



Weekly Waterfowl Report
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks
Houston Havens (662)299-0273, email: houstonh@mdwfp.state.ms.us

January 20, 2015 Edition

The following report is a compilation of WMA reports and habitat assessments during the week ending January 18, 2015.

Jackson, MS – The report below is a compilation of on-the-ground observations from biologists, as well as public and private land managers. Weather over the past week returned to a more “normal” pattern for Mississippi, with some ice developing overnight and thawing by mid-morning. This pattern resulted in increased hunting success from many reports across the state, as ducks roosted on deeper, lower quality foraging wetlands overnight and returned to shallow, food-rich habitats to feed mid-morning. The final week of waterfowl seasons has begun, and the forecast for the week predicts colder, rainy weather late in the week, followed by a relatively warm and sunny weekend. Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) across the Mississippi Delta have maintained steady duck numbers recently, and mallard abundance has slightly increased overall. Mallard numbers have increased in harvest reports on both public and private lands. Very large flocks of migrant geese were recently observed across the Delta region, and white-fronted goose harvest has remained high based on reports. Hunters are encouraged to try different hunting tactics as waterfowl typically become more difficult to hunt late in the season. Finding ways to hide (layout blinds, layout boats, etc.) away from typical hunting areas could be productive for late season hunting. Hunters are also reminded to take advantage of the final youth waterfowl hunting day on January 31 and the light goose conservation order from January 26 – 30 and February 1 – March 31.

The late January aerial waterfowl survey is being conducted this week, and 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%	High
Howard Miller	100%	Medium-High
Indianola	100%	Medium
Mahannah	100%	Medium
Malmaison**	100%	Medium
Muscadine Farms	100%	Medium
O'Keefe	100%	Medium-High
Twin Oaks	100%	Medium
Trim Cane	100%	Medium
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.