



### **December 3, 2024 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 1, 2024.

Jackson, MS – The 2024-25 Mississippi duck season is underway. The first segment of the season occurred over the Thanksgiving holiday and weekend, and recent cold weather from the north appears to have had a positive effect on waterfowl numbers in the state and early hunting success. Waterfowl are relying heavily on managed public lands as well as private lands that have water pumping capabilities for flooding managed food sources. Timely rainfall during the month of November has helped much of the state to provide shallow water habitat in areas that had no water at this time last year. A cold start to this week is predicted to continue with overnight lows falling below freezing until a brief warmup arrives this weekend with increased chances of rain. The long-term weather outlook currently looks favorable for continued southward migrations of ducks from northern and mid-latitudes.

Mississippi's waterfowl harvest reports from public lands were better this year than the past few years for the November segment. Some state-owned Wildlife Management Areas reported very high success for the "Duck Opener". Continued success into early and mid-December will depend on sustained winter weather patterns bringing new birds from the north. The majority of the species reported harvested consisted of gadwall, green-winged teal, wood ducks, and northern shovelers. After a somewhat delayed arrival into the Mississippi Delta, snow geese and greater white-fronted geese have been observed in high numbers this week.

Hunters are reminded that Mississippi's waterfowl seasons are currently closed, but the light goose conservation order is open. Mississippi's regular duck and goose hunting season will resume Saturday, December 7 and will continue through January 31. The December aerial waterfowl survey is planned for next week, and survey results will 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](http://www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl) or

call us at (601) 432-2199. The Waterfowl Program web page lists links to hunting and habitat information for WMAs and other public lands throughout the state.

**Table 1:** Duck harvest and WMA visits reported over the past week for WMAs 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.

<b>WMA</b>	<b>WMA Visits</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	<b>Avg. Harvest/Day</b>
Bienville	22	19	0.86
Black Prairie	14	5	0.36
Canal Section	202	139	0.69
Caney Creek	15	5	0.33
Charlie Capps	12	39	3.25
Chickasaw	12	5	0.42
Divide Section	63	24	0.38
Howard Miller	103	295	2.86
John Bell Williams	10	6	0.60
John W. Starr	2	1	0.50
Lake George	36	30	0.83
Leaf River	2	2	1.00
Mahannah	105	330	3.14
Malmaison	127	182	1.43
Marion County	3	1	0.33
Muscadine Farms	89	257	2.89
Nanah Waiya	72	12	0.17
Okatibbee	68	64	0.94
O'Keefe	117	121	1.03
Old River	68	16	0.24
Pascagoula River	357	239	0.67
Pearl River	57	28	0.49
Phil Bryant	3	6	2.00
Red Creek	6	6	1.00
Shipland	28	38	1.36
Sky Lake	52	93	1.79
Sunflower	200	216	1.08
Tallahala	8	2	0.25
Tuscumbia	21	8	0.38
Twin Oaks	20	66	3.30
Upper Sardis	29	36	1.24
Ward Bayou	122	16	0.13
William C. (Billy) Deviney	87	330	3.79
<b>Totals for the Week</b>	<b>2132</b>	<b>2637</b>	<b>1.24</b>