

November 21, 2018 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter waterfowl ground count for November 19-21, 2018. Many areas did not have the opportunity to survey this week, as we are still a little early in the season. Also, due to staff being away for the Thanksgiving holiday, this report may be delayed in getting online.

If the current weather conditions hold, we can anticipate an exciting opener! Cold and Snow in the Northern states has started many ducks this way. The early flush of teal and pintails has quickly turned into mallards and various diving duck species. Unfortunately, weather models are predicting that the early cold will give way to the same mild and dry conditions that we experienced last winter. Let's all hope those predictions are wrong!

After one of the wettest summers on record, Kentucky waterfowl hunters can expect favorable water conditions for hunting this year. Most of the states wetlands are in above average condition. Moist soil plants look great across the state. Crops favored well in most places, although many areas struggled to get corn planted. Overall, conditions for ducks are good, and we are set to manage as needed throughout the season.

The Kentucky 2018-19 duck and goose seasons open Thursday, November 22. The first duck season segment will close on Sunday, November 25. The second segment of duck and season will open December 3 and the duck season will remain open until Sunday, January 27. The goose season will remain open until Friday, February 15, 2019. Good luck to all waterfowl hunters, and remember to be safe enjoy your time afield this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	14,745 Ducks 35 CA geese 3,500 WF geese	96% Mallard, 2% Gadwall, 2% GW Teal, wood duck, wigeon, shoveler, ring-neck, goldeneye, hooded merg and black duck.	Habitat conditions look great. There is an abundance of moist soil vegetation and grain. Winter wheat is up and growing in most units that we planted.
Boatwright WMA	5,545 Ducks 71 CA geese	99% Mallard, 1% Wood duck, GW teal and black duck.	Some minor river flooding is occurring around the Swan Lake area. There is an abundance of grain and moist soil habitat available.
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not surveyed		
Duck Island	3,210 Ducks 275 CA geese	Mallards – 2700, GWT – 250, Pintail – 75, Gadwall – 125, Ringneck – 60, Wigeon – 90	Habitat is excellent. Milo planted this year did well, and moist soil vegetation is excellent. Fall rains have resulted in pool

			levels a bit higher than optimal for this time of year, but water is available for management of all impoundments.
Barren River Lake WMA	340 ducks 20 CA geese	50/50 small divers and mallards. A few wood ducks still present.	Peters Creek MSU 60% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 50% and units above and below the main spring 0% because soybeans not harvest all yet by farm tenant, MSUs off hwy 100 are 50-75% full, with soybeans and MSU plants in great condition. Barren River Lake levels are currently just above summer pool.
Doug Travis WMA	Not surveyed		
Cave Run Lake	Not surveyed		
Clear Creek WMA	Not surveyed		
Peabody WMA	Not surveyed		
Sloughs WMA	7,765 Ducks 45 CA geese 5,750 Snow geese 174 Swans	75% mallard, 25% mix of gadwall, northern pintail, green-winged teal, black duck, and northern shoveler.	Most shallow water across the WMA remained frozen during the count as temperatures fell in the mid 20's overnight. The total duck count is likely underestimated as the sunny conditions and the fact that ducks held tight in buttonbush thickets made counting difficult. Snow geese were scattered on the WMA, either loafing or dry feeding on standing corn or winter wheat. With the Ohio River cresting at nearly 36 feet at JT Meyer tomorrow afternoon, good habitat conditions can be found on the Grassy Pond/Powell's Lake Unit and low areas of Highland Creek Unit of the

			WMA. However, road access will be an issue for some areas, and hunters should be cautious of flooded roadways.
Yellowbank WMA	Not surveyed	60% wood duck, 25% mallard, 5% gadwall, 10% other ducks	Most moist-soil units are at 75% water capacity, but there are several units with little water due to soybeans still in fields.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		
Taylorville Lake	Not surveyed		
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		

November 29, 2018 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter-waterfowl ground count survey for November 26-30, 2018. Last week started the 2018-19 waterfowl season, and hunting reports varied across the state from excellent to fair. Geese in central Kentucky are still scattered, but are moving around to feed. Ducks are also scattered, needing some cooler weather to congregate them. Several wood ducks were harvested, but they will soon be leaving us for warmer wintering grounds. Look for a fresh push of birds fleeing the heavy snow predicted to our North. Below freezing temps locked up most shallow water areas during the survey this week, but rain and warmer temps are predicted for the weekend. Unfortunately, weather models are predicting that the early cold will give way to the same mild and dry conditions that we experienced last winter. Let's all hope those predictions are wrong!

After one of the wettest summers on record, Kentucky waterfowl hunters can expect favorable water conditions for hunting this year. Most of the states wetlands are in above average condition. Moist soil plants look great across the state. Crops favored well in most places, although many areas struggled to get corn planted. Overall, conditions for ducks are good, and we are set to manage as needed throughout the season.

The Kentucky 2018-19 duck and goose seasons open Thursday, November 22. The first duck season segment will close on Sunday, November 25. The second segment of duck and season will open December 3 and the duck season will remain open until Sunday, January 27. The goose season will remain open until Friday, February 15, 2019. Good luck to all waterfowl hunters, and remember to be safe enjoy your time afield this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	29,217 Ducks 51 CA geese 2,500 WF geese 200 Snow geese	97% Mallard, 2% Gadwall, 1% mix of GW Teal, Hooded Merganser, Wood Duck, Pintail, Black Duck and Ring-necked.	Most shallow water was frozen during the survey. Habitat conditions look great. There is an abundance of moist soil vegetation and grain. Winter wheat is up and growing in most units that were planted.
Boatwright WMA	18,789 Ducks 20 CA geese 600 WF geese	99% Mallard, 1% Wood duck, GW teal and black duck.	Shallow water was frozen during the survey. Floodwaters are still receding. The Swan Lake unit was difficult to survey due to water levels. There is an abundance of grain and moist soil habitat available.

Duck Island	3,210 Ducks 275 CA geese	Mallards – 2700, GWT – 250, Pintail – 75, Gadwall – 125, Ringneck – 60, Wigeon – 90	Habitat is excellent. Milo planted this year did well, and moist soil vegetation is excellent. Fall rains have resulted in pool levels a bit higher than optimal for this time of year, but water is available for management of all impoundments.
Barren River Lake WMA	300 ducks 20 CA geese 0 Sandhill cranes	50/50 small divers and mallards.	All moist soil units were frozen during the survey. Peters Creek MSU 60% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 50% and units above and below the main spring 0% because soybeans not harvest yet by farm tenant, MSUs off hwy 100 are 50-75% full, with soybeans and MSU plants in great condition. Barren River Lake level: 547.9'
Doug Travis WMA	6,000 ducks		Mississippi River backwater has been present on the WMA for several weeks, but is now falling and is forecast to fall to the low-to-mid 30's on the Cairo gage by the next opener on 12/3. The present river forecast should allow vehicle access to all boat ramps and parking sites on the 12/3 opener, although roads will be muddy in many places from silt deposited during the recent flood event. Mobility Impaired blind 19 is now constructed and available to hunt.

Cave Run Lake	134 Ducks 30 CA geese 100 coots	90% bufflehead and hooded merganser, 10% teal, common merganser, unknown ducks & wood duck.	Expect the ACOE to start letting it down to prepare for incoming precipitation. Hydrilla was treated with herbicide in many areas this year in an effort to control the nuisance species. The recent booms have been knocked back, leaving "normal" habitat conditions. The flats area of the lake, as well as some coves still have decent vegetation.
Peabody WMA	919 ducks 140 CA geese	752 puddlers (95% Mallard), 167 divers (95% ring-necked duck)	
Sloughs WMA	9,500 Ducks 36 CA geese 8,000 WF geese 5,000 Snow geese 147 Swans	85% mallard, 15% mix of gadwall, northern pintail, green-winged teal, black duck, ring-necks and northern shoveler.	Any water shallower than 1 foot was frozen at the time of the survey. Water levels in the sloughs and Pond Creek Marsh complex have receded over the past week, affording excellent foraging opportunities for ducks. Most ducks seen were concentrated in the Pond Creek Marsh complex and Doriott Slough. The remaining ducks were scattered between Hardy Slough complex, Gentle Pond, and Muddy Slough. Snow geese continue to move between the WMA and north in to Indiana throughout the day. White fronted geese were found either loafing on Muddy Slough or on the Pond Creek marsh complex.
Yellowbank WMA	640 Ducks	80% mallard, 10% wood duck, 5% black duck & 5% other puddle ducks	Most moist-soil units are at 85% water capacity, but there are several units with little

			water due to soybeans still in fields.
Blue Grass Army Depot	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		

December 6, 2018 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter-waterfowl ground count survey for December 3-7, 2018. The second segment of the duck season began this week, and hunting reports varied across the state. Geese in central Kentucky are still scattered, and are still moving around to feed. Along the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, flood waters have scattered the ducks around the landscape, making them harder to hunt. There are still a lot of birds to our north, so hope for more cold and snow to send them to us. Unfortunately, weather models are still predicting that the early cold experienced in Nov/Dec, will give way to the same mild and dry conditions that we experienced last winter. Let's all hope those predictions are wrong!

After one of the wettest summers on record, Kentucky waterfowl hunters can expect favorable water conditions for hunting this year. Most of the states wetlands are in above average condition. Moist soil plants look great across the state. Crops favored well in most places, although many areas struggled to get corn planted. Overall, conditions for ducks are good, and we are set to manage as needed throughout the season.

The Kentucky 2018-19 duck and goose seasons open Thursday, November 22. The first duck season segment closed on Sunday, November 25. The second segment of duck and season opened December 3 and the duck season will remain open until Sunday, January 27. The goose season will remain open until Friday, February 15, 2019. Good luck to all waterfowl hunters, and remember to be safe enjoy your time afield this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	27,870 Ducks 50 CA geese 4,000 WF geese	99% Mallard, 1% Gadwall, ring-neck, goldeneye, wood duck, wigeon, pintail and hooded merganser.	Habitat looks excellent. Ohio River is beginning to flood the area. Birds seem to be scattered due to high water.
Boatwright WMA	Survey not possible due to flooding.		
Duck Island	Not Surveyed		
Barren River Lake WMA	Not Surveyed		
Doug Travis WMA	2,200 ducks	2000 Mallards, 100 GW teal, 100 assorted dabblers. ***Ground survey is incomplete, as the area south of Fish Lk Road is not accessible by vehicle.	Some boat launches are now inaccessible by road. Based on Mississippi River forecast, water may be across Fish Lake Road and Laketon Road by Thursday or Friday. Hunters are cautioned to check road and boat ramp conditions by wading before driving vehicles through water.
Cave Run Lake	185 Ducks	80% bufflehead and hooded merganser, 20% mallard,	Expect the ACOE to start letting it down to

	100 coots	black duck, gadwall, and unknown species.	prepare for incoming precipitation. Hydrilla was treated with herbicide in many areas this year in an effort to control the nuisance species. The recent booms have been knocked back, leaving "normal" habitat conditions. The flats area of the lake, as well as some coves still have decent vegetation.
Peabody WMA	666 ducks 175 CA geese	352 puddlers (95% Mallard), 314 divers (95% ring-necked duck)	
Sloughs WMA	12,235 Ducks 79 CA geese 9,835 WF geese 7,200 Snow geese 126 Swans	85% mallard, 15% mix of gadwall, northern pintail, green-winged teal, black duck, ring-necks and northern shoveler.	Recent rains have both the Pond Creek marsh and the Ohio River slowly rising. The river is predicted to crest at J.T. Meyers at 35' on Thursday, which will provide some favorable water conditions on Highland Creek and Grassy Pond/Powell's Lake. Again, the ducks were concentrated within the Pond Creek marsh complex, with the birds capitalizing on freshly flooded food sources. The remaining ducks were found in Doriott Slough, Hardy Slough complex, and Muddy Slough. Snow geese continue to transition between the WMA and fields across the Ohio River in Indiana. White fronted geese were scattered in large groups in several locations within the refuge.
Yellowbank WMA	675 Ducks	85% mallard, 5% wood duck, 5% gadwall, 5% other puddle ducks	Most moist-soil units are at 85% water capacity, but there are several units with little

			water due to soybeans still in fields.
Blue Grass Army Depot	54 ducks 8 CA geese	36 mallards and 18 black ducks	The moist soil unit is 100% full. The beavers have extended the flooded woodland a considerable distance upstream of the head of Lake Vega.
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		

December 14, 2018 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter-waterfowl ground count survey for December 10-14, 2018. Hunting reports were fairly weak from the last 7 days or so, as freezing conditions, shallow backwaters, and generally low bird numbers combined forces to challenge Kentucky hunters. Along the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, floodwaters have crested and started falling. There are increasing reports of frozen lakes and snow cover to the north; however, the upper Mississippi and Illinois River waterfowl surveys reported more than 600,000 mallards still hanging on.

Most of the states wetlands are in above average condition. Moist soil food is still in abundance across the state. Crops favored well in most places, although many areas struggled to get corn planted. Overall, conditions for ducks are good, and we are set to manage as needed throughout the season.

The Kentucky 2018-19 duck and goose seasons open Thursday, November 22. The first duck season segment closed on Sunday, November 25. The second segment of duck and season opened December 3 and the duck season will remain open until Sunday, January 27. The goose season will remain open until Friday, February 15, 2019. Good luck to all waterfowl hunters, and remember to be safe enjoy your time afield this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	23,981 Ducks 122 CA geese 3,500 WF geese 200 Snow geese	98% Mallard, 1% Gadwall, & 1% wigeon, ring-neck, goldeneye, black duck and hooded merganser.	Habitat looks good. Ohio River is falling out, and water levels are dropping to more favorable conditions in the hunting units. Birds are not moving around much.
Boatwright WMA		Survey not possible due to flooding.	
Duck Island	2,900 ducks	55% Mallard, 40% GW teal, 3% Ring-necked duck & 2% pintail, gadwall, wigeon and black duck.	
Doug Travis WMA	9,000 ducks***	95% Mallards and 5% assorted dabblers and ring- necked duck. ***Ground survey is an estimate, as the survey area is not accessible by vehicle.	As of 12/12, water is off off Fish Lake Road. #4 Lake and Indian Camp Slough boat ramps are not accessible by vehicle.
Sloughs WMA	18,911 Ducks 116 CA geese 9,725 WF geese 200 Snow geese 173 Swans	90% mallard, 10% gadwall, green-winged teal, black ducks, shovelors	Except where waterfowl had kept it open, all shallow water on the refuge was frozen at the time of the survey. However, rain and a warming

			<p>temperatures over the next week should have most of the area ice-free by the the time hunting starts again on Thursday. Water levels remain relatively low for the season in both the Pond Creek marsh area and Muddy Slough, affording excellent feeding opportunities for the birds. Over the last few days, large numbers of ducks continue to leave daytime loafing areas on the Pond Creek marsh to roost on surrounding moist-soil impoundments.</p>
Barren River Lake WMA	<p>65 ducks 572 Sandhill Cranes</p>	<p>50/50 mix of dabblers and divers, mostly mallard, bufflehead, and wood ducks.</p>	<p>Moist Soil Units were frozen on edges during the survey. Peters Creek MSU 60% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 50% full, and units above and below the main spring are still not being flooded. This is due to the soybeans that have not yet been harvested. MSUs off hwy 100 are 50-75% full, with soybeans and MSU plants in great condition. Lake levels are finally low enough to expose some mud flats for cranes to use.</p>
Peabody WMA	Not Surveyed		
Yellowbank WMA	310 Ducks	<p>90% mallard, 5% black duck, 5% other puddle ducks</p>	<p>Most moist-soil units are at 85% water capacity.</p>

Cave Run Lake	901 Ducks 400 CA goose 100+ coots	50/50 divers and dabblers. Dabblers: 66% mallard, 10% GW teal, 24% gadwall, black duck and unknowns. Divers: 40% hooded merganser, 25% bufflehead, 15% canvasback, & 20% rin-necked duck, scaup or unknowns.	Expect the ACOE to start letting it down to prepare for incoming precipitation. Hydrilla was treated with herbicide in many areas this year in an effort to control the nuisance species. The recent booms have been knocked back, leaving "normal" habitat conditions. The flats area of the lake, as well as some coves still have decent vegetation.
Blue Grass Army Depot	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		

December 20, 2018 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter-waterfowl ground count survey for December 17-21, 2018. Hunting reports were a little better last week, however mild temps and lots of rain has birds scattered once again. On the 17th, there were 309,420 total ducks reported on the Illinois and central Mississippi rivers, indicating that birds have started moving south. The report from Missouri Dept of Conservation lists 755,405 ducks in total across MO's managed public wetlands. Southern Illinois and Southeastern Missouri waterfowl areas are still not reporting large concentrations of ducks, however.

Most of the states wetlands are still in above average condition. Moist soil food is still in abundance across the state. Crops favored well in most places, although many areas struggled to get corn planted. Overall, conditions for ducks are good, and we are set to manage as needed throughout the season.

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Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	23,244 Ducks 114 CA geese 6,500 WF geese 8,000 Snow geese	96% Mallard, 2% Gadwall, & 2% wigeon, shoveler, scaup, ring-neck, goldeneye, ruddy duck and mergansers.	
Boatwright WMA		Survey not possible due to flooding.	
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Doug Travis WMA	300 ducks***	90% Mallards and 10% assorted dabblers. ***Ground survey is an estimate, as the survey area is not accessible by vehicle.	Water is rising again with a predicted crest of 39.9' at the Cairo gage. If the river forecast holds, water will not cross Fish Lake Rd. Indian Camp Slough boat ramp is inaccessible due to flooding. Hunters are accessing blinds 18 and 19 by launching boats from Drew Rd at the base of the bluff. The road to blinds 16 and 17 is flooded before 16, although both spots are accessible via boat.

<p>Sloughs WMA</p>	<p>9,215 Ducks 105 CA geese 5,780 WF geese 6,500 Snow geese 168 Swans</p>	<p>90% mallards 10% mixed bag of green-winged teal, northern shoveler, gadwall, black ducks, and pintails.</p>	<p>Over the past week, we have experienced a significant warm up and three days of rain, bringing approximately 4 inches total. Headwater flooding in fields is providing new foraging habitat for ducks across the region, and has certainly spread the ducks across the landscape. Water levels in the Pond Creek marsh complex have risen substantially, limiting feeding opportunities for ducks in the marsh itself. The rising water has flooded extensive areas of timber across the refuge. Nearly all of the ducks observed on the count were in recently flooded stands of timber with water depths less than 20 inches. White fronted geese were scattered across the refuge between Muddy Slough and the Pond Creek marsh complex. All snow geese were found loafing in a single moist-soil impoundment and dry feeding in an adjacent field planted to winter wheat.</p>
<p>Barren River Lake WMA</p>	<p>40 ducks 86 CA geese 3,434 Sandhill Cranes</p>	<p>75% dabblers and 25% divers</p>	<p>Peters Creek MSU: 60% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit: 50% and units above and below the main spring 25-60%% and rising. Milo, corn, soybeans,</p>

			and moist soil plants in excellent condition and in standing water. MSUs off hwy 100 are 50-75% full, with soybeans, and MSU plants in great condition too. 12/18 Lake Level: 538.8' and falling.
Peabody WMA	Not Surveyed		
Yellowbank WMA	475 Ducks	85% mallard, 5% black duck, 5% gadwall, 5% other dabbling ducks	Most moist-soil units are at 85% water capacity.
Cave Run Lake	346 Ducks 125 CA goose	93% divers Dabblers: 11 unknown, 8 mallard, 5 gadwall, & 1 GW teal. Divers: 130 hooded merganser, 100+ bufflehead, 75+ canvasback, 6 ring-necked duck and 10 unknown.	Hydrilla was treated with herbicide in many areas this year in an effort to control the nuisance species. The recent booms have been knocked back, leaving "normal" habitat conditions. The flats area of the lake, as well as some coves still have decent vegetation.
Blue Grass Army Depot	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		

December 27, 2018 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter-waterfowl ground count survey for December 24-28, 2018. Hunting reports were a little better last week; however continued mild temps and lots of rain has birds still scattered. The holidays have delayed reporting of ducks along the Illinois and central Mississippi Rivers, as well as across Missouri's managed public wetlands, so the counts typically reported here could not be obtained this week.

Most of the state's wetlands are still in above average condition. Moist soil food is still in abundance across the state. Crops favored well in most places, although many areas struggled to get corn planted. Overall, conditions for ducks are good, and we are set to manage as needed throughout the season.

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Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	Ducks: 20,561 Canada Geese: 46 White Fronted Geese: 4600 Snow Geese: 3000	86% Mallard, 5% Gadwall, 4% Wigeon, 4% Ring-neck, 1% mixed Goldeneye, Merganser, Wood Duck, Shoveler, Pintail and Canvasback	Habitat, moist soil food and small grain availability all good. River is just under 40', and flooding is causing birds to spread out. Large numbers to the north, but colder weather is needed to push them in.
Boatwright WMA	Not Surveyed		High water on survey route.
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Doug Travis WMA	Not Surveyed		
Sloughs WMA	Ducks: 15,110 White Fronted Geese: 3500 Snow Geese: 0 Canada Geese: 197 Swans: 160	85-90% Mallard, 15% green-winged teal, northern shoveler, gadwall, black duck, widgeon, and pintail	Ohio River is currently rising and expected to crest at 39.2 Saturday, Dec 29 th . With moderate temperatures, birds have not been moving much.
Barren River Lake WMA	10 Ducks, 35 Canada Geese, 381 Sandhill Cranes	100% Dabblers (Mallard and Wood Duck)	12/27 Lake Level: 535' and falling
Peabody WMA	Not Surveyed		

Yellowbank WMA	Not Surveyed		
Cave Run Lake	Not Surveyed		
Blue Grass Army Depot	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		

January 3, 2019 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter-waterfowl ground count survey for January 2-4, 2019. Hunting reports continue to be “less than desirable”... The Christmas and New Year’s holidays have delayed reporting on some of our management areas, but most are back to work and back on our regular schedule. Mild weather continues to our North, so we will continue to be hopeful that conditions will improve soon.

Ohio and Mississippi river levels continue to rise, **closing Ballard WMA**, but bringing favorable backwater to other areas. Most of the lakes across the state are well above winter pool. Most of the state’s wetlands are still in above average condition. Moist soil food is still in abundance across the state. Crops favored well in most places, although many areas struggled to get corn planted last summer. Overall, conditions for ducks are good, and we are set to manage as needed throughout the season.

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Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	Not Surveyed due to flooding.		Ballard WMA <i>is closed</i> due to flooding. By regulation, Ballard WMA becomes entirely refuge during backwater events.
Boatwright WMA	Not Surveyed		Survey not possible due to flooding. Boatwright WMA hunters must still check in each day, as the area remains open during backwater. See the hunting guide online for specific backwater rules on the area.
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Doug Travis WMA	800-1000 ducks	80% mallards and 20% mixed dabblers. *incomplete count due to flooding*	All roads to the WMA are cut off by flooding. Boats can be launched in the roadside of Fish Lake Road and Laketon Road. Hunters can access blind sites 18 and 19 by launching boats at the end of Drew Road where the water begins.

Sloughs WMA	Ducks: 15,843 CA geese: 254 WF Geese: 4,250 Snow Geese: 0	75% mallards, 25% mix of pintails, gadwall, green-winged teal, northern shoveler, and black ducks	Ohio River is still rising and expected to crest at 39.5 on Saturday. The abundance of water across the landscape combined with mild temperatures, has kept hunting success low. Birds have spread out and are not moving during shooting hours. A surprising number of pintails were observed during the survey. All white-fronted geese were found loafing in Muddy Slough. No snow geese were observed at the time of the survey; however, large numbers of snow geese return to the area from the northwest to roost. Interestingly, all of our tundra swans have left the area.
Barren River Lake WMA	Not Surveyed		
Peabody WMA	Not Surveyed		
Yellowbank WMA	Not Surveyed		
Cave Run Lake	38 ducks	20- bufflehead, 10 hooded mergansers, 6 ruddy ducks and 2 ring-necked ducks.	Lake level is approaching summer pool, and the river is full as water is being pulled out of the lake.
Blue Grass Army Depot	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		

January 11, 2019 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter-waterfowl ground count survey for January 7-11, 2019. Also, the periodic winter waterfowl aerial surveys were flown this week. Watch for those reports early next week.

Ballard WMA remains closed. Most of the lakes across the state are well above winter pool. Most of the state's wetlands are still in above average condition. Moist soil food is still in abundance across the state. Crops favored well in most places, although many areas struggled to get corn planted last summer. Overall, conditions for ducks are good, and we are set to manage as needed throughout the season.

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Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	Not Surveyed due to flooding.		Ballard WMA <i>is closed</i> due to flooding. By regulation, Ballard WMA becomes entirely refuge during backwater events.
Boatwright WMA	Not Surveyed		Survey not possible due to flooding. Boatwright WMA hunters must still check in each day, as the area remains open during backwater. See the hunting guide online for specific backwater rules on the area.
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Doug Travis WMA	Not Surveyed		
Sloughs WMA	Ducks: 10,289 CA geese: 104 WF Geese: 4,645 Snow Geese: 41	60% mallard, 40% mix of green-winged teal, gadwall, pintail, and northern shoveler.	Warm and wet conditions continue to prevail across the area, with temperatures reaching nearly 60 degrees over the past three days. The Ohio River crested today at nearly 40' at the J.T. Meyer Dam gauge, but is expected to fall fast

			<p>over the next week. With that, there is still a significant amount of water across the landscape. Similarly, the Pond Creek marsh remains above normal pool; however, water was beginning to recede from some of the adjacent woodlands. Nearly all of the ducks observed were found in some sort of flooded timber, whether it be flooded willows, buttonbush, or bottomland hardwoods. Ducks continue to remain in the timber during the day, and roost in adjacent moist soil units and flooded fields, arriving to their roosting spots 5-10 minutes before dark. White fronted geese continue to loaf and feed adjacent to Muddy Slough. Snow geese continue to be absent from the refuge during the day, but will return in the evening time to roost.</p>
Barren River Lake WMA	Ducks: 10 CA Goose: 110	Mallards and Wood ducks	<p>Peters Creek MSU 80% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 80-100% full. Milo, corn, soybeans, and moist soil plants in excellent condition and in standing water. MSUs off hwy 100 are</p>

			70-100% full, with soybeans, and MSU plants in great condition. Lake is 17.3' above winter pool, at 545.3'.
Peabody WMA	Not Surveyed		
Yellowbank WMA	535 ducks	90% mallard, 5% black duck, 5% northern pintail	Most moist-soil units/ flooded fields are at maximum water capacity. Ducks are still scattered in flooded fields due to flooding from the Ohio River.
Cave Run Lake	38 ducks	20- bufflehead, 10 hooded mergansers, 6 ruddy ducks and 2 ring-necked ducks.	Lake level is approaching summer pool, and the river is full as water is being pulled out of the lake.
Blue Grass Army Depot	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		

January 17, 2019 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter-waterfowl ground count survey for January 14-18, 2019. Also, the periodic winter waterfowl aerial surveys were flown last week, and the report should be online now. The floodwaters have started to recede this week. With the colder weather setting in, we seem to be seeing a few more ducks than we have had.

Ballard WMA will reopen on Saturday, January 19. Staff at Ballard has devoted all their time this week to clean up. The weekly surveys will resume next week. Most of the lakes across the state are still well above winter pool. Most of the state's wetlands are still in above average condition. Moist soil food is still in abundance across the state, and crops are still providing food on most areas. Overall, conditions for ducks are good, and we are set to manage as needed throughout the season.

The Kentucky 2018-19 duck and goose seasons open Thursday, November 22. The first duck season segment closed on Sunday, November 25. The second segment of duck and season opened December 3 and the duck season will remain open until Sunday, January 27. The goose season will remain open until Friday, February 15, 2019. Good luck to all waterfowl hunters, and remember to be safe and enjoy your time afield this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	Not Surveyed due to flood cleanup.		Ballard WMA <i>is closed</i> due to flooding, until Saturday, Jan. 19. By regulation, Ballard WMA becomes entirely refuge during backwater events.
Boatwright WMA	Not Surveyed		Survey not possible due to flooding. Boatwright WMA hunters must still check in each day, as the area remains open during backwater. See the hunting guide online for specific backwater rules on the area.
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Doug Travis WMA	Not Surveyed		
Sloughs WMA	Ducks: 13,850 CA geese: 275 WF Geese: 2,160 Snow Geese: 3,700 Swans: 133	80% mallards, 20% mix of green-winged teal, gadwall, shovelors, and pintails.	The Ohio River is falling, reading 27' and falling at the JT Meyer Dam (1/15/19). The largest concentrations of ducks continue to be found in flooded willow and buttonbush thickets. Large groups were also

			found in several moist soil units as well as recently flooded areas low areas with abundant herbaceous vegetation. Snow geese and white-fronted geese were found in mixed flocks, feeding in fields adjacent to Muddy Slough. Large numbers of snow geese continue to return to the area to roost in the evening.
Barren River Lake WMA	Ducks: 45 CA Goose: 95 Sandhill Cranes: 102	75% Mallards and 25% redhead, bufflehead and scaup.	Peters Creek MSU 80% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 80-100%% full. Milo, corn, soybeans, and moist soil plants in excellent condition and in standing water. MSUs off hwy 100 are 70-100% full, with soybeans, and MSU plants in great condition. Lake is 13.5' above winter pool, at 541.5' (1/15/19).
Peabody WMA	Not Surveyed		
Yellowbank WMA	650 ducks	95% mallard, 5% black duck	Most moist-soil units/ flooded fields are at maximum water capacity. There was a sheet of ice over most of the units.
Cave Run Lake	142 ducks 4 CA goose	65% divers, mostly Canvasback and bufflehead. 25% mergansers and 10% unknown or assorted puddlers.	Lake levels still high and the river is full and flowing hard as they pull water from the lake.
Blue Grass Army Depot	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		

January 24, 2019 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter-waterfowl ground count survey for January 21-25, 2019. The extremely wet season has continued, bringing high water levels across the state. We did get some snow and colder temps, but had some mild days mixed in with them. Ducks continue to be scattered across the landscape when the temps are mild, utilizing all the habitat made available by river floods or in low spots that collect water. Hunting reports did pick up in many places. The cold to the north seems to have birds moving south, and many hunters were out to take advantage of the newly arrived birds. I hope that we can all end the season well.

Ballard WMA is closing once again. This flood event is predicted to last through the youth weekend. Most of the lakes across the state are still well above winter pool. Most of the state's wetlands are still in above average condition. Moist soil food is still in abundance across the state, and crops are still providing food on most areas. Overall, conditions for ducks are good, and we are set to manage as needed throughout the season.

The Kentucky 2018-19 duck and goose seasons opened Thursday, November 22. The first duck season segment closed on Sunday, November 25. The second segment of duck and season opened December 3 and the duck season will remain open until Sunday, January 27. The goose season will remain open until Friday, February 15, 2019. Good luck to all waterfowl hunters, and remember to be safe and enjoy your time afield this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	Not Surveyed due to flood.	A good push of birds arrived late last week, and possibly this week as well. Birds are scattered all over the area, and the count was not possible.	Ballard WMA <i>is closed</i> due to flooding, until further notice. By regulation, Ballard WMA becomes entirely refuge during backwater events.
Boatwright WMA	Not Surveyed		Survey not possible due to flooding. Boatwright WMA hunters must still check in each day, as the area remains open during backwater. See the hunting guide online for specific backwater rules on the area.
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Doug Travis WMA	Not Surveyed		
Sloughs WMA	Ducks: 18,637 CA geese: 272 WF Geese: 9,860 Snow Geese: 4,540 Swans: 129	98% mallards, 2% mix of pintail, black duck and gadwall.	Many of the less cold-hardy duck species have left the area, however, a new push of mallards have arrived, along with large flocks

			<p>of geese. At the time of the survey, nearly all open water was frozen, with the exception of the main channel of Pond Creek and pockets of the Pond Creek marsh complex where large numbers of waterfowl have kept water open. Reported snow goose numbers may be underestimated, as several thousands were seen yesterday evening returning to the refuge to roost. Canada goose numbers also are likely underestimated, as Canadas were mixed with large flocks of white-fronted geese, which made counting difficult following large flushes. Once again, the Ohio River is rising, with prediction of nearly 39' at JT Meyer by Saturday.</p>
<p>Barren River Lake WMA</p>	<p>Ducks: 785 CA Goose: 235 Sandhill Cranes: 3,003</p>	<p>75% mallards and black ducks, 25% redhead, bufflehead, scaup, ring-necked duck, & goldeneye.</p>	<p>Peters Creek MSU 80% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 80-100%% full. Milo, corn, soybeans, and moist soil plants in excellent condition and in standing water. MSUs off hwy 100 are 70-100% full, with soybeans, and MSU plants in great condition. Lake is 17.7' above winter pool, at 545.7' (1/22/19).</p>

Peabody WMA	Not Surveyed		
Yellowbank WMA	815 ducks	85% mallard, 5% black duck, 5% pintail, 5% other dabbling ducks	Most moist-soil units/ flooded fields are at maximum water capacity.
Cave Run Lake	216 ducks 800 CA goose	70% divers, mostly Canvasback and bufflehead. 20% puddle ducks and 10% mergansers.	Lake levels still high and the river is full and flowing hard as they pull water from the lake.
Blue Grass Army Depot	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		

January 31, 2019 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter-waterfowl ground count survey for January 28 – February 1, 2019. As duck season is now closed, some extreme cold has finally swept across the country. The Ohio and Mississippi rivers are both still out of their banks, providing some open water during the extreme cold. **Ballard WMA remains closed, and the youth hunts will be cancelled this year. Any youth hunter drawn will get the preference points back and will be issued one more, as if they were not drawn.**

Most of the lakes across the state are still well above winter pool. Most of the state's wetlands are still in above average condition, though currently frozen if protected from moving water. Moist soil food is still in abundance across the state, and crops are still providing food on most areas. Overall, conditions for ducks and geese are good.

The Kentucky 2018-19 duck and goose seasons opened Thursday, November 22. The first duck season segment closed on Sunday, November 25. The second segment of duck and season opened December 3 and closed Sunday, January 27. The western youth zone hunts will be Saturday and Sunday, February 2-3, 2019. The goose season will remain open until Friday, February 15, 2019. Good luck to all the youth hunters this weekend, and to goose hunters as well. As always, be safe and enjoy your time afield the rest of the hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	Not Surveyed due to flood.	A good push of birds arrived late last week, and possibly this week as well. Birds are scattered all over the area, and the count was not possible.	Ballard WMA <i>is closed</i> due to flooding, until further notice. By regulation, Ballard WMA becomes entirely refuge during backwater events.
Boatwright WMA	Not Surveyed		Survey not possible due to flooding. Boatwright WMA hunters must still check in each day, as the area remains open during backwater. See the hunting guide online for specific backwater rules on the area.
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Doug Travis WMA	Not Surveyed		
Sloughs WMA	Ducks: 19,107 CA geese: 280 WF Geese: 14,600 Snow Geese: 150 Swans: 128	95% mallards, 5% green-winged teal, pintails, black ducks, and a few gadwall.	Except where waterfowl had kept it open, all shallow water on the refuge was frozen at the time of the survey. Consequently, nearly all of the white-fronted

			<p>geese and ducks were observed concentrated on three separate open water holes along the Pond Creek marsh complex, specifically in areas where they were both blocked from the wind and in direct sunshine. A few thousand white-fronts and ducks were also observed within the willow thickets in Muddy Slough. The only snow geese seen during the survey were flying, however, large numbers of snow geese continue to fly in to the refuge during the afternoon to roost. The Ohio River remains high (41' at JT Meyer Dam), but is expected to begin falling by Saturday. Warm temperatures are also expected to return by the weekend.</p>
Barren River Lake WMA	Sandhill Cranes: 3,003		<p>Peters Creek MSU 80% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 80-100% full. Milo, corn, soybeans, and moist soil plants in excellent condition and in standing water. MSUs off hwy 100 are 70-100% full, with soybeans, and MSU plants in great condition. Lake is 22.9' above winter pool, at 55.9' (1/28/19).</p>
Peabody WMA	Not Surveyed		

Yellowbank WMA	Not Surveyed		
Cave Run Lake	Ducks: 493 CA Geese: 800	350 Mallards, 60 Canvasback, 50 Bufflehead, 13 Red Head, 10 Scaup and 10 Hooded Mergs.	
Blue Grass Army Depot	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		