippi Flyway this week with greater potential on Thursday or Friday night.
- 2) Some additional movement of mallards and black ducks out of Ontario and Quebec in the Atlantic Flyway is predicted with little migration past the Great Lakes region predicted.
- 3) Pintail and gadwall are predicted to primarily be at the latitude of Memphis and Washington, D.C. or farther south in the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways, respectively.
- 4) Migration of green-winged teal and shoveler towards southern locales is predicted by our WSI for the coming week, with greatest opportunity for new arrivals on Saturday and Sunday.

WEATHER OVERVIEW: Temperatures will remain seasonable for the early and mid-portions of the week in the northern portions of the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways. Areas just slightly south (e.g., Iowa) will remain well above freezing for the majority of the week. In the Atlantic Flyway, temperatures will increase substantially Sunday and into Monday morning. Substantial warming could lead to localized flooding, especially in the Great Lakes region of the Atlantic Flyway where snowfall occurs early in the week. This week we produce our [COMPARED TO LAST YEAR page for early DECEMBER](#). In comparison to 2018, the WSI is relatively similar for all species, however, large-scale flooding is less common this year and many areas are likely experiencing fly-overs of ducks, as well as limited availability of options for ducks on migration and wintering areas. These conditions can lead to earlier migration to southern latitudes and increased hunting success. **Figure 1** below shows that the majority of rivers are currently not at flood stage (i.e., green colored circles). This contrast strongly with last year when we were at the beginning of major flooding in the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways.

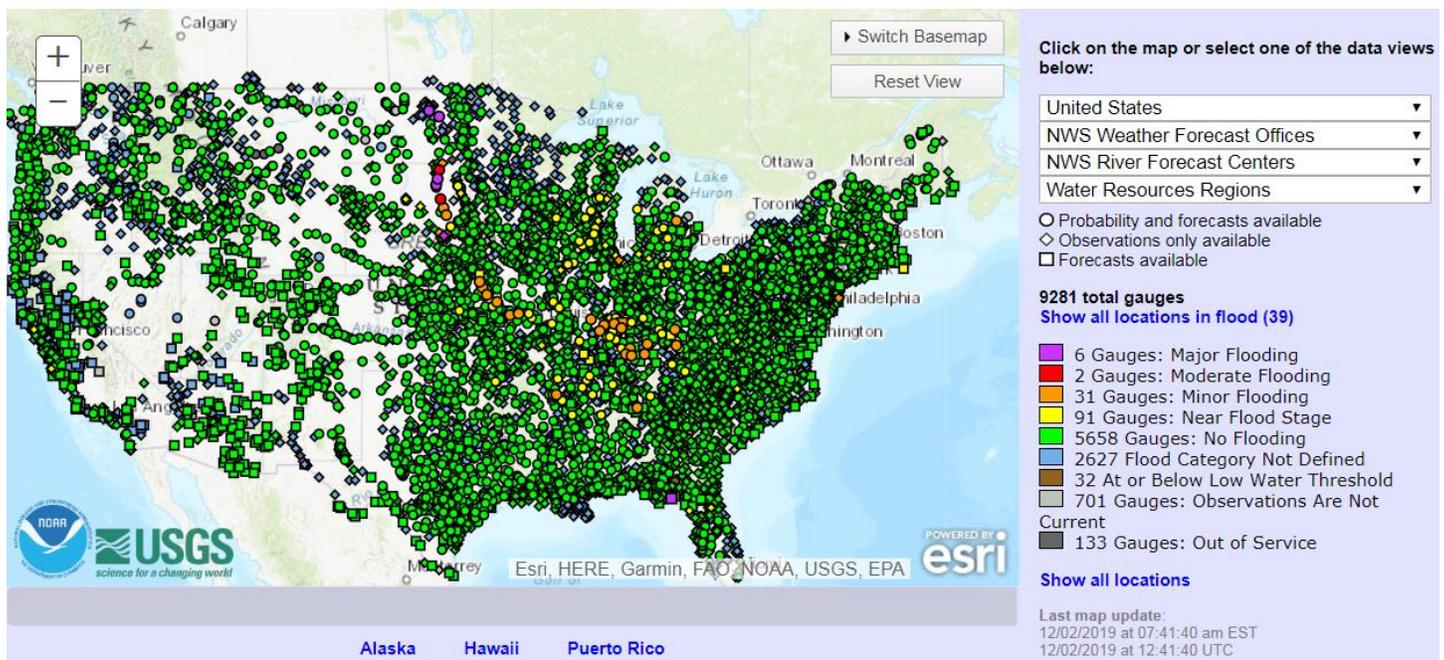


Figure 1. River gauge stage for the United States, 2 December 2019.

WEEKLY SPECIES SUMMARY: Our WSI predicts that mallard abundance continues at peak abundance at the latitude of Iowa to Missouri in the Mississippi Flyway and New York in the Atlantic Flyway. In the Great Lakes region of the Atlantic Flyway, temperatures remain near or below freezing and snow depth in some areas increases likelihood that some mallards and black ducks will move south this week. However, it also is predicted that mallards and black ducks continue to move out of Ontario and Quebec, which may reduce noticeable changes in abundance in some locals. Pintail and gadwall are predicted to primarily be at the latitude of Memphis and Washington, D.C. or farther south in the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways, respectively. Migration of green-winged teal and shoveler towards southern locales is predicted by our WSI for the coming week, with greatest opportunity for new arrivals on Saturday and Sunday.

As a reminder, peak abundance of ducks and their decline thereafter are often closely-related, as such, during migration hunters may wish to target times when our WSI predicts that ducks are transitioning from increasing in abundance (color coded RED), to decreasing abundance in your area (color coded BLUE). Our WSI values are an approximation based on 20+ years of data from 20+ location in the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways. As such, we suggest maintaining a log-book while using the WSI thresholds to determine when to hunt in your area because we publish average conditions which vary greatly geographically.

WSI COLOR CODES: We report WSI values and color code each day by species and location as little to no migration (YELLOW), increasing abundance (RED), and decreasing abundance (BLUE). WSI models and thresholds differ among species, so the values by location will differ among some species.

MALLARD AND BLACK DUCK (WSI threshold = 5)

Month	Day	Manitoba Churchill	North Dakota Devils Lake	Michigan Green Bay	Iowa Des Moines	Ohio Columbus	Tennessee Memphis	Ontario Ottawa	New York Syracuse	DC Washington	North Carolina Charlotte
11	25	Frozen out, no more forecast	4	-3	-6	-8	-14	-4	-6	-8	-9
11	26		6	-3	-3	-11	-13	-3	-7	-11	-13
11	27		8	-1	1	-8	-8	0	-7	-11	-11
11	28		8	1	-1	-3	-7	4	0	-6	-10
11	29		8	-1	-4	-5	-13	7	2	-5	-10
11	30		12	1	-2	-8	-13	7	1	-6	-14
12	1	Frozen out, no more forecast	11	2	1	-7	-5	10	6	-5	-14
12	2		7	7	0	0	-4	6	5	-5	-5
12	3		21	4	-3	-2	-5	5	4	-5	-6
12	4		10	6	-2	-2	-7	3	1	-6	-8
12	5		13	6	-3	-3	-9	7	3	-4	-9
12	6		12	11	1	-1	-9	8	4	-5	-6
12	7		12	4	-5	-2	-7	10	7	-3	-5
12	8		20	6	-2	-8	-10	0	-1	-8	-9

PINTAIL (WSI threshold = -4)

Month	Day	Manitoba Churchill	North Dakota Devils Lake	Michigan Green Bay	Iowa Des Moines	Ohio Columbus	Tennessee Memphis	Ontario Ottawa	New York Syracuse	DC Washington	North Carolina Charlotte
11	25	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-4	-6	-8	-15	-4	-7	-9	-9
11	26			-3	-3	-11	-14	-3	-7	-12	-14
11	27			0	2	-8	-8	1	-7	-11	-11
11	28			4	-1	-3	-8	9	0	-6	-11
11	29			2	-4	-5	-14	13	4	-6	-11
11	30			7	-2	-9	-14	15	7	-7	-15
12	1	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	10	2	-7	-6	21	16	-6	-15
12	2			17	1	0	-5	10	16	-5	-5
12	3			15	-4	-2	-6	10	16	-5	-7
12	4			18	-2	-2	-8	10	8	-7	-9
12	5			20	-3	-3	-10	16	12	-5	-9
12	6			27	2	0	-10	20	15	-5	-7
12	7			20	-5	-2	-8	23	19	-3	-5
12	8			24	-2	-9	-11	4	8	-8	-9

GADWALL (WSI threshold = -7)

Month	Day	Manitoba Churchill	North Dakota Deville Lake	Michigan Green Bay	Iowa Des Moines	Ohio Columbus	Tennessee Memphis	Ontario Ottawa	New York Syracuse	DC Washington	North Carolina Charlotte
11	25	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-1	-5	-5	-11	1	-1	-8	-10
11	26			-2	-5	-6	-12	0	-2	-8	-11
11	27			-1	-3	-6	-12	0	-3	-9	-11
11	28			3	-3	-6	-10	5	-3	-8	-12
11	29			2	-3	-6	-10	7	-1	-8	-11
11	30			5	-3	-6	-11	10	4	-7	-11
12	1			8	-2	-7	-11	14	9	-8	-12
12	2			Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	12	0	-6	-11	9	12
12	3	13	-2			-6	-9	11	15	-7	-11
12	4	16	-2			-5	-9	12	9	-7	-10
12	5	18	-2			-4	-9	16	12	-6	-10
12	6	21	-1			-3	-9	19	15	-6	-10
12	7	23	-2			-3	-8	21	17	-5	-9
12	8	26	-2			-3	-8	9	13	-5	-8

SHOVELER (WSI threshold = -9)

Month	Day	Manitoba Churchill	North Dakota Deville Lake	Michigan Green Bay	Iowa Des Moines	Ohio Columbus	Tennessee Memphis	Ontario Ottawa	New York Syracuse	DC Washington	North Carolina Charlotte
11	25	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-1	-5	-5	-11	1	-1	-8	-10
11	26			-2	-5	-6	-12	0	-2	-8	-11
11	27			-1	-3	-6	-12	0	-3	-9	-11
11	28			3	-3	-6	-10	5	-3	-8	-12
11	29			2	-3	-6	-10	7	-1	-8	-11
11	30			5	-3	-6	-11	10	4	-7	-11
12	1			8	-2	-7	-11	14	9	-8	-12
12	2			Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	12	0	-6	-11	9	12
12	3	13	-2			-6	-9	11	15	-7	-11
12	4	16	-2			-5	-9	12	9	-7	-10
12	5	18	-2			-4	-9	16	12	-6	-10
12	6	21	-1			-3	-9	19	15	-6	-10
12	7	23	-2			-3	-8	21	17	-5	-9
12	8	26	-2			-3	-8	9	13	-5	-8

WIGEON and GREEN-WINGED TEAL (WSI threshold = -10)

Month	Day	Manitoba Churchill	North Dakota Deville Lake	Michigan Green Bay	Iowa Des Moines	Ohio Columbus	Tennessee Memphis	Ontario Ottawa	New York Syracuse	DC Washington	North Carolina Charlotte
11	25	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-1	-5	-5	-11	1	-1	-8	-10
11	26			-2	-5	-6	-12	0	-2	-8	-11
11	27			-1	-3	-6	-12	0	-3	-9	-11
11	28			3	-3	-6	-10	5	-3	-8	-12
11	29			2	-3	-6	-10	7	-1	-8	-11
11	30			5	-3	-6	-11	10	4	-7	-11
12	1			8	-2	-7	-11	14	9	-8	-12
12	2			Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	12	0	-6	-11	9	12
12	3	13	-2			-6	-9	11	15	-7	-11
12	4	16	-2			-5	-9	12	9	-7	-10
12	5	18	-2			-4	-9	16	12	-6	-10
12	6	21	-1			-3	-9	19	15	-6	-10
12	7	23	-2			-3	-8	21	17	-5	-9
12	8	26	-2			-3	-8	9	13	-5	-8