



January 20, 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 18, 2026.

Jackson, MS – As the regular waterfowl season enters its final stretch, weather conditions have become increasingly favorable for waterfowl movement and hunting activity. Over the past week, North Mississippi experienced a shift toward more seasonable winter conditions, with overnight temperatures falling into the 20's. Several shallow flooded wetlands froze during the night but thawed as daytime temperatures increased, allowing ducks to continue using these areas once the ice thawed. In situations like this, birds often remain in familiar habitat until ice coverage expands and food availability declines, leading to an increase in movement in search of open water.

Looking ahead, a significant winter weather event is expected to impact most of North Mississippi late this week and through the weekend. Temperatures are forecast to fall well below freezing, with rain transitioning to freezing rain, sleet, or a wintry mix, particularly across northern portions of the state. Cold conditions are expected to persist even after the system exits. During prolonged freezes, ducks become more concentrated and visible as energy demands rise and available habitat declines. Birds may push farther south or congregate heavily in remaining ice-free areas, while ice and snow cover limit access to natural foods and shift use toward deep water areas or areas where large concentrations of birds have kept water moving.

Mallard numbers have increased across much of the Delta over the past week, while gadwall, green-winged teal, northern shovelers, and northern pintails comprised most of the harvest. Migrant goose numbers also remain strong throughout the Delta. Deep water habitats, including active catfish ponds and oxbow lakes, continue to support high concentrations of northern shovelers and a variety of diving ducks.

After a long series of weather delays, the early January aerial waterfowl survey is complete, and the 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 over the past week for WMAs where harvest of at least one bird was reported. Note: While the WMA visits and waterfowl harvest numbers below are lower than usual for weekly totals, the average harvest per WMA visit provides an index of waterfowl hunting effort and harvest for each listed WMA. Hunters are reminded of the requirement to check in prior to hunting and to check out upon leaving the WMA.

WMA	WMA Visits	Harvest	Avg. Harvest/Day
Bienville WMA	9	8	0.89
Black Prairie WMA	2	7	3.50
Canal Section WMA	59	30	0.51
Caney Creek WMA	6	2	0.33
Charlie Capps WMA	13	14	1.08
Chickasaw WMA	3	2	0.67
Chickasawhay WMA	3	1	0.33
Choctaw WMA	2	1	0.50
Divide Section WMA	20	2	0.10
Howard Miller WMA	106	120	1.13
John Bell Williams WMA	5	8	1.60
John W. Starr WMA	3	2	0.67
Lake George WMA	115	106	0.92
Mahannah WMA	199	228	1.15
Malmaison WMA	104	84	0.81
Mason Creek WMA	1	1	1.00
Muscadine Farms WMA	65	50	0.77
Nanah Waiya WMA	24	19	0.79
Okatibbee WMA	37	27	0.73
O'Keefe WMA	67	36	0.54
Old River WMA	24	13	0.54
Pascagoula River WMA	82	23	0.28
Pearl River WMA	16	10	0.63
Phil Bryant WMA	18	24	1.33
Red Creek WMA	3	1	0.33
Shipland WMA	30	22	0.73
Sky Lake WMA	24	23	0.96
Stoneville WMA	2	2	1.00
Sunflower WMA	185	223	1.21
Tallahala WMA	2	2	1.00

Trim Cane WMA	12	27	2.25
Tuscumbia WMA	10	19	1.90
Twin Oaks WMA	19	24	1.26
Upper Sardis WMA	6	1	0.17
Ward Bayou WMA	44	7	0.16
William C. (Billy) Deviney WMA	65	22	0.34
Yockanookany WMA	7	3	0.43
Total	1393	1194	0.86