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Weekly Waterfowl Report for December 13, 2006

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
Keith Stephens (501) 223-6342, e-mail: [kastephens@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:kastephens@agfc.state.ar.us)

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's waterfowl report for Dec. 13, 2006.  
The following report is a compilation of state reports and waterfowl surveys from across Arkansas. This report provides a look at habitat conditions across the state.

### Weather Forecast:

Today: Sunny, with a high near 68. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph  
Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 38. South wind around 5 mph becoming calm.  
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. Calm wind becoming south between 5 and 10 mph  
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 42. Southwest wind around 5 mph  
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 69. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph  
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50. South southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph  
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. South southwest wind around 10 mph  
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 53. South southwest wind around 10 mph  
Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 69. South wind around 10 mph  
Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 51.  
Monday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 65.  
Monday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 48.  
Tuesday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 62.

### NORTHEAST ARKANSAS –

Dave Donaldson Black River WMA:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent in the GTRs and 100 percent in the Moist Soil Units. The Black River is at a current stage of 10.8 feet at Corning, Hubble gauge is at 269.2 MSL and Brookings is at 267.6 MSL.

Habitat Conditions: Good.

Weather Conditions: The week has started off much warmer than last week and will remain so throughout the remainder of the week. Highs for the week will range from 56 to 63 degrees. There is a 20 percent chance of rain for the remainder of the week. Lows for the week will range from 37 to 50 degrees.

Duck Abundance: Moderate numbers are on the area. Lake Ashbaugh has high numbers. Ducks are not moving off the lake until later in the mornings or after the noon hour. Most ducks have been harvested in the woods and a few in fields.

Hunter activity/Success: Fair to moderate success depending on location. The timber hunters had better success with a good number reaching their limits. The crop and field hunters were not as successful. Hunting pressure is heavy throughout the week and weekends.

Shirey Bay-Rainey Brake WMA:

Percent Flooded: The Adam's Brake GTR and Rainey Brake GTR are 100 percent flooded. The Phase III, River Field, Charles Crisp and Ward Field moist soil units are 100 percent flooded.

Habitat Conditions: Good mast crop.

Weather: Clear for the remainder of the week. Highs in the 60s and lows around 40.

Migrations/Observations: No new ducks have been observed moving into the area this week.

Duck Abundance: Fair

Hunter Activity/Success: Hunter activity has been moderate with good success.

St. Francis Sunken Lands WMA:

Percent Flooded: The Snowden Waterfowl Rest Area is 55 percent flooded and the Payneway Waterfowl Rest Area is 10 percent flooded. The current St. Francis River level at Oak Donnicks is 212.71 MSL.

Habitat Conditions: The Snowden WRA has a good stand of smartweed, panic grass, millet and sedges. The Payneway WRA has a higher abundance of smartweed within the borrow areas. Acorn production within the floodways is considered good.

Weather Conditions: There will be mostly sunny skies throughout the week and into the weekend. Temperatures will be in the mid 60s with lows in the upper 30s at night.

Migrations/Observations: A few ducks have been seen using the ditches around the Sunken Lands.

Duck Abundance: Fair.

Hunter Activity/Success: Hunters are killing a few ducks, but harvest numbers are at most two to three birds per group.

Earl Buss Bayou DeView WMA:

Percent Flooded: The Thompson and South Oliver Tracts are 100 percent flooded with current gauge readings at 1.24 feet and 1.68 feet, respectively.

Habitat Conditions: Acorn production is considered good. A good stand of smartweed and sedges is located within the natural sloughs and along the edges of Lake Hogue Waterfowl Rest Area.

Weather Conditions: Mostly sunny with highs in the mid 60s and lows in the 40s throughout the week.

Migrations/Observations: A few ducks are utilizing adjacent agricultural fields.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Hunting pressure is low with poor hunting success.

Big LakeWMA:

Percent Flooded: The area is 100 percent flooded in the timber. Ditches are 100 percent flooded. Target is 235.5 MSL in the north woods with a present reading of 235.9 MSL. The target is 234.5 MSL in the south woods with a present reading of 235.0 MSL. The Simmons Field unit is 100 percent flooded.

Habitat Conditions: Acorn production is good in the timber. The Simmons Field units have millet and sorghum in the 80-acre north field on the east side. There is millet, smartweed and sedges scattered throughout.

Weather Conditions: Clear and sunny throughout the week. Highs in the 60s. Lows in the upper 30s to low 40s.

Migrations/Observations: No new ducks observed over the past week.

Duck Abundance: Fair.

Hunter Activity/Success: Hunting pressure low. Success is fair.

## **EAST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS -**

Henry Gray Hurricane Lake WMA:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent. White River is currently 28.4 feet at Augusta and 17.3 feet at Georgetown.

Habitat Conditions: Good acorn crop.

Weather: Mild conditions are expected throughout this week.

Migrations/Observations: Low number of ducks.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Low.

General Comments: White River is forecast to fall throughout the week.

North GTR :

Percent Flooded: 100 percent

Habitat Conditions: Good acorn crop.

Weather: Mild conditions are expected throughout this week.

Migrations/Observations: Low population of ducks.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Poor.

South GTR :

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good acorn crop.

Weather: Mild conditions are expected throughout this week.

Migrations/Observations: Low duck numbers.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Poor.

Steve N. Wilson Raft Creek Bottoms WMA:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Due to recent heavy rains, White River is currently 17.3 feet at Georgetown and is putting water on the area. The area is now 100 percent flooded. The water is currently over Jones Island Road (main access road) in two places, but it is passable by vehicle.

Weather: Mild conditions are expected throughout this week.

Migrations/Observations: New flights reported at the end of last week.

Duck Abundance: Moderate.

Hunter Activity/Success: A moderate number of hunters are having fair success.

General Comments: A quota permit draw (two hours before official shooting hours) is held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday throughout waterfowl season. Approximately 23 holes will be available during the general draw. A computer online draw for five stations and one mobility-impaired blind has been established throughout the season.

RexHancockBlackSwamp WMA:

Percent Flooded: 90 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good acorn crop.

Weather: Mild conditions are expected throughout this week.

Migrations/Observations: A few new flights were noted over the weekend

Duck Abundance: Fair.

Hunter Activity/Success: Fair.

General Comments: The Cache River at Patterson is presently at 7.6 feet and falling approximately two feet throughout the week.

Dagmar WMA:

Percent Flooded: 20 percent

Habitat Conditions: Good acorn crop.

Weather: Mild conditions are expected throughout this week.

Migrations/Observations: No new flights observed.

Duck Abundance: Few ducks observed

Hunter Activity/Success: Moderate to low.

General Comments: Duck numbers are very low. CacheRiver at Cotton Plant is at 12.5 feet and rising.

Mud Slough GTR:

Percent Flooded: 98 percent

Habitat Conditions: Good acorn crop.

Weather: Mild conditions are expected throughout this week.

Migrations/Observations: No new flights.

Duck Abundance: Mostly wood ducks. Very few mallards are being reported.

Hunter Activity/Success: Moderate to low.

General Comments: Water level is .3 feet below flood pool.

Apple Lake Rest Area:

Percent Flooded: 50 percent

Habitat Conditions: Good acorn crop.

Weather: Mild conditions are expected throughout this week.

Migrations/Observations: A few ducks are using the lake.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Closed.

General Comments: AppleLake will remain closed to access until after waterfowl season.

## **CENTRAL ARKANSAS -**

BellSlough WMA:

Percent Flooded: 65 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Moderate mast crop.

Migrations/Observations: Several new flights have been seen.

Duck Abundance: Very few.

Hunter Activity/Success: Hit and miss.

General Comments: Last week's cold front pushed a few new ducks into the area, but they have had a lot of pressure.

Rest Area:

Percent Flooded: 45 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good seed production.

Migrations/Observations: None.

Duck Abundance: Few ducks.

Holland Bottoms WMA:

Percent Flooded: 20 percent

Habitat Conditions: Good mast crop.

Migrations/Observations: Fair numbers of wood ducks in the ditches.

Duck Abundance: Very few.

Hunter Activity/Success: None noted.

General Comments: Rainfall required for overflow flooding.

Rest Area:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Moderate seed production.

Migrations/Observations: A handful of ducks have been seen on the rest area.

Duck Abundance: Few.

Harris Brake WMA:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Moderate mast crop.

Migrations/Observations: A few new flights of ducks.

Duck Abundance: Plenty of wood ducks.

Hunter Activity/Success: Early shooting with poor success.

General Comments: Closed Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

LakeConway:

Percent Flooded: 60 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Normal.

Migrations/Observations: Few ducks have been reported.

Duck Abundance: Very few ducks.

Hunter Activity/Success: None noted.

General Comments: Lake drawdown in progress through Jan. 1. Only Pierce and Dix Creeks are open to waterfowl hunting.

## **SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS -**

Bayou Meto WMA:

Upper Vallier:

Percent Flooded: 5 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good.

Migrations/Observations: Low.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Low.

Lower Vallier:

Percent Flooded: 50 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good.

Migrations/Observations: Low.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Low.

Government Cypress:

Percent Flooded: 30 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good.

Migrations/Observations: Low.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Low.

Buckingham Flats:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good.

Migrations/Observations: Low.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Low.

Temple Island :

Percent Flooded: 90 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good.

Migrations/Observations: Low.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Low.

Halowell Rest Area:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good.

Migrations/Observations: Low.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: N/A

Wrape Plantation:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good.

Migrations/Observations: Low.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: N/A

Cut-Off Creek WMA:

Open Area

Percent Flooded: 75 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Excellent.

Migrations/Observations: No new movement.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Low number of hunters with poor success.

General Comments: Deep Slough is at 130.7 MSL.

Rest Area:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Excellent.

Migrations/Observations: No new movement.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: N/A.

Seven Devils WMA:

Percent Flooded: 20 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Fair.

Migrations/Observations: No new movement.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Low number of hunters with poor success.

General Comments: Water is too low for boat access.

Trusten Holder WMA at Arkansas River:

Percent Flooded: River water only, with variable levels of backwater flooding.

Habitat Conditions: Good.

Migrations/Observations: Few ducks.

Duck Abundance: Few.

Hunter Activity/Success: Fair.

General Comments: Arkansas River gauge at Pendleton Ferry was at 26.3 feet on Dec. 13.

ChoctawIsland WMA:

Percent Flooded: River water only, with variable levels of backwater flooding.

Habitat Conditions: Fair.

Migrations/Observations: Low.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Low.

Comments: Mississippi River gauge at ArkansasCity was at 14.7 feet on Dec. 13.

Beryl Anthony Lower Ouachita WMA:

Percent Flooded: 0 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Fair.

Migrations/Observations: A few wood ducks.

Water Levels: 52.4 feet above sea level below the Felsenthal Lock and Dam. The area will begin to flood when water levels exceed 65.0 feet above sea level.

Duck Abundance: Very few ducks have been reported by hunters.

Hunter Activity/Success: Low.

General Comments: A few pockets of water have formed from the recent rain. Water levels are up 1 foot from normal.

#### **SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS -**

Dr. Lester Sitzes, III Bois d' Arc Lake Rest Area:

Percent Flooded: 80 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good.

Weather: Warmer than normal.

Migrations/Observations: No new ducks observed.

Duck Abundance: A few mallards and wood ducks.

Hunter Activity/Success: N/A

General Comments: Lake is closed to duck hunting.

Dr. Lester Sitzes, III Bois d' Arc WMA:

Red Slough Rest Area:

Percent Flooded: 5 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Poor

Weather: Warm with highs in the 60s.

Migrations/Observations: A few wood ducks.

Duck Abundance: Poor.

Hunter Activity/Success: N/A

General Comments: Rest area is closed to duck hunting.

Greentree Reservoir:

Percent Flooded: 5 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good mast crop, conditions should improve with rain and cooler weather.

Weather: Very warm.

Migrations/Observations: Some mallards and gadwalls.

Duck Abundance: Poor.

Hunter Activity/Success: Fair.

General Comments: Walk in hunting only, no boats. There is not enough water to access with boats.

Little Grassy:

Percent Flooded: Dry.

Habitat Conditions: Poor.

Weather: Above normal temperatures.

Migrations/Observations: No ducks.

Duck Abundance: Poor.

Hunter Activity/Success: Poor.

General Comments: Walk-in only.

MillwoodLake:

Percent Flooded: 259.44 MSL

Habitat Conditions: Water level is rising.

Weather: Very warm and sunny.

Migrations/Observations: The numbers of diving ducks are starting to increase.

Duck Abundance: Moderate.

Hunter Activity/Success: Fair.

General Comments: Some limits are still being taken.

Sulphur River WMA:

    Mercer Bayou:

Percent Flooded: 50 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Water level is stable, but habitat conditions are poor due to drought conditions.

Weather: Temperatures above normal.

Migrations/Observations: Some mallards and teal have been observed.

Duck Abundance: Fair. Mostly mallards and greenwing teal.

Hunter Activity/Success: Poor.

Henry Moore Rest Area:

Percent Flooded: 75 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good. Seed production in the moist soil openings has been good.

Weather: Very warm.

Migrations/Observations: Mallards and greenwing teal observed.

Duck Abundance: Good number of ducks.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS -

Ed Gordon Point Remove WMA:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Some cells have been planted with millet and others have natural vegetation.

Weather: Clear and warm.

Migrations/Observations: Very few.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Quite a few hunters have been taking ducks on the WMA.

General Comments: No new migrations.

Arkansas River/Valley:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Still have a lot of beans in the field that need to be harvested. Good habitat conditions.

Weather: Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s

Migrations/Observations: Several new migrations have been observed.

Duck Abundance: Fair.

Hunter Activity/Success: Some hunters are taking their limit of ducks.

General Comments: Still seeing new migrations.

Dardanelle WMA:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Moist soil units are 100 percent of capacity. High energy seeds are scattered throughout the WMA.

Weather: Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.

Migrations/Observations: New migrations were observed last week.

Duck Abundance: Fair.

Hunter Activity/Success: Some hunters are taking their limit of ducks.

General Comments: Still seeing new migrations.

Ozark Pool:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Moist soil units are flooded. Good millet crop and moist soil plants.

Weather: Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.

Migrations/Observations: New migrations reported last week.

Duck Abundance: Fair.

Hunter Activity/Success: Some hunters are taking their limit of ducks.

General Comments: Still seeing new migrations.

Dyer Lake/Cells:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good habitat conditions. Moist soil produced excellent food along with a good millet crop.

Weather: Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.

Migrations/Observations: No new migrations.

Duck Abundance: Few.

Hunter Activity/Success: Low.

Arkansas River Pool 9:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good. Agricultural fields along the river have good water.

Weather: Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s

Migrations/Observations: Some new migrations were observed last week.

Duck Abundance: Fair.

Hunter Activity/Success: A few hunters are taking their limit of ducks.

Petit Jean WMA:

Percent Flooded:

Black Lands Moist Soil Units: 100 percent

Slaty Crossing Moist Soil Units: 100 percent

Pullen Pond: 100 percent

Pond Creek: 100 percent

Slaty Pond: 100 percent

Santa Fe : 100 percent

Habitat Conditions: Excellent hard mast crop in the timber and millet did well in the Black Lands fields.

Weather: Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.

Migrations/Observations: Very few ducks are being reported. Mainly mallards, wood ducks and gadwalls.

Duck Abundance: Few.

Hunter Activity/Success: Poor.

General Comments: Need cold weather to push ducks into the area.

Lake Nimrod WMA:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Excellent hard mast crop in the timber and millet did well in the field systems.

Weather: Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s

Migrations/Observations: None.

Duck Abundance: Few.

Hunter Activity/Success: Poor.

General Comments: Need cold weather and new migrations.

Galla Creek WMA:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Fair mast crop with higher water due to heavy rains this week.

Weather: Mild.

Migrations/Observations: Very few.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: A few hunters are having some success.

General Comments: Need cold weather and new migrations.

Johnson County Rest Area:

Percent Flooded: 60 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good moist soil units produced excellent food and a good millet crop.

Weather: Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.

Migrations/Observations: A few new ducks arrived last week.

Duck Abundance: Fair.

Hunter Activity/Success: N/A

General Comments: No hunting.

Frog Bayou WMA:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good stands of native vegetation.

Weather: Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.

Migrations/Observations: No new migrations over the weekend.

Duck Abundance: Few.

Hunter Activity/Success: Poor.

General Comments: Need cold weather and new migrations.

\*Information on river levels can be found at: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/> or <http://water.usgs.gov/realtime.html> or [http://www.agfc.com/education/waterlevels\\_details.html](http://www.agfc.com/education/waterlevels_details.html)

Sunrise/sunset tables are available at: [http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS\\_OneDay.html](http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneDay.html) and in the Arkansas Waterfowl Regulations Guide.

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