



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 January 11, 2015.

Jackson, MS – The report below is a compilation of on-the-ground observations from biologists, as well as public and private land managers. Freezing temperatures over the past week significantly changed the distribution of and habitat use by waterfowl across the state. As shallow wetlands froze, ducks were forced to shift habitat use to deeper water areas such as oxbows and flowing water in and around river systems. Many rivers and smaller tributaries remained flooded over their banks, providing quality hunting in shallow, naturally flooded habitat. The early January aerial waterfowl survey will be posted soon, and early indications show a relatively small increase in mallards and total duck numbers from December's estimates. The long-range forecast predicts warmer temperatures this week, but lows will remain around the freezing mark until the weekend. These weather conditions could continue to produce minor migration events from northern latitudes throughout the week. Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) across the Mississippi Delta have recently reported increasing duck numbers, particularly mallards. Harvest reports are still showing a large proportion of green-winged teal, northern shoveler, and gadwall, and but mallard harvest has increased over the last week as well. Large flocks of migrant geese continue to be observed across the Delta region, and white-fronted goose harvest has increased based on reports. Biologists expect waterfowl to spread out and resume using more traditional wetland habitats since they're again available, particularly dense vegetation areas (i.e., forests and scrub-shrub areas) where pairs can isolate from larger groups.

Aerial waterfowl survey summary reports will be posted to the MDWFP Waterfowl Program website (www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl) soon. This site also lists links to regulations, hunter harvest, and habitat information for specific WMAs throughout the state, as well as other general waterfowl 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%	Medium
Howard Miller	100%	Medium-High
Indianola	100%	Low
Mahannah	100%	Medium
Malmaison**	100%	Low-Medium
Muscadine Farms	100%	Medium-High
O'Keefe	100%	Medium
Twin Oaks	100%	Low-Medium
Trim Cane	100%	Low-Medium
Tuscumbia	100%	Low-Medium

*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.