



**Weekly Waterfowl Report**  
**Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks**  
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**November 18, 2014 Edition**

The following report is a compilation of WMA reports and habitat assessments during the week ending November 16, 2014.

Jackson, MS – The first aerial waterfowl survey of the season is being flown this week, and the first survey report is scheduled to be available before the waterfowl season opener. This report is a compilation of on-the-ground observations from biologists, managers, and private land managers.

Due to recent rainfall, shallowly flooded wetland habitat availability is above average for mid to late November. Some landowners and managers have taken advantage of rainfall, and were able to catch natural runoff to begin flooding wetlands. These properties, along with areas with pumping capabilities, should provide some quality hunting early in the season. In the weeks leading up to the waterfowl hunting season, managers of many WMAs across the state have been pumping shallow water into waterfowl impoundments. Charlie Capps, Indianola, Muscadine Farms, Mahannah, and Howard Miller WMAs are just a few of these areas, and recent field reports indicate that an abundance of dabbling ducks, particularly mallards, are beginning to use these areas. Mallards appear to be most abundant on flooded agriculture and managed moist-soil habitats. Several public and private land managers have reported high numbers of ducks for this time of year on properties across the state. These reports are no doubt a result of the cold fronts which have continued to pass through the northern U.S. and into southern states. Migrant geese have begun to enter the Mississippi Delta, but so far numbers appear to be down from recent years for this time of year. As always, availability of water and weather conditions will greatly influence early season waterfowl harvest on both private and public lands.

The first youth waterfowl hunting day of the season will be Saturday, November 22, and all signs so far point to great potential for quality hunting. Adult waterfowl hunters are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to get youth introduced to the sport, while also getting out to scout for the regular season opener which will be Thursday, November 27. Many waterfowl hunters in Mississippi are optimistic with reports of high waterfowl populations and sustained cold fronts in November.

As soon as the first aerial waterfowl survey is completed, a summary report and distribution maps will be posted on MDWFP's website. The Waterfowl Program website ([www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl](http://www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl)) also reports hunter harvest and habitat information for specific WMAs throughout the state, as well as other general waterfowl and wetland information.

**Table 1:** Water levels and general waterfowl 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
Indianola	50%	Medium
Mahannah	100%	Medium
Malmaison	100%	Medium
Muscadine Farms	80%	Medium
O'Keefe	60%	Medium
Twin Oaks	100%	Medium
Trim Cane	100%	Low
Tuscumbia	20%	Low

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