



Weekly Waterfowl Report
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks
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December 2, 2014 Edition

The following report is a compilation of WMA reports and habitat assessments during the week ending November 30, 2014.

Jackson, MS – The report below is a compilation of on-the-ground observations from biologists, managers, and private land managers. Duck season opened with the Thanksgiving holiday, and great harvest reports were received from public and private lands in Mississippi for opening day. As the weekend moved on, temperatures began to increase, and overall hunting success declined. Warmer temperatures have likely affected waterfowl in two ways. Primarily, warmer weather may cause a reduction in daily waterfowl movements, as birds are not forced to feed heavily for energy production. Secondly, some waterfowl may have shifted back northward, which is typical with warming and cooling cycles. The long-range forecast predicts more warm weather for the remainder of the week, with cooler weather developing next week. Similar to last week, state Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) across the Mississippi Delta are still holding ducks. However, a lack of rainfall over most of the area has failed to provide additional wetland habitat. WMAs are pumping to maintain current water levels, while anticipating winter rains to flood remaining food resources as peak waterfowl numbers arrive. Mallards continue to make up a significant portion of waterfowl harvest reports, along with gadwall and green-winged teal. Large flocks of snow, blue, Ross's, and white-fronted geese continue to be observed, as well.

The third draw period for WMA waterfowl draw hunts are now open for applications. The December aerial waterfowl survey is scheduled to be flown the week of December 15. As soon as aerial waterfowl surveys are completed, the results and distribution maps will be posted on MDWFP's website. The MDWFP Waterfowl Program website (www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl) 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%	Medium
Howard Miller	100%	Medium-High
Indianola	50%	Medium
Mahannah	100%	Medium
Malmaison**	100%	Medium
Muscadine Farms	80%	Medium
O'Keefe	100%	Medium
Twin Oaks	100%	Low
Trim Cane	100%	Low
Tuscumbia	50%	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.