

## January 3, 2019 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter-waterfowl ground count survey for January 2-4, 2019. Hunting reports continue to be “less than desirable”... The Christmas and New Year’s holidays have delayed reporting on some of our management areas, but most are back to work and back on our regular schedule. Mild weather continues to our North, so we will continue to be hopeful that conditions will improve soon.

Ohio and Mississippi river levels continue to rise, **closing Ballard WMA**, but bringing favorable backwater to other areas. Most of the lakes across the state are well above winter pool. Most of the state’s wetlands are still in above average condition. Moist soil food is still in abundance across the state. Crops favored well in most places, although many areas struggled to get corn planted last summer. Overall, conditions for ducks are good, and we are set to manage as needed throughout the season.

The Kentucky 2018-19 duck and goose seasons open Thursday, November 22. The first duck season segment closed on Sunday, November 25. The second segment of duck and season opened December 3 and the duck season will remain open until Sunday, January 27. The goose season will remain open until Friday, February 15, 2019. Good luck to all waterfowl hunters, and remember to be safe and enjoy your time afield this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	Not Surveyed due to flooding.		Ballard WMA <i>is closed</i> due to flooding. <b>By regulation, Ballard WMA becomes entirely refuge during backwater events.</b>
Boatwright WMA	Not Surveyed		Survey not possible due to flooding. Boatwright WMA hunters must still check in each day, as the area remains open during backwater. See the hunting guide online for specific backwater rules on the area.
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Doug Travis WMA	Not Surveyed		
Sloughs WMA	Ducks: 10,289 CA geese: 104 WF Geese: 4,645 Snow Geese: 41	60% mallard, 40% mix of green-winged teal, gadwall, pintail, and northern shoveler.	Warm and wet conditions continue to prevail across the area, with temperatures reaching nearly 60 degrees over the past three days. The Ohio River crested today at nearly 40' at the J.T. Meyer Dam gauge, but

			<p>is expected to fall fast over the next week. With that, there is still a significant amount of water across the landscape. Similarly, the Pond Creek marsh remains above normal pool; however, water was beginning to recede from some of the adjacent woodlands. Nearly all of the ducks observed were found in some sort of flooded timber, whether it be flooded willows, buttonbush, or bottomland hardwoods. Ducks continue to remain in the timber during the day, and roost in adjacent moist soil units and flooded fields, arriving to their roosting spots 5-10 minutes before dark. White fronted geese continue to loaf and feed adjacent to Muddy Slough. Snow geese continue to be absent from the refuge during the day, but will return in the evening time to roost.</p>
<p>Barren River Lake WMA</p>	<p>Ducks: 10 CA Goose: 110</p>	<p>Mallards and Wood ducks</p>	<p>Peters Creek MSU 80% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100% and units above and below the main spring 80-100%% full. Milo, corn, soybeans, and moist soil plants in excellent condition and in standing water.</p>

			MSUs off hwy 100 are 70-100% full, with soybeans, and MSU plants in great condition. Lake is 17.3' above winter pool, at 545.3'.
Peabody WMA	Not Surveyed		
Yellowbank WMA	535 ducks	90% mallard, 5% black duck, 5% northern pintail	Most moist-soil units/ flooded fields are at maximum water capacity. Ducks are still scattered in flooded fields due to flooding from the Ohio River.
Cave Run Lake	38 ducks	20- bufflehead, 10 hooded mergansers, 6 ruddy ducks and 2 ring-necked ducks.	Lake level is approaching summer pool, and the river is full as water is being pulled out of the lake.
Blue Grass Army Depot	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		