



January 28, 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 26, 2025.

After a brief warm-up, winter returned to Mississippi last week with several overnight lows (and even some highs) dipping well below the freezing mark. This event was colder and longer in duration than the previous cold snap, causing widespread coverage of ice on shallow wetlands as well as many small and medium sized ponds, brakes, and sloughs. As a result, waterfowl became highly concentrated on a relatively small number of wetlands with open water across the Mississippi Delta. Ducks were observed using rivers, deep lakes, and reservoirs as they waited for better foraging areas to thaw and become available again.

Waterfowl harvest on many public and private lands increased early last week because of favorable weather conditions for continued southern migration, although ice quickly became a challenge for birds and hunters to access open water. Temperatures began to warm over the weekend, and harvest reports have again increased as these areas have thawed. Mississippi's regular waterfowl hunting season will continue through Friday, January 31. There will also be a Youth, Veterans, and Active Military waterfowl hunting weekend February 8 – 9. Additionally, the light goose conservation order will resume February 1 – 7 and February 10 – March 31.

The late January aerial waterfowl survey is completed and a report will be posted soon on mdwfp.com and on MDWFP social media accounts. 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 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 | 10 | 1 | 0.10 |
| Black Prairie | 7 | 2 | 0.29 |
| Calling Panther Lake WMA | 2 | 6 | 3.00 |
| Canal Section | 77 | 64 | 0.83 |
| Caney Creek | 5 | 5 | 1.00 |
| Charlie Capps | 14 | 24 | 1.71 |
| Chickasaw | 3 | 2 | 0.67 |
| Copiah Co. | 4 | 2 | 0.50 |
| Divide Section | 15 | 2 | 0.13 |
| Howard Miller | 41 | 69 | 1.68 |
| Lake George | 58 | 71 | 1.22 |
| Mahannah | 198 | 481 | 2.43 |
| Malmaison | 61 | 39 | 0.64 |
| Muscadine Farms | 60 | 101 | 1.68 |
| Nanah Waiya | 8 | 4 | 0.50 |
| Okatibbee | 33 | 27 | 0.82 |
| O'Keefe | 81 | 85 | 1.05 |
| Old River | 22 | 35 | 1.59 |
| Pascagoula River | 220 | 68 | 0.31 |
| Pearl River | 30 | 16 | 0.53 |
| Phil Bryant | 41 | 34 | 0.83 |
| Shipland | 26 | 18 | 0.69 |
| Sky Lake | 27 | 36 | 1.33 |
| Sunflower | 215 | 390 | 1.81 |
| Tallahala | 2 | 1 | 0.50 |
| Tuscumbia | 41 | 40 | 0.98 |
| Twin Oaks | 32 | 64 | 2.00 |
| Upper Sardis | 18 | 6 | 0.33 |
| Ward Bayou | 66 | 3 | 0.05 |
| William C. (Billy) Deviney | 42 | 113 | 2.69 |
| Totals for the Week | 1,457 | 1,803 | 1.24 |

Table 2: 2024-25 season totals to date for waterfowl harvest on WMAs.

| WMA | Season Total Harvest |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bienville | 68 |
| Black Prairie | 41 |
| Canal Section | 415 |
| Caney Creek | 52 |
| Charlie Capps | 321 |
| Chickasaw | 18 |
| Chickasaway | 10 |
| Copiah County | 9 |
| Divide Section | 73 |
| Howard Miller | 781 |
| John Bell Williams | 35 |
| John W. Starr | 1 |
| Lake George | 378 |
| Leaf River | 7 |
| Mahannah | 2,352 |
| Malmaison | 780 |
| Muscadine Farms | 1,172 |
| Nanah Waiya | 48 |
| Okatibbee | 236 |
| O'Keefe | 453 |
| Old River | 133 |
| Pascagoula River | 891 |
| Pearl River | 221 |
| Phil Bryant | 263 |
| Red Creek | 8 |
| Sandy Creek | 3 |
| Shipland | 118 |
| Sky Lake | 280 |
| Stoneville | 21 |
| Sunflower | 3,060 |
| Tallahala | 44 |
| Tuscumbia | 431 |
| Twin Oaks | 299 |
| Upper Sardis | 133 |
| Ward Bayou | 104 |
| William C. (Billy) Deviney | 1,184 |
| Yockanookany | 12 |