1 – 7 October 2018 DUCK MIGRATION FORECAST

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OVERVIEW: Warmer than normal conditions persist across much of the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways. However, as is typical in early-Fall, many ducks have made movements from Summer breeding areas to early-Fall staging areas. Thereafter, weather severity plays a strong role in future movements south. The northern hemisphere prediction is for warmer than normal for the next 10 days and the Arctic Oscillation Index remains in a positive phase during this period. For the northern hemisphere, only western Canada shows widespread cold outbreaks. A quick clipper will come through the prairie pothole region early in the week bringing a dusting of snow to the US prairies. This snow is expected to melt and thereafter, slightly cooler temperatures will persist. Some duck migration has occurred, but only for early migrants such as wigeon, green-winged teal, and shovelers. Later migrants like mallards and black ducks have not made substantial movements based on weather yet, and pintails and gadwall are appearing at mid-latitudes but not in abundance. Towards the end of the weekend, small movements of early migrating dabbling ducks are predicted.

SPECIES PREDICTIONS: 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. In general, green-winged teal and wigeon are least tolerant of severe weather, then shovelers, gadwall, and pintail (in that order). Mallards and black ducks are most tolerant of severe weather often persisting when snow and cold conditions occur. Thresholds are points when ducks are predicted to decrease in abundance from one day to the next, it does not indicate they no longer occur at a location. The greater the WSI beyond the threshold the greater decrease in abundance from one day to the next. WSI values are only slightly greater than WSI thresholds at few locations and only for early migrating ducks during the coming week. As such, we predict the most substantial movement in the coming week to be ducks arriving in the N. US prairies and small movements of early migrating dabbling ducks otherwise throughout the flyways.

MALLARD AND BLACK DUCK (WSI threshold = 5)

		Manitoba	*North Dakota*	*Michigan*	*Iowa*	*Ohio*	*Tennessee*	*Ontario*	*New York*	*DC*	*North Carolina*
Month	**Day**	**Churchill**	**Devil's Lake**	**Green Bay**	**Des Moines**	**Columbus**	**Memphis**	**Ottawa**	**Syracuse**	**Washington**	**Charlotte**
10	1	-2	-6	-10	-13	-21	-24	-9	-10	-21	-21
10	2	-1	-10	-11	-18	-22	-25	-12	-13	-22	-22
10	3	2	-3	-17	-20	-23	-26	-12	-12	-21	-23
10	4	4	-2	-10	-14	-17	-26	-11	-11	-23	-17
10	5	3	-1	-10	-15	-19	-25	-7	-7	-19	-19
10	6	2	-3	-10	-11	-22	-25	-13	-13	-20	-22
10	7	4	-2	-11	-14	-23	-24	-10	-10	-22	-21
10	8										

PINTAIL (WSI threshold = -4)

		Manitoba	*North Dakota*	*Michigan*	*Iowa*	*Ohio*	*Tennessee*	*Ontario*	*New York*	*DC*	*North Carolina*
Month	**Day**	**Churchill**	**Devil's Lake**	**Green Bay**	**Des Moines**	**Columbus**	**Memphis**	**Ottawa**	**Syracuse**	**Washington**	**Charlotte**
10	1	-2	-7	-11	-14	-23	-26	-10	-10	-23	-23
10	2	0	-11	-12	-20	-24	-27	-13	-14	-24	-24
10	3	4	-3	-18	-22	-24	-28	-13	-13	-23	-24
10	4	7	-3	-11	-15	-18	-28	-12	-12	-25	-18
10	5	6	-1	-11	-16	-21	-27	-8	-8	-20	-21
10	6	6	-3	-11	-12	-24	-27	-14	-14	-21	-24
10	7	9	-2	-12	-15	-24	-26	-11	-11	-24	-23
10	8										

GADWALL (WSI threshold = -7)

		Manitoba	*North Dakota*	*Michigan*	*Iowa*	*Ohio*	*Tennessee*	*Ontario*	*New York*	*DC*	*North Carolina*
Month	**Day**	**Churchill**	**Devil's Lake**	**Green Bay**	**Des Moines**	**Columbus**	**Memphis**	**Ottawa**	**Syracuse**	**Washington**	**Charlotte**
10	1	1	-6	-11	-13	-19	-23	-13	-13	-22	-24
10	2	2	-6	-11	-14	-20	-23	-13	-13	-22	-24
10	3	4	-5	-11	-14	-19	-23	-12	-13	-22	-23
10	4	5	-4	-11	-14	-20	-25	-12	-12	-22	-22
10	5	6	-4	-11	-14	-21	-26	-11	-12	-22	-22
10	6	7	-4	-12	-15	-22	-26	-11	-11	-22	-22
10	7	10	0	-12	-11	-16	-20	-7	-7	-17	-16
10	8										

SHOVELER (WSI threshold = -9)

		Manitoba	*North Dakota*	*Michigan*	*Iowa*	*Ohio*	*Tennessee*	*Ontario*	*New York*	*DC*	*North Carolina*
Month	**Day**	**Churchill**	**Devil's Lake**	**Green Bay**	**Des Moines**	**Columbus**	**Memphis**	**Ottawa**	**Syracuse**	**Washington**	**Charlotte**
10	1	1	-6	-11	-13	-19	-23	-13	-13	-22	-24
10	2	2	-6	-11	-14	-20	-23	-13	-13	-22	-24
10	3	4	-5	-11	-14	-19	-23	-12	-13	-22	-23
10	4	5	-4	-11	-14	-20	-25	-12	-12	-22	-22
10	5	6	-4	-11	-14	-21	-26	-11	-12	-22	-22
10	6	7	-4	-12	-15	-22	-26	-11	-11	-22	-22
10	7	10	0	-12	-11	-16	-20	-7	-7	-17	-16
10	8										

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

		Manitoba	*North Dakota*	*Michigan*	*Iowa*	*Ohio*	*Tennessee*	*Ontario*	*New York*	*DC*	*North Carolina*
Month	**Day**	**Churchill**	**Devil's Lake**	**Green Bay**	**Des Moines**	**Columbus**	**Memphis**	**Ottawa**	**Syracuse**	**Washington**	**Charlotte**
10	1	1	-6	-11	-13	-19	-23	-13	-13	-22	-24
10	2	2	-6	-11	-14	-20	-23	-13	-13	-22	-24
10	3	4	-5	-11	-14	-19	-23	-12	-13	-22	-23
10	4	5	-4	-11	-14	-20	-25	-12	-12	-22	-22
10	5	6	-4	-11	-14	-21	-26	-11	-12	-22	-22
10	6	7	-4	-12	-15	-22	-26	-11	-11	-22	-22
10	7	10	0	-12	-11	-16	-20	-7	-7	-17	-16
10	8										