



January 7, 2025 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 5, 2025.

The new year has begun, and Mississippi waterfowl hunters are anxious to see how the last month of hunting seasons will turn out. Last week was once again dominated by mild temperatures which finally gave way to more seasonal weather by Thursday. A strong front pushed its way across the state over the weekend, beginning with warm, south winds and rain before shifting to below freezing temperatures late Sunday night (a near 40-degree drop in temperature). A winter storm brought some snow and extremely cold temperatures to mid-latitude states and the forecast for this week includes continued freezing temperatures with more northerly winds into the weekend. These factors, combined with the potential for more snow late this week reaching down into perhaps north Mississippi are expected to produce an increase in waterfowl numbers migrating into the state.

Waterfowl harvest reports increased last week from the previous one on many Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Gadwall, green-winged teal, and ring-necked ducks made up a large proportion of hunter harvest reports from public and private lands, but mallard harvest also apparently increased. Availability of quality wetland habitat and weather conditions will continue to influence waterfowl harvest as winter continues along. Biologists are optimistic that a weather-induced southern migration of waterfowl, particularly mallards, could materialize this week. Overnight lows will likely produce icy conditions on shallow wetlands throughout the week, creating challenging hunting conditions. Hunters are encouraged to scout various areas and wetland types as birds may shift to using deep or flowing water until food-rich, shallow wetlands are available again after thawing.

The early January aerial waterfowl survey is currently underway after experiencing weather delays. Mississippi typically observes peak waterfowl numbers during January, and biologists are expecting this year to be no different. As soon as the survey report is completed, it will be posted on 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.

WMA	WMA Visits	Harvest	Avg. Harvest/Day
Bienville	12	3	0.25
Black Prairie	14	19	1.36
Canal Section	93	8	0.10
Caney Creek	13	6	0.46
Charlie Capps	41	75	1.83
Chickasaw	7	3	0.43
Copiah County	7	7	1.00
Divide Section	29	2	0.07
Howard Miller	86	70	0.81
John Bell Williams	9	1	0.11
Lake George	62	66	1.06
Leroy Percy	5	1	0.20
Mahannah	223	287	1.29
Malmaison	152	88	0.58
Muscadine Farms	84	121	1.44
Nanih Waiya	26	3	0.12
Okatibbee	72	23	0.32
O'Keefe	61	37	0.61
Old River	41	7	0.17
Pascagoula River	213	51	0.24
Pearl River	33	24	0.73
Phil Bryant	57	76	1.13
Shipland	31	17	0.55
Sky Lake	40	36	0.90
Sunflower	299	504	1.69
Tallahala	15	5	0.33
Tuscumbia	51	43	0.84
Twin Oaks	27	26	0.96
Upper Sardis	32	13	0.41
Ward Bayou	69	10	0.14
William C. (Billy) Deviney	81	124	1.53
Totals for the Week	1985	1756	0.88

Note: Trim Cane WMA does not currently have sufficient water levels for waterfowl hunting.

Table 2: Season totals to date for duck harvest on WMAs during the 2024-25 season.

WMA	Season Total Harvest
Bienville	65
Black Prairie	38
Canal Section	296
Caney Creek	40
Charlie Capps	227
Chickasaw	12
Chickasaway	10
Copiah County	7
Divide Section	54
Howard Miller	563
John Bell Williams	21
John W. Starr	1
Lake George	182
Leaf River	4
Mahannah	1,469
Malmaison	678
Marion County	1
Mason Creek	1
Muscadine Farms	852
Nanah Waiya	39
Okatibbee	181
O'Keefe	300
Old River	89
Pascagoula River	705
Pearl River	136
Phil Bryant	164
Red Creek	8
Sandy Creek	3
Shipland	92
Sky Lake	224
Stoneville	1
Sunflower	2,009
Tallahala	27
Tuscumbia	309
Twin Oaks	171
Upper Sardis	104
Ward Bayou	90
William C. (Billy) Deviney	858
Yockanookany	12