



January 25, 2022 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 January 23, 2022.

Jackson, MS – While last week began on a warming trend, daily temperatures consistently decreased beginning mid-week and continued to fall through the weekend. Wetland habitat increased in some areas over the week with a couple of rain events, but most of the state is still below normal levels for this time of year. The Mississippi River level has fallen several feet over the past few days, likely receding out of many areas where duck hunters were previously finding success. River systems in the interior Delta have fluctuated throughout the season but remain within their banks. This week's weather outlook for Mississippi predicts a mostly clear and cool finish to the regular waterfowl hunting season. One last push of winter weather sweeping across the Midwest this week could produce the right conditions for the late season southern migration that many hunters are anticipating.

Hunting reports rebounded some last week as temperatures remained low for several days. However, icy conditions over much of the shallow water habitats may have impacted success for some hunters. Snow, blue, Ross's, and white-fronted geese remain very high in number in the Mississippi Delta, and hunters continue to report success in harvesting geese. As always, availability of quality wetland habitat and weather conditions will greatly influence waterfowl harvest on both private and public lands.

Mississippi's regular duck and goose hunting seasons will end on Monday, January 31st. Hunters are reminded that a youth, veteran, and active military waterfowl hunting weekend will follow the regular season on February 5th and 6th. The late January waterfowl aerial survey has recently been completed, and survey results and distribution maps will soon be posted on MDWFP's website and social media platforms. For more information regarding waterfowl in Mississippi, visit our website at www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl or call us at (601) 432-2199. The Waterfowl Program web page 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.

WMA	WMA Visits	Harvest	Avg. Harvest/Day
Bienville	9	7	0.78
Black Prairie	10	8	0.80
Canal Section	91	71	0.78
Charlie Capps	21	29	1.38
Copiah County	6	10	1.67
Divide Section	14	5	0.36
Howard Miller	87	115	1.32
Lake George	27	7	0.26
Mahannah	140	154	1.10
Malmaison	110	155	1.41
Muscadine Farms	57	91	1.60
Nanah Waiya	9	13	1.44
Okatibbee	24	17	0.71
O'Keefe	59	21	0.36
Old River	74	15	0.20
Pascagoula River	128	55	0.43
Pearl River	42	39	0.93
Phil Bryant	34	35	1.03
Sandy Creek	2	1	0.50
Shipland	38	27	0.71
Sky Lake	23	48	2.09
Stoneville	5	4	0.80
Sunflower	190	241	1.27
Tallahala	13	13	1.00
Trim Cane	5	1	0.20
Tuscumbia	10	10	1.00
Twin Oaks	24	10	0.42
Upper Sardis	16	3	0.19
Ward Bayou	66	18	0.27
William C. Billy Deviney	29	8	0.28

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>