

January 30, 2026

Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

The second segment of duck season opened Sunday December 7 and will run through January 31, 2026. Goose season opened on Thursday November 27, 2025 and will run through February 15, 2026. All bag limits will remain the same as the previous season, except that hunters may now harvest three pintails daily. Check out the 2025-26 Kentucky 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 is present in Kentucky. As of January 8, 2026, it has been detected in waterfowl in Mercer, Green, Warren, and Henderson counties for the 2025-26 migratory season. Visit the KDFWR Avian Influenza webpage to view an up-to-date map of detections. 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	Date	Ducks	Geese	Duck Species Composition	Comments
Barren River Lake WMA	01/28/2026	800 total	500 total		lake 533.7(5.7) up 0.8ft 425cfs. 0in rain last 24hrs. 10% diver, 90% dabblers. Hooded mergansers, mallards, and Canada geese. Duck and geese estimates are a minimum. Peters Creek MSU 90% full. Long Creek - Calvert Springs main unit 90% full. Units above and below the main spring 60-70% full. MSUs off Hwy 100 are 50-70% full. Normal conditions. Temps have been below freezing for a week so 80% of the lower lake is iced over. River and creeks are still ice free. MSUs iced over. Boat ramps have 2 inches of ice on them. Roads are in bad shape (ice). Access is limited. Canada geese on lake - flock after flock came in at dusk while doing crane survey. Many ducks on few holes in the big water - many coming in at dusk too. River and creek hunting are the only option until the season closes.
Blue Grass Army Depot	NA				All water bodies frozen.
Doug Travis WMA	01/27/2026	590 total 500 Mallard 50 Ring-necked 10 Wigeon 10 GW teal 10 Gadwall 10 Shoveler	0 total	Mallard 85% Ring-necked 8% Wigeon 2% GW teal 2% Gadwall 2% Shoveler 2%	Ducks were concentrated in Indian Camp Rest Area at discharge from Well #3, we chose to not flush ducks so count is incomplete. Other rest areas are frozen up, although we are holding minimal amounts of open water at Blind sites 11, 13, 14, and 17, as well as Baldy's Woods walk-in unit by running wells.
Sloughs WMA	NA				No count this week due to weather/lack of access. Running wells to try to keep open some water with varying success.