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## Weekly Waterfowl Report for January 17, 2007

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
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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:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 33. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25. East-southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

**Thursday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 42. Calm wind becoming west-southwest around 5 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 31. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

**Friday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 40. North-northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Friday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. North-northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

**Saturday:** A 20 percent chance of rain after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 42. Calm wind becoming north-northeast around 5 mph

**Saturday Night:** A chance of sleet or rain. Cloudy, with a low around 32. East-northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.

**Sunday:** Rain, snow, or sleet likely. Cloudy, with a high near 36. East-northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

**Sunday Night:** A chance of snow or sleet. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

**Monday:** Partly cloudy, with a high near 40.

**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 24.

**Tuesday:** Partly cloudy, with a high near 40.

### NORTHEAST ARKANSAS—

#### *Dave Donaldson Black River WMA:*

**Percent Flooded:** 100 percent in the green-tree reservoirs and 100 percent in the moist soil units. The Black River is at a stage of 12.9 feet at Corning and is expected to crest around 13.1 feet by Thursday. Hubble gauge is at 268.4 MSL, Brookings is 267.9 MSL, and Winchester is at 265.2 MSL.

**Habitat Conditions:** Moderate.

**Weather Conditions:** The week will be much cooler, starting off with clear sunny skies and ending with more rain and possibly frozen precipitation. Highs for the week will range from 34 to 47 degrees. A 40 percent chance of rain is forecast for Sunday. Lows for the week will range from 20 to 32 degrees.

**Duck Abundance:** Fair to moderate numbers are on the area. LakeAshbaugh has high numbers. Ducks have been concentrated in the GTR rest area, and more are in local fields than previously reported.

**Hunter activity/Success:** High hunter activity over the weekend after the break with fair to moderate success depending on location.

#### *ShireyBay 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 also are 100 percent flooded.

**Habitat Conditions:** Black River is flooding the area. The gauge at Black Rock is at 23.41 feet. Vehicle traffic is not possible from the River Field moist soil unit and points south to the end of the road.

**Weather:** Partly cloudy this week with highs around 40 and lows around 20 by the weekend. Rain and possibly frozen precipitation are forecast this weekend.

**Migrations/Observations:** Ducks have moved off the area because of the excessive water in adjacent fields.

**Duck Abundance:** Poor.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** Very low hunter activity on Sunday with poor success.

#### **St. Francis Sunken Lands WMA:**

**Percent Flooded:** The Snowden Waterfowl Rest Area (WRA) is 100 percent flooded and the Payneway WRA is 100 percent flooded. The current St. Francis River level at Oak Donnick is 216.32 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 good.

**Weather Conditions:**Forecasts call for mostly cloudy skies with highs in the mid 40s and lows in the upper 20s to lower 30s. There is a 40 percent chance of rain on Sunday.

**Duck Abundance:**Fair.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** Very little hunting pressure. Success is minimal.

#### **Earl Buss Bayou DeView WMA:**

**Percent Flooded:** The Thompson and South Oliver tracts are 100 percent flooded with current gauge readings at 4.02 feet and 4.47 feet, respectively.

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

**Weather Conditions:** Mostly sunny, then changing to partly cloudy toward the end of the week. Temperatures ranging in the low 40s to mid 20s.

**Migrations/Observations:**A few ducks, with most utilizing adjacent agricultural fields. Most of the ducks are scattered because of the recent rains.

**Duck Abundance:**Fair.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** Low.

**General Comments:** Please be aware of submerged logs within boat lanes, and water crossing interior roads within the WMA. Most of the area is accessible by boat, but too deep to wade.

#### **Big LakeWMA:**

**Percent Flooded:**The timber area is 100 percent flooded. Ditches are 100 percent flooded. Target water level is 235.5 MSL in the north woods with a present reading over 240.0. Target level is 234.5 MSL in the south woods with a present reading of more than 240.0. The Simmons Field unit is 100 percent flooded.

**Habitat Conditions:**Good.

**Weather Conditions:** Highs for the week will be in the upper 30s increasing to the mid 40s by the end of the week, and the lows will be in the mid 20s increasing to the lower 30s.

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

**Duck Abundance:** Fair.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** Low.

**General Comments:** Water is extremely high and should stabilize toward the end of the week. A lot of blinds are under water and inaccessible.

## EAST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS -

### **Henry Gray Hurricane Lake WMA:**

**Percent Flooded:** 100 percent. White River at Augusta is at 32.49 feet and rising, and at Georgetown the river level is 21.14 feet and rising.

**Habitat Conditions:** Good acorn crop.

**Weather:** Colder temperatures.

**Migrations/Observations:** Low numbers of ducks.

**Duck Abundance:** Low.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** Low.

**General Comments:** Water is rising from recent heavy rains.

### **North GTR:**

**Percent Flooded:** 100 percent.

**Habitat Conditions:** Good acorn crop.

**Weather:** Colder temperatures expected.

**Migrations/Observations:** Low population of ducks.

**Duck Abundance:** Low.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** Low.

### **South GTR:**

**Percent Flooded:** 100 percent.

**Habitat Conditions:** Good acorn crop.

**Weather:** Colder temperatures expected.

**Migrations/Observations:** Low duck numbers.

**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 21.14 feet and rising.

**Weather:** Turning cold with temperatures in the 20s at night and 30s to 40s during the day for the rest of the week.

**Migrations/Observations:** No new flights seen.

**Duck Abundance:** Poor.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** Hunters are having poor success.

**General Comments:** A quota permit draw (two hours before official shooting hours) is held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday throughout waterfowl season. A computer online draw has been established for five stations and one mobility-impaired blind throughout season. *Because of high water, Jones Island Road is not passable by vehicle. Because of present water levels, boats are needed to access and hunt the impoundments on Raft Creek.*

**RexHancockBlackSwamp WMA:**

**Percent Flooded:** 90 percent.

**Habitat Conditions:** Good acorn crop.

**Weather:** Cooler weather expected throughout this week.

**Migrations/Observations:** No new flights observed.

**Duck Abundance:** Fair.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** Fair.

**General Comments:** The CacheRiver at Patterson is presently at 10.86 because of heavy rains and is forecast to rise to over 11 feet by the weekend.

**Dagmar WMA:**

**Percent Flooded:** 60 percent.

**Habitat Conditions:** Good acorn crop.

**Weather:** Cold and wet.

**Migrations/Observations:** No new flights observed.

**Duck Abundance:** Numbers have increased slightly but are still low.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** Moderate/poor.

**General Comments:** Bayou DeView is rising and flooding additional habitat. The CacheRiver at Cotton Plant was 17.9 feet and rising. Water is beginning to inundate the main road near Troy Corner.

**Mud Slough GTR:**

**Percent Flooded:** More than 100 percent flooded.

**Habitat Conditions:** Good acorn crop.

**Weather:** Cold and wet.

***Migrations/Observations:*** No new flights.

***Duck Abundance:*** A few wood ducks. Mallard numbers have increased slightly.

***Hunter Activity/Success:*** Moderate to poor.

***General Comments:*** A few ducks are being reported in the area and water is above the 160 flood pool and rising.

**AppleLake Rest Area:**

***Percent Flooded:*** 70 percent.

***Habitat Conditions:*** Good acorn crop.

***Weather:*** Cold and wet.

***Migrations/Observations:*** A variety of waterfowl are using the lake.

***Duck Abundance:*** Low.

***Hunter Activity/Success:*** Closed to access.

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

## **CENTRAL ARKANSAS -**

***BellSlough 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.

***General Comments:***Additional acreage is flooded on the area. Access roads may be impassible.

**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:***Few ducks.

***Holland Bottoms WMA:***

***Percent Flooded:*** 80 percent.

***Habitat Conditions:*** Good mast crop.

***Migrations/Observations:*** A few wood ducks.

***Duck Abundance:***Very low.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** None noted.

**General Comments:** Overflow flooding. Water will drop quickly.

**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:** Few.

**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:** 100 percent.

**Habitat Conditions:** Normal.

**Migrations/Observations:** Few ducks seen.

**Duck Abundance:** Very few ducks.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** Poor success.

**General Comments:** Only Pierce and Dix Creeks are open to waterfowl hunting.

## **SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS -**

**Bayou Meto WMA:**

**General Comments:** The following structures have gates open: Cannon Brake, Long Pond, Five Forks, Lower Vallier and Upper Vallier.

**Upper Vallier:**

**Percent Flooded:** 100 percent.

**Habitat Conditions:** Good.

**Migrations/Observations:** Moderate.

**Duck Abundance:** Moderate.

**Hunter Activity/Success: Moderate/Fair.**

**Lower Vallier:**

**Percent Flooded: 100 percent.**

**Habitat Conditions: Good.**

**Migrations/Observations: Moderate.**

**Duck Abundance: Moderate.**

**Hunter Activity/Success: Moderate/Fair.**

**Government Cypress:**

**Percent Flooded: 100 percent.**

**Habitat Conditions: Good.**

**Migrations/Observations: Moderate.**

**Duck Abundance: Moderate.**

**Hunter Activity/Success: Moderate/Fair.**

**Buckingham Flats:**

**Percent Flooded: 100 percent.**

**Habitat Conditions: Good.**

**Migrations/Observations: Low.**

**Duck Abundance: Low.**

**Hunter Activity/Success: Low.**

**Temple Island:**

**Percent Flooded: 100 percent.**

**Habitat Conditions: Good.**

**Migrations/Observations: Moderate.**

**Duck Abundance: Moderate.**

**Hunter Activity/Success: Moderate/Fair.**

**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: 100percent.**

**Habitat Conditions: Good.**

**Migrations/Observations: No new movement at this time.**

**Duck Abundance: Low.**

**Hunter Activity/Success: Low number of hunters killing a few ducks.**

**General Comments: Extremely high water. Use caution.**

**Rest Area:**

**Percent Flooded: 100percent.**

**Habitat Conditions: Good.**

**Migrations/Observations: No new movement 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 movement at this time.**

**Duck Abundance: Low.**

**Hunter Activity/Success: Low number of hunters killing a few ducks.**

**General Comments: The area MSL is at 133.2 feet and rising.**

**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:** Low.

**General Comments:**Arkansas River gauge at Pendleton Ferry is at 29.35 feet.

**ChoctawIsland WMA:**

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

**Habitat Conditions:** Good.

**Migrations/Observations:** Fair.

**Duck Abundance:** Fair.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** Low.

**Comments:** Mississippi River gauge at ArkansasCity is at 32.03 feet.

**Beryl Anthony Lower Ouachita WMA:**

**Percent Flooded:** 60 percent.

**Habitat Conditions:** Fair.

**Migrations/Observations:** No ducks reported by hunters.

**Water Levels:** 67.8 feet MSL below Felsenthal Lock and Dam.

**Duck Abundance:** Low.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** Low.

**General Comments:** The area may be more flooded temporarily because of recent intense precipitation. However, some flooding onto the northern road has occurred. This road floods after water levels have reached 65 feet MSL.

## **SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS-**

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

**Percent Flooded:** 95 percent.

**Habitat Conditions:** Good.

**Weather:** Cold with rain or snow this weekend.

**Migrations/Observations:** Few 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:** 25 percent.

**Habitat Conditions:** Poor.

**Weather:** Cold with rain or snow forecast through the weekend.

**Migrations/Observations:** 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 and wet.

**Migrations/Observations:** Some mallards and gadwalls.

**Duck Abundance:** Low.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** Fair.

**Little Grassy:**

**Percent Flooded:** 100 percent.

**Habitat Conditions:** Fair.

**Weather:** Cold with the possibility of snow during the weekend.

**Migrations/Observations:** No ducks.

**Duck Abundance:** Very low.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** Poor.

**General Comments:** Walk in only.

**MillwoodLake:**

**Percent Flooded:** 264.06 MSL.

**Habitat Conditions:** Water level falling slowly.

**Weather:** A cold front moving in with snow or ice forecast through the weekend.

**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 stable.

***Weather:*** Cold with rain or snow forecast on Saturday and Sunday.

***Migrations/Observations:*** No new ducks observed.

***Duck Abundance:*** Low. Mostly wood ducks, gadwalls, blue- and green-winged teal and a few mallards.

***Hunter Activity/Success:*** Poor.

**Henry Moore Rest Area:**

***Percent Flooded:*** 95 percent.

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

***Weather:*** Cold and wet.

***Migrations/Observations:*** No new ducks observed.

***Duck Abundance:*** Good number of ducks including mallards and teal.

***Hunter Activity/Success:*** N/A

**NORTHWEST ARKANSAS -**

**Ed Gordon Point Remove WMA:**

***Percent Flooded:*** More than 100 percent of capacity.

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

***Weather:*** Partly cloudy with highs in the 30s and lows in the 20s.

***Migrations/Observations:*** No new migrations observed.

***Duck Abundance:*** Few and scattered.

***Hunter Activity/Success:*** Quite a few hunters. Fair success.

***General Comments:*** Water is higher than it has been in several years.

***Arkansas River Valley:***

***Percent Flooded:*** 100 percent. All small rivers and streams are out of their banks.

***Habitat Conditions:*** Good. A lot of water in agricultural fields.

***Weather:*** Partly cloudy with highs in the 30s and lows in the 20s.

***Migrations/Observations:*** Few ducks. Scattered because of water.

***Duck Abundance:*** Low.

**Hunter Activity/Success: Poor.**

**General Comments: Cold weather should help bring in new migrations.**

**Dardanelle WMA:**

**Percent Flooded: 100 percent. All small rivers and streams are out of their banks.**

**Habitat Conditions: Moist soil units are 100 percent. High-energy seeds are scattered throughout. A lot of water in agricultural fields.**

**Weather: Partly cloudy with highs in the 30s and lows in the 20s**

**Migrations/Observations: No new migrations.**

**Duck Abundance: Low.**

**Hunter Activity/Success: Poor.**

**General Comments: Cold weather could help with new migrations.**

**Ozark Pool:**

**Percent Flooded: 100 percent. All small rivers and streams are out of their banks.**

**Habitat Conditions: Moist soil units are flooded. Good millet crop and moist soil plants. A lot of water in agricultural fields.**

**Weather: Partly cloudy with highs in the 30s and lows in the 20s**

**Migrations/Observations: Need migrations to improve hunting outlook.**

**Duck Abundance: Low.**

**Hunter Activity/Success: Poor.**

**General Comments: Cold weather could help with new migrations.**

**Dyer LakeCells:**

**Percent Flooded: 100 percent. All small rivers and streams are out of their banks.**

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

**Weather: Partly cloudy with highs in the 30s and lows in the 20s**

**Migrations/Observations: No new migrations.**

**Duck Abundance: Poor.**

**Hunter Activity/Success: Poor.**

**General Comments: Cold weather could help with new migrations. One of the AGFC's satellite mallards arrived near the area this week from Missouri.**

**Arkansas River Pool 9:**

**Percent Flooded:** 100 percent. All small rivers and streams are out of their banks.

**Habitat Conditions:** Good. Agricultural fields along the river have a lot of water.

**Weather:** Partly cloudy with highs in the 30s and lows in the 20s.

**Migrations/Observations:** No new migrations.

**Duck Abundance:** Low.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** Poor.

**General Comments:** Cold weather could help with new migrations.

**Petit Jean WMA:**

**Percent Flooded:** All areas are well over 100 percent flooded.

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

**Weather:** Partly cloudy with highs in the 30s and lows in the 20s

**Migrations/Observations:** Few migrations observed.

**Duck Abundance:** Few and scattered.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** Successful hunters will try to key in on shallow water areas.

**General Comments:** Petit Jean River is up and out of its banks.

**Lake Nimrod WMA:**

**Percent Flooded:** Well over 100 percent of capacity.

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

**Weather:** Partly cloudy with highs in the 30s and lows in the 20s

**Migrations/Observations:** None reported.

**Duck Abundance:** Poor. The ducks are spread out very thin.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** Successful hunters will try to key in on shallow water areas.

**General Comments:** Lake Nimrod 360.7 MSL and is expected to crest at 364.0 MSL.

**Galla Creek WMA:**

**Percent Flooded:** 100 percent.

**Habitat Conditions:** Fair mast crop with higher water because of heavy rain.

**Weather:** Partly cloudy with highs in the 30s and lows in the 20s

**Migrations/Observations:** Very few.

**Duck Abundance:** Low.

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

**Johnson County Rest Area:**

**Percent Flooded:** 100 percent

**Habitat Conditions:** Good. Moist soil units produced excellent food with a good millet crop.

**Weather:** Partly cloudy with highs in the 30s and lows in the 20s

**Duck Abundance:** Fair.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** N/A

**General Comments:** No hunting.

**Frog Bayou WMA:**

**Percent Flooded:** More than 100 percent flooded.

**Habitat Conditions:** Good stands of native vegetation.

**Weather:**Partly cloudy with highs in the 30s and lows in the 20s

**Migrations/Observations:** No new migrations over the weekend.

**Duck Abundance:** Poor.

**Hunter Activity/Success:** Poor.

**General Comments:** Shallow water areas are subject to freeze, as temperatures are expected to drop.

\*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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