

# SEASON IN REVIEW



**2023-2024**

**DUCK POPULATIONS, HABITAT CONDITIONS, WINTER WEATHER,  
AND REPORTS FROM THE FIELD**



# SEASON IN REVIEW

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**F**or many long-time hunters, the 2023–24 season was their most frustrating and perplexing ever. Despite improved breeding conditions in 2022, results from the 2023 breeding population survey revealed another year of population declines in the Traditional Survey Area, as total ducks were down 7 percent and mallards down 18 percent to their lowest level in nearly 30 years. Portions of the Dakotas received late winter snow and rain that recharged wetlands, but overall pond numbers were down 9 percent from 2022, signifying a return to drier conditions. During fall 2023, scientists reported that the combination of the lowest breeding duck population in nearly 15 years, a delayed spring, and dry breeding conditions across much of the prairies were lining up to make the 2023–24 duck season a struggle. As fall approached, severe drought was entrenched across many states east of the Rockies, with the Gulf Coast and southeastern U.S. particularly affected, greatly limiting opportunities for early migrant ducks and hunters. A strong El Niño took hold by mid-winter, bringing widespread record warmth through December, record low snow cover, and an unexpected continuation of fall and winter drought in the central and southern U.S. In combination, these conditions delivered a virtual perfect storm for poor waterfowl hunting. Although mild conditions allowed birds to linger north of traditional terminal wintering grounds well into December, the lack of weather disruptions and persistent hunting pressure created stale birds and challenging hunts even where ducks were found. January brought optimism to hunters from California to South Carolina as a series of intense winter storms plunged temperatures to record lows across much of the continent and dropped deep snow across northern landscapes, finally providing a welcome movement of birds into southerly locales. The change proved useful for many, but it was short-lived, as warmth returned and the season wound down. No region was spared the effects of these challenging conditions, and few hunters reported sustained success throughout the season. To put it bluntly, many hunters referred to 2023–24 season as their worst ever. Looking ahead to the 2024 breeding season, drought has worsened for vast portions of the Prairie Pothole Region. Drought also persists across much of the Western Boreal Forest, creating potentially ominous conditions for another intense fire season and limiting the options for ducks returning to breed in the Traditional Survey Area. Significant late winter snow and spring rains will be needed to avoid drought conditions that could rival those of the 1980s. Elsewhere, breeding habitats of the Great Lakes and portions of eastern Canada have benefitted from recent rain and snow, which should boost wetland conditions for ducks settling in those landscapes. In the western U.S., late winter storms have recharged water supplies and lifted mountain snowpack to near normal levels in most watersheds, which bodes well for locally breeding ducks. Snow cover across Alaska has been above average, creating expectations for good to excellent wetland conditions in this important landscape.

# DUCK POPULATIONS, HABITAT CONDITIONS, WINTER WEATHER, AND REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

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**M**any factors combine to influence the abundance and distribution of waterfowl during fall and winter, including temperature, snow and ice cover, precipitation, habitat quality and quantity, fall population size (a function of breeding population and productivity), disturbance, and agricultural land use practices. These have been documented and discussed by many authors, including peer-reviewed scientific publications (Nichols et al. 1983, Schummer et al. 2010, Hagy et al. 2016) and popular magazine articles (Brasher 2019, Moorman 2019, Moorman 2020).

This report provides an overview of biological and environmental conditions in the contiguous U.S. during the 2023–24 waterfowl hunting season and their potential influence on duck abundance and distribution. Notable among these are breeding habitat conditions, which are pivotal in determining productivity and the fall flight, as well as large-scale weather patterns and landscape conditions during fall and winter. The relative influence of these factors varies across space, time, and among waterfowl species. Descriptions in this report should not be viewed as definitive assessments of either the distribution of waterfowl at specific times and locations or the conditions that affected them. During the non-breeding season, waterfowl movements can be southerly and northerly as well as east and west, and these movements may occur quickly in response to changing environmental conditions. This report also includes summaries and anecdotal observations of the 2023–24 waterfowl hunting season from DU staff, wetland managers, and hunters across the four flyways.



## 2023-24 WATERFOWL SEASON IN REVIEW



PHOTO: US Geological Survey

## BREEDING POPULATION & HABITAT CONDITIONS



**E**ntering spring 2023, waterfowl managers were hopeful that improved breeding habitat conditions from the preceding year would boost breeding duck populations in the Traditional Survey Area (TSA), encompassing the highly productive Prairie Pothole Region (PPR), Western Boreal Forest, and Alaska. However, when released in late summer, the survey results told a different story—one in which the population declined from 2022 and dipped below long-term averages for many species (Figure 1). Although habitat conditions in 2022 improved over the severe drought of 2021, much of the moisture came too late for early nesting species to fully benefit, and drought remained across the western Canadian prairies. Age ratios from harvest surveys in the 2022–23 season increased over the prior year, providing evidence of improved productivity during 2022, but it was insufficient to lift overall duck population levels.

In the TSA, estimates for 7 of the 10 most common duck species declined over 2022, with only green-winged teal, northern pintails, and canvasbacks increasing. The estimate for total ducks was 32.3 million, down 7 percent from 2022 and 9 percent below the long-term average. The mallard breeding population was perhaps the most concerning result as it was estimated at 6.2 million, down 18 percent from the prior year and 23 percent below the long-term average. This was also the lowest estimate for mallards in 30 years, indicative of the cumulative effects of persistent drought and other habitat changes across portions of the prairies. Pintails were a welcome exception to broader declines, as their population estimate was up 24 percent from 2022.

Significant declines were reported for survey strata in Alaska and the Yukon Territories. Total duck estimates in these areas were 50 percent lower than 2022, with mallards and pintails down over 30 percent, and wigeon, green-winged teal, and shovelers down over 60 percent. These surprisingly low estimates were likely attributable to the combined effects of challenging survey conditions and a late spring that resulted in less-than-ideal survey timing. Despite the declines, duck populations in the TSA remain relatively healthy, as 6 of the 10 most common species remain above their long-term averages.

Results were more encouraging for the Eastern Survey Area, where wetland conditions are less variable. Total duck estimates were largely unchanged (up 5 percent) from the prior year, although increases were noted for black ducks, green-winged teal, and goldeneyes (Figure 2). Elsewhere, breeding duck estimates from western states were a mixed bag, as California saw a 30 percent increase, Oregon a 43 percent decrease, and Washington a 7 percent decrease over 2022. However, much improved habitat conditions across western states influenced settling patterns and set the stage for improved productivity. In the Great Lakes states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, where local production is an important source of harvest, total ducks and mallards declined by 15 and 20 percent, respectively.



**2023 WATERFOWL SURVEY**  
ducks.org/ducknumbers

SPECIES	2023	2022	% CHANGE FROM 2022	% CHANGE FROM LTA
MALLARD	6,129	7,434	-18%	-23%
GADWALL	2,562	2,685	-5%	+25%
AMERICAN WIGEON	1,890	2,187	-14%	-28%
GREEN-WINGED TEAL	2,504	2,151	+16%	+15%
BLUE-WINGED TEAL	5,253	6,491	-19%	+2%
NORTHERN SHOVELER	2,859	3,036	-6%	+8%
NORTHERN PINTAIL	2,219	1,784	+24%	-43%
REDHEAD	0,931	1,067	-13%	+27%
CANVASBACK	0,619	0,587	+6%	+5%
SCAUP	3,519	3,655	-4%	-29%
<b>TOTAL DUCKS</b>	<b>32,320</b>	<b>34,657</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>-9%</b>
<b>MAY PONDS (US &amp; CANADA)</b>	<b>4,975</b>	<b>5,457</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-5%</b>

Numbers in millions. LTA (Long-term Average).  
Based on Traditional Survey Area.

**FIGURE 1.** Breeding population estimates for the 10 most common duck species in the Traditional Survey Area during spring 2023.



**2023 EASTERN SURVEY AREA**  
ducks.org/ducknumbers

SPECIES	2023	2022	% CHANGE FROM 2022	% CHANGE FROM LTA
MALLARD	1,202	1,254	-4%	-6%
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK	732	676	+8%	+6%
GREEN-WINGED TEAL	386	330	+17%	+9%
RING-NECKED DUCK	660	679	-3%	-5%
GOLDENEYE (COMMON & BARROW'S)	848	655	+28%	+28%
WOOD DUCK*	1,000	1,000	0%	+11%
MERGAUSER (COMMON, HOODED, & RED-BREADED)	949	954	-1%	+24%

Numbers in thousands. LTA (Long-term Average).  
\*Atlantic Flyway Estimate.

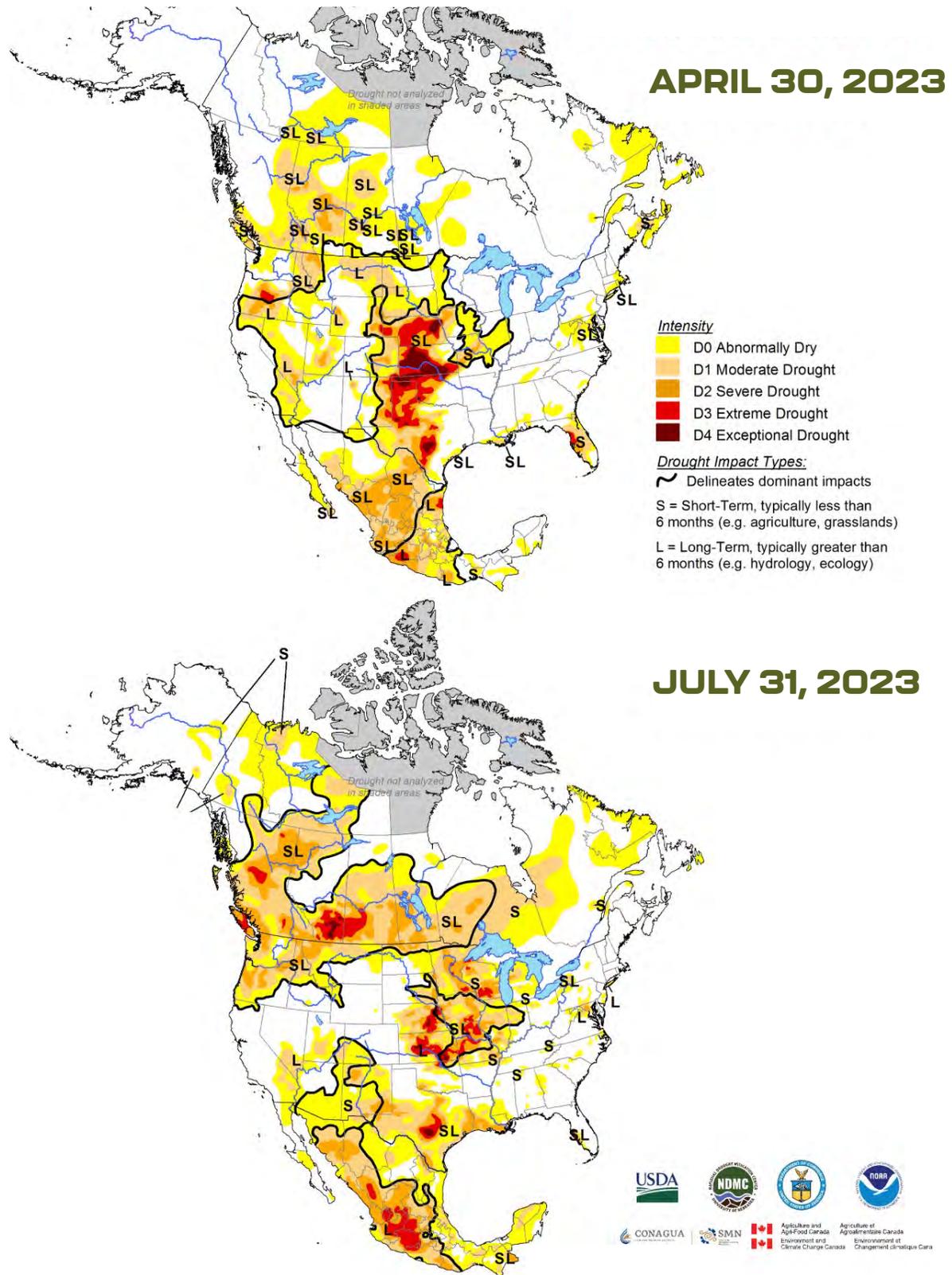
**FIGURE 2.** Breeding population estimates for the 6 most common duck species in the Eastern Survey Area during spring 2023.



PHOTO: MICHAEL FURTMAN

Habitat conditions during spring–summer 2023 were variable across important breeding regions. Residual moisture from 2022 and late winter precipitation produced habitat conditions in localized areas of the Dakotas that pilot biologists described as some of the best in over a decade. In contrast, persistent drought in the western Canadian prairies held wetland conditions below average. Total pond counts (an index of breeding habitat conditions) for the PPR declined 10 percent from 2022 and were 5 percent below the long-term average (Figure 1). For additional perspective, pond estimates in 2023 were approximately 40 percent lower than the record estimates of 2014, which was the last time good to excellent breeding conditions existed across the entire PPR. Additionally, spring temperatures on the prairies were below average through April, which likely delayed or impaired early nesting. Drought intensified over the summer, such that by late July much of the PPR was in moderate or severe drought (Figure 3).

# NORTH AMERICAN DROUGHT MONITOR



**FIGURE 3.** Status of drought in North America on April 30 and July 31, 2023. Maps from the North American Drought Monitoring program, <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/drought/nadm>



PHOTO: US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

“We had recovery from the drought of 2021, but it certainly didn’t cover the entire prairies,” recalls Dr. Scott Stephens, DU’s senior director of prairie and boreal conservation strategy. “And the rains that fell in spring of 2022 came late across much of Prairie Canada, which is never ideal from a production standpoint. Couple that with overall drier conditions and another delayed spring this year and the survey results seem to make a bit of sense.”

Conditions in the Western Boreal Forest were dry and warm, leading to a record-breaking fire season that burned over 35 million acres and forced the evacuation of numerous communities. Many fires occurred after ducks began nesting, but they may have affected breeding populations in some areas. Biologists do not expect the fires to have lasting effects on breeding duck populations, although increasing intensity and frequency of fires in northern landscapes is an emerging concern. Record mountain snow and rain across the western U.S. lifted most regions out of drought and improved habitat conditions for locally breeding ducks. Wetland conditions in the Great Lakes region and Eastern Survey Area were good to excellent, with many areas receiving above-average precipitation and leading biologists to expect average to good production in 2023.

As waterfowl managers digested the survey results, it appeared likely that the combined effects of an average breeding population, another late spring, and ongoing drought in the Canadian prairies would produce a 2023 fall flight that was average at best (Brasher et al. 2023). However, unknown at the time were the weather patterns yet to unfold that would make this season one of the most challenging in recent memory.

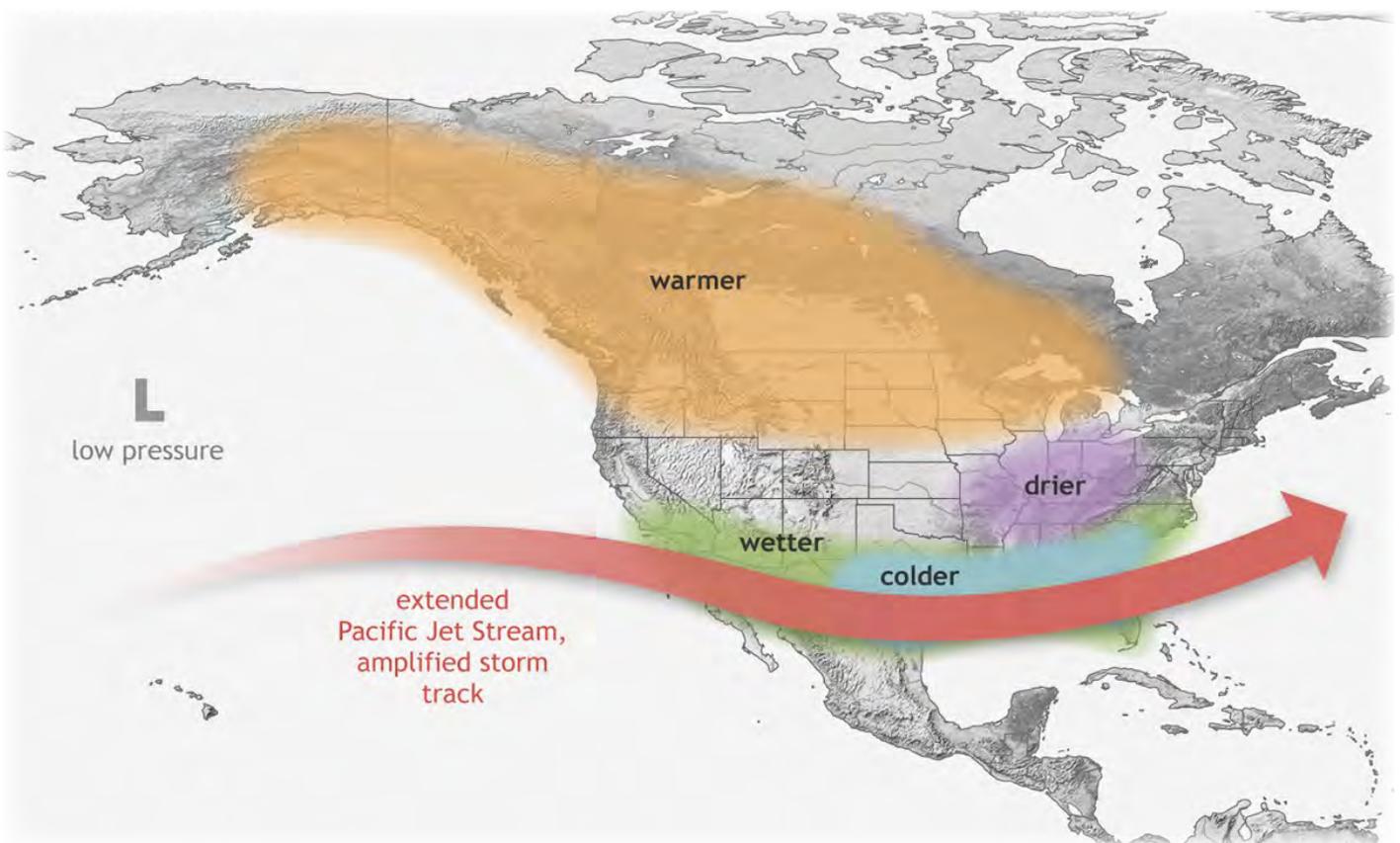
## EL NIÑO OVERVIEW

**W**eather is a dominant force in affecting habitat conditions for waterfowl throughout their annual cycle, while also providing a key trigger for the timing and extent of seasonal movements. Variability in weather conditions (rain, snow, temperature) across space and time are affected by large-scale climate patterns. One of the most frequently discussed and influential climate patterns for waterfowl hunters is the El Niño Southern Oscillation, which reflects periodic changes in sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific. Within this climate pattern, El Niño conditions are associated with warmer than average sea surface temperatures while La Niña produces cooler than average sea surface temperatures. Each has a unique influence on large-scale weather patterns.

El Niño conditions occur every 2–7 years, and the intensity and resulting influence on weather patterns can vary from weak to strong. The influence of an El Niño on North American weather patterns is typically more notable in late fall through spring. A moderate to strong El Niño often produces fall and winter conditions that are wetter-than-average from southern California to the Gulf Coast and drier-than-average in western Canada and the northern U.S. El Niño also brings better chances for warmer-than-average temperatures at northern latitudes, but average or cooler temperatures across the southern tier (Figure 4).

During the 2023–24 hunting season, a strong El Niño exerted a significant influence on weather patterns across North America, and in doing so produced conditions that frustrated even the most experienced waterfowl hunters.

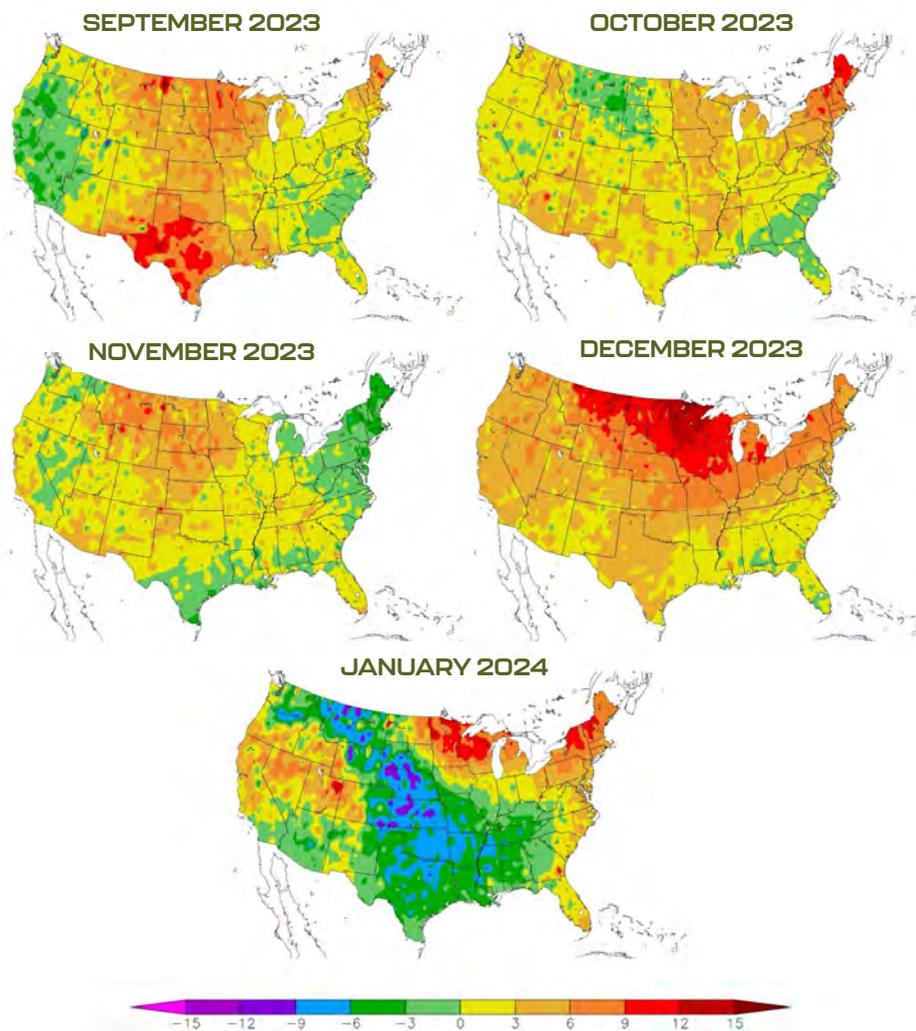
### TYPICAL EL NIÑO WINTERS



**FIGURE 4.** Typical weather conditions associated with a moderate to strong El Niño climate pattern (Credit [www.NOAA.climate.gov](http://www.NOAA.climate.gov)).

# TEMPERATURE

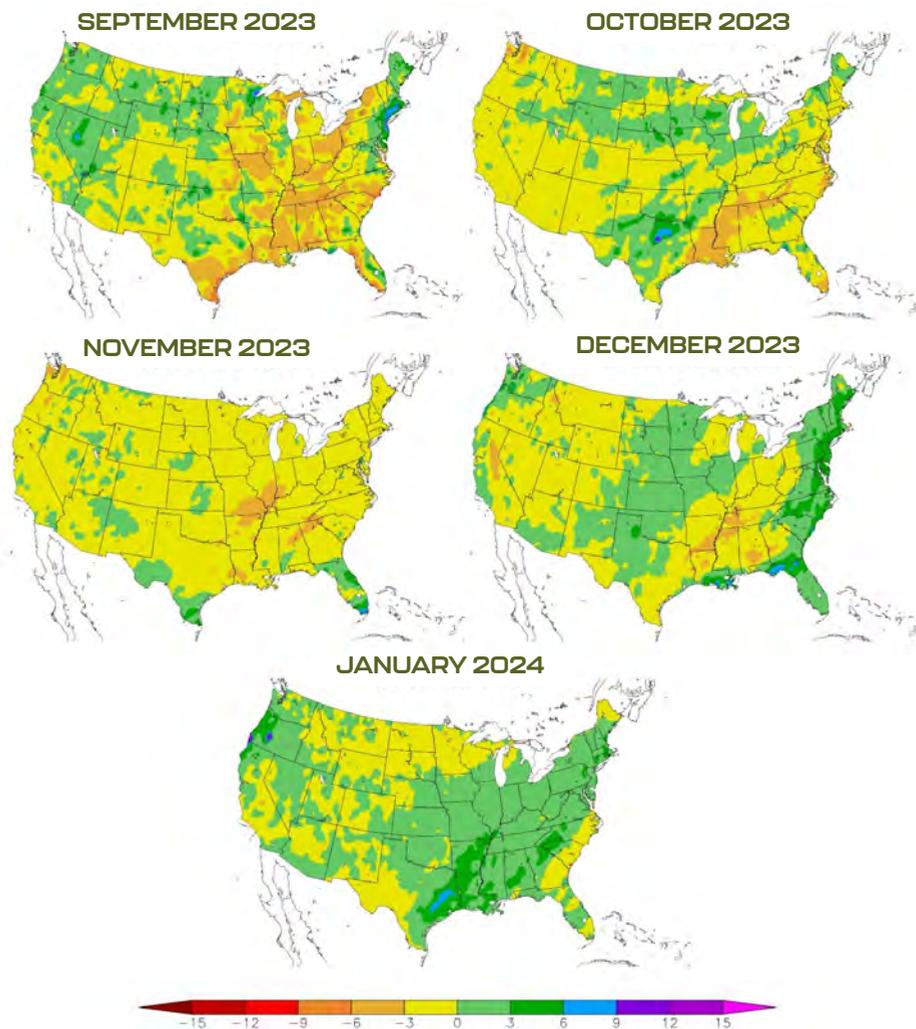
Warm temperatures in September delayed or otherwise protracted teal migration and made for unwelcome early season hunting conditions. Above average temperatures persisted into October across much of the U.S., with early October the hottest on record for some northern states. The first major cold snap came in late October, dropping temperatures across the prairies below 0 and creating the first notable push of birds out of Canada. Warm temperatures returned in early November, but a cold outbreak around Veteran’s Day caused a significant movement of ducks into mid-latitude states, with Missouri reporting duck abundances 70 percent above average. Warmth persisted across the western U.S. for much of the early season, although Pacific storms provided periodic cool downs. By December, climatologists officially declared a “strong El Niño,” which would soon deliver record-breaking temperatures at opposite ends of the spectrum. December 2023 registered as the hottest in the 129-year history of record keeping by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with most states seeing temperatures 6–15°F above average (Figure 5). The effects on duck migration and hunter success were predictable, as warm conditions caused limited migrations and reduced thermoregulatory and feeding demands. Just when it appeared all hope was lost, January provided reason for late-season optimism. Western states saw the arrival of a powerful bomb cyclone in early January that brought cold temperatures, strong winds, and heavy snow. Across the central and eastern U.S., a stretched polar vortex ushered in an arctic air mass that dropped temperatures 20–35°F below average, froze wetlands across vast areas, and helped move lingering birds into southern locales. The return of warm temperatures in late January led to a rapid thaw and provided one last opportunity for hunters. Despite the mid-January cold outbreak, many states across the West, Upper Midwest, and Atlantic Coast ended the month with above average temperatures.



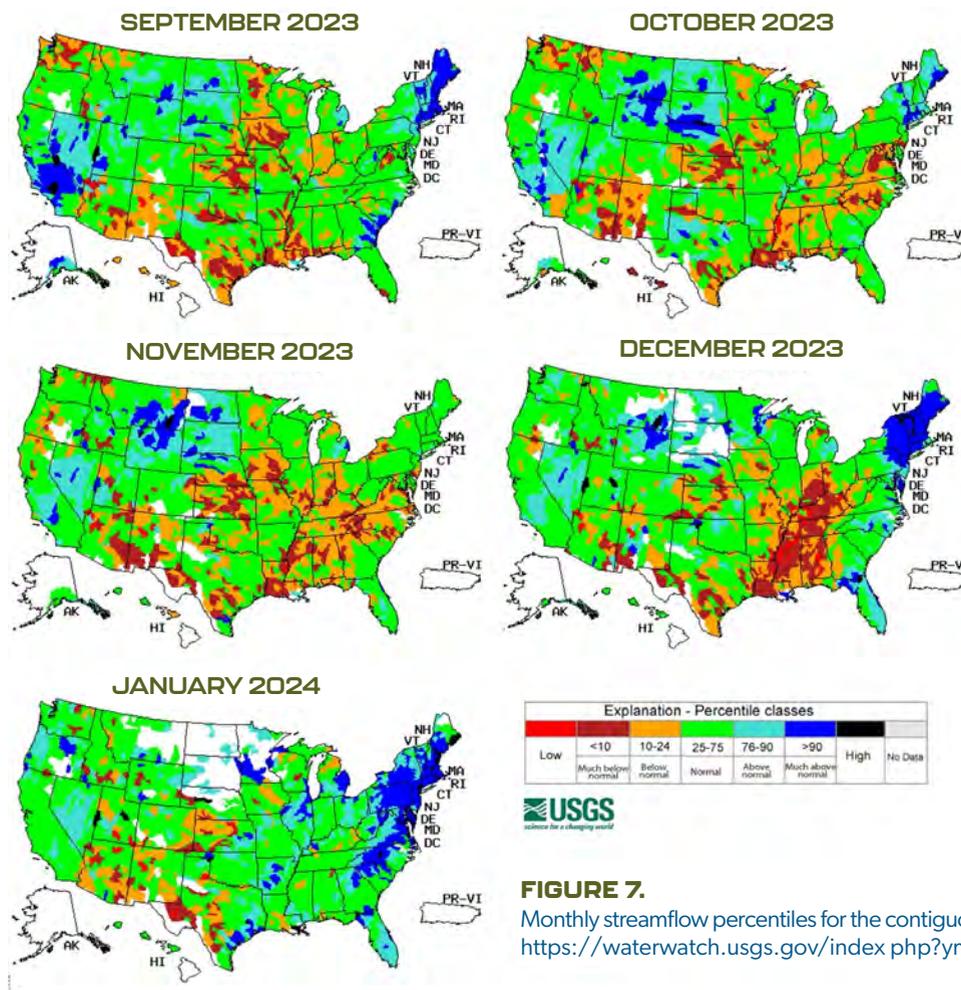
**FIGURE 5.** Average monthly temperature (°F) departure from normal for the contiguous U.S., Sep 2023–Jan 2024, <https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>.

## PRECIPITATION & STREAMFLOW

**W**idespread drought across the U.S. exacerbated the adverse effects of warm temperatures on waterfowl movements and distributions throughout much of fall–winter. Whether measured by precipitation, streamflow, or drought indices, all described a situation of limited habitat and few opportunities for ducks or hunters (Figures 6–8). Periodic rain-filled storms tracked across the southern Great Plains during October, providing localized drought relief, but high pressure and dry conditions remained widespread across the Southeast. By mid-October, the Mississippi River reached record lows near Memphis, and flows at the river terminus were so low that saltwater traveled upriver and threatened water supplies near New Orleans. As of late November, vast portions of the Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic flyways were abnormally dry or in moderate to extreme drought (Figure 8). Precipitation was below normal across much of the western U.S. through November, although abundant rain and snow from the preceding year enabled a return to normal rice acreage in the California Central Valley and provided ample water for managed wetlands. Conditions remained dry across the southern U.S. into December, but atmospheric rivers in the West, flooding rains on the Atlantic Coast, and local rain events in the Lower Mississippi Valley created newly flooded habitats in several important regions. January brought significant changes and began to deliver rainfall patterns typically associated with an El Niño. Ultimately, January 2024 would rank as the 10th wettest in the 129-year history of record keeping. Powerful storms across the south-central U.S. delivered heavy rain in late January, raising river levels, creating overbank flooding, and dramatically increasing the amount of habitat available for waterfowl and hunters during the final week of the season.

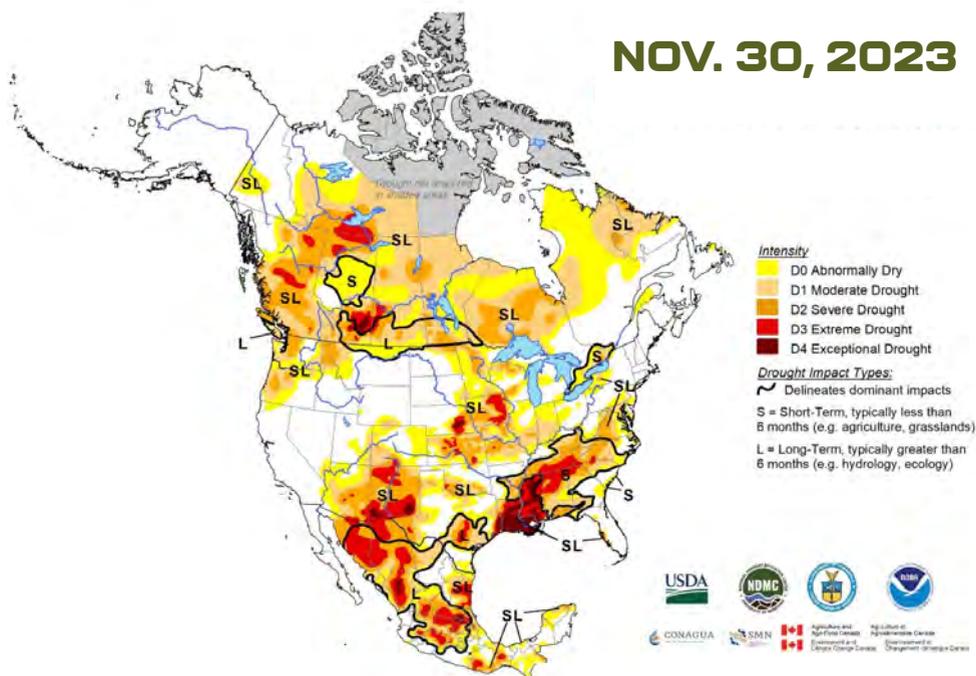


**FIGURE 6.** Total monthly precipitation (in), departure from normal for the contiguous U.S., Sep 2023–Jan 2024, <https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>.



**FIGURE 7.** Monthly streamflow percentiles for the contiguous U.S., Sep 2023–Jan 2024, <https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?ym=202201&m=nwc>.

## NORTH AMERICAN DROUGHT MONITOR

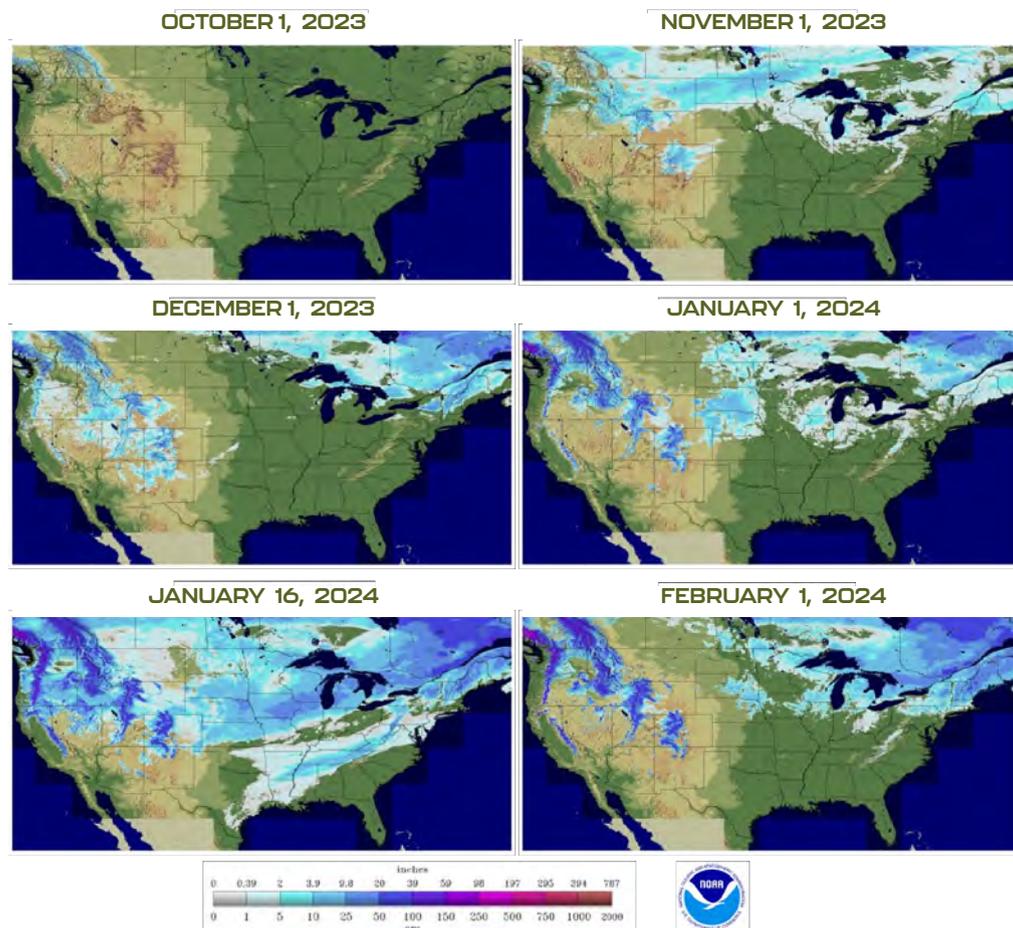


**FIGURE 8.** Status of drought in North America on November 30, 2023. Maps from the North American Drought Monitoring program, <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/drought/nadm>.

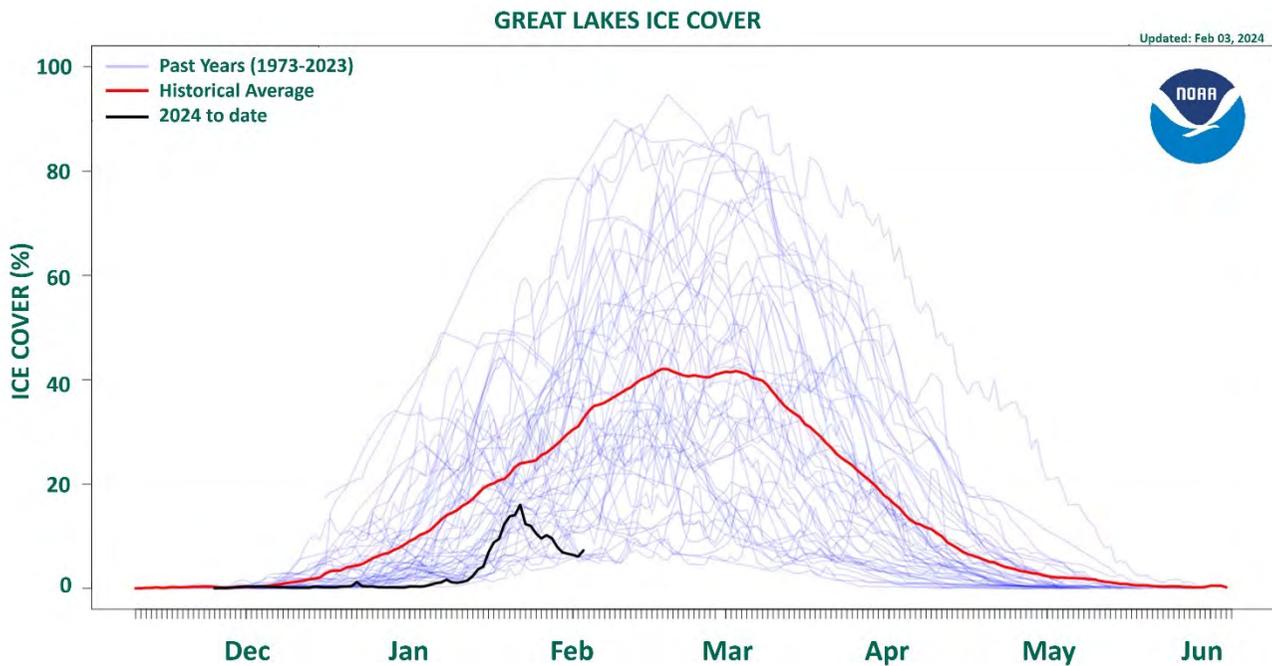
## SNOW & ICE COVER

**S**now and ice cover influence waterfowl distributions by reducing access to critical resources, including residual grain from harvested crops or natural foods and roost sites in wetlands, rivers, and lakes. During the 2023–24 season, warm temperatures and below average precipitation produced few major snow events, further enabling waterfowl to remain at northern latitudes. Although periodic winter storms and nor'easters delivered cold temperatures and regionally significant snowfall during November and December, the effects were short lived as warm temperatures rapidly returned. Not until early and mid-January, when a series of 4 back-to-back winter storms tracked across the U.S., did widespread, intense, and sustained snowfall and cold temperatures take hold across northern latitude states (Figure 9). Predictably, the combined effects of deep snow and extreme winter temperatures nudged birds farther south.

A late-October winter storm froze shallow wetlands across prairie Canada, but a subsequent warm up allowed many to thaw and kept larger wetlands open. With the exception of a short period during January and early February, ice cover across the Great Lakes was at historic lows, and by mid-February total ice cover was a mere 2.7 percent. Lakes Erie and Ontario were essentially ice-free on February 11, which are conditions not seen in the 50-year history of record keeping. Similarly, open water remained on many larger lakes in North Dakota into early January. When combined with the lack of snow, these conditions allowed birds to remain north later than normal. For example, North Dakota reported a record-setting mid-winter survey in which counts of mallards and Canada geese were 3–8 times greater than normal. Although the absolute number of mallards (approximately 40,000) was not large, it nevertheless demonstrates the effects of mild winter weather on duck distributions.



**FIGURE 9.** Daily snow depth (inches) on selected dates, Oct 2023–Feb 2024, for the contiguous U.S., <https://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/nsa/>.



**FIGURE 10.** Winter pattern of long-term (1973–2023) average ice cover (%) on the Great Lakes, compared to current year, as of Feb 8, 2024. <https://coastwatch.glerl.noaa.gov/statistic/statistic.html>

## REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

**Although no collection of reports and observations can accurately describe conditions and experiences across all hunters and regions, the following summaries attempt to provide a snapshot of the prevailing messages that DU biologists and partners heard throughout the 2023–24 season.**

### PACIFIC FLYWAY

Reports from Pacific Flyway hunters suggested highly variable success, although most indicated a very poor season. Fall migration was significantly delayed, likely caused by a late hatch and balmy conditions in boreal Canada that kept wetlands ice free until nearly Christmas. Many life-long Central Valley waterfowlers had the slowest season in memory, as unusually mild temperatures, large precipitation events in coastal Washington, and lack of north winds kept waterfowl north of traditional wintering areas through most of December. Waterfowl that were present in the Valley were widely dispersed with few reasons for movement as they took advantage of warm weather and food-rich wetlands until mid-January. By many accounts, rice field hunters had their worst season ever. Even well-managed private clubs that typically have consistent success reported a rough year and held fewer birds than normal, as the first major influx of birds didn't occur until January. Nevertheless, some hunters in the Valley experienced periodic success, although duck numbers were below average and there was no consistent pattern in bird activity.

In the Pacific Northwest, local production buoyed hunting success early, but turned hit-or-miss late in the season as flooding rains dispersed birds, warm weather caused limited movements, and extreme cold froze wetlands. However, some hunters in the region reported their best year on record as birds remained in the area throughout the season, highlighted by impressive numbers of mallards, wigeon, northern pintail, and green-winged teal. Hunting success around the Great Salt Lake was reported average to good, especially for mobile hunters able to access areas that became inundated due to the >5 feet increase in lake levels since last winter. Hunting success for many was driven by large numbers of green-winged teal and unusually abundant cinnamon teal, a likely reflection of good local production in 2023 and mild winter conditions.

## CENTRAL AND MISSISSIPPI FLYWAYS

Portions of the northern Great Plains started strong with decent bird numbers and good wetland conditions. Above average temperatures then settled in for much of November and December, making for an overall sub-optimal season despite ducks and geese staying north later than normal. An early arctic cold front around Halloween brought migrants to mid-latitude states and created good hunting where habitat was available. Other hunters reported dry conditions, warm weather, and concentrated pressure making for stale birds and slow outings in Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. Owing to delayed migration and record warmth in December, waterfowl counts on Missouri state and federal wetland areas were 100 percent above average in early January, while estimates from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas were consistently among their lowest on record. Reports from Arkansas suggested that the arrival of white-fronted geese, a typically reliable early migrant, was 3 weeks later than normal. Additionally, snow geese were still being hunted in the Dakotas and Montana into January. Waterfowl lingered north until extreme arctic weather arrived in early and mid-January, slamming the door on the remainder of the duck season for northern states. Sporadic reports of early season success came from the Great Lakes region, although mild weather and dry habitat conditions made for a generally challenging season, as some hunters endured their worst season in years.



Exceptional drought made for an inhospitable landscape for waterfowl and hunters well into winter, including normally reliable coastal wetlands. Drought conditions in coastal Louisiana were so severe that the duck season was virtually non-existent for many, as marshes remained dry and without food resources throughout most of the hunting season. Through the first half of the season, duck abundance and hunter success hinged on the presence of water—those

with access to managed water typically did well, while those relying on natural water struggled or were shut out entirely. Drought and mild weather made for difficult and sporadic hunting success in the southern Great Plains, although abnormal rain events across the Texas panhandle created the best wetland conditions in over 10 years. Despite periodic rains, many areas continued to experience limited habitat and few ducks into early January. Extreme arctic weather during mid-January, followed by a multi-day rain event and warming temperatures, brought new birds to the Mid-South and gave hunters a final week to salvage an otherwise dismal season.

## ATLANTIC FLYWAY

Habitat and hunting conditions were similarly variable and challenging in the Atlantic Flyway. Early drought meant few options for waterfowl and hunters in many areas while some northern hunters benefitted from milder weather that kept wetlands open well into winter. States in the Mid- and South Atlantic went from too dry to too wet in January as storms caused flooding and spread ducks across the landscape. Early hunting in coastal South Atlantic was reported average to good, as drought constrained the amount of habitat available for waterfowl in inland areas. Although wood ducks, ring-necked ducks and other species provided opportunities for hunters in southern reaches, warm temperatures allowed most ducks to remain north. The mid-January arctic storm and subsequent thaw provided a welcome change to waterfowl habitat and movements, but successes were sporadic and short lived as ducks dispersed across newly available habitats and warm temperatures returned. Overall, duck abundances and hunting success were below average across the Atlantic Flyway, and while some hunters were periodically successful, the 2023–24 season was one that many were happy to see end.

## SUMMARY AND LOOKING AHEAD

The combined effects of the lowest breeding population in 15 years, persistent drought on the breeding grounds, severe drought in key migration and wintering regions, widespread record warmth, limited snow cover, and ice-free northern rivers and lakes created one of the most frustrating hunting seasons ever. Although mild conditions allowed birds to linger north of traditional terminal wintering grounds well into December, the lack of periodic weather systems gave birds little reason to move and made for challenging hunts even where ducks were found. A series of intense winter storms in early to mid-January plunged temperatures to record lows across much of the continent and dropped deep snow across northern landscapes, finally providing a welcome movement of birds into southerly locales. The final weeks of the season delivered new birds and better opportunities for many hunters that had previously struggled, but the success was short-lived as warmth returned and the season came to a merciful conclusion.

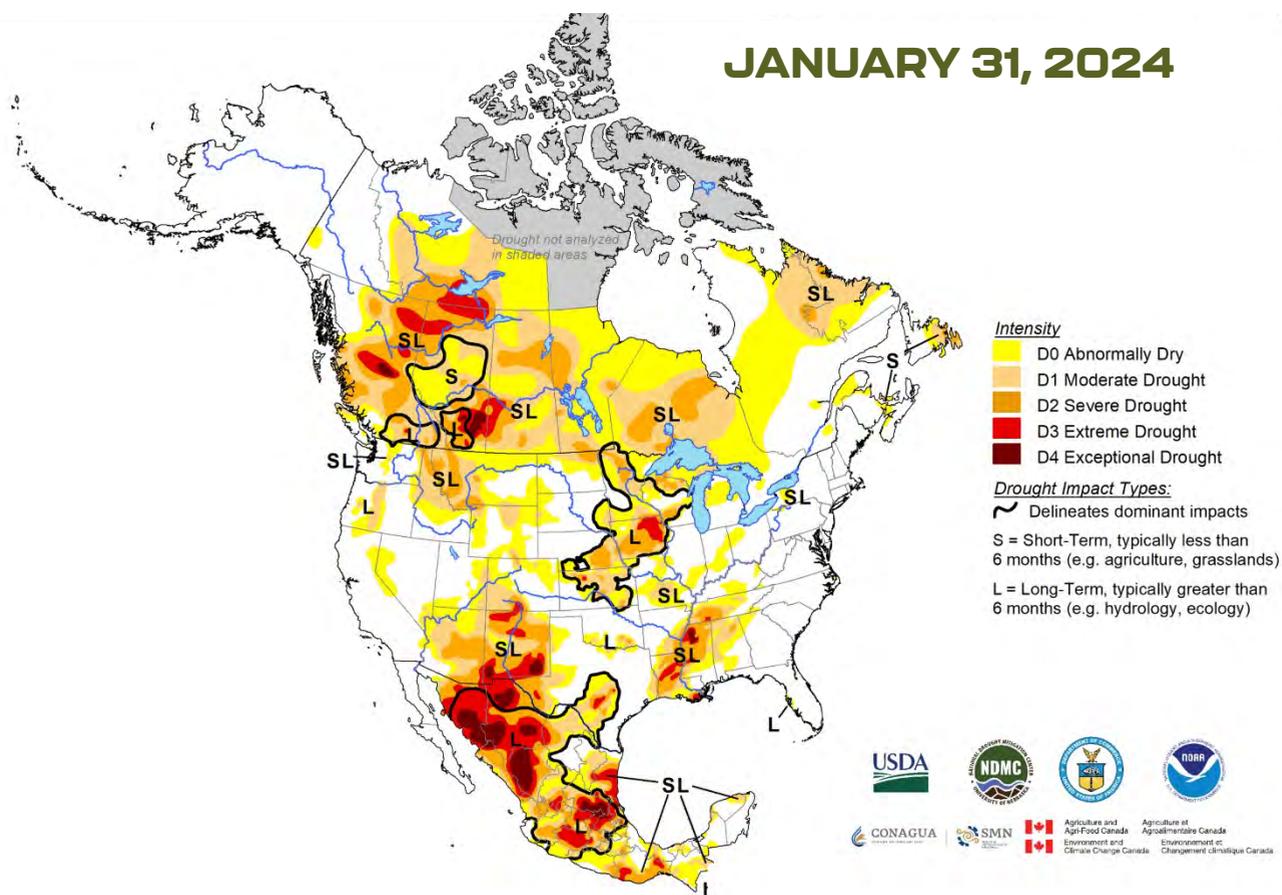
Looking ahead to the 2024 breeding season, drought has worsened across vast portions of the PPR (Figure 11). As of mid-February, little snow cover existed across the region and biologists received widespread reports of dry wetlands. Drought conditions persist across much of the Western Boreal Forest, creating potentially ominous conditions for another intense fire season and limiting the options for ducks returning to breed in the Traditional Survey Area. Significant late winter snow and spring rains will be needed to avoid drought conditions that may rival those of the 1980s. Elsewhere, breeding habitats of the Great Lakes and portions of eastern Canada have benefitted from rain and snow, which should boost wetland conditions for ducks settling in those landscapes. In the western U.S., late winter storms have recharged water supplies and lifted mountain snowpack to near normal levels for most watersheds, which bodes well for locally breeding ducks. Snow cover across Alaska has been above average and is creating expectations for good to excellent wetland conditions this spring.





# NORTH AMERICAN DROUGHT MONITOR

## JANUARY 31, 2024



**FIGURE 11.** Status of drought in North America on January 31, 2024. Map from the North American Drought Monitoring program, <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/drought/nadm>.

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# WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST

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