



### **December 9, 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 December 7, 2025.

Jackson, MS – The main segment of the 2025-26 Mississippi duck season started over the past weekend and will stay in until January 31, 2025. Several Midwest states received some snowfall and below-freezing temperatures this past week and are expected to shift well below freezing by later this week. Many areas across Mississippi are seeing an increase in waterfowl use, but overall reported numbers are good. Most public and some private owned areas reported having a strong start to the season and with cool wet conditions in the future, waterfowl abundance are expected to continue to increase across most of the Delta. Historically, early season conditions (November and early December) in Mississippi tend to feature low overall duck numbers, as many birds have yet to migrate south. The total harvest and WMA visits are similar to last year's totals for this week (Table 1). Recent rain events, particularly in the north Delta, gave landowners the water they have been anticipating and increased the overall habitat availability for early migrating ducks. Many rivers are still well below flood stage and are projected to remain low for the coming weeks.

Most of the harvest for the past week have been early migrating ducks – gadwall, green-winged teal, wood ducks, and northern shovelers. Snow geese and greater white-fronted geese are starting to show up in large numbers as well. Some Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's) across the Delta are still holding ducks. Note that the harvest numbers for this week only reflect the Saturday hunt day for some areas and not an entire week of harvest due to the split in the season.

The December aerial waterfowl survey is planned for next week, 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](http://www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl) or call us at (601) 432-2199. The Waterfowl Program web page lists links to hunting and habitat information for WMAs and other public lands throughout the state.

**Table 1:** Duck harvest and WMA visits reported for this past week and compared to the same timeframe over the past 5 years. We are currently working to get the WMA user and harvest data for individual WMAs from the new license system. Once this issue is resolved, we will resume reporting weekly WMA waterfowl harvest numbers as we have in past years. Note: this data does not necessarily represent the total number of hunters and harvest for each WMA. Hunters are reminded of the requirement to check in prior to hunting and to check out upon leaving the WMA.

<b>Year</b>	<b>WMA Visits</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	<b>Avg. Harvest/Day</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>1080</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>0.97</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>1019</b>	<b>1024</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>1562</b>	<b>1.57</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>1187</b>	<b>1.30</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>1272</b>	<b>1.23</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>1183</b>	<b>1359</b>	<b>0.98</b>