

January 27, 2022 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for January 23-27, 2023. Well folks, it's that time of year again... It has been a long 60 days, but we all hate to see the end. The week did bring a little bit of cold weather, and some of our birds to the south have begun the trip back north. January hunting is always difficult, but there are quite a few folks that continue to find ways to get ducks over the decoys. We wish everyone the best of luck closing out duck season, and to those who will be chasing geese until the 15th of February.

**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 end 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 1/18/2023	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 1/26/2023	3,720 Ducks 22 CA Geese	50% Mallards 27% G-W Teal 23% Canvasback & Ring-necked duck	Recent cold fronts improved waterfowl numbers on the Boatwright area, most notably in the Olmsted unit.
Duck Island	<i>Mid-winter aerial survey</i> 1/4/23	675 mallards 7 black ducks 15 gadwall	
Doug Travis WMA 1/26/2023	970 ducks*	95% Mallard 5% GW teal, pintail and misc. dabblers.	*Incomplete count due to wet levees. Most ducks are tucked into thick brushy areas resulting in lower estimates than actual numbers.

Sloughs WMA 1/23/2023	6,000 ducks 4 CA geese 4,600 WF geese 5,500 Snow geese 96 Tundra Swan		The region has continued to receive rain from the previous survey and has improved overall habitat conditions. Duck numbers decreased from the previous week with birds dispersed throughout the WMA. Snows and White Fronted Geese continue to move around the area with higher numbers reported from the previous survey.
Peabody WMA 1/25/2023	334 ducks 238 CA goose	84% mallard 16% ring-necks & gadwall	Habitat conditions have improved with recent rainfall. Waterfowl totals continue to remain lower than average for this time of the year.
Yellowbank WMA 1/23/2023	425 Ducks 25 WF geese	80% mallard, 10% black duck, 5% gadwall, 5% diver ducks	All units are at maximum water capacity.
Barren River WMA 1/23/2023	34 ducks 102 CA geese 4,130 Sandhill cranes	50%diver/50% dabblers mergansers, wood ducks, ringnecks, scaup, redheads, mallards	Peters Creek MSU 50% 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: 529.2'
Blue Grass Army Depot	<i>Not Surveyed</i>		
Cave Run Lake 1/20/2023	58 Ducks 20 CA geese 20 coot	48 bufflehead, 4 mallard, 6 hooded merganser	Lake level: 724.4'

