



December 2, 2025 Weekly Waterfowl Report

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

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The following report is a compilation of public and private land reports and habitat assessments during the week ending November 30, 2024.

Jackson, MS – The 2025-26 Mississippi duck season is underway. The first segment of the season occurred over the Thanksgiving weekend, and early hunting success was reported by many waterfowl hunters across the state. As reported in the MDWFP aerial waterfowl survey report for mid-November, waterfowl were relying heavily on managed public lands as well as private lands that have water pumping capabilities for flooding managed food sources. This concentration effect is typical for the beginning of the hunting season in Mississippi and is one of the main factors influencing early hunting success each season, even if duck numbers are relatively low. Cold temperatures this week, combined with some Mississippi rain and recent snowfall at northern and mid-latitudes, are expected to increase duck numbers in the state as we head into the weekend. Several public land managers have reported increasing waterfowl numbers throughout the week. The long-term forecast shows a bit of a warmup for Mississippi next week, but freezing temperatures are expected to persist through much of the Midwest.

Mississippi's early waterfowl harvest reports have been good overall, with several properties reporting very high success for the "Duck Opener". Continued success into early and mid-December will depend on sustained winter weather patterns bringing new birds from the north and additional rainfall to increase flooded acreage for new birds to settle into for the winter. The majority of ducks harvested consisted of early migrants like gadwall, green-winged teal, wood ducks, and northern shovelers. After a somewhat delayed arrival into the Mississippi Delta (similar to last year), snow geese and greater white-fronted geese have been observed in high numbers this week.

Hunters are reminded that Mississippi's waterfowl seasons are currently closed, but the light goose conservation order is open (check specific area regulations for public lands). The regular duck and goose hunting seasons will resume Saturday, December 6 and

will continue through January 31. The December aerial waterfowl survey is planned for the week of December 15, and survey results will be posted on MDWFP's website and social media platforms. For more information regarding waterfowl in Mississippi, visit our website at www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl or call us at (601) 432-2199. The Waterfowl Program web page lists links to hunting and habitat information for Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and other public lands throughout the state.