

## 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. <b>By regulation, Ballard WMA becomes entirely refuge during backwater events.</b>
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		

