

## December 10, 2020 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

Not much to report this week. The second segment of duck season is now open, but bird numbers are still a little low. There are still hundreds of thousands of ducks to our north, so hope for cold front to send us some new birds.

Habitat across the state look excellent in moist soil units and good to excellent habitat over all. Water levels are mostly right where we want them. 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	10,668 ducks 21 CA goose 1,800 WF goose	80% Mallard, 12% Ring-neck, 5% Gadwall, 3% Wigeon, Green wing, Wood Duck, Hooded Merg, Goldeneye, Black Duck and Ruddy	Overall, habitat looks great. There is an abundance of moist soil food is available in most units. We are still pumping water into several units, but water levels are right where they need to be for early December.
Boatwright	2,157 Ducks 15 CA goose	66% Mallard, 29% Green wing, 5% Scaup, Ring-neck, Canvasback, Gadwall, Wood Duck and Goldeneye	Habitat is looking great, there is an abundance of moist soil vegetation; some crops have water on them as well. Water depths are looking good overall, but we are still running wells where possible.
Duck Island <i>11/18/2020</i>	3,950 ducks 60 Canada geese	75% Mallards 25% gadwall, GW teal, pintail, ringneck, shoveler, wigeon, ruddy duck, black duck and wood duck.	Habitat conditions are excellent. Planted crops and moist soil plants did well this summer.
Doug Travis WMA	625 Ducks	90% Mallard, 10% mixed dabblers	
Sloughs WMA	4,100 ducks 0 CA goose 4,300 WF goose		Water conditions and habitat is still good to excellent across the

	7,000 Snow goose  150 Tundra Swan		area. Cypress slough systems including Jenny Hole and most moist soil units are at normal conditions and have available water. Birds were found over most of the Sauerheber refuge with ducks seeking cover in Buttonbush marsh systems and geese being highly visible along Muddy Slough off Highway 268.
Peabody WMA	585 ducks 115 CA goose	75% Mallard	
Yellowbank WMA	350 Ducks	65% mallard, 20% wood duck, 5% gadwall, 5% black duck, 5% diver ducks	Excellent moist soil plant response in most units. Pumps are filling units where crops have been harvested. Upper Flood MSU still has soybeans to be harvested.
Barren River WMA  <i>11/24/2020</i>	20 ducks,	Redheads and Mallards	Habitat looks great on the WMA, with corn/soybeans and moist soil plants in great condition going into the season. Peters Creek MSU 10% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 70% and units above and below the main spring 0-50%, MSUs off hwy 100 are 0% full.  11/18: Lake 536.3
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		
Cave Run Lake	242 Ducks, 273 CA geese 72 coots	51% bufflehead, 35% ruddy duck, 10% mallard, 4% ringneck, redhead, & gadwall.	12/09: lake level – 724.4'

