

November 22, 2024 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for November 18 - November 22, 2024. The region experienced light rainfall early in the week, with amounts generally below 0.5 inches. Most areas stayed dry towards the weekend, with temperatures ranging from cold to moderate. Western Kentucky has mostly recovered from the recent drought conditions thanks to rainfall earlier in November. The Ohio and Mississippi Rivers' levels have generally remained stable but are slightly below normal.

The first day of Special Youth Waterfowl Season is Saturday November 23, 2024. The first day of Special Veteran's Waterfowl Season is Sunday, November 24, 2024. The first segment of duck season will open on November 28, 2024 and run until December 1, 2024. Goose season will open on November 28, 2024 and run until February 15, 2024. All bag limits will remain the same as the previous season. Check out the [2024-2025 Waterfowl hunting guide](#) or visit the waterfowl hunting web page for more details. Good luck hunting this year. Be safe and enjoy your time afield.

Avian Influenza is present in Kentucky, so hunters should use common sense when handling/cleaning harvested waterfowl. See page two of the [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.

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>11/20/2024</i>	200 ducks	Mix of mallards, wood ducks, gadwall, and hooded mergansers	The Beaver Pond Rest Area is at 95% water capacity and holding most of the ducks we saw today. Impoundment 3-1 (Upper Lake Erie) in Indian Camp Rest Area is 90% full, with an excellent stand of mixed moist soil vegetation. With

			<p>Baldy's Woods nearing water capacity, we plan to divert some of the water pumped by the #3 well back to impoundments 3-1 and 3-2.</p> <p>There is huntable water in Baldy's Woods walk-in unit, and at blind sites 11, 12, 16, 17, and 18, as well as in all of the WMA lakes featuring blind sites. Well #1 is pumping to raise water levels in the Willow Slough Rest Area, and into the standing corn at Blinds 16 and 17. We are slow in accumulating water in the blinds 13/14 impoundment due to low river and groundwater levels, as well as a malfunctioning valve in the pipeline to Blind 13. We have been increasing water flow from the #2 Well to the outlet at Blind 14 with the goal of raising water levels in this impoundment. There is no water in the Ward Tract walk-in unit at this time.</p>
<p>Sloughs WMA</p> <p>11/19/2024</p>	<p>1125 ducks</p> <p>172 Canada geese</p> <p>450 WF geese</p> <p>40 snow geese</p>	<p>80% mallard; 10% teal; 5% pintail; 4% miscellaneous dabblers – northern shoveler, gadwall, American widgeon observed; 1% miscellaneous divers</p>	<p>Lots of water on the area at this time compared to last season. Most ducks observed were in the marsh and tucked into thick areas, likely causing an under representation of total numbers. There is a wide range of habitat quality across the area; natural vegetation is overall great, some planted crop struggled due to mid-summer drought.</p>

Peabody WMA <i>Not surveyed</i>	11 ducks 172 Canada geese	100% mallard	Most lakes, moist soil units, and other water bodies are close to normal levels due to recent rainfall.
Yellowbank WMA <i>11/20/2024</i>	340 ducks	80% mallard, 10% wood duck, 10% green-winged teal	Most units are at 60% water capacity. Excellent moist-soil plants and row crops in hunting units.
Barren River WMA <i>11/18/2024</i>	25 ducks 150 Canada geese	50% divers (ruddy ducks, scaup), 50% dabblers (mallards)	Geese on pond, few ducks in small groups on main lake and next to bank with woody cover, no waterfowl on MSUs. Peters Creek MSU 40% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 90% and units above and below the main spring 0-20%, MSUs off hwy 100 are 0-20% full, with corn/soybeans and MSU plants in great condition, tenant farmer still doesn't have beans out. Dry conditions, mature Bald Eagle in tree at CS main MSU probably eating left overs of a field dressed deer, dozens of fishing boats on the lake, loons and grebes present.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds) <i>Not surveyed</i>			
Cave Run Lake <i>Not surveyed</i>			