



December 5, 2023 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 December 5, 2023.

Jackson, MS – The second weekend segment of the 2023-24 duck season was met with relatively warm and rainy weather conditions. Some areas across the Delta received close to 1 inch of rain. Many wetland impoundments that are rainfall dependent were able to collect some much-needed runoff, but much more is needed. The consistent warm temperatures likely had little effect on pushing waterfowl further south. The long-range forecast shows more of the same for the coming weeks, with the highs being in the mid-50s and the lows in the upper-30s. However,

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) across the Mississippi Delta are still holding good numbers of ducks. The harvest reports from the past two weekends were relatively high considering the overall current weather patterns. Some areas are having great success with hunters averaging over 4 birds/hunter/day. Some private land managers reported an increase in harvest from the previous week. Harvest consisted primarily of Northern shovelers, wood ducks, gadwall, and teal. An increase in snow and greater white-fronted geese increased significantly across the state over the past week. Aquaculture ponds are beginning to hold higher numbers of northern shovelers and a variety of diving ducks.

The final segment of the regular waterfowl hunting season starts back on December 9th and will continue through January 31st. Our December aerial waterfowl survey is scheduled for the week of December 11-15th. As soon as the survey is completed, the results and distribution maps will be posted on MDWFP's website and released through social media. 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 Wildlife Management Areas where harvest of at least one bird was reported. 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	11	23	2.09
Black Prairie	13	21	1.62
Canal Section	124	56	0.45
Caney Creek	7	2	0.29
Charlie Capps	9	4	0.44
Chickasaw	8	12	1.50
Divide Section	22	92	4.18
Howard Miller	42	194	4.62
Lake George	11	10	0.91
Mahannah	80	269	3.36
Malmaison	46	54	1.17
Muscadine Farms	34	126	3.71
Nanih Waiya	20	57	2.85
Okatibbee	49	34	0.69
O'Keefe	68	115	1.69
Old River	43	20	0.47
Pascagoula River	148	157	1.06
Pearl River	48	47	0.98
Shipland	6	0	0.00
Sky Lake	14	25	1.79
Sunflower	93	88	0.95
Tuscumbia	16	14	0.88
Twin Oaks	16	4	0.25
Upper Sardis	8	3	0.38
Ward Bayou	37	38	1.03
William C. Billy Deviney	23	96	4.17
Yockanookany	1	1	1.00