

January 13, 2022 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count for January 10 through January 13, 2022. The week started on the back end of a good freeze up. Water holes on our areas were mostly locked up unless birds or moving water were able to keep them open. Conversely, the Ohio and Mississippi backwater has provided a good amount of new habitat, and the moving water kept ice out spots. The Ohio did cover roads at Ballard WMA, closing the area until roads are dry, and repairs are made as needed. Current river gauge predictions leave us hopeful to reopen next week but keep an eye on the KDFWR website & the Ballard Facebook page for notifications. Backwater rules remain in effect for Boatwright WMA. Remember, extreme caution is advised when attempting to hunt in backwater situations.

Ballard WMA closed to all hunting until roads reopen. Backwater rules are in effect for Boatwright WMA through at least Sunday, January 16. All hunters must check in and be assigned a spot through the in-person drawing. See [waterfowl hunting guide](#) for details.

Habitat conditions are much improved with the rain and flooding last week. Growing conditions this summer were favorable for both planted crops and moist soil plants. Most areas are still reporting ample food available for ducks. Water levels in hunt units are where we want them. Overall, wetland conditions and food availability remain excellent.

Duck season will run until January 31, 2022. Goose season will remain open until February 15, 2022. The western zone youth hunt will be February 5-6, 2022. All bag limits remain the same as last season. Check out the waterfowl hunting [web page](#) for more details.

Good luck hunting and be safe out there. Enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard 1/12/2022 <i>Not surveyed due to flooding.</i>			Ballad WMA closed to hunting until flooded roads are passable.
Boatwright 1/12/2022 <i>Not surveyed due to flooding.</i>			Backwater Rules in effect. Ohio River (Cairo, IL) is at 40.5' and slowly falling.
Duck Island <i>Not surveyed</i>			Water levels are optimum. Habitat is good/excellent this year.
Doug Travis WMA 12/20/2021	262 Ducks	99% Mallard	Heavy rains last week helped water conditions

			on the area. Well 2 remains inoperable.
Sloughs WMA <i>1/10/2022</i>	6,700 ducks 7,000 WF goose 10,000 Snow goose 55 CA goose 0 Tundra Swan	85% mallard 10% gadwall 5% ring-neck, pintail and shoveler	Habitat conditions have been dictated by the Ohio River with flooding expected to continue through the week. The river crested and is falling but will have most of the lower-bottoms cutoff. County roads to Grassy and Highland units are impassable. Birds have dispersed with the newly available water and habitat.
Peabody WMA <i>1/12/2022</i>	1,079 Ducks 283 CA geese	1,042 dabblers (70% mallard) 37 diving ducks	Recent rain and snow have resulted in flood conditions on the Pond River and moist units are at full capacity.
Yellowbank WMA <i>1/3/2022</i>	650 Ducks	75% mallard 10% pintail 5% black duck 5% wood duck 5% other ducks	Excellent moist soil plant response and row crops in most units. Moist-soil units are above 100% water capacity.
Barren River WMA <i>1/5/2022</i>	10 ducks 85 CA geese 1,093 Sandhill cranes	Mallards	Peters Creek MSU 90% full. Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 80%, and units above and below the main spring 50-90%. MSUs off hwy 100 are 80-100% full, with corn and MSU plants in great condition. Lake 537.9(+9.9) up 1.3 ft 442cfs
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		

Cave Run Lake 1/6/2022	137 Ducks, 248 CA geese 9 coots	194 Mallard 43 Bufflehead 25 Ring-necked ducks 8 pintails 6 wood duck 4 wigeon	Lake level – 741.0', which is 17' above winter pool.
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