

## February 16, 2024 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for February 12 – February 16, 2024. The waterfowl 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 closed February 15, 2024. The second day of Special Youth Waterfowl Season was Sunday, February 11, 2024. The second day of Special Veteran's Waterfowl Season was on Sunday February 11, 2024. All bag limits remained the same as the previous season. Check out the 2023-2024 Waterfowl hunting guide or visit the waterfowl hunting web page for more details.

Thank you for participating in the hunting season this year!

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>02/13/2024</i>	1,500 ducks 125 CA geese 275 Snow/WF geese 45 Tundra swans	90% mallard 10% 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			

<i>Not surveyed</i>			
Yellowbank WMA  <i>02/15/2024</i>	875 ducks	85% mallard 5% black duck 5% wood duck 5% gadwall	All waterfowl units are at or near maximum water capacity. Several units have started their spring drawdown.
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>			