



**Weekly Waterfowl Report**  
**Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks**  
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**January 25, 2017 Edition**

The following report is a compilation of public and private land reports and habitat assessments during the week ending January 22, 2017.

Jackson, MS – Last week brought consistency to Mississippi’s previously up-and-down temperatures, but unfortunately for waterfowl hunters, temperatures were above average. However, hunting success has still been high in some areas, with good hunting reports coming from parts of Bolivar, Leflore, Tallahatchie, and Yazoo counties. Shallowly flooded wetland habitat availability increased across much of the state due to several days of rainfall recently. While water levels in the Mississippi River are rising, many smaller river systems in the interior Mississippi Delta are falling, leaving little chance of receiving “natural flooding” in the near future. Heading into the final week of the duck season, temperatures are forecasted to return to the “normal” range for this time of year, with lows near the freezing point and abundant sunshine.

January in Mississippi typically brings abundant waterfowl numbers, as we have already observed through aerial waterfowl surveys earlier this month. However, waterfowl hunting can be difficult as birds begin to seek out different habitat types than they were using earlier in the season. During late winter, ducks will often use densely vegetated areas for cover to escape weather elements, and for seclusion to pair bond with potential mates. Hunters may need to scout for ducks in flooded timber or other densely vegetated areas if hunting success decreases in more open wetland habitats. Many Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) across the Mississippi Delta are still holding ducks, and are still producing successful hunts at times. Harvest on WMAs has continued to be dominated by green-winged teal. Observations of large flocks of light geese and white-fronted geese in the Mississippi Delta region have decreased somewhat over the last week. Availability of quality wetland habitat combined with weather conditions will greatly influence waterfowl harvest on both private and public lands for the remainder of the season.

The regular duck season will end on Sunday, January 29, followed by the final youth waterfowl hunting day on Saturday, February 4. There will also be a late season segment for Canada geese, Snow and Blue geese, and White-fronted geese February 4 – 15. Waterfowl draw hunt applications for WMAs have now ended, but several WMAs still have stand-by opportunity or open access for waterfowl hunters seeking to hunt public land. The late January aerial waterfowl survey is being conducted this week, and as soon as it is completed, the report will be posted on the Waterfowl Program website at [www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl](http://www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl). The Waterfowl Program website also lists links to regulations and habitat information for specific WMAs and other public lands throughout the state, as well as other general waterfowl information as it becomes available.

**Table 1:** Water levels and general duck abundance ratings for selected Wildlife Management Areas.

<b>WMA</b>	<b>Water Levels*</b>	<b>Bird Abundance</b>
Charlie Capps	100%	Medium-High
Howard Miller	100%	Medium-High
Indianola	100%	Medium
Mahannah	100%	Medium
Malmaison**	100%	Medium
Muscadine Farms	100%	Low-Medium
O'Keefe	100%	Medium
Twin Oaks	100%	Low-Medium
Trim Cane	20%	Low
Tuscumbia	20%	Low

\*Indicates percentage of impoundments with water levels sufficient enough to hunt.

\*\*Malmaison WMA green-tree reservoir is being managed at a lower pumped water level than in past years. Rainfall will also be captured by water control structures throughout the winter. Water levels do not include the McIntyre Scatters portion of the WMA, which will vary by rainfall and river levels.