



Weekly Waterfowl Report
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks
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December 23, 2014 Edition

The following report is a compilation of WMA reports and habitat assessments during the week ending December 21, 2014.

Jackson, MS – The report below is a compilation of on-the-ground observations from biologists, as well as public and private land managers. Relatively warm weather again dominated the past week, causing below average success in harvest reports from public and private lands. Recent weather has maintained low migration activity from the north, along with low levels of daily activity from waterfowl across Mississippi. The long-range forecast predicts more rainfall in the coming days and colder weather by the weekend. This potential weather change could generate more southward migration activity into the state, and could also increase waterfowl foraging activity. Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) across the Mississippi Delta are still holding ducks, as evidenced by the live video feed from the “WMA Duck Cam” (**click here** for live video), but numbers have declined somewhat. WMAs are still increasing flooded habitat in order to provide additional food resources later in winter, as Mississippi’s peak waterfowl numbers typically arrive in early to mid-January. Harvest reports are showing an increasing proportion of green-winged teal, gadwall and northern shovelers, and some hunters are still taking advantage of an abundance of white-fronted geese. Large flocks of migrant geese continue to be observed across the Delta region, primarily using rice and soybean fields. Deep water habitats such as production catfish ponds and oxbow lakes continue to hold northern shovelers and a variety of abundant diving ducks.

The fourth draw period for WMA waterfowl draw hunts is now open for applications. The December aerial waterfowl survey has been completed, and will soon be posted the MDWFP Waterfowl Program website (www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl). This site also lists links to regulations, hunter harvest, and habitat information for specific WMAs throughout the state, as well as other general waterfowl and wetland information as it becomes available.

Table 1: Water levels and general waterfowl abundance ratings for selected Wildlife Management Areas.

WMA	Water Levels*	Bird Abundance
Charlie Capps	100%	Low
Howard Miller	100%	Low-Medium
Indianola	75%	Low
Mahannah	100%	Low
Malmaison**	85%	Low
Muscadine Farms	80%	Low
O'Keefe	90%	Low
Twin Oaks	100%	Low
Trim Cane	100%	Low
Tuscumbia	100%	Low

*Indicates percentage of impoundments with water levels sufficient enough to hunt.

**Malmaison WMA green-tree reservoir is being managed at a lower water level than in past years.