

## December 29, 2022 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for December 26-29, 2022. The arctic blast that hit brought a pile of ducks with it. Unfortunately, the ice locked up any small water bodies that were not kept open by wells and pumps, but thawing is starting to occur.

\*\*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  12/20/2022	68,351 ducks 40 CA goose 21,900WF goose 52,500 Snow Geese	84% Mallard, 13% Ring-necked, 3% Gadwall, Green Wing Teal, Pintail, Shoveler, Wood Duck	Artic cold front has pushed a significant number of new birds into the area.  (99k ducks and 46k geese noted on 12/27)
Boatwright  12/22/2022	3,094 Ducks 0 CA Geese 40 Snow Geese	98% Mallards 2% unknown	Low water remains a limiting factor for waterfowl habitat availability. Hunting activity has been moderate with potential snow fall in the near future.
Duck Island	<i>Not surveyed</i>		
Doug Travis WMA  12/28/2022	4,500 Ducks 75 WF geese	95% mallard 5% gadwall, GW teal, and canvasback	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.
Sloughs WMA <i>12/26/2022</i>	6,700 ducks 9 CA geese 6,000 WF geese 12,000 Snow geese  0 Tundra Swan		The region received snow and ice which did little to improve habitat conditions. Local sloughs and drainages have some water but remain considerably low with lower bottoms mostly dry. With available pumping capabilities, all of the hunt units and the refuge has water. Duck numbers increased slightly from the previous week along with Snows and White Fronted Geese. Pond creek marsh and majority of area was frozen at time of survey.
Peabody WMA <i>12/21/2022</i>	439 ducks 240 CA goose	46% ring-necked ducks, 39% mallard 19% gadwall	Water conditions are starting to improve with recent rainfall.
Yellowbank WMA <i>12/27/2022</i>	105 Ducks	90% mallard, 5% gadwall, 5% diving ducks	All units have thick ice.
Barren River WMA <i>12/19/2022</i>	224 ducks 65 CA geese  2,367 Sandhill cranes	50%diver/50% dabblers mergansers, mallards, wood ducks, scaup, redheads, ringnecks, gadwalls, high diversity	Peters Creek MSU 10% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 80%, MSUs off HWY 100 are 80% full. Food in abundance, with both corn and moist soil plants in great condition.

			Lake level: 529.1'
Blue Grass Army Depot	<i>Not Surveyed</i>		
Cave Run Lake  12/21/2022	170 Ducks 246 CA geese 24 unknowns	28 bufflehead, 64 mallard, 4 black ducks, 22 hooded mergansers.	Lake level: 724.2'