

February 6 – February 10, 2017 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This will be the last report for the season. I hope everyone has enjoyed their time afield. Goose season will remain open until February 15th. The Conservation Order Snow Goose Season will not start in KY this year until Feb. 16th. Enjoy the last remaining days of your season, and as always... stay safe out there.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA			
Boatwright WMA			
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not Surveyed		
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Barren River Lake	Not Surveyed		
Doug Travis WMA	38,500 ducks	60% Mallard, 15% GW teal, 10% Pintail, & 100% ring-neck ducks, wigeon, gadwalls, wood ducks, pintails. At the time the count was made, no geese were seen. Both WF and Snow geese had rooted there though.	All units are at 100% flood capacity. River is out on the south end of the area.
Cave Run Lake			
Peabody WMA			
Sloughs WMA			
Yellowbank WMA	355 Ducks	65% Mallard, 15% Gadwall, 10% Black Duck, & 10% Misc. divers & dabblers.	All wetland units are at maximum water capacity.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)			
Herrington Lake			
Taylorsville Lake			

Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA			

January 30 – February 3, 2017 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

Duck season is over now, and while normally a lot of us are putting gear away and starting to count down the days until we can shoot at them again... this year we still have a couple more weeks to chase geese. Weather patterns have not really changed much, but that seems to be the theme for this year's season. We did have several reports of hunters finishing out duck season with some pretty good hunting, so I am hopeful the remaining days of goose season are productive as well. Don't forget the Western Zone Youth Waterfowl hunt is this weekend, Feb. 4-5, so get out and try to take a kid hunting. Goose season will remain open until February 15th. The Conservation Order Snow Goose Season will not start in KY this year until Feb. 16th. Enjoy the last remaining days of your season, and as always... stay safe out there.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	39,040 ducks 480 CA Geese 5,600 WF geese	85% Mallard, 7% Ring-necks, 4% Gadwall, and the remaining 4% is GW Teal, Wigeon, Shoveler, Goldeneye, Black Duck, & Pintail.	With rising water levels on the Ohio River, ducks are spreading out in backwater. Moist soil units are in great shape and holding lots of ducks.
Boatwright WMA	3,200 ducks 40 WF Geese 7 CA Geese	Survey was completed where possible. Waterfowl are spreading out into the woods and are very hard to count.	Boatwright is flooding as of right now.
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not Surveyed		
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Barren River Lake	Not Surveyed	90% Hooded Mergansers, 10% Mallard	Peters Creek MSU 90% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs all units 80- 100%
Doug Travis WMA	39,000 ducks 8,000 WF Geese 80,000 Snows	60% Mallard, 20% GW teal, 20% ring-neck ducks, wigeon, gadwalls, wood ducks, pintails. This count represents what was observed on the north end of area. The south end is not accessible to do a ground count due to flooding.	All units are at 100% flood capacity. River is out on the south end of the area.
Cave Run Lake			

Peabody WMA			
Sloughs WMA	8,775 Ducks 4,200 WF geese 194 CA Geese 2,000 Snows 44 Swans	75% Mallard, 25% Black duck, Green-wing teal, Shoveler, Pintail, Gadwall, Ring-neck.	The Ohio River began to fall rapidly starting Sunday. However, there are still pockets of floodwater throughout lower areas of the WMA within the Highland Creek and Grassy Pond/Powell's Lake unit. With the recession of the river, water levels within Pond Creek have fallen in the past week as well.
Yellowbank WMA	145 Ducks	80% Mallard, 10% Gadwall, 5% Black Duck, & 5% Misc. dabblers.	All wetland units are at maximum water capacity.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)			
Herrington Lake	30 Mallards, 10 GW Teal, & 50 CA Geese		One adult bald eagle on the lake.
Taylorsville Lake			
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA			

January 23-27, 2017
Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

We are still experiencing unseasonable weather across KY this week, and are getting low counts of waterfowl on our WMA's. From travelling the state on a daily basis, I do believe that there are a lot more birds in the state than this report will show. Wet conditions have all the wetland habitats and ponded areas full of water and ducks and geese are scattered throughout the state. Some areas along the rivers are starting to see some flooding, which will scatter birds as well. Hopefully the cold weather coming in will get birds stirring around to finish out the weekend. Don't forget that Sunday, January 29th is the last day of duck season. Goose season will remain open until February 15th. Enjoy the last remaining days of duck season, and as always... stay safe out there.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	39,040 ducks 480 CA Geese 5,600 WF geese	85% Mallard, 7% Ring-necks, 4% Gadwall, and the remaining 4% is GW Teal, Wigeon, Shoveler, Goldeneye, Black Duck, & Pintail.	With rising water levels on the Ohio River, ducks are spreading out in backwater. Moist soil units are in great shape and holding lots of ducks.
Boatwright WMA	3,200 ducks 40 WF Geese 7 CA Geese	Survey was completed where possible. Waterfowl are spreading out into the woods and are very hard to count.	Boatwright is flooding as of right now.
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not Surveyed		
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Barren River Lake	33 Ducks 74 CA Geese	90% Hooded Mergansers, 10% Mallard	Peters Creek MSU 90% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs all units 80- 100%
Doug Travis WMA	9,700 ducks 75 WF Geese 1 Swan	60% Mallard, 15% GW teal, 15% ring-neck ducks, 10% wigeon, gadwalls, wood ducks, pintails	All 3 wells are running and 85% of area is flooded.
Cave Run Lake			
Peabody WMA			
Sloughs WMA	10,850 Ducks 7,000 WF geese 965 CA Geese 1,200 Snows	95% Mallard, 5% Black duck, Shoveler, Pintail, Gadwall, Ring-neck.	Most of the birds were on natural sloughs, and were much more spread out than earlier this season. Weather

			forecasts for this weekend look favorable for waterfowl hunting. Temperatures are going to get to the mid-30s for highs and mid 20s for lows, which should make the birds move a little more than they have in the last week.
Yellowbank WMA	387 Ducks	80% Mallard, 10% Gadwall, 5% Black Duck, & 5% Misc. dabblers.	All wetland units are at maximum water capacity.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)			
Herrington Lake	2 Mallards 50 CA Geese		
Taylorsville Lake			
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA			

January 17-20, 2017
Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

We are still experiencing unseasonable weather across KY this week, and are getting low counts of waterfowl on our WMA's. From travelling the state on a daily basis, I do believe that there are a lot more birds in the state than this report will show. Wet conditions have all the wetland habitats and ponded areas full of water and ducks and geese are scattered throughout the state. Some areas along the rivers are starting to see some flooding, which will scatter birds as well. Hopefully the cold weather coming in will get birds stirring around to finish out the weekend. Don't forget that Sunday, January 29th is the last day of duck season. Goose season will remain open until February 15th. Enjoy the last remaining days of duck season, and as always... stay safe out there.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	39,040 ducks 480 CA Geese 5,600 WF geese	85% Mallard, 7% Ring-necks, 4% Gadwall, and the remaining 4% is GW Teal, Wigeon, Shoveler, Goldeneye, Black Duck, & Pintail.	With rising water levels on the Ohio River, ducks are spreading out in backwater. Moist soil units are in great shape and holding lots of ducks.
Boatwright WMA	3,200 ducks 40 WF Geese 7 CA Geese	Survey was completed where possible. Waterfowl are spreading out into the woods and are very hard to count.	Boatwright is flooding as of right now.
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not Surveyed		
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Barren River Lake			
Doug Travis WMA	5,300 ducks 15 WF Geese 1 Swan	85% Mallard, 10% mixed dabblers, & 5% Ring-necks	All 3 wells are running and 85% of area is flooded.
Cave Run Lake			
Peabody WMA			
Sloughs WMA	10,850 Ducks 7,000 WF geese 965 CA Geese 1,200 Snows	95% Mallard, 5% Black duck, Shoveler, Pintail, Gadwall, Ring-neck.	Most of the birds were on natural sloughs, and were much more spread out than earlier this season. Weather forecasts for this weekend look favorable for waterfowl hunting.

			Temperatures are going to get to the mid-30s for highs and mid 20s for lows, which should make the birds move a little more than they have in the last week.
Yellowbank WMA	387 Ducks	80% Mallard, 10% Gadwall, 5% Black Duck, & 5% Misc. dabblers.	All wetland units are at maximum water capacity.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)			
Herrington Lake	2 Mallards 50 CA Geese		
Taylorsville Lake			
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA			

KENTUCKY PERIODIC WATERFOWL INVENTORY

Conducted January 4-9 2017

The Mid-Winter Waterfowl survey has been delayed this year due to poor flight conditions last week. This year's surveys found similar conditions to last winter. The record high fall and early winter temperatures experienced throughout the Mississippi Flyway states this year seems to have delayed migration this season, and left high hopes for good waterfowl numbers during this survey. Unfortunately, the recent rain events we have experienced in KY left birds scattered across the landscape for all but one of the flights. Moist soil units, beaver impoundments and ponded depressions in crop fields provided excellent habitat for ducks and geese on the days the surveys were flown. Listed below is the survey data obtained during our Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey across the state. As always... stay safe and happy hunting!

Mid-Winter Survey Report for Western Kentucky - Purchase Region

Flown by: Pat Hahs on January 4, 2017

Site	Dabblers	Divers	Total Ducks	Canada geese	Snows/Blues	WF Geese	Coots	Eagles	Sandhill Crane
Bayou De Chien	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Obion Creek	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mississippi River	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mayfield Creek	190	0	190	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reelfoot NWR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ballard	22,300	150	22,450	120	140	2,200	0	0	0
Boatwright WMA	4,270	300	4,570	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio R. (Wickliffe-Paducah)	150	325	475	0	75	0	0	0	0
Ohio R. (Paducah-Golconda)	4,711	370	5,081	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barkley Lake (N of 68)	915	360	1,295	150	0	0	0	0	0
Barkley Lake (S of 68)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
duck Island	2,055	0	2,055	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kentucky Lake	98	370	468	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kaler Bottoms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birdsville Islands	3,888	0	3,888	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doug Travis WMA	195	25	220	0	0	0	0	0	0
Obion Creek (Travis Slough tract)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Obion Creek (L.E. Schaaf tract)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38,822	1,900	40,722	270	215	2,200	0	0	0

Notes from Pat... Waterfowl observations were generally normal for this time of year. We have experienced some very odd weather prior to the survey date. Temperatures were normal for the season on survey day, but we have experienced temperatures both 15-20 degrees above normal and 15-20 degrees below normal for extended periods this winter. Habitat conditions were pretty good, although we have had minimal major rain events leaving the big rivers and tributaries in moderate flow at most. No flood conditions were noted during the survey and the majority of water holes likely have been pumped. Species distribution is roughly consistent with early January other than an unusually high percentage of green-winged teal that be using duck island for several weeks. Some species such as goldeneye and canvasback normally associated with colder, mid-Winter weather were not observed in significant numbers.

Lower Ohio River & Western Coalfield

Flown by: Thomas Young on January 9, 2017

Site	Dabblers	Divers	Total Ducks	Canada geese	Snows/Blues	WF Geese	Coots	Eagles	Sandhill Crane
Ohio R. (Owensboro-Green River)	270	5	275	175	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio R. (Green River-Henderson)	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio R. (Henderson-Sloughs WMA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sloughs WMA	14,410	525	14,935	1,851	400	8,123	200	3	0
Ohio R. (GPPL & JHHC)	27	39	66	50	0	0	0	3	0
Ohio R. (Uniontown-Shawneetown)	25	0	25	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ohio R. (Shawneetown-Tradewater R.)	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio R. (Tradewater R.-E. end of Hurricane Isl.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio R. (Hurricane Isl.-Golconda)	70	25	95	24	0	0	0	4	0
Hovey Lake WMA (Indiana)	1,006	25	1,031	12	0	0	0	0	0
Pond River-White City WMA	483	0	483	0	0	0	200	4	0
Tradewater River	511	120	631	50	0	0	0	0	0
Peabody Coal Property	3,840	673	4,513	1,143	0	0	50	1	0
Totals	20,654	1,412	22,066	3,330	400	8,123	450	16	0

Rough River – Yellowbank WMA

Flown by: Thomas Young on January 5, 2016

Site	Dabblers	Divers	Total Ducks	Canada geese	Snows/Blues	WF Geese	Coots	Eagles	Sandhill Crane
Rough River	25	40	65	45	0	0	0	2	0
Yellowbank WMA	59	0	59	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio R. (Brandenburg - Owensboro)	469	0	469	36	0	0	0	2	0
Totals	553	40	593	81	0	0	0	4	0

Notes from Thomas... The Ohio River was at normal pool. Below freezing conditions were present over the region for several consecutive days before the survey. All shallow water impoundments were covered in ice except a couple holes kept open by waterfowl on Hovey Lake, Slough's Refuge and Peabody Refuge.

Mid-Winter Survey Report for Central and Eastern KY

Flown by: Josh Lilpop & Wes Little on January 4, 2017

Site	Dabblers	Divers	Total Ducks	Canada geese	Snows Blues	WF Geese	Coots	Eagles	Sandhill Crane
Herrington Lake	50	0	50	50	0	0	0	0	0
Cedar Creek Lake	760	0	760	0	0	0	0	3	0
Lake Cumberland	114	0	114	85	0	0	0	0	0
Dale Hollow Lake	1,493	101	1,594	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barren River Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	250
Green River Lake	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taylorsville Lake	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Central Ohio River	422	0	422	708	0	0	0	0	0
Blue Grass Army Depot	210	52	262	130	0	0	50	0	0
Licking River (Southern)	62	0	62	33	0	0	0	1	0
Cave Run Lake	0	6	6	35	0	0	0	2	0
Grayson Lake	36	0	36	33	0	0	0	0	0
Yatesville Lake	0	0	0	46	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio River- (Ashland to Scioto R.)	14	0	14	12	0	0	0	0	0
Scioto River	77	14	91	0	0	0	0	0	0

Site	Dabblers	Divers	Total Ducks	Canada geese	Snows Blues	WF Geese	Coots	Eagles	Sandhill Crane
Ohio River (Scioto R. to Licking R.)	733	32	765	1088	0	0	0	1	0
Licking River (Northern)	9	0	9	171	0	0	0	0	0
Campbell County Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kincade Lake	0	0	0	86	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	3,991	205	4,185	2,477	0	0	50	8	250

Notes from Terri... The Central survey was conducted with clear sunny skies and mild winds <10 mph, daytime temperatures ranged from 30 degrees at start to mid to lower 40's by mid-day. Standing water in low lying fields indicated recent rainfall however most reservoirs appeared to be lower than normal winter pool levels. Barren and Green River Lake, which typically have low winter pool depths, appeared to have more exposed mud flats and dried up coves or oxbows than normal. No frozen water was observed on any reservoirs and even small ponds and lakes which showed signs of low water levels appeared to be unfrozen at time of the survey. The Ohio River appeared to be slightly above normal level but remained within banks. In the central region the most abundant dabbling ducks were Black ducks (1520) followed by Mallards (1286) and Gadwall (32). Black ducks were only observed on Dale Hollow Lake and Cedar Creek Lake while Mallards were easily the most wide spread dabbling duck in the central region occurring throughout the region in varying group sizes. Diver numbers were low and only observed on Dale Hollow Lake, Canvasback (46) and Ring-neck (55). Canada Geese (843) observations were lower than expected with majority of observations coming from the Ohio River.

Notes from Wes.... The Eastern flight was conducted in mostly clear to partly cloudy skies, with 5-20 mph west winds, mostly in the 10-15 mph range. Temperatures were in the low to mid throughout the day. Temperatures have been mild this hunting season. The season's rainfall has been lower than average, but late rains have provided water across the landscape during the survey. No ice was noted during the survey. Most reservoirs were either at or lower than winter pool. Cave Run Lake had some water covering the shallow flats, but vegetation seemed a little sparse. The Ohio River was above normal levels, with high current from the recent rains, but was within the banks. The Northern Licking river was also above normal levels with high current. Most fields with low areas and oxbows around the rivers showed good moist soil habitat, and were full of water. With the lack of ice and abundant moist soil habitat throughout the state, waterfowl are scattered across the state, making this year's count seem low. The most abundant dabbling duck was Mallards (859). Black duck (194) was the second most abundant puddle duck followed by Gadwall (76) and Green-winged Teal (27), with no other dabbling ducks being observed in large numbers. There were no dabbling ducks present on Cave Run Lake, and fewer geese than normal. Very few divers were seen this year. Ring-necks were the most abundant diver (35) followed by Bufflehead (31), Goldeneye (13), Scaup (13), and Canvasback (12). There were 1,634 Canada geese counted total. I hope everyone had a great holiday season, and enjoy the remainder of your duck and goose season!

January 2-6, 2017
Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

Happy New Year! This week's report is coming in off the tail end of more unseasonably warm weather. Tuesday felt more like spring than winter, but the rest of the week is much more seasonal. Our Mid-Winter Waterfowl flights are flown this week, so be sure to check the website for that data when it becomes available. Overall, we may have lost some birds, but with the strong cold front moving in, that could change overnight. Good luck hunting this week, and as always... be safe.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	22,305 ducks 188 CA Geese 3,300 WF geese 3,000 Snows	97% Mallard, 2% Gadwall, 1% Ringnecks.	Moist soil units are looking great and there is lots of food available. Wells are still running where needed.
Boatwright WMA	6,200 ducks	99% Mallard, 1% Ringneck	Habitat conditions are looking good. We are still having issues with several wells, but are pumping water where possible.
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not Surveyed		
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Barren River Lake			
Doug Travis WMA	4,300 ducks	75% Mallards, 20% Ringnecks, and 5% mixed dabblers.	All 3 wells running and area is 70% flooded, and habitat is looking excellent.
Cave Run Lake	20 Ducks 30 CA Geese	50% Mallards and Black Ducks, 50% Bufflehead and Mergansers	
Peabody WMA	1,034 Ducks 355 CA Geese	85% Mallard, 10% Gadwall, and 5% mixed divers.	Moist soil units are at optimum capacity. Pond river is at flood stage providing timber hunting opportunities as well.
Sloughs WMA	15,622 Ducks 4,230 WF Geese 1,266 CA Geese 87 Swans	90% Mallard, 10% GW Teal, Pintail, & Black Duck.	Recent heavy rains and unseasonably warm temperatures have waterfowl scattered

			across the WMA. With the recent precipitation, the Pond Creek wetland complex is now roughly 80% flooded, and ducks are capitalizing on large areas of newly inundated natural vegetation.
Yellowbank WMA	945 Ducks 23 CA geese 1 Snow Goose	85% Mallard, 5% Black Duck, 5% Gadwall, & 5% Pintail/Wigeon/Shoveler	All wetland units are at maximum water capacity.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	29 Mallards, 19 Black Ducks, 30 Gadwall, 20 Ringnecks, 2 Mergansers and 22 Coots.		
Herrington Lake	220 CA geese and 4 Ruddy Ducks		
Taylorsville Lake			
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		

December 27-29, 2016
Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

(Survey data is not available for all locations. Updates will be posted when possible)

Due to the holidays, some areas do not have staff available to get survey data. Winter weather has given way to another warm front that brought some much needed rain.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	54,385 ducks 350 CA Geese 8,530 WF geese	93% Mallard, 7% Ringnecks, Gadwall, GW Teal, Wigeon, Wood Duck, Black Ducks, Shoveler & Scaup.	Heavy rains over the Christmas weekend and into Monday helped fill several spots that were dry or very shallow. Habitat conditions are great, plenty of Moist Soil food available, as we are getting water into new spots weekly.
Boatwright WMA	13,500 ducks	96% Mallard, 4% GW Teal	
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not Surveyed		
Duck Island	3,800 Ducks 180 CA Geese	60% Mallard, 30% GW Teal, 5% Gadwall & 5% Canvasback with small numbers of Pintail, Shoveler, Wigeon and Ringnecks.	Moist soil habitat is looking great.
Barren River Lake			
Doug Travis WMA	3,250 ducks	95% Mallards, 5% mixed dabblers.	All 3 wells running and area is 60% flooded. Still need more river to allow impoundments to hold.
Cave Run Lake	Not Surveyed		
Peabody WMA	1,104 Ducks 282 CA Geese	85% Mallard, 10% Gadwall, and 5% mixed divers.	Moist soil units are at optimum capacity. Pond river is at flood stage providing timber hunting opportunities as well.

Sloughs WMA	7,185 Ducks 3,500 WF Geese 250 Snows 500 CA Geese 50 Swans	95% Mallard, 5% Pintail, Black Duck, Gadwall and Shoveler.	Rains this week resulted in a substantial amount of runoff which allowed many of the natural sloughs that had been dry previously to have shallow water (3-12"). These new areas of water are a new food source and the birds have been using these areas. Most of the birds were observed in the newly flooded areas. With the warmer temps and melting ice, hunting has been very good. The warmer temperatures continuing into this week and beyond should have birds on the move a little more, and hunting opportunities may get better in the coming days.
Yellowbank WMA	885 Ducks	80% Mallard, 5% Black Duck, 5% Gadwall, & 5% Pintail/Wigeon/Shoveler	All wetland units are at maximum water capacity.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	29 Mallards, 19 Black Ducks, 30 Gadwall, 20 Ringnecks, 2 Mergansers and 22 Coots.		
Herrington Lake	12 bufflehead 12 CA Geese Several mergansers		
Taylorsville Lake			
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		

December 19 - 23, 2016 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

(Survey data is not available for all locations. Updates will be posted when possible)

Due to the holidays, some areas do not have staff available to get survey data. Winter weather swept the state this week and most areas experienced significant ice. Luckily, we also had a nice push of birds that came with the weather and so far, we have held most of them. As temps rise over the weekend, birds that have been holding tight to the only available open water should disperse and provide opportunity. Merry Christmas, and stay safe out there!

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	64,122 ducks 564 CA Geese 7,000 WF geese 2,000 Snows	94% Mallard, 2% Gadwall, 1% Wigeon & 1% Ring-neck	Monday and Tuesday temps stayed well below freezing, most everything is frozen solid except where birds are keeping water open. We are still pumping where we can.
Boatwright WMA	40,052 ducks	99% Mallard, 1% Hooded Merganser, Gadwall & Pintail	Pumping water where possible.
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not Surveyed		
Duck Island	Not Surveyed		
Barren River Lake			
Doug Travis WMA	3,250 ducks	95% Mallards, 5% mixed dabblers.	All 3 wells running and area is 60% flooded. Still need more river to allow impoundments to hold.
Cave Run Lake	Not Surveyed		
Peabody WMA	1,091 Ducks 121 CA Geese	80% Mallard, 15% Gadwall	Rainfall filled many of the moist soil units, but cold weather now has them frozen.
Sloughs WMA	23,700 Ducks 7,700 WF Geese 50 Snows 352 CA Geese 105 Swans	95% Mallard, 5% Pintail, Black Duck, Gadwall and Shoveler.	The birds have been staying on areas that they have been able to keep the water open. The rest of the week should have some

			warmer weather and the ice should start to melt. With the melting ice birds should start to move around looking for areas to feed.
Yellowbank WMA	Zero ducks or geese observed		MSU's are ice covered.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not suveyed		
Herrington Lake	200 Mallards 100 Shovelers 50 CA Geese 50 Coots.		
Taylorsville Lake			
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		

December 12 - 16, 2016 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

(Survey data not available for all locations. Updates will be posted when possible)

Here is a map showing the average temps nationwide from September to November. This freakish weather event has attributed to the low numbers we have experienced so far:

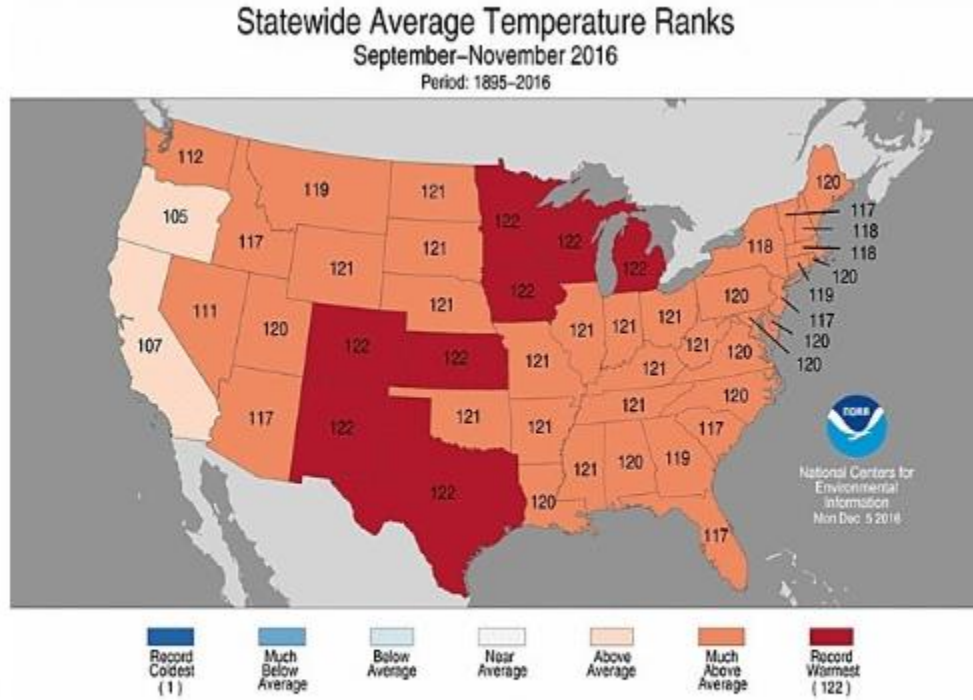


Figure 2. Statewide rankings for average temperature during September–November 2016, as compared to each September–November period since 1895. Darker shades of orange indicate higher rankings for warmth, with 1 denoting the coldest month on record and 122 the warmest.

We are still dry on several of our management areas, but with a little luck, the rain will continue to fall. The cold weather has finally brought in some birds and most counts have increased from last week. There are still plenty of ducks and geese being reported in states north of here, so hopefully they will be making their way south. Good luck to all and remember to be safe.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	60,672 ducks 120 CA Geese 5,020 WF geese	86% Mallard, 5% GW Teal, 4% Gadwall, 3% Ring-neck, the remaining mix are wood duck, Shoveler, Wigeon, & black duck.	Habitat is looking great and we are getting water into spots that have previously had none. Birds are grouped up in very large numbers. The River is predicted to drop out on Sunday

			evening, which will cause issues with getting water.
Boatwright WMA	2,000 ducks 16 CA geese		Pumping water where possible. Habitat conditions are great, but we are still lacking water in several spots.
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not Surveyed		
Duck Island	Not Surveyed		
Barren River Lake	90 Ducks 55 CA geese	90% Divers (45% ringnecks, 45% bufflehead, 10% redhead) 10% Dabblers (Mallards and Shoveler)	Peters Creek MSU 10% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs and units adjacent to CS are 60% full, other units 0%
Doug Travis WMA	3,250 ducks	95% Mallards, 5% mixed dabblers.	All 3 wells running and area is 60% flooded. Still need more river to allow impoundments to hold.
Cave Run Lake	Not Surveyed		
Peabody WMA	411 Ducks 31 CA Geese	85% Mallard, 15% Gadwall	Rainfall totals have been insufficient to fill moist soil units.
Sloughs WMA	22,000 Ducks 8,750 WF Geese 3,650 Snows 210 CA Geese 22 Swans	90% Mallard, 10% GW teal, pintail, & black ducks.	The area remains unseasonably dry with the majority of the Pond Creek wetland complex still without water. Except where the birds have kept it open, shallow water has been frozen for the past two days. Ducks are concentrated in moist soil impoundments and natural sloughs, where they are keeping large pockets of water ice-free. Snow geese have been roosting on the refuge; feeding on winter wheat and

			standing corn throughout the night. At dawn, large numbers of geese have been observed heading north across the Ohio River, likely loafing on warm-water ponds throughout the day.
Yellowbank WMA	380 Ducks	80% Mallards, 5% Gadwall & Black ducks, 5% Shoveler, 5% Wood Duck, & 5% various divers.	MSU's flooded by pumps are at 50% water capacity, and are ice covered. All other units have little water and need rain.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not suveyed		
Herrington Lake	No birds sited at survey locations.	Some mallards are in the area, but not seen on the survey locations. Raccoons were safe this week...	
Taylorsville Lake	No ducks or geese observed while conducting waterfowl survey		Pump is repaired and in place, but the river is still too low to pump from. Lake is a little below winter pool.
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		

December 5 - 9, 2016
Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

(Survey data not available for all locations. Updates will be posted when possible)

Winter conditions have finally arrived and waterfowl numbers are increasing daily on our WMA's. We are still dry on several of our management areas, but with a little luck, the rain will continue to fall. We are into our second segment of the waterfowl season, and there are still loads of ducks and geese being reported north of us. Get out and scout for areas with adequate water and keep an eye on the coming north winds! Good luck to all and remember to be safe.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	35,900 ducks 50 CA Geese 6,500 WF geese	86% Mallard, 5% Gadwall, 4% GW teal, 2% Ring-neck, the remaining 3% is mix bag of wood duck, shoveler, wigeon, black duck and merganser.	We are pumping with wells where we can, have a pto-driven pump set up and pumping water from unit to unit where possible. Ohio River is finally high enough to pump from.
Boatwright WMA	2,000 ducks 15 CA geese	99% Mallard, 1% Wood Duck	Pumping water where possible. Habitat conditions are great minus water.
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes			
Duck Island	5,500 ducks	85% Mallard, 10% GW Teal, 5% pintail, gadwall and ringnecks.	Seeing good waterfowl use of the island with ideal water conditions. Overall use is generally similar to last year at this time. The central impoundment will continue to be monitored and we may raise the level a few tenths of a foot within the next 7 days. The lake level rise may be enough to allow pumping of the south impoundment.

Barren River Lake	760 Ducks	75% Divers (50% Scaup, 25% Ringnecks, 25% bufflehead, redhead, canvasback and ruddys) 25% Dabblers (Mallards, gadwall, black ducks, wood ducks, and pintails. Listed in order of abundance)	Peters Creek MSU 10% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs and units adjacent to CS are 60% full, other units 0%
Doug Travis WMA	2,200 ducks	95% Mallards, 5% wood ducks & mixed dabblers.	All 3 wells running and area is 60% flooded and increasing slowly.
Cave Run Lake	No ducks sited at survey locations.		
Peabody WMA	186 Ducks 15 CA Geese	50% Mallard, 25% Gadwall and Wigeon, 25% mixed divers.	Rainfall totals have been insufficient to fill moist soil units.
Sloughs WMA	8,705 Ducks 7,250 WF Geese 9,250 Snows 97 CA Geese 63 Swans	75% Mallard, 25% gadwall, GW teal, pintail, Shoveler, and ringnecks.	Conditions remain relatively dry across the WMA. Around 90% of the Pond Creek wetland complex is still without water, with only small pockets now being inundated with recent rains. Similarly, around 25% of Muddy Slough also is dry.
Yellowbank WMA	365 Ducks	80% Mallards, 10% Wood Ducks, 5% Gadwall & 5% Black ducks.	MSU's flooded by pumps are at 50% water capacity. All other units are at 25% water capacity with rain events.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	152 ducks 28 CA geese	77 Mallards, 31 Gadwall, 14 Black Ducks and 30 ringnecks.	
Herrington Lake	No birds sited at survey locations.		
Taylorville Lake	No ducks or geese observed while conducting waterfowl survey on the lake via boat.	Pump is still down, water level in lake has risen some but still 8" below winter pool.	MSUs units have not been pumped yet and a significant rain event is needed to allow us to pump from the salt river.
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		

November 28 - December 2, 2016
Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

We are into our first split. Many good hunts were reported over the Thanksgiving season, but duck numbers are still lower than normal.

The lack of rain in last 2 months is making impacts to waterfowl habitat across the state. Scouting will be critical until rain gets here to replenish our states wet areas that we love to hunt so much.

The second segment of duck and goose season will open December 5th and the duck season will remain open until Sunday, January 29th. The second segment of the goose season will remain open until Wednesday, February 15, 2017. Good luck to all waterfowl hunters and remember to be safe whenever you are out pursuing the resource this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	36,422 ducks 45 CA Geese 4000 WF geese	85% Mallard, 5% GW Teal, 4% Gadwall, 2% Shoveler, 1% Ring-neck, the remaining 3% is mix bag of Wigeon, Wood Duck, Merganser and Black Duck.	We are pumping with wells where we can, have a pto-driven pump set up and pumping water from unit to unit where possible. Still not able to pump from the river. Where we do have water, waterfowl are using it. Birds are staging in moist soil units. Habitat looks great... just need some more water.
Boatwright WMA	4,535 ducks 250 CA geese	99% Mallard, 1% Wood Duck, Merganser and Black Duck.	Pumping water where possible. Habitat conditions are great minus water.
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Accurate counts not available	Staff observed good numbers of Ring Necks and Scaup, but a specific ground count was not conducted.	Overall, the lake level is up a bit. The forecast is for the lake to rise another foot (above 356.0) or so, which is well above the planned curve of 354.0-354.5. This rise may be enough to allow pumping of the south impoundment.

Duck Island	5,500 ducks	85% Mallard, 10% GW Teal, 5% pintail, gadwall and ringnecks.	Seeing good waterfowl use of the island with ideal water conditions. Overall use is generally similar to last year at this time. The central impoundment will continue to be monitored and we may raise the level a few tenths of a foot within the next 7 days. The lake level rise may be enough to allow pumping of the south impoundment.
Barren River Lake	Didn't see any waterfowl on the lake or MSUs		Peters Creek MSU 0% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs and units adjacent to CS are 60% full, other units 0%
Doug Travis WMA	1,550 ducks 25 CA geese	85% Mallards, 10% wood ducks & 5% mixed dabblers.	All 3 wells are running and the area is about 50% flooded.
Cave Run Lake	No ducks sited at survey locations.		
Peabody WMA	129 Ducks 25 CA Geese	60% Mallard, 40% Gadwall and Teal.	Rainfall totals have been insufficient to fill moist soil units.
Sloughs WMA	3,905 Ducks 8,000 WF Geese 2,500 Snows 24 Swans	80% Mallard, 20% gadwall, GW teal, pintail, Shoveler, and ringnecks. It is suspected that duck estimates are likely low, as assessing duck numbers within natural sloughs is very difficult.	Despite receiving nearly 2 inches of yesterday, the area remains very dry. he majority of the Pond Creek wetland complex remains dry, with only small pockets of standing water that have emerged with the recent rains.
Yellowbank WMA	245 Ducks	85% Mallards, 10% Wood Ducks, 5% Gadwall.	MSU's flooded by pumps are at 40% water capacity

Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	220 ducks	56 Mallards, 44 Gadwall, 31 Black Ducks, 9 teal. Divers are mostly ring necks.	
Herrington Lake	No birds sited at survey locations.		
Taylorsville Lake	No ducks or geese observed while conducting waterfowl survey on the lake via boat.	Pump is still down, water level in lake has risen some but still 8" below winter pool.	MSUs units have not been pumped yet and a significant rain event is needed to allow us to pump from the salt river.
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		

November 21-23, 2016
Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday and staff being on leave, some areas were not surveyed this week.

Duck numbers are still lower than normal, but we have picked up new birds since last week. The cold weather has finally started and the ducks are starting to trickle in.

Overall, most of the states wetlands are still in relatively good shape, considering the lack of rain in last 2 months

Kentucky's 2016-17 duck and goose seasons open Thursday, November 24. The first duck and goose season segment will close on Sunday, November 27th. The second segment of duck and season will open December 5th and the duck season will remain open until Sunday, January 29th. The second segment of the goose season will remain open until Wednesday, February 15, 2017. Good luck to all waterfowl hunters and remember to be safe whenever you are out pursuing the resource this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA			
Barren River Lake	Not surveyed		
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	3,000 ducks per lake at survey points. 25 CA geese on Barkley	50/50 mix of dabblers and Divers. Dabblers are 90% Gadwall and GW Teal. 10% Mallards and Shoveler. Divers are mostly Scaup and Bufflehead.	Water levels at winter pool. Most islands and mud flats are exposed. No aquatic vegetation seen.
Duck Island	3,800 ducks 75 Canada Geese	95% Mallards, GW Teal, Gadwall. 5% Wigeon, Pintail and Shoveler.	Current water levels on the island are ideal. We have a good source of water stockpiled in the north impoundment and will gravity flow into the central as needed. The central level will be brought up slowly to maximize availability of foraging resources for the waterfowl moving through. The lakes have been staying very

			near winter pool, resulting in large areas of exposed mudflats... especially on Lake Barkley.
Boatwright WMA			
Doug Travis WMA	250 ducks	70% Mallards, 30% wood ducks.	All wells are running, but river levels are dropping.
Cave Run Lake			
Clear Creek WMA	Not surveyed		
Peabody WMA	135 Ducks 242 Canada Geese	65% Gadwall, 25% Mallard, 10% Teal.	Due to lack of rainfall, most moist soil units are dry.
Sloughs WMA	7000 Ducks 6000 WF Geese 350 Snows 85 CA Geese 23 Swans	85% Mallard, 15% Teal, Shoveler, Black Duck, Gadwall, Wigeon and Wood Ducks.	Most of our Shallow water areas that can be mechanically pumped are where we would like them or close to where they need to be. Most natural sloughs where we do not have the ability to mechanically flood are very low, if not dry. There is rain in the forecast for tomorrow, but the inch of rain that is predicted will not do much to help fill up these natural sloughs.
Yellowbank WMA	210 Ducks	80% Mallards, 10% Wood Ducks, 10% Gadwall.	MSU's flooded by pumps are at 35% water capacity
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	129 ducks	55 Mallards, 47 Gadwall, 14 Black Ducks, 13 misc. Divers and Mergansers.	Moist Soil Unit is still dry.
Herrington Lake	2 road-killed raccoons		
Taylorsville Lake	No birds sited at survey locations.		MSUs units have not been pumped yet and a significant rain event is needed to allow us to pump from the salt river.

Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		

November 14-18, 2016 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

In general, low numbers of ducks are around, but we have picked up new birds since last week. There is cold weather predicted for the North and Midwest so keep your fingers crossed.

Overall, most of the states wetlands are still in relatively good shape, considering the lack of rain in last 2 months

Kentucky's 2016-17 duck and goose seasons open Thursday, November 24. The first duck and goose season segment will close on Sunday, November 27th. The second segment of duck and season will open December 5th and the duck season will remain open until Sunday, January 29th. The second segment of the goose season will remain open until Wednesday, February 15, 2017. Good luck to all waterfowl hunters and remember to be safe whenever you are out pursuing the resource this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	17,325 Ducks	79% Mallards. 9% Gadwalls, 9% Green wing teal, and 3% Wood duck, Shoveler, Wigeon and Black Ducks.	Pumping water everywhere we can. Ohio River is still too low to pump from. Plenty of food on Area for waterfowl.
Barren River Lake	Not surveyed		
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	3,000 ducks per lake at survey points. 25 CA geese on Barkley	50/50 mix of dabblers and Divers. Dabblers are 90% Gadwall and GW Teal. 10% Mallards and Shoveler. Divers are mostly Scaup and Bufflehead.	Water levels at winter pool. Most islands and mud flats are exposed. No aquatic vegetation seen.
Duck Island	3,800 ducks 75 Canada Geese	95% Mallards, GW Teal, Gadwall. 5% Wigeon, Pintail and Shoveler.	Current water levels on the island are ideal. We have a good source of water stockpiled in the north impoundment and will gravity flow into the central as needed. The central level will be brought up slowly to maximize availability of foraging resources for the waterfowl moving through. The lakes

			have been staying very near winter pool, resulting in large areas of exposed mudflats... especially on Lake Barkley.
Boatwright WMA	895 Ducks	92% Mallards, 6% Gadwall and 2% GW Teal and Black Ducks	Wells are pumping where possible to have water by season opener.
Doug Travis WMA	250 ducks	70% Mallards, 30% wood ducks.	All wells are running, but river levels are dropping.
Cave Run Lake	100 ducks	90% Bufflehead and GW teal. 10 % Mallard	
Clear Creek WMA	Not surveyed		
Peabody WMA	86 Ducks 107 Geese	55% Gadwall, 35% Mallard, 10% Teal and Wood Ducks.	Water in Moist Soil Units is dropping fast with lack of rainfall.
Sloughs WMA	920 Ducks 400 WF Geese 40 Snows 2 CA Geese	Waterfowl numbers during the count is not an accurate representation of what is on the area. As many as 5000 ducks could be using the area, but most are hiding in dense shaded sloughs during the day, and feeding in the moist soil units under the super moon.	The water on the area is very low in natural sloughs. We currently have most of our wells running and expect to be where we want them by opening day.
Yellowbank WMA	Not surveyed		
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	90 ducks 2 CA geese	40 Mallards, 26 Black Ducks, 24 GW teal	
Herrington Lake	No ducks on survey points		
Taylorville Lake	Not surveyed		
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		

November 10, 2016 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the first waterfowl ground count of the 2016-17 wintering period. Many areas did not have the opportunity to survey this week as this is a week earlier than we traditionally conduct the survey. In general, low numbers of ducks are around. Warm weather in Kentucky and in northern areas has the mass of duck migration still well north of Kentucky. Look for improvements in the coming weeks with cold fronts hitting the US and Canada. This breeding season had the highest number of ducks ever recorded (again) on breeding ground surveys. Look for above average numbers of ducks to eventually make it to Kentucky.

Overall, most of the states wetlands are in relatively good shape. In some regions local agricultural plantings were impacted by the summer rains and/or flooding and yields may be reduced. Moist soil plants look great across the state. Wetland conditions are still good considering the lack of rain this fall, and should only improve with additional precipitation.

Kentucky's 2016-17 duck and goose seasons open Thursday, November 24. The first duck and goose season segment will close on Sunday, November 27th. The second segment of duck and season will open December 5th and the duck season will remain open until Sunday, January 29th. The second segment of the goose season will remain open until Wednesday, February 15, 2017. Good luck to all waterfowl hunters and remember to be safe whenever you are out pursuing the resource this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	11,218 Ducks	73%% Mallards. 16% Gadwalls, 8% Green wing teal, and 3% Wood duck, Wigeon and Black Ducks.	With unseasonably warm temps over the last few weeks, our duck numbers are very weak. We have had a small cold front push down over the last couple of nights. Ohio River is too low to pump from, but wells are pumping where possible to have water by opener.
Barren River Lake	Not surveyed		
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not surveyed		
Duck Island	1,200 ducks 75 Canada Geese	90% Mallards, GW Teal, Gadwall and Pintail. 10% Wigeon and Shoveler.	Current water levels on the island are ideal. We have a good source of water stockpiled in the north impoundment and will gravity flow

			into the central as needed. The central level will be brought up slowly to maximize availability of foraging resources for the waterfowl moving through. The lakes have been staying very near winter pool, resulting in large areas of exposed mudflats... especially on Lake Barkley.
Boatwright WMA	1,010 Ducks	99% Mallards, 1% wood ducks	Wells are pumping where possible to have water by season opener.
Doug Travis WMA	Not Surveyed		
Cave Run Lake	Not surveyed		
Clear Creek WMA	Not surveyed		
Peabody WMA	Not surveyed		
Sloughs WMA	Not surveyed		
Yellowbank WMA	Not surveyed		
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		
Taylorsville Lake	Not surveyed		
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		