

January 28, 2021 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count for January 25-29, 2021. Sunday will wrap up the duck season, and although we have received a good cold front, complete with a decent snow, temps have dropped low enough to lock up a lot of our hunt units. Bird numbers have improved since last week, but they still are not moving around much during shooting hours. We also finally received some much needed water this week, but still not enough to send the big Rivers out of their banks. The heavy rain did however add water to the landscape. Habitat across the state continues to look excellent in moist soil units and good to excellent habitat over all. Water levels are full on most hunt units, and we are adding water to increase food availability where possible. Overall, wetland conditions and food availability are excellent.

Duck season began on Thanksgiving Day, with the first segment running from November 26 – 29. The second segment of duck season opened on December 7, and will run until January 31, 2021. Goose season opened November 26, 2020 and will remain open until February 15, 2021. The western zone youth hunt will be February 6-7, 2021. Also new this year, is the daily bag limit reduction for Scaup (blue bills). The new Scaup bag limit is one bird November 26-29, and December 7-18, 2020 and two birds December 19, 2020 through January 31, 2021. All other bag limits remain the same.

We wish everyone great luck this year. Be safe, and enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard <i>1/28/2021</i>	42,952 ducks 56 CA goose 5,500 WF goose 12,252 Snow goose	89% Mallard, 7% Gadwall, 4% Ring-neck, Shoveler, GW Teal, Wigeon, Wood Duck, Goldeneye, Pintail, Black Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merg and Ruddy.	Cold front moved through yesterday that is supposed to drop temps down below freezing for a couple of days. Had a few hours of snow yesterday. Birds were sitting in brushy woody cover and in large groups on front slough. The rain that moved through on Monday dumped around 3-4 inches. There is an abundance of newly flooded moist soil areas. Food looks great on area.
Boatwright <i>1/28/2021</i>	4,070 Ducks	76% Mallard, 25% unknown diver due to distance	Habitat looks great, new sheet water in fields due to rain we had.
Duck Island <i>Not Surveyed</i>			
Doug Travis WMA <i>1/28/2021</i>	5,560 Ducks	90% mallard	Water conditions are good at all blind sites.

		10% mixed dabblers (pintail, greenwing teal, gadwall & wood duck were observed)	
Sloughs WMA <i>1/25/2021</i>	13,400 ducks 320 CA goose 1,200 WF goose 400 Snow goose 350 Tundra Swan	85% Mallard 15% pintail, 10% shoveler, Green Wing Teal and ringneck	At time of survey, we had picked up over an inch of rain with overcast skies. A substantial increase of ducks was found on the refuge from the previous survey. Water conditions remain normal. The forecast calls for more precipitation expected to push through midweek and into the weekend.
Peabody WMA <i>1/26/2021</i>	898 ducks 44 CA goose	86% Mallard, 11% Gadwall, and 3% Ring neck & Green wing Teal	Water conditions due to recent heavy rains have spread ducks and geese out over the area.
Yellowbank WMA <i>1/14/2021</i>	800 Ducks 55 Canada Geese	80% mallard, 10% black duck, 5% pintail, 5% gadwall	Most units are above 75% water capacity.
Barren River WMA <i>1/26/2021</i>	Ducks not surveyed 2,094 Sandhill Cranes		Peters Creek MSU 90% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 75-100%, MSUs off hwy 100 are 75-100% full, with corn/soybeans and MSU plants in great condition. <i>1/26: Lake 534.3'</i>
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		
Cave Run Lake <i>1/20/2021</i>	266 Ducks, 12 CA geese	34% bufflehead 34% ruddy duck, 22% canvasback, 10%	Lake level – 724.4'

		mallard, merganser, and black duck.	
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