

February 5, 2021 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count for February 1-5, 2021. The western duck zone youth hunt is Saturday and Sunday, and bird numbers have improved since last week. A nice cold front has swept across our northern neighbors, and we are finally seeing some consistent cold temps. Habitat across the state continues to look excellent in moist soil units and good to excellent habitat over all. We never received any significant river flooding, and most of the season was much drier than average. 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 2/4/2021	46,425 ducks 76 CA goose 9,000 WF goose 500 Snow goose	82% Mallard, 10% Ring-neck, 3% Gadwall, 2% GW Teal, 3% Shoveler, Wigeon, Pintail, Wood Duck, Black Duck, Ruddy, Redhead, Goldeneye, Hooded Merg and Canvasback	Raining today during survey. Temps are in the low 40's, and are predicted to stay that way through Sunday. Looking ahead, we are supposed to hit a polar vortex next week that will freeze everything up. Regular season ended last Sunday, and we have the youth hunt this weekend to wrap up quota hunts. Hopefully with the weather changing, the kids will have a great weekend of hunting. Water levels look great in all impoundments, and there is still an abundance of moist soil and row crops available. Birds were spread out on area today.
Boatwright	2,238 Ducks 25 CA goose	93% Mallard, 6% GW Teal, 1% Wood Duck, Ring-neck,	Habitat looks great, new sheet water in fields due

2/4/2021		Gadwall, Bufflehead, Pintail and Black Duck	to rain we had. There is still an abundance of moist soil and row crop available. Unlike Ballard, hunters can still hunt for geese in hunt units. Youth weekend is this weekend, hopefully birds will move around for the kids.
Duck Island <i>Not Surveyed</i>			
Doug Travis WMA 2/5/2021	Incomplete survey	90% mallard 10% mixed dabblers (pintail, greenwing teal, gadwall & wood duck were observed)	Wet levees hindered the survey. I can say that we have not lost many ducks from last week, and possibly have picked up some. I observed ducks sitting in multiple hunt units that you would not see during the regular season due to pressure. Youth hunters should be able to take advantage of the rest the ducks got this week.
Sloughs WMA 1/25/2021	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 2/2/2021	988 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>2/1/2021</i>	750 Ducks	85% mallard, 10% black duck, 5% pintail, 5% gadwall, 5% divers	Most units are at maximum 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>1/27/2021</i>	337 Ducks, 49 CA geese	42% bufflehead 33% ruddy duck, 13% canvasback, 12% mallard, gadwall, ringneck, scaup, merganser, and one surf scoter.	Lake level – 728.6'