

December 28, 2017
Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter waterfowl ground count for December 26-27, 2017. Many of our staff are out for the holidays, so not all areas will be surveyed this week. I will update numbers next week as data arrives. An arctic blast hit Kentucky this week, bringing below freezing temps to stay for an extended time. Much of the state had enough wind to keep larger bodies of water open, but most small and shallow water is frozen. This will congregate ducks, and should bring some new birds into the state. Overall, most of the states wetlands are doing good. The rain we received prior to the cold front helped recharge some of the dry and low sloughs and units that cannot be pumped. River levels rose to allow some of our WMA's to gain water they previously could not get. Moist soil plants still look great across the state. Planted crops favored well in most places, and there is still plenty of food available to ducks and geese. Plan for the cold, and take extra precautions to stay safe. Getting wet in these conditions can prove deadly. If you are hunting from a boat, be sure you have and are using your life jackets!

The second segment of duck season is now open and will remain open until Sunday, January 28. The goose season will remain open until Monday, February 15, 2018. The Western KY youth waterfowl dates are February 3-4, 2018. Remember that adults that are taking youth out for the youth hunt can still hunt geese, but may not take any ducks. The future of the sport will always be reliant on kids being introduced to waterfowling. Please try to take a kid hunting whenever possible. Good luck to all, and remember to be safe whenever you are out pursuing birds this hunting season.

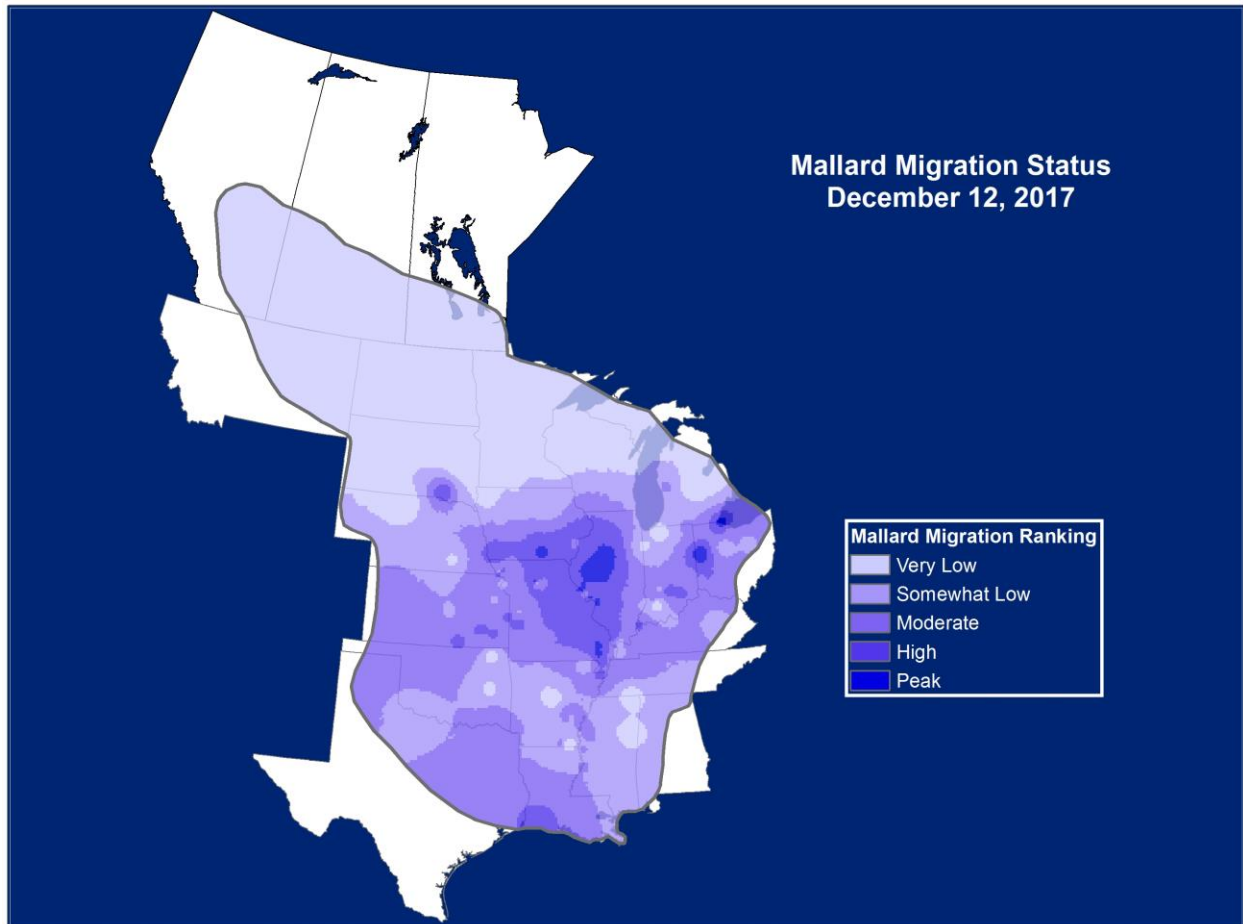
Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	45,314 Ducks 95 CA geese 1,375 WF geese 15,100 Snow geese	91% Mallard, 7% ring-neck, 2% GW teal, gadwall, shoveler, black duck and pintail.	Water levels looking great in most hunt units. With the river coming back up, we are able to add water to units, in hopes of adding new blinds that have been dry. Moist soil units have an abundance of food as well as units with planted crops. Area is beginning to freeze up with artic front that has pushed through since yesterday. Birds are grouping up and keeping large holes open. We are running wells where we have them to help hold

			water open. The big pump was turned on today, hopefully we will be able to keep birds spread out for hunter success.
Boatwright WMA	11,444 Ducks	97% Mallard and 3% GW teal	Moist soil units have an abundance of food, although some units are still a little dry if wells are not available. Planted crops are still plentiful in rest areas and hunt units as well.
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not surveyed		
Duck Island	Not surveyed		.
Barren River Lake	200 Ducks 4,286 Sandhill Cranes		Moist Soil Units are extremely Dry. Peters Creek MSU is 20% full. Long Creek- Calvert Springs main units are full, but units above and below the main spring are only 50% full. All other units are dry. Winter wheat planted this year on Long Creek Unit looks good. All units have good moist soil vegetation, as well as corn, millet, milo, & buckwheat that was planted.
Doug Travis WMA	2,100 ducks	95% mallards, 5% gw teal, black duck, shoveler, hooded merganser and ring-necked ducks.	All 3 wells are running. Impoundments were approximately 60% iced up, although open water was available in the Indian Camp Rest Area, at Blinds 11-12 and 16-19, and in the Willow Slough and

			Beaver Pond Rest Areas. All lakes were still ice-free as of the time of the count. Ducks were tucked into areas with some thermal cover, and I suspect that several were not counted.
Cave Run Lake	422 Ducks 200 CA Geese 2000+ Coots	57% divers (100 Bufflehead, 50 Ring-necked duck, 20 Scaup and various other or unknown divers) & 43% Puddle ducks (70 mallard, 65 gadwall, 1 Pintail and 3 shoveler), and 100 unidentified ducks	
Clear Creek WMA	Not surveyed		
Peabody WMA	861 Ducks 220 CA Geese 25 Snow Geese	550 Mallards, remaining were divers	
Sloughs WMA	23,000 Ducks 520 CA geese 8,500 WF geese 500 Snow geese 150 Swans	95% mallard 5% gadwall, pintail, shoveler, & green wing teal.	With recent rains our water levels on natural slough complexes are getting closer to normal, but overall are still low. Most of the ducks and geese were on areas of natural sloughs where they were able to keep water open. These areas had thousands of birds packed so close together that counting them was extremely difficult. This number is a conservative estimate, and could be larger. There were also large numbers of ducks of near well outlets where the water was open. The area has ice anywhere the birds have not kept it open.

Yellowbank WMA	1,050 Ducks	70% Mallard, 10% Wood Duck, 10% Gadwall, 5% Pintail and 5 % other dabbling ducks.	
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	20 Mallards		
Taylorsville Lake	Not surveyed		
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		

December 22, 2017
Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts



This is the winter waterfowl ground count for December 18-22, 2017. Many of our staff are out for the holidays, so not all areas will be surveyed this week. I will update numbers next week as data arrives. Temperatures have been mild again this week, and the dry weather has continued. There are still impressive numbers of ducks being reported from aerial surveys and ground counts North of the Ohio River, and most of the Northern most states in the flyway are seeing very low numbers. The Mississippi River north of KY and to Iowa, is still holding nearly 800,000 ducks (142% Above AVE), more than half of which are mallards. This number is impressive, but even more impressive was a raft of 246,125 canvasbacks that were observed on pool 19 of the Mississippi river. Hopefully the cold front predicted next week will bring some new birds with it. Overall, most of the states wetlands are doing ok, but we are considerably dry for this time of year. Moist soil plants still look great across the state. Crops favored well in most places, and conditions for ducks should only improve with additional precipitation.

The second segment of duck season is now open and will remain open until Sunday, January 28. The goose season will remain open until Monday, February 15, 2018. The Western KY youth waterfowl dates are February 3-4, 2018. Remember that adults that are taking youth out for the youth hunt can still hunt geese, but may not take any ducks. The future of the sport will always be reliant on kids being introduced to waterfowling. Please try to take a kid hunting whenever possible. Good luck to all, and remember to be safe whenever you are out pursuing birds this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	42, 650 Ducks 120 CA geese 2000 WF geese 500 Snow geese	87% Mallard, 7% GW Teal, 3% Gadwall and 3% mixed Shoveler, Pintail, Wigeon, Wood Duck and Merganser.	Water levels are looking great for most of our MSU impoundments and Hunt units. We are still waiting on the river to rise enough to send water to other areas that depend on higher river levels for holding capacity. Temps have been warm for the most part, but we are expecting some cold weather this weekend. We picked up several ducks from a week ago.
Boatwright WMA	9,283 Ducks 12 CA geese	95% Mallard, 2% Bufflehead, 2% GW Teal and 1% mixed Gadwall, Shoveler and black duck.	
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not surveyed		
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Barren River Lake	200 Ducks 4,286 Sandhill Cranes		Moist Soil Units are extremely Dry. Peters Creek MSU is 20% full. Long Creek- Calvert Springs main units are full, but units above and below the main spring are only 50% full. All other units are dry. Winter wheat planted this year on Long Creek Unit looks good. All units have good moist soil vegetation, as well as

			corn, millet, milo, & buckwheat that was planted.
Doug Travis WMA	2,300 ducks	90% mallards, 5% gw teal, 4% ringneck ducks, 1% mix dabblers	The area is 65% flooded, and 3 wells are running.
Cave Run Lake	422 Ducks 200 CA Geese 2000+ Coots	57% divers (100 Bufflehead, 50 Ring-necked duck, 20 Scaup and various other or unknown divers) & 43% Puddle ducks (70 mallard, 65 gadwall, 1 Pintail and 3 shoveler), and 100 unidentified ducks	
Clear Creek WMA	Not surveyed		
Peabody WMA	731 Ducks 12 CA Geese	425 Mallards, remaining were divers	
Sloughs WMA	17,401 Ducks 95 CA geese 10,355 WF geese 16,000 Snow geese 160 Swans	95% mallard, with remaining 5% a mix of gadwall, shovelors, pintails, ring-necked ducks, and green winged teal.	Conditions continue to be dry and unseasonably warm across the area, with the Pond Creek marsh complex still at 60-70% water capacity for what is typical this time of year. However, it appears the first significant push of mallards have arrived on the WMA. Snow geese continue to move between the refuge and north in to Indiana throughout the day. White-front geese have been in mixed flocks with snow geese, either loafing on Pond Creek marsh, or feeding on dry-land

			corn/wheat fields across the refuge. Rains predicted on Friday and Saturday and the arrival of a major cold front, should improve hunting across the region as waterfowl seek new food sources and become concentrated as shallow water begins to freeze.
Yellowbank WMA	Not surveyed		Most units have sheet ice except for refuge where ducks are keeping open water.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	20 CA geese		
Taylorsville Lake	Not surveyed		
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		

December 15, 2017 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter waterfowl ground count for December 11-15, 2017. We finally received some winter weather, and there are some fresh birds this week to prove it. Hopefully everyone was able to get out over the weekend to take advantage of the weather. With a small cold front that hit on Thursday, we may see some increases across the state. Most waterfowl WMA's are reporting a fair number of birds still, especially considering the warmer weather experienced the last two weeks. There are still impressive numbers of ducks being reported from aerial surveys on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers; however, the numbers decreased from last week's flight. Hopefully the cold front has some of those heading to us.

Overall, most of the states wetlands are doing ok, but we are considerably dry for this time of year. Moist soil plants still look great across the state. Crops favored well in most places, and conditions for ducks should only improve with additional precipitation.

The second segment of duck season is now open and will remain open until Sunday, January 28. The goose season will remain open until Monday, February 15, 2018. The Western KY youth waterfowl dates are February 3-4, 2018. Remember that adults that are taking youth out for the youth hunt can still hunt geese, but may not take any ducks. The future of the sport will always be reliant on kids being introduced to waterfowling. Please try to take a kid hunting whenever possible. Good luck to all, and remember to be safe whenever you are out pursuing birds this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	23,685 Ducks 87 CA geese 1,500 WF geese 5 Snow geese	88% Mallard, 6% GW Teal, 2% Gadwall, 2% Ring Neck, 2% Pintail, Shoveler, Wigeon, Black Duck and Wood Duck.	Water levels are holding pretty consistent in hunt units except for the river side in Terrel Field, which is falling as the river levels continuing to drop. Plenty of food in all units, with more available as we add water later in the season.
Boatwright WMA	15,260 Ducks	76% Mallard, 8% Gadwall, 7% GW Teal, 6% unknown dabbler and 3% Ring-necked duck.	
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not surveyed		
Duck Island	Not surveyed		Overall habitat is good. Planted crops are poor, but moist-soil vegetation is good to excellent. Water levels

			are right on schedule at approximately 50% of full pool.
Barren River Lake	250 Ducks 5 CA Geese 349 Sandhill Cranes	50% divers (50% hooded mergansers, 40% scaup, 10% redheads) 50 % dabblers (90% mallards, 5% gadwalls, 5% black ducks)	Moist Soil Units are extremely Dry. Peters Creek MSU is 20% full. Long Creek- Calvert Springs main units are full, but units above and below the main spring are only 50% full. All other units are dry. Winter wheat planted this year on Long Creek Unit looks good. All units have good moist soil vegetation, as well as corn, millet, milo, & buckwheat that was planted.
Doug Travis WMA	2,550 Ducks	90% mallards, 5% gw teal, 5% mix of dabblers and ringnecks	The area is 70% flooded.
Cave Run Lake	467 Ducks 32 CA Geese 2000+ Coots	70% divers (200 Ring-necked duck, 54 Hooded merganser, 17 bufflehead, and various other or unknown divers) & 30% Puddle ducks (77 mallard, 59 gadwall, 3 Pintail and 2 Wood duck)	
Clear Creek WMA	Not surveyed		
Peabody WMA	582 Ducks 62 CA Geese	210 Mallards, remaining were divers	
Sloughs WMA	7,520 Ducks 129 CA geese 7,200 WF geese 13,100 Snow geese 204 Swans	60% Mallard, 40% mix of gadwall, ring-necked duck, green-winged teal, pintail, and widgeon.	We are still extremely dry in the area natural slough levels have not raised and if anything they have lowered slightly. Ducks were hard to count today, as they were tucked away in the bushes to escape the cold. Ice is beginning to form.

			White Fronted nad Snow Goose numbers remain really high. Though not seen during the survey period, at least 50,000 snows were seen being spotted consistently on the area.
Yellowbank WMA	525 Ducks	75% Mallard, 15% Wood Duck, 5% Pintail, 5% other dabbling ducks.	Most units have sheet ice except for refuge where ducks are keeping open water.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	30 Ducks	28 Mallards and 2 Black ducks.	
Taylorsville Lake	Not surveyed		
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		

December 8, 2017 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter waterfowl ground count for December 4 - 8, 2017. The warmer weather that has persisted into this week has left us with stale birds that do not need to move around much. With a small cold front that hit on Thursday, we may see some increases across the state. Most waterfowl WMA's are reporting a fair number of birds still, especially considering the warmer weather experienced the last two weeks. There are still impressive numbers of ducks being reported from aerial surveys on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers; however, the numbers decreased from last week's flight. Hopefully the cold front has some of those heading to us.

Overall, most of the states wetlands are in above average condition, though somewhat dry for this time of year. Moist soil plants look great across the state, and water levels are getting to where they need to be. Crops favored well in most places, and conditions for ducks should only improve with additional precipitation.

The second segment of duck season is now open and will remain open until Sunday, January 28. The goose season will remain open until Monday, February 15, 2018. The Western KY youth waterfowl dates are February 3-4, 2018. Remember that adults that are taking youth out for the youth hunt can still hunt geese, but may not take any ducks. The future of the sport will always be reliant on kids being introduced to waterfowling. Please try to take a kid hunting whenever possible. Good luck to all, and remember to be safe whenever you are out pursuing birds this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	17,221 Ducks 30 CA geese 1,600 WF geese 2 Swans	88% Mallard, 7% Gadwall, 2% Ring Neck, 3% Pintail, GW Teal, Shoveler and Wigeon	Habitat is looking great! We are adding new water everywhere we can to enhance food availability.
Boatwright WMA	7,630 Ducks 5 CA geese	85% Mallard, 13% GW teal & 2% Ring-necked duck.	We are adding water to any spot that we can to increase food availability.
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not surveyed		
Duck Island	Not surveyed		Overall habitat is good. Planted crops are poor, but moist-soil vegetation is good to excellent. Water levels are right on schedule at approximately 50% of full pool.
Barren River Lake	Not surveyed		

Doug Travis WMA	3,100 Ducks	75% mallards, 10% ring-necked ducks, 10% GW teal, 5% mixed dabblers	The area is 60% flooded and 2 wells are running.
Cave Run Lake	109 Ducks 97 CA Geese 2000+ Coots	40 Bufflehead, 24 Gadwall, 23 Mallard, 2 Scaup and 20 unknown ducks.	
Clear Creek WMA	Not surveyed		
Peabody WMA	220 Ducks 10 CA Geese	54% Mallards	
Sloughs WMA	10,057 Ducks 45 CA geese 3,800 WF geese 20,000 Snow geese 101 Swans	60% Mallard, 40% mix of gadwall, ring-necked duck, green-winged teal, pintail, and widgeon.	After over a week of unseasonably warm weather, a major cold front pushed through overnight, bringing falling temperatures and North winds. Despite the 0.5 inch of rain that came with the cold front, the area remains dry for the season. Portions of the Pond Creek marsh complex and several natural cypress sloughs are still at low levels. Ducks continue to be observed roosting in flooded corn and moist soil impoundments in large numbers. Goose numbers have varied from hour to hour, with birds moving between the WMA and into Indiana depending on the time of day.
Yellowbank WMA	300 Ducks	60% Mallards, 30% Wood Duck, 5% Pintail, 5% other puddle ducks	Most units are at 50% water capacity. Well pumps are running

			until those units are at maximum water capacity.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	50 Ducks	40 Mallards and 10 GW Teal.	
Taylorville Lake	Not surveyed		
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		

November 27, 2017 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter waterfowl ground count for November 27- December 1, 2017. Mild weather has continued this week, not bringing in many new birds. Most waterfowl WMA's are reporting a fair number of birds still, considering the warmer weather experienced the last two weeks. The good news.... aerial surveys along the Illinois and Mississippi rivers are still finding more than 800,000 birds congregated along the survey route, which is four times greater than the average late November surveys. These birds are staged up and waiting for a North wind to blow them to us!

Overall, most of the states wetlands are in above average condition. Moist soil plants look great across the state. Crops favored well in most places, and conditions for ducks should only improve with additional precipitation.

The Kentucky 2017-18 duck and goose seasons opens Thursday, November 23. The first duck season segment will close on Sunday, November 26. The second segment of duck and season will open December 4 and the duck season will remain open until Sunday, January 28. The goose season will remain open until Wednesday, February 14, 2018. The Western KY youth waterfowl dates are February 3-4, 2018. Remember that adults that are taking youth out for the youth hunt can still hunt geese, but may not take any ducks. The future of the sport will always be reliant on kids being introduced to waterfowling. Please try to take a kid hunting whenever possible. Good luck to all, and remember to be safe whenever you are out pursuing birds this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	14,032 Ducks 60 CA geese 2,500 WF geese 1000 Snow geese	87% Mallard, 6% Ring-necked duck, 3% Green wing teal, 3% Gadwall, and 1% Shoveler, Wigeon, Pintail, Wood duck and Black Duck.	Habitat is looking great! We are adding new water everywhere we can to enhance food availability.
Boatwright WMA	2,775 Ducks	77% Mallard, 22% GW teal & 1% Ring-necked duck.	We are adding water to any spot that we can to increase food availability.
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not surveyed		
Duck Island	4,000 ducks	85% Mallard, 8% GW teal, 5% Pintail & 2% Gadwall, Shoveler, Black duck and Scaup.	
Barren River Lake	Not surveyed		
Doug Travis WMA	3,450 Ducks	60% Mallard, 10% GW Teal, 10% Wood ducks, 10% Ring-necked ducks, and 10% mixed dabblers and divers.	The area is 55% flooded and 2 wells are running

Cave Run Lake	157 Ducks 125 CA Geese 2000+ Coots	72% mixed divers & 28% mixed dabblers	
Clear Creek WMA	Not surveyed		
Peabody WMA	136 Ducks 17 CA Geese	74% Mallards	
Sloughs WMA	9,917 Ducks 45 CA geese 10,760 WF geese 6,730 Snow geese 211 Swans	60% Mallard, 40% mix of Gadwall, Shoveler, Northern pintail, GW teal, and Wood ducks.	Warm, dry, and sunny conditions have prevailed over the last week across the area. Ducks are concentrated along timbered edges of the Pond Creek marsh complex, or scattered across natural cypress sloughs, and are roosting in moist-soil impoundments and flooded standing corn on the area. Geese were scattered across the WMA throughout survey period. Both white-fronts and snow geese are feeding in dry winter wheat fields, particularly on the south side of HWY 268. They were also observed loafing in the Pond Creek marsh complex and Muddy Slough.
Yellowbank WMA	215 Ducks	55% Wood duck, 30% Mallard, 10% Gadwall, 5% Black Duck	
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	71 Ducks	45 Mallard, 20 gadwall, 2 black ducks, & 4 ring-necked ducks.	
Herrington Lake	0 Ducksbut I did see 3 red-tailed hawks, 2 kestrels, 4 road-killed coons, 2 rabbits and several thousand vultures in the palisades. :D	

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

November 22, 2017 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter waterfowl ground count for November 20-24, 2017. Mild weather in Kentucky has slowed down the action somewhat, but has left conditions to hold birds in KY in time for the Thanksgiving opener. With a mild long-term weather outlook, I do not expect much change in migration in the next couple of weeks. The good news.... aerial surveys along the Illinois and Mississippi rivers are still finding more than 800,000 birds congregated along the survey route, which is four times greater than the average late November surveys. These birds are staged up and waiting for a North wind to blow them to us!

Overall, most of the states wetlands are in above average condition. Moist soil plants look great across the state. Crops favored well in most places, and conditions for ducks should only improve with additional precipitation.

The Kentucky 2017-18 duck and goose seasons opens Thursday, November 23. The first duck season segment will close on Sunday, November 26. The second segment of duck and season will open December 4 and the duck season will remain open until Sunday, January 28. The goose season will remain open until Wednesday, February 14, 2018. The Western KY youth waterfowl dates are February 3-4, 2018. Remember that adults that are taking youth out for the youth hunt can still hunt geese, but may not take any ducks. The future of the sport will always be reliant on kids being introduced to waterfowling. Please try to take a kid hunting whenever possible. Good luck to all, and remember to be safe whenever you are out pursuing birds this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	29,162 Ducks 17 CA geese 1,000 WF geese	77% Mallard, 9% Green wing teal, 8% Gadwall, and 6% Shoveler, Wigeon, Pintail, Wood duck and Black Duck.	Ducks are spreading out on the newly flooded hunt units on the area, and ducks are utilizing the abundant moist soil vegetation and invertebrates
Boatwright WMA	4,3045 Ducks	65% Mallard & 35% GW teal.	Ducks and geese are both using Long Pond and Arrowhead with water levels being shallow.
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not surveyed		
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Barren River Lake	Not surveyed		
Doug Travis WMA	3,800 Ducks	60% Mallard, 15% Ring-necked duck and assorted divers, 10% Wood ducks, 10%	The area is 55% flooded and 2 wells are running

		GW Teal, and 5% mixed dabblers.	
Cave Run Lake	Not surveyed		
Clear Creek WMA	Not surveyed		
Peabody WMA	100 Ducks 320 CA Geese	80% Mallards	
Sloughs WMA	7,105 Ducks 100 CA geese 12,525 WF geese 10,425 Snow geese 131 Swans	60% Mallard, 40% mix of green winged teal, shovelors, gadwall, and pintails.	Water levels remain fairly low in the natural cypress sloughs and throughout Pond Creek marsh complex. With the sunshine and high winds, most waterfowl were concentrated along wooded edges of flooded natural marshes and sloughs. Consequently, duck numbers were difficult to count, and are likely higher than estimated in the survey.
Yellowbank WMA	750 Ducks	40% Mallards, 40% Wood ducks, 10% Gadwall, 10% GW Teal and Black Duck.	
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	92 Ducks	50 Mallards, 25 Ring-necked ducks, 12 GW teal, and 5 Shoveler.	
Taylorville Lake	Not surveyed		
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		

November 17, 2017 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter waterfowl ground count November 13-17, 2017. Many areas did not have the opportunity to survey this week, as we are still a little early in the season. Cooler weather in Kentucky and in northern areas has produced some movement, and brought some new birds into portions of the state, however, others have lost a few birds. Look for improvements in the coming weeks with cold fronts and snow hitting the US and Canada. The aerial surveys along the Illinois and Mississippi rivers found four times as many ducks than the average late November surveys. If the current weather conditions hold, we can anticipate an exciting opener!

Overall, most of the states wetlands are in above average condition. Moist soil plants look great across the state. Crops favored well in most places, and conditions for ducks should only improve with additional precipitation.

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Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	17,333 Ducks 60 CA geese 200 WF geese	68% Mallard, 15% Green wing teal, 13% Gadwall, and 4% Shoveler, Wood duck, Canvasback and Hooded Merganser.	Ducks are spreading out on area and neighboring land with each day that passes. Ducks were hugging water edges this morning making it hard to spot them in several areas. Some of our hunt units are holding rain water, and ducks are utilizing the abundant moist soil vegetation and invertebrates
Boatwright WMA	4,885 Ducks 50 CA geese	86% Mallard, 9% GW teal, 4% Ring-necked duck and 1% Gadwall and Wigeon.	Ducks and geese are both using Long Pond and Arrowhead with water levels being shallow. Swan lake had a good group of Ring Necks rafted up in the middle. Ducks are spread out in the cypress trees in Swan.
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		

Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not surveyed		
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Barren River Lake	Not surveyed		
Doug Travis WMA	3,300 Ducks	60% Mallard, 10% Wood ducks, 10% GW Teal, 10% Gadwall, 10% Ring-necked duck.	The area is 55% flooded and 2 wells are running
Cave Run Lake	109 Ducks 2000+ coots 130 CA geese	20 Mallards, 38 Gadwall, 19 Bufflehead, 2 Scaup, 14 other divers, 15 Hooded mergansers, 1 Red-breasted merganser and at least 2000 coots.	
Clear Creek WMA	Not surveyed		
Peabody WMA	15 Mallards 277 CA Geese		
Sloughs WMA	8,830 Ducks 60 CA geese 7,500 WF geese 600 Snow geese 40 Tundra Swans	60% Mallard, 40% mix of gadwall, green-winged teal, wigeon, pintail, and ring-necked duck.	Water levels in natural cypress sloughs remain relatively low, therefore affording excellent feeding conditions for waterfowl. Similarly, the Pond Creek wetland complex is at 50% of it's normal winter water capacity, with water depths between 6-12 inches in the lower areas of the marsh complex.
Yellowbank WMA	Not surveyed		
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	158 Ducks	8 Black ducks, 75 Hooded mergs, 25 Ring-neck, and 50 small divers, perhaps Ruddy ducks.	All impoundments are holding water according to schedule and MSU plants are looking good.
Herrington Lake	3 coots	They were cute coots though...	

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

November 10, 2017 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the first waterfowl ground count of the 2017-18 wintering period. Many areas did not have the opportunity to survey this week, as we are still a little early in the season. In general, low numbers of ducks are around, but we have certainly seen some activity from the North. Cooler weather in Kentucky and in northern areas has produced some movement, and brought some new birds into the state. Look for improvements in the coming weeks with cold fronts and snow hitting the US and Canada. Breeding ground surveys are showing many ducks, such as mallard, gadwall and teal, being way above the long-term averages. IF weather conditions will hold, we can anticipate an exciting opener!

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Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	25,382 Ducks 91 CA geese	75% Mallard, 12% Green wing teal, 9% Gadwall, and 4% Shoveler, Pintail, Wood duck, Wigeon, Black duck and Hooded Mergs.	Birds are utilizing abundant shallow MSU's scattered across the area. Largest congregation of birds are on Mitchell Lake MSU.
Boatwright WMA	321 Ducks (on survey route)	62% Ring-neck and 36% Mallard, remainder is Wood duck and Hooded mergs.	
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not surveyed		
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Barren River Lake	Not surveyed		
Doug Travis WMA	2400 Ducks	50% Mallard, 30% Wood ducks, 10% GW Teal, 5% Gadwall and Wigeon, 5% Ring-neck and Lesser Scaup	The area is 40% flooded and 2 wells are running
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)	158 Ducks	8 Black ducks, 75 Hooded mergs, 25 Ring-neck, and 50 small divers, perhaps Ruddy ducks.	All impoundments are holding water according to schedule and MSU plants are looking good.
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		
Taylorville Lake	Not surveyed		
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		