



### **December 31, 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 29, 2024.

As we reach the half-way point for Mississippi's regular waterfowl hunting seasons, hunters are hoping to see changing weather patterns and new birds as the new year gets started. Last week was dominated by warm temperatures, south winds, and even storms with tornadic activity across much of the state. Of course, these conditions did not provide much in the way of new birds migrating into the state, nor did they help with hunting conditions for birds that were already here. However, the forecast for this week includes more seasonal weather with north winds as we move into the new year. And several long-range forecasts are beginning to show extremely cold weather for next week resulting from a sustained push of Arctic air that could plunge into the Southeast.

Waterfowl harvest reports have remained relatively low on average for most public and private lands after a good first few weeks of the season. Biologists suspect many of the birds in Mississippi currently have settled into safe areas and/or behavior patterns and have become more difficult to hunt. Gadwall, northern shovelers, and green-winged teal continue to make up a large proportion of hunter harvest. Availability of quality wetland habitat and weather conditions will continue to influence waterfowl harvest as winter continues along. Currently, a weather-induced southern migration will be needed for hunting success to improve, but current long-term weather outlooks show some potential for this to occur.

The early January aerial waterfowl survey is scheduled to begin next week. Mississippi typically observes peak waterfowl numbers during January, and biologists are hopeful this trend will hold this year. As soon as the survey report is completed, it will be posted on [mdwfp.com](http://mdwfp.com) and on MDWFP social media accounts. 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 regulations and habitat information for specific 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	13	7	0.54
Canal Section	119	13	0.11
Caney Creek	6	5	0.83
Charlie Capps	15	13	0.87
Chickasaw	7	4	0.57
Divide Section	41	13	0.32
Howard Miller	59	25	0.42
Lake George	48	30	0.63
Mahannah	169	159	0.94
Malmaison	129	104	0.81
Muscadine Farms	75	43	0.57
Nanih Waiya	33	16	0.48
Okatibbee	45	17	0.38
O'Keefe	74	33	0.45
Old River	26	33	1.27
Pascagoula River	245	86	0.35
Pearl River	27	17	0.63
Phil Bryant	49	49	1.00
Shipland	18	20	1.11
Sky Lake	17	32	1.88
Sunflower	256	389	1.52
Tuscumbia	60	26	0.43
Twin Oaks	10	21	2.10
Upper Sardis	24	7	0.29
Ward Bayou	54	6	0.11
William C. (Billy) Deviney	48	48	1.00
Yockanookany	6	5	0.83
<b>Totals for the Week</b>	<b>1,673</b>	<b>1,221</b>	<b>0.73</b>

**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.

<b>WMA</b>	<b>Season Total Harvest</b>
Bienville	62
Black Prairie	22
Canal Section	288
Caney Creek	34
Charlie Capps	152
Chickasaw	13
Chickasaway	6
Divide Section	52
Howard Miller	481
John Bell Williams	20
John W. Starr	1
Lake George	116
Leaf River	2
Mahannah	1,182
Malmaison	584
Marion County	1
Muscadine Farms	681
Nanih Waiya	36
Okatibbee	158
O'Keefe	263
Old River	81
Pascagoula River	953
Pearl River	112
Phil Bryant	88
Red Creek	8
Shipland	75
Sky Lake	184
Sunflower	1,474
Tallahala	20
Tuscumbia	266
Twin Oaks	143
Upper Sardis	91
Ward Bayou	80
William C. (Billy) Deviney	711
Yockanookany	12