



November 28, 2023 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 November 26, 2023.

Jackson, MS – The 2023-24 Mississippi duck season is underway. The first segment of the season occurred over this past weekend, but many areas across the state are without water and several natural sloughs and breaks that waterfowl rely on this time of year are also dry. It is not uncommon that the first segment of the season is dry; however, a large portion of the Delta will remain dry until a substantial rain event happens. Waterfowl are relying heavily on managed public lands as well as private lands that have water pumping capabilities for flooding managed food sources. Limited wetland habitat will likely have a negative impact on the overall harvest that occurs during the early season until more rain inundates more habitat. A cold start to this week is predicted to change into warm and potentially rainy weather by the weekend. However, recent winter weather across the Midwest and Great Lakes regions may cause waterfowl to migrate further south out of those areas and into southern states.

Mississippi's waterfowl harvest reports for public lands was similar to the past few years for the November segment. Some state-owned Wildlife Management Areas reported very good success for the "Duck Opener". These areas should expect to hold birds until new wetland habitats become available. The majority of the species harvested consisted of gadwall, wood ducks, northern shovelers, and green-winged teal. Very few geese are being reported in the state at this time but more greater white-fronted geese are showing up daily.

Hunters are reminded that Mississippi's waterfowl seasons are currently closed, but the light goose conservation order is open. The second segment of Mississippi's regular duck and goose hunting season will be Friday, December 1 through Sunday, December 3. The November aerial waterfowl survey has been recently completed and the survey results are currently available 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 regulations, duck migration forecasts, 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 Wildlife Management Areas 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	9	4	0.44
Black Prairie	10	29	2.90
Canal Section	180	184	1.02
Caney Creek	7	9	1.29
Charlie Capps	13	38	2.92
Chickasaw	7	8	1.14
Divide Section	52	51	0.98
Howard Miller	55	208	3.78
Lake George	20	35	1.75
Mahannah	102	301	2.95
Malmaison	68	57	0.84
Muscadine Farms	53	213	4.02
Nanah Waiya	61	42	0.69
Okatibbee	93	123	1.32
O'Keefe	68	36	0.53
Old River	40	31	0.78
Pascagoula River	232	184	0.79
Pearl River	59	58	0.98
Phil Bryant	2	1	0.50
Shipland	18	3	0.17
Sky Lake	38	83	2.18
Sunflower	158	205	1.30
Theodore Mars	2	6	3.00
Tuscumbia	24	28	1.17
Twin Oaks	20	17	0.85
Upper Sardis	13	19	1.46
Ward Bayou	82	31	0.38
William C. Billy Deviney	50	285	5.70
Yockanookany	7	3	0.43