



Weekly Waterfowl Report
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks
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December 15, 2015 Edition

The following report is a compilation of WMA reports and habitat assessments during the week ending December 13, 2015.

Jackson, MS – Warm weather once again returned to Mississippi over the last week, and with it, came a decrease in the number of quality waterfowl hunting reports. The long-range forecast predicts a short-duration cold front to enter the state later this week, but warm, wet weather is predicted to return next week with winds coming from the south. A snow storm is also currently moving from the Rocky Mountains eastward into northern portions of the Mississippi Flyway. This snowfall, combined with the weekend's upcoming cold front could produce a small migration of waterfowl from the north, and could cause increases in daily duck movements as they feed more heavily for energy supplies.

Some Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) across the Mississippi Delta are still holding ducks, and harvest from last week was still relatively high, when considering bird abundances and weather patterns for the state overall. Several WMAs are still slowly increasing flooded habitat in order to provide maximum food resources later in winter as peak waterfowl numbers are expected to arrive. Abundance of wetland habitat across the Delta remains relatively high for this time of year. Gadwall and green-winged teal continue to make up a significant portion of waterfowl harvest reports, along with northern shovelers. Migrant goose numbers, especially white-fronted geese, seemed to increase over the last week. Deep water habitats such as active catfish ponds continue to hold abundant northern shovelers and a variety of abundant diving ducks.

The regular waterfowl season continues through January 31. The fourth draw period for WMA waterfowl draw hunts is currently open for applications. The December aerial waterfowl survey is being flown this week, and as soon as surveys are completed, the results and distribution maps will be posted on MDWFP's website and released through social media. The Waterfowl Program website (www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl) 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 develops.

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

WMA	Water Levels*	Bird Abundance
Charlie Capps	100%	Medium
Howard Miller	100%	Medium-High
Indianola	100%	Medium
Mahannah	100%	Low-Medium
Malmaison**	80%	Low
Muscadine Farms	80%	Low
O'Keefe	90%	Low-Medium
Sunflower	90%	Low
Twin Oaks	100%	Low
Trim Cane	50%	Low
Tuscumbia	60%	Low

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

**Malmaison WMA green-tree reservoir is being managed at a lower water level than in past years.