

November 23, 2020 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the first waterfowl ground count of the 2020/2021 wintering period. November has proven to be mostly warmer than usual, but a slight cool front has dropped in this week. Weather for the first split is predicted to be mild. There are loads of ducks being reported to our north. Missouri reported 600,000 ducks, although no significant migrations were noticed in the last couple weeks. Snow geese however, did start to show up. Illinois is also reporting good numbers of ducks. Most areas in KY are reporting numbers that are close to average or slightly below average for November. Hopefully that means there are plenty of ducks still to come.

Habitat across the state varies, but most are reporting excellent moist soil habitat, and good to excellent habitat over all. Most areas were able to plant crops this year, and water levels are good. As always, there are some units that still need some water, but overall, wetland conditions and food availability are set for a productive waterfowl season.

Duck season will begin on Thanksgiving Day, with the first segment running from November 26 – 29. The second segment of duck season opens on December 7, and will run until January 31, 2021. Goose season will open November 26, 2020 and will remain open until February 15, 2021. The western zone youth hunt will be February 6-7, 2021. Also new this year, is the daily bag limit reduction for Scaup (blue bills). The new Scaup bag limit is one bird November 26-29, and December 7-18, 2020 and two birds December 19, 2020 through January 31, 2021. All other bag limits remain the same.

We wish everyone great luck this year. Be safe, and enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard	7,366 ducks 4 CAGO 20 White-fronts	85% Mallard, 7% Gadwall, 7% Ring-neck, 1% Wood Duck and Wigeon.	Overall, habitat is looking great. There is an abundance of moist soil vegetation throughout the entire area. We have pumped for just over a week with the big pump up until Nov 8. Good water levels on most of the area. Ducks were holding tight to brush cover this morning. Observations were a little difficult.
Boatwright	2,648 Ducks	79% Mallard, 18% Green-wing teal, 2% Scaup, 1% Gadwall, Wigeon and Ruddy	Habitat is looking great, abundance of moist soil vegetation; some crops have water on them as well. Birds were using shallow water areas that have good cover, and tucked into thick brush and cypress trees.

Duck Island	~ 3,950 ducks 60 Canada geese	75% Mallards 25% gadwall, GW teal, pintail, ringneck, shoveler, wigeon, ruddy duck, black duck and wood duck.	Habitat conditions are excellent. Planted crops and moist soil plants did well this summer.
Doug Travis WMA	2,600 Ducks	95% Mallard, 5% mixed dabblers	11/22: All 3 wells are running. We have hunnable water at all seasonally drawn sites. Milner WRP walk- in units are over 50% full. Baldy's Woods walk-in unit is at 40% capacity and gaining daily with pumping. Ward Tract walk-in unit has water in the woods below Goose Pond, but little in the main field. Fish Lake GTR has little water since we are using the #3 Well to flood moist soil pools in Indian Camp Rest Area and Baldy's Woods walkin.
Sloughs WMA			
Peabody WMA	Not surveyed		
Yellowbank WMA	275 Ducks	75% mallard, 20% wood duck, 5% other dabbling ducks	Excellent moist soil plant response in most units. A couple units are holding water from recent rains. Pumps are running filling units where crops have been harvested.
Barren River WMA	20 ducks,	Redheads and Mallards	Habitat looks great on the WMA, with corn/soybeans and moist soil plants in great condition going into the season. Peters Creek MSU 10% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 70% and units above and below the main spring 0-50%,

			MSUs off hwy 100 are 0% full. 11/18: Lake 536.3
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		
Cave Run Lake	161 Ducks, 437 Canada geese 2 Snow geese 200 coots	56% bufflehead, 21% mallard, 15% ruddy duck, 8% ringneck, redhead, gadwall, and wood duck.	11/18: lake level – 725.5'

December 3, 2020 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

Snow is still on the ground from a nice cold front that broke the warm fall weather up, and just in time for the second segment of duck season! Many shallow water impoundments froze this week, but the abundant sun and above freezing temps should leave some open water. Reports from our northern neighbors indicate that there are still lots of ducks from Missouri to Ohio, and especially in Missouri and Illinois. States to their north are at the tail end of migration, with only small numbers of Canada geese and mallards persisting. Although Missouri is still below the long-term averages, they still reported nearly 1 million ducks & geese. Illinois reports along the big rivers are well above the long-term average. All of our northern neighbors report a late drought, leaving habitat a little dry, so hopefully the cold weather will continually push birds down.

Habitat across the state varies, but most are reporting excellent moist soil habitat and good to excellent habitat over all. Most areas were able to plant crops this year, and water levels are good. Overall, wetland conditions and food availability are right where it needs to be.

Duck season began on Thanksgiving Day, with the first segment running from November 26 – 29. The second segment of duck season opens on December 7, and will run until January 31, 2021. Goose season opened November 26, 2020 and will remain open until February 15, 2021. The western zone youth hunt will be February 6-7, 2021. Also new this year, is the daily bag limit reduction for Scaup (blue bills). The new Scaup bag limit is one bird November 26-29, and December 7-18, 2020 and two birds December 19, 2020 through January 31, 2021. All other bag limits remain the same.

We wish everyone great luck this year. Be safe, and enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard	14,686 ducks 61 CA goose 700 WF goose	85% Mallard, 7% Gadwall, 6% Ring-neck, 2% Green wing, Scaup, Pintail, Wood Duck, Bufflehead, Goldeneye and Ruddy.	Overall, habitat is looking great. There is an abundance of moist soil vegetation throughout the entire area. Good water levels on most of the area, and we are still pumping and running wells where needed.
Boatwright	4,360 Ducks 3 CA goose	82% Mallard, 14% Green wing, 3% Scaup, 1% Gadwall, Wood Duck, Canvasback and Black Duck.	Habitat is looking great, abundance of moist soil vegetation; some crops have water on them as well. Water depths are looking good overall, but we are still running wells where possible.
Duck Island <i>11/18/2020</i>	3,950 ducks 60 Canada geese	75% Mallards 25% gadwall, GW teal, pintail, ringneck, shoveler, wigeon, ruddy duck, black duck and wood duck.	Habitat conditions are excellent. Planted crops and moist soil plants did well this summer.

Doug Travis WMA	550 Ducks	85% Mallard, 15% mix of pintail, gadwall, and green-winged teal	Continuing to pump water as fast as we can but not seeing significant progress with the low river level. Blinds 13 and 14 are at full pool now.
Sloughs WMA	4,500 ducks 24 CA goose 3,000 WF goose 4,300 Snow goose 150 Tundra Swan		Water conditions and habitat is still good to excellent across the area following modest rains prior to Thanksgiving Holiday. Cypress slough systems including Jenny Hole are at normal to slightly above normal conditions. There is an abundance of moist soil vegetation. All hunt units have available water. The first couple days of December, morning low's dipped in the 20's with ice forming on most shallow water impoundments.
Peabody WMA	488 ducks 28 CA goose	75% Mallard	
Yellowbank WMA	250 Ducks	60% mallard, 30% wood duck, 5% other dabbling ducks, 5% diver ducks	Excellent moist soil plant response in most units. A couple units are holding 50% water capacity from recent rains. Pumps are filling units where crops have been harvested. Upper Flood MSU still has soybeans to be harvested.
Barren River WMA 11/24/2020	20 ducks,	Redheads and Mallards	Habitat looks great on the WMA, with corn/soybeans and

			<p>moist soil plants in great condition going into the season. Peters Creek MSU 10% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 70% and units above and below the main spring 0-50%, MSUs off hwy 100 are 0% full.</p> <p>11/18: Lake 536.3</p>
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		
Cave Run Lake	321 Ducks, 407 CA geese 300 coots	56% bufflehead, 21% mallard, 15% ruddy duck, 8% ringneck, redhead, gadwall, and wood duck.	11/18: lake level – 725.5'

December 10, 2020 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

Not much to report this week. The second segment of duck season is now open, but bird numbers are still a little low. There are still hundreds of thousands of ducks to our north, so hope for cold front to send us some new birds.

Habitat across the state look excellent in moist soil units and good to excellent habitat over all. Water levels are mostly right where we want them. Overall, wetland conditions and food availability are excellent.

Duck season began on Thanksgiving Day, with the first segment running from November 26 – 29. The second segment of duck season opened on December 7, and will run until January 31, 2021. Goose season opened November 26, 2020 and will remain open until February 15, 2021. The western zone youth hunt will be February 6-7, 2021. Also new this year, is the daily bag limit reduction for Scaup (blue bills). The new Scaup bag limit is one bird November 26-29, and December 7-18, 2020 and two birds December 19. 2020 through January 31, 2021. All other bag limits remain the same.

We wish everyone great luck this year. Be safe, and enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard	10,668 ducks 21 CA goose 1,800 WF goose	80% Mallard, 12% Ring-neck, 5% Gadwall, 3% Wigeon, Green wing, Wood Duck, Hooded Merg, Goldeneye, Black Duck and Ruddy	Overall, habitat looks great. There is an abundance of moist soil food is available in most units. We are still pumping water into several units, but water levels are right where they need to be for early December.
Boatwright	2,157 Ducks 15 CA goose	66% Mallard, 29% Green wing, 5% Scaup, Ring-neck, Canvasback, Gadwall, Wood Duck and Goldeneye	Habitat is looking great, there is an abundance of moist soil vegetation; some crops have water on them as well. Water depths are looking good overall, but we are still running wells where possible.
Duck Island <i>11/18/2020</i>	3,950 ducks 60 Canada geese	75% Mallards 25% gadwall, GW teal, pintail, ringneck, shoveler, wigeon, ruddy duck, black duck and wood duck.	Habitat conditions are excellent. Planted crops and moist soil plants did well this summer.
Doug Travis WMA	625 Ducks	90% Mallard, 10% mixed dabblers	
Sloughs WMA	4,100 ducks 0 CA goose 4,300 WF goose		Water conditions and habitat is still good to excellent across the

	7,000 Snow goose 150 Tundra Swan		area. Cypress slough systems including Jenny Hole and most moist soil units are at normal conditions and have available water. Birds were found over most of the Sauerheber refuge with ducks seeking cover in Buttonbush marsh systems and geese being highly visible along Muddy Slough off Highway 268.
Peabody WMA	585 ducks 115 CA goose	75% Mallard	
Yellowbank WMA	350 Ducks	65% mallard, 20% wood duck, 5% gadwall, 5% black duck, 5% diver ducks	Excellent moist soil plant response in most units. Pumps are filling units where crops have been harvested. Upper Flood MSU still has soybeans to be harvested.
Barren River WMA <i>11/24/2020</i>	20 ducks,	Redheads and Mallards	Habitat looks great on the WMA, with corn/soybeans and moist soil plants in great condition going into the season. Peters Creek MSU 10% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 70% and units above and below the main spring 0-50%, MSUs off hwy 100 are 0% full. 11/18: Lake 536.3
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		
Cave Run Lake	242 Ducks, 273 CA geese 72 coots	51% bufflehead, 35% ruddy duck, 10% mallard, 4% ringneck, redhead, & gadwall.	12/09: lake level – 724.4'

December 18, 2020 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count for December 14-18, 2020. Missouri counted on Monday the 14th, reporting nearly 700,000 ducks and 141,000 geese (mostly snows). Reports from the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers are ~50% above the long-term average for this time of year. We did finally get some freezing temps this week, concentrating birds to open water and making them easier to count on those days.

Habitat across the state continues to look excellent in moist soil units and good to excellent habitat over all. Water levels are mostly right where we want them, but we are adding water where possible to keep food available in the hunt units. Overall, wetland conditions and food availability are excellent.

Duck season began on Thanksgiving Day, with the first segment running from November 26 – 29. The second segment of duck season opened on December 7, and will run until January 31, 2021. Goose season opened November 26, 2020 and will remain open until February 15, 2021. The western zone youth hunt will be February 6-7, 2021. Also new this year, is the daily bag limit reduction for Scaup (blue bills). The new Scaup bag limit is one bird November 26-29, and December 7-18, 2020 and two birds December 19, 2020 through January 31, 2021. All other bag limits remain the same.

We wish everyone great luck this year. Be safe, and enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard <i>12/17/2020</i>	17,749 ducks 10 CA goose 4,000 WF goose	86% Mallard, 8% Ring-neck, 3% Gadwall, 3% Green wing, Wood Duck, Wigeon and Hooded Merg.	After a warm first week, the temps have changed to below freezing, icing over most shallow impoundments. Birds are sitting in groups keeping holes open. There is an abundance of moist soil and crop on the area. The wells are running and units look great, we just need more birds.
Boatwright <i>12/17/2020</i>	3,779 Ducks	74% Mallard, 18% Green wing, 6% Ring-neck, 2% Wood Duck, Canvasback, Hooded Merg and Pintail.	Habitat is looking great. Water depths are looking good overall. Large water was frozen on the edges and open where birds are sitting. All shallow impoundments were frozen. Hoping for a weather system up north that will get birds moving in.

Duck Island <i>11/18/2020</i>	3,950 ducks 60 Canada geese	75% Mallards 25% gadwall, GW teal, pintail, ringneck, shoveler, wigeon, ruddy duck, black duck and wood duck.	Habitat conditions are excellent. Planted crops and moist soil plants did well this summer.
Doug Travis WMA <i>12/15/2020</i>	840 Ducks	85% Mallard, 12% mixed dabblers, 3% divers	Local hunting reports suggests there are more ducks using the area than what the count shows.
Sloughs WMA <i>12/14/2020</i>	2,670 ducks 0 CA goose 7,450 WF goose 9,000 Snow goose 129 Tundra Swan		Water conditions and habitat is still good to excellent across the area with area rivers at normal to below normal levels. Cypress slough systems including Jenny Hole and most moist soil units are at normal conditions and have available water. During the survey, Birds were concentrated in heavy cover and within safe areas of the refuge of the Sauerheber unit. Fewer duck numbers were present while an increase in White Fronted Geese and Snow Geese were observed from the previous survey. Geese can be spotted along Muddy Slough off Highway 268.
Peabody WMA <i>12/14/2020</i>	785 ducks 56 CA goose	75% Ring neck, 20% Mallard, 5% other	

Yellowbank WMA <i>12/9/2020</i>	350 Ducks	65% mallard, 20% wood duck, 5% gadwall, 5% black duck, 5% diver ducks	Excellent moist soil plant response in most units. Pumps are filling units where crops have been harvested. Upper Flood MSU still has soybeans to be harvested.
Barren River WMA <i>12/15/2020</i>	225 ducks 40 CA geese 1,953 Sandhill Cranes	50/50 dabblers and divers. Ring necks, Redheads, Scaup, Wood ducks and Mallards	Peters Creek MSU 60% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 60-100%, MSUs off hwy 100 are 60-100% full, with corn/soybeans and MSU plants in great condition, rain and cooler temps in the 10 day forecast should bring/hold more waterfowl <i>12/15: Lake 531.3'</i>
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		
Cave Run Lake <i>12/14/2020</i>	150 Ducks, 106 CA geese 30 coots	46% bufflehead, 39% ruddy duck, 15% mallard, redhead, canvasback & ring neck duck.	Lake level – 724.4'

December 18, 2020 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

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Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard <i>12/17/2020</i>	17,749 ducks 10 CA goose 4,000 WF goose	86% Mallard, 8% Ring-neck, 3% Gadwall, 3% Green wing, Wood Duck, Wigeon and Hooded Merg.	After a warm first week, the temps have changed to below freezing, icing over most shallow impoundments. Birds are sitting in groups keeping holes open. There is an abundance of moist soil and crop on the area. The wells are running and units look great, we just need more birds.
Boatwright <i>12/17/2020</i>	3,779 Ducks	74% Mallard, 18% Green wing, 6% Ring-neck, 2% Wood Duck, Canvasback, Hooded Merg and Pintail.	Habitat is looking great. Water depths are looking good overall. Large water was frozen on the edges and open where birds are sitting. All shallow impoundments were frozen. Hoping for a weather system up north that will get birds moving in.

Duck Island <i>11/18/2020</i>	3,950 ducks 60 Canada geese	75% Mallards 25% gadwall, GW teal, pintail, ringneck, shoveler, wigeon, ruddy duck, black duck and wood duck.	Habitat conditions are excellent. Planted crops and moist soil plants did well this summer.
Doug Travis WMA <i>12/15/2020</i>	840 Ducks	85% Mallard, 12% mixed dabblers, 3% divers	Local hunting reports suggests there are more ducks using the area than what the count shows.
Sloughs WMA <i>12/14/2020</i>	8,200 ducks 100 CA goose 5,100 WF goose 12,000 Snow goose 146 Tundra Swan	60% Mallard 30% pintail, 10% widgeon, Green Wing Teal and Gadwall	Jenny Hole and hunt units on Sauerheber were at normal conditions. An increase of ducks were found over much of the refuge from previous survey.
Peabody WMA <i>12/14/2020</i>	785 ducks 56 CA goose	75% Ring neck, 20% Mallard, 5% other	
Yellowbank WMA <i>12/22/2020</i>	425 Ducks	65% mallard, 10% wood duck, 10% gadwall, 10% black duck, 5% diver ducks	Most units are above 50% water capacity.
Barren River WMA <i>12/15/2020</i>	225 ducks 40 CA geese 1,953 Sandhill Cranes	50/50 dabblers and divers. Ring necks, Redheads, Scaup, Wood ducks and Mallards	Peters Creek MSU 60% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 60-100%, MSUs off hwy 100 are 60-100% full, with corn/soybeans and MSU plants in great condition, rain and cooler temps in the 10 day forecast should bring/hold more waterfowl 12/15: Lake 531.3'
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		

Cave Run Lake <i>12/14/2020</i>	150 Ducks, 106 CA geese 30 coots	46% bufflehead, 39% ruddy duck, 15% mallard, redhead, canvasback & ring neck duck.	Lake level – 724.4'
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December 30, 2020 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count for December 28-30, 2020. With the New Year's holiday this week, not all areas were surveyed. Last week's cold front made hunting much better. Many areas experienced an increase in waterfowl numbers, and harvest reports were better for it. We have experienced mild weather again, and the up and down temps continue.

Habitat across the state continues to look excellent in moist soil units and good to excellent habitat over all. Water levels are mostly right where we want them, but we are adding water where possible to keep food available in the hunt units. Overall, wetland conditions and food availability are excellent.

Duck season began on Thanksgiving Day, with the first segment running from November 26 – 29. The second segment of duck season opened on December 7, and will run until January 31, 2021. Goose season opened November 26, 2020 and will remain open until February 15, 2021. The western zone youth hunt will be February 6-7, 2021. Also new this year, is the daily bag limit reduction for Scaup (blue bills). The new Scaup bag limit is one bird November 26-29, and December 7-18, 2020 and two birds December 19, 2020 through January 31, 2021. All other bag limits remain the same.

We wish everyone great luck this year. Be safe, and enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard <i>12/23/2020</i>	43,975 ducks 118 CA goose 350 WF goose	77% Mallard, 14% Ring-neck, 3% Gadwall, 3% Green wing and 3% Wigeon, Shoveler, Wood Duck, Pintail, Black Duck, Bufflehead and Hooded Merganser	Finally beginning to pick up a good mixed bag of species. Strong winds out of the south today, birds are in overhead cover and in large groups in open water impoundments. Habitat looks great, moist soil abundance, planted crops are flooded where possible. River is holding in low to mid 20's. Wells are running where possible. Hunting is closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
Boatwright <i>12/23/2020</i>	2,303 Ducks	78% Mallard, 20% Ring-neck, 2% Green wing, Canvasback, Wigeon and Wood Duck	Counting was difficult this morning due to roadwork in Swan. Birds were pushed out of refuge areas. Habitat looks great, abundance of moist soil and planted crops are flooded where possible.

Duck Island <i>12/29/2020</i>	4,500 ducks 75 CA goose	70% mallard, 28% GW teal, 2% wigeon, pintail, gadwall, ringneck, and black duck.	Habitat conditions are excellent. Planted crops and moist soil plants did well this summer. Water levels are great.
Doug Travis WMA <i>12/29/2020</i>	3,582 Ducks *Most ducks in Beaver Pond and Willow Slough were holding in and under thick flooded timber and buckbrush (likely taking advantage of thermal benefit from overhead cover). Numbers reported from these sites are only what flushed and should be considered a minimum number present.	85% Mallard, 10% mixed dabblers,5% divers	Lakes with blind sites had open water except for remnants in corners. Water has risen in Black Lake and Number 4 Lake to levels allowing boats to launch. Low river levels are affecting our ability to spread water on the DTWMA landscape. We are holding huntable pools at blind sites and Baldy's Woods and Ward Tract walk-ins, but not gaining water even with all 3 wells pumping continuously. There is good water in natural vegetation on the west side of the Indian Camp Rest Area and at the Willow Slough area, but other impoundments have little or no water. Forecast rain on 12/30 and 31 should provide a needed boost to flooding of additional habitat.
Sloughs WMA <i>12/28/2020</i>	9,840 ducks 113 CA goose 6,200 WF goose 6,500 Snow goose 98 Tundra Swan	70% Mallard 20% pintail, 10% shoveler, GW teal and gadwall	At time of survey, ice covered over 50% of the area. Jenny Hole and hunt units on Sauerheber were at normal pool levels, however much of the area is drier than last week's survey. An increase of ducks

			were found over much of the refuge from previous survey.
Peabody WMA <i>12/14/2020</i>	785 ducks 56 CA goose	75% Ring neck, 20% Mallard, 5% other	
Yellowbank WMA <i>12/22/2020</i>	425 Ducks	65% mallard, 10% wood duck, 10% gadwall, 10% black duck, 5% diver ducks	Most units are above 50% water capacity.
Barren River WMA <i>12/28/2020</i>	80 ducks 175 CA geese 3,680 Sandhill Cranes	50%diver/50% dabblers redheads, pintails, mallards	Peters Creek MSU 75% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 75-100%, MSUs off hwy 100 are 75-100% full, with corn/soybeans and MSU plants in great condition, rain and cooler temps in the 10 day forecast should bring/hold more waterfowl Lake @ 528.7'
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		
Cave Run Lake <i>12/28/2020</i>	420 Ducks, 75 CA geese	100 mallard, 80 bufflehead, 75 canvasback, 50 ruddy duck, 35 merganser, 80 unknown.	Lake level – 724.5'

January 7, 2021 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count for January 4-8, 2021. The weather continues to fluctuate, and the harvest reports show it. Our northern neighbors are reporting freeze up finally in the northern regions of their states, however they are still experiencing mild temps in their southern regions. The upper Mississippi and Illinois River (IL) surveys showed a pretty good drop in numbers with the freeze, however central and southern MO is still holding 500k birds and experiencing the same fluctuations in temps. We are still fairly dry in western KY, with little to no backwater. The OH River at Cairo is predicted to crest at 34' before falling again.

Habitat across the state continues to look excellent in moist soil units and good to excellent habitat over all. Water levels are mostly right where we want them, but we are adding water where possible to keep food available in the hunt units. Overall, wetland conditions and food availability are excellent.

Duck season began on Thanksgiving Day, with the first segment running from November 26 – 29. The second segment of duck season opened on December 7, and will run until January 31, 2021. Goose season opened November 26, 2020 and will remain open until February 15, 2021. The western zone youth hunt will be February 6-7, 2021. Also new this year, is the daily bag limit reduction for Scaup (blue bills). The new Scaup bag limit is one bird November 26-29, and December 7-18, 2020 and two birds December 19, 2020 through January 31, 2021. All other bag limits remain the same.

We wish everyone great luck this year. Be safe, and enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard <i>12/23/2020</i>	41,407 ducks 108 CA goose 6,250 WF goose 5,005 Snow goose	90% Mallard, 4% Gadwall, 3% Ring-neck, 3% Wigeon, GW teal, Shoveler, Redhead, Pintail, Canvasback, Wood Duck, Goldeneye, Scaup, Bufflehead and Hooded Merg.	Habitat looks great. Big pump is running and we are adding new water and units to draw. The river is predicted to reach 34, and that helps us hold water in spots that soak in quickly. Small cold front is pushing this way, hopefully will make birds get up and move around.
Boatwright <i>12/23/2020</i>	5,725 Ducks	58% Mallard, 24% GW teal, 17% Scaup, 1% Pintail, Gadwall, Wood Duck and Canvasback.	Habitat looks great, abundance of moist soil and planted crops are flooded where possible.
Duck Island <i>12/29/2020</i>	4,500 ducks 75 CA goose	70% mallard, 28% GW teal, 2% wigeon, pintail, gadwall, ringneck, and black duck.	Habitat conditions are excellent. Planted crops and moist soil plants did well this summer. Water levels are great.

Doug Travis WMA <i>1/4/2021</i>	3,070 Ducks	86% Mallard, 13% Ringneck, and 1% GW teal	The Mississippi River level at Cairo is forecast to crest at 34.0 feet on 1/6. This level will cause the water to rise in the Town Creek impoundment (blinds 18 & 19), as well as low lying areas south of blind 17. Impacts to water levels from blinds 16/17 and farther north should be minimal, if any. Last week's rainfall helped raise water in Baldy's Woods, Milner Tract, and Ward Tract walk-in units. All blind sites also have huntable water.
Sloughs WMA <i>12/28/2020</i>	9,840 ducks 113 CA goose 6,200 WF goose 6,500 Snow goose 98 Tundra Swan	70% Mallard 20% pintail, 10% shoveler, GW teal and gadwall	At time of survey, ice covered over 50% of the area. Jenny Hole and hunt units on Sauerheber were at normal pool levels, however much of the area is drier than last week's survey. An increase of ducks were found over much of the refuge from previous survey.
Peabody WMA <i>1/4/2021</i>	584 ducks 145 CA goose	80% Mallard, 20% mixed species	
Yellowbank WMA <i>12/30/2020</i>	600 Ducks	70% mallard, 10% wood duck, 10% black duck, 5% gadwall, 5% diver ducks	Most units are above 50% water capacity.
Barren River WMA <i>1/5/2021</i>	30 ducks 115 CA geese 2,840 Sandhill Cranes	50%diver/50% dabblers redheads, mallards, ringneck, buffelhead	Peters Creek MSU 90% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 85-100%, MSUs off hwy

			100 are 85-100% full, with corn/soybeans and MSU plants in great condition. Lake @ 531.7'
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		
Cave Run Lake 1/5/2021	212 Ducks 65 CA geese 100 coots	29 mallard, 88 bufflehead, 11 canvasback, 2 ruddy duck, 4 redhead, 5 scaup, & 73 unknown.	Lake level – 727.7' Cold, drizzling rain, overcast with fog over the lake, very windy on and around water. Birds observed tended to be out in the water, geese were close to or on shore, and most birds were out in open water.

January 15, 2021 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count for January 11-15, 2021. The Mid-winter Waterfowl Aerial Survey was completed this week, so look for that report also available online. Last week's flights and ground counts found low numbers of ducks and geese, but this week's cold front has increased numbers for many of our WMA's. Freezing temperatures have locked up a lot of shallow habitat this week, concentrating birds to open water and rest areas. Hopefully the slight warm up predicted will get them moving some.

Habitat across the state continues to look excellent in moist soil units and good to excellent habitat over all. Water levels are full on most hunt units, and we are adding water to increase food availability where possible. Overall, wetland conditions and food availability are excellent.

Duck season began on Thanksgiving Day, with the first segment running from November 26 – 29. The second segment of duck season opened on December 7, and will run until January 31, 2021. Goose season opened November 26, 2020 and will remain open until February 15, 2021. The western zone youth hunt will be February 6-7, 2021. Also new this year, is the daily bag limit reduction for Scaup (blue bills). The new Scaup bag limit is one bird November 26-29, and December 7-18, 2020 and two birds December 19, 2020 through January 31, 2021. All other bag limits remain the same.

We wish everyone great luck this year. Be safe, and enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard <i>1/14/2021</i>	46,050 ducks 206 CA goose 10,000 WF goose 5,000 Snow goose	89% Mallard, 4% Gadwall, 4% Ring-neck, 3% GW Teal, Wood Duck, Pintail, Wigeon, Canvasback and Redhead.	Habitat is still looking good. Everything has been frozen for a couple of days, but a slight warm up is predicted in the near forecast. Birds are sitting in large groups.
Boatwright <i>1/14/2021</i>	34,136 Ducks	84% Mallard, 12% unknown diver, 2% Scaup, 1% GW Teal, 1% Wigeon, Gadwall, Canvasback, Pintail and Hooded Merg	The cold front pushed some birds into Swan Lake, as most shallow units froze. Hunt units look good, and there is still an abundance of moist soil and row crops available. Shallow units should start thawing quickly. River is dropping out pretty steady as well.
Duck Island <i>1/4/2021 Flight data</i>	3,155 ducks 75 Canada geese	92% Mallards 8% GW teal & pintail	Habitat conditions are excellent. Planted crops and moist soil plants did well this summer.
Doug Travis WMA <i>1/12/2021</i>	3,400 Ducks	90% mallards, 5% mixed dabblers, 5% ring-necked ducks	Water conditions are good at all blind sites. There was open water

		<i>*Minimum estimate. Most ducks were in the buck brush, making counts difficult.</i>	at blinds 11, 12, 13, and 14, while most other sites were iced over. We saw more black ducks today than had been present, indicating some kind of influx has occurred.
Sloughs WMA 1/11/2021	5,600 ducks 250 CA goose 1,540 WF goose 4,512 Snow goose 259 Tundra Swan	70% Mallard 20% pintail, 10% shoveler, Green Wing Teal and Gadwall	At time of survey, ice covered over 50% of the area. Water levels within the hunt units on the WMA and Jenny Hole were at normal conditions.
Peabody WMA 1/13/2021	2,086 ducks 140 CA goose	75% Mallard, 20% Gadwall, 5% mixed; Ringneck, Wigeon, Green Winged Teal	
Yellowbank WMA 1/14/2021	800 Ducks 55 Canada Geese	80% mallard, 10% black duck, 5% pintail, 5% gadwall	Most units are above 75% water capacity.
Barren River WMA 1/12/2021	210 ducks 115 CA geese 3,542 Sandhill Cranes	50/50 dabblers and divers. Redheads, mallards, ringnecks, bufflehead & scaup	Peters Creek MSU 90% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 75-100%, MSUs off hwy 100 are 75-100% full, with corn/soybeans and MSU plants in great condition. 1/12: Lake 528.2'
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		
Cave Run Lake 1/13/2021	569 Ducks, 461 CA geese 30 coots	36% mallard, 23% ruddy duck, 15% bufflehead, 20% merganser, 6% teal, ringneck and a surf scoter.	Lake level – 724.4'

January 22, 2021 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count for January 18-22, 2021. Habitat across the state continues to look excellent in moist soil units and good to excellent habitat over all. Water levels are full on most hunt units, and we are adding water to increase food availability where possible. Overall, wetland conditions and food availability are excellent.

Duck season began on Thanksgiving Day, with the first segment running from November 26 – 29. The second segment of duck season opened on December 7, and will run until January 31, 2021. Goose season opened November 26, 2020 and will remain open until February 15, 2021. The western zone youth hunt will be February 6-7, 2021. Also new this year, is the daily bag limit reduction for Scaup (blue bills). The new Scaup bag limit is one bird November 26-29, and December 7-18, 2020 and two birds December 19, 2020 through January 31, 2021. All other bag limits remain the same.

We wish everyone great luck this year. Be safe, and enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard <i>1/21/2021</i>	27,519 ducks 85 CA goose 9,300 WF goose 10,000 Snow goose	76% Mallard, 9% Shoveler, 9% Ring-neck, 5% Gadwall, 1% Bufflehead and Goldeneye	Habitat continues to look great, pretty good water levels in most hunt units. The weather is very mild for January, and birds are not moving much. The count is down from last week, but it's uncertain if they have moved on or just moved into thicker cover. We did pick up some more snows and specks this week.
Boatwright <i>1/21/2021</i>	1,831 Ducks 17 CA goose	65% Mallard, 23% GW Teal, 10% Ring-neck, 2% Canvasback, Wood Duck and Wigeon.	Habitat still looks great. There is an abundance of moist soil food and flooded row crops still available. The River has dropped out to mid-teens this week.
Duck Island <i>1/4/2021 Flight data</i>	3,155 ducks 75 Canada geese	92% Mallards 8% GW teal & pintail	Habitat conditions are excellent. Planted crops and moist soil plants did well this summer.
Doug Travis WMA <i>1/19/2021</i>	3,550 Ducks	90% mallards, 10% ring-necked ducks and gadwall.	Water conditions are good at all blind sites.

Sloughs WMA <i>1/19/2021</i>	5,920 ducks 225 CA goose 1,550 WF goose 3,000 Snow goose 244 Tundra Swan	80% Mallard, , 20% shoveler, Pintail, Green Wing Teal and Gadwall	At time of survey, drier conditions persisted throughout the region, finding only the refuge and deeper Cypress slough systems holding water. Also, Jenny Hole and hunt units on Sauerheber were at normal conditions. Duck numbers seem stable and were found throughout the refuge.
Peabody WMA <i>1/19/2021</i>	962 ducks 253 CA goose	65% Mallard, 30% Gadwall, and 5% Ring neck, Black duck, Green wing Teal and Pintail	
Yellowbank WMA <i>1/14/2021</i>	800 Ducks 55 Canada Geese	80% mallard, 10% black duck, 5% pintail, 5% gadwall	Most units are above 75% water capacity.
Barren River WMA <i>1/19/2021</i>	40 ducks 115 CA geese 716 Sandhill Cranes	50/50 dabblers and divers. Redheads, mallards, ringnecks, bufflehead & scaup	Peters Creek MSU 90% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 75-100%, MSUs off hwy 100 are 75-100% full, with corn/soybeans and MSU plants in great condition. 1/12: Lake 528.2'
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		
Cave Run Lake <i>1/20/2021</i>	266 Ducks, 12 CA geese	34% bufflehead 34% ruddy duck, 22% canvasback, 10% mallard, merganser, and black duck.	Lake level – 724.4'

January 28, 2021 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count for January 25-29, 2021. Sunday will wrap up the duck season, and although we have received a good cold front, complete with a decent snow, temps have dropped low enough to lock up a lot of our hunt units. Bird numbers have improved since last week, but they still are not moving around much during shooting hours. We also finally received some much needed water this week, but still not enough to send the big Rivers out of their banks. The heavy rain did however add water to the landscape. Habitat across the state continues to look excellent in moist soil units and good to excellent habitat over all. Water levels are full on most hunt units, and we are adding water to increase food availability where possible. Overall, wetland conditions and food availability are excellent.

Duck season began on Thanksgiving Day, with the first segment running from November 26 – 29. The second segment of duck season opened on December 7, and will run until January 31, 2021. Goose season opened November 26, 2020 and will remain open until February 15, 2021. The western zone youth hunt will be February 6-7, 2021. Also new this year, is the daily bag limit reduction for Scaup (blue bills). The new Scaup bag limit is one bird November 26-29, and December 7-18, 2020 and two birds December 19, 2020 through January 31, 2021. All other bag limits remain the same.

We wish everyone great luck this year. Be safe, and enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard <i>1/28/2021</i>	42,952 ducks 56 CA goose 5,500 WF goose 12,252 Snow goose	89% Mallard, 7% Gadwall, 4% Ring-neck, Shoveler, GW Teal, Wigeon, Wood Duck, Goldeneye, Pintail, Black Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merg and Ruddy.	Cold front moved through yesterday that is supposed to drop temps down below freezing for a couple of days. Had a few hours of snow yesterday. Birds were sitting in brushy woody cover and in large groups on front slough. The rain that moved through on Monday dumped around 3-4 inches. There is an abundance of newly flooded moist soil areas. Food looks great on area.
Boatwright <i>1/28/2021</i>	4,070 Ducks	76% Mallard, 25% unknown diver due to distance	Habitat looks great, new sheet water in fields due to rain we had.
Duck Island <i>Not Surveyed</i>			
Doug Travis WMA <i>1/28/2021</i>	5,560 Ducks	90% mallard	Water conditions are good at all blind sites.

		10% mixed dabblers (pintail, greenwing teal, gadwall & wood duck were observed)	
Sloughs WMA <i>1/25/2021</i>	13,400 ducks 320 CA goose 1,200 WF goose 400 Snow goose 350 Tundra Swan	85% Mallard 15% pintail, 10% shoveler, Green Wing Teal and ringneck	At time of survey, we had picked up over an inch of rain with overcast skies. A substantial increase of ducks was found on the refuge from the previous survey. Water conditions remain normal. The forecast calls for more precipitation expected to push through midweek and into the weekend.
Peabody WMA <i>1/26/2021</i>	898 ducks 44 CA goose	86% Mallard, 11% Gadwall, and 3% Ring neck & Green wing Teal	Water conditions due to recent heavy rains have spread ducks and geese out over the area.
Yellowbank WMA <i>1/14/2021</i>	800 Ducks 55 Canada Geese	80% mallard, 10% black duck, 5% pintail, 5% gadwall	Most units are above 75% water capacity.
Barren River WMA <i>1/26/2021</i>	Ducks not surveyed 2,094 Sandhill Cranes		Peters Creek MSU 90% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 75-100%, MSUs off hwy 100 are 75-100% full, with corn/soybeans and MSU plants in great condition. <i>1/26: Lake 534.3'</i>
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		
Cave Run Lake <i>1/20/2021</i>	266 Ducks, 12 CA geese	34% bufflehead 34% ruddy duck, 22% canvasback, 10%	Lake level – 724.4'

		mallard, merganser, and black duck.	
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February 5, 2021 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count for February 1-5, 2021. The western duck zone youth hunt is Saturday and Sunday, and bird numbers have improved since last week. A nice cold front has swept across our northern neighbors, and we are finally seeing some consistent cold temps. Habitat across the state continues to look excellent in moist soil units and good to excellent habitat over all. We never received any significant river flooding, and most of the season was much drier than average. Overall, wetland conditions and food availability are excellent.

Duck season began on Thanksgiving Day, with the first segment running from November 26 – 29. The second segment of duck season opened on December 7, and will run until January 31, 2021. Goose season opened November 26, 2020 and will remain open until February 15, 2021. The western zone youth hunt will be February 6-7, 2021. Also new this year, is the daily bag limit reduction for Scaup (blue bills). The new Scaup bag limit is one bird November 26-29, and December 7-18, 2020 and two birds December 19, 2020 through January 31, 2021. All other bag limits remain the same.

We wish everyone great luck this year. Be safe, and enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard 2/4/2021	46,425 ducks 76 CA goose 9,000 WF goose 500 Snow goose	82% Mallard, 10% Ring-neck, 3% Gadwall, 2% GW Teal, 3% Shoveler, Wigeon, Pintail, Wood Duck, Black Duck, Ruddy, Redhead, Goldeneye, Hooded Merg and Canvasback	Raining today during survey. Temps are in the low 40's, and are predicted to stay that way through Sunday. Looking ahead, we are supposed to hit a polar vortex next week that will freeze everything up. Regular season ended last Sunday, and we have the youth hunt this weekend to wrap up quota hunts. Hopefully with the weather changing, the kids will have a great weekend of hunting. Water levels look great in all impoundments, and there is still an abundance of moist soil and row crops available. Birds were spread out on area today.
Boatwright	2,238 Ducks 25 CA goose	93% Mallard, 6% GW Teal, 1% Wood Duck, Ring-neck,	Habitat looks great, new sheet water in fields due

2/4/2021		Gadwall, Bufflehead, Pintail and Black Duck	to rain we had. There is still an abundance of moist soil and row crop available. Unlike Ballard, hunters can still hunt for geese in hunt units. Youth weekend is this weekend, hopefully birds will move around for the kids.
Duck Island <i>Not Surveyed</i>			
Doug Travis WMA 2/5/2021	Incomplete survey	90% mallard 10% mixed dabblers (pintail, greenwing teal, gadwall & wood duck were observed)	Wet levees hindered the survey. I can say that we have not lost many ducks from last week, and possibly have picked up some. I observed ducks sitting in multiple hunt units that you would not see during the regular season due to pressure. Youth hunters should be able to take advantage of the rest the ducks got this week.
Sloughs WMA 1/25/2021	13,400 ducks 320 CA goose 1,200 WF goose 400 Snow goose 350 Tundra Swan	85% Mallard 15% pintail, 10% shoveler, Green Wing Teal and ringneck	At time of survey, we had picked up over an inch of rain with overcast skies. A substantial increase of ducks was found on the refuge from the previous survey. Water conditions remain normal. The forecast calls for more precipitation expected to push through midweek and into the weekend.
Peabody WMA 2/2/2021	988 ducks 44 CA goose	86% Mallard, 11% Gadwall, and 3% Ring neck & Green wing Teal	Water conditions due to recent heavy rains have

			spread ducks and geese out over the area.
Yellowbank WMA <i>2/1/2021</i>	750 Ducks	85% mallard, 10% black duck, 5% pintail, 5% gadwall, 5% divers	Most units are at maximum water capacity.
Barren River WMA <i>1/26/2021</i>	Ducks not surveyed 2,094 Sandhill Cranes		Peters Creek MSU 90% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 75-100%, MSUs off hwy 100 are 75-100% full, with corn/soybeans and MSU plants in great condition. <i>1/26: Lake 534.3'</i>
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		
Cave Run Lake <i>1/27/2021</i>	337 Ducks, 49 CA geese	42% bufflehead 33% ruddy duck, 13% canvasback, 12% mallard, gadwall, ringneck, scaup, merganser, and one surf scoter.	Lake level – 728.6'