



January 14, 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 12, 2025.

Last week saw a return to more seasonable winter weather conditions for most of the state, as a winter storm produced below freezing temperatures and snow to the immediate north. Consistent overnight lows produced thin ice over many shallow, managed wetlands, which appeared to shift some ducks to using deeper wetlands at times. Temperatures this week have begun to moderate slightly, however, this warmup is predicted to be brief as the coldest front of the season is forecast for this weekend and into next week. Wintry precipitation could result from this system, which depending on where and how much of it falls, could continue to impact southern migrations of waterfowl. The Mississippi River, as well as several interior Delta river systems, have experienced moderate rises in water levels since mid-December.

Waterfowl harvest reports remained stable from last week overall on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Gadwall, green-winged teal, and ring-necked ducks again made up a large proportion of hunter harvest reports from public and private lands. However, recent reports of increased numbers of northern pintails have also been received. Biologists remain optimistic that another weather-induced southern migration of waterfowl, particularly mallards, could occur with incoming weather this weekend and next week. Overnight lows should produce more ice on shallow wetlands than last 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. When extremely cold temperatures freeze a large portion of available shallow wetlands for several days, often the best hunting success can be found during and immediately following the thawing period.

The early January aerial waterfowl survey was recently completed after experiencing weather delays. The full report from this survey will be available soon on mdwfp.com and on MDWFP social media accounts. The final survey of the season is scheduled for next week. 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	13	2	0.15
Black Prairie	5	1	0.20
Canal Section	94	44	0.47
Charlie Capps	21	42	2.00
Chickasaw	6	1	0.17
Divide Section	7	9	1.29
Howard Miller	69	95	1.38
John Bell Williams	6	14	2.33
Lake George	72	78	1.08
Leaf River	1	3	3.00
Mahannah	254	310	1.22
Malmaison	118	38	0.34
Muscadine Farms	103	150	1.46
Nanah Waiya	17	5	0.29
Okatibbee	45	16	0.36
O'Keefe	72	23	0.32
Old River	18	8	0.44
Pascagoula River	147	37	0.25
Pearl River	16	30	1.88
Phil Bryant	40	22	0.55
Shipland	29	8	0.28
Sky Lake	40	15	0.38
Stoneville	3	18	6.00
Sunflower	235	292	1.24
Tallahala	16	14	0.88
Tuscumbia	54	46	0.85
Twin Oaks	40	43	1.08
Upper Sardis	21	13	0.62
Ward Bayou	34	4	0.12
William C. (Billy) Deviney	65	80	1.23
Totals for the Week	1,661	1,461	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	67
Black Prairie	39
Canal Section	340
Caney Creek	40
Charlie Capps	269
Chickasaw	13
Chickasaway	10
Copiah County	7
Divide Section	63
Howard Miller	658
John Bell Williams	35
John W. Starr	1
Lake George	260
Leaf River	7
Mahannah	1,779
Malmaison	713
Muscadine Farms	1,180
Nanah Waiya	44
Okatibbee	197
O'Keefe	323
Old River	97
Pascagoula River	742
Pearl River	169
Phil Bryant	186
Red Creek	8
Sandy Creek	3
Shipland	100
Sky Lake	239
Stoneville	21
Sunflower	2,450
Tallahala	41
Tuscumbia	355
Twin Oaks	214
Upper Sardis	117
Ward Bayou	94
William C. (Billy) Deviney	938
Yockanookany	12