

**January 10, 2025**  
**Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts**

This is the ground count survey for January 6-10, 2025. Western and central Kentucky experienced significant winter weather this week, bringing heavy snow, sleet, and freezing rain. Ice accumulations ranged from 0.25 to 0.75 inches and as much as 11 inches of snow in some areas, with more snow yet to come over the weekend. The storms and subsequent sub-freezing temperatures led to significant ice coverage on shallow wetlands and impoundments, reducing available open water for waterfowl. On some larger impoundments ducks are maintaining areas of open water. Stay safe and warm out there, and be prepared for icy conditions!

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. 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 recently confirmed](#) in samples from several dead snow geese at Sloughs WMA (December 11, 2024), and dead geese have also been observed at Ballard WMA. 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>1/8/2025</i>	35,239 ducks 32 Canada geese 11,300 WF geese 21,000 snow geese	91% mallard 6% ring-necked 1% gadwall <1% wigeon, BW teal, shoveler, pintail, wood duck	Strong polar vortex front couple days ago brought freezing rain, snow, and cold temps. Picked up lots of waterfowl with the cold front. Most shallow water units are frozen, but deeper water in some of the lakes is still open.
Boatwright <i>1/8/2025</i>	23,958 ducks 15 Canada geese 1,425 WF geese 3,000 snow geese	78% mallard 21% unknown ducks 1% unknown dabblers	Arctic blast 3 days ago – still cold. Lots of incoming migrating waterfowl in area. Lots of ice – open water becoming limited.
Duck Island <i>Not surveyed</i>			
Doug Travis WMA <i>1/8/2025</i>	See notes		Many of the wetlands on the WMA are partially or fully iced over, with more icing occurring with below-freezing temps again today. Some of the WMA lakes do have open water as of 1/8, and we are holding open water at blind sites 11, 13, 14, and 17 by running wells.

			<p>Boat ramps at Black Lake, Fish Lake, and Town Creek impoundment were either ice-free or had minimal skim ice at the ramp. There were a few (&lt;20) gadwall and wood ducks utilizing open water between blinds 16 and 17. There was a major movement of WF geese and snow geese coming from the west as we conducted the survey. We observed several thousand mallards and WF geese go into the Beaver Pond Rest Area, so we speculate that birds are holding an open hole in the ice there. We decided against entering the Beaver Pond to avoid disturbing these birds, but estimate numbers to be over 1,000 mallards and at least 2,000 white fronts using the Beaver Pond. The contractor is planning to finalize repairs to Well #3 over the next 2 days, so we hope to be pumping water into the Indian Camp Rest Area and Baldy's Woods walk-in hunt unit by the weekend if there are no difficulties with the installation.</p>
<p>Sloughs WMA <i>1/8/2025</i></p>	<p>Ducks – see notes 8,000 WF geese 12,000 snow geese Canada geese present 6 swans</p>	<p>See notes</p>	<p>Wells had to be turned off 1/4/25 due to ice storm. As a result, much of the water on the area locked up. Geese and ducks have held pockets open and wells are back on as of 1/8. Ducks are holding tight in open pockets of water on the refuge and snow/WF geese are hitting standing corn fields hard right now. High water and downed trees are preventing road access to Jenny Hole especially from the north. Timber and Little Jenny boat access is feasible from the east but Fishtrap may be inaccessible without great effort. No count to keep disturbance off ducks that are holding pockets of water open. Wells back on as of 1/8.</p>
<p>Peabody WMA <i>1/9/2025</i></p>	<p>143 ducks 25 Canada geese</p>	<p>70% mallard 29% gadwall 1% ring-necked duck</p>	
<p>Yellowbank WMA <i>1/7/2025</i></p>	<p>965 ducks</p>	<p>90% mallard 5% gadwall 5% black duck</p>	<p>All hunting units have thick ice. Well pump and ducks are keeping the refuge open.</p>

<p>Barren River WMA <i>1/8/2025</i></p>	<p>155 ducks 198 Canada geese</p>	<p>70% diver – bufflehead, canvasback, ring- necked, goldeneye  30% dabbler – mallard, teal, gadwall, black duck</p>	<p>Lake 534.2 up 0.2ft. Received 0.1in of rain in the last 24hrs. Peters Creek MSU 90% full. Long Creek-Calvert Springs main unit 90% and units above and below the main spring 60-70%. MSUs off Hwy 100 are 50-100% full, with corn/soybeans and MSU plants in great condition. Normal conditions. Ponds are locking up today/tonight. Great hunting for next several days on the lake.</p>
<p>Blue Grass Army Depot  (all lakes and ponds)  <i>Not Surveyed</i></p>			
<p>Cave Run Lake  <i>Not surveyed</i></p>			