



January 6, 2026, 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 January 4, 2026.

Jackson, MS – As we have entered into a new year, many waterfowl hunters are still hoping for “new birds” to arrive. Waterfowl migration is heavily tied to winter weather conditions and further southern migration of dabbling ducks, mallards in particular, will depend on large scale weather and habitat changes. However, some relatively high duck hunting success has been reported in areas with abundant managed wetlands. The majority of the state has remained much drier than average this fall and winter, which has impacted the ability of local landscapes to attract waterfowl, as well as their ability to “hold” birds under intense hunting pressure. Some areas have less wetland area than they had in December, while others are continuously pumping water to try to maintain available habitat.

Last week’s weather patterns were more consistent than the previous weeks. The daytime highs were generally in the 50s to low 60s, with lows in the 30s. Still, there is no significant winter weather event in the forecast. This week’s weather forecast will start the week with unseasonably warm and mostly dry conditions, with highs in the 60s to low 70s and mild overnight temperatures. Rain and possible thunderstorms are expected later this week as a weather system moves through. By the weekend, a cold front will usher in cooler, drier air, with highs returning to the 50s and lows approaching freezing.

Waterfowl harvest overall has slowed across many public and private lands over the past few weeks. Gadwall, northern shovelers, and green-winged teal continue to comprise a large portion of the harvest. Hunters are encouraged to take advantage of any newly flooded areas (if any) following forecasted rainfall later this week, as birds will likely move into new shallow water searching for freshly flooded food resources.

The early January aerial waterfowl survey is currently underway, and survey results will be posted on MDWFP's website and social media platforms soon. 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 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 all WMAs. Hunters are reminded of the requirement to check in prior to hunting and to check out upon leaving the WMA.

Year	WMA Visits	Harvest	Avg. Harvest/Day
2025	2335	1618	0.69
2024	1985	1756	0.88
2023	1601	1131	0.71
2022	1590	1824	1.15
2021	1218	1477	1.21
2020	1990	2089	1.05