

NUVEEN FLOATING RATE INCOME FUND  
Form N-CSRS  
April 08, 2014

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM N-CSR**

**CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED  
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

Investment Company Act file number 811-21494

Nuveen Floating Rate Income Fund  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

Nuveen Investments  
333 West Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60606  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Kevin J. McCarthy

Nuveen Investments

333 West Wacker Drive

Chicago, IL 60606  
(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (312) 917-7700

Date of fiscal year July 31  
end:

Date of reporting period: January 31, 2014

Form N-CSR is to be used by management investment companies to file reports with the Commission not later than 10 days after the transmission to stockholders of any report that is required to be transmitted to stockholders under Rule 30e-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30e-1). The Commission may use the information provided on Form N-CSR in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection, and policymaking roles.

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A registrant is required to disclose the information specified by Form N-CSR, and the Commission will make this information public. A registrant is not required to respond to the collection of information contained in Form N-CSR unless the Form displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget ( OMB ) control number. Please direct comments concerning the accuracy of the information collection burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609. The OMB has reviewed this collection of information under the clearance requirements of 44 U.S.C. SS. 3507.

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**ITEM 1. REPORTS TO SHAREHOLDERS**

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Closed-End Funds

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**Closed-End Funds**

**Semi-Annual Report** January 31, 2014

**NSL**

Nuveen Senior Income Fund

**JFR**

Nuveen Floating Rate Income Fund

**JRO**

Nuveen Floating Rate Income Opportunity Fund

**JSD**

Nuveen Short Duration Credit Opportunities Fund

**JQC**

Nuveen Credit Strategies Income Fund

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## **Chairman's Letter**

### **to Shareholders**

#### **Dear Shareholders,**

Despite headwinds from slow growth, fiscal and political uncertainty in many countries and some fragile economies around the world, domestic and international equity markets increased significantly in 2013. The emerging markets equity sector was an exception. Other sectors, such as real estate, were flat to down a bit and commodities were notably negative in total return performance. The fixed income market also experienced losses in many sectors.

U.S. equities in particular hit numerous all-time highs during the past year, exceeding prior rising market trends. Europe and Asia struggled with political and financial stresses but Europe's improving GDP in the second half provided hope that the region can exit recession. In Japan, the economic policies advocated by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe became a positive influence on the economy as deflationary pressures declined, while the economy in China started to stabilize due to monetary easing and supply side reforms. On the domestic front, the Federal Reserve stimulus continued throughout the year but discussion of reductions in the stimulus program caused historically low rates to rise and added to concern that interest rates could rise quickly in the near future. This provided challenges for fixed income investors.

The Federal Reserve's decision to slow down its bond buying program beginning in January 2014, and the federal budget compromise over government spending into early 2015 were positive signs that the domestic economy is moving forward. We are beginning to experience an economy that can provide encouraging conditions for GDP growth, job growth and low inflation. Additionally, downward trending unemployment and a continuing rebound in the housing market adds to a positive economic scenario going forward.

However, the current year has experienced a tumultuous start. It is in these particularly volatile markets that professional investment management is most important. Investment teams who have experienced challenging markets in the past understand how their asset class can behave in rapidly changing times. Remaining committed to their investment disciplines during these times is a critical component to achieving long-term success. In fact, many strong investment track records are established during challenging periods because experienced investment teams understand that volatile markets place a premium on companies and investment ideas that can weather the short-term volatility. By maintaining appropriate time horizons, diversification and relying on practiced investment teams, we believe that investors can achieve their long-term investment objectives.

As always, I encourage you to communicate with your financial consultant if you have any questions about your investment in a Nuveen Fund. On behalf of the other members of the Nuveen Fund Board, we look forward to continuing to earn your trust in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

William J. Schneider  
Chairman of the Nuveen Fund Board  
March 25, 2014





## **Portfolio Managers'**

### **Comments**

Nuveen Senior Income Fund (NSL)

Nuveen Floating Rate Income Fund (JFR)

Nuveen Floating Rate Income Opportunity Fund (JRO)

Nuveen Short Duration Credit Opportunities Fund (JSD)

Nuveen Credit Strategies Income Fund (JQC)

*The Funds' investment portfolios are managed by Symphony Asset Management, LLC (Symphony), an affiliate of Nuveen Investments. Gunther Stein, who serves as the firm's Chief Investment Officer, and Scott Caraher manage NSL, JFR and JRO. Gunther and Sutanto Widjaja manage JQC, while JSD is managed by Gunther, Scott and Jenny Rhee. Here the team discusses their management strategies and the performance of the Funds for the six-month reporting period ended January 31, 2014.*

### **What strategies were used to manage the Funds during the six-month reporting period ended January 31, 2014? How did these strategies influence performance?**

NSL, JFR and JRO have similar investment objectives and strategies. Each Fund is designed to seek a high level of current income by primarily investing in a portfolio of adjustable rate, senior secured corporate loans. The Funds also may invest in unsecured senior loans, other debt securities, equity securities and warrants acquired in connection with an investment in senior loans. A significant portion of each Fund's assets may be invested in instruments that, at the time of investment, are rated below investment grade or are unrated but judged by Symphony to be of comparable quality.

JSD seeks to provide current income and the potential for capital appreciation. The Fund invests primarily in a blended portfolio of below investment grade adjustable rate corporate debt instruments, including senior secured loans, second lien loans and other adjustable rate corporate debt instruments. The Fund may also make limited tactical investments in other types of debt instruments and may enter into tactical short positions consisting of primarily high yield debt. The Fund maintains a portfolio with an average duration that does not exceed two years.

JQC invests at least 70% of its assets in senior secured and second lien loans, and up to 30% of its assets opportunistically over the credit cycle in other types of securities across a company's capital structures. These other securities primarily include income-oriented securities such as high yield corporate and convertible bonds as well as common stocks.

### **How did the Funds perform during this six-month reporting period ended January 31, 2014?**

The tables in the Performance Overview and Holding Summaries section of this report provide total return performance for each Fund for the six-month, one-year, five-year, ten-year and/or since inception periods ended January 31, 2014. For

**Certain statements in this report are forward-looking statements. Discussions of specific investments are for illustration only and are not intended as recommendations of individual**

**investments. The forward-looking statements and other views expressed herein are those of the portfolio managers as of the date of this report. Actual future results or occurrences may differ significantly from those anticipated in any forward-looking statements and the views expressed herein are subject to change at any time, due to numerous market and other factors. The Funds disclaim any obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statements or views expressed herein.**

**Ratings shown are the highest rating given by one of the following national rating agencies: Standard & Poor's (S&P), Moody's Investors (Moody's) Service, Inc. or Fitch, Inc. (Fitch). Credit ratings are subject to change. AAA, AA, A and BBB are investment grade ratings; BB, B, CCC, CC, C and D are below investment grade ratings. Certain bonds backed by U.S. Government or agency securities are regarded as having an implied rating equal to the rating of such securities. Holdings designated N/R are not rated by these national rating agencies.**

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**Portfolio Managers' Comments** (continued)

the six-month reporting period ended January 31, 2014, NSL, JFR, JRO and JSD's total return on common share net asset value (NAV) outperformed the Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index while all of the Funds outperformed the CSFB Leveraged Loan Index. Loans in general performed well during the reporting period, due to solid economic growth and low default rates. During January 2014, robust technical conditions helped floating rate instruments post gains while equity markets tumbled off record highs amid concerns of slowing global economic growth.

The senior loans and corporate bonds of Clear Channel Communications, Inc., a diversified media and entertainment company, contributed positively to performance as a significant holding for each of the Funds. Throughout the reporting period, we believed that the company would continue to address its upcoming maturities and earnings would improve along with the economy. The company's capital structure benefitted during the reporting period when it announced an amend-and-extend loan transaction (amend-to-extend transaction allows an issuer to push out part of its loan maturities through an amendment, rather than a full-out refinancing) and the loan traded higher as investor appetite for the longer dated, higher yielding maturity increased. While the company has now addressed the bulk of its near term maturities, we are maintaining exposure to the credit as the loans offer a compelling yield and attractive total return in the current economic environment.

Also contributing to performance during the reporting period were the senior loans of the communication technology services company IPC Systems. The loans contributed positively as investors focused on the attractive yeild of this relatively short dated paper.

The loans of J.C. Penney Company, Inc. detracted from performance during the reporting period. Our initial thesis was built on the potential turnaround story with a new CEO and on the theoretical value of the company's real estate. However, recent trends have proven the turnaround more challenging. Headline risk from a prominent activist investor and disappointing same store sales hurt the loan during the reporting period. We no longer hold the position.

Also negatively impacting the portfolios were the loans of the Sun Products Corporation, a cleaning products company. The company faced increasing competition from a larger competitor and detracted during the period.

There has been an increased focus on the structure of many senior loans in the market, including London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) floors. These are fairly recent developments and worthy of discussion. All of these Funds have owned, or currently own, loans with the LIBOR floor feature. The coupon on most senior loans consists of both LIBOR (usually 90-day U.S. LIBOR) plus a spread. For example, a senior loan might have a coupon structure of "LIBOR plus 400 basis points (bp)" in which the coupon consists of 90-day LIBOR, plus 400bp. Given today's relatively low LIBOR rate, however, many issuers have put in place LIBOR floors to enhance the yield (and satisfy demand from investors) for newly issued loans. LIBOR floors, as the name suggests, put a "floor" on the reference LIBOR rate. LIBOR floors typically range from 150bp to 50bp. A loan with a LIBOR floor might have a structure of "LIBOR + 400bp with a 100bp LIBOR floor." In this example, the effective coupon is 5% (100bp + 400bp). As a result, as LIBOR rises from current levels, the yield on a senior loan with a LIBOR floor will not rise in lockstep until after the reference LIBOR rate exceeds the LIBOR floor. Although many loans have LIBOR floors, the asset class is one of the few that will float when interest rates begin to rise, and we believe the senior loan asset class provides fixed income oriented investors with a potential safeguard from a secular rise in interest rates.

JQC maintained exposure to senior loans during the reporting period, while tactically allocating between high yield corporate bonds and equity securities. Exposure consisted of mainly U.S. issuers, and was focused on companies that, in general, had high levels of tangible assets, predictable revenue streams, significant market share within their respective industries and positive free cash flow. Selectively, the Fund had exposure to companies with above average leverage

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where we felt that fundamentals supported the valuation or where a positive catalyst existed. During the reporting period, the Fund increased its exposure limits with regards to equity securities as well as CCC-rated securities.

For JSD, we also continued to invest in credit default swaps, which were used to provide a benefit if particular bonds' credit quality worsened. The Fund does not hold other securities issued by the issuers referenced under these credit default swap contracts. These contracts had a negligible effect on performance.

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**Fund****Leverage****IMPACT OF THE FUNDS' LEVERAGE STRATEGY ON PERFORMANCE**

One important factor impacting the returns of the Funds relative to their benchmarks was the Funds' use of leverage through the use of bank borrowings. The Funds use leverage because our research has shown that, over time, leveraging provides opportunities for additional income and total return for common shareholders. However, use of leverage also can expose common shareholders to additional volatility. For example, as the prices of securities held by a Fund decline, the negative impact of these valuation changes on common share NAV and common shareholder total return is magnified by the use of leverage. Conversely, leverage may enhance common share returns during periods when the prices of securities held by a Fund generally are rising. The Funds' use of leverage had a positive impact on performance during this reporting period.

The Funds also continued to use swap contracts to partially fix the interest cost of leverage, which as mentioned previously, the Funds use through bank borrowings. The swap contracts' impact on the Funds' performance was negligible during this reporting period.

As of January 31, 2014, the Funds' percentages of leverage are shown in the accompanying table.

	<b>NSL</b>	<b>JFR</b>	<b>JRO</b>	<b>JSD</b>	<b>JQC</b>
Effective Leverage*	34.97%	34.92%	34.78%	29.91%	28.69%
Regulatory Leverage*	34.97%	34.92%	34.78%	29.91%	28.69%

\* Effective leverage is a Fund's effective economic leverage, and includes both regulatory leverage and the leverage effects of certain derivative and other investments in a Fund's portfolio that increase the Fund's investment exposure. Regulatory leverage consists of preferred shares issued or borrowings of a Fund. Both of these are part of a Fund's capital structure. Regulatory leverage is subject to asset coverage limits set forth in the Investment Company Act of 1940.

**THE FUNDS' REGULATORY LEVERAGE***Bank Borrowings*

As discussed previously, the Funds employ regulatory leverage through the use of bank borrowings. As of January 31, 2014, the Funds have outstanding bank borrowings as shown in the accompanying table.

	<b>NSL</b>	<b>JFR</b>	<b>JRO</b>	<b>JSD</b>	<b>JQC</b>
Bank Borrowing	\$99,000,000	\$237,200,000	\$163,900,000	\$85,000,000	\$561,000,000

Refer to Notes to Financial Statements, Note 9 Borrowing Arrangements for further details.

*Variable Rate Term Preferred Shares*

During the current reporting period, NSL, JFR and JRO each refinanced a portion of their bank borrowings with the issuance of Variable Rate Term Preferred (VRTP) shares. Each Fund's VRTP shares were issued via private placement and are not publicly available. VRTP shares feature a fixed short-term (three years) with floating rate dividends set monthly at a specified short-term index rate, plus a fixed spread. As of

January 31, 2014, the Funds' outstanding VRTP shares are as shown in the accompanying table.

	<b>NSL</b>	<b>JFR</b>	<b>JRO</b>
VRTP Shares, at liquidation value	\$58,000,000	\$139,000,000	\$98,000,000

Refer to Notes to Financial Statements, Note 1 General Information and Significant Accounting Policies for further details on VRTP shares.

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**Common Share****Information****DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION**

The following information regarding the Funds' distributions is current as of January 31, 2014. Each Fund's distribution levels may vary over time based on each Fund's investment activity and portfolio investment value changes.

During the current reporting period, each Fund's monthly distributions to common shareholders were as shown in the accompanying table.

**Per Common Share Amounts**

<b>Ex-Distribution Date</b>	<b>NSL</b>	<b>JFR</b>	<b>JRO</b>	<b>JSD</b>	<b>JQC</b>
August 2013	\$0.0410	\$0.0700	\$0.0730	\$0.1260	\$0.0620
September	0.0390	0.0670	0.0690	0.1220	0.0580
October	0.0390	0.0670	0.0690	0.1220	0.0580
November	0.0390	0.0670	0.0690	0.1220	0.0580
December	0.0360	0.0615	0.0645	0.1140	0.0545
January 2014	0.0360	0.0615	0.0645	0.1140	0.0545
Short-Term Capital Gain*				\$0.0729	
Long-Term Capital Gain*				\$0.2540	
Current Distribution Rate**	6.03%	6.12%	6.40%	7.33%	6.88%

\* Distribution paid in December 2013.

\*\* Current distribution rate is based on the Fund's current annualized monthly distribution divided by the Fund's current market price. The Fund's monthly distributions to its shareholders may be comprised of ordinary income, net realized capital gains and, if at the end of the fiscal year the Fund's cumulative net ordinary income and net realized gains are less than the amount of the Fund's distributions, a return of capital for tax purposes.

During certain periods, each Fund may pay dividends at a rate that may be more or less than the amount of net investment income actually earned by the Fund during the period. If a Fund has cumulatively earned more than it has paid in dividends, it holds the excess in reserve as undistributed net investment income (UNII) as part of the Fund's NAV. Conversely, if a Fund has cumulatively paid dividends in excess of earnings, the excess constitutes negative UNII that is likewise reflected in the Fund's NAV. Each Fund will, over time, pay all of its net investment income as dividends to shareholders. As of January 31, 2014, all five Funds had positive UNII balances, based upon our best estimate, for tax purposes and negative UNII balances for financial reporting purposes.

**COMMON SHARE REPURCHASES**

During November 2013, the Nuveen Funds' Board of Directors/Trustees reauthorized the Funds' open-market share repurchase program, allowing each Fund to repurchase an aggregate of up to

approximately 10% of their outstanding common shares.

As of January 31, 2014, and since the inception of the Funds' repurchase programs, the Funds have cumulatively repurchased and retired their common shares as shown in the accompanying table.

	<b>NSL</b>	<b>JFR</b>	<b>JRO</b>	<b>JSD</b>	<b>JQC</b>
Common Shares Cumulatively Repurchased and Retired		147,593	19,400		4,315,092
Common Shares Authorized for Repurchase	3,865,000	5,515,000	3,850,000	1,010,000	13,625,000

During the current reporting period, the Funds did not repurchase any of their outstanding common shares.

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**Common Share Information** (continued)**COMMON SHARE EQUITY SHELF PROGRAMS**

During the reporting period, the Funds were authorized to issue additional shares through their ongoing equity shelf programs. Under these programs, each Fund, subject to market conditions, may raise additional capital from time to time in varying amounts and offering methods at a net price or above the Fund's NAV per common share. Under the equity shelf programs, the Funds are authorized to issue the following number of additional common shares:

	<b>NSL</b>	<b>JFR</b>	<b>JRO</b>	<b>JSD</b>	<b>JQC</b>
Additional Common Shares Authorized	12,000,000	12,900,000	11,600,000	1,000,000	13,600,000

During the current reporting period, the following Funds sold common shares through their equity shelf programs at a weighted average premium to their NAV per common share as shown in the accompanying table.

	<b>JFR</b>	<b>JRO</b>
Common Shares Sold through Equity Shelf Program	22,610	43,186
Weighted Average Premium to NAV per Common Share Sold	1.46%	1.38%

As of November 30, 2013, NSL, JFR and JRO's shelf offering registration statement is no longer effective. Therefore, the Funds may not issue additional common shares under their equity shelf programs until a new registration statement is effective.

**OTHER COMMON SHARE INFORMATION**

As of January 31, 2014, and during the current reporting period, the Funds' common share prices were trading at a premium/(discount) to their common share NAVs as shown in the accompanying table.

	<b>NSL</b>	<b>JFR</b>	<b>JRO</b>	<b>JSD</b>	<b>JQC</b>
Common Share NAV	\$ 7.56	\$ 12.71	\$ 12.76	\$ 19.73	\$ 10.23
Common Share Price	\$ 7.16	\$ 12.06	\$ 12.10	\$ 18.67	\$ 9.50
Premium/(Discount) to NAV	(5.29)%	(5.11)%	(5.17)%	(5.37)%	(7.14)%
6-Month Average Premium/(Discount) to NAV	(4.89)%	(4.37)%	(3.24)%	(4.82)%	