



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 7, 2014.

Jackson, MS – The report below is a compilation of on-the-ground observations from biologists, as well as public and private land managers. The second week of the duck season was met with relatively warm weather, which likely impacted waterfowl activity and hunter harvest across the state. Recent weather also likely slowed migration activity from the north. The long-range forecast predicts low temperatures to reach below the freezing mark for the next few days, which will likely generate more southward migration activity into the state. Colder weather could change duck behavior as feeding activity and the need for structural shelter increases. 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). Rainfall received over the weekend has helped to replenish water levels in most wetlands, while adding available wetland habitat in some areas. Several WMAs are slowly increasing flooded habitat in order to provide additional food resources later in winter 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 migrant geese continue to be observed, as well. Deep water habitats such as active catfish ponds continue to attract abundant northern shovanders and a variety of abundant diving ducks.

The third draw period for WMA waterfowl draw hunts is 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
Indianola	70%	Medium
Mahannah	100%	Low
Malmaison**	100%	Medium
Muscadine Farms	80%	Low
O'Keefe	100%	Medium
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.