

February 06, 2026

Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

The second segment of duck season opened Sunday December 7 and closed January 31, 2026. Goose season opened on Thursday November 27, 2025 and will run through February 15, 2026. The special Youth-only waterfowl day in February is Saturday February 14th. The special Veteran and Active Duty Military personnel waterfowl day in February is Sunday February 8th. 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
Ballard WMA	02/06/2026	35135 total 26800 Mallard 6510 Pintail 1100 Gadwall 415 Wigeon 310 Ring-necked 15 Common merganser	97235 total 94065 Snow 3150 Wf Goose 20 Canada	Mallard 76% Pintail 19% Gadwall 3% Wigeon 1% Ring-necked <1% Common merganser <1%	
Boatwright WMA	02/05/2026	407 total 300 GW teal 50 Mallard 50 Scaup 7 Pintail	25 total 25 Snow	GW teal 74% Mallard 12% Scaup 12% Pintail 2%	
Doug Travis WMA	02/03/2026	4950 total 4600 Mallard 100 GW teal 100 Ring-necked 50 Gadwall 50 Pintail 50 Wood duck	0 total	Mallard 93% GW teal 2% Ring-necked 2% Gadwall 1% Pintail 1% Wood duck 1%	All 3 wells are running, and ducks were present in each area of open water created by wells. Most of the ducks found were in open water near Well #3 and loafing in nearby dry soybean stubble.
Sloughs WMA	02/03/2026	4149 total 3778 Mallard 305 Misc Dabblers 57 Pintail 9 Black duck	98 total 68 Snow 30 Canada	Mallard 91% Misc Dabblers 7% Pintail 1% Black duck <1%	Habitat remains largely frozen except a few holes in hunt units and refuge from pumping water. There are more waterfowl around the area this week than counts indicate, they were just not present during the count.