



### **November 30, 2021 Weekly Waterfowl Report**

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

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The following report is a compilation of public and private land reports and habitat assessments during the week ending November 28, 2021.

Jackson, MS – The first segment of Mississippi's duck hunting season occurred over the weekend, and harvest reports from public and private lands with managed water were very good, overall. In contrast to the last several seasons' opening weekends, Mississippi experienced relatively cool and dry weather to get the season started. Wetland habitat availability is well below the normal levels for this time of year across much of Mississippi, and these conditions likely concentrated ducks into areas with quality managed wetland habitat. Water levels in the Mississippi River are also below normal levels for this time of year. Waterfowl numbers in the Mississippi Delta region are not likely to see a significant increase this week as temperatures rise over the next few days.

Many state Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and intensively managed private lands across the Mississippi Delta reported good hunting success for the opening weekend. Green-winged teal, blue-winged teal, northern shovelers, and gadwall made up a significant portion of waterfowl harvest reports. Snow, blue, Ross's, and white-fronted geese continue to enter the state in slowly increasing numbers, using complexes of large agricultural fields. As always, availability of quality wetland habitat and weather conditions will greatly influence waterfowl harvest on both private and public lands.

Hunters are reminded that Mississippi's waterfowl seasons are currently closed, but the light goose conservation order is open. The remaining dates for the regular waterfowl seasons in Mississippi are December 3 – 5 and December 9 – January 31. The November aerial waterfowl survey has been completed, and duck abundance estimates were near their long-term averages for this time of year, overall. The December survey is currently planned for the week of December 13. As soon as surveys are completed, the results and distribution maps are posted on MDWFP's website. For more information regarding waterfowl in Mississippi, visit our website at [www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl](http://www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl) or call us at (601) 432-2199. The Waterfowl Program website lists links to hunting regulations, migration reports, and habitat information for specific WMAs and other public lands throughout the state.

**Table 1:** Waterfowl harvest and WMA visits reported over the past week for selected Wildlife Management Areas. Note: this data does not necessarily represent the total number of hunters and harvest for each WMA. Hunters are reminded of the requirement to check in prior to hunting and to check out upon leaving the WMA.

<b>WMA</b>	<b>WMA Visits</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	<b>Avg. Harvest/Day</b>
Bienville	8	6	0.75
Black Prairie	5	0	0.00
Canal Section	187	166	0.89
Caney Creek	11	11	1.00
Charlie Capps	15	54	3.60
Chickasaw	6	1	0.17
Choctaw	2	2	1.00
Copiah County	6	12	2.00
Divide Section	26	46	1.77
Howard Miller	50	135	2.70
John Bell Williams	10	6	0.60
John W. Starr	7	2	0.29
Lake George	39	23	0.59
Mahannah	80	213	2.66
Malmaison	120	162	1.35
Muscadine Farms	51	254	4.98
Nanah Waiya	42	48	1.14
Okatibbee	53	41	0.77
O'Keefe	69	70	1.01
Old River	27	24	0.89
Pascagoula	201	174	0.87
Pearl River	28	30	1.07
Phil Bryant	1	0	0.00
Shipland	29	32	1.10
Sky Lake	22	35	1.59
Sunflower	205	277	1.35
Tallahala	12	52	4.33
Trim Cane*	*	*	*
Tuscumbia*	9	4	0.44
Twin Oaks	9	13	1.44
Upper Sardis	26	25	0.96
Ward Bayou	49	38	0.78
William "Billy" C. Deviney	30	123	4.10
Yockanookany	3	0	0.00

\*Trim Cane and Tuscumbia Unit 2 have not yet been hunted for waterfowl. These areas have a delayed start each year to ensure sufficient water levels before hunting.

## **Sunflower WMA Flooding for 2021-22 Waterfowl Season**

Water control structures in the Long Bayou and Dowling Bayou green-tree reservoirs (GTRs) will be closed to capture water for the 2021-22 hunting season on Sunflower WMA. Hunters are reminded that there are approximately 5,200 acres of low-lying sloughs, lakes, and other wetlands scattered across Sunflower WMA. Most of these areas have water control structures in them and will be the first areas to flood on the WMA. These natural, low-lying areas often provide better habitat and hunting opportunities than the GTRs. Other GTRs may also eventually flood from winter rainfall and backwater. A map of Sunflower WMA wetland areas can be found here:

**<http://www.mdwfp.com/media/256111/sunflower-wma-gtrs-and-slough-areas.pdf>**