

January 20, 2022 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for January 16-20, 2023. It's been another mild week, and bird numbers have not changed much. The week did finish with a small cold front sweeping through to get birds moving a bit. The rains have provided a bit more water to places that are still dryer than normal. Habitat overall is still excellent. There is more than enough flooded crops and moist soil food to go around.

**Avian Influenza is present in Kentucky, so hunters should use common sense when handling/cleaning harvested waterfowl. See page two of the [KY 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.

The second segment of duck season will run until January 31, 2023. Goose season opened November 24, 2022 and will remain open until February 15, 2023. New this year, youth season is Saturday, November 19, 2022, and Saturday, February 11, 2023. There is also a new veteran's hunt on Sunday, November 20, 2022, and Sunday February 12, 2023. All bag limits remain the same as last season. Check out the 2022-2023 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.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard <i>1/18/2023</i>	57,943 ducks 43 CA goose 3,297 WF goose 7,954 Snow Geese	97% Mallard, 1% Green Wing Teal, 1 % Gadwall, 1% Northern Shoveler, Pintail, Mergansers	Strong cold front with lots of wind and rain. Hunter success has slightly improved but birds are still holding tight to overhead cover.
Boatwright <i>1/19/2023</i>	3,091 Ducks 31 CA Geese	68% Mallards 25% G-W Teal 7% Other	Hunting activity has been heavy in portions of the WMA. Newly flooded acres near long pond are holding large groups of G-W Teal.
Duck Island	<i>Mid-winter aerial survey 1/4/23</i>	675 mallards 7 black ducks 15 gadwall	
Doug Travis WMA <i>1/18/2023</i>	585 Ducks	520 Mallard 65 GW teal and misc. dabblers.	Water conditions remain the same on the area. Ducks are tucked into thick brushy areas, likely resulting in low

			estimates of numbers on the area.
Sloughs WMA 1/16/2023	8,810 ducks 20 CA geese 700 WF geese 400 Snow geese 92 Tundra Swan		The region received some rain since the previous survey and overall habitat conditions have improved. Water is available throughout the WMA including the lower bottoms. With available pumping capabilities, all of the hunt units and the refuge has water, and most units are at full capacity. Duck numbers increased from the previous week, & birds were dispersed throughout the area using newly available habitat.
Peabody WMA 1/18/2023	169 ducks 156 CA goose	90% mallard, 10% ring-necks	Moist soil units and impoundments are full.
Yellowbank WMA 1/18/2023	290 Ducks	90% mallard 10% other puddle ducks	All units are at maximum water capacity.
Barren River WMA 1/17/2023	44 ducks 105 CA geese 4,758 Sandhill cranes	50%diver/50% dabblers mergansers, wood ducks, ringnecks, scaup, redheads, mallards	Peters Creek MSU 35% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 100%, MSUs off HWY 100 are 100% full. Food in abundance, with both corn and moist soil plants in great condition. Lake level: 528.8'
Blue Grass Army Depot	<i>Not Surveyed</i>		
Cave Run Lake	79 Ducks 0 CA geese	72 bufflehead, 6 mallard, 1 common merganser	Lake level: 724.4'

1/11/2023	50 coot		
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