

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

"Difficult to afford private land hunting.

Hard to quality hunt public lands due to crowding and sometimes lack of sportsmanship"

Waterfowl hunting is still the best family & friends fellowship and camaraderie builder in the hunting industry

"Honestly in our part of southeast Missouri it is hard for me to see anything that is going in right direction.

Loss habitat due to change in ag, poor public wetland funding, lower duck numbers, commercialization and enormous amount pressure has seriously impacted hunting opportunities and quality."

Lots of interest

Just as conservation and management became popular in deer hunting, I think a movement is starting in Waterfowl as well

Youth mentor hunts.

I do think that there are organizations that are doing what they can to conserve the habitat and resource But I also think that some do it for their own organizations and not for everyone, even though it does impact everyone at the same time so they claim So In the grand scheme of things there probably is more waterfowl now than there was 40 years ago how ever the waterfowl have a lot more places to go and also has a bit of a negative impact on migration patterns They just don't migrate like they did 10 years ago much less 20 or 30 years ago there are too many refuges that are kept in a way that the birds don't have to leave it... There absolutely needs to be refuges not an argument on that at all but do the refuges need or have to have man made food planted for these birds and water kept open for them all winter long so that they do not do what GOD intended them to do and that is migrate south for the winter they have been doing it for hundreds of years and now they have no reason to leave no matter how bad it gets.. Which it does not snow or get as cold as it did 20 or 30 years ago But when it does get cold they have evolved and a learned trait to not leave and maybe that is where the domestic trait comes into play But I do know that there are some really big outfitters that have so much food and water that they never leave NO MATTER WHAT!! And it's sad because my grandchildren will never get to see what I did and my son caught the tail end of I could go on for days about what I think is wrong

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with it And I see that the next question is about hunting over unharvested crop mainly CORN not just crops so don't get confused here,, we plant corn and even the public places that i hunt, well they half way do it and I mean half way for a reason so that the big money guys act the river can fill theirs up to the rim I feel like it is not a matter of weather anymore if they move south it's if they run out of CORN for an example let's say about July or August it comes a flood over the upper Mississippi River valley and Missouri River and wipes out all the CORN that is bordering those rivers for 4 to 5 miles on each side then TN AR and MS and KY would have a banner season not because it got cold but because all the big outfits and refuges can hold and keep them and now they have imprinted on the fact they don't have to leave so again I could go on and on about what I think or what I have seen I feel like there needs to be a plan or rule that does something like this and it may take years to see what the outcome may be. But for every 100 acres of flooded area or what can flood and plant 10% in CORN and u can plant the rest in millet or moist soil mgmt garbage and if u have 20 acres floodable then it's 2 acres in CORN and the rest in millet and so on and in TN where I live the dang refuges are full of wall to wall CORN and they want to put moist soil BS in the hunt holes or very little corn and the dang duck commander ruined it all. It was not a big deal u til he came out with duck dynasty but I had been watching him for years I have his first video on freaking VHS but now u have so many did Influencers out there so it's the cool thing now how ever I would hate to know that I was just now he I to this game because they will never get to see what I did unless they want to pay MR Tony Vandemore 6,250\$ to go for 3 days and he isn't the only one When he finally pulled his boards out he was holding g over a million ducks during a major cold front and they never left SO. u TELL ME WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

I can't think of anything going right. I hunt a lot all over the place and every block of public I've been on in years full of out of owners who have no respect. Growing up we would walk in and hunt and everyone respected one another. I can't tell you how many times this year somebody set up too close to me or said they were hunting the hole I was in. There is no common courtesy anymore. Also the over abundance of hunters is crazy. More people than I've ever seen. We need to manage all wmas. It wouldn't take much. Just having people make sure the water gets off. That's not that hard the employees are just lazy. Big landowners that give enough money to make sure that the wma around their place is not successful is another big deal that needs to be mentioned. It happens at all the major wmas. Duck hunting in the state of Arkansas is ruined forever and will be that way from here on out.

"I like that we are getting more youth involved with our sport

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Hopefully more camp owners will have more priority on youth and veteran hunts trips just for them.

Keep up the good work!!"

Nothing

Nothing

Honestly, I am a generally optimistic and hopeful person but there are so many aspects of waterfowl hunting that are going wrong that when I first read the question, I could not think of something going right. Occasionally I see kids having the time of their lives or people mentoring young or new hunters (all on social media) and those few and far between instances are great to see. But most of feedback I get from friends, other hunters, or social media are overwhelmingly disappointing. This disappointment on my part is mostly due to my realization of the lack of respect for the resource and the thought processes that I hear from people I otherwise respect, particularly when it comes to adhering to limits and justifying duck massacres on the basis of prolonged recurring poor seasons and their attitude of, "I deserve to kill as many as I can when I can because they're never here like they used to be." It's actually insane.

The fact that ducks unlimited is prioritizing habitat restoration and preservation in the Dakotas.

Unfortunately there isn't much. 25 plus years of liberal seasons have pretty much destroyed the sport

To see people like yourselves just trying to make the sport about the sport and what the hunting gives you instead of what it is supposed to give you my best memories are from 3-5 ducks with my best friends. Of course some great days and then those zero days that make u change up what your doing to figure them out!!

Nothing in my opinion and it's only going to get worse. Hunting over unharvested crops should be dedicated as a sanctuary and off limits to hunting. Social media has influenced people to do stupid things. From blaring motors to blasting music it all has a part in the decline of numbers people are seeing.

I don't see much going anywhere except the wrong direction

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Sunspot cycles are declining in amplitude and we are seeing a return to colder winters in the south. Just need water in the duck factory...

"I think the communication between waterfowlers has gotten better on the water/at the ramp the last couple years. In the last 3 years respect between hunting groups has improved whether it's keeping respectable distance between where groups are hunting to just talking it out and either hunting together or mutually deciding where both groups will hunt.

In the last 3 years I've only had 1 instance where mutual agreement couldn't be met. And it was with a well known brand in the waterfowl industry. All respect for the brand was lost that day"

I feel as though more and more people are engaging in the sport every year.

I'm having a very hard time coming up with what is RIGHT. I have come across a lot of god people that know the right way to go about our sport and at times that is very refreshing. Unfortunately it gets quickly lost within the realms of social media with the amount of bad apples out there. There are some very good places that promote the right culture like you guys and the hunt quietly podcast. These have been a breath of fresh air as of late

Still have a place to hunt to spend time with family and friends.

The technological advancement in clothing!

I think more folks are thinking/talking about conservation and migration. Really positive trend.

There has been a significant effort by the waterfowl community (coupled with government funding) to adopt new technology(i.e. backpack trackers). This new technology has the potential to educate hunters of every level on multiple aspects of waterfowl and how they function. Seeing this real time and detailed information will help train/educate everyone, hell it might even put a few arguments to rest.

There is a movement that recognizes the dire need for conservation change and the idiocy associated with the kill thirsty hunters

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I think a majority of hunters see the unique part of waterfowling that makes it one of the best hunts in the world. Adventures with your buddies trying to find ducks. Cooking breakfast, ragging on each other, being able to interact and bring kids and give them an experience. All of that it is what is right, the question is how do we make that the main thing, and not the pile pics and lack of sportsmanship and ethics. Believe me, I understand the frustration of spending money and time away from the wife and kids just to come home empty handed, or with only a duck or two. But that frustration spurs me to learn more, make more relationships in the field (which involves being respectful, asking questions, being willing to learn), track my hunts better, etc.

People introducing new people to the sport. You have to have new blood to keep the sport alive.

In my opinion , waterfowl hunting helps get young kids involved in the outdoors. In duck hunting you can have open conversations during the hunt to explain the when and why of what's going on. Enjoy a sunrise , laugh , eat a good biscuit enjoy the outdoors and hopefully shoot a few ducks.

Everyone seems to at least think there is a problem as things currently stand.

It is good and bad. I have 3 sons (25/22/19), all have introduced their friends to the sport and now chase birds together. Most use guide services due to public land restrictions in the Atlantic Flyway. I like to see new folks get involved in the sport and then get hooked on it.

Increasing Habitat in the area I hunt.

People are waking up to the fact that we as water fowlers need to do something or change something as the duck numbers are way down and each season for the past handful of years gets progressively worse in terms of success.

I believe more people are recognizing that there isn't one issue facing waterfowl hunting but a multitude of issues. Hopefully awareness leads to change.

I just ho hunt. You all take yourselves to seriously. Let the experts figure this our.

The NGO conservation groups that work tirelessly to raise funds to help conservation of waterfowl

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The awareness about the health of the GTRs here in Arkansas and at least trying to do something about preserving what we have left.

We mostly hunt hurricane and we do see a lot of enforcement almost on a daily basis. Wish we saw it more other areas but they do a great job up there.

"It's a general belief that habitat loss is one of the largest cogs on the gear that drive waterfowl populations, I see more and more habitat being created by hunters every year, sometimes good sometimes bad habitat but its habitat.

that's what I see going right, folks are creating habitat in a world of habitat loss due to everything from wind farms to dollar generals. In the last decade we went from running ducks off of our farm and declining hunting to holding ducks on our farm mainly by giving them refuge's to instead of hunting every spot we see a duck, and I believe more folks are doing the same and will do the same expecially if influencers would preach the conservation side of hunting."

I hunt primarily in Dave Donaldson wma and on Black River some of the changes they are talking about making and have made already I agree with like changing the flooding situation. I do however think they should have done it 10 or 15 years ago but at least they are trying to fix it.

Conversations trying to make it better

Not a lot going right. I believe we need to cut back on the liberal seasons. That will be a difficult pill to swallow, but I believe it has to happen. What is right, is there is more talk about what is going wrong right now

Science and technology appear to be making some major headway in helping advance waterfowl management strategy . Specifically the waterfowl managers tool box seems to be improving to help make some smart decisions.

nothing

I still get to go out with my buddies and enjoy quality time in the blind doing what we love. We own our own place, so we don't have to fight the crowds, which make it 10000 times more enjoyable. It's not just about killing, like a lot of folks think in today's society. It wouldn't bother me to go back to a 30 day season and 3 duck limits, like it was back in the nearly 90's, just to weed out some of the kids and fair weather hunters. Way more pressure now days than in the past.

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More information out there ( biologist explaining what going on with waterfowl)

Science-based management is the right way to go. Everyone, including the standard sportsman folks, advocating for legislative changes are the problem. If the hunting community was able to stay out of the way of the biologists, they would be able to make the decisions that benefit the ducks, which benefit the hunters.

I believe the more state / federal / private farming / refuge for ducks is great. We must feed and protect waterfowl. We have become much better at harvesting ducks regardless of number of hunters being down.

"State and federal waterfowl biologists do a creditable job managing waterfowl population surveys, refuges, and public hunting opportunities.

I can't say the same about the ""science"" behind AHM. It's weak science, with too many variables!

The comparison to the demise of the East Coast cod fishery based on weak science models is a good example."

Multiple conservation groups attempting to work on waterfowl issues.

Definitely population decline-5 year steady decline and the last 2 years have fell off the table.

That's a tough one. This survey and yalls podcast is the best thing to help waterfowl hunting.

Not much

Not much

Dedicated biologists who truly are trying to manage the resource

In Stuttgart Arkansas area something needs to be done to motivate farmers to leave stubble in harvested fields and not disc/plow immediately for the ducks to have a little food.

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More young people entering the sport. They just don't have the right mentors yet to be able to prolong the sport.

Absolutely nothing. It has gotten worse and worse each year over the last 10 to 15 years. The baiting with unharvested agricultural crops has got to stop because it is short stopping the migration.

There is a renewed focus on habitat development in Arkansas and learning to manage pressure. Rest areas are now a much more prominent feature on private duck property.

"In sum, the biggest problem with waterfowl hunting is over pressured ducks. They are more over pressured now more than ever before in the history of duck hunting for two reasons that directly correlate with one another. First, farmers and land owners leasing farming rights are clearing too much, discing too much, and not leaving any waste grain or unharvested crops. Thus, there are less places for ducks to go and not only have food, but cover via rice stubble. There is less incentives to prime ditches and keep fields flooded as well. When I was a boy, Arkansas and west Tennessee looked much more ducky, there were more fields left flooded, waste grain, natural vegetation and grasses, etc etc. now, due to fall tilling and drought resistant crops, farmers have less of a need to prime ditches and by fall tilling, they are releasing soil moisture every year further desecrating what used to be called the great swamp. Arkansas in particular looks like a damn nuclear waste field before duck season which in turn, just makes ducks cling and stick to natural habitat and river bottoms. Once they find a place that manages land properly with: moist soil crops, unharvested crops, buck brush, willows and other moist soil cover plants, they imprint and don't migrate as much like the old days.

Secondly, to make matters worse, I've noticed a rise in out of state hunters who are first generation hunters. While they are not to blame, the corporate like giant clubs they generally join are. These mega clubs lease property all over the state of Arkansas and stick guns from all over the country in there that flock into town on a weekly revolving door. When I was a boy, the bigger clubs had rules, now they don't. These clubs throw 12-15 guns in holes and hunt it all day long. So, in light of the foregoing, the end result are ducks that don't have near as many places to go and many of the places they do have are covered with idiots who hunt them all day.

I'm fortunate to hunt privately owned ground my family owns, so unlike many of my friends, I'm actually benefiting from demise of duck hunting. I've been managing my ground for 6 years now essentially doing the same stuff tony vandemore does. I've grown oaks, willows, and essentially grown a moist soil Forrest work thick cat tails,



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switch grasses and coffee weed to for ducks to hide in. I also plant rice but to me, food is just extra. Due to the tall, thick grasses and trees, ducks are able to feel comfortable and protected on my property. They are desperate for moist soil Forrest, natural wetland habitat. Therefore, in order to combat the idiots that ruined it, duck hunting has become those who own vs those who lease. I think when you lease, unless you're lucky to lease timber or a moist soil wetland, leasing ag fields and killing ducks is a thing of the past. Owning land allows you to do whatever you want, convert marginal farm ground into what God made it, a natural great swamp. While many consider duck hunting to be declining, I can't say i agree. It's only declining for those that lease ag fields."

We're still able to do it freely.

Groups introducing young people to hunting.

We just go back to the basics and use less decoys less calling and never hunt the same place back to back

The only thing that's going right currently is there is public recognition of declining numbers. Now whether something actually gets done about it is the real story.

plenty of ducks. too much pressure and manipulation.

None

I can't think of one single thing. I have migrated to deer hunting no pun intended. I live in Alabama and am lucky enough to hunt private land that has been in my family for 35 years. The land was purchased FOR duck hunting and to have a hunt now where you shoot more than three times is a miracle from God. I could go on and on about this til I'm blue in the face duck hunting has become commercialized if you don't have a flooded corn field and live north of Arkansas you can forget seeing the number of ducks we saw even 5 years ago ever again. They liberalized the law on flooding agricultural crops in 1997 and it has been a slow death of waterfowl hunting for us in the south since that day and it is unbelievably sad and demoralizing to see.

Seems we have an abundant of people wanting to hunt and not enough birds for the areas.

There is nothing that comes to mind, duck hunting used to be great in Louisiana but now we struggle to see any ducks, as a kid growing up hunting with my dad and

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grandpaw we seen ducks and killed 300 plus a year and most of those was mallards now we don't even see 100. This past season we killed 17 ducks. Only 2 of those was mallards. I would just like to see the ducks we used to, to me that was all the fun seeing big bunches of mallards, blowing your calls and watching ducks work.

Next generation of waterfowl hunters but they are being taught totally the wrong way

At this point I see nothing going right with waterfowl management/hunting. The FEDs need to take a closer look at what's happening with waterfowl numbers and distribution and slow the roll for a while. We've been on what I call waterfowl welfare with the 60/6 seasons for way too long, and hunt way too late into January. Duck hunting is not a need to survive but a privilege to be respected and done in moderation. A good hunt for me is just seeing ducks in the air with at the least an opportunity to take a few. That doesn't happen very often anymore. This year was the first time in all my years of duck hunting that I scratched on 3 consecutive hunts (days) at Thanksgiving.

Nothing is going right for waterfowl hunting. Every thing about it is getting worse by the minute.

The gear available to allow women and kids to hunt waterfowl more.

Nothing for Louisiana, we have lost our heritage due to flooded grain fields and refuges to the north in the Mississippi Flyway.

More money is being given for conservation efforts but it's going to the wrong things.

Not sure, but there's a bunch of theories. I don't think it's just one individual thing. I think it's multiple things

After 55 years of duck hunting, I am struggling to see anything positive. I don't know if the populations are down, birds are being short stopped or flyways have shifted. The past 4 seasons are causing people to back away from hunting. We need to reverse this trend!

Nothing

Spending time in the outdoors.

Not a damn thing!

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Not much. Maybe some conservation in the right areas.

I believe many new kids are getting into it.

Not sure

There is an increasing passion for the sport. This means, to me, that more people care about the sport and the resource. There seems to be more people asking questions and actively searching for answers.

Not seeing anything going right

Introducing young ppl and teaching them true sportsmanship

The tracking programs that have been implemented.

Not much

See parents bring their child's on hunts and bring in more new hunters in that may have hunted before .

Almost nothing.

"I'm a life long outdoorsman/hunter but wasn't introduced to waterfowl until just three years go. I quickly fell in love with the sport regardless of harvest numbers. Majority of my hunts are in rice field pits in NEA. I also hunt a managed lease in Stuttgart and public timber in White county 3-5 times each per year.

I'm okay with regulators taking radical changes in the short term to increase populations i.e. length of season, bag limits. IMO the season should be shorter and pushed back. In NEA we have no ducks in November, and are covered up in February.

I think the main reason we have a lack of harvest (regardless of population) is climate. It gets colder later, and we rarely have the right combination of water.

In NEA we also have more geese than ever from what the old timers tell me. Observing bird behavior, the ducks seem to not like to share space with geese.

On the social media topic: I take no issue in pile pictures or people showing off their harvest. I think the culture is still in a good place. I'm just a guy with a gun and

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waders, and people/friends are always open to take me with them and share their access with me. We have bigger problems (population/regulation) than we do with culture. In my personal experience.

Thank you gentlemen,

Chandler"

Young hunters are growing up with the awareness of changing duck migrations and the need for good conservation efforts.

There are always new opportunities to hunt and different species of waterfowl to go after. Around our area the duck hunting has went from phenomenal to dismal, but our specklebelly hunting has increased our hunting opportunities.

Latest research with gps back packs on ducks seems to be bringing a lot of new knowledge to biologists

It's difficult to come up with anything. Perhaps maybe, just maybe, the conversation on the highly suspicious overall population numbers on the prairie is starting to be taken seriously.

Good and bad of waterfowl is I'm seeing more younger generations getting into the sport. I just think they are learning the wrongs ways to do it. No sportsmanship, trespassing, disrespectful, party hunting.

I happen to hunt Conservation ground in Missouri that is a draw system. So if I draw in the hunting is good because of the flooded resources the ducks have. But if you aren't able to draw in, you might as well go home because any other type of public land is a waste of time.

There are a lot more eyes and ears paying attention to duck populations, conservation and habitat through shows like the SS. It's sparking conversations amongst folks that did not talk about it as much. Lots of DU projects established and new projects in my area of SEMO.

I think the current waterfowl culture as a whole are dedicated hunters but misguided in the reality of our current situation. A lot of the younger crowd seem to be in it for the wrong reasons but they are in it which can be a positive. We need a change of mindsets and to be honest I think you're seeing it shift that way. I got into the sport for the

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heritage of it all and honestly nothing lights my fire like duck hunting! Thank Yal for pushing tge envelope and bringing awareness to it all! Dead hen's lay no eggs!

Too many flooded corn fields and too commercialized

At least the younger kids are hunting, even if they don't understand the ethics of a duck hunter.

Too many people

Good lord keeps providing plenty of opportunities and birds...Just need Mother Nature to get cold in December not February like most years have recently.

The ban on mud motors on wma's

There are still some very pleasant people that you run into at boat ramps and access points on public ground. Unfortunately for the most part all there is to talk about it how unmanaged the public land is and how bad the hunting is.

Youth introduction

While it's a wrong and right thing, the amount of younger people getting into it is great, however at this point it seems like they are getting into it for the online clout.

I would say one good thing that is coming from the modernization of waterfowl hunting is the amount of young kids that are getting into it. Although I am one of the most anti social media people you will ever meet when it comes to waterfowl hunting. It has done a good job of getting kids outdoors and starting to want to hunt

Nothing ever goes right every once and a great while you get lucky and the starts and moon line up just right and you have a great shoot but non the less every day out in the field is a blessing...it's hunting not killing and to many people out there don't understand that and want a pile at the end of the day they are missing the bigger picture

"I think it's bringing a lot of good people together. There's not many greater bonding experiences that can compare to a good hunt with a friend or family member.

It's cool to see how many folks are learning to hunt, it's a skill you cant really put a price tag on."

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Seeing and meeting young adults out figuring it out. As a group we need to do better to give them grace and room when they do get it right

Social media has allowed conservation groups to tell their story and show their work that is being done with the money and support they receive. It is so easy for them to reach their target audience to sell themselves and tell their story

Some state departments are doing the best they can for the hunters with what they have, which I appreciate.

Not much. In my 30 years plus off hunting the last 7-10 have been awful.

"Lots of youth involvement.

But I'm not sure they are learning the sport the correct way."

Don't see anything going wrong. It's been the same where we hunt for 25yrs.

Great innovation in products. Some youtube influences are great at promoting their passion in the right way

Not a long enough season, we need to kill more ducks.

Split seasons

There are a lot of landowners doing a great job managing their properties. These properties feed, hold and rest birds so much better than public land. I know the state agencies resources are always stretched then but they are woefully behind in terms of managing their properties.

Motion decoy's allowed back in WMA in Arkansas. Spinners can go but love having some motion decoy's back.

The populations, while not what they once were, are still there to allow us to keep chasing them.

Nothing

Absolutely nothing. It's a damn shame what this sport has come to.

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N/a

The traveling and making memories with good friends and family. With the lost of birds in Louisiana we have been traveling and hunting and lot of good memories have need made.

Folks are impounding more private land to help feed birds.

I think the waterfowl community is connected through social media than it has ever been.

The scientists leading population research and those making federal limits/regulations are the best and brightest we have.

Products, information and tips are easier than ever to access.

I see more hunters concerned with the pattern of their shotguns and using denser ammo, trying to kill birds cleanly and more efficiently

Families continuing to hunt together

Ducks unlimited is hitting mile stones in their conservation efforts

Modern farmers, cultivating feilds, our season dates suck. We don't get birds till the ass end of the season. That's if we get birds... illinois SUCKS for wildlife habitat the states dont plant like theu used to or manage federal/state ground like they used to we don't hold birds long... habitat flats changed the migration.. I mean birds are going to go to food

With the declining mallard population our best chance for a successful harvest is the hunt the calendar migrators early in the season

Big push to get more youth involved

New generation is showing interest.

Wow. I can't think of a single thing that's trending in the right direction.

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Not much, state and federal properties are not maintained. The good areas are way over crowded. We're losing hunters so fast we won't even be having this conversation in another 20 years.

I can't think of one thing that is going in the right direction in Arkansas with waterfowl hunting. If changes aren't made in waterfowl hunting ; liberal limits and season dates , better water management on and off the state WMA's ; state or federal owned refuge areas flooded and planted with food , wintering habitat management/... the longevity of the sport of waterfowl hunting is in or already in trouble . The resource (ducks) should be priority #1, .. NOT \$\$\$\$\$\$, big brand company profits and their interest ... or private unharvested corn / food crops that are allowed to be hunted . You can add water to corn and hunt it , but you can't add corn to water and hunt it ?????

"I feel like seasons are long enough they just need placed in the right spot.

You can learn so much so fast now. With technology"

The agreement that shooting hens are bad

There is a greater awareness of conservation issues today. We need to keep that momentum!

I see a lot more people every year getting into waterfowl hunting which is good for the sport! We all need to try and do a better job about sharing good common sense knowledge too people who are new to the sport

We are gaining new hunters, and people really do care about waterfowl hunting and conservation.

Wealth of information about waterfowl. We know more now than ever about the problems and how to fix them.

Selfishly, my daughter has started hunting so it's definitely rejuvenated my interest and drive.

Not a whole lot. You could say influencers holding large numbers of ducks on their refuges. It gets them through the winter safely so DU can boast their numbers.

In my area we are learning more and more about how to manage our property better for waterfowl through Osage basin group.



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Experiencing it through my 8 year old boys eyes, who has no comparison and knows no different than the joy he sees that day.

I feel like we are starting to get the point that we should take care of this resource and not abuse it.

My season is always right. Love the outdoors. Glad to be a part.

The only thing going RIGHT is that we get to hunt on our public land when and where we want to (within the season dates), meaning its not a draw system or someone telling me when and where I get to hunt. Other than that it has continueously gotten worse each and every year.

Based on listening to your podcast, it sounds like duck numbers increased this year.

Create more refuge areas. Hunt less days. End season mid January. Reduce the limit.

It's a passionate group that cares deeply and wants to pass on the tradition.

I still see the positives in younger people and new hunters getting into the sport.

To much pressure not enough food/water in the WMA and to many look at me look at me people in the industry.

I think the Telemetry studies are really helping us understand waterfowl behavior. I'm a big proponent of this grass roots conservation movement that you guys are highlighting. Due to the recent hunting struggles, I think there are more people asking why, and what can I do to the help/change.

The movement away from motion decoys such as spinners.

There are good people like you guys who try to promote ethical and fun hunting

Subgauge guns are great- they let young waterfowlers shoot an effective load, and lead to less pressure on properties. I also think the advancement of gear really helps get people into the sport. It may be expensive, but I dont miss the days of being wet, cold and uncomfortable at all. Big shout out to Chene for their youth program gear. My 11 year old loves it, and it definitely helps him get more days in the blind with me.

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

We're trying to get more data and scientific information from the biologists thru banding and bird tracking data to get a handle on the populations so we can get season and bag limits correct across the flyways instead of basing it on opportunities for hunters.

There is still a group that loves the social aspect of it... the passion and love is pure.

Nothing is ever "right" weather plays a big issue being outside a major flyway. No cold weather no ducks to shoot.

winter habitat

Culture and unity

I don't have the main forms of social media due to all of the things mentioned above. What I believe to be going right is people finally getting tired of seeing this sport ruined and are actively trying to do something about it. Ducks don't act like ducks anymore due to several factors. Anything that can be changed to limit the amount of human influence on duck behavior is a step in the right direction.

We still have the opportunity to hunt ducks. If we continue down the path we are on, regulations are going to tell us when we can hunt.

People are starting to better understand data and what is actually affecting waterfowl hunting and not just regurgitating conspiracy theories.

Research

Very difficult to find anything going right with waterfowl hunting these days.

Not much

The creation of youth mentored programs is one huge success in the past 20 years.

"Relating to a couple above questions... My social media page is probably far different from other duck hunters. I am research/science driven focusing on adequate habitat, pressure management, and overall best resource and conservation practices. Some brands do a great job promoting conservation, others promote killing.

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

Things that are going right in the waterfowl hunting world is the modern day research in the Arkansas & Tennessee Mississippi Alluvial Plains. I believe there is some great research coming from these projects and is allowing us to see different patterns and trends of the wintering waterfowl we house in these areas for the winter.

The awareness of needing different habitat types across the landscape is also increasing in a good way for duck hunters.

Hunter awareness there are not as many ducks or mallards migrating... Leading to the questions we get... may influence lower limits, shorter seasons, etc."

I was fortunate enough to leave public land in Venice LA and buy a piece of property in SE OK with three of my hunting buddies. I went from hunting 20 days in LA to 2 this past year and those were for business, not by choice. What went right was totally in a vacuum and specific to my situation. I can promise you I would be singing a different tune if I hunted down river in Venice this year. I have a camp, 25' center console, and gator tail down there and didn't use it once because the hunting has dropped off so much in the last 3-4 years down there. If you wanted me to give you feedback on what is going right down there I would be lying if I tried to answer the question. It's a super cool place and a bit of an untamed wilderness that I loved to hunt, but risking life and limb (literally) to shoot a few ducks just doesn't pencil.

Sadly nothing in my area of Central TX

I feel like the shell limits placed on wmas this year were a step in the right direction.

photography that promotes the beauty and value of the resource and tradition

"Not much. I live in Minnesota and drain tile has crushed so many semi permanent wetlands for brood rearing

Counts are done incorrectly and seasons are too liberal.

Hens need protection too"

I have yet to see a group work birds into their spread, they work them into about 30-40 and just start shooting. Makes it tough when we like em back peddling in front of the decoys at roughly 15-20 ft. We can rarely do that anymore!

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

I have observed a vast increase in younger waterfowl hunters. I feel that with the correct mentorship this could be great for the entire waterfowl community

Nothing is right anymore. Outfitters are modern day commercial hunters. I'm the last person that advocates for any government intervention but outfitting needs to be regulated. We are all to blame for the state of our waterfowl numbers but it's too late. Too much money involved now to do anything. I should've enjoyed it a little more

"-Unparalleled access to knowledge base on habitat/farm management

-Ability to connect with those with unique ideas and practices

-Improved products for a more comfortable waterfowling experience

-Immediate access to new products"

Waterfowling is being portrayed as cool through social media attracting many first-time waterfowlers. Through my experiences, many are all in and passionate money spending additions to the sport. It's up to guys that "do it right" to take them in and show them the "right" way.

Access in certain areas. Public ground is exponentially more accessible and navigable. Opportunity in certain states (not Virginia) has expanded despite greater amounts of private land hunting.

Clothes are warmer.

Some people are beginning to see the beauty in the hunt and enjoying being outside instead of only the harvest.

There is actually some communication occurring that is addressing the decline in waterfowling, not just the population decline but waterfowling as a sport in its entirety.

The landowners that are doing the most they can for conservation.

although its a lottery system which is tough.....the state grounds in MO can be fantastic hunting.

Be hard to find something going right enough to be worthy of acknowledging.

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

Unfortunately the ones that cared enough to do the right thing have all died off

I feel like, in North Carolina, hunters have worked together more and started having better sportsmanship out on public land in the past 5 years.

Other than mallards, the numbers of other ducks have been very good from my vantage point in NEA. Especially Pintails that by mid January of each year are more abundant than I have ever seen.

"People are seeing the problems and starting conversations

Also you guys talk alot about early speck season affecting ducks what about conservation season and ducks"

The popularity of the sport is thriving.

When I first started hunting there was not a lot of people talking about the traditional ways of doing things but now I see more of it every day. More people online that are addressing and correcting those that post content that isn't becoming of hunters.

I think there are still people are on social media trying to express the importance of ethical duck hunting.

Begins with pop. and then habitat. If there are no birds to nest then what good is the saved habitat? Good habitat is what makes birds, but our liberal limits have cut the birds back so far that (personally) im not sure they can recover if we continue harvesting 4 mallards a day. If we haven't already one day we will push them past the threshold. I would hate to see the 60 day season go, but it should be a 2 duck limit per species, no more than 1 hen. With that in place I see no reason we couldn't continue a 6 duck overall daily limit for 60 days. But I am all for 30 and 3 with a 1 or 2 birds per species. That's an easy realistic change that can happen. I want there to be better quality habitat in the pot holes, I want more state managed bottomland timber that seasonally floods and MSU's that are flooded in September, I want people to eat their game, I want people to stop shooting spoonies and divers just to add to the pile, I want the price of admission and pressure to be dropped where I can go and actually enjoy hunts. There's a lot more that I would want to change, but changing the season frameworks and bag limits from state to federal to North America wide would nip a lot of this in the bud.

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

The increase concern that pressure is causing a significant impact on waterfowl behavior, along with the degradation of nesting habitat in the PPR. Shout it from the mountain tops.

That there is starting to be more recognition that the sport is headed in the wrong direction and the movement to make changes is starting to grass root.

People are slowly starting to finally realize there is a problem and hopefully it will continue

Getting youth and new hunters into the sport with mentorship focused on ethics, sportsmanship and conservation.

Good gear

Data being put together by really good biologist.

"In SE TX I have seen a steady decline in overall bird counts during the season. I have kept notes for the last 15 seasons and have a spreadsheet with season totals and weather patterns. Usually top two species harvested are GWT and Gadwall. I hunted almost 30 days this season and only shot 9 gadwall and 37 gwt for group totals. The grays are disappearing just like the mallards did years ago. The greenwings are showing up later and in lesser numbers every year. This season 55% of my harvest was BWT very unusual and if we didn't have bluewings we wouldn't have had much of a duck season at all. They never left this year we shot the same BWT from September until closing weekend in January. Something isn't adding up with the duck numbers that are being published. Geese numbers well they have almost left the gulf coast we are lucky to see a 1/4 of what we used to winter almost not even worth targeting anymore.

On the unharvested crop baiting question below I believe hunting crops that were "normal" ag practice (for farming and making a dollar) is fine. Planting crops for the intention to hunt over and never try to harvest is baiting. You can bring the water to the corn and it's ok but if you bring the corn to water it is illegal. That doesn't really make much sense to me."

I believe the growing popularity of waterfowl hunting can help with conservation in the long run.

More corn more opportunity more birds

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

Not much

Not a lot

Waterfowl biologist are starting to become more popular on social media. They are starting conversations on social media that need to happen if we want duck hunting to improve.

Many hunters are promoting habitat for ducks and geese in our area. Making it good for the ducks on their migration.

We need 30 day duck season with 3 ducks. This will fix 85 percent of the problems. It will eliminate outfitters paying outrageous money for farms because they won't be able to survive on on such a large scale. But they can still make a decent living if they truly love the sport

Makes us work harder and appreciate the the very few good days we've had

I think it's good that more people are interested in duck hunting but limits need to be decreased to 2 mallard 2 trash across the whole Mississippi flyway and season decreased to 30 days to ensure cuter for duck hunters. Money needs to be allocated to pay trappers in Canada and the Dakotas. And flooding unharvested crops needs to be outlawed everywhere this is creating a duck that does not know how to hunt for food and relies solely on a human provided resource

new equipment and clothing for youth is unbelievably better from what I grew up with.

Social media caused the wrong perception on what hunting is about. Big money farms have created to much unhuntable refuge with top levels of standing flooded food that provides food and shelter. Not enough promotion of natural waterfowl habitat as opposed to flooded food impoundments

There's not much right , here in west tn it's a dog eat dog world people way over payin for properties that kill 150 birds a year . Missouri isn't a bad place to hunt but the outfitters have ruined that place any field that kills 200 the outfitters run in there a sky rocket the price where the average joe can't afford it. There's a lot of money out there but alot of lack towards person respect and kindness

Public access.

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

"Baiting in waterfowl hunting is being given a serious look!

It is ruining Duck hunting in my state of Missouri."

"1) Ask me again after we see the spring prairie habitat conditions lol.

2) Conservation and creation of habitat on private lands."

Refuges. We actually need more. Hunting pressure is crazy.

I think there is a willingness to learn and do better from a majority of hunters that I encounter.

The vastly growing of private duck farming and managing for the bird

It seems that I am seeing more youth getting out and taking an interest.

There seem to be a lot of people engaging in waterfowl hunting. Places are crowded as ever and hunting right are over priced for average people.

I would say the one thing going right as a whole would be the money being spent on the prairie pothole region. The more funds organizations send there the better. The only other thing would be "some" of the new technology in duck hunting like shells and chokes that are more efficient and leave less cripples. a lot of technology ends if hunting the sport more though

More private landowners are developing quality wetlands. This is great for the birds, but these added wetlands often become refuges and keep the birds from moving during daylight hours. Everyone focuses on public wetlands and refuges, but in reality there are far more private wetlands developed now than ever before. Everyone has a pump and field of corn to flood it seems.

We have better data with some of the transmitter info than we ever have. Private land owners are doing more for the resource every year than they ever have

Just being out there and hunting ducks.

We keep family hunting together,your podcast is very good from ethics to conservation





## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

Ever since having kids, I have gave up the "prime public" Arkansas hunting land because of the disrespectful things I've witnessed on them. I don't want my kids to have the conception that is how waterfowl hunting is. Now me and my buddies lease property and hunt uncrowded public area when applicable. We want to raise our kids they way we were brought up with dignity and conservative views of what the big picture of hunting really is about. We have a camp house, that we cook incredible meals, share stories around the fire and overall have a good time regardless of what the hunts may be.

Not much

Conversation starters like these. Podcasts trying to get people to think sensibly. Large brands putting there money where there mouth is. License prices.

The season structure and limits are right, for now. All the cry babies that can't kill birds that think a later season and stricter limits will fix their problems will screw that up in the coming years I'm sure. They are always the loudest in the room.

I think we've got a lot of private land owners and state management areas providing good habitat and making serious efforts to offer more to the resource.

Many new youth hunters participating in our sport. There is hope, but they must be properly educated that waterfowl is NOT an unlimited resource.

About to take my son who is 6 years old.

"Hunters are the minority. The fact that we have people interested in hunting is the only thing preserving our right to hunt.

Good or bad social media is what keeps the sport alive now.

Times change either we change with it or we loose it."

I think social media can be very helpful for waterfowlers both seasoned and new comers. There are plenty of good pages Showing the full experience. I like that there are more brands because that leads to more innovation. Some brands are a little too gimmicky but you're going to have that when there are this many brands competing in

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

a space. The main problem with duck hunting now is just lack of overall birds in my opinion.

People are talking about the problems. There's a lot of individuals that are doing good work to bring awareness to the reality of our current situation. There are also a lot of private landowners doing great things for habitat.

The liberal limits and seasons

I am not active on social media except some forums (old, I know) and consuming podcasts & YouTube videos. There is more awareness and conversation about issues related to hunting. Often times it leads to bickering and pissing matches which quickly become unproductive. But, that is not the worst case scenario, the worst case would be widespread apathy. Interest and engagement being high are good things if they can be properly channeled.

From the older generation of longtime duck hunters that I hunt with I am told regularly: my generation/internet ruined duck hunting, spinners ruined it, pressure, outfits, etc. That the days of old will never return and I'll never see it. I go to have fun and hunt my dog. We do better than most folks in our area but no matter what, it will never be as good as the glory days. On the other end of the spectrum most guys I hunted with in high school and college work for an outfit or post piles. I hate hearing about how bad it is and I hate people try to make it a \*\*\*\* measuring contest. I got a degree in wildlife biology and understand first and foremost habitat is number one. Secondly that wildlife management decisions and policy are suppose to always be science based. We all know that is not always happening in waterfowl management. AHM does not work if we do not adapt. Days kills ducks, loss of habitat kills ducks. If we focus on that then we can go somewhere. Just my opinion.

Spending time with family and friends. Being in nature

We are having conversations about how to improve things, even if 80% of people chiming in don't have a clue what they're talking about, it's a start. People are at least recognizing there is a problem. I am seeing more people lean into the "traditional" and historic methods of waterfowling over the commercialized rat race of "new and shiny" products.

Private clubs flooding corn and holding tens of thousands of birds. Keeping them from using their Normal places and creating mini refuges

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

The people who are brought up in waterfowling because it was simply a family tradition are mostly the ones doing it right. It seems that the respect for the sport and the animal gets passed down this way.

There is a (albeit slow) growing conversation about conservation.

We are starting the conversation amongst ourselves about what we can do to improve.

Private landowners creating rest areas for waterfowl to escape constant pressure since the states don't seem to be adding any new rest areas.

People in my area realizing that hunting pressure plays a huge role in success and are starting to be more aware of the negatives of busting up rafts and riding around on boats all day.

Hunting opportunity is out there. Especially in Arkansas there are thousands of acres for broke asses like me to have a chance at world class duck hunting. If arkansas and other states crack down on access then the sport turns into more pay to participate than it already is.

I think there is a small, but growing culture of good sportsmanship coming up in social media. Accounts like thepublictimberproject pushing for less trash and more respect on public lands. Accounts like fullcolorwaterfowl pushing for less of these disturbing videos of animal abuse and more hunter accountability. I also see a lot of pages pushing to leave the hens alone. Unfortunately I think groups like this are still in the minority, but I think their movements are growing. I think in a lot of ways the people that seek social media fame tend to be the worst kinds of people(hunters or not), so it's nice to see people trying to use social media for something good. I hope we can get to a place where it's used more for mentorship, making connections and sharing experiences across the country than it is a contest of idiocy.

The organizations and private land holders who are trying to conserve land and provide waterfowl habitat throughout the season and into the spring migration

"Bird numbers are good...

Concerned people are working to figure out what is impacting the migration and harvesting.."

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

Managed conservation areas provide great opportunities for poor folks. Seasons have been timed just about right the last couple of years.

Banding programs and research

"This survey is a start. True waterfowlers can appreciate this platform utilized to let the public speak out with their concerns. Most of this is highly opinionated, so the value may be little, but with education and proper research, there shouldn't be any reason our DU/Delta/Federal and State organizations can push to make changes that support the duck populations, breeding habitat, and realistically give each sportsman an opportunity to get out in the field and enjoy migrating waterfowl.

Additionally, I have seen my state improving on conservation efforts and repairing regional habitat areas on public lands. This is the only way to spread out the pressure we are getting and that is by making more habitat for these birds to move and hide and get what they need on the wintering grounds. We don't have enough refuge to hold birds, but what I am seeing is a move in the positive direction."

"We have been working with adjoining clubs and property owners to improve habitat for ducks. Over the past 5-6 years we have seen a steady increase in mallard population and holding mallards better than we have in the past.

It will take people working together to bring the ducks back and that's what everyone needs to understand. Quit bitching and complaining about Missouri having unharvested crops because we had ducks all season long in SW Arkansas just with improving our GTR's and creating resting areas.

I do think the game and fish need to decrease the size of some of their large rest areas throughout the state and look at making smaller 50-70 acres rest areas dispersed around prime hunting grounds."

Delta Waterfowl delivering scientific data that it's all about the breeding grounds and habitat during winter and spring in lower 48. Also weather, habitat, and hunting pressure determine our hunting success.

Individuals/clubs that have the means seem to be more interested and engaged in habitat creation and management.

It appears that with the increased number of waterfowler hunters, there should be a surplus of revenue that could be put into helping improve breeding grounds in the

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

northern states. However, i do not believe that this may not solve the low duck numbers arriving in the states where I hunt (Arkansas, Oklahoma) as my opinion is that warmer weather is the number one overall reason the ducks are not migrating early enough

As of 24-25 what I see going in the right are states like Louisiana and Arkansas actively reducing seasons/limits and/or at least talking about it, on average I hunt 1/2 of every season, sometimes more, sometimes less. I agree with the term "days kill ducks" so to see my home state actively cutting back on season dates on both September teal season and regular season, i believe is a step in the right direction for the resource because we can be hard on them at times

Doing the best I can with the hand I am dealt with.

More sportsmen are becoming more interested and involved in conservation efforts.

It's hard to say much is going right after these last few seasons. If I had to pick one thing that stands out, I'd say that the 24-25 season finally made a lot more people aware that we have a problem. Without getting long winded here, hopefully that awareness will lead to positive change and get us out of the complacency patterns we've been in as it relates to conservation and habitat.

Hard to think of what is right. The pressure in our area has multiplied 3x+. It's turned into THE cool thing and that's great, yet a finite resource won't last during the fad that's been created. Shut Arkansas borders during duck season. The economy will take a hit in Stuttgart etc but something has to take a backseat. The boom in industry growth is diminishing the boom in the fields/timbers.

Renewed focus on real issue of population decline/ harvest matters. Thanks to your podcast.

A discussion is beginning that in order to protect this precious resource, we need to change some things, such as a unified waterfowl management plan from Canada to the Gulf of America.

Concern of people like y'all. It's good to see.

Lots of good research currently happening that can hopefully shape the future of waterfowl management and hunting.

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

I believe that the latest complaints and concerns regarding waterfowl have helped demonstrate the importance of research, which I find good.

Ducks Unlimited conserving 1 million acres in a year. This helps to provide more opportunities to sportsmen.

There are so many brands of good equipment out there now. Everyone can find something at the price point they need

There are still a lot of really good “influencers” and “brand ambassadors” out there doing the right thing and promoting the sport the right way and I think you can make your feed what you want by following what you want. The trash will be there, but we cannot continue to give them the attention they are getting and I think they are being exposed and the narrative is changing about the ones doing it wrong... Conservation organizations such as DU and Delta are still conserving tons of land and doing the research necessary to improve hunting. Science and data collection seems to be on the rise.

A lot of people I talk to are realizing that we need to make some changes and are open to doing what it takes to get things moving the right direction

I actually think we have the tools and the tech that we need to make positive impacts. These would require some hard lessons, I’m afraid, but would ultimately help us get better in population, conservation, and sportsmanship. Thank you for trying to champion these things

Public land opportunities

“Nothing . The state of waterfowl hunting has gotten worse over the last 15 years. No one in charge seems to want to step up and make changes we all know need made. There is a head in the sand model while seeing year over year population numbers fall. And I think the population numbers have been padded for a while to try to cover that up. Duck numbers from the top clubs are down 10-20 % year over year the last decade and down 50-70% over the last 3-5 years. There seems to be nothing being done on the regulation side when everyone knows there is an issue. No one seems to know who they are regarding the Feds and who makes changes. Hunters can’t focus or spend time and effort getting the attention of the right people because no one knows who the actual ones are in charge of making changes. Many old timers like me are fed up and it’s not worth the work to even go with the lifetime of memories we have and how it use to be.

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

Next up is the concern we are having the same leaders who let it get this bad without any changes being made and we are to put faith in that same group they can get us out of this population decline. They have to admit one of two things. They ignored the issue because of money or they are clueless and don't know how to fix it. Either way, when they do make changes it's going to be a black eye to them if they make drastic changes that last a decade when minor tweaks along the line could have done things on the downhill slide. Every other animal outside of ducks gets a season and limit change annually or every few years when biologists see numbers declining. Not the duck."

I believe more and more hunters/conservationists are informed by various tools used in the science community such as band/GPS data which allows us to question the regulatory agencies on why the current framework is the way that it is.

I think making people understand that harvest may have an impact on spring breeding populations is the right thing to do.

Lot of good instructional videos and YouTube videos breaking down how to hunt for beginners, makes it able for you to learn something if you don't know but take the time to do some research and look it up.

We still get to go... that's about all I've got. The quality of the hunt has really took a hit over the last several years.

Nothing it seems like

Interest appears to be high despite some local guys hanging it up due to declining results. We can probably thank Duck Dynasty type shows for a lot of that. One could argue it's a negative from an increased pressure perspective though.

Doug Osborne banding and raising awareness on the risks associated with continuing down the path we're on as waterfowl hunters

People in the know like this podcast trying their best to spread the word and educate.

Even with the reduction in duck numbers and the mostly unethical public land hunters who never learned how to hunt and be ethical, I still enjoy the sport. Next season will be my 60th year to duck hunt.

***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

The best part is the silent majority.

Goose hunting is great, goose populations are great

CIP program

Doug Osborne from the University of Arkansas

Private land management. Waterfowl habitat management today is what trophy deer management became in the 90's. Rather than providing one singular attraction, landowners have become more versed in providing all attributes to attract & hold waterfowl. Along with that, we are seeing more self-restraint as it relates to pressure with self-imposed bag limits, earlier cutoff times, etc. The majority of hunters have the mindset of "if I don't someone else will", and that is the main downfall to public resources IMO.

Nothing game and fish does is for the resources anymore. It's all about the dollar.

Negative changes to all forms of habitat. Long-term trends are negative so hard not to be negative. It is very very very expensive. Almost entirely a situation of the "have's and have-nots". There are public opportunities BUT the AGFC mismanaged our habitat for years. Also, hunters do a poor job of self-regulation. What I mean, in public areas there are many hunters that go 45, 50 or even all 60 days. This makes it virtually impossible for the casual or weekend hunter with kids to compete. No private club would ever apply that kind of pressure.

There are still many good people hunting ducks and are over-shadowed by social media people!!!!

Some are promoting conservation, preservation, traditions, heritage.

"I see more people slowly getting on board with the not-killing hens.

But I don't think that's enough to bring the population back. I think wild life and fisheries need to make a serious change on pushing the season back to Jan 15 so we don't shoot pairs and also need to change it to a 30-day season. Also need to stop lying to us about the populations and the pairs two male birds don't make a baby."

I belong to an original club with great fellow members. I break bread & crook my elbow with my guests & my fellow members.



***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

The thing is there is right way to hunt and wrong way to hunt.

The issues are being discussed and I think will lead to fixing issues in a formal way.

Had a good year.

I see a younger professional group worried about populations.

Increasing awareness of declining populations

Seems like there are younger hunters. Just not educated hunters.

Fathers and grandfathers still instilling the love for hunting in the next generation

"Participation.

Participation in hunting in general is growing. In today's world, the more like minded people we have in the hunting community, the better."

Those who hunt waterfowl and extremely dedicated, more so to me than deer and big game hunters or even fishermen. I think that the overall lack of duck hunting success in recent years has caused the "fair weather" hunters to separate from the truly dedicated. Kill culture loses when there's nothing to kill. Populations go in waves and even though we're in a trough, per se, it has alleviated some of the toxic hunters.

In Ohio we still have a draw system for the marsh zone public lands, which are the best zone in the state.

getting the word out that the Government may not be the best at conservation.

I feel like it has gotten so bad that its driving people like myself to start researching their local game and fish agencies and look for ways to get involved and try and do whatever small part they can to make things better

There are few to no things going right in Arkansas. From not holding wintering water and climate/loaded fields to the North.

People don't portray the slow days correctly leading to the vast majority of hunters to not appreciate the good days. They expect every hunt to be nothing less than limits

***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

Several people still doing it the right way

Enjoying times in the outdoors.

It is a major contributor to time with family year round for us.

Quality time with friends and family

It's hard to say anything is going in the right direction right now in my opinion but I hope that changes.

Bird population

Nothing

Very little

Being a relatively newcomer to the waterfowl community, I don't have a lot of experience on what's good or bad because I hunt mostly private and away from all the bad stigma you see or hear about in public hunting. I would say the good would be spending time with friends and family and making those unforgettable memories. I took my oldest now 16 year old daughter with me on a hunt and she shot her first duck on the ponds behind our house. A hooded merganser at that. She was pumped and loved it. Asked to go with me almost everytime I went after that. Can't beat it!!!

Social media has helped marketing for outfitters and guides.

What's right is the family bonding and time spent together.

Recruitment of new and diverse hunters.

Despite heavy criticism, state and federal biologists do care about duck populations and duck hunters.

More and more people are noticing there is an issue so a small movement seems to be shaping. More folks are getting interested and having conversations and information is more widespread and easily available. Some brands seem to be showcasing this too which is a nice thing to see. Just like there is liberal and conservative politics and religion there seems to be liberal and conservative conservationists though too and

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there is somewhat of an opposing viewpoint that we're "conspiracy theorists" and everything is just fine. Very odd to see people disagreeing with these more conservative viewpoints.

"Some brands/groups are getting back to a conservation mindset I believe. WMA cleanups, promoting youth hunting, etc.

Wintering habitat is being increased by private land owners and state refuges. Is this better for everyone's hunting? I don't know. Is it better for wintering mallards? I believe so."

Conservation efforts from delta waterfowl and much better gear and shotgun shells.

From my perspective as someone who relies on public lands 90% of the time, not much. However, I'm thankful for the large private landowners who are keeping water and food available for the ducks ( private conservation). I'm not sure the Arkansas section of the flyway would still be intact. We use to have a lot of mallards in my area, Greensboro to Camden, AL. I used to hunt Greenwood, MS as well. People there and here were never farming for ducks and now it's too late. We no longer have big groups of migrators.

I think there are more of us who actually care about the resource, not brands, social media, etc. We've just faded out of sight and hunt by ourselves or a small group of friends, contributing to the conservation of the species in any small way we can. We know that at a brand or industry level it's mostly bullshit.

Camaraderie, brotherhood, lasting friendships, enjoying mother nature, watching birds work.

Multiple outlets to provide more transparency as well as education.

i see a general consensus building that we are approaching a critical turning point with duck populations. I am not a social media person and don't have any social media at all. I am a loyal listener of your podcast because you promote the science and do not promote baseless conspiracy theories like short stopping ducks with corn etc. I find zero use for social media as most of it is uninformed. I follow the science. I have witnessed first hand how fast migratory patterns long established can be abandoned by the birds regardless of why it occurs, it occurs trust me. I grew up hunting in SW Louisiana rice fields and never thought I would see a day when we had no ducks, specklebellies and snow geese to hunt, but that day arrived in 2015. Since that day I

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now drive 7 hours one way to hunt in SE Oklahoma where duck hunting is a quietly held secret. Most sportsman in the region hunt deer or hogs. The hunting is better than good most days with most days afield putting limits on the strap with no other duck hunters or shotgun blast heard. I am sure things will change for Oklahoma as hunters crowd into what little waterfowl habitat is in the state, but for now its good.

Missouri does a good job managing public waterfowl hunting habitat

These guides are shooting over their limits and charging way to much money they should not even be making money for hunting when it's not even the land they own! All waterfowl guides are the same they are greedy and all they want it's to have more access or ground leased than the next guy. All it is let's see who has the bigger dick game for these chumps. They act like it's such a taxing of a job when they just treat people poorly with no respect.

If you want to have year around ducks you have to work for it and be willing to give something up to do that. Lots of private landowners have taken this approach in "cultivating" the ducks whether it means not hunting until a certain date or leaving by a certain time as well as spend capital to improve habitat.

There are some that are focused on building a strong culture and want to see the next generation share the same passion. I know many who are working to build a legacy surrounding family, the outdoors and conservation.

I feel the limits are conservative and in a good spot. Constant improvement of gear not including motion decoys.

There are several private refuges that are very helpful to waterfowl. Giving them a rest place when needed

"The promotion of conservation through good habitat management.

The fact that we know that there are bad apples out there. It's no secret that most of the social media folks are doing it for more views and ultimately more \$\$."

Managing for waterfowl

Habitat mgt on the rise

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I think there are a lot of people out there doing things right and a few, that get a lot of attention, that are doing things really wrong.

There is a lot of attention put on waterfowl harvest numbers because the sport has grown so much over the last 20 years. That is great for the sport and provides new revenue streams for product development and farmers to increase their bottom line.

Nothing

This season, not much went right. Northern MO is holding all of the birds.

Some, not enough, experienced biologists are trying to spread the word, words of conservation, habitat management, pressure management. Private landowners are installing refuges, giving birds a place to rest.

"1. The AGFC is not listening to the few wealthy private land hunters whining about their poor seasons and pushing personal agendas to benefit themselves.

2. The AGFC is doing a better job of savings our WMAs with water management that better reflects natural flooding."

Honestly, every aspect of available waterfowl habitat and waterfowl hunting is poorer than it has been since I started in the 1970s. I am encouraged that people are still interested in managing for and hunting ducks.

Private landowners are the best at conservation and habitat management

The possibility of a SWD ban seems to be gaining momentum even if it is still a long way off

What's going right is that people are now talking about what we can do to preserve this sport.

The new White River Refuge manager not allowing afternoon scouting or robos. Also, finally seeing awareness on podcasts like the Standard Sportsman and other discussion boards about how bad things have gotten and the rapidly growing need for change that is being discussed among many waterfowlers.

The education part of duck hunting is very interesting to me. Tracking, banding, etc.

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To much social media involved most do it just for a pile pic and to show off how much money they have

There's still some good people out there that are doing it the right way and making new friend groups.

I think there is a lot more conservation going on in Arkansas. There is enough science and money invested into duck hunting to show us how to conserve and better our hunting. A lot of private clubs are managing their ducks and habitat in a manner that conserves the resources (ducks and habitat) for future generations.

Nothing. There have not been any changes made that have caused a positive effect in the last 10+ years.

"Friendships I have made the last 50 years!

Knowing I have helped the ducks going south and then back north!"

That's a tough one! I didn't see a lot of ducks in east Arkansas this year. I hope the birds stay on a sanctuary away from hunters. If it's what I saw in the air the past couple of years then this duck population is in bad shape.

"It's become a status symbol.

If men were as passionate about their families as much as they are about hunting them they would be a lot happier lol"

About the only thing I'm ok with is white front goose limits being 2 in this state. Everything else could change. Shorter season and smaller bird limit

Nothing

Everything that you need to waterfowl hunt is better

Too much hunting pressure. Too long of season and liberal limits.

I think there's a large under appreciated movement of the creation of waterfowl habit on private land, secondary to duck hunting's explosion on social media, and as long as it is hunted/ managed correctly is a positive factor.

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Duck hunting is still great for socializing with friends and meeting other hunters.

Stop shooting hens

The increasing interest of the next generation in waterfowl hunting....however currently misguided. This could be very powerful in the future.

I believe the only thing we are getting right are the sanctuary area. This is the only areas that the waterfowl has any peace and can feed without danger.

"Mismanaged public lands

False duck data

Over hunting

No sportsmanship, bad manners

Lack of habitat

Nothing right"

Young people are getting off the video games inside and getting outside and up early to go hunting. Killing ducks on public land consistently is hard work and much effort is required, we just need to show them the respectable way to do it. If you get beat wish the group well and move on, you might be surprised by getting invited to hunt with them if there's room. Don't shot chase the next day though, find your own ducks. Don't shoot wood ducks in public woods, we're all there for the show and wood ducks ain't in it. If we don't do it better and teach others what better is they're going to lottery out the opportunity. Raising more ducks in the pothole region is key, it all looks better public and private if there were 5/6 million more mallards in the fall flight.

Eventhough it is said we have too many hunters we are still losing hunters faster than we recruit them. I think the seasons, dates, and limits have little to do with over all numbers. I think we are doing a good job of managing the habitat for future generations wventhouh it doesn't currently appear to be that way.

I will say most all of all the waders, clothing and gadgets are top notch these days. I think there is a growing sense of urgency growing among most to not all duck hunters

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that there is an issue. To all the ones that make money from the industry side of it I would say we have to have ducks for all this to work.

"Commercial interests have more influence than conservation.

DU talks a good game but produces very little , if anything."

Plenty of food available from those who leave crops in the field unharvested

Not much

Lack of ducks. Are limits too high? Populations seem very spotty and it's not like it used to be. Climate as well.

Hard to say

Provides invaluable opportunities to spend time with kids and teach them life lessons while creating memories that last a lifetime

I don't pay too much attention to what others are doing. What we try to do right is make the land we control as habitable as possible for waterfowl. We also are teaching the kids in our family about the joys of outdoor recreation (with a large emphasis on waterfowl hunting), conservation, and gun safety,

Not much

Pressure and having a quiet unhinged place for ducks to sit during the day is crucial to keeping ducks in the area. Over hunting and pressure is everything in my opinion.

Hunters are starting to realize there is a problem!

More people coming to the sport. Most think this is a bad thing but it's great for hunting.

Not much

"In Ark our WMA's are extremely over hunted at Bayou Meto for example there will be up to 600 guns in the woods!! Between that and mud mother's waterfowl has no chance! I am a former AGFC and I have been seeing



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This coming for 7-10 years our commissions and flyway council better do something quick and I hope it's not too late this is going to take several years to overcome!!! We are at a very pivotal time in waterfowl decisions??"

Seemed there were lower numbers this season

Getting the next generations involved

I believe the main thing that is going right, is that these birds are still wild & will find a way to survive. You're still able to have places where you can keep the pressure off & let the birds do their thing. These areas are crucial for future success. You have to have these areas throughout the entire flyway however. I believe growing the sport is a good thing and a huge potential benefit for the ducks, however we have to do our part on preserving the duck habitat in our local areas to keep this going.

Not enough enforcement so baiting is a problem. hunting culture is a terrible problem as well. And lack of management for the ducks population. Bite the dam bullet and limit the amount of numbers we can harvest there is too many hunters let the population rise shit I would even say to close the season for 1-2 years and let the numbers build. I don't want what happened to the North American deer population happen to the North American duck population also the mid continental duck population is down 46% from historic average I got that from a credible source.

After attending Squadfest last summer, there are still a lot of youth involved in the waterfowl culture. I was honestly surprised, but happy to see it! Now it's up to other older hunters to help carry the tradition and respect for waterfowl hunting, that I think has kind of fallen to the side with social media and everyone worried about the "pile pic"

I am encouraged by the passion of the current duck hunting community. The hunters these days work very hard to kill ducks. The days of going out to a random pond and shooting ducks are over.

Nothing

"Seems to me younger people are hunting than any time in my life.

Awareness of the need for refuges."

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I can't think of one positive thing to say about the state of duck hunting in Arkansas esp. on Public Land.

I believe that the hunting industry as a whole has definitely pushed for the younger generation to have a passion for the outdoors. Just like our elders did before.

Positive bird numbers when the weather plays nice.

Not really much of anything on public wmas

Youth hunts and the people that still care about passing tradition to the next generation

That it's still a lifestyle for true hunters

We have a population that has the freedom and economic ability to travel and hunt a lot.

N/A

"I love to hear the different ways people are creating habitat for the ducks.

There are still people out there that are concerned about the sport."

The private properties that are doing their best effort to not kill hens and to provide habitat for waterfowl

Many larger clubs in Arkansas are taking it upon themselves to limit harvests in terms of overall numbers as well as avoiding shooting hens.

Private landowners/leasee are creating more food/habitat.

People are still getting in the fields when they can.

More young people are interested in the sport

"-Waterfowlers funds providing dollars for conservation and research.

-Conservation is starting to become more of a focal point.

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-Great avenue to spend time outdoors with family, friends and dogs.

-Gives the younger generation a reason to be outdoors and something to be passionate about.

-Still a lot of waterfowling opportunities if you choose to put the time and effort in.

-Reason to spend time in the off season training and working retrievers."

I hunt with good people and taught how to hunt the right way.

"Nothing. There is no positive vantage point. The sport of waterfowl hunting has been less and less appealing with each passing year.

It used to be about the love of the sport & the resource; and the level of success wasn't measured by the number of limits killed and posted on social media.

Now days, between the lack of opportunity, pitiful wintering habitat, declining duck population(s), and no assistance from the State(s) & Federal agencies, I am to the point to where I'm ready to hang it up and stop ducking hunting until something changes for the better.

As a working man, with a family, I don't have a bag of money to throw at a farmer or land owner for the rights to hunt their ground, but it is becoming more and more apparent that if you don't have at least (3) different private land areas to hunt, spread across a broad region, you're chances of harvesting waterfowl is dead. Don't get your hopes up."

A select few people that actually care about the future and can see that the population is terrible and are trying to do something. Now how we get agfc to figure that out I don't know

Oof this is tough I'm not sure there is much trending in the right direction in the sport.

Sound management practices are being employed on GTRs that will hopefully result in a healthier timber stand in which the future generations can enjoy.

Efforts to provide grassy cover around nesting ponds in nesting areas.

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More people getting into the sport which means more money toward the sport but what we do with the money and how we act will effect what happens to our sport moving forward.

Ducks Unlimited

- I'm still able to enjoy hunts with friends and family and I feel like there is a slow push toward a more conservation driven approach. Just needs to move faster.

I still think there are a lot of passionate waterfowlers who do things for the right reasons.

We still have the opportunity to hunt ducks in Arkansas even though it's not as good as it once was.

I typically hunt public in the states I do not reside in. There is plenty of ground to hunt in Arkansas even when it's dry you just have to put boots on the ground. I think a lot of eyes are being opened to the inefficiencies of the USFW duck counts and maypond counts and I am hoping this leads to some changes moving forward. I think the discussions being had by many people in regards to the state of waterfowl is moving things in the RIGHT direction

The passion people share for duck hunting is fun to witness. It's a small world full of like minded people that I believe generally want the same thing.

We are starting to have a conversation about what's wrong and through this I believe there will be change. Duck hunting has been going downhill since before the recent drought on the prairies. Acknowledging it and discussing the issues and possible solutions are the only way anything will change for the better.

Conservation efforts by individuals, states, and NGOs like DU. States need to do more though.

I like seeing the kids opportunity of success and the m having fun

The biggest vantage point is management. At the end of the day if refuges around you aren't managed the ducks aren't going to be there to manage!

Plenty of wintering habitat in Louisiana.

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The privilege of seeing a flight of ducks work a hole where they want to be and I guessed right and joined them before they got there.

There is still a great amount of passion from folks that love to duck hunt.

The amount of conversation and debate is good. Regardless of what side or the conversations your are on, there is some good to more conversation happening out on the open.

Ducks Unlimited remains focused habitat conservation.

More people getting on board with developing private habitat.

People are talking about it. Hunters, who are mostly conservationists have become apathetic during the AHM sixty and six run. It is productive that they are asking questions and becoming engaged. Hunters should insist on waterfowl management evolving through the use of technological advances such as use of satellite telemetry and artificial intelligence to count may ponds.

More people seem to be getting into waterfowl and/or hunting more days then historically.

People with the finances and an ability to improve/maintain habitat to help waterfowl flourish are the biggest help. Unfortunately we don't have enough people with the passion/finances to cover the entire country. Talks of certain states requiring extensive licensing/insurance for guiding is a move in the right direction and will certainly weed out the ones who aid in crippling the industry.

Technology is becoming better and less invasive to the wildlife, especially when performing scouting and population surveys. We still have access to public property

There seem to be more young hunters than ever before, so it is growing to the next generation.

Waterfowl hunting gives my brother and I a common passion to get better at, spend time together, and game plan all year round. We are first generation Duck hunters that have had some big ups and downs hunting leased ground in Arkansas.

The increased management of private lands to hold and give the resource places of rest. As an older guy(65) I am encouraged by the younger people I hunt with that are

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leaning toward conservation and wanting the resource to be around for their kids and grandkids.

private owned acreage with minimal pressure and birds.

Not much

More hunters are starting to demand a better experience—which I hope will force resource managers to reckon with competing needs to protect the resource (on one hand) and allow unlimited hunting opportunity (on the other)

A lot of concern for the resource, I do believe managers are constantly working to study the impacts and changes to a modern waterfowl landscape as well as the wildlife.

I'm still able to work hard to find birds and get away from people on public ground (barely) and average a very good number

Nothing. It has destroyed waterfowling in Arkansas. 10 year acute decline but 20 year overall decline. I have better luck in other states that have far less pressure

At the very least, social media is getting/keeping young people into/in duck hunting and that means \$\$ and \$\$ is the biggest influence in duck hunting policy.

We have talked to our farmer this year and we are going to try and leave a few acres of crop and see what happens. I will say seasons have been so bad we are going to keep trying different things along the way and if we can plant a few extra acres to help then we will do it.

Nothing, a new federal reserve near us holds 99% of the ducks...they never leave it...old rice fields ...food water no pressure...

We still have 60 day seasons, with 6 duck limits

"1. The ducks are surviving! Their numbers are not in rapid decline despite electronic advantages that make killing ducks easy!

2. Clothing companies are slowly improving products making it more comfortable to spend a day in the field."

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I think people are finally starting to become more aware of how things have changed and will continue to change negatively if we don't do something now. I think we need to reconsider how the data is being gathered. Thanks to shows like this one and yalls willingness to address the issues by just being open and honest but also back it with facts and expert leaders knowledge in the industry.

What seems to be going right is that there is a growing awareness of the problems and people seem to be increasing in awareness to these issues

Landowners converting ag ground back into wetlands along key flyways in the Midwest.

Presently not much. But "seasoned" waterfowl hunters are seeing that duck populations have dropped dramatically and are ready to start addressing the issues.

Bringing more people too the hunting side

More and more folks managing for birds, mostly for wintering birds but maybe it's helping to offset nesting ground habitat loss.

Small groups of private land owners in certain areas getting together to better habitat. We work harder than any public places I know of because of lack of desire or man power on their part.

The rice incentives are good.

As I age enjoying making memories with family and friends

In the northwest central flyway in Montana there are pretty good bird numbers. The DNA science is really interesting and is helping the game farm mallard issue get more traction.

Nothing is going right. AGFC and other states DNRs are doing nothing to stop the problems or help the ducks.

Most hunters follow the rules and regs in my opinion

Here is Arkansas nothing is going right unfortunately. We have watched as a sport we loved has been turned into camo boat ramp beauty pageant. Where it's more important to wear your sitka and rev your mud motor than to worry about be

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woodsman. The amount of pressure on our WMAs has led to ducks avoiding them on most days.

There are a lot of good, quality mentors and leaders out there (it can be hard to weed through the bad ones though). There are great organizations like Delta Waterfowl and Ducks Unlimited providing support for the waterfowl and sport alike.

Seeing more and more kids in the picture, they just need better teachers and mentors. Ain't all about killing birds but you see it everywhere, "piles make smiles."

A lot of people are involved, young, old and in between it's good to see so many people enjoying the sport, but most of the newcomers have no respect or ethics for the 'gentlemen's' sport

I think that people are starting to recognize there is an issue, and people like you guys are making a huge impact with trying to fix it. Thank you!

Youth days.

Headed in the wrong direction

Honestly nothing in my opinion is going in the right direction with waterfowl hunting. It's been a spiral that is going out of control and I'm afraid we won't or can't ever get a hold back on it.

"People introducing others the right way.

People having fun and making memories.

People talking about moist soil vs crops.

Slowly starting to talk about conservation, pressure, non hen harvest in a positive way."

Keeping from doing a draw letting us hunt. Noting else

Some private land owners are doing a good job of giving ducks a rest area.

Think it's time to make drastic changes and Arkansas needs to "get back in the game". Upper states are destroying Arkansas duck hunting



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Discussions about migration issues are making noise which is good for us southerners.

Nothing in Arkansas from a public land hunters point of view. Can't speak for private land hunters. Sometimes it seems like the new rules are purposely making public hunting worse . Our problems are so much more than what motor you're running , how many shells are in your bag , mojos , etc ...

Not much

Not a damn thing, game and fish doesn't do a thing to help the duck hunting at Dave Donaldson WMA, from the non residents to the residents. Bag limits should go to 2 duck limit, ban mud motors, and make the non residents pay double the state game licensing and enter a draw system where all the dumb sum bitches can't all be here at once and most of them can't be here at all

Some of the people who actually promote needing to preserve our birds and wanting to help with wildlife management.

I think we are doing a good job of involving kids the next generation but I think we could improve on teaching them the right way. I think it is a good thing that the agfc is working on restoring green tree reservoirs by mimicking the natural flooding cycles I know it is not popular but I believe the science is accurate and logical. Many of the WMAs that I have hunted for years have had big timber die offs.

Public grounds are well enforced and restricted

I think everything is headed in the wrong direction pertaining to waterfowl hunting.

Influencers that talk about it not being all about the number of ducks killed but the time spent with the fellow man.

For south not much is going right. The ducks never really make it here. I've been lucky enough to hunt some really cool places up north and it's a hole different ball game up there. They are keeping birds all year long and the ones that make it south have been shot out. Things need to change over all so the duck population is going up. Not declining

Un harvested flooded crops are short stopping the natural migration of ducks

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NOTHING IS GOING RIGHT IN NE ARKANSAS THE GAME AND FISH HAVR RUINED DUCK HUNTING ON PUBLIC GROUND.

Duck hunting will never be like it was in the 90s. Seems really everything keep going down hill for the most part. So can't really see anything going right or in the right direction.

People talking more about trying to solve the problem and save the resources, which is the habitat and ducks.

For my group, the less we kill, the more we have found joy in just being out in God's creation. The kill has become a bonus.

Even if they are not ethically correct, more new hunters are buying licenses to replenish funds lost from those who quit or move on from waterfowl

Steadily improving habitat on my farm.

"Birds are getting smarter and avoiding areas with lots of hunters.

Closed areas always seem to hold birds."

The conversation is really amping up on what HAS to be done to save our sport.

25 shell limit is a good start to WMAs.

At least people are talking about something is wrong with populations

Nothing

Not much from my view other than spending time with friends and family

More video on conservation and wildlife photos are great

In my honest opinion the only thing that has gone right in the recent past is the freedom to use electronic decoys has been brought back and the growing amount of land for waterfowl to rest. Nearly everything else is going the wrong direction.

People are finally talking about needing more restrictive seasons and limits instead of wanting the most liberal frameworks, the need for a change in habitat management

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and improvement on the PPR, not shooting hens, and not hunting after Jan 15 to lessen impact on pair bonding.

Conversations are being had on how to improve things.

I am enjoying the true meaning of hunting and spending time with my two sons. Showing them what my father taught me and getting to have the conversations that last forever in your memories.

I do like to see the younger generation out in the outdoors hunting private ground and public ground the people that I've meet threw hunting have lead to life long friends

More people getting out and hunting and being introduced the right way

Nothing that I can think of is getting better. NON RESIDENTS should have to get a permit.

"There is a recent movement of people speaking out about the problems and trying to work on fixing them and going back old school.

Also i appreciate seeing waterfowlers as a whole standing behind and supporting people when they get hurt or something tragic happens"

Waterfowling is best when highlight the conditions, the fellowship, and the chase (tactics, conditions, scouting & permissions)

Not much at all.

"Being in the Ms delta and the pressure over the years on specks in Arkansas led to some amazing hunts for geese and the numbers were unbelievable this year around the Itta bena Moorhead area.

Specks and gadwalls were the MS delta life blood this season"

Hunting for the right reasons. Less kill pics.

This was a difficult one, which kind of surprised me when I thought about it. I will say that I have raised my children to appreciate hunting and how to avoid the crowds while still having success this past season. There are still a small few young men that are willing to learn the "right" way to hunt. They do not have that "kill at all costs"

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mentality and they do appreciate having public lands. They also fear losing it due to their generation's greed.

The older crowd trying to save, what is not already gone forever, the good ole days...

Not much

Not much since 2005

The gear is better than it's ever been. That's about it.

Most private landowners are doing the most good for conservation in wintering habitat.

I haven't seen much in several years but have still seen some fathers bringing their kids.

It's fun but there is a lot wrong right now

N/a

There seem to be a lot of older and some younger hunters truly interested in doing what's right for the waterfowl & sport. But how to get that accomplished with a flawed AHM model seems impossible because no state is going to make the hard decisions.

N/a

I think that the unharvested crops are a great food source, but they're not beneficial to hunters unless you are a rich man

I don't see anything being done to return decent hunting to the southern part of the flyway.

Spending time with family and friends is everything right about waterfowl hunting

At 64 my days being the leader of the guys I hunt with are dwindling. Now I'm hunting with my son and friends and they are leading the way. Public land duck hunting in the upper midwest is a tough physical grind and I'm grateful I have wonderful ethical young men around me. Now I trained most of them so deserve it!

Very little

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6 duck limit

"Like my sons and I, my grandsons are getting involved.

And they love duck hunting as much as me and my Dad did."

Honestly nothing. I spend more time every year stewing, aggravated, and annoyed by all the same issues that continue to get worse. To sum it up, I often wonder why I even try anymore. Just love ducks too much to give it up. Why I became a professional waterfowl photographer. I'd rather take pictures in the spring by myself after all the yuppy want to be kings of waterfowl call it a season and turn into pro turkey hunting influencers.

Understanding there are problems for future hunters-

That the yuppies are being driven away due to declining populations

I still get to spend time with friends, make new friends. I also get the opportunity to introduce new people to waterfowl hunting.

We had a good season in the mid White River basin. We have miles of new habitat between the White and Cache. This has helped replace the fields that once held a wintering food supply. Thankful for the WRP program that helped pave the way for this habitat.

Not much tbh! Finally had who I thought was good director who was getting things done towards saving the GTRs and the people bitching ran him off. The sportsmanship and ethics of hunters have gone down the tubes. Everyone seems to be about themselves.

Private people are learning to rest and hold ducks

"A new focus on modern science.

In-depth waterfowl studies and banding/gps projects to better understand the issues & concerns we are currently facing."

Can't think of any

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

People being introduced to the sport is great and hopefully bringing awareness to waterfowl and conservation. Money coming into organizations like DU and Delta is higher than ever and growing each year.

People are starting to realize there is a problem that needs addressing.

Occasionally I see pictures/posts of “old timers”/history although some of these are “pile pics” I enjoy seeing how different things were and the smile on their face with even just a few birds. I also think we are bringing in youth, but need to do a better job of showing the history of waterfowl. I also see some people really showcasing their conservation work. We should keep that up.

Overlimit shooting over corn

At least most people are genuinely concerned about waning duck numbers.

Culture and passion I get to share with my friends and family

People that have the ability and money to provide food and habitat for waterfowl are actually helping and not hurting the sport.

Plenty of people doing it the right way out there. They need to be showcased more. There are a lot of people studying waterfowl and the genetic testing that Dr Phil Lavretsky is doing is going to open a lot of eyes. Game farm mallards are going to kill the MS flyway if we don't get a grip on it.

Few people are using rest areas and iykyk rest areas help everyone public private

Podcasts like yours that spread awareness about conservation and not just killing. Keeping us connected to the science and research side of the industry is important as well. Private landowners and land managers do a lot to support habitat and keep ducks in certain areas. Anything that makes conservation and habitat preservation mainstream and not just an idea is helping.

Enforcement. I look forward to being checked. Need more agents.

Ideas and attitudes in the sportsman in my age group are seeming to care more about conservation. Most of the guys my age that I speak too are genuinely worried about the state of waterfowl especially because we have young children that we are trying to pass this great pastime to.

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Access to information on social media. Availability of doing going if you don't mind the work.

Cohen research and data

I can't say anything is headed in the right direction other than the technology in our gear. Guns, clothing, decoys etc it's all better that what I had growing up.

I think the fact that most recognize that something isn't right is huge. Even though nobody seems to fully agree on a solution it's seems there's little fighting about the need to things to get better. Rarely do you get alignment on a topic of this nature. Likely the best solution is a little of everything, small limit, season dates and non resident adjustments at least will show there's some steps being taken and will get most hunters buy in.

we have more people enjoying this great sport, it's the best thing in the world and i hope everyone gets a chance to enjoy it.

Less flooded grown and less crop down south for waterfowl is biggest thing. Weather.

It's a growing sport, in a world of being stuck to a screen getting people outside is always a great thing. It does get my buddies and I time to hang out we don't seem to get as much in the offseason. Seeing birds dump in is something you can't explain without seeing it.

We are finally seeing more of a concerted effort to address what "we" have been seeing the last few years.

I feel like there is a small percentage of hunters that are doing their part in proving habitat, teaching the younger generation and just wanting to have quality hunts with their friends and family. If more people had this attitude, instead of pile pics and notoriety on social media, duck hunting in general would turn itself around for the better.

I see a lot of young kids. Barely old enough to drive hunting. Carry on family traditions. Which is nice but most are miss guided and almost rude. Like your not the only person hunting public land in Arkansas

"Introducing kids to hunting

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

Embracing the fact that it's not always about the killing"

Not much.

I think steel shot has evolved well.

The discussion is always about what is wrong generation after generation because we've always observed the resource and hunting access/success decline. It's the same with trout fishing on the Texas gulf coast. While the arguments are valid, and I hate to hear about how good it used to be; there are positives to the current environment of waterfowl hunting and the platform afforded to us through mass communication and the internet. As stewards of the resource, it is up to us to use that to our benefit to create the change we want to see. Like this show, it is important to continue pushing constructive conversations and hopefully this wave of negative culture created by social media starts to make way for true conservation.

Lack of duck numbers and over pressured birds. Reintroduction of spinning wing decoys onto public land along with their presence in the northern states and Canada. Such allowing for fewer young birds to make it south. Social media has ruined the sport by making it look easy and portraying it to be the "cool" thing to do.

Lots of resources are available to new hunters now through things like onX, YouTube and podcasts. Lazy people will always take the easy way out and consume whatever is feed through social media.

There is a youth movement into the sport. But it's not being handled the proper way. Too many flat billed bros running around with daddy's truck and boat thinking they're entitled to a spot or entitled to a limit. 0 morals/ethics or concerns about the resource.

We've got great people from a boots on the ground perspective at our state agency AGFC. However, politics and money seem to corrupt or at least sway sound science/public observation when it comes to high level management decisions (ex. Season dates/ flood dates/ fill in the blank)

Not a whole lot anymore. Nothing is changing and only getting worse. I think this is the last season I'll be waterfowl hunting 30+ days and will be splitting my time between other game (deer, turkey, etc)



## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

I think people are becoming more aware of the issues facing the sport and that we cannot continue to push these birds to the breaking point without some changes occurring. I think as more awareness happens, then it'll only benefit the sport going forward.

I think that our weather patterns could be making a shift for the better.

Ben Whortons accident proves that the hunting community as a whole can come together for a purpose. The same with the public timber project. If we can do the same thing for conservation then no federal or state agency can stand in our way.

The camaraderie between my friends and I, knowing there's at least one thing we get to do together every year as our lives get busier and it gets harder to make time to hang out.

Technology is getting better around apparel and gear.

see a lot of pintails.

Get to hunt with family and friends every day that I go.

Wow that's a tough one. Being a resident of TN and spending my whole life hunting public ground in West Tn. I don't have much to say about what is going right. Maybe Doge will audit TWRA that would be a step in the right direction!! One thing I have seen over the past few years is that the number of young hunters seems to be growing.

"- Hunting properties are becoming more valuable than ever before. This is incentivizing more people to invest in hunting properties and convert their less productive ag fields into hunting fields or rest areas.

- the influence of social media gives the hunting industry a voice, to prevent lawmakers from limiting are rights."

People are starting to wake up to the idea that change is required for things to get better

Increased habitat management. More people are putting effort into provide quality wintering habitat.

Wader durability is getting better.

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Not much

The focus seems to be turning towards protecting the quarry.

The passion of those in the sport who desire to see the sport in a better place.

The ability to take kids and have a good time sharing the resource. It is still somewhat affordable to go if you don't have all the newest gear and boats. Examples are license prices and such. With that said, as whole, the sport is declining in quality.

I'm glad we don't hunt February.

I still have past this sport on to my children even though it has gotten worse over the years. We still go out and enjoy family time together. I hope the powers that be get this corrected asap or my grandkids will never get to experience these times together. The u.s.a has done a horrible job with natural resources. I can walk for 50 miles with my bird dog and never see a quail if we don't do something ducks are not far behind! Why don't start asking people who know these things are obviously not in books it comes from experience!!!

Well I don't like pressure and having too many people into waterfowl hunting obviously is less opportunity for me but more people in sport helps fund more for conservation

I think duck hunting is 10x as popular as it was 10-15 years ago, which brings alot more pressure to the ducks, and is no doubt the leading problem. It is also hard to be aggravated at that concept because I would never want to discourage someone from going hunting. You don't see ducks feeding in half the fields I did as a kid in the later 2000's and early teens. These ducks move feed at night and loaf all day. We see it on most of the private farms we hunt around central Louisiana. Our farms load up with ducks at night and we don't see an 1/8 of the ducks that roost there in the morning. Just like everything in mother nature it will adapt to survive the conditions at hand, and I believe the ducks have done that.

The less than perfect seasons and out of state over crowding are making the true hunters adapt and become better hunters in all environments.

Not much

It's growing for sure. Only trouble is people aren't learning how to do it the right way.

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It feels like very little is going right. A positive is we have plenty of new people getting into the sport.

Private owned and or Private leased ground providing much need habitat and taking pressure off birds. Private/High End leases giving back where Public ground is a disaster through and through. AGFC is finally taking baby steps in improving... so much more to do thou.

The “thing” I see happening is outdoorsmen are actively discussing how to save a sport we love. Those who hunted before social media. The LLSS guys.

Trying to bring the youth into it

I like to see Arkansas limiting several WMA's to just a few days a week. This seems to have been helping in those areas.

At least people are noticing that some things need to change but it's too late.

60 day seasons

Seems to me like more people than ever are interested in hunting and wildlife which sells more hunting licenses which is a good thing in the long run.

people are beginning to speak up regarding the lack of ducks

Private property management. Lots of great properties holding and feeding lots of ducks

People with lots of money are spending it on habitat so that they can continue to have ducks. I don't want a world where you need to spend several hundred thousand a year to have consistent birds, but at least they are investing back in it.

Survey and items like this

Boost the economy for the state

From my perspective duck numbers have not decreased. We generally see the same number of birds every year, albeit at different times and under different conditions. I'm

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also saying this from the perspective of 2-3 months before our seasons open until the 1 or 2 months after the season closes.

Private land owners are creating fantastic refuges for waterfowl and managing pressure. It's unfortunate that it's become a rich man's sport but it is great for the birds.

Hoping better technology (Drones, AI, Modeling) helps game managers better understand the state of the resource and how to manage it. Appears more folks are now talking about the decline in quality hunting opportunities which could lead to constructive conversations and ideas to get us back to where we need to be.

Getting more of the younger generation involved in hunting.

Folks still introducing the youth to hunting.

In the state of Arkansas nothing is trending in the right direction

"The increased talk around knowing your pattern and how your load/gun work together is great.

I think the increase in shows talking about issues like you guys is also a good thing. Just wish more people would listen.

Gear, gear is going great! It is so nice to actually be dry and warm. From windstopper to breathable waders. SO much nicer than when I was a kid in the mid to late 90s.

And for me and my hunting I'm really starting to see the payoff of years hunting the same way and same areas and learning what the ducks are actually going to do and where they are gonna do it. Be it time, location, etc. It is just nice to see all that time spent paying off and leading me to have some of my best seasons ever in the last 10 years."

"I would say one thing for sure is that I am able to purchase a license in most states to be able to hunt when i have the opportunity. I would also say when i am able to time it right hunting can be pretty good for a few days. I would also say there are many different public areas throughout the country where I can go hunting .

I think the conservation organizations are doing a good job with what they can maintain and preserve. Still able to buy shotguns and shells is a good thing . I would say refuge systems are doing a good job for the most part holding and protecting

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birds. States do a good job of relaying the rules and regulations through web sites. In highly pressured areas I would say for the most part law enforcement is present which I like. Plenty of resources available gear, maps, information. Plenty of places to learn more about the duck hunting. Maybe to good. Too much of a good thing might not be a good thing in this case 🤔"

nothing

The number of kids in the sport seems to be growing is great but also a double edge sword. We need youth to keep it alive but properly mentored youth would be most beneficial for the sport.

Nothing currently. Complete dumpster fire at all federal and state levels

I think more people are starting to see that conservation is important because of "lack of duck numbers"

Kids still wanting to do it..

"Bottomland hardwood wake up call / care

Many people noticing and discussing the issues

Recognizing that the sport could disappear entirely"

"I believe that now, more than ever, we have science as a resource to guide us towards the most informed decisions. Do I think this is occurring? Not all the time and we have a mountain to climb with some science nay-sayers.

I am a very experienced hunter that enjoys bringing new people into the sport by showing them how to hunt the right way. There's nothing better than seeing the anticipation of a new hunter letting that mallard get right over the decoys, back-flapping. This will, hopefully, help when they introduce someone.

I also believe that we have the best equipment and ability to provide quality duck habitat. With all the habitat that has been lost over the years, it's a pride point to say that I can provide habitat for these birds in an effective manner. I always tell the ""antis"" that I harvest a tiny fraction of the birds that I feed and provide shelter.

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For me, it is still the most enjoyable game to hunt (turkey can be argued but the fellowship isn't the same). The camaraderie, the dog work, the enjoyment of off-season habitat work, etc. We can't put the proverbial genie back in the bottle of social media, but we can find a way to discourage that type of behavior/perception.

I truly believe the culture and lack of duck production are the 2 biggest issues in our sport. The ""kill culture"" as you call it increases the pressure, the competition and the bragging. We need to shame these people."

Great seeing youth being introduced into the sport and being shown the right ways to do things.

I think the conservation of the resource is off the rails. I am fortunate to have a large private place to hunt and still kill the limit 95+ percent of the time, however the quality and enjoyment of the hunt has declined steadily since 2002. We winter half the birds while leaving 150+ acres of unharvested corn and rice as rest areas. Our wintering mallard numbers a 25% of the past. There are new studies on electronic decoys that will bring a push this year to eliminate them and that would be a step in the right direction. AHM is now a moving goalpost, the pintail new limit is ludicrous with all three being able to be hens when the hen to drake ratio is out of wack already. According to AHM the pintail should have been closed 5 years ago. There doesn't seem to be anything going right in the management of the resource side.

When I see someone teaching a kid the right way of duck hunting. It shows that there is hope for the sport.

The Arkansas Game and fish working to save the trees and control the water on state WMA's.

High Prairie Sportsmen approach to hunting and conversation. He should be the lead on everything.

It's great that young people are getting out and hunting. That's the only hope for the future of wildlife, keeping hunters buying licenses.

Waterfowling is about being able to spend time with your friends and family and to enjoy the time outside. It always delivers that. The gear that brands are providing are great for making those moments happen.

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"I am just getting reacquainted with the waterfowl world after hunting as a kid a few weekends a year. When I went to college (VA to KS) I did not have many opportunities to hunt. I have done livestock photography for a few years and had a friend with a guide service approach me about coming and taking photos and videos for him. Smaller mom and pop type outfit that my buddy and his cousin (sense bought out) started when they were 16 (now 24 and 25).

I spent the 24-25 season in south central KS creating content and taking photos for him on almost every hunt he did with clients. Groups of hunters from everywhere around the US some old, some young. Lots of different perspectives and personalities. I think most of the folks that I came in contact with throughout this year have a true love and passion for the birds and the chase. All groups we hunted with took their meat that was harvested home. I was very impressed by my friend's adherence to the rules and laws when it came to his business. Everything by the book, calling it when limits were reached, hard cut offs at shooting times, very tight ship.

I also have started to dive into the social media side of the industry because I am creating content and obviously want it to do well. I have limited knowledge about the pulse of this industry and am learning quickly. I admittedly have produced some kill shot type videos, absolutely not glorified blowing ducks up but kill shots sprinkled around b-roll footage from the day. I prefer the photography side of things and think it is the better side of my work. Photography truly captures more of the beauty of the hunt. My buddy is my client and a good friend and pays me well to come get those kind of videos and photos. He and the clients he takes out love the kill shot videos and pile pics.

As a newbie to the industry I don't want to make it worse for everybody else, especially not even knowing I'm doing it. My family raises cattle so I understand the negativity that can be caused by bad coverage.

That being said, are there some things that I could include or start doing that you guys feel can push the correct agenda? Also, are there any must reads or videos on this topic that I need to check out?

Side note: In Kansas, I have not seen any hunting over ""unharvested crops."" Farmers almost always harvest crops, unless they are claimed on crop insurance and considered abandoned. Most field feeds are on harvested land where the residual milo, corn, beans, or wheat left over from combines are eaten. Very little left over but there is some, especially in milo."

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In my opinion conditions are deteriorating yearly. Almost all things are trending negatively in my mind.

I feel that duck hunting is accepted, and no one is trying to stop me from hunting. Excluding the game and fish making more rules to limit non resident hunters.

Private landowner conservation efforts

Too many people. I live in central arkansas, so i'm am used to and have delt with competition on public land from the beggining of my hunting career. The last few years have been unlike anything I have seen before. On most Flooded timber wmas or moist soils units, if ya ain't in line by midnight, might as well try again another day. Pressure is the number one killer of our duck hunting around here. Ducks have no where to hide. They figure out within a week of showing up that they need to use the WMAs in the afternoon (when hunting is closed) and stick to the rest areas in the morning. We used to do good by hunting the Arkansas River (lass crowded) but now it is just as bad the big money WMAs. Used to, anyone could go find ducks in a pocket on the river and go hunt them the next day. Now, because they are hunted everyday, unless you are hunting in the dredged channel, birds will consistently short stop decoys. Not a case by case deal either. All species will do the same things. Mallards are using 30ft deep open water and eating shad, all just to avoid pressure. I do not know the solution, but i do know that pressure is the number 1 problem.

People on the southern end of the flyway are choosing not to shoot hens, but I'm afraid it's because the ratios are so skewed.

More and more people are talking about holding on to the resource and protecting it. It's no longer a hot take that maybe we should be thinking about the next 50 years.

Small group of influencers, guides, outfitters realizing they don't need to shoot 4 mallards, 2 hens to have a successful hunt.

I see very few things going right. Texas looked at the snow goose population and got rid of their spring season and the west coast is lowering their Canada goose limit based on the lowest populations. I wish the rest of the country would be more reactive with declining waterfowl populations.

More people are starting to realize that waterfowl hunting is being manipulated by money and not what's best for hunting. One good thing from social media is that



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people are showing how much unharvested ag they are hunting, which has brought light to the issue.

Starting to see people getting kids a little more involved, just wish it would happen more during regular season as opposed to primarily being relegated to youth seasons. I think the discussions and people questioning things is ultimately good for the long-term health of the sport. Doing things the way we've always done it clearly isn't working.

"60 day season

6 ducks"

I think there isn't a whole lot going right, down in the south we don't see birds in good numbers other than teal and wood ducks until maybe the end of December or January. There is so much more food and water that is kept open in the northern and middle states which causes the ducks to not have a reason to come down to us. I have been up to Oklahoma and the Mississippi delta and even these places hold birds because of agriculture or their location north/south on the map.

I think something that is right is private land owners providing rest areas for these birds. Without private landowners all ducks would be dead...

Definitely a growing sport. I was the only 9th-12th grade kid at my school that duck hunted. Now every kid 25 y/o and under duck hunts.

I think there is great recruitment for the sport right now. If it weren't for duck hunters, then there would be no ducks so we need as many as we can get. I also think there is good conversations going about how we can improve nesting habitat as well as research that is going on that helps paint the picture of the current landscape.

A lot of people seem to be waking up to the reality of the situation. Speaking for Arkansas only, people are noticing that the ducks are not here in numbers like they used to be. Opinions are being voiced on forums and groups online advocating for change. I believe it's a step in the right direction towards actual efforts being made to combat the issues; whatever they may be. Hopefully the momentum can be kept up and the voices reach the right people.

- Big organizations realizing there is an issue and doing things to help fix it.

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I think there are some brands and people with a platform that are talking about conservation and promoting good ethics and sportsmanship but they are still a minority unfortunately.

It's remarkable the change in hunt quality I've seen just in the last 10-15 years. People are noticing this downtrend coming to terms with what is likely the "new normal", especially in states like Louisiana. But, at least the conversation is starting on how to move forward.

The colder weather

"The main goal of a hunter is conservation and providing safe Havens for waterfall and animals to live/survive. Hunters contribute the most to the conservation efforts.

Also for me and my group, it's mostly family that I hunt with and friends so it's a time for us to get together and enjoy those special moments while enjoying the outdoors many people lose sight of that."

Conservation groups like DU and Delta Waterfowl remain relevant and influential. Hunters have accepted non-toxic shot as necessary. Some ammo companies are experimenting with or offering biodegradable wads and/or hulls.

The hunting pressure. I would say it is mostly due to social media and lack of water on public land

I believe there is an abandoning at this point of the "duck dynasty" hunter the ones that weren't shown how to hunt just the kill them all people. Otherwise not many positives are available if you don't have capabilities to own the land you hunt or have work limitations. Waterfowl culture needs to be revived as conservation culture and respecting the harvest and that honestly it's about memories, family, friends, and getting some to put their boots on

DU and federal and state biologists are in for the long run. I don't put much emphasis on year to year change and especially with how many ducks or geese I kill. Some of the best hunts in my life I have taken the same shell out of the chamber. Memories, friends, unique observations and being a participant and not a spectator.

Youths getting into hunting

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I think people like Dr. Osborne are doing an excellent job with their research. Their promotion of that gives insight to people who may not be too familiar with what is going on in the waterfowl world. Hunting wise, not much is going great. Only real consistent success I've had over the last 4 or 5 years has come with the huge cold fronts in late December, early January.

The use of Trained Retrievers! 👍😎🦆🦆🦆🦆🐕🐕🐕🐕

The effort of some trying to keep duck hunting grounded. Ones that are conservative and let ducks rest and hunt/kill them like they should (feet down). It's turned into a rich man's game and who has the fastest stuff and not who is the better hunter or outdoorsman.

There is a somewhat concentrated effort in habitat restoration in certain areas by certain people. There seems to be a decent amount of people who are focusing on restoring the resource.

Lots of passionate waterfowl biologists in school getting their degrees that seem to be more open minded than some older biologists

There is a newer generation of conservationists coming up into the field who care about the resources and are trying to get educated on the topic of sustainable duck populations. It's really easy to be pessimistic about the outlook, but I also think there's a chance for waterfowl hunters to use their voices to make changes for the better.

I am a duck hunter, not a mallard hunter, and being able to zone hop I have long seasons and can take my kids out and enjoy the outdoors. Sure duck numbers are down overall, especially mallards, but a few good wet years in the PPR and I think we'll be sitting pretty good again. As long as our commission keeps seasons the same length I'll be happy.

We have plenty of space to go. I feel like the AGFC/Fed lands are well kept and managed.

Younger generation is not lost. Well, still, a shortcoming more of the critical issues are coming to the forefront.

"Finally getting some data telling us about the birds

Finally getting a good portion of the hunters to listen about conservation"

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Conservation movement, paying attention to legislation and better funding for wildlife refuges

I think a lot of folks still really care about showing people the sport and teaching them about taking care of the land, respecting the game, and treasuring your time in the outdoors with family and friends. However, it isn't cool or sexy to post about these principles, so I think it gets lost in the wash of pile pictures, mud motor arguments, and kill counts. I hope we can highlight these values more through brand content, influencers, and speaking on these topics publicly.

Regulations make it easier for new waterfowl era to get started as kids.

I had my daughter out for the AR youth weekend and was pleasantly surprised by how many others were getting kids out hunting. I fully expected the area we hunt to be a ghost town.

Kansas and Missouri have the most success because they manage the best for waterfowl

"No much

Fewer Mallards, CA needs to flood every pothole. Why can they kill 8 mallards?"

Social media has ruined the public land aspect of waterfowl hunting in the south. Everyone is worried about having the loudest boat and posting a picture at the end of the year. Need to get back to the roots of waterfowl hunting. Enjoy the journey. Dennis Loisser from Dr duck and his buddy Billy Campbell have done a great job showing this lifestyle and I stand for everything that they stand for.

The Million dollar clubs are finally realizing what Joe Public has been saying for years. Not much else.

We hold a lot ducks which is good but have nothing to get them up our of our rear area and fields

Pressure pressure pressure

"Research-including banding, telemetry study's.

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Conservation efforts through ducks unlimited/delta waterfowl"

While the internet has definitely created some issues for duck hunting. I think over all it's been a good thing. We are such a small part of the population and even the hunting community that the access to information and comradely it has enabled has been extraordinary. I grew up in a house of hunters and was part of the "class of 2000" more or less but back before the chatrooms took off you were really limited to the information from the people you hunted with and magazines like DU. While access to information has created some negatives over all I think it has been the mentor that wasn't available to a lot of people.

Promoting youth in the traditions.

Flooded corn. Too many people. Load mud motors.

Very little. No one cares about the future of the birds. I myself have 4 children that absolutely love waterfowl hunting and there is a growing concern in my mind that there may be no ducks especially to hunt when they are my age.

The duck hunter numbers seem good however the focus needs to be more on, conservation, mentorship, and sportsmanship

innovation of waterfowl hunting gear is outstanding. technology of guns, ammunition is outstanding.

There are influencers promoting conservation and better ethics

Beginning to see some hunters concerned about waterfowl populations and future of the sport.

Too many kids running around without ever being mentored on outdoor etiquette. You couldn't pay me to hunt with most new hunters that are running around unsupervised. Pretty sad what it's become. Influencers and social media are to thank for that. The flooding of crops in the Midwest and cold fronts pushing birds down later each season is hurting us in south Louisiana also.

I do believe that people being introduced to the sport is a great thing for all, but the mentorship or lack there of is what is hurting.

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The kill mentality. I've heard multiple hunters refer to their hunts as "murdering the birds" which doesn't offend me but it doesn't sit right with me. Success is measured differently by everybody but I do think the forums and now social media promotes big piles as success and that seems to lead to more issues with sportsmanship because the end goal is strictly killing as many birds as possible.

The growth in hunters promoting conservation and educating younger generations about the importance of it. The common discussions of shortening limits and possibly seasons. Creating rest days, allocating sanctuaries, etc.

Every jackass thinks they can be an influencer and don't know what they're doing. Bringing to many yahoos that are only doing it because it's the "cool" thing to do.

I can still enjoy the outdoors with my kids and friends whenever I want.

See younger hunters getting the bug. Just like I did.

People are finally realizing there's a problem

I think the marginal seasons over the past few years brainstorming ways to increase waterfowl production and conserve the resource.

Shift more and more to "less about the pile more about the experience"

Lots of eyes on the sport and passion for it.

The internet has a huge amount of information at the fingertips of new hunters. In general populations are up. Long seasons provide opportunities for working folks and kids in school to be able to hunt more often.

It seems like there is a lot of interest in the sport. I know numbers of license sales will say that hunter numbers are down, but it seems like there's a lot of new people hunting in my circle and a lot of interest in the sport in general. There also seems to be a lot of good mentors around. But other than that, the future doesn't look great unless something changes.

Hard to say. The gear is really good. Other than that there's a lot of work to be done.

Nothing

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From what I've seen across the country this season we still have good duck numbers. We are still able to get out and hunt these critters and make memories with friends and family.

Introduction of the next generation to hunting

People noting there is a problem

I believe some things that are going right is everyone starting to come to the realization that we have to act and not react when it comes to returning waterfowl habitat to how it once was. I believe influencers like yourselves are starting to push the narrative that we need to make some serious changes all the way up to the federal level before we have issues that we can never recover from.

People are more informant...informed on the growing issues facing habitat, conservation, population numbers.

The amount of people being mindful of the habitat and the resource silently compared to the small percentage of people who blast everything on social media. As a guide of 10 years on the Grand Prairie I can speak for myself and others I work hand in hand with- we are all trying to do better every day, whether it's hunt success or allowing birds enough cushion and rest to settle in rather than blowing them out on day one. Nothing is easy but if we continue to stay resource minded and work together we may benefit a significant area on the flyway.

Not much has progressed. I do like the first come first serve rule that came out in Arkansas this year. I have seen more respect among hunters this year as well.

"It can be difficult to pinpoint what is going right in waterfowl hunting when conflicting narratives exist about bird populations and the state of the sport—especially when even the scientific community disagrees on key facts.

However, one undeniable positive is the dedication of organizations like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, state agencies, and others that work tirelessly to identify and address challenges related to waterfowl populations and habitat. Continuing to support these agencies and NGOs is critical to protecting both waterfowl and the future of hunting.

That said, one growing concern is the rise of misinformation fueled by the internet and social media, where a vocal minority spreads disinformation about these conservation

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groups. Waterfowl hunting is just one example of a larger societal trend (described in the book ""The Death of Expertise"")—where uninformed opinions can overshadow facts. Will we continue to fund the essential work that influences state, federal, and international policies to sustain waterfowl populations? Claims that DU is ""building refuges up north"" or ""using heated ponds to short-stop birds"" are reductionist and harmful, serving as convenient scapegoats rather than addressing real conservation challenges. We need to continue to support the work that these organizations are doing, or waterfowl populations and our sport will suffer."

It seems that potentially some of the brands and influencers who are killing,kill,kill are starting to lose some of their cult following and maybe the tides are turning to have more of a conversation about sportsmanship and conservation. Or maybe it's wishful thinking

I think habitat conservation is doing really good lots of different habitat and areas to hunt close to where I live.

I am seeing more folks being vocal and speaking out about what is going wrong.

Hard to say. Things are not very positive currently. We need to understand why.

I think my age and older are really putting a lot of time and money in to habitat on the wintering ground side. I appreciate that is because we have the resources and don't have the bloodlust of the younger guys.

"Federal and State grant incentives for Private Landowners

Arkansas has maintained public access availability"

Nothing

Folks like you guys, WingSelect, Dustin at Cache, etc. are speaking up. The pressure has gotten out of control. The huge "party hunts" are starting to get a black eye. Thanks to you guys, the truest waterfowl folks are realizing the damage being done.

The sport seems to be as big as it has ever been which, in theory, should lead to more stewardship and conservation



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Not a whole ton I can say I see going right. I think waterfowlers in general are starting to get fed up. But there's way too much money at play and it's not going to change anytime soon. I've said it for a while that we are running a renewable resource.

Allowing me to travel the country and experience hunting in different places in different styles

Conservation organizations that are working to improve habitat

Nothing is right the whole dam deal is a mess local or not, ppl dumping birds in ditches after the picture dumb ass fowl life chad and all the outfitters are running the sport in the ground it's actually already there.. it's not the sport I grew up with loving and looking fwd to it's a flat shit show boss,, duck numbers are down big time season is too long and the daily bag needs cut in half and so does the season 3/30 we have to fix it now or it's going to be gone

Nothing is right, outfitters and sanctuaries and flooded grain are the down fall of duck hunting, outfitters suck up all the prime locations and now the tradition is dying, the average man cannot get a productive blind to take his kids hunting and pass it on, and outfitters are hammering the hot spots in every state, outfitters are exploiting waterfowl for money. A resource that everyone pays for. Shit down outfitters, and pressure sanctuaries and refuges, and watch hunting get better. Make hunting over any unharvested or improperly harvested crops illegal.

Nothing

I like the habitat management, the discussion on season lengths, liberal bag limit, lack of birds, waterfowl biology (banding, movement, habitat use). Would like to hear more on quality native moist soil management, negative impacts of spinning wings.

Research and conservation efforts are headed in the right direction. If the conservation mentality can be spread across the industry my grand kids might have birds left to hunt.

Too many negatives to focus on the positives at this point.

Transmitter data

While the influencers do promote the big high dollar brands, they have done a great job of reaching the next generation and getting them into the sport of hunting. My wife's

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brother is in jr high and had never hunted before in his life and all he wants to do is come visit and go hunt. Taking him and seeing the joy on his face after what most would consider a bad hunt of 2 ducks killed. It made my entire season being able to share the great experience of duck hunting with him.

It is good that many people are concerned with the resource even if we can not agree on the root issues

"Record amounts of money is being raised for new habitat through organizations like Ducks Unlimited. Quality habitat is arguably the biggest factor in a healthy duck population, and while there may be things to complain about, we are getting the heavy lifting done. It's easy to complain about hunting pressures and other factors that impact your experience, but those issues are easy fixes compared to the complex task of building and maintaining habitat.

Also, there has never been an easier time to access information for waterfowl hunting in terms of building the skills and getting the right tools to be successful. This has to be a positive for hunter engagement and a benefit to new hunters.

Finally, most of the negatives I see posted on social media I don't personally experience. On SM fear and negativity are king but I don't experience any of those things while I'm hunting."

Hard to find anything right for the general public hunter.

Private funded projects collecting true data. Tracking programs are real time data and can be used for the life of the bird.

The good lord allowing me to wake up day after day to enjoy this world through the outdoors and wildlife

There are still many public hunting areas that are available to hunt and don't always suffered from extreme pressure. I can still find ducks to hunt a lot of times the year.

With social media now, I love to see different ways to hunt and different places to go. Love duck hunting YouTube

Certain channels promote good sportsmanship and provide valuable information

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Increasing concern over waterfowl populations and skepticism surrounding dated count methods

Trying to promote conservation more and get more kids involved.

I see a lot more kids getting involved which is great, but they're being influenced by social media and that typically isn't good.

Nothing.

Increased collaboration to voice dissatisfaction with the current state of waterfowling.

We do have a lot of youth coming into the sport if we could ever align mentors and messaging of good sportsmanship with them. Also, the sport is funded heavily. If we could figure a way out for that to benefit the resource more.

"Getting more people into the outdoors.

Kids, people with no hunting background"

I've been able to source out private land owners who are willing to trade favors for me to work on conservation on their property with the added benefit of hunting permission. Keeping a small circle and small footprint I've been able to hunt where the ducks are with very little pressure.

What's going right is I'm still able to enjoy the outdoors, especially waterfowl hunting season with my family and friends

My kids are interested in hunting

More people are beginning to have the hard conversations about how we fix our sport for the future.

I keep hearing that hunting recruitment is down but I see the exact opposite, so I guess I'd say Hunter recruitment is good.

The time it allows to spend with your spouse and dog doing what we love.

I think there is a ton of public land and opportunities in the states I hunt and I'm thankful for that!

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There really isn't a ton going right other than the people I hunt with are starting to understand the pressure and conservation side of things. Less pressure/more rest equals better quality hunts. We used to hunt all 60 days no matter the weather now we pick and choose our battles. As far as outside of my friend group/hunting group, I don't think there is very much going right.

Not a whole lot

That you need to be willing to adapt. Everything is changing. It's not the same as 10, 15, 20 years ago. Just have to go. You see various social media groups trying to make a change in waterfowl hunting. So I think that's a positive move. Whether that be cleaning up boat ramps, public areas, or having meetings about people concerns about waterfowl hunting. More involvement is seen more nowadays I think.

Private clubs trading rest areas for waterfowl with food in them. The new push of mentorship and good sportsmanship from influencers.

Nothing right now. Bag limits need to be reduced to maximum of 4 with no Susie's. Keep the length of season so you can enjoy more days in the blind. Increase price of duck stamp to 50.00 to restore/aquire more nesting habitat.

Permit draws to reduce pressure

Fellowship is about the only thing going right.

Talking and planning for more and better conservation.

It's still my favorite thing to do. I've made countless friends from across the country because of this sport. Most hunters are good people it's just the few bad ones that make so many issues.

The telemetry work is teaching us more about ducks and their patterns (pressure, importance of refuges, nesting needs, how weather does or doesn't affect them). The more we know about them the better we are able to help them. It seems there is more information available than there used to be about habitat (both breeding and wintering grounds). I've learned so much the last couple of years about moist soil, GTRs, cover, water, etc. I believe that the more information there is out there about those topics (you guys do a great job of it) the more private land owners are creating better habitat and refuges for ducks. 10 years ago (at least to me) it was flooded rice=good, flooded

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corn=good, flooded timber=good. Now I realize there is a lot more too it than that which is a good thing.

Money is the thing that's left out of survey. When you profit off of waterfowl hunting it goes from a past time/ passion to a business and when that happens it like a cancer to just about everything.

Sunrises and sunsets

You get out of the south and nothing is wrong. The only problem is southern duck hunting. As someone who has hunted for almost 30 years and travels the flyways hunting public, ive had my best duck hunting in the past 5 years.

Habitat management conservation

More people are trying to enjoy the sport but turned away from the negativity

Too many PRIVATE refuges. They are hoarding a public resource for their explicit pleasure and business opportunities. There are plenty of federal refuges. The private refuges hold the remaining birds and the taxpayer is left with only scraps.

"States realizing they have a pressure issues and many are starting to act. I love traveling and seeing new places, but id much rather see home improve/become more tolerable.

Products have become so much better over the last 5-10 year. Waders have come leaps and bounds from neoprene, electronics are becoming more dependable (although I'd like to do without them for a few years)."

"The studies looking at the impacts of GF mallards.

Continued improvement of ammo (less cripples) and its availability.

Sooo many options when it comes to gear that it seems to be accessible for everyone.

Recent option to do a "traditional" or "3 any bird" limit for new waterfowl hunters."

Not much

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All the new studies and the uptick in young collage kids getting into the conservation field heck I would've stayed in collage if there were optuniteys available in 1990 that are available now lol

The only thing going right are folks finally seeing the results of the current management plan. To long of season and to big of limits.

Nothing. Waterfowl is being attacked from all angles, whether it be the Kill Culture, Social Media, Big Waterfowl Business or just poor ethics. Close the season for two years!

Seeing more people looking into Moist Soil. I learned a lot about it this year and plan to work more on it going forward.

The amount of days we get to hunt I believe is fair due to the amount of bad weather days.

The only thing that is currently going right is that non residents are able to pick what days they can come hunt a wma. I'm fine with restricting the amount of days a NR can hunt but leaving Him the freedom to choice when he can hunt is much better than forcing him to come only on certain days.

Over the last 2-3 yrs more and more people over all are getting back to the conservation and understanding that piles dont always make long lasting smiles. Yes everyone loves a limit but with tough seasons making memories and enjoying everything that goes into the season and hunt and the impact preparation makes is more important.

Not much. Ducks are already to far gone. White fronts are on the same track as the ducks once were.

The chance to meet new responsible people that sometimes become friends.

I have not noticed a decline in duck numbers in the central flyway, but hunt private there. One positive is that with success more difficult in the Mississippi flyway hunting pressure has decreased incrementally.

I'm happy to see the progress with more women joining in on waterfowl hunting. I see way more women hunting now than I did 10 years ago when I started. I do sometimes wonder if they do it because they're truly passionate about it, or if they just do it to get

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more attention on social media... but that's a discussion for a different day. I'm just happy to see other ladies getting outdoors and trying something new.

"Nothing

Federal ban the mojos

Shorten season needed"

People like y'all. Seems young people weren't raised right in the outdoors period. We need to mentor more and people need to be involved in the offseason as much as they are during the season

Not much

Trying to figure out how we can make it better by a select few.

The new ideas in timber management. I don't like the fact of less water in the GTR's but if it improves the habitat I'm all in. I want my son and grandkids one day to see the ducks use the woods like I did in the 90's.

"For me personally, what's going right is as an Arkansan that lives closer to the Missouri/Kansas/Oklahoma duck flyways, I have the option to hunt those places any day of the week as an out of stater. I own a cabin that borders one of the Missouri waterfowl conservation areas. I spend 90% of my time hunting that area. An area that was originally funded with partnership dollars from many national organizations who receive their funding from citizens from all over the country. I see social media posts daily complaining that OOSERS should have limited access to hunt these areas. The areas that wouldn't exist without the grass roots donations from OOSERS.

Imagine the outrage if Florida started requiring non residents to buy a 30 day beach access permit or up to 10 3 day permits annually. The Georgia, SC, and Alabama beaches would be overrun with tourist. Then those states will consider restricting beach access to OOSERS. It's a slippery slope in the hunting world. Personally, if lose or have limited access to the places I hunt now, I'll probably stop waterfowl hunting and do something else."

The normal working Arkansas resident has finally had enough. We are upset that the numbers are down and we are gathering together to at least talk about the issues. This is a very positive move in the right direction.

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Doing a great job of introducing the sport to new people

In my opinion I think the sport of waterfowl hunting is growing and we are picking up a ton of new hunters so that's great to keep the sport alive, but I think the art of waterfowl hunting is being lost as a lot of the new hunters are getting into the sport for all the wrong reasons.

More landowners are starting to habitat management to a different level. Increasing habitat and food for wintering waterfowl.

Hunters today are more educated and knowledgeable than years past

If you ignore all the 20 year old flat bill wearing d bags, there is a small community on social media, that promotes the history and heritage of waterfowling. There are a bunch of decoy carvers and old folks that still care about the resource and not pile pics. So it gives me a small bit of hope. Otherwise, the soon to be reduced season and limits will weed out the pile guys.

Not much. Maybe a push to invite others to hunt (rather than telling them to get lost and hunt somewhere else), but that may be area specific

The use of gps banding, traditional banding, DNA research, and other means that help us learn how birds migrate and how their migration over the years has changed. Also the use of DNA research has become increasingly more popular and I think it could lead to useful information on duck behavior the more we invest in it.

Private club conservation efforts

Getting a lot of people involved in the sport. I love introducing people to my passion. But they way someone shows them the ropes can have a big impact on what kind of hunter they are.

Na

I think you guys are doing a great job promoting doing things the "right" way without spreading too much negative light. You guys are one of the few good ones but there's a few others out there promoting the way a lot of folks came up in the sport. That said I'm pretty pessimistic in regard to the future. I think there's some "small" changes that could help make things better that likely would never happen. Such as and not limited



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to banning spinning wing decoys in a dry field to start. That alone would cut out a lot of the kill culture and probably benefit the overall population of mallards, pintails, widgeon etc. But ultimately I think a lot of issues fall back to breeding habitat first. And public land opportunities second. Part of the reason for the overcrowding as of the last 5-10 years I believe is due simply to lack of public opportunity in given states. Hence why folks travel and crowd to certain areas. Obviously these areas are crowded for a reason but there becomes a point where there's just not enough to go around and I believe we're there and something needs to change and or people need to lobby for more public land opportunity. It's a deep and very complicated topic but I think it's overlooked. I'll get off my high horse now. Thanks for giving me an opportunity to say my piece and I hope you guys get good response from these surveys.

Not much is going right but youth hunt is a good thing.

Nothing at all. Flooded corn should be illegal. Woods aren't flooded when the birds get here but stay flooded all spring. Even the youth/veteran hunt could have been more clear.

Nothing

Great new products and product development

Not much at all in Arkansas. I've been hunting ducks for 54 years. And I know it's cliché, but I long for those olden days.

Advancements in tracking and knowledge of the resource as a whole. We know more now than ever the state of the resource

Trying to get youth involved

I believe the AGFC has done a good job over recent years in our GTR restoration projects. I primarily hunt areas that were cut 10yrs ago and the new growth attracts and holds ducks when conditions are right.

Earlier morning sunrises with my dog. Just wish there were more birds for him.

Not much.

It's been steadily downhill since I started in 1996. Social media, google maps, the internet, TV shows, etc. When I grew up, we had ducks. I knew every other duck

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hunter in my county. There weren't many. Now everyone wants to be a duck hunter and shoot the farthest duck, blow the end out of duck calls, paint their faces, etc. they're all hat and no cattle. They don't know how to truly work a wary duck because it doesn't sound cool. Now everyone wants 20 men in a hole to shoot 80 mallards for a pile pic. Sad. Bring back a 45 day season and a 4 duck limit for a few years!

I see people that are trying. And there's always birds. People that complain about not shooting any are not trying hard enough

We still have the opportunity to go and watch the birds and kill a few . Still able to own a firearm .

The science behind it is something I have recently gotten into. The weather and climate is cyclical but the birds aren't.

Bringing people together

"Too much pressure

I don't believe anything is going right"

Hunting pressure is biggest issue facing waterfowl numbers and hunter perception of success. Stop waterfowl hunting statewide at noon.

A lot of eyes have been brought to our sport. Social media has made waterfowling very popular. From a recruitment standpoint it is unprecedented.

Nothing at this point

Getting the young kids involved

I believe access to public hunting has gotten easier over the years. There's more public ground today than I can remember.

The Good thing about today's waterfowl culture is the presence of youth getting into the sport. Seems like more kids are hunting than when I was a kid.

There is nothing going right!!! Everything for a normal person that hunts in AR is not good! Unless u are a millionaire and can afford to leave 100s of acres of food u might as well find a new hobby!

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Funding, more hunters equals more money. That money to an extent will always find some way back to the resource.

Nothing, Minnesota waterfowling won't last another 3 generations. Maybe 2 at most. Every diver lake is dead, hardly any come anymore and the lakes they used to like are now developed and covered in McMansion new builds. Habitat for puddler ducks is rapidly disappearing and the pressure in the small pockets of decent areas is absurd.

Not much

"More people talking about the duck population and limiting hen harvest. Plenty of other game birds you can't harvest the female bird.

Crop Baiting question below.

What's the difference between harvesting a field and spilling the crop on the ground vs flooding it on the plant. Neither are normal farm practices. So shouldn't you be able to hunt the harvested field with crop scattered on the ground as well, instead prohibiting no hunting for a mile around said field?"

I have seen a shift of some younger generation hunters my age 21-30 realizing it's more than just the kill, starting to appreciate waterfowl conservation and the outdoors over just killing birds

I think the sport is growing in a younger generation, now I think we have to be careful and do a better job of mentoring. With that being said I just seems to be way more young people interested now than when I was in jr high/ high school.

"The 1% that owns the majority of private land (not outfitters) seem to have the mallards best interest in mind. Ex: not over pressuring birds while they have them. Allowing the birds that do make it down here to feel good about returning the following year.

Tree health is taking a taking a spotlight like it hasn't before. Good for the future habitat."

Starting to get more women in the sport, and I think some of the people who don't have historic waterfowling backgrounds who are just now getting in the sport have better ethics as they are not learning bad behavior from previous generations

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Awareness that action needs to be taken.

More information on land management techniques and reciprocal data from studies related to properties until using these land management techniques.

conservation

Perspectives have changed. Waterfowling can be hard. Limits are not the norm. Social media perpetuates limits are the norm. Birds being blown up in videos or photos are super cool for the kill culture but, do us no good as waterfowlers as a whole.

General disgust with influencers, guys being more aware and making efforts to harvest less hens.

Season length.

We hunt public/federal refuges. 1) Sportsmanship. Our group has experienced hunters on public land who have threatened us, they hole sit until shooting time and then go hunt with their party to prevent people from being close to them, our boats and equipment have been vandalized, and the list goes on. There is a lack of sportsmanship and ethics and it's not just the young guys, it's some of the older hunters as well. I love duck hunting, but I've seen the worst of people out here in the woods. 2.) Duck Population. On top of all that, we have dwindling numbers of ducks year over year it seems. That also creates problems with folks trying to get to the best holes for a few ducks. 3) Commercialization. I believe that companies like Chene, Sitka, Havoc, Excel, Drake, Higdon, and others are selling duck hunting to new hunters coming into the sport but there's no where for them to hunt which opens them up to being ripped off by unscrupulous outfitters. 4.) Game/Law Enforcement. There is also a lack of game and fish law enforcement out in the woods checking on folks going in early to the refuges and not having the correct permits. Thank you for allowing me to share.

Youth getting involved is great we just need more positive influence on how they learn woodsmanship and traditions and ethics

Nothing

There are moments where there is good stewardship, good mentoring, and ethical hunting, however, the narrative has shifted. A lot of these people and brands that have "influence" push unrealistic expectations as they are given or buy opportunities to

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showcase products that they use on hunts. You see the RIGHT things happening so consistently that on an off day, the wrong thing sticks out, and we have become jaded to the RIGHT things.

Education is on the rise to make people stop and thinking about disappearing habitat, and shooting less hens

I think in the past year or two I'm noticing more people introducing the youth to the sport. I know this year people at my club were having more conversations about season lengths, limits, and a lot of the guys said they were not shooting hens this year and wanted to let them go. More and more podcasts (such as the Standard Sportman) are talking about AHM, populations, and what's affecting everything. I believe it's important everyone start being aware and talking about because we need change and quick.

More people noticing a decline in hunting satisfaction in the south. More people speaking up=more likelihood of something being done about it, and hopefully more people contributing to conservation efforts.

"We are getting more people introduced to a passion that hold near and dear to my heart. Are they getting in for the right reasons? Not all, and probably mostly not, but for what it's worth, a little guidance to straight those astray could help keep waterfowling alive!

Last question is a little screwy, you're forcing people that don't agree to say No as if they only do it because it's legal, not because they feel it's not baiting. Pretty unfair on the options.... My answer is No, but not under those choices."

The tough conversations about what is needed to help ducks are starting to happen. People are starting to question the data given related to populations because some of it doesn't add up when you compare it to what you see with your own eyes.

I love the renewed interest in duck hunting by the youth. I was addicted when I was young. Still love it.

WMA's utilizing Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Gives birds time to rest and recoop

Not much.

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The safety education of hunters is rapidly increasing from how to navigate rivers to handling guns and equipment. People are innovative and that continues to grow within the community. Land managers and hunting clubs are beginning to take into more account of habitat and thus habitat improvement, which I don't believe is on the forefront of to-do list, but it is emerging more in more in the common waterfowlers mind.

Not much

We have alot more habitat than ever before for ducks in Arkansas, I cant coent on nesting habitat up north though.

For the select few practicing voluntary restraint by not shooting hen Mallards and hen Pintails and bringing up the next generation to respect and appreciate the heritage of waterfowl hunting.

Nothing

Hunters starting to recognize a problem. I'm curious as to how they stand when a solution is proposed.

60 days

Private landowners that control pressure and provide great habitat are the only thing holding birds in Arkansas in my opinion.

The upgrade in science, the found love for the outdoors

People are making more habitat for wintering waterfowl. If you can afford it do it. I like the fact that people with big clubs actually have rest areas for waterfowl.

N/a

Nothing is going right in Arkansas from my vantage point.

Everything is going downhill. What has gotten better?

People advocating for more public land, and proper management of public land for the long-term outlook not for this year or next year.

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"Outlaw all game birds that have seasons in them, let the game farms still operate and raise white ducks to shoot. Or, have a program where they can get wild ducks to raise. If they escape great.

Limit hens to 2 per hunting party. If you can tell the difference in hen pheasants, turkeys, pintails, different species of ducks you can tell the difference in a hen.

Limit public to draws or a first come bases and limit it depending on the number of holes.

Make shooting time sunrise not 30 before. Let the birds have a chance in the dark, should allow

Them to fly around more later.

Limit mallards to 24 per group regardless of how many ppl are

Hunting. Should have plenty of good times with 24 mallards

And whatever else you can kill.

Also allow to change the season limit and splits in the season depending on population, migration, weather ect.

Did I miss anything?"

Not a whole lot

Not a whole lot

the public land that is available is good for hunting.

Pressure

"The only bright spot I've seen is talks of lower limits surfacing. It needs to be done in Canada and every state in the US. 4 total

3 mallards. 1 hen. Period. Every hunter I know would be happy with that. Canada is a slaughter house."

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

People becoming aware and talking about the current mallard pop.

I have seen some young guys learning to hunt the right way. There are plenty of hunters that do not go about it properly but I've seen enough young hunters doing it right to give me hope.

"My passion still exists and I'll continue to hunt till there are no ducks. I pray that never happens.

The one thing right about duck hunting is we still have an opportunity to get out there on our own and have a chance at shooting ducks. Very different when compared to goose hunting."

Maybe not going right per se, but I believe one good thing is the increased awareness by certain individuals about the problems facing waterfowl hunting. Certainly wish it were more, but awareness before the problem gets worse, as in hard to ever recover from, the awareness is good - we just need more.

The growth in the number of new duck hunters is good for the long term

Not much. Nothing outstanding comes to mind.

"Some farmers leaving fields with water on them for periods after season ends.

The masses still rally around introducing youth to waterfowl hunting.

Consideration for more non-huntable preserves to allow the birds some rest areas."

Older generation trying teaching the next generation in their family the right way to carry on the sport.

I think one thing in my opinion going right is the youth days. Being able to pass it on to the next generation and showing them how to decoy birds and respect other hunters. Other than that everything is so hunter vs hunter, not let's band together.

Nothing. As a public land hunter who doesn't engage in racing or fighting over holes. I see absolutely nothing positive happening in the sport.

Any day of hunting is better than a day at work



## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

In my state nothing

First, we should really address the limits (specifically on hen mallards) if the counts are correct and mallard numbers are as low as they estimate. I also see an issue with the way boats are setup and how they are used these days. Obviously, you need a good light to operate a boat safely in the dark, but the multicolored exterior gunwale and reverse lights aren't needed. It looks like the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and sounds like the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally going into some of these public places. We are turning them into a circus. I think this is an issue relating to pressure that is being overlooked. No one slips in the woods quietly and relatively unnoticed anymore.

I try to follow less influencers and more habitat conservationists so I see more of that. I love all of the duck projects that are happening around the country to provide more habitat for the birds.

Not Much

The efforts by some to make changes.

There is more conversation centered around "where are the ducks". Which is good to see.

The study of waterfowl with DNA and learning everything about waterfowl.

I have mixed emotions about social media due to the fact I realize that if we want to keep the hunting culture/ lifestyle we need to reach more people. I do like the fact a lot of new hunters are brought into the fold due to social media just hate how they are led astray from the same platform.

Not much. Sadly it has become an industry and not a sport. Folks are participating in the sport because it's the cool thing to do and not because they enjoy the outdoors and have a passion for waterfowl.

A general attempt to save duck hunting for the state of arkansas

New conservation programs

It seems everybody cares about the future of waterfowl hunting. We may all not agree on everything but everybody had some type of opinion which is a good thing

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

If you build it they will come, what you put in you get out, do you want to talk about it or be about it, and leave the property better than you found it. Those are the words I live by. If more people understood that we could go back to having great hunts!

People are improving habitat on private lands

We are beginning to see people that have only focused on killing, start to wonder where the ducks are and what happened to them. And hopefully that will promote a conservation mindset and the ones that don't care about the resource will go find another hobby.

Access to information and gear has improved greatly, this has created public land experiences I would have never known about or been capable of doing 10-20 years ago.

"We have a large influx of young people into the support, which if stewarded correctly, can help us in the long run.

We appear to have more dollars being spent in the industry than ever - which should be able to help conservation efforts."

The amount of science that is being shared with the waterfowl hunting community is increasing yearly.

There honestly is not much if any going right in Arkansas. Pressure, non res, boat racing, arguing, fighting, lack of ducks all of which at all time highs!! How can anyone introduce youth to this sport in the current state is a travesty? Absolutely sad what it has become. There is no one or organization trying to lead a charge for change

Not a whole lot

More people are getting into it and more people are starting to talk about the issues

The central flyway has become over run with outfitters from Texas to the tree line in Saskatchewan. I think we maybe market hunting again. The crate and barrel has been replaced with the cell phone camera. I am not against outfitters. I am against the number of them operating right now. Social has made being a "guide" the in thing. "Guiding" has replaced prostaffing.

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

I am not sure, this year was really challenging, one thing I could say is it seems like more people are becoming aware that the birds are under constant pressure and that something needs to change

The consumer is finally understanding the grim reality of the situation, forcing the uncomfortable conversations about the state of waterfowl that have largely gone ignored

More interests and support for those institutions who are conducting new scientific studies to better understand what we don't know or challenge what we think we know. Need more mentorship in waterfowl hunting.

Lots of young folks interested in the sport of duck hunting.

Some of the younger generation has seen and had enough of the problems we face on public land that they are starting to teach the next generation the right way to go about hunting public.

Missouri Dept of conservation has done a tremendous job over these last several years on the management side. We have been blessed to still hold several hundred thousand mallards at some of our state managed wetlands. Which in return award some opportunity when the ducks are forced to leave the refuge to venture out. I would just like to see us get back to our 10 million mallards. There's no doubt they've been harder to kill the last few years. Lots of old and wise ones. And I think the olds birds are smart obviously and are more willing to battle out a blizzard and brutal freezing temperatures because they know that they can't get shot at if they don't migrate. But all in all if we had more mallards on the landscape I think things return back to somewhat normal. But we have a long way to go to get back the 4.5 million mallards we've been lacking. I'd like to see the hen limit go down to 1. It will not make or break a hunt and and it certainly can't hurt us. I'd rather see that change then a 45 or 30 day season.

Not a lot. Clothes/brands and hunting equipment is improving and cool innovations but that is about it.

I see a lot of kids / youth getting involved with duck hunting. Maybe that's because I have kids and have friends with kids but it's important to me.

I think that people are starting to realize now the effect we have on this resource. And I have seen more constructive conversations on what can and should be done to mitigate the damage we've (game and fish included) put on our woods.

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

I can't think of any direct "wins" currently for the species.

Research is headed in the right direction. Issues like Game farm mallards and telemetry, all the folks doing research and asking the right questions and having grants and major donors assist in answering those questions. We may look back in 20 years and say, "wow, im glad we looked at that when we did to recognize the issue." Rather than not addressing the elephant in the room and wonder "where are the ducks?" then blast state offices and DU offices for mismanagement of the resource and supporting private lands... you know.. the "heated ponds" type crowd.

The fact that we have access to all the state and federal land that we do in Arkansas is a blessing! It has been very encouraging here lately to see different folks on social media take some notes from guys like yall and focus/ post more about conservation. The public boat ramp clean ups have been so cool to see!

"I'm seeing youth being brought into the sport by people I personally know and fellow hunters that I follow on social media platforms. That is something we need and all these hunters, including me, are trying to show them that it is more than ""the kill"".

Some social media influencers are doing it right and showing the conservation side and even great ethics and sportsmanship (i.e. Standard Sportsman, High Prairie Sportsman, Freelance Duck Hunting, Hoke Outdoors for a few examples)."

Private landowners and public entities developing more habitat for ducks. This is huge especially when we rely on rain and have dry years is no breeding habitat for ducks

Nothing

One thing I like is that around here more people seem to be actually patterning guns and using appropriate shot and chokes for their hunting setup. And after mid season when the weekend guys are done generally everyone sets up appropriate distances from everyone

In my family. Duck Hunting still brings us together and has been a family event for over forty years.

Beginning to talk and lobby about what is wrong.

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

The research aspect seems to be getting stronger to understand why the ducks aren't moving down the flyways like they used to.

"This is a difficult question to answer after coming off the worst season I can remember.

A positive this year would be, even though it was extremely slow my two boys and my daughter ages "5, 8, 11" absolutely fell in love with waterfowl hunting this year.

I have hunted waterfowl off and on from the age of 5 years old and I'm now 40. In Texas we have had some slow years, but I have never witnessed a season like the 2024 season. This has caused me to pay attention more to what may be going on in the migration of ducks."

The small band of people fighting the good fight and spreading the right message.

The 24-25 season, being subpar by most standards, has people talking/thinking about what necessary changes need to be made for improvements.

Liberal baiting practices. too many save places with water and feed that stop normal migration,

Growth of non profit conservation organizations. New developments in research and education.

"Delta Waterfowl

Advancement in lethal shot"

What is going right I believe is that everyone is becoming more aware of the decline over the years of waterfowl. I also believe non residents are getting limited and pressure is being adjusted.

People are starting to ask the questions and put pressure on agencies to confront the brutal facts about waterfowl population so that's good. Maybe the new market hunting machine will be shut down. Maybe the guiding and non residents will be limited up and down the whole flyway. Maybe they'll drop the limits and end the huge piles. Until then I don't want to hear how I should be limited on public land which is 10% of the state land. Until guides are limited to 30 days of operation with a client limit per day I don't want to hear what I'm doing wrong. Until large clubs aren't sharing how they've killed more

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mallards in the first split than our group kills from Canada to Ark in two years I don't want to hear how I'm the problem because I go to Canada. These clubs kill tons of mallards every single day for 60 days and because they're feeding them they're not abusing the resource. Until all of that is talked about I have no faith anything can help the waterfowl without a lot of help from Mother Nature. Id like to see a 60 day season in which you are allowed to hunt 30 days. A check in/check out system on an app is how you would log your days. Kansas has one now. Guides can only guide 30 days and have client limits. Most people aren't effected, but the big clubs and people hunting 60 days are cut in half but they would still be providing food and rest for them on private land. 3 mallards but only one hen.

More of the general public is starting to get louder on whether our season dates and bag limits need to be adjusted. Lot of people hate this comment. But private land guys stepping up there land management when Feds and state areas are not. Providing wonderful habitat for ducks and geese. Reducing the pressure.

Private clubs are providing more habitat for wintering waterfowl.

I'm glad that we're seeing increasing numbers in the bird counts and that Snow geese population numbers are up.

A lot of kids are into it. Some will be taught good ethics, we will depend on them to carry on the waterfowl legacy as our generation has done. Game wardens cracking down on the illegal acts. Baiting, limits and license.

This survey. Sound truly scientific data driven study of ducks to help drive management decisions

Habitat management and development. Seems there is a boom so to speak in folks buying farms to be managed for ducks.

Gear is profoundly better than ever!

Hearing from "most" of other hunters in my area sharing the same concerns.

I believe there is a general amount of concern being shared among many hunters in the southern flyway. The more hunters are aligned that something is wrong the more likely we can actually get some attention before we have ruined a wild resource. I'm optimistic that this will be the generation that gets to the bottom of the hard data and makes changes needed to secure our future.

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Private habitat management, more informed awareness of issues, Missouri

I think one of the biggest things going right is spreading the knowledge to people who otherwise would never duck hunt. The access to information now makes it easier for anyone to learn applicable skills and go be in the woods. Although my local WMA's are filled with people and the places I once loved to hunt now have tons of pressure, I'm happy that people are getting outside and away from their phones and sitting on the couch and watching TV

The guides are ruining water fowl hunting for the standard freelancer. I'm 22 years old I've been to Canada for the past 2 years. The family friend I go with has been up there the past 27 years. The guides have completely taken over and turned it into a total money game that the Canadian government doesn't even see. They pay for fields when they "legally" can't. Tie up fields for whole seasons or multiple days to get a "good shoot" in for clients it's really frustrating. All the guides say that free lance hunters are ruining it, yet we're the ones bringing money into the Canadian communities having dinner shopping at the local grocery store buying everything local. Guide owners bring as much shit as they can and just bank roll. 3500\$ for 3 days that's insane, I go for 17 days and it costs me 1700\$. They're going to change Saskatchewan's laws to be draw or guides only but that's the real problem look at the #s they put up compared to the average man hunting. If we're complaining about bird numbers that's it right there. It's just a shame to see a waterfowlers paradise get taken away because it's over ran with guides. Nebraska just sucks to hunt so I don't have much to say about that 🤔

Nothing as far as this season went. The raising of the pintail limit to 3 next year is a damned tragedy. Might was well open season on whooping cranes for the same reasons. Makes no sense.

Seeing less birds with warmer temps but the birds I see seem to work well.

I think companies that put the customer first with no compromise when it comes to ethics is doing great. boss shotshells telling people we dont care what you shoot we care about less cripples says alot about them and theres very very few that actually care about furthering the sport and just looking for a \$

Pumping dollars into local economies.

The amount of hunters is increasing. It's a double-edged sword but it does bring about more funding and conservation efforts.

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It'll always bring buddies together who do it correctly and for the right reasons.

I feel like advancements in technology (social media) can and has helped with habitat, to teach others to better provide a resource for waterfowl and wildlife. I do feel like people are using it for good, but too many take advantage of it for a "like" and click bait. Which

AGFC is at least being held someway accountable for years of mis management

People are starting to pay attention to what is right/wrong with duck hunting, but people need to do a better job of organizing to make the changes that are needed...even if that goes "against the grain" or without government regulations.

It's enjoyable when you're not around idiots.

More people are waking up to the idea of not wasting game, conservation, and passing down the tradition to the youth. A lot of brands are trying to do things right. With less numbers, guides and outfits are focusing on the experience instead of the kill.

I personally have watched several of my peers and buddies move towards a more conservation-minded approach to wanting to own pieces, provide a variety of habitat for waterfowl, and manage pressure to the best of their abilities. I've watched pile pic killers move towards sub gauge habitat providers that just enjoy working a few bunches of mallards into being feet down over the decoys with their closest few friends. A refreshed approach that more people need to advocate towards and live.

I feel like the industry as a whole is trying hard to bring everyone together for the common good for waterfowl. RNT, MPW, Drake, Chene, Ft. Thompson, and Podcast like The Standard Sportsman have done a great job leading by example and promoting waterfowl in a positive way. Conservation is becoming the cool thing. We all want to kill ducks, but there is more to it. It's a lifestyle. I feel like all the work that Dr. Osborne and his students are doing have helped provide answers to questions everyone is asking. There is just a lot of good going on for ducks and geese.

"Research efforts, AGFC WRICE program, five oaks, landowner education and better management practices from

Private clubs, agfc conservation incentive program, high school and college DU chapters growing"



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I do see focus in our area in southeast Arkansas focusing more on habitat development.

Growing the sport and getting lots of young people into the sport

Still able to go if I choose without drawing a permit

"Tricky question..what I would say is going right is the fact that more and more people are promoting awareness about issues going on in the waterfowl world and even public ground of Arkansas. In combination to the prior mention, people are recognizing that there is a problem and are open minded to concerns and ideas.

As the 12 steps states..the first step forward is recognizing the problem."

We have more wintering habitat than ever in my lifetime. Good for the birds maybe not for individual hunters' success.

Truthfully I have changed my mentality with Duck hunting. I look at it like fly fishing. If I can go out and see birds kill 1-10 my day is made. I love the sport, camaraderie, outdoors, etc. but until I changed my mindset away from killing it about killed me.

A lot of the crew hunt with are more about the experience rather than the kill.

Awareness of importance of conserving waterfowl populations and the information that many groups are compiling regarding migration movement and total number of birds

People in my area are getting onboard about the population being down. I've been added to many email chains between biologists (including a few that have been on your podcast), guides, and recreational hunters discussing why we are still at 60/6. Hunting in the Lake Charles, LA area is a way of life, and people that are extremely passionate about the sport are begging for a reduced season/bag limit. Long story short, an area that has historically killed a lot of ducks and geese are still passionate and concerned about the well-being of the population.

I hunt in atleast 3 states a year all DIY, and most of the folks I meet on hunting trips are great. We care about the resource, we share recipes, we have a great ethical time. To be honest, it seems like the "locals" or the people I hunt around in my hometown are the ones that I have issue with. They post blowing ducks apart, screaming and cheering after shooting into a group of coots (only to leave them), playing loud music on their

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turtle boxes while picking up decoys during legal hunting hours. Around here, people like to complain about the “out of towners” when in reality it’s the “in towners” that are the problem.

Not much we can hang our hat on as a whole when it comes to hunting public land. It’s a disgrace as to what it has become

idiots on public land

I believe people are at least starting to wake up to where we are at in comparison to where we were.

I think more people are realizing there’s an issue and it needs to be fixed.

I hunt with three groups and we share similar values. We also have graduated to all private to minimize things out of our control, but it’s still hard. Shell technology is going right, there is now open communication and better data in terms of where the birds are and how are they behaving.

I’m starting to see a few more “influencers” start to preach more about conservation and hunting ethics. I still think we’re way behind where we need to be in that respect but I’m hoping the ship is slowly turning.

I believe strongly in the scientific community driving our North American waterfowl conservation and management. I know Brent and Caden’s hearts are in the right place, and appreciate their show and what they are trying to do! I do think they are not emphasizing the long term successes and strengths of the model, and while fighting against conspiracy theories I wish they could not sow such seeds of doubt in the scientific approach to management.

The passion for the sport is high! Our young people are really impressionable, and we need to be setting an example!

Mentoring is still a thing. I see it happening daily. People are passing it on to the next generation and I’m glad to see it.

Clothing is continuing to get better.

Only thing going right is the opportunity to hunt.

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Conservation minded group emerging and getting louder. Still good people and beautiful places to experience.

Participation can be a long term benefit if people leave the field fulfilled, which is different than having limited out.

It is still a good sport to show and teach to my son and others. I am 50 years old and still get excited watching the ducks do it right.

The history of Arkansas, I still feel it's the best place to call home and hunt ducks

It's really hard to say but I appreciate the efforts being made by Delta Waterfowl and Duck Unlimited to conserve and restore wetlands across the United States.

What is right from my vantage point is not much. Had some early season public land success on some big water but was hit and miss until the birds pushed out. Ran into some fellow out of staters at the ramp and had great civil conversations and we even had mutual friends. Also had another positive experience on public land when my group and another group found the same birds. Agreed to hunt it on the same day and actually did it twice that season.

What's going right is this survey and the whole conversation behind conservation. Things like yalls podcast, it's great. It's not all doom and gloom tho. Y'all do drag me down sometimes, ha!! Then after the cold front y'all weren't so bad....ha! What's going right is just hunting and having fun and being with like minded friends for a common goal of killing some ducks and having fun. That's what's going right. It's fun to do so just have fun. It's not rocket science. Enjoy your self, watch the great outdoors awake, and go to bed, the whole package. If you care about killing ducks you will save ducks. The whole thing is a double edged sword. We want to have more ducks for better hunts. We want to see more ducks! The world is changing and we as sportsmen have to change with it. I think we are. I plan to build waterfowl habitat in the future. I pray I am able to do that for the ducks I love. While it's a light hearted pursuit, it's also sacred. It truly is more than just special. It brings us closer to god in many ways. It can also do the opposite. All depends on your decisions. Keep a level mindset in all things, but try not to down the thing you love so much! But be level enough to know when things are going in the wrong direction. While ducks and habitat need help, drastically, great things happen pursuing waterfowl everyday. We have to first give thanks!

Even a bad hunt with friends and family is time well spent.

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The simple fact we get to still enjoy some part of the absolute best show in God's creation.

From big high profile properties down to the little guys who just bought 40 acres, I've seen a change in perspective of "kill em while you got em" to a real emphasis on holding and taking care of ducks every single day possible. It's a breath of fresh air that I didn't notice just 5 years ago. The thirst for knowledge and understanding of how to better take care of them while they're here has become a larger talking point than how many did you kill.

- "1. Conservation Efforts – Strong habitat restoration and funding from groups like Ducks Unlimited.
2. Public Access – More walk-in hunting programs and expanded hunting opportunities.
3. Better Gear & Tech – Improved decoys, ammo, and migration tracking tools.
4. Youth & Collegiate Growth – More young hunters getting involved through programs and clubs.
5. Data-Driven Management – Research and real-time migration tracking improving hunting success.
6. Resilient Waterfowl Populations – Many species adapting and thriving despite challenges.
7. Ethical Hunting Shift – More hunters focusing on respect for the resource and fair chase.

The future of waterfowl hunting still has plenty of positives!"

The gps trackers show us ducks still migrate. The ducks are here relatively speaking. There's still good hunting in all the states, although not what it has been. It's still good. And we are very blessed to have 60 days to hunt.

More and more people hunting every year allows for more money towards conservation.

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The growth of knowledge in habitat management and the importance of preserving wetlands/prairies.

I am lucky to be a part of a conservative family who, as a whole, has shifted our focus away from “numbers” and shifted more toward understanding the dynamics of how the waterfowl species thrive and live, and accepting that we have a larger role to play to influence the long term viability of the species and the sport.

Where I hunt, we do not pressure the birds much at all.

The ability to hunt public land and explore Arkansas. There is so much to explore. I'm new to public ground this past season. It was eye opening. I just hope the birds can make a come back. I want to know how I can help more? More accessible information and the truth behind what is happening is in hopes. Thank you for what you are doing coach Birch!!

Passion

I do believe that hunter numbers are on the rise which is always a good thing so long as it's monitored properly. I also believe more awareness has been brought to the community than has in the last couple decades.

Very little.

We have a bunch of young dudes ready to hunt. That's great. However, someone's got to teach these kids the values of hunting. I'm certain your elders taught you to respect nature and I feel that it's being missed. Some of it maturity, some social media influence ability.

The ones that do have the financial ability to leave food and build large resting areas/habitat for ducks, are. The ones that are trying to monetize the sport through membership/ developments are also building habitat which is good, everyone has a different idea/ goal their getting out of the sport and everyone's got a different opinion of everyone else within the sport.

Literally nothing is going right for louisiana. We use to winter 2/3 of the Mississippi flyaway ducks now we see nothing but empty skies.

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There are more young people getting involved than before with more awareness about the sport than there has been in the past.

By no means am I conspiracy theorist but I come from a long line of well traveled and well versed duck hunters similar to the two of you. The more I look at it and the more I experience for myself the more I can't deny what the older generations have been telling me for years now. Food and pressure management will either move ducks or hold ducks. Missouri has affectively done to Arkansas what Arkansas had done to Louisiana starting 15/20 years ago. Weather or no weather Louisiana coastal marshes always had piles of ducks. Our "Halloween ducks" (including mallards) always made it to coastal marshes in huge numbers. As a child I remember killing limits of mallards and green wing teal in T shirts in early November. My network is now way more expansive these days and it's a consensus. We never get the early push of puddle ducks in general that we use to. Everyone wants to look at mallards but I truly believe divers tell the tail. Our divers numbers haven't taken a hit. We still get the same concentrations year after year (varies some due to breeding). Divers to my knowledge would much rather natural aquatic Vegetation than flooded unharvested grain. This is not something that is new. My great grandfather was a part of the short stopping of the Canada geese to Louisiana. I've been fortunate enough to meet many people from northern Alberta all throughout the Mississippi and central flyway. The amount of quality habitat north of us and the lack of/management of pressure on that habitat gives ducks no reason to migrate any farther than they have to. My biggest fear is that ducks have become so democratic when we do get a major weather event we'll have a massive die off due to a manipulation of what naturally use to take place. Take this year for example, I had friends of mine from yankton on the Missouri River (not the video that went viral) send me videos of dead mallards that were literally frozen in the ice. They tried to ride it out but ended up losing their lives I'm assuming to starvation. I think one of you even mentioned it in a previous podcast that those ducks may not even be in good enough shape to reproduce. I understand Missouri has always wintered some mallards but not to the scale of what we're seeing now a days and for a good reason. Historically when humans try to "make things better" they don't ever look far enough down the line. Mother Nature had it right for thousands of years before we ever leveed up crops and altered what birds were hardwired to do for a long time. I know this was a long read but I'm just glad people are having conversations about it finally. I don't think it's just short stopping. I understand there are other factors at play but I keep circling back to the divers. I'm sure y'all could keep them up there if yall really tried

I can't think of anything that is going right...

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Teaching a lasting hobby to a new generation

A shift, especially this year, of some waterfowlers turning more conservationists to protect the resource we all love as duck hunters. Whether that be voicing their opinion online, volunteering at WMA's/boat ramps, or clubs/landowners be more conservative, I see the alarm being sounded and a shift in thought to our resource. While it's only a minority, the shift in mindset from kill to conserve is what I think is going right.

I do see many influencers try to share recipes for their wild game.

Thankfully not all hunters pay attention to social media

"This in KANSAS.

There is 0 regulation around commercial guiding/ outfitting. Anyone from anywhere can come here and be a "guide/ outfitter" with 0 experience, 0 licensing, 0 state/ federal fees. It's unacceptable. We must stop letting our natural resource be pillaged with no regulation. This is 99% of the problem in Kansas. Our bird numbers are very high, it's not a lack of birds. It's the amount of commercial pressure. It's unacceptable and we must do better. Thanks."

The younger generation is being introduced at the right time or even earlier than we were.

I think the best thing that's happening is people are talking about conservation and changes to limits etc. now, and being more outspoken about it. Big changes need to happen, soon.

I believe there is still plenty of food and wintering habitat for ducks in Arkansas

Not much right going on that i see. I wouldn't want to take my kid to a public boat ramp during the weekend and introduce them to hunting, and that's sad.

As a farmer in North East Arkansas there isn't one specific thing going right in waterfowl hunting

We did not have to many skunk hunts this season and many of my buddies where able to hang this season

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

The woods are way to over populated no where to roost. To many out of staters.

The popularity of waterfowl hunting, which can be both good and bad.

The enjoyment of nature and the great outdoors

The sport has grown in numbers- however, it is not always the more the merrier. Just because there's more hunters involved doesn't mean all those people are doing what they should be.

There are people upping duck conservation and that is greatly appreciated

Limits need to be lowered, if population is a problem there is simple fixes.

Particularly in the call making community, I see a large push back to old traditions and ways of the past. I think so many people are tired of pile pictures and kill culture and are showing a true appreciation for the history of the sport.

Arkansas duck hunting will get better once Canada lowers there bag limits.

Uniform rules across most wma's. Better shell options leading to fewer cripples and more ethical kills.

Days kill ducks not limits. Won't hurt anything to try a different season schedule. It's our natural resource and our job to take care of it

Most part great community, great sport and people for most part root for one another.

A few things I see going right are the amount of people trying to raise awareness to the problems that the waterfowl community is facing today. Another thing I see as going right is the amount of research and resources going into the sport although some of these things could have been done years ago. I think this is an issue that needs more awareness in northern states where people are shooting 100 birds in a day while pointing fingers at the southern states.

Na

Too many hunters pressurizing single wmas too hard running ducks out

It unfortunately is a culmination of things, a "perfect storm" of about five things



## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

The only thing going right is like minded folks like yall and being realistic about the real issues at hand there needs to be more talk about and the declinenin waterfowl numbers and the land these birds have to use .

"From my point the research and understanding around ducks is greatly improving, unfortunately I think it's largely falling on deaf ears.

Not sure if this is something going right or wrong but it does seem like a pretty large split where one group cares about the ducks( education and implementation more than they were 5 years ago). While the other group has the "get the ducks while you can" mindset."

Honestly not much, people don't talk about conserving the resource and talk too much about how many birds they kill. I think that pressure and volume of non residents is a major issue as well as the extreme limits allowed in northern states and provinces. I think something that is going right is there are few people who are really trying to push the issue for better and I think that private clubs provide good rest and good habitat in their wintering locations. That's one positive I take away is that at least some waterfowlers care more about the resource than the kill.

Nothing. The only right is that hunting for most is hopefully getting so poor that they are going to quit and go back to golf.

I hope there is some questions about the long term detrimental effects of prolonged delay of flooding GTR's, especially in Southeast Arkansas. We need y'all to speak out about this. I fear mallards will never use places like Bayou Meto ever again as they did due to the recent tree saving fiasco and major delay in flooding this habitat by ~2 months. A entire episode where y'all investigate the water levels during growing season vs November and December. There consistently is more water in those woods throughout spring and summer then there is during November and December. Hunting season water is not the problem. Help us reverse this fellas! reversing this would be RIGHT for the ducks.

The exploding popularity of the sport is a good thing I believe if we can focus that attention towards conservation and not towards boat racing, killing, and harvest. It's inherently good to have young people interested in the outdoors.

The fellowship with family & friends.

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

The equipment is light years ahead of where it was even 5 years ago.

Things that go right with waterfowl hunting at least in my experience in the last couple of years is hunting with people I've never hunted with before. The camaraderie and passion for hunt birds. I'm older now and hunting with outfitters or who blend groups together has been fun. It an egoic culture with big personalities and if you add drinkin into the mix things can get sketchy after the hunt but for the most part waterfowl hunters are respectful. That's just been my experience though. Good people having a good time doing what we love to do

I'm still able to go

Family, friends, memories and getting people outdoors and fostering a love of god and his creation. Du and delta conservation and making hunters voices heard

"Delta Waterfowl Hen Houses.

Missouri Department of Conservation Managed Areas

Great Waterfowl Hunt Products"

I like the youth hunts and giving the veterans a day to hunt.

I feel as if we are making a turn in the right direction before it's too late. A lot of noise is being made around the hunting community about issues in recent years that need addressing and All of the Conservation efforts being made are very important.

The comradery is still there and will be as long as duck hunting is around. To me, that's what it's all about. The memories made, even on seasons where everyone's complaining about the numbers, are what keep (most of us) coming back and it's the sole reason I love it. While I love shooting green heads in the timber, my favorite part is the early morning hang with family/friends.

Everybody that I hunt with pretty much has the same view on shooting mallard hens, we minimize shooting hens as much as possible. If a solo mallard hen comes in, don't even look at the gun. Just from what I've heard, it sounds like more people are starting to minimize their hen shooting.

Accessibility

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

When I meet someone at a hunting area they have always been super friendly and helpful. I hunted with more random people this year than I ever thought I would.

Using real and proven science to set regulations and develop conservation plans. Not falling prey to armchair and backyard biology that is rampant on social media.

I do see more youth getting involved with waterfowl hunting. I do believe some of the federal regulate seasons and guidelines are helping, but sometimes not enough. There are some conservation efforts, but there could be more.

I killed a pintail this year so that went right but that's about it tbh

"I am guilty of this also but people saying that the only people who kills ducks have rest areas full unharvested corn. Although, they may be killing ducks but if it were not for them a lot of birds would keep on heading south.

What is going right is the fact that we are realizing that there needs to be a change for waterfowl. We are working to find a solution that can help benefit us in the future, we just have to work out the details and come to some common ground within the AGFC and federal regulations."

Private land owners have put more emphasis on quality habitat management over the years which has countered some habitat loss and gives waterfowl more safe havens to escape the increase in hunting pressure.

We are talking about waterfowling problems and solutions as hunters and not waiting for the GOV to do something for us.

Genetics studies and all the data with banding and backpacks I think is helping us understand the birds more.

I think that the overcrowding has decreased quit a bit. However I would attribute that to less hunter success.

"-More people involved in the sport

-More younger people wanting to be involved due to social media

-More awareness of waterfowl hunting in other countries and states.

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-More fund raising awareness."

I love the hunter recruitment and the "we are in this together" mentality. I do feel like some of the guys pushing content do a decent job at pushing positivity. I do like how some folks share tips for beginners.

Sadly, nothing comes to mind

I believe more people are talking about conservation and the problems that we're facing. Several years ago (at least for my age group, 28), these topics were never a discussion. Obviously just talking about it isn't enough, but it's at least a start.

While there is a lot I don't like about what's put on social media about duck hunting, I think there are some that promote camaraderie aspect of duck hunting with family and friends, which is my favorite part of the sport.

Generational conservation organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl and the science based research labs are continually working to monitor populations and conserve wetland acres together.

UAM mallard studies

I have made some friends who, without duck hunting, i would have never known.

More people are talking about the decline in numbers/raising concerns about mismanagement from state(s) regulations.

Management of WMA's and NWR's

Efforts to get more young people involved. DU conservation programs that get youngsters involved.

There's still young kids getting involved in the sport.

I am one to always find positives. I believe that there is a positive trend. There is a shift in taking attention away from seeing how many ducks and geese we can kill, to focusing on the resource itself. Giving attention to habitat, and harvesting less hens has been two specific topics that I have seen more this past year than ever before. I believe it will continue to improve the resource overall.

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I would say conservation groups are trying to keep waterfowl relevant and at a good population density.

I do think there are people trying to promote good conservation practices and good sportsmanship like you guys on this podcast. I don't think all duck clubs and outfitters are bad and that the ones that are trying to do good are being overshadowed by the ones that are backbiting and possibly/more than likely doing things that could be considered bad practices. We need to put more light on the ones that are doing good and try to help the the organization's that are trying to do better by the waterfowl we are blessed with and charged to be stewards of.

I hunt exclusively at the Missouri River on the border of Nebraska/South Dakota. Best thing to happen in our area was getting rid of permanent blinds on the Missouri River. Opened a public resource up more for the general waterfowler. It's made it so much more fun and enjoyable without all the crap in the river.

I do believe that waterfowl organizations are doing their part and creating and managing habitat on the prairie pothole region as best as they can. Delta waterfowl remains highly involved with the improvement of public lands here in the south. Seems like more and more people are asking "why" and are inquiring on how we can turn this thing around. I do believe that there are better days ahead, as long as we make appropriate changes for the future generations of human and waterfowl.

Not much. As things change and a lot has changed we have to make changes in regulations too to adapt to the ever changing times.

Despite some bad apples, we are starting to see a rise in people who truly care about the sport come forward and promote conservation, give good advice, and give educated reasonings for the way things have been.

I just like the time with my family and friends. it's nice to see the community be so involved.

"Longest we have gone without a change in number of days in a season.

Lack of hens

Over hunting and pressure"

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Not much. Need to do what we can to promote more hens making it home

At this point imo nothing is right everything is trending wrong

There is starting to be a little more discussion about conservation, sportsmanship, and taking care of the resource (both public lands and waterfowl).

Big farms at least keep ducks in the area. There's not much going right at the moment. Too liberal seasons, too long of seasons, too many oosers, too much pressure on wmas, on x made it where there's no secret spots/made scouting too easy for the masses to find new spots, and not cold enough before December 22.

People are starting to realize we have to make change.

Outside of my hunting group taking their kids. Not many bright spots to be had.

Having a good time.

Right now, I don't see any positive/desirable trends. Social media has given everyone a platform, most of which are not used for anything but self promotion (clicks/views for \$)

The products and gear are always evolving to make life more convenient. Equipment gets better. Certain groups of people are using their platforms to educate and have open discussions like these.

About the only thing I can think of that's going right is the right of Hunter opportunity. Hunters have all the opportunity in the world to find and hunt ducks on public land for a very cheap price.

Gear has gotten unreal.

Not much. Becoming a better hunter due to ever growing amount of new challenges each season

"Our clothing to remain in the elements is greatly better than 5 to 10 years ago. This allows us to spend more time in the elements. This is also true for youth!

Firearms and ammunition are also some of the greatest changes."

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Lack of migrating mallards due to liberal limits poor habitat and game birds. All a part of issue not one major issue. Robos and pressure don't help

Hunters are talking about what has changed in the sport. Hopefully, the tone will improve and people will become more educated, but discourse is healthy.

Some influences such as high prairie sportsman support and show conservation efforts and put a spotlight on the people doing things wrong. Population are stable as well.

Despite the complaining, I am encouraged with the amount of popularity and exposure waterfowling is getting. Granted a lot of it is negative and causes problems, but I do think there are some positives.

There are a lot of passionate young people in waterfowl hunting. They have the ability to impact future generations if they can stay focused on what really matters and get involved in conservation.

Seems to be a spark in the majority of duck hunters to do our part to make it better.

Nothing, it's turned into a business in multiple aspects.

We have a duck camp called The Co-op at Patterson. We have a great time and when people come over they can be themselves no matter what their background is. We try and teach our sons and daughters the right way to hunt and how to conserve what we have so that there kids will have it as well.

Youth hunts are providing opportunities to get young people introduced to the sport and hopefully receiving proper mentoring.

At least in WV it's fine. When we have weather the hunting is good. No real issues in our part of the world. It's a chill community

I think we are getting to the point where everyone is now taking notice that things are not going in the right direction.

Habitat efforts are growing but we are not keeping up with urban expansion and "green" energy removing available habitat in Texas. Second, the effects of pressure on migrating waterfowl are beginning to be spread and understood but not enough. Social media has created a bragging board/competition between others that have removed the elements of concern for overpressure. It's beginning to create a "new duck."

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I think podcasts such as yours that are bringing more attention to conservation are a great thing that's going on. I love all the effort that Dr. Osborne is doing for the study of birds. I still love going out to see the sunrise with my dad, brother and closest friends.

New people joining the sport is a good thing, I would say that's going right.....but they're being taught bad things by bad hunters. We want newbies 100%, for sure, .....but they just pick up on all the bad and not the good and that just ruins it for us. It's not a fad or something "cool" for us, it's what we do, it's the only "hobby" I've ever enjoyed with every fiber of my being and watching its demise infuriates me.

Still alive and get to go.

The increase in conservation efforts and the "give back more than you take mentality" that seems to be increasing

"I would say one thing for sure is that I am able to purchase a license in most states to be able to hunt when i have the opportunity. I would also say when i am able to time it right hunting can be pretty good for a few days. I would also say there are many different public areas throughout the country where I can go hunting .

I think the conservation organizations are doing a good job with what they can maintain and preserve. Still able to buy shotguns and shells is a good thing . I would say refuge systems are doing a good job for the most part holding and protecting birds. States do a good job of relaying the rules and regulations through web sites. In highly pressured areas I would say for the most part law enforcement is present which I like . Plenty of resources available gear, maps , information . Plenty of places to learn more about the duck hunting. Maybe to good . Too much of a good thing might not be a good thing in this case 🤔"

Very little, couldn't come up with a specific example.

"Not much.

The kill numbers need to stop. Most times it's numbers only. No selective harvest of drakes and only full steps count.

I am disgusted by commercial ops and influencers that value qty. why are y'all shooting almost entire brown straws? Those are nest makers. What are these people thinking really



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We hunted several times shooting only one drake from a group. That's a real duck hunt ! Do you know how many scenes in your mind were taken away from these hunts ? A lifetime of how it's really done. The shooting and killing is the easy part ,

Get on the x and make em do it or let em fly on off"

There is a lot of good that happens, it's just mostly by the silent majority and drowned out by the noise of all the rest of the things going on.

"-Competition among brands breeding better product development

-Some "influencers" do share helpful tips and insight for improving habitat and hunting techniques"

"I think private farms holding rest areas are getting more common and I think it's a positive thing. I was at our farm yesterday and the resting ponds are empty in comparison to the last week of season. All the fields we hunted had birds all over them. The birds have it figured out.

I know the trees are at risk putting water on early but I think it does wonders for the birds when the public ground has water early."

First time in my life that we are really starting to talk about conservation by questioning the status quo info that has always been given to us. We are asking more and more scientists what their opinion is regarding pressure and population

Guys are trying to manage birds, and build rest areas for the good of their areas

We hunt these birds too long from Saskatoon to Houma. 60 days for each part of the flyway and 6 ducks is too many. No one need to start hunting in late September and no one needs to be hunting after January 20th. Plus states should subsidize farmers leaving grain or craps in the field if we want the resource to have the best chance.

The regs bag limits etc are close to what they need to be. Mainly we are just beating up ourselves

Duck numbers are not real. I've seen the glory. Days to now the desserts. Too many hunters and pressure. Guiding is a big favorite . 28 years of better. Same limits. Old the

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imprinted ducks are gone. I have also witnessed snow geese drop. I had the best areas on the coast in Johnson bayou. Now the. Same areas are we horrible

Spending time with family and friends sharing our love for waterfowl will always be a good thing.

No matter how early I have to get to a spot, the arguments you hear about, it's still the great outdoors and I enjoy every minute of it rain or shine.

Farming for birds. Government lakes not holding much water during winter. Heated ponds. Running ice eaters to hold birds after season has closed. Anything keeping birds from naturally migrating

There is still for the most part beautiful flooded hardwoods depending on rivers and flood control structures. I think opportunities are still plentiful as long as you're willing to put in time. Some public areas I am seeing less pressure, but some places that used to not have much pressure have it now. Pressure is shifting depending on location of what's advertised on social media.

Ample acreage and opportunity to go hunt. Draws stink. I have them in my state.

With seasons trending worse, hunters are engaging more in learning about the science and conservation behind waterfowl.

Spending time with family and friends in the woods

I don't know of any

"Private land creating more duck energy days

GPS data taking the "guessing" out of things"

"I started when I was 5 years old and did it because my family and friends did, it was just part of the culture of where I grew up. I'm from NE Arkansas and it was just something we did. I remember when my dad enrolled me in the "Greenwing" program at DU with a membership and my first duck call came in the mail.

I hunt 99% public land now, both state and federally owned, and I wouldn't have it any other way. I'll never be able to afford to hunt mallard ducks the way I want to, standing next to a tree, unless I hit the lottery and that doesn't seem to be in my future. It's easy

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to pull up the the boat ramps and be discouraged by the amount of people/pressure you'll have to deal with as well as thinking what the ducks will have to deal with. I'm not any "holier than thou" but I'd like to think I respect the birds(resource) as much if not more than the next guy. I have a 2 year old son and I truly want to be able to experience those wood the same way I have with him, and I'm terrified I won't be able to, whether it be from loss of habitat or loss of resources. You would think these influencers and industry leaders would be pushing and donating more towards the conservation of their "money makers" (the birds), right?

I say all that to say this- we can't rewind time and we have to enjoy the moments we're given. I'm glad the boat ramps are full because we need each other if we're going to have a fritter in waterfowl hunting. We just need to come together. Not everyone at the ramp is an uneducated redneck, but not everyone at the ramp cares about the mallard 30 years from now either. I enjoy every season, no matter how good are bad because I truly love it and I'll never stop"

### Youth hunting opportunities

Hunters voices are beginning to be heard. We need to continue to strengthen this healthy debate by eliminating the finger pointing and encourage hunters to come to the table with solutions.

There are a lot more people trying to do right than I think you guys give credit for. I like your show, I like what you're trying to do. But I personally believe most folks are good people trying to do right. It would be nice to see more folks with a platform, INCLUDING THIS SHOW, be a lot more positive. The whole world is drug down with bickering and negativity. It would be nice to see duck hunters with a platform like yours highlight what is going right and how we can build and improve on those things.

"Have sat here and tried to come up with a good answer this but truly there's more wrong than right. Which is sad. I think there's some good things happening with private land owners providing wintering habitat and resting grounds, and those are the folks that care and make it right. Whether they hunt or not(large tracts of farm ground or just wild habitat) if they winter waterfowl and leave them relatively undisturbed that's right in my opinion. I think there's some things being done right in the understanding of the species more, I wish more data was collected in all the flyways like it is in the Mississippi flyway. I primarily hunt in western Nebraska and there's ALOT of ducks there that aren't being counted in mid winter surveys. ALOT. But have watched it decline over the last 8-12 years.

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It's hard to see any right with the future generation of hunters coming up. I guess to shorten all that up I think things are going right as it relates to awareness. More people are starting to really talk about the lack of ducks and loss of habitat."

"Conservation efforts

People planting and leaving food

Duck limits and season days"

The bond I've created with my dogs and making life long friends

I think Arkansas starting the CIP program this year is a start. Manitoba had a similar program for duck habitat. Would be nice if other provinces in Canada would follow suit.

People are more and more interested in our sport and wanting to learn from others with more experience. There are some great efforts for conservation and being sportsman. Wish we could educate the rednecks from non duck hunting culture states that reducing pressure and time in field will help everyone out in the long run.

Personally I think we are going downhill in a lot of aspects but I do think that there seems to be more public land then ever at least here in MN and further technology helps us do duck counts and surveys which is good for the future of the sport.

Popularity of the sport is not a completely negative thing. More people that are active in the sport allows for more opportunities to protect habitat.

I like the 60 day/6 duck season and have ever since it was enacted. I endured the fabled 30/3 seasons are for me, they were not nearly as good as many fondly remember. I have personal journals all of my hunts from 1976-present, and the worst seasons of the last 25 years were way better than any of the 30/3 seasons.

More people with means (money) to create habitat and food. However, if it's not spread out or hunted, birds have no reason to migrate until it's gone or frozen for several days. More food is good but needs to be in more places! Money for farmers to leave a acre or few of crop in different fields rather than all in one spot would be so much better

I think people are starting to ask the right questions and the conversation is hopefully moving us towards a better direction. Everybody wants to see more ducks in their area

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so figuring out what has changed and how we can manage it is much better than all the bs you see online.

Not a whole lot. I think the sport is going downhill. We have become more efficient “killers”. The amount of pressure and commercialized hunting that takes place is detrimental to the sport and the population.

Gear (boats, clothes, ammo, etc) these days is great. Mud motors are too loud though. If anyone argues otherwise, they have one.

It's growing among the younger generation.

“Guides. At least in Oklahoma. It has become the modern day market hunting!!! Dollars for ducks.

Also no chance we have the duck numbers they say there are. I feel like we are in a really critical situation right now!!!”

Not a whole lot. I do feel like the majority of the guys I speak with also believe limits and seasons should be reduced. Even though ALOT needs to be done, those are simple problems that can be quickly fixed. The other issues are much more long term and complicated.

“Duck hunters all along the flyway, both young and old, are FINALLY taking notice that “something just ain't right” with our North American Waterfowl numbers in the MS and Central flyway. (and the Atlantic)

Many of us are begging to reduce the season length and limits in order to reduce hunting pressure on waterfowl. I believe we are finally understanding the impacts we are making by allowing hunting until the end of January and special youth and military hunting into February. Our ducks are being hunted from September until February!

The added extreme pressure from surface driven mud boats have brought about the creation of Limited Access (non combustion motor) Areas and “water cooled only” areas in many States. OEM muffler and prop restrictions on surface driven mud motors too. We are realizing that “pressure” comes from more than just hunting ducks, it comes from merely “scouting” ducks.”

I selected 30+ days that I hunt because that's what I used to do. Only the last three years have I not been able to go AND there weren't any birds to hunt. So I chose to let

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what was here NOT be pressured. If I don't hunt/kill them, I'm affecting what I can. Anyway, the weather is the biggest factor. Closely followed by nesting habitat, Canada harvest limits, spinning wing decoys, May pond counts.....I'm in y'all's camp with how you feel about it. Of course all of these are, absolutely, a 10 page essay a piece.

Old school hunters advocating for change so this hobby doesn't fade away and become obsolete

There is a ton of passion for waterfowl hunting which could be a quite a force for good if we could become a cohesive force. There is also no denying that waterfowl hunting does so much for waterfowl habitat and research! I also think hunting and sustainability are very appealing to people these days

We are definitely improving habit on private lands

I can't think of much going right other than you guys and a couple of others that have been around long enough to know something is wrong and are actually talking about it. Some of the studies going on with transmitters trying to make sense of it is also good. But not sure anything is going to change

The studies of the migratory birds.

There is more proactive public discussions occurring about conservation or what to do to improve duck numbers than 5 years ago. Not much action yet but conversations are a start.

The one thing that I would feel is going right for the waterfowl hunting industry is that we are beginning to see the effects of what has been going wrong. We are in real time seeing the effects that the commercialization of waterfowl hunting has done.

I personally love the upcoming of tungsten and bismuth shot shells! More lethal shot and less wounded birds!

AGFC letting out of staters choose their 30 days in 3 day passes instead of 10 day stretches of AGFC's choosing. Reduces crowding. Would be even better if we could hunt all 60.

Don't see anything going right much.

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I am seeing a lot more talk on pressure management. That's a good thing. We need to focus on what we can provide for the resource, not just take,take,take. I'm trying to do that on my own property, setting things aside for waterfowl. Our state and government agencies need to be doing a better job maintaining their properties for the benefit of the resource. I think these podcasts are bringing up the things we are seeing in the field , that's a good thing.

Private land owners like my self are the only reason there is still wintering habitat in the Arkansas Delta. Land owners working together to produce habitat and rest areas is the only good thing that is going on at the moment.

To many people from out of state's

We have an extremely dedicated group of young resident and ooser public land hunters in Arkansas. They are hungry for mentorship and guidance. We just have to find a way to mentor without being know it alls or being preachy. But the dedication is there already.

More concerned hunters are sharing data and concerns and making those concerns heard more and more. True sportsmen are using social media to call out poor behavior when they see it.

"Very involved in DU. DU and other organizations are doing great, data-driven work.

Products are also going back to prioritizing quality and longevity."

"1)There is a young crowd interested! Just need to mature and have better mentorship.

2) waterfowl hunters want to help the resource. Just need to band together on the best way to do that. ( conspiracy theories don't help)"

I think that the last couple of years there has been an increase in good content/podcasts that have been educating the avergae hunter and because of this, more people are talking about the issues

The amount of refuge care that is happening now is a good thing. Many people will say that it's not but in my opinion it is. If we don't have refuges to harbor some ducks and let them migrate back north then our population will really tank. With the amount of hunting pressure and overcrowding that is occurring now, without refuges the future would be scarier than it already is.

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Too much pressure

There is always birds just gotta be in the right spot

Too much focus on the kill. Hunting is an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. If you are lucky enough to harvest birds consider yourself blessed. Given that I've only been at this a few years, I don't have the long term perspective that most do. Bickering about harvest limits, etc is counter productive. The science is what it is and has been for years. The USFWS will adjust the season/bag limits when the numbers bear that out. Let the experts do their job and just enjoy what we have when you can.

That's a tough one ...

Even if it's with the wrong morals we are getting the younger generation interested in hunting which is great. From the standpoint of the studies I've done as a wildlife major we are finally understanding the different patterns of the different species of ducks instead of just studying "avian" as a whole

We still get to duck hunt.

The handful of us that understand what is the correct way to control our resource. We are a small community we need to come together more.

Watching my 10year old son develop the same passion I have for the sport.

"Three big rights have happened recently.

- 1) AGFC working towards returning GTRs to as natural as possible.
- 2) AGFC alleviating some of the restrictions on non residents by allowing them to choose the 30 days they spend on state owned WMAs.
- 3) AGFC not listening to vocal private landowners trying to convince them the entire state wanted the season to end sooner and that it would be better for waterfowl."

There are a lot of hunter's and property owners doing the right things. Protect the resource, provide habitat, reduce pressure, and be good stewards of the land.



## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

The only thing that i can say is a positive right now, is a lot of private land owners are doing more for habitat and conservation than state agencies. A lot of good information out there in regards to what's worked on the development and habitat side. Ethics, sportsmanship, waterfowl culture as a whole, is absolutely horrendous right now for the 99% left.

Goose populations have exploded

I think leaders like the Standard Sportsman are making headway in changing the narrative. I have noticed a large group of my contemporaries begin to shift in reduced social media presence, better sportsmanship, and actively discussing how we can make a difference in the duck hunting community for the better. People are ready to see a changes made to preserve the resource.

Conservation and regulations, season are headed the right direction. More opportunities based on actual long term sound science

Pod casts like this and scientists speaking out about all the issues facing ducks

A real conversation is being made about further conservation by people wanting change and more people that see there is a problem.

There is at least a small group of people and companies promoting the right things.

Waterfall culture understands the importance of camaraderie! Especially among men! Think about it, there are very few places where a man can actually experience legit fellowship.

Season length is good. Needs to be later seasons.

Promotion of refuge systems giving the birds a break.

Basically nothing.

The fact that people, rich and poor alike, are being confronted with the reality of a declining waterfowl population that has actual affects on their duck hunting, and that they're starting to consider how to change the current trajectory.

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

Guys like y'all are still promoting conservation and the right way to do it. My group is not just a bunch of old guys yelling at clouds, we have a group of young guys we're mentoring and we have a good time hunting with them and seeing them "get it"

People are still going out and giving it their best. Trying to keep future generations in the sport.

I've seen and heard more discourse about the health of the waterfowl population and the future of hunting this season than ever before. It's encouraging that more people are getting tuned in and/or expressing their concerns/thoughts, etc. The only way that any change for the better occurs is by everyone speaking up and generating awareness.

We have a lot of passionate Waterfowlers in the community.

Not much of anything

Social media in my opinion is one of the biggest issues in waterfowling. Anyone can figure out where birds are without working for it. In the north paying for land leasing land and guides are another huge issue.

Providing a social environmental for friends and family

"1. It appears there is some (a slight amount) awareness in some parts of the country and Canada of the need for more conservation/habitat.

2. The regulation (banning) of the spinning wing decoy at the state level in Arkansas has occurred on State of Arkansas property. This needs to be implemented country wide and in Canada."

I am seeing more birds every year

Finally people are talking about topics that were almost taboo cause they didn't want to lose revenue. A lot of big topics need to be addressed by influential people to help the future.

"-I enjoy buying and trading duck calls, I think the small shop guys taking a leap of faith and making new calls (often better than the big boys) is something fun/ right.

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-I'm diff than most in that I enjoy traveling and hunting birds in new places. If you're not seeing em at home, jump in your truck and go find em. Might take 5-10 hrs driving but you can find birds and that aren't over pressured. Some have realized this and are capitalizing on it. Good to see others take initiative and not just bitch on the internet.

-You forgot to mention the robo duck in reasons why things are the way they are. There is a direct correlation between the down fall of duck hunting and the invention of the robo duck. I'm glad more are starting to realize this. It's also the ONE thing we can control. So do away w it and see what happens."

Hunting is a dying sport. Social media promotes hunting.

The private owners are managing properties for the benefit of everyone. Oklahoma has very few public areas that are managed properly. If we are not teaching the younger generation management, sportsmanship and ethics duck hunting will come to an end.

People finally not shooting hens as much

"Today, people are recognizing there is an issue with the future success of Arkansas waterfowling and are actually discussing how to save it for future generations.

Back up a few years, people recognized the issues facing our sport, but once season concluded, they ignored the problem until it returned opening day of the following season. Today, people are actually discussing what can be done to help ensure Arkansas is a wintering destination for waterfowl."

Superior equipment than 20 years ago

"Not much. The sport is as "popular" as it's ever been but for all the wrong reasons. The small core group that hunt for passion, grows smaller and smaller. Many who hunt on public land like myself find it harder and harder each year. Access gets limited and more hunters with the wrong mindset.

Most new hunters only hunt for the instagram post not the experience."

We live in the greatest nation on earth where the common person is able own firearms and hunt at will. All things considered, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is the best agency of its kind as one who has also lived and hunted in KS, TX and LA.

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

Population numbers appear to be well below long term average for years now. However, we have still had a migration the last few years. Although it's not the numbers we used to enjoy seeing, it has allowed for a duck season to still enjoy and make memories.

N/A

I think conversation are starting to be had and light is being shed on things we can do to improve the sport.

Big money clubs have found ways to improve habitat for waterfowl while our publicly owned lands have suffered. At least there are properties in the fly way that are doing a good job at improving habitats.

Not a whole lot....

Some podcasts focusing on habitat, conservation, and harvest management.

Not much is going right.

Seems more folks are beginning to see there is a problem with waterfowl populations and want to see the problem fixed.

It's hard to say. I guess, besides all the bad apples there are a few guys who are trying to teach and showcase the sport in a respectful and good light.

I think we as waterfowl hunters have made the sport grow which is good because hunting is a dying breed.

"Wrp acres

Private landowner rest areas

Refuges

Private clubs providing food shelter water"

Lack of ducks either due to not migrating or maybe they don't exist

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

The vast majority of hunters I interact with still want a better resource in the future than what we have and have had. They're willing to commit time and money to organizations that can make an impact. How we get there is too often clouded by mid/disinformation formatted by those who stand to profit from waterfowling.

It is a wonderful pastime that teaches valuable lessons to younger generations. Promotes social interaction across generations

What's going right, is podcast like Standard sportsman are brining like-minded individuals together, creating grassroots conservation movements that could have a significant impact on the future of waterfowl conservation.

The last few years have been some of my best. I've learned some things from a few YouTubers I enjoy watching and have been able to put them into play and the results have been great. Spent time in the summer and early fall scouting and finding good locations and not just falling into the habit of going to the same spot over and over.

Wader quality is improving.

From my understanding the duck numbers aren't down too terribly and lots of young kids are being introduced to the sport which is good for the future.

Not much to speak of really! 🙄

Numerous new hunters with potential to help keep the sport alive are being introduced each year

Ehhh. Hard to say at the moment.

Climate is number 1. Without weather ducks do not "have" to migrate south. Pressure is a close second. Ducks and geese are banged on from canada south now more than ever. With very limited rest areas through the migration. Im seeing more and more "night feeding" the last 3 years and i believe pressure has a lot to do with it on public and private.

Bringing a larger footprint to waterfowling, which i think if used properly could be revolutionary for conservation and preservation of most importantly, ducks and geese; but also of hunting culture which has been a part of human history since the beginning of time.

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

I'm seeing more folks being introduced to the sport each year. Seeing kids love the sport only shows the future of duck hunting.

"Ducks changing their behaviors. Lack of snow cover over northern states.

Ducks only push south if they have to and return north as soon as they can."

I can't think of one thing I can say that is a positive happening right now.

The voice of the people realizing something has changed is growing.

Sanctuaries, plain and simple. Ducks have become imprinted to them, and they go there, regardless of whether season is open or not. It's the number one reason people see fewer ducks. Private sanctuaries are becoming worse than public sanctuaries, because wealthy folks love to plant corn and flooded up to the ear. There is plenty of water even on the driest year for ducks to find places to rest.

About right number of days

The conservation areas I hunt in MO seem to try their best at planting a variety of food for the ducks and geese.

The only thing about waterfowl hunting that is better than it used to be years ago is the gear we have now

My season was great. I was pleased with our habitat, and the numbers we saw. It was inconsistent at times but I feel like that is nature protecting itself. I believe that birds are sensitive to pressure and are learning where is safe/not safe. We saw a lot of birds throughout the season and I am pleased with the overall success. I am glad to see other groups than DU/Delta Waterfowl getting more into the science of waterfowl. I learned a lot about waterfowl behavior from the Cohen lab and believe they are doing great work to either prove/debunk some theories around waterfowl.

Real hunters can see the problems and enough are talking about to at least get a conversation started to correct the issues.

The fact there is this survey trying to help the duck populations and put the resource first gives me hope about the future.

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"The sport is popular. Hunters are the minority by a long shot! We need a presence or we will could easily be the next Australia.

Social media may not be the best thing for the sort but in 2025 that's all we have good or bad."

"To be honest I'm not sure what is going right.

We lease 2000+ acres and even pay a couple of our landowners more to leave stubble and some food for the birds. But still hunt public a good bit as well.

We have killed a lot of ducks. But it's still just so much different than when I was a kid."

Research funding has never been better and we're understanding a lot more about mallards than ever before. There is a lot of support for research to help advance populations.

State ground expanding their moist-soil habitat. I know everyone talks about GTR's and flooding rice. Moist-soil is going to successfully send birds back north I feel like. These areas are holding water well into April and are able to do that every year. Tons of bugging opportunities for waterfowl to eat, as well as native plants that still have seed heads that are still able to be digested. State ground also working on these GTR's. Habitat is what drives wildlife populations. Such as back in the day when Texas had rice production specks flew to them, when it switched and came to Arkansas. They changed with the habitat.

The ducks that I did harvest were healthy, seeing lots of birds and having fun chasing them! It's not all about limits, more and more people are picking up shells and keeping our areas clean and pristine.

New products and innovations especially bringing old school type loads and camo and style back.

Not much currently. Were are getting further from conserving the resource. I wouldn't mind seeing shorter season. A 40/4 season or (god forbid) a closed season for a 2 years to see how it would benefit. Obviously it would never happen due to the industries and revenue involved but it pure terms on conservation and duck numbers, I would love to see what it would do. Days in the field are only as good as the quality of resource we are after.

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"Y'all opening peoples eyes to the bigger picture!

1. We need to band mojos.

2. Limit the amount of young birds being killed in Canada, I personally know a lot of self guided people offering to take friends/ family and killing thousands of birds and giving it all away. All those birds go undocumented."

I do sense a trend of leaning into conservation and habitat management when people get far enough into the sport. Maybe it's just the existence of social media but feel like I hear and see a lot more people trying to do their part over the past 10 years or so. Or losing ducks is finally getting their attention

The only thing going right is a trending movement to shoot drakes, other than that it's all downhill

There seems to be a lot of really innovative research around ducks right now that is driving a lot of the conservation discussions. Whether or not the usfws observers or considers that science remains to be seen but it is exciting to see from a layman's view.

Some people are trying to make it about the ducks and the conservation. Which is good. I wish more people had people to learn it the right way. I've personally taken 2 youths out the past two seasons had to show them how to hunt right. I hate that people are hating on hunters.

People are paying attention to waterfowl. There are a lot of things going right that we do not hear about or see. Not once this season did I have a bad encounter on public. Not once on public this year did I have someone get too close to me. The interest in waterfowl hunting is great. The lack of good mentors, hatred, and trash talk is what's killing it.

"I think people have unrealistic expectations when going duck hunting, specially Arkansas. Guys see the huge pile pics on social media and think they should be doing the same. Also, people

Expect to hunt the same spots time after time and shoot birds, doesn't work like it used to"



## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

People realizing the issues and negative impacts that we as humans are placing on the birds whether that be the horrible videos of animal abuse or everyone trying to kill as many as they can and not using duck hunting what it is for.

PRESSURE is first! Pile pictures from too many and especially waterfowl world influencers! I've hunted a few states and where the pressure is managed hunting is good. Arkansas is overcrowded. Every body of water has someone in it. Hunters should start focusing on conservation and quit worrying about pile pictures or there isn't going to be any ducks to hunt. And the game farm mallard needs to stop being released. The waterfowl companies should stop posting all the pile pictures if they care about their business if there's no ducks then your business will fail!

Lots of brown ducks here in N AL, gads teal pintails and ringnecks were thick all season long. I know y'all only want mallards but I'm happy to have bunches of others.

I think in my area of Mississippi now that birds numbers are down, the people I surround myself with are turning to conservation/pressure management and trying to maximize what they have. I'm 24 but I can remember when I was young you didn't have to do half of the management and kill more ducks. Now it's flipped where you do more management and kill half the ducks.

It is still some of the best times you'll have with family and friends

More people and organizations are becoming involved in habitat improvement.

It was the first time in five years, that we had water and birds. It was nice to see two separate pushes of new birds this year. Albeit small numbers than normal.

Nothing and I believe sub-leases are killing hunting by scarfing up as many acres as they can and driving lease prices higher every year

Amidst the sea of idiots, there are some folks promoting doing it right. As much as I despise the Chinese made hunting industry, they are making amazingly high performance gear.

Most hunters and land owners have generally accepted that there is a decline in the amount of ducks wintering in Louisiana and South Arkansas, and changes need to occur soon.

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Right now at this point I can't think of any that's going right except for the people working there Butts off trying to figure out what's going on with the Migration/Banding birds and transmitters for the tracking of the Birds to see actually what they are doing according to weather when a front comes

I think Arkansas starting the CIP program this year is a start. Manitoba had a similar program for duck habitat. Would be nice if other provinces in Canada would follow suit.

"Private landowners are much better at providing habitat for waterfowl than in the past.

In Arkansas, however, I feel like public hunting grounds and game reserves have been mismanaged and will take years to redirect. I also think there needs to be a better effort for public agencies to acquire more land."

With dwindling returns, more and more will stop hunting.

The tide is starting to turn that some people are realizing there are problems within the community

I think there are groups like DU and Delta that are putting a lot of money out for research and education. I think there are also a large group of land owners trying to provide better habitat. I think the more information about all things related to duck the better. Population, migration routes, etc

Nothing really comes to mind that is going "right" in the grand scheme of waterfowl hunting.

There are younger (or less experienced) people being reached in a positive light. I, and my family/friends I hunt with, have shifted our minds towards what are the issues at hand, and what can we try to improve with our given circumstances (private land). The caveat to this is we have been lucky enough to be exposed to the "right" people on social media and in person connections. Sermon in a sentence - people are realizing there is a problem and quickly.

Overcrowding too many people worried about log pics and social media fucking over the resource to make a dollar

Although the past 5 plus seasons have been tough, we have been improving on the numbers of ducks we hold every year due to habitat improvement practices we've been

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implementing. Some largely due to things I've learned from your podcast. We provide food and sanctuary to wayyyyy more ducks than we harvest.

We still have ducks to hunt. We still have a season to hunt them.

I think people are starting to make enough noise that something isn't right with waterfowl numbers that it can't be ignored any longer.

Ducks unlimited continues to focus on the ducks. Informative podcasts beyond the actual hunt.

Teaching younger generation the right way to do things. Leave something better than what you found it.

Different conservation organizations are trying to promote wetland restoration, what hunting should be about (not just killing).

There's plenty of youth who are interested in the sport...we just need to do a better job of teaching them the right ways to do things. Respect comes with that. You can be a terrible waterfowl hunter and still be a respectful human. The youth is the future. We have to sit back...realize what we have all created...come up with a solution...and help.

What is right is people are still going and spending time with family, friends, etc. if you follow the right people you can learn a lot of things through social media just not a ton of it out there.

I think conservation is becoming more of a part of it for the everyday hunter. Gamekeeper mindset.

I think at least in the circle of people I hunt with we see the issues and ask the question what can be done and there's a lot of interest in volunteering to help out at the local state managed wma but that's not going to happen due to liability issues.

I don't think the theory of short stopping them is true. There is not that much crops. I am in Louisiana there is more sugar cane than beans and rice. Coastal marsh erosion is a big concern. Not enough northern cold fronts to move the birds. Canada has been in drought not a good nesting area. Limits and days are a concern. I'd be willing to close seasons a couple years just to get it back.

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I think the duck numbers are not correct. I think out of state pressure is building pressure on birds. Oklahoma wildlife department not planting corps to hold birds in winter compared to 10-15 years ago.

I feel like what's left of the "good" sportsman are doing a great job at introducing the younger generation to hunting the right way. I believe the community is a very tight knit group especially with creators/brands for the most part everyone gets along and wants others to succeed as well. The public have really taken initiative to start speaking out about their concerns with state ran ground and trying to do their part in keeping our public grounds safe and clean (public timber project)

Getting younger generations into the sport and promotion of non toxic and ethical harvest methods

We are now realizing what pressure is doing to ducks. This pressure has been pretty constant for 8-10 years (boat races, social media, YouTube videos, "mad at em" mentality, etc). I feel as if the new generation of ducks have learned to evolve much quicker than when I was younger. At least there is current data to support this. Now we must create a solution.

We are finally having a discussion about how to fix it, people are coming to the realization that this not an inexhaustible resource and we need to manage the resource better. That's it...

People talking about this stuff

These lean years are teaching us how to really manage properly for waterfowl, and I feel that if the hatch ever improves we will be set up for tremendous success.

Above all in Arkansas, we are blessed with more public ground to hunt. None of this matters if you have no place to hunt.

From the state level there are government funded programs "small but some" to develop wetland habitat.

"New people are discovering the same hobby we all know and love.

Social media can and is used for positives by some in the waterfowling community (promotion of conservation, displays of proper ethics and sportsmanship, etc). Obviously need more of this.

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Some brands are starting to use money to help with habitat and/or access (would also like to see more of this)."

More people are looking at new data sets that will give us more insight into habitat, production and conservation IF it's used correctly.

NOT MUCH

The state agency is getting better at habitat management

There is good opportunity for people to get out in the field. Harvesting game is getting to be the tough part.

This year I saw more groups respecting each other and talked to more respectful young people than I have since I started hunting in 2004. There were still bad eggs but there did seem to be the start of an overall shift among those tired of the bs.

Well I have 3 young boys that I am enjoying getting them into hunting.

"- Education from biologists in the field: GPS tracking, band research, etc. I have learned tons from their posts on duck behavior and movement.

- Conservation efforts from Delta Waterfowl and Ducks Unlimited in the PPR: Hen Houses, predator management, acquiring land for conservation purposes."

I think private clubs on a micro level are really trying to shoot less hen's, manage pressure, and just over all doing things to enhance their specific hunting experience/success.

Finally addressing some breeding ground issues with predator trapping. Think season timing is better than it has been in the past.

People are beginning to notice the downward spiral.

Not much

Not much really

## ***EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH WATERFOWL HUNTING BUT WHAT IS GOING RIGHT FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?***

Some people are starting to catch on that there is a problem with the sport and populations. Seems to be a bit of a shift, not a big one yet but something.

Many still taking kids hunting and introducing young people to the sport

Truly not much, the resource/sport is being whored out and has been for far too long long, we better get it right and quickly or it will all be gone sooner than we expect.

Many are starting to see that something is off and thinking about the resource. If conservation can come to the front with many new people around the sport, we will have some momentum. Even people starting to take of the public grounds they use is a huge step.

People are starting to realize there's a problem. There are some folks fighting the good fight trying to protect the sport and resource. The worse it gets hopefully more people will start to educate themselves.

What is going right in my opinion and something I am trying my hardest to do is introducing youth hunters to the waterfowl community and showing them proper hunting ways and how to practice conservation and management of "duck ground."

Not much

Still having a good time chasing these birds in our beautiful state!

not much. The options or opportunities for younger generations to have places to hunt is dramatically reduces by the larger owners/ operations gobbling up everything they can.

"Not much. But some private lands are doing an above avg job of keeping water and food on the landscape. (Albeit mondo uncut/unharvested corn is an issue).

I think the wrice program is pretty good.

We have multiple congressman/senators in place of power among congressional ranks (we need to use them more)

Ppl are starting to get tired of it sucking."

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Some waterfowl scientists outside of the NGOs and agencies are starting to raise questions and concerns. That's about it.

The fact that all hunters are concerned and are communicating their concerns. We appreciate the platform you all have created to help share concerns. Another positive is that seems like Ducks Unlimited and Delta Waterfowl are working together more now.

I think there is a greater push / a rekindling towards conservation, more give and less take

Some messaging is breaking through. Lay off the hens, give something back, reduce pressure, and challenge the status quo regarding management.

"Honestly....zero

Some of it beyond our control, but I can't think of one single thing that is going right for a duck (mallard) at this current time."

In regards to the long-term health of water fowling not much is going right. I'd say the only thing is the quality of products offered to waterfowlers is superior to when I was a younger man. Other than that, nothing is better. Nothing. Kjos

The status of our sport has made me cherish the great moments, no not great moments, any moments I have with my friends and family while duck hunting. I'm a duck hunter 365 days a year not for just the season. I probably love doing all the habitat work and getting ready for the season as much as I do the actual season!

Clothing continues to improve

Conservation funding has increased slowly over time.

Awareness of changes being needed is starting to come around.