

February 7, 2025
Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for February 3-7, 2025. The region experienced mild temperatures throughout the week and rain on Thursday and Friday, with some locations receiving upwards of 1in of precipitation. Warmer temperatures have prompted many birds to disperse.

The second segment of duck season opened on December 7, 2024 and will run until January 31, 2025. Goose season opened on November 28, 2024 and will run until February 15, 2025. The youth-only waterfowl hunt is on Saturday, February 8th and the military-only waterfowl hunt is on Sunday, February 9th. 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.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza was first confirmed in samples from several dead snow geese at Sloughs WMA in early December 2024 and has quickly spread across the state. It has now been detected in 10 counties, with results in another 8 counties still pending. 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. *Please let WMA staff know if you observe any sick or dead birds.*

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard <i>2/5/2025</i>	40,962 ducks 9,577 WF geese 62 Canada geese 11,000 snow geese	90% mallard 4% ring-necked 4% GW teal 2% gadwall, shoveler, goldeneye, canvasback, wood duck, pintail, wigeon, redhead, ruddy duck	Steady warming trend and rising river levels has led to birds dispersing across the landscape. Regular season has ended on Ballard WMA with exception of Youth/Veterans season.
Boatwright <i>2/5/2025</i>	3,520 ducks	41% mallard 37% ring-necked 18% unknown diver 4% unknown	Dark goose season remains open on Boatwright WMA. Warming trend has ducks spread out.
Duck Island <i>Not surveyed</i>			
Doug Travis WMA <i>Not Surveyed</i>			
Sloughs WMA	3,764 ducks 14 Canada geese 300 WF geese	90% mallard 5% teal 2% gadwall	Thawing out last week led to good overall hunting success. Lots of birds (both ducks and geese) observed

2/4/2025	100 snow geese 70 swans	2% misc dabbler 1% pintail 1% misc diver	migrating north on Friday. Most ducks are holding in thick cover making it difficult to get good estimates.
Peabody WMA <i>Not Surveyed</i>			
Yellowbank WMA <i>Not Surveyed</i>			
Barren River WMA <i>Not Surveyed</i>			
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds) 2/3/2025	507 ducks 9 Canada geese	41% ring-necked 20% coots 17% mallard 16% black duck 4% gadwall 1% shoveler 1% ruddy	Following the recent weather fronts pushing birds in and warmer weather, thawing ice has opened up all bodies of water.
Cave Run Lake <i>Not surveyed</i>			