



December 10, 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 8, 2024.

Jackson, MS – The second segment of the 2024-25 Mississippi duck season started over the past weekend and will stay in until January 31, 2025. Last week the temperatures remained relatively cold, with the highs in the mid 50s and lows dipping below freezing for a few days. Some areas began to see an increase in waterfowl use but overall numbers are still relatively low. Shallowly flooded wetland habitat availability is still limited and is likely one of the driving factors for the overall duck abundance in the state. A large portion of the state received some rain over the weekend, which should provide for a slight increase in habitat but wetland availability remains low for this time of year. Significant amounts of rainfall will be required to fill many of the state's low-lying areas. Many rivers are still well below flood stage and are projected to remain low for the coming weeks.

Reports from northern and mid-latitude states show that large numbers of gadwall, wood ducks, and teal are showing up as well as an increase in snow and white-fronted geese. As winter weather continues to blanket food resources in those states, waterfowl should continue to migrate further south. Some Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) across the Delta are still holding ducks and having some hunting success. The harvest numbers for this week only reflect the Saturday hunt day and not an entire week of harvest due to the split in the season. Several WMAs are still slowly increasing in flooded habitat. Hunters are encouraged to keep an eye out for newly flooded wetland habitat after rain events like the one predicted for this week.

The December aerial waterfowl survey is planned for this 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 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.

WMA	WMA Visits	Harvest	Avg. Harvest/Day
Bienville	7	5	0.71
Black Prairie	3	6	2.00
Canal Section	81	71	0.88
Charlie Capps	14	22	1.57
Divide Section	29	7	0.24
Howard Miller	42	69	1.64
John Bell Williams	7	9	1.29
Lake George	18	10	0.56
Mahannah	87	205	2.36
Malmaison	94	126	1.34
Muscadine Farms	52	112	2.15
Nanah Waiya	11	1	0.09
Okatibbee	39	31	0.79
O'Keefe	45	48	1.07
Old River	12	1	0.08
Pascagoula River	155	36	0.23
Pearl River	31	9	0.29
Phil Bryant	2	4	2.00
Red Creek	8	2	0.25
Shipland	17	8	0.47
Sky Lake	37	32	0.86
Sunflower	102	76	0.75
Tuscumbia	9	3	0.33
Twin Oaks	20	27	1.35
Upper Sardis	7	42	6.00
Ward Bayou	51	7	0.14
William C. (Billy) Deviney	25	53	2.12
Totals for the Week	1019	1022	1.00

Table 2: Season totals to date for duck harvest on WMAs during the 2024-25 season. Hunters are reminded of the requirement to check in prior to hunting and to check out upon leaving the WMA.

WMA	Season Total Harvest
Bienville	24
Black Prairie	11
Canal Section	210
Caney Creek	5
Charlie Capps	61
Chickasaw	5
Divide Section	31
Howard Miller	364
John Bell Williams	15
John W. Starr	1
Lake George	40
Leaf River	2
Mahannah	535
Malmaison	308
Marion County	1
Muscadine Farms	369
Nanah Waiya	13
Okatibbee	95
O'Keefe	169
Old River	17
Pascagoula River	275
Pearl River	37
Phil Bryant	10
Red Creek	8
Shipland	46
Sky Lake	125
Sunflower	292
Tallahala	2
Tuscumbia	11
Twin Oaks	93
Upper Sardis	80
Ward Bayou	23
William C. (Billy) Deviney	383