



## **November 29, 2022 Weekly Waterfowl Report**

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

Houston Havens (662) 299-0273, email: [houston.havens@wfp.ms.gov](mailto:houston.havens@wfp.ms.gov)

Darrin Hardesty (662) 588-2596, email: [darrin.hardesty@wfp.ms.gov](mailto:darrin.hardesty@wfp.ms.gov)

The following report is a compilation of public and private land reports and habitat assessments during the week ending November 27, 2022.

Jackson, MS – The first of three season segments for Mississippi's waterfowl hunting season occurred over the weekend, and harvest reports from public and private lands with managed water were good, overall. Although last saw a warming trend, the week prior brought below-freezing temperatures, which likely helped to increase waterfowl numbers across the state. Wetland habitat availability is well below normal levels for this time of year across much of Mississippi, but rainfall this week may help to add some water to the landscape. Water levels in the Mississippi River are also well below normal levels for this time of year. These below-average water levels are likely causing congregations of waterfowl in some areas, resulting in good early season hunting. This week's weather outlook for Mississippi predicts mostly warmer temperatures with a few chances of rain.

Many state Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and intensively managed private lands across the Mississippi Delta reported high hunting success over the opening weekend. Green-winged teal, gadwall, and wood ducks made up a significant portion of waterfowl harvest reports. However, some areas reported successful hunts with mallards, pintails, and wigeons in the bag. Snow, blue, Ross's, and white-fronted geese have increased in number over the last week. As always, availability of quality wetland habitat and weather conditions will greatly influence waterfowl harvest on both private and public lands.

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 seasons will be Friday, December 2 through Sunday, December 4. The November aerial waterfowl survey has recently been completed, and survey results and distribution maps are available on MDWFP's website and social media platforms. The December survey is currently planned for the week of December 12. 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, migration reports, and habitat information for specific WMAs and other public lands throughout the state.

**Table 1:** Waterfowl 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.

<b>WMA</b>	<b>WMA Visits</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	<b>Avg. Harvest/Day</b>
Bienville	6	5	0.83
Black Prairie	7	10	1.43
Canal Section	132	155	1.17
Caney Creek	30	27	0.90
Caston Creek	1	3	3.00
Charlie Capps	12	36	3.00
Chickasawhay	4	6	1.50
Copiah County	6	2	0.33
Divide Section	33	25	0.76
Howard Miller	45	103	2.29
Lake George	18	17	0.94
Mahannah	78	300	3.85
Malmaison	69	80	1.16
Muscadine Farms	33	97	2.94
Nanah Waiya	47	100	2.13
Okatibbee	71	138	1.94
O'Keefe	87	301	3.46
Old River	36	13	0.36
Pascagoula River	94	83	0.88
Pearl River	29	27	0.93
Sandy Creek	3	5	1.67
Shipland	9	2	0.22
Sky Lake	14	35	2.50
Sunflower	140	144	1.03
Tallahala	9	12	1.33
Tuscumbia	9	11	1.22
Twin Oaks	11	15	1.36
Upper Sardis	20	4	0.20
Ward Bayou	37	30	0.81
William C. Billy Deviney	42	221	5.26
Yockanookany	3	3	1.00

## **Sunflower WMA Flooding for 2022-23 Waterfowl Season**

Water control structures in the Long Bayou and Dowling Bayou green-tree reservoirs (GTRs) will be closed to capture water for the 2022-23 hunting season on Sunflower WMA. Hunters are reminded that there are approximately 5,200 acres of low-lying sloughs, lakes, and other wetlands scattered across Sunflower WMA. Most of these areas have water control structures in them and will be the first areas to flood on the WMA. These natural, low-lying areas often provide better habitat and hunting opportunities than the GTRs. Other GTRs may also eventually flood from winter rainfall and backwater. A map of Sunflower WMA wetland areas can be found here:

**<http://www.mdwfp.com/media/256111/sunflower-wma-gtrs-and-slough-areas.pdf>**