

23 – 29 December 2019 DUCK MIGRATION FORECAST

Michael L. Schummer, Roosevelt Waterfowl Ecologist, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, 1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, NY 13210

HEADLINES:

- 1) Our WSI predicts little to no migration in the coming week.
- 2) Small movements of dabbling ducks into southern latitudes from mid-latitudes is predicted, but will likely be unnoticeable in numbers.
- 3) Ducks may redistribute locally with snow melt in the northern portions of the Atlantic Flyway and elsewhere that rains create sporadic foraging habitat.

WEATHER OVERVIEW: Mild conditions prevail in the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyway for the coming week. Snow melt in the Atlantic Flyway may create flood conditions and new habitat for feeding ducks.

WEEKLY SPECIES SUMMARY: Migration comes to a halt this week as warm temperatures prevail and little to no snowfall is expected. Ducks in the Atlantic Flyway may redistribute locally where snow melts and floods rivers.

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
12	16	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	8	1	-1	12	3	-3	-12
12	17				6	4	-3	9	4	-3	-9
12	18				6	9	-5	17	8	0	-3
12	19				-3	6	-6	22	14	3	-3
12	20				-1	3	-8	20	13	0	-6
12	21				-3	-1	-8	16	10	0	-6
12	22				-6	-1	-9	11	5	-3	-4
12	23	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-6	-5	-10	Frozen out, no more forecast	0	-5	-10
12	24				-8	-4	-12	5	-4	-10	
12	25				-8	-8	-14	1	-4	-8	
12	26				-2	-10	-14	0	-8	-11	
12	27				-2	-7	-14	-1	-7	-10	
12	28				-1	-8	-14	1	-10	-13	
12	29				2	-4	-10	2	-8	-13	

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
12	16				14	3	0			-3	-13
12	17	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	13	10	-3	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-3	-9
12	18				13	17	-5			1	-3
12	19				-3	15	-7			4	-3
12	20				-1	13	-8			2	-6
12	21				-3	6	-9			3	-6
12	22				-6	6	-9			-3	-4
12	23	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-6	-5	-11	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-6	-10
12	24				-9	-4	-13			-5	-11
12	25				-8	-9	-15			-4	-8
12	26				-2	-11	-15			-8	-11
12	27				-3	-8	-15			-8	-11
12	28				-1	-8	-15			-10	-14
12	29				5	-4	-11			-8	-14

GADWALL (WSI threshold = -7)

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
12	16					2	-4			-6	-9
12	17	Frozen out, no more forecast	7	-4	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-5	-8			
12	18					11	-4			-2	-7
12	19					12	-5			-1	-7
12	20					14	-5			0	-7
12	21					10	-6			1	-8
12	22				10	-6			-2	-7	
12	23	Frozen out, no more forecast		-7	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-2	-7			
12	24					-8	-7				
12	25					-10	-7				
12	26					-11	-8				
12	27					-12	-9				
12	28					-13	-10				
12	29					-13	-11				

SHOVELER (WSI threshold = -9)

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
12	16					2	-4			-6	-9
12	17	Frozen out, no more forecast	7	-4	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-5	-8			
12	18					11	-4			-2	-7
12	19					12	-5			-1	-7
12	20					14	-5			0	-7
12	21					10	-6			1	-8
12	22				10	-6			-2	-7	
12	23	Frozen out, no more forecast		-7	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast		-7			
12	24					-8	-7				
12	25					-10	-7				
12	26					-11	-8				
12	27					-12	-9				
12	28					-13	-10				
12	29					-13	-11				

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

Month	Day	Manitoba Churchill	North Dakota Deviils Lake	Michigan Green Bay	Iowa Des Moines	Ohio Columbus	Tennessee Memphis	Ontario Ottawa	New York Syracuse	DC Washington	North Carolina Charlotte
12	16					2	-4			-6	-9
12	17	Frozen out, no more forecast	7	-4	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-5	-8			
12	18					11	-4			-2	-7
12	19					12	-5			-1	-7
12	20					14	-5			0	-7
12	21					10	-6			1	-8
12	22					10	-6			-2	-7
12	23	Frozen out, no more forecast		-7	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-7			
12	24					-8	-7				
12	25					-10	-7				
12	26					-11	-8				
12	27					-12	-9				
12	28					-13	-10				
12	29					-13	-11				