

It's time to do your homework again. Waterfowl season resumes Saturday, and if you want your hunting party to be on top of it for that second opener, you'll need to spend some time behind your binoculars. While deer hunting this past week in southeast Kansas, we heard a lot of migrating snow geese and saw groups of birds on the move. Recent rains have things looking a lot better in eastern Oklahoma than they did back in August. Water levels in lakes and local water impoundments have risen, making food sources available in some areas that may have been lacking in years past. I'm talking about things like sedges and smartweed that grew on mudflats exposed during the drought. If you have property where you planted millet, you know exactly what I'm talking about. Croplands that didn't fair well in the drought but produced soybeans and corn that were mowed and bailed or that were harvested with minimal success also may be attracting second-season ducks and geese to places they haven't been before — especially if those fields are holding some sheet water. Find ducks and geese early in the morning by positioning yourself within binocular range of waterways you want to hunt or where you know birds will be leaving a roost. It's not always necessary to get your boat in the water. Often you can track birds by road and general direction if you know your area. But the only way to find where the birds are going is to watch those flocks and follow them. It may take a day or two to figure out exactly where they're going and you might not always set yourself up right on the X — so to speak — but once you get permission to hunt an area and get yourself close, you can adjust by the day, sometimes by the minute, and find success luring those later-season migrators into your setup.