

## 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 was delayed in getting online.

If the current weather conditions hold, we 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. The last week of November will be cold and snowy to the North, so look forward to some fresh birds coming South. 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 merganser 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		