

6 December – 12 January 2020 DUCK MIGRATION FORECAST

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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) No mallard or black duck migration is predicted for this week.

WEATHER OVERVIEW: Relatively mild conditions prevail in the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyway for most of coming week. A quick cold front will move across eastern North America on Wednesday and Thursday. Rivers continue at or near flood stage in eastern North America and is expected to continue for the coming week (**Fig. 1**).



Figure 1. River stages throughout North America **29 December 2019 (top)** and **5 January 2020 (bottom)**. Note reduced flooding in the north and mid-Atlantic Flyway as results of rain and snow melt decrease. In the Mississippi Flyway flooding continues in many locales and increases at the southern end of the Mississippi drainage.

WEEKLY SPECIES SUMMARY: Same as last week, migration stalls as warm temperatures prevail and little to no snowfall is expected. Migration of mallards and black ducks is not predicted but some minor migration of pintails, gadwall, green-winged teal, wigeon, and shoveler is predicted to occur at some locales (See charts and dates below), but no substantial movements are predicted.

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	30				3	5	5		4	-12	-11
12	31				4	5	4		3	5	-7
1	1	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	4	5	6	Frozen out, no more forecast	4	3	-10
1	2				4	5	-11		4	5	-13
1	3				3	4	6		3	-10	-10
1	4				3	4	4		3	11	-11
1	5				3	5	6		1	-7	9
1	6				1	2	7		0	5	8
1	7	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	1	2	5	Frozen out, no more forecast	0	3	-5
1	8				0	2	-10		0	1	-6
1	9				0	2	-15		0	3	-10
1	10				0	3	-16		-1	-13	-16
1	11				0	3	-10		0	-15	-17
1	12				1	4	-10		0	5	-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	30				4	5	6			13	-12
12	31				3	5	5			7	-7
1	1	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	4	5	6	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	4	-11
1	2				3	5	12		Frozen out, no more forecast	9	-14
1	3				3	5	9			11	-11
1	4				4	4	5	Frozen out, no more forecast		11	-12
1	5				3	3	5		Frozen out, no more forecast	6	-10
1	6				1	1	5			5	-9
1	7	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	0	2	6	Frozen out, no more forecast		3	-5
1	8				0	3	-11			1	-6
1	9				0	3	-16			3	-11
1	10				0	3	-18			-14	-17
1	11				0	3	-11	Frozen out, no more forecast		-16	-18
1	12				-1	4	-11			-10	-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	30						-12			8	-12
12	31						-12			6	-12
1	1	Frozen out, no more forecast	-11	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	6	-12				
1	2						-11			5	-12
1	3						-16			5	-12
1	4				Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	5	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	10	-13
1	5						5			6	-12
1	6						5			6	-11
1	7	Frozen out, no more forecast	5	Frozen out, no more forecast		7	-10				
1	8						5			5	-10
1	9						6			6	-10
1	10				Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-10	Frozen out, no more forecast		7	-10
1	11						-10			6	-11
1	12						-11			7	-11

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
12	30						-12			-8	-12
12	31						-12			-8	-12
1	1	Frozen out, no more forecast	-11	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-8	-12				
1	2						-11			-8	-12
1	3						-10			-8	-12
1	4						-9			-10	-13
1	5						-8			-8	-12
1	6						-8			-8	-11
1	7	Frozen out, no more forecast	-8	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-7	-10				
1	8						-8			-8	-10
1	9						-8			-8	-10
1	10						-10			-7	-10
1	11						-10			-8	-11
1	12						-11			-7	-11

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
12	30						-12			-8	-12
12	31						-12			-8	-12
1	1	Frozen out, no more forecast	-11	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-8	-12				
1	2						-11			-8	-12
1	3						-10			-8	-12
1	4						-8			-10	-13
1	5						-8			-8	-12
1	6						-8			-8	-11
1	7	Frozen out, no more forecast	-8	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-7	-10				
1	8						-8			-8	-10
1	9						-8			-8	-10
1	10						-10			-7	-10
1	11						-10			-8	-11
1	12						-11			-7	-11