



Weekly Waterfowl Report
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks
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The following report is a compilation of WMA reports and habitat assessments during the week ending December 14, 2014.

Jackson, MS – The report below is a compilation of on-the-ground observations from biologists, as well as public and private land managers. Relatively warm weather continued to dominate the past week, causing decreased success in harvest reports from public and private lands. Recent weather has likely caused low migration activity from the north, and has caused low levels of daily activity from waterfowl across the state. The long-range forecast predicts colder, wet weather in the coming days, which will likely generate more southward migration activity into the state, and could also increase foraging activity in ducks which are already here in Mississippi. Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) across the Mississippi Delta are still holding ducks, as evidenced by the live video feed from the “WMA Duck Cam” (**click here** for live video). More rainfall received over the weekend has helped to replenish water levels in most wetlands, while adding available wetland habitat in some areas. Several WMAs are slowly increasing flooded habitat in order to provide additional food resources later in winter as peak waterfowl numbers arrive. Harvest reports are showing an increasing proportion of gadwall and northern shovelers, and many hunters have taken advantage of an abundance of white-fronted geese. Large flocks of migrant geese continue to be observed across the Delta region, primarily using rice and soybean fields. Deep water habitats continue to hold northern shovelers and a variety of abundant diving ducks.

The fourth draw period for WMA waterfowl draw hunts is now open for applications. The December aerial waterfowl survey has been completed, and will soon be posted the MDWFP Waterfowl Program website (www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl). This site also lists links to regulations, hunter harvest, and habitat information for specific WMAs throughout the state, as well as other general waterfowl and wetland information as it becomes available.

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

WMA	Water Levels*	Bird Abundance
Charlie Capps	100%	Low-Medium
Howard Miller	100%	Low-Medium
Indianola	70%	Low-Medium
Mahannah	100%	Low
Malmaison**	100%	Low
Muscadine Farms	80%	Low
O'Keefe	100%	Low
Twin Oaks	100%	Low
Trim Cane	100%	Low
Tuscumbia	100%	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.