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Weekly Waterfowl Report for January 10, 2007

Weekly Waterfowl Report

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's waterfowl report for Jan. 10, 2007.

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 55. East-southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 40. South-southeast wind around 10 mph.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers after 11 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a high near 58. South-southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Thursday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers, mainly after 10 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52. South-southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

Friday: Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly after 11 a.m. Cloudy, with a high near 62. South-southeast wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half an inch possible.

Friday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Cloudy, with a low around 54. South-southeast wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half an inch possible.

Saturday: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Cloudy, with a high near 61. Southwest wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

Saturday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Cloudy, with a low around 49. West wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Sunday: A 50 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 51. West-northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of rain. Partly cloudy, with a low around 33.

M.L.King Day: Partly cloudy, with a high near 44.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 28.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 37.

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS –

Dave Donaldson Black River WMA:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent in the green timber reservoirs and 100 percent in the moist soil units. The Black River is currently at 7.63 feet at Corning, Hubble gauge is at 268.3 MSL, and Brookings is at 266.9 MSL. The Upper Reno gauge is 267.4 MSL, the Lower Reno is 266.9 MSL, the Upper Island is 270.2 MSL, the Lower Island is 268.4 MSL, and Winchester is at 264.5 MSL.

Habitat Conditions: Moderate.

Weather Conditions: The week will be warm, starting off with clear sunny skies and ending with thunderstorms. Highs for the week will range from the mid 40s to the mid 60s. A 40 to 70 percent chance of rain is forecast for Thursday through Sunday. Lows for the week will range from 32-52 degrees.

Duck Abundance: Fair to moderate numbers are on the area. LakeAshbaugh has high numbers of ducks. Last week the ducks moved out of the area. The ducks that were here stayed in the woods and on the lake. Toward the end of last week, ducks were moving back in and concentrated on LakeAshbaugh. The pattern is the same as last month with the full moon – ducks are feeding at night and resting during the day. More ducks were killed earlier in the day when coming back to the rest areas after feeding.

Hunter Activity/Success: Fair to moderate hunter activity, increasing during the weekend. Not many limits, but a few hunters are taking good numbers of ducks. Thick fog during the end of last week appeared to increase success in the woods. There are also high numbers of geese in the fields and moderate success reported from hunters.

Shirey Bay-Rainey Brake WMA:

Percent Flooded: The Adam's Brake green timber reservoir and Rainey Brake green timber reservoir 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 today and Thursday, with rain likely this weekend. Highs will be in the 50s and lows around 30.

Migrations/Observations: Ducks have been observed moving back into the area.

Duck Abundance: Good.

Hunter Activity/Success: Hunter activity was heavy on Saturday, but moderate through the week, with good hunter success.

St. Francis Sunken Lands WMA:

Percent Flooded: The Snowden Waterfowl Rest Area is 100 percent flooded and the Payneway Waterfowl Rest Area is 90 percent flooded. The St. Francis River level at Oak Donnich was 214.66 MSL on Jan. 10.

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 good.

Weather Conditions: Temperatures will be in the mid 50s until Thursday before rising into the mid 60s by week's end. Also, with the rising temperatures there is a good chance of rain for Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Duck Abundance: Fair.

Hunter Activity/Success: Hunting slowed down over the weekend, with no reports of limits.

Earl Buss Bayou DeView WMA:

Percent Flooded: The Thompson and South Oliver Tracts are 100 percent flooded with current gauge readings at 1.54 feet and 2.06 feet, respectively.

Habitat Conditions: Acorn production is 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: Sunny most of the week with a good chance of rain expected Thursday and increasing through Sunday. Temperatures ranging in the high 60s to low 30s.

Migrations/Observations: A few ducks are in the area with most utilizing adjacent agricultural fields.

Duck Abundance: Fair.

Hunter Activity/Success: Fair.

General Comments: Boaters should use caution because of submerged logs.

Big LakeWMA:

Percent Flooded: The timber area is 100 percent flooded. The ditches also are 100 percent flooded. Target water is 235.5 MSL in the north woods with a present reading of 236.5 MSL. Target water level is 234.5 MSL in the south woods with a present reading of 235.4 MSL. The Simmons Field unit is 100 percent flooded.

Habitat Conditions: Good.

Weather: Mild conditions midweek before getting colder with a good chance of rain this weekend.

Migrations/Observations: New ducks are being reported moving into the area.

Duck Abundance: Fair.

Hunter Activity/Success: Fair.

EAST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS -

Henry Gray Hurricane Lake WMA:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent. The White River at Augusta is at 28.96 feet and Georgetown is at 19.14 feet.

Habitat Conditions: Good acorn crop.

Weather: Mild conditions midweek before getting colder with a good chance of rain this weekend.

Migrations/Observations: No new flights observed.

Duck Abundance: Poor.

Hunter Activity/Success: Low.

General Comments: Water levels on the area are rising .

North GTR :

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good acorn crop.

Weather: Mild conditions midweek before getting colder with a good chance of rain this weekend.

Migrations/Observations: No new flights observed.

Duck Abundance: Low.
Hunter Activity/Success: Low.

South GTR:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.
Habitat Conditions: Good acorn crop.
Weather: Mild conditions midweek before getting colder with a good chance of rain this weekend.
Migrations/Observations: No new flights observed.
Duck Abundance: Low.
Hunter Activity/Success: Low.

Steve N. Wilson Raft Creek Bottoms WMA:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.
Habitat Conditions: The White River at Georgetown is at 19.14 feet.
Weather: Colder with a good chance of rain this weekend.
Migrations/Observations: New flights observed.
Duck Abundance: Moderate.
Hunter Activity/Success: Moderate number of hunters having fair success.
General Comments: A quota permit draw (two hours before official shooting hours) is held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sundays throughout waterfowl season. A computer online draw established for five stations and one mobility impaired blind throughout season. **Because of high water, Jones Island Road is not passable by vehicle. Access to the WMA headquarters is by Heathscott Road.**

Rex Hancock Black Swamp WMA:

Percent Flooded: 90 percent.
Habitat Conditions: Good acorn crop.
Weather: Mild conditions midweek before getting colder with a good chance of rain this weekend.
Migrations/Observations: Few ducks observed .
Duck Abundance: Fair.
Hunter Activity/Success: Fair.
General Comments: The CacheRiver at Patterson is currently at 9.19 feet and is forecast to remain around 9 feet the rest of the week.

Dagmar WMA:

Percent Flooded: 25 percent.
Habitat Conditions: Good acorn crop.
Weather: Cool and wet conditions are expected for most of the week.
Migrations/Observations: No new flights observed.
Duck Abundance: Few ducks observed.
Hunter Activity/Success: Moderate/poor.
General Comments: Very few mallards were being reported the past week. Bayou DeView is rising and is providing additional waterfowl habitat. The CacheRiver at Cotton Plant was 15.38 feet on Jan. 10.

Mud Slough GTR:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.
Habitat Conditions: Good acorn crop.
Weather: Cool and wet conditions are expected for most of the week.
Migrations/Observations: No new flights.
Duck Abundance: A few wood ducks are being harvested.
Hunter Activity/Success: Moderate/poor.
General Comments: Very few mallards are being reported in the area.

Apple Lake Rest Area:

Percent Flooded: 60 percent.
Habitat Conditions: Good acorn crop.
Weather: Cool and wet conditions are expected for most of the week.
Migrations/Observations: A variety of waterfowl species are using the lake.
Duck Abundance: Low.
Hunter Activity/Success: Closed to access.
General Comments: Apple Lake will remain closed to access until after waterfowl season.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS -

Bell Slough WMA:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.
Habitat Conditions: Moderate mast crop.
Migrations/Observations: Very few flights seen.
Duck Abundance: Few ducks.
Hunter Activity/Success: Poor success over the weekend

Rest Area:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good seed production.

Migrations/Observations: A few mallards and teal are using the rest area.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Holland Bottoms WMA:

Percent Flooded: 40 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good mast crop.

Migrations/Observations: A few wood ducks.

Duck Abundance: Very few.

Hunter Activity/Success: None noted.

General Comments: Overflow flooding.

Rest Area:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Moderate seed production.

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

Duck Abundance: Low.

Harris Brake WMA:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Moderate mast crop.

Migrations/Observations: Very few new ducks.

Duck Abundance: Plenty of wood ducks.

Hunter Activity/Success: Early shooting with poor success.

General Comments: Closed Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Lake Conway :

Percent Flooded: 75 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Normal .

Migrations/Observations: Few ducks seen.

Duck Abundance: Very few ducks.

Hunter Activity/Success: Poor success.

General Comments: Lake drawdown is complete. Forecast rainfall should help refill the lake. Only Pierce and Dix Creeks are open to waterfowl hunting.

SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS -**Bayou Meto WMA:**

General Comments: Use caution around Five Forks and Cannon Brake because of emergency dewatering.

Upper Vallier:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good.

Migrations/Observations: Moderate.

Duck Abundance: Moderate.

Hunter Activity/Success: N/A

Lower Vallier:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good.

Migrations/Observations: Moderate.

Duck Abundance: Moderate.

Hunter Activity/Success: N/A

Government Cypress:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good.

Migrations/Observations: Moderate.

Duck Abundance: Moderate.

Hunter Activity/Success: N/A

Buckingham Flats:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good.

Migrations/Observations: Low.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: N/A

Temple Island :

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good.
Migrations/Observations: Moderate.
Duck Abundance: Moderate
Hunter Activity/Success: N/A

Halowell Rest Area:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.
Habitat Conditions: Good.
Migrations/Observations: Moderate.
Duck Abundance: Moderate.
Hunter Activity/Success: N/A

Wrape Plantation:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.
Habitat Conditions: Good.
Migrations/Observations: Moderate.
Duck Abundance: Moderate.
Hunter Activity/Success: N/A

Cut-Off Creek WMA:

Open Area

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.
Habitat Conditions: Excellent.
Migrations/Observations: No new movement reported at this time.
Duck Abundance: Low.
Hunter Activity/Success: N/A
General Comments: Deep Slough is at 131.5 MSL.

Rest Area:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.
Habitat Conditions: Excellent.
Migrations/Observations: No new ducks in the area at this time.
Duck Abundance: Low.
Hunter Activity/Success: N/A

Seven Devils WMA :

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.
Habitat Conditions: Good.
Migrations/Observations: No new duck movement at this time.
Duck Abundance: Low.
Hunter Activity/Success: N/A
General Comments: The water level is at 131.7 MSL. Boat access is good.

Trusten Holder WMA at Arkansas River:

Percent Flooded: River water only with variable levels of backwater flooding.
Habitat Conditions: Good.
Migrations/Observations: Fair.
Duck Abundance: Fair.
Hunter Activity/Success: N/A
General Comments: Arkansas River gauge at Pendleton Ferry was at 26.44 feet and rising on Jan 10.

Choctaw Island WMA:

***Percent Flooded:* River water only with variable levels of backwater flooding.**
***Habitat Conditions:* Good.**
Migrations/Observations: Fair.
Duck Abundance: Fair.
Hunter Activity/Success: N/A
Comments: Mississippi River gauge at ArkansasCity was at 21.2 feet and rising on Jan. 10.

Beryl Anthony Lower Ouachita WMA:

Percent Flooded: 40 percent.
Habitat Conditions: Fair.
Migrations/Observations: A few wood ducks are being reported in the area.
Water Levels: 64.5 feet MSL below the Felsenthal Lock and Dam.
Duck Abundance: Very few ducks.
Hunter Activity/Success: Low.
General Comments: The area may temporarily flood due to recent intense precipitation.

SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS -

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

Percent Flooded: 80 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good.

Weather: Cool with rain predicted later in the week.

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: 15 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Poor.

Weather: Cool with rain predicted later in the week.

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: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good mast crop, conditions have improved.

Weather: Cold with rain predicted later in the week.

Migrations/Observations: Some mallards and gadwalls.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Fair.

Little Grassy:

Percent Flooded: 25 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Poor.

Weather: Cool with rain predicted later in the week.

Migrations/Observations: No ducks.

Duck Abundance: Very low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Poor.

General Comments: Walk-in only.

Millwood Lake :

Percent Flooded: 259.95 MSL.

Habitat Conditions: Water level is dropping.

Weather: Cool with rain predicted later in the week.

Migrations/Observations: Species of diving ducks 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: 85 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Water level is rising and habitat conditions have improved.

Weather : Cool with rain predicted later in the week.

Migrations/Observations: No new ducks observed .

Duck Abundance: Fair.

Hunter Activity/Success: Poor.

General Comments: Recent rains have helped habitat conditions somewhat, but more rain is needed to fully flood the area.

Henry Moore Rest Area:

Percent Flooded: 95 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good seed production in the moist soil openings.

Weather: Cool with rain predicted later in the week.

Migrations/Observations: No new ducks observed .

Duck Abundance: Good numbers of ducks including mallards and teal.

Hunter Activity/Success: N/A

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS -

Ed Gordon Point Remove WMA:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

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

Weather: Rain and cooler weather expected.

Migrations/Observations: Very few.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Quite a few hunters taking some ducks.

General Comments: No new migrations.

Arkansas River Valley :

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Habitat conditions have improved with recent rains.

Weather: Highs in the 60s, rain expected Thursday through the weekend. Much colder on Sunday.

Migrations/Observations: No new migrations.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Poor.

Dardanelle WMA:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Moist soil units are 100 percent flooded. High-energy seeds are scattered throughout the area. Conditions have improved with recent rains.

Weather: Highs in the 60s, rain expected Thursday through the weekend. Much colder on Sunday.

Migrations/Observations: No new migrations.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Poor.

Ozark Pool:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

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

Weather: Highs in the 60s, rain expected Thursday through the weekend. Much colder on Sunday.

Migrations/Observations: Need new migrations to improve hunting.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Poor.

Dyer LakeCells:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

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

Weather: Rain and cooler weather expected.

Migrations/Observations: No new migrations.

Duck Abundance: Poor.

Hunter Activity/Success: Poor.

General Comments: Need cold weather and new migrations.

Arkansas River Pool 9:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

Habitat Conditions: Good. Agricultural fields along the river have good water. Conditions have improved with recent rains.

Weather: Highs in the 60s, rain expected Thursday through the weekend. Much colder on Sunday.

Migrations/Observations: No new migrations.

Duck Abundance: Low.

Hunter Activity/Success: Poor.

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 Black Lands fields.

Weather: Rain and cooler weather expected.

Migrations/Observations: None observed.

Duck Abundance: Low. Ducks are spread out over the area.

Hunter Activity/Success: Successful hunters will be hunting low-pressure areas.

General Comments: Dale Bend Road is underwater, but water is receding.

Lake Nimrod WMA:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.

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

Weather: Highs in the 60s, rain expected Thursday through the weekend. Much colder on Sunday.
Migrations/Observations: Birds have stopped moving due to warm weather.
Duck Abundance: Low. Waterfowl are spread out.
Hunter Activity/Success: Success depends on hunters finding low hunting pressure areas.
General Comments: Sunlight Day Road is underwater. Lake levels are 8 to 9 feet higher than normal.

Galla Creek WMA:

Percent Flooded: 100 percent.
Habitat Conditions: Fair mast crop with high water due to heavy rain.
Weather: Rain and cooler weather expected.
Migrations/Observations: Very few ducks observed in the area.
Duck Abundance: Low.
Hunter Activity/Success: A few hunters are having success.

Johnson County Rest Area:

Percent Flooded: 60 percent.
Habitat Conditions: Good. Moist soil units produced excellent food and a good millet crop.
Weather: Rain beginning Thursday and much colder on Sunday.
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 60s with rain expected Thursday throughout the weekend. Much colder on Sunday, with a chance of frozen precipitation.
Migrations/Observations: No new migrations over the weekend.
Duck Abundance: Low.
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
Sunrise/sunset tables are available at: http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneDay.html and in the *Arkansas Waterfowl Regulations Guide*.

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