

January 6, 2022 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for January 2-6, 2023. We were flying aerial surveys last week, so this report is a week late. Happy New Year, and we apologize for the delay.

**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 1/3/2023	49,789 ducks 125 CA goose 13,735WF goose 37,000 Snow Geese	99% Mallard, 1% Gadwall, Green Wing Teal, Ring-neck, Pintail, Mergansers	The recent heavy rain event pushed water out into wooded areas and natural riparian habitat. This provided for a wide expanse of available habitat and food resource available for waterfowl use. Birds were much more widespread across the survey area.
Boatwright 1/5/2023	3,643 Ducks 22 CA Geese 0 Snow Geese	95% Mallards 2% Canvasbacks 1% Ring-necked 1%Pintail 1% G-W Teal, Goldeneye, Gadwall	Recent heavy mid-winter storm helped to bring impoundments to somewhat normal pool levels. Hunting activity is normal for this time of the year. Some sheet water exist in shallow field pools and timber due to recent rains.
Duck Island	<i>Not surveyed</i>		

<p>Doug Travis WMA</p> <p>12/28/2022</p>	<p>4,500 Ducks 75 WF geese</p>	<p>95% mallard 5% gadwall, GW teal, and canvasback</p>	<p>Most impoundments on DTWMA are frozen, other than those where we are holding open water by running wells. We have open water at Baldy's Woods walk-in unit, and at blinds 11, 13, and 14. We anticipate more units thawing by the end of the week. Ice thickness on lakes with blind sites is 3" in some spots. Ice is beginning to thaw.</p>
<p>Sloughs WMA</p> <p>1/2/2023</p>	<p>8,620 ducks 35 CA geese 1,700 WF geese 4,000 Snow geese</p> <p>74 Tundra Swan</p>		<p>The region received some rain, but did little to improve overall habitat conditions. Local sloughs and drainages have some water but remain considerably low. The lower bottoms are still mostly dry. 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, and birds are scattered throughout the newly available habitat.</p>
<p>Peabody WMA</p> <p>1/3/2023</p>	<p>44 ducks 6 CA goose</p>	<p>100% mallard</p>	<p>Melting snow and recent rainfall have brought most bodies of water to normal levels. Moist soil units are now full. Recent rainfall has spread ducks and geese out over a larger area.</p>

Yellowbank WMA 1/4/2023	550 Ducks	90% mallard, 5% black duck, 5% diving ducks	All units are at maximum water capacity.
Barren River WMA 1/4/2023	82 ducks 126 CA geese 1,680 Sandhill cranes	50%diver/50% dabblers mergansers, mallards, wood ducks, scaup, redheads, ringnecks, gadwall	Peters Creek MSU 25% 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: 531.8'
Blue Grass Army Depot	<i>Not Surveyed</i>		
Cave Run Lake 1/4/2023	62 Ducks 250 CA geese	40 bufflehead, 22 mallard	Heavy fog and rain during survey made finding birds difficult. Lake level: 724.4'