

February 09, 2024 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for February 05 – February 09, 2024. The duck hunting season is now closed. During the season, habitat was mainly limited to areas that had the capacity to pump water, which was limited, due to the low levels in the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Rain at the end of the season helped with water levels.

Avian Influenza is present in Kentucky, so hunters should use common sense when handling/cleaning harvested waterfowl. See page two of the [KY Waterfowl Guide](#) for recommendations for the safe handling and disposal of your birds. After cleaning waterfowl, hunters are encouraged to place the remains in trash bags and dispose of them through trash collection or a permitted landfill. Bald eagles and other raptors are particularly susceptible to avian influenza. This simple action could help prevent bald eagle and other raptor mortalities.

The second segment of duck season opened on December 7 and ran until January 31, 2024. Goose season opened Thanksgiving Day and will remain open until February 15, 2024. The second day of Special Youth Waterfowl Season is Sunday, February 11, 2024. The second day of Special Veteran's Waterfowl Season is on Sunday February 11, 2024. All bag limits remain the same as last season. Check out the 2023-2024 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>Not surveyed</i>			
Sloughs WMA <i>02/07/2024</i>	1,400 ducks 110 CA geese 245 Snow/WF geese 23 Tundra swans	85% mallard 15% mixed dabbling – pintails, gadwall, green winged teal	Waterfowl are tucked into heavy cover the past 3 weeks making counts difficult. There are certainly more ducks here than observed but they are loafing in inaccessible areas with no reason to move around.
Peabody WMA	54 ducks 165 CA geese	33% mallard 33% ring-neck	Water levels are still good in most shallow water

02/08/2024		33% gadwall	systems. Backwater in the Pond and Tradewater river systems are starting to fall.
Yellowbank WMA 02/08/2024	695 Ducks	85% mallard 5% black duck 5% gadwall 5% pintail	All waterfowl units are at or near maximum water capacity.
Barren River WMA <i>Not surveyed</i>			
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds) <i>Not surveyed</i>			
Cave Run Lake <i>Not surveyed</i>			