

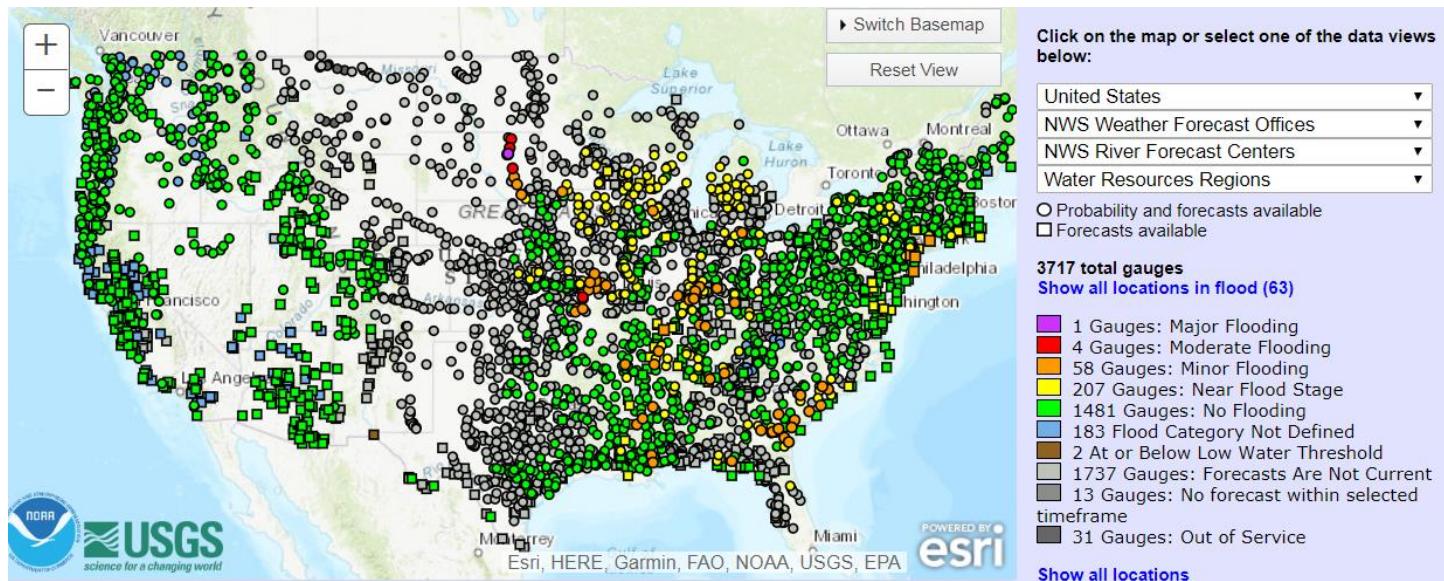
## 30 December 2019 – 5 January 2020 DUCK MIGRATION FORECAST

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

### HEADLINES:

- 1) Same as last week, 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 and rain that will create new foraging habitats.

**WEATHER OVERVIEW:** Mild conditions prevail in the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyway for the coming week. Snow melt and rain may create flood conditions and new habitat for feeding ducks. Some rivers are near or at “minor” flood stage in eastern North America and this is expected to increase in the coming week (**Fig. 1**).



**Figure 1.** River stages throughout North America 29 December 2019.

**WEEKLY SPECIES SUMMARY:** Same as last week, migration stalls as warm temperatures prevail and little to no snowfall is expected. Ducks may redistribute locally where snow melts, rains occur, and rivers flood. The red color codes below are not followed by blue (decreasing abundance) color codes to the north, which indicates widespread warmth in eastern North America.

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	23	Frozen out, no more forecast		Frozen out, no more forecast	-6	-5	-10		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		-8	-7	-10
12	28				-6	-8	-14		-1	-11	-13
12	29				-1	-11	-9		-3	-10	-18
12	30	Frozen out, no more forecast		Frozen out, no more forecast	3	-5	-5		-4	-12	-11
12	31				2	1	-4		-3	-6	-7
1	1				-4	-2	-8		0	-3	-10
1	2				-3	-8	-11		-4	-8	-13
1	3				-3	-7	-9		-6	-10	-10
1	4				-2	-5	-9		-4	-8	-8
1	5				3	0	-6		-1	-6	-8

## 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	23	Frozen out, no more forecast		Frozen out, no more forecast	-6	-5	-11		-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				-6	-8	-15		-12	-14	
12	29				1	-12	-9		-11	-19	
12	30	Frozen out, no more forecast		Frozen out, no more forecast	4	-5	-6		-13	-12	
12	31				3	2	-5		-7	-7	
1	1				-4	-2	-8		-4	-11	
1	2				-3	-8	-12		-9	-14	
1	3				-3	-7	-9		-11	-11	
1	4				-2	-5	-10		-9	-9	
1	5				4	0	-7		-6	-9	

## 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	23	Frozen out, no more forecast		Frozen out, no more forecast			-7			-2	-7
12	24			Frozen out, no more forecast			-8			-2	-7
12	25						-10			-2	-7
12	26						-11			-3	-8
12	27						-12			-4	-9
12	28						-13			-6	-9
12	29						-13			-7	-11
12	30	Frozen out, no more forecast		Frozen out, no more forecast			-12			-8	-12
12	31						-12			-8	-12
1	1						-11			-8	-12
1	2						-11			-9	-12
1	3						-10			-9	-12
1	4						-9			-9	-12
1	5						-8			-9	-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	23	Frozen out, no more forecast		Frozen out, no more forecast		Frozen out, no more forecast	-7			-2	-7
12	24						-8			-2	-7
12	25						-10			-2	-7
12	26						-11			-3	-8
12	27						-12			-4	-9
12	28						-13			-6	-9
12	29						-13			-7	-11
12	30						-12			-8	-12
12	31						-12			-8	-12
1	1	Frozen out, no more forecast		Frozen out, no more forecast		Frozen out, no more forecast	-11			-8	-12
1	2						-11			-9	-12
1	3						-10			-9	-12
1	4						-9			-9	-12
1	5						-8			-9	-11

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

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	23	Frozen out, no more forecast		Frozen out, no more forecast		Frozen out, no more forecast	-7			-2	-7
12	24						-8			-2	-7
12	25						-10			-2	-7
12	26						-11			-3	-8
12	27						-12			-4	-9
12	28						-13			-6	-9
12	29						-13			-7	-11
12	30						-12			-8	-12
12	31						-12			-8	-12
1	1	Frozen out, no more forecast		Frozen out, no more forecast		Frozen out, no more forecast	-11			-8	-12
1	2						-11			-8	-12
1	3						-10			-9	-12
1	4						-9			-9	-12
1	5						-8			-9	-11