



Weekly Waterfowl Report
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks
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The following report is a compilation of WMA reports and habitat assessments during the week ending December 6, 2015.

Jackson, MS – The second weekend segment of the duck season was met with relatively cool weather, which apparently positively impacted waterfowl activity and hunter harvest across the state. However, recent weather overall likely had little effect on migration activity from the north. The long-range forecast predicts unseasonably warm temperatures for the remainder of this week, with highs reaching into the mid to upper 70s. Under these conditions, biologists expect duck activity levels to be relatively low during daylight hours since birds will not be forced to feed heavily to maintain energy levels.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) across the Mississippi Delta are still holding ducks, and harvest from last weekend was relatively high when considering bird abundances and weather patterns for the state overall. Several WMAs are still slowly increasing flooded habitat in order to provide maximum food resources later in winter as peak waterfowl numbers are expected to arrive. Gadwall and green-winged teal continue to make up a significant portion of waterfowl harvest reports, along with northern shovelers and mallards. Migrant goose numbers are still relatively low across much of the Delta. Deep water habitats such as active catfish ponds continue to hold abundant northern shovelers and a variety of abundant diving ducks.

The final segment of the regular waterfowl season opens tomorrow, December 9th, and continues through January 31st. The third draw period for WMA waterfowl draw hunts is currently open for applications. Our December aerial waterfowl survey is scheduled to be flown next week. As soon as aerial waterfowl surveys are completed, the results and distribution maps will be posted on MDWFP's website and released through social media. The Waterfowl Program website (www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl) lists links to regulations and habitat information for specific WMAs and other public lands throughout the state, as well as other general waterfowl information as it becomes available.

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

WMA	Water Levels*	Bird Abundance
Charlie Capps	100%	Medium-High
Howard Miller	100%	High
Indianola	100%	Medium
Mahannah	100%	Low-Medium
Malmaison**	80%	Low-Medium
Muscadine Farms	80%	Low
O'Keefe	90%	Low-Medium
Sunflower	90%	Low
Twin Oaks	100%	Low
Trim Cane	50%	Low
Tuscumbia	60%	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.