

November 18, 2022 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for November 14-18, 2022. Conditions on the breeding grounds greatly improved this past spring/summer, allowing for some pretty good production following the severe drought from the previous year. We can expect to see more young birds from the prairie pothole region in the fall flight this season. Also, a major winter storm swept through the Dakotas over the weekend, that triggered a push of ducks and geese heading south, so hopefully we will have decent numbers to start the season out with a bang. That being said, we are still extremely dry here in Kentucky. On November 4, 99% of the state fell into the drought monitoring category of abnormally dry, 82% of the state was categorized as in a moderate drought, 39% of the state was experiencing a severe drought, and 4% of the state (far western KY) was categorized as extreme drought.

The good news is that although it was dry in late summer, we had a good growing season for our crops and moist soil habitats throughout most of the state. The bad news is that at the start of the waterfowl hunting season, habitat will mainly be limited to areas that have the capacity to pump water. Some timely rains have helped a little this week, but it will take a while to recharge water tables and rivers to a level that allows managers to hold water. It is important to remember that dry periods are as important as wet periods for the long-term productivity of wetlands. Dry conditions this year will help productivity in future years. The dry conditions also provided wetland managers a much chance to do work in areas that are typically inaccessible.

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Duck season begins on Thanksgiving Day, with the first segment running from November 24 – 27. The second segment of duck season opens on December 7 and will run until January 31, 2023. Goose season opens November 24, 2022 and will remain open until February 15, 2023. New this year, youth season is Saturday, November 19, 2022, and Saturday, February 11, 2023. There is also a new veteran's hunt on Sunday, November 20, 2022, and Sunday February 12, 2023. All bag limits remain the same as last season. Check out the 2022-2023 Waterfowl hunting guide or visit the waterfowl hunting [web page](#) for more details.

Good luck hunting this year. Be safe and enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard			<i>Not surveyed</i>
Boatwright			<i>Not surveyed</i>
Duck Island		<i>Not surveyed</i>	
Doug Travis WMA <i>11/17/2022</i>	1,445 Ducks	1,300 mixed dabblers 85% mallard 15% GW teal 145 wood ducks	Habitat across the WMA is fair to excellent. Most blind sites and walk-in units have shallow but

			hunnable water. Refuge is 10% flooded due to drought conditions.
Sloughs WMA <i>11/16/2022</i>	2,700 ducks 14 CA goose 1,750 WF goose 200 Snow goose 55 Tundra Swan	75% mallard 25% gadwall and widgeon	The region continues to be dry and cold with little rainfall forecast. Habitat conditions are poor with little available water except what has been pumped within the units and refuge. Water is available within most of the hunt units on the WMA and Jenny Hole. Birds were concentrated around Muddy Slough with areas of water. Pond creek marsh is completely dry.
Peabody WMA <i>11/16/2022</i>	7 ducks 192 CA goose	5 Mallard 2 ring-necked ducks	Conditions are much drier than usual. Lakes are very low and moist soil units are still without water at this time due to the lack of rain.
Yellowbank WMA <i>11/16/2022</i>	275 Ducks	75% mallard 15% wood duck 5% gadwall 5% black duck	Excellent moist-soil plant response and crop production in waterfowl units. Pumps are running but slowly gaining sheet water with the dry soil conditions. Most of the units are dry due to lack of substantial rainfall.
Barren River WMA <i>11/16/2022</i>	0 ducks 0 geese 44 Sandhill cranes		Very dry conditions persist. Peters Creek MSU 10% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 10% and units above and below the main spring 0%, MSUs off HWY 100 are 0% full. Food in abundance, with both corn and

			moist soil plants in great condition. Lake level: 533.0'
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Cave Run Lake 11/16/2022	195 Ducks 40 mergansers 275 CA geese 100 Coot	100 mallard, 30 buffelhead, 20 wood duck, 5 pintail, 15 common merganser, 25 hooded merganser.	Lake level: 725.6'

November 23, 2022 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for November 21-23, 2022. We received some much needed rain, however we still need a lot more. We had a good growing season for our crops and moist soil habitats throughout most of the state. The bad news is that at the start of the waterfowl hunting season, habitat will mainly be limited to areas that have the capacity to pump water.

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Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard <i>11/17/2022</i>	9,609 ducks 6 CA geese	99% mallard, wood duck and hooded merganser.	After a long dry Summer & Fall, the Ohio River has risen and we have been pumping from the river. Ground wells have not been able to make much water because of the dry conditions and low water tables. We have seen several new birds arrive on the area.
Boatwright <i>11/17/2022</i>	1,546 ducks	67% mallard, 29% ring-necked duck, 4% wood duck & BW teal	Habitat is looking great. Many units with moist soil and annual grains will provide for excellent waterfowl opportunity. All wells are running within hunt units, and we are slowly building water depth.
Duck Island	5,100 ducks 50 CA geese	90 % mallard	Habitat conditions at the moment are excellent

11/22/2022		10% gadwall, ringneck, GW teal, pintail, wigeon and black ducks.	with heavy use of the moist-soil habitat in the lowest area. We stockpiled water in the north impoundment in August as usual, but evaporation since that time has be dramatic.
Doug Travis WMA 11/21/2022	1,600 Ducks	80% mallard 15% GW teal 5% wood duck, gadwall, shoveler, and ring-necked ducks.	Habitat across the WMA is fair to excellent. All 3 wells are running, although dry conditions are making it difficult to gain water in most units. All seasonal blind sites have huntable water except for Blinds 18 and 19 - we need substantial rainfall to raise water in Town Creek Moist Soil Unit. There is huntable water in the Baldy's Woods walk-in unit, although no other walk in sites have appreciable water.
Sloughs WMA 11/21/2022	9,700 ducks 25 CA goose 3,800 WF goose 5,000 Snow goose 110 Tundra Swan 5 Sandhill cranes	75% mallard 25% gadwall and widgeon	The region continues to be dry. Local sloughs and drainages have little available water and poor habitat conditions. With available pumping capabilities, water is available within most of the hunt units and the refuge. Bird numbers increased substantially from the previous week and were concentrated around Muddy Slough, Hardy Slough complex and numerous reports of birds within Jenny Hole. Pond creek marsh is still dry.
Peabody WMA 11/16/2022	7 ducks 192 CA goose	5 Mallard 2 ring-necked ducks	Conditions are much drier than usual. Lakes are very low and moist

			soil units are still without water at this time due to the lack of rain.
Yellowbank WMA <i>11/22/2022</i>	190 Ducks	80% mallard 15% wood duck 5% gadwall	Excellent moist-soil plant response and crop production in waterfowl units. Pumps are running but slowly gaining sheet water with the dry soil conditions. Most of the units are dry due to lack of substantial rainfall.
Barren River WMA <i>11/21/2022</i>	124 ducks 183 CA geese 548 Sandhill cranes	50% divers/50% dabblers mallards, mergansers, wood ducks, gadwalls, blackducks, redheads	Very dry conditions persist. Peters Creek MSU 10% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 70% and units above and below the main spring 25%, MSUs off HWY 100 are 0% full. Food in abundance, with both corn and moist soil plants in great condition. Lake level: 531.9'
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Cave Run Lake <i>11/16/2022</i>	195 Ducks 40 mergansers 275 CA geese 100 Coot	100 mallard, 30 buffelhead, 20 wood duck, 5 pintail, 15 common merganser, 25 hooded merganser.	Lake level: 725.6'

December 2, 2022 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for November 28 – December 2, 2022. We continue to struggle with water in our hunt units. Rains last week did allow for pumps and wells to be ran for a time, however lack of rain since caused Ohio and Mississippi River levels to drop again. River levels have not reached a sustained elevation to increase water levels in some of our units. Ballard WMA does have enough water now to hunt all 14 parties when it opens on December 7. Boatwright WMA is offering fewer than normal hunting sites due to lack of water.

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Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard <i>12/1/2022</i>	44,495 ducks 28 CA goose 100 WF goose 300 Snow Geese	95% Mallard, 2% Green wing, 1% Wigeon, 2% Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Ring-necked, Blue-Winged Teal, Wood Duck, Hooded Merg.	Ducks were concentrated along banks where open water and overhead cover was present. Sheet Ice filled most of the small impoundments within hunt units. Impoundments with grain planted seemed to be holding heavier concentrations of feeding waterfowl. Large rafts of (Wigeon, Pintail, Teal) were present on Mitchell Lake Moist Soil impoundment along with many mallards and geese.

<p>Boatwright</p> <p><i>12/1/2022</i></p>	<p>478 ducks</p>	<p>83% Mallard, 13% Ring-neck, 4% Other</p>	<p>Many of the shallow impoundments were covered in sheet ice. Drought conditions and freezing temps have concentrated birds in available open water.</p>
<p>Duck Island</p> <p><i>11/22/2022</i></p>	<p>5,100 ducks 50 CA geese</p>	<p>90 % mallard 10% gadwall, ringneck, GW teal, pintail, wigeon and black ducks.</p>	<p>Habitat conditions at the moment are excellent with heavy use of the moist-soil habitat in the lowest area. We stockpiled water in the north impoundment in August as usual, but evaporation since that time has be dramatic.</p>
<p>Doug Travis WMA</p> <p><i>11/30/2022</i></p>	<p>900 Ducks</p>	<p>90% mallard 10% misc. dabblers including wood ducks, teal and gadwall.</p>	<p>A tree fell onto the line supplying power to wells 2 and 3 this weekend, well 2 was turned back on Monday and well 3 back on Wednesday; as a result, the majority of the water supplied by those wells soaked into the ground. There is hope that blinds 11,12,13,14 and Baldy's Woods walk-in will have huntable water again for the December opener.</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: Anyone hunting from a numbered blind spot must have a waterfowl blind permit on their person while hunting. These permits are found on the website</p>

			on the Waterfowl Quota Hunts page, or at the information kiosk located next to the Doug Travis office.
Sloughs WMA <i>11/30/2022</i>	1,700 ducks 50 CA goose 4,150 WF goose 7,000 Snow goose 155 Tundra Swan 13 Sandhill cranes	75% mallard 25% gadwall and widgeon	The region continues to be dry. Local sloughs and drainages have little available water and poor habitat conditions. With available pumping capabilities, water is available within most of the hunt units and the refuge. Duck numbers decreased substantially from the previous week, while snow and white fronted geese increased. Pond creek marsh is still dry.
Peabody WMA <i>11/29/2022</i>	127 ducks 156 CA goose	70% Mallard and gadwall, 20% ring-necked ducks, 10% other	Conditions are much drier than usual. Lakes are very low and moist soil units are still without water at this time due to the lack of rain.
Yellowbank WMA <i>11/28/2022</i>	425 Ducks	80% mallard 10% wood duck 5% gadwall 5% black duck	Excellent moist-soil plant response and crop production in waterfowl units. Recent rains have added a small amount of water to most of the hunt units.
Barren River WMA <i>11/30/2022</i>	80 ducks 121 CA geese 924 Sandhill cranes	50% divers/50% dabblers Scaup, mallards, & wood ducks.	Very dry conditions persist. Peters Creek MSU 10% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 80% and units above and below the main spring 25%, MSUs off HWY 100 are 0% full. Food in abundance, with both corn and moist soil plants in great condition.

			Lake level: 529.5'
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds) <i>11/21/2022</i>	397 ducks	161 ring-necked duck 85 mallard 52 GW teal 31 gadwall 27 black ducks 16 ruddy ducks 12 wood duck, bufflehead & hooded merganser	Moist soil habitat looks great. All lakes and impoundments have water.
Cave Run Lake <i>11/30/2022</i>	21 Ducks 273 CA geese 120 unknowns	9 mallard, 6 buffelhead, 6 northern shoveler	Survey conditions were poor, high winds, rain, and warmer temperatures. The lake was very choppy, and ducks were hard to distinguish even when closer to the bank due to water movement. Most of the ducks were in rafts out further into the lake. Lake level: 724.8'

December 9, 2022 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for December 5-9, 2022. The rains this week continue to improve habitat conditions, however some areas are still drier than normal. River levels improved some, and Ballard WMA is running the big pump. Conditions at Ballard continue to be much drier than normal, but are improving. Doug Travis is still battling low water table issues. Pumps are running, but some hunt units are not gaining much water. Bird numbers have increased/held steady in most areas.

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Ballard <i>12/1/2022</i>	44,495 ducks 28 CA goose 100 WF goose 300 Snow Geese	95% Mallard, 2% Green wing, 1% Wigeon, 2% Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Ring-necked, Blue-Winged Teal, Wood Duck, Hooded Merg.	
Boatwright <i>12/1/2022</i>	478 ducks	83% Mallard, 13% Ring-neck, 4% Other	Many of the shallow impoundments were covered in sheet ice. Drought conditions and freezing temps have concentrated birds in available open water.
Duck Island <i>11/22/2022</i>	5,100 ducks 50 CA geese	90 % mallard 10% gadwall, ringneck, GW teal, pintail, wigeon and black ducks.	Habitat conditions at the moment are excellent with heavy use of the moist-soil habitat in the lowest area. We stockpiled water in the north impoundment in August as usual, but evaporation since that time has be dramatic.

<p>Doug Travis WMA</p> <p>12/7/2022</p>	<p>890 Ducks</p>	<p>80% mallard 20% misc. dabblers including wood ducks, teal and gadwall.</p>	<p>Water conditions have not changed much since the last survey. Wells are running and pumping as much water as possible.</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: Anyone hunting from a numbered blind spot must have a waterfowl blind permit on their person while hunting. These permits are found on the website on the Waterfowl Quota Hunts page, or at the information kiosk located next to the Doug Travis office.</p>
<p>Sloughs WMA</p> <p>12/6/2022</p>	<p>6,700 ducks 0 CA goose 5,000 WF goose 9,000 Snow goose</p> <p>150 Tundra Swan</p> <p>13 Sandhill cranes</p>		<p>The region continues to be dry with local sloughs and drainages still with little available water and poor habitat conditions. With available pumping capabilities, most of the hunt units and the refuge has water. Duck numbers increased from the previous week along with Snows and White Fronted Geese. Pond creek marsh is still dry.</p>
<p>Peabody WMA</p> <p>12/7/2022</p>	<p>246 ducks 156 CA goose</p>	<p>54% ring-necked ducks, 28% GW teal, 17% mallard and gadwall.</p>	<p>Conditions on the area have changed very little. Water levels on all bodies of water continue to remain very low due to limited rainfall and drier than normal conditions.</p>

Yellowbank WMA <i>12/5/2022</i>	425 Ducks	85% mallard 5% wood duck 5% gadwall 5% black duck	Excellent moist-soil plant response and crop production in waterfowl units.
Barren River WMA <i>12/5/2022</i>	101 ducks 102 CA geese 913 Sandhill cranes	50% divers/50% dabblers scaup, mergansers, mallards, wood ducks, ruddy ducks, canvasback, redheads, ringnecks	Peters Creek MSU 10% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 50%, MSUs off HWY 100 are 0% full. Food in abundance, with both corn and moist soil plants in great condition. Lake level: 528.2'
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds) <i>11/21/2022</i>	397 ducks	161 ring-necked duck 85 mallard 52 GW teal 31 gadwall 27 black ducks 16 ruddy ducks 12 wood duck, bufflehead & hooded merganser	Moist soil habitat looks great. All lakes and impoundments have water.
Cave Run Lake <i>12/7/2022</i>	33 Ducks 117 CA geese 119 unknowns	20, bufflehead, 11 mallard, 2 northern shoveler	Extremely dense fog across the entirety of the lake and warm temperatures. Birds were unable to be seen unless very close to the shore due to fog. Lake level: 724.2'

December 16, 2022 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for December 12-16, 2022. The first two weeks of the season have been good (check local listings). Many WMA's are reporting excellent hunter success, especially following the cold front in November. Warm temps, coupled with hunting pressure have slowed the action some, but a little cold weather this week will hopefully liven things back up. River levels continue to improve conditions, but several areas are still dryer than normal. Conditions at Boatwright and Doug Travis continue to be much drier than normal, impacting several of our hunt units and blind sites.

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Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard 12/13/2022	26,651 ducks 275 CA goose 350 WF goose 0 Snow Geese	96% Mallard, 1% Gadwall, 3% Ring-necked, Green Wing Teal, Shoveler, Wood Duck, Pintail	Warm Dec. weather patterns had the bird dispersed across the area. Significant increase in the amount of surface acres of water has also spread the ducks out to some degree. The highest densities of birds were observed using moist soil impoundments.
Boatwright 12/15/2022	2,278 ducks 14 CA geese 61 Snow geese	56% Mallard, 15% Blue Wing 26 % Ring-necked and other divers, 3% Pintail etc	Recent rains have partially filled new areas increasing available waterfowl habitat. This in turn correlated to more duck use. Hunting activity has been moderate throughout

			the week and heavy on the weekends. Low water levels still remain across much of the area even with the observed recent rainfall.
Duck Island <i>11/22/2022</i>	5,100 ducks 50 CA geese	90 % mallard 10% gadwall, ringneck, GW teal, pintail, wigeon and black ducks.	Habitat conditions at the moment are excellent with heavy use of the moist-soil habitat in the lowest area. We stockpiled water in the north impoundment in August as usual, but evaporation since that time has been dramatic.
Doug Travis WMA <i>12/14/2022</i>	662 Ducks	95% mallard 5% GW teal	Water conditions are improving on the area, but it still marginal overall. Lack of groundwater will not allow wells to pump at full output. PLEASE NOTE: Anyone hunting from a numbered blind spot must have a waterfowl blind permit on their person while hunting. These permits are found on the website on the Waterfowl Quota Hunts page, or at the information kiosk located next to the Doug Travis office.
Sloughs WMA <i>12/12/2022</i>	4,500 ducks 60 CA geese 4,500 WF geese 8,000 Snow geese 8 Tundra Swan		The region continues to be dry with local sloughs and drainages still with little available water and poor habitat conditions. With available pumping capabilities, most of the

			hunt units and the refuge has water. Duck numbers decreased from the previous week along with Snows and White Fronted geese. Pond creek marsh is still dry.
Peabody WMA <i>12/11/2022</i>	261 ducks 224 CA goose	74% ring-necked ducks, 26% mallard and gadwall	Water conditions are starting to improve with recent rainfall.
Yellowbank WMA <i>12/12/2022</i>	690 Ducks	85% mallard 5% wood duck 5% gadwall 5% black duck	Excellent moist-soil plant response and crop production in waterfowl units.
Barren River WMA <i>12/12/2022</i>	55 ducks 65 CA geese 1,103 Sandhill cranes		Peters Creek MSU 10% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 50%, MSUs off HWY 100 are 70% full. Food in abundance, with both corn and moist soil plants in great condition. Lake level: 531.3'
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds) <i>Not Surveyed</i>			
Cave Run Lake <i>12/7/2022</i>	33 Ducks 117 CA geese 119 unknowns	20, bufflehead, 11 mallard, 2 northern shoveler	Extremely dense fog across the entirety of the lake and warm temperatures. Birds were unable to be seen unless very close to the shore due to fog. Lake level: 724.2'

December 22, 2022
Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

Merry Christmas from the KDFWR!

This is the ground count survey for December 19-22, 2022. Survey numbers didn't change much overall this week. A strong cold front is coming tonight with rain, snow, freezing temps and strong winds. Weather has been fairly mild this month, so hopefully this will shake things up and get birds moving. The deep snows and subzero temps to the north is certainly sending the last of the ducks south. Expect small and shallow bodies of water to freeze, but hopefully the winds will keep some open water on the larger water bodies. Warmer temps will follow the cold, so be ready to get out when the ice begins to break.

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Boatwright 12/15/2022	2,278 ducks 14 CA geese 61 Snow geese	56% Mallard, 15% Blue Wing 26 % Ring-necked and other divers, 3% Pintail etc	Recent rains have partially filled new areas increasing available waterfowl habitat. This in turn correlated to more duck use. Hunting activity has been moderate throughout

			the week and heavy on the weekends. Low water levels still remain across much of the area even with the observed recent rainfall.
Duck Island	<i>Not surveyed</i>		
Doug Travis WMA 12/20/2022	392 Ducks	90% mallard 10% misc. dabblers	Water conditions are improving on the area, but it still marginal overall. Lack of groundwater will not allow wells to pump at full output. PLEASE NOTE: Anyone hunting from a numbered blind spot must have a waterfowl blind permit on their person while hunting. These permits are found on the website on the Waterfowl Quota Hunts page, or at the information kiosk located next to the Doug Travis office.
Sloughs WMA 12/19/2022	5,300 ducks 45 CA geese 5,500 WF geese 10,000 Snow geese 85 Tundra Swan		The region finally received several inches of rain, improving habitat conditions. Local sloughs and drainages have some available water with lower bottoms still mostly dry. With available pumping capabilities, all of the hunt units and the refuge has water. Duck numbers increased slightly

			from the previous week along with Snows and White Fronted Geese. Pond creek marsh now has 8-10 inches of water but remains extremely low.
Peabody WMA <i>12/11/2022</i>	439 ducks 240 CA goose	46% ring-necked ducks, 39% mallard 19% gadwall	Water conditions are starting to improve with recent rainfall.
Yellowbank WMA <i>12/19/2022</i>	520 Ducks	90% mallard, 5% other puddle ducks, 5% diving ducks	Excellent moist-soil plant response and crop production in waterfowl units.
Barren River WMA <i>12/19/2022</i>	224 ducks 65 CA geese 2,367 Sandhill cranes	50%diver/50% dabblers mergansers, mallards, wood ducks, scaup, redheads, ringnecks, gadwalls, high diversity	Peters Creek MSU 10% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 80%, MSUs off HWY 100 are 80% full. Food in abundance, with both corn and moist soil plants in great condition. Lake level: 529.1'
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Cave Run Lake <i>12/21/2022</i>	170 Ducks 246 CA geese 24 unknowns	28 bufflehead, 64 mallard, 4 black ducks, 22 hooded mergansers.	Lake level: 724.2'

December 29, 2022 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for December 26-29, 2022. The arctic blast that hit brought a pile of ducks with it. Unfortunately, the ice locked up any small water bodies that were not kept open by wells and pumps, but thawing is starting to occur.

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The second segment of duck season will run until January 31, 2023. Goose season opened November 24, 2022, and will remain open until February 15, 2023. New this year, youth season is Saturday, November 19, 2022, and Saturday, February 11, 2023. There is also a new veteran's hunt on Sunday, November 20, 2022, and Sunday February 12, 2023. All bag limits remain the same as last season. Check out the 2022-2023 Waterfowl hunting guide or visit the waterfowl hunting [web page](#) for more details.

Good luck hunting this year. Be safe and enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard 12/20/2022	68,351 ducks 40 CA goose 21,900WF goose 52,500 Snow Geese	84% Mallard, 13% Ring-necked, 3% Gadwall, Green Wing Teal, Pintail, Shoveler, Wood Duck	Artic cold front has pushed a significant number of new birds into the area. (99k ducks and 46k geese noted on 12/27)
Boatwright 12/22/2022	3,094 Ducks 0 CA Geese 40 Snow Geese	98% Mallards 2% unknown	Low water remains a limiting factor for waterfowl habitat availability. Hunting activity has been moderate with potential snow fall in the near future.
Duck Island	<i>Not surveyed</i>		
Doug Travis WMA 12/28/2022	4,500 Ducks 75 WF geese	95% mallard 5% gadwall, GW teal, and canvasback	Most impoundments on DTWMA are frozen, other than those where we are holding open water by running wells. We have open water at Baldy's Woods walk-in unit, and at blinds 11,

			13, and 14. We anticipate more units thawing by the end of the week. Ice thickness on lakes with blind sites is 3" in some spots. Ice is beginning to thaw.
Sloughs WMA <i>12/26/2022</i>	6,700 ducks 9 CA geese 6,000 WF geese 12,000 Snow geese 0 Tundra Swan		The region received snow and ice which did little to improve habitat conditions. Local sloughs and drainages have some water but remain considerably low with lower bottoms mostly dry. With available pumping capabilities, all of the hunt units and the refuge has water. Duck numbers increased slightly from the previous week along with Snows and White Fronted Geese. Pond creek marsh and majority of area was frozen at time of survey.
Peabody WMA <i>12/21/2022</i>	439 ducks 240 CA goose	46% ring-necked ducks, 39% mallard 19% gadwall	Water conditions are starting to improve with recent rainfall.
Yellowbank WMA <i>12/27/2022</i>	105 Ducks	90% mallard, 5% gadwall, 5% diving ducks	All units have thick ice.
Barren River WMA <i>12/19/2022</i>	224 ducks 65 CA geese 2,367 Sandhill cranes	50%diver/50% dabblers mergansers, mallards, wood ducks, scaup, redheads, ringnecks, gadwalls, high diversity	Peters Creek MSU 10% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 80%, MSUs off HWY 100 are 80% full. Food in abundance, with both corn and moist soil plants in great condition.

			Lake level: 529.1'
Blue Grass Army Depot	<i>Not Surveyed</i>		
Cave Run Lake 12/21/2022	170 Ducks 246 CA geese 24 unknowns	28 bufflehead, 64 mallard, 4 black ducks, 22 hooded mergansers.	Lake level: 724.2'

January 6, 2022 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for January 2-6, 2023. We were flying aerial surveys last week, so this report is a week late. Happy New Year, and we apologize for the delay.

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The second segment of duck season will run until January 31, 2023. Goose season opened November 24, 2022, and will remain open until February 15, 2023. New this year, youth season is Saturday, November 19, 2022, and Saturday, February 11, 2023. There is also a new veteran's hunt on Sunday, November 20, 2022, and Sunday February 12, 2023. All bag limits remain the same as last season. Check out the 2022-2023 Waterfowl hunting guide or visit the waterfowl hunting [web page](#) for more details.

Good luck hunting this year. Be safe and enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard 1/3/2023	49,789 ducks 125 CA goose 13,735WF goose 37,000 Snow Geese	99% Mallard, 1% Gadwall, Green Wing Teal, Ring-neck, Pintail, Mergansers	The recent heavy rain event pushed water out into wooded areas and natural riparian habitat. This provided for a wide expanse of available habitat and food resource available for waterfowl use. Birds were much more widespread across the survey area.
Boatwright 1/5/2023	3,643 Ducks 22 CA Geese 0 Snow Geese	95% Mallards 2% Canvasbacks 1% Ring-necked 1%Pintail 1% G-W Teal, Goldeneye, Gadwall	Recent heavy mid-winter storm helped to bring impoundments to somewhat normal pool levels. Hunting activity is normal for this time of the year. Some sheet water exist in shallow field pools and timber due to recent rains.
Duck Island	<i>Not surveyed</i>		

<p>Doug Travis WMA</p> <p>12/28/2022</p>	<p>4,500 Ducks 75 WF geese</p>	<p>95% mallard 5% gadwall, GW teal, and canvasback</p>	<p>Most impoundments on DTWMA are frozen, other than those where we are holding open water by running wells. We have open water at Baldy's Woods walk-in unit, and at blinds 11, 13, and 14. We anticipate more units thawing by the end of the week. Ice thickness on lakes with blind sites is 3" in some spots. Ice is beginning to thaw.</p>
<p>Sloughs WMA</p> <p>1/2/2023</p>	<p>8,620 ducks 35 CA geese 1,700 WF geese 4,000 Snow geese</p> <p>74 Tundra Swan</p>		<p>The region received some rain, but did little to improve overall habitat conditions. Local sloughs and drainages have some water but remain considerably low. The lower bottoms are still mostly dry. With available pumping capabilities, all of the hunt units and the refuge has water and most units are at full capacity. Duck numbers increased from the previous week, and birds are scattered throughout the newly available habitat.</p>
<p>Peabody WMA</p> <p>1/3/2023</p>	<p>44 ducks 6 CA goose</p>	<p>100% mallard</p>	<p>Melting snow and recent rainfall have brought most bodies of water to normal levels. Moist soil units are now full. Recent rainfall has spread ducks and geese out over a larger area.</p>

Yellowbank WMA 1/4/2023	550 Ducks	90% mallard, 5% black duck, 5% diving ducks	All units are at maximum water capacity.
Barren River WMA 1/4/2023	82 ducks 126 CA geese 1,680 Sandhill cranes	50%diver/50% dabblers mergansers, mallards, wood ducks, scaup, redheads, ringnecks, gadwall	Peters Creek MSU 25% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 100%, MSUs off HWY 100 are 100% full. Food in abundance, with both corn and moist soil plants in great condition. Lake level: 531.8'
Blue Grass Army Depot	<i>Not Surveyed</i>		
Cave Run Lake 1/4/2023	62 Ducks 250 CA geese	40 bufflehead, 22 mallard	Heavy fog and rain during survey made finding birds difficult. Lake level: 724.4'

January 13, 2022 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for January 9-13, 2023. The frigid weather that swept through at Christmas has given way to a couple mild weeks. We do continue to receive some rain, and some rain events were heavy enough to swell the bigger rivers and cause some backwater and headwater flooding from the smaller tributaries. Ducks have spread out across the newly flooded habitats, making surveying difficult in some areas. The mid-winter aerial survey was flown last week, and will be posted online as soon as all the data can be compiled.

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The second segment of duck season will run until January 31, 2023. Goose season opened November 24, 2022, and will remain open until February 15, 2023. New this year, youth season is Saturday, November 19, 2022, and Saturday, February 11, 2023. There is also a new veteran's hunt on Sunday, November 20, 2022, and Sunday February 12, 2023. All bag limits remain the same as last season. Check out the 2022-2023 Waterfowl hunting guide or visit the waterfowl hunting [web page](#) for more details.

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Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard 1/10/2023	41,725 ducks 61 CA goose 9,100WF goose 14,200 Snow Geese	84% Mallard, 10% Ring-Neck, 3% Green Wing Teal, 2 % Gadwall, 1% Northern Shoveler, Pintail, Mergansers	Birds are sitting on large moist soil impoundments with heavy cover. Hunters who are able to identify corridors and flight patterns have seen better success.
Boatwright 1/12/2023	8,137 Ducks 7 CA Geese 275 Snow Geese	79% Mallards 11% G-W Teal 10% Other	Recent rains have helped with impoundments that were still impacted by drought. Full moon and the warm temps has made hunting challenging.
Duck Island	<i>Mid-winter aerial survey</i> 1/4/23	675 mallards 7 black ducks 15 gadwall	
Doug Travis WMA 1/12/2023	50 Ducks*		*Incomplete count due to wet levees. We have seen little use of the

			Indian Camp Rest Area this week. Ducks using the Beaver Pond Rest Area are concentrated in brushy openings that cannot be estimated.
Sloughs WMA 1/9/2023	5,500 ducks 25 CA geese 3,700 WF geese 4,000 Snow geese 79 Tundra Swan		Local sloughs and drainages have improved habitat conditions with most having water but remain low compared to previous years. Lower bottoms such as Grassy and Highland has water. Duck numbers decreased from the previous week with birds scattered throughout the area with newly available water and food.
Peabody WMA 1/12/2023	342 ducks 118 CA goose	95% mallard, 5% gadwall, ring-neck, black duck and mergansers.	Moist soil units and impoundments are now full.
Yellowbank WMA 1/4/2023	550 Ducks	90% mallard, 5% black duck, 5% diving ducks	All units are at maximum water capacity.
Barren River WMA 1/10/2023	76 ducks 105 CA geese 4,026 Sandhill cranes	75%diver/25% dabblers mergansers, ringnecks, scaup, redheads, mallards	Peters Creek MSU 25% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 100%, MSUs off HWY 100 are 100% full. Food in abundance, with both corn and moist soil plants in great condition. Lake level: 530.8'
Blue Grass Army Depot	<i>Not Surveyed</i>		
Cave Run Lake 1/11/2023	79 Ducks 0 CA geese 50 coot	72 bufflehead, 6 mallard, 1 common merganser	Lake level: 724.4'

January 20, 2022 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for January 16-20, 2023. It's been another mild week, and bird numbers have not changed much. The week did finish with a small cold front sweeping through to get birds moving a bit. The rains have provided a bit more water to places that are still dryer than normal. Habitat overall is still excellent. There is more than enough flooded crops and moist soil food to go around.

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The second segment of duck season will run until January 31, 2023. Goose season opened November 24, 2022 and will remain open until February 15, 2023. New this year, youth season is Saturday, November 19, 2022, and Saturday, February 11, 2023. There is also a new veteran's hunt on Sunday, November 20, 2022, and Sunday February 12, 2023. All bag limits remain the same as last season. Check out the 2022-2023 Waterfowl hunting guide or visit the waterfowl hunting [web page](#) for more details.

Good luck hunting this year. Be safe and enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard 1/18/2023	57,943 ducks 43 CA goose 3,297 WF goose 7,954 Snow Geese	97% Mallard, 1% Green Wing Teal, 1 % Gadwall, 1% Northern Shoveler, Pintail, Mergansers	Strong cold front with lots of wind and rain. Hunter success has slightly improved but birds are still holding tight to overhead cover.
Boatwright 1/19/2023	3,091 Ducks 31 CA Geese	68% Mallards 25% G-W Teal 7% Other	Hunting activity has been heavy in portions of the WMA. Newly flooded acres near long pond are holding large groups of G-W Teal.
Duck Island	<i>Mid-winter aerial survey</i> 1/4/23	675 mallards 7 black ducks 15 gadwall	
Doug Travis WMA 1/18/2023	585 Ducks	520 Mallard 65 GW teal and misc. dabblers.	Water conditions remain the same on the area. Ducks are tucked into thick brushy areas, likely resulting in low

			estimates of numbers on the area.
Sloughs WMA <i>1/16/2023</i>	8,810 ducks 20 CA geese 700 WF geese 400 Snow geese 92 Tundra Swan		The region received some rain since the previous survey and overall habitat conditions have improved. Water is available throughout the WMA including the lower bottoms. With available pumping capabilities, all of the hunt units and the refuge has water, and most units are at full capacity. Duck numbers increased from the previous week, & birds were dispersed throughout the area using newly available habitat.
Peabody WMA <i>1/18/2023</i>	169 ducks 156 CA goose	90% mallard, 10% ring-necks	Moist soil units and impoundments are full.
Yellowbank WMA <i>1/18/2023</i>	290 Ducks	90% mallard 10% other puddle ducks	All units are at maximum water capacity.
Barren River WMA <i>1/17/2023</i>	44 ducks 105 CA geese 4,758 Sandhill cranes	50%diver/50% dabblers mergansers, wood ducks, ringnecks, scaup, redheads, mallards	Peters Creek MSU 35% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 100%, MSUs off HWY 100 are 100% full. Food in abundance, with both corn and moist soil plants in great condition. Lake level: 528.8'
Blue Grass Army Depot	<i>Not Surveyed</i>		
Cave Run Lake	79 Ducks 0 CA geese	72 bufflehead, 6 mallard, 1 common merganser	Lake level: 724.4'

1/11/2023	50 coot		
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January 27, 2022 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for January 23-27, 2023. Well folks, it's that time of year again... It has been a long 60 days, but we all hate to see the end. The week did bring a little bit of cold weather, and some of our birds to the south have begun the trip back north. January hunting is always difficult, but there are quite a few folks that continue to find ways to get ducks over the decoys. We wish everyone the best of luck closing out duck season, and to those who will be chasing geese until the 15th of February.

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The second segment of duck season will end January 31, 2023. Goose season opened November 24, 2022 and will remain open until February 15, 2023. New this year, youth season is Saturday, November 19, 2022, and Saturday, February 11, 2023. There is also a new veteran's hunt on Sunday, November 20, 2022, and Sunday February 12, 2023. All bag limits remain the same as last season. Check out the 2022-2023 Waterfowl hunting guide or visit the waterfowl hunting [web page](#) for more details.

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Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard 1/18/2023	57,943 ducks 43 CA goose 3,297 WF goose 7,954 Snow Geese	97% Mallard, 1% Green Wing Teal, 1 % Gadwall, 1% Northern Shoveler, Pintail, Mergansers	Strong cold front with lots of wind and rain. Hunter success has slightly improved but birds are still holding tight to overhead cover.
Boatwright 1/26/2023	3,720 Ducks 22 CA Geese	50% Mallards 27% G-W Teal 23% Canvasback & Ring-necked duck	Recent cold fronts improved waterfowl numbers on the Boatwright area, most notably in the Olmsted unit.
Duck Island	<i>Mid-winter aerial survey</i> 1/4/23	675 mallards 7 black ducks 15 gadwall	
Doug Travis WMA 1/26/2023	970 ducks*	95% Mallard 5% GW teal, pintail and misc. dabblers.	*Incomplete count due to wet levees. Most ducks are tucked into thick brushy areas resulting in lower estimates than actual numbers.

Sloughs WMA 1/23/2023	6,000 ducks 4 CA geese 4,600 WF geese 5,500 Snow geese 96 Tundra Swan		The region has continued to receive rain from the previous survey and has improved overall habitat conditions. Duck numbers decreased from the previous week with birds dispersed throughout the WMA. Snows and White Fronted Geese continue to move around the area with higher numbers reported from the previous survey.
Peabody WMA 1/25/2023	334 ducks 238 CA goose	84% mallard 16% ring-necks & gadwall	Habitat conditions have improved with recent rainfall. Waterfowl totals continue to remain lower than average for this time of the year.
Yellowbank WMA 1/23/2023	425 Ducks 25 WF geese	80% mallard, 10% black duck, 5% gadwall, 5% diver ducks	All units are at maximum water capacity.
Barren River WMA 1/23/2023	34 ducks 102 CA geese 4,130 Sandhill cranes	50%diver/50% dabblers mergansers, wood ducks, ringnecks, scaup, redheads, mallards	Peters Creek MSU 50% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 100%, MSUs off HWY 100 are 100% full. Food in abundance, with both corn and moist soil plants in great condition. Lake level: 529.2'
Blue Grass Army Depot	<i>Not Surveyed</i>		
Cave Run Lake 1/20/2023	58 Ducks 20 CA geese 20 coot	48 bufflehead, 4 mallard, 6 hooded merganser	Lake level: 724.4'

