



Weekly Waterfowl Report
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks
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November 25, 2014 Edition

The following report is a compilation of WMA reports and habitat assessments during the week ending November 23, 2014.

Jackson, MS – The November aerial waterfowl survey has been completed, and a summary report with distribution maps can be found at

http://www.mdwfp.com/media/242712/nov_2014_aerial_survey_report_final.pdf.

The first youth waterfowl hunting day of the year occurred on November 22, and from all reports received, the day was a huge success. Several youth hunters had terrific hunts on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), harvesting a variety of ducks and geese. Several banded birds were reported harvested on WMAs, as well. The report below is a compilation of on-the-ground observations from biologists, managers, and private land managers.

Shallowly flooded wetland habitat availability has remained slightly above average for mid to late November due to rainfall and groundwater pumping. Many landowners and managers have taken advantage of rainfall, and are catching natural runoff to supplement wetlands. The current availability of wetland habitat will be key for the start of duck season, since dry weather seems to dominate the long-range forecast. Despite warming temperatures, many WMAs and private properties across the state are still holding medium to high numbers of ducks and geese heading into the regular duck season opener on November 27. The November aerial waterfowl survey revealed unusually high abundances of mallards and other dabbling ducks for this time of year. Mallards were most abundant on large complexes of flooded agriculture and managed moist-soil habitats. Migrant geese continue to enter the Mississippi Delta, and numbers are increasing daily. As always, availability of water and weather conditions will greatly influence early season waterfowl harvest on both private and public lands.

Goose seasons are currently open statewide, and WMA waterfowl draw hunts are open for applications. The Waterfowl Program website (www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl) 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%	Medium-High
Howard Miller	100%	Medium-High
Indianola	50%	Medium
Mahannah	100%	Medium
Malmaison**	100%	Medium
Muscadine Farms	80%	Medium-High
O'Keefe	100%	Medium
Twin Oaks	100%	Medium
Trim Cane	100%	Low
Tuscumbia	50%	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.