

## January 17, 2020 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for January 13-17, 2020. There is still an abundance of water on the landscape, and many areas could not survey because of flooding. Lakes and reservoirs are still above summer pool. Most rivers are swollen if not already out of their banks. Ballard WMA closed on Saturday, 1/4, and will remain closed until it is safe for hunters to access. We will advertise details on the department webpage, the Ballard WMA Facebook page, and the KDFWR main Facebook page. Hunters may also call the Ballard Waterfowl Hotline, 270-224-2244 ext. 1 to get updates. Doug Travis and Boatwright WMA's have roads effected by backwater, so be careful trying to access these WMA's and be aware of the rules that apply during floodwater conditions. See the waterfowl guide online for more info, available on our website.

Habitat across the state is still holding on strong. There was ample moist soil vegetation on most areas and hunt units going into the season, and most of these are still full of food.

Duck season began on Thanksgiving Day, with the first segment running from November 28 – December 1. The second segment of duck season opened on December 7<sup>th</sup>, and NEW THIS YEAR, will run until January 31, 2020. Goose season opened November 28, 2019 and will remain open until February 15, 2020. The western zone youth hunt will be February 1-2, 2020. Also new this year, is the daily bag limit reduction from 2 birds to 1 for Northern Pintail. 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  1/10/2020	<i>not surveyed due to floods</i>		Due to water being over roads at Boatwright and Ballard, we did not do a count today.
Boatwright  1/10/2020	<i>not surveyed due to floods</i>		Due to water being over roads at Boatwright and Ballard, we did not do a count today. .
Duck Island	<i>not surveyed</i>		
Doug Travis WMA  1/10/2020	<i>not surveyed due to floods</i>		No survey this week due to high water. All access is by boat until the river recedes below ~41ft.
Sloughs WMA  1/13/2020	4,450 ducks 120 CA geese 4,775 WF geese 0 snow geese 0 Tundra swans	92% Mallard, 5% Gadwall, 3% teal, Widgeon, Black Ducks and Ring Necks	Birds were not active during the survey, with most birds observed in thick flooded buttonbush and standing timber. Rain is predicted with lower temperatures expected in the upper teens at night starting this weekend through Monday. Habitat is still

			looking very good with Pond Creek Marsh elevated making food readily available. White Fronted Geese and Snow geese continue to trade back and forth in the area feeding on waste grain and adjacent fields with an abundance of each using the area at any given time. River Stages are elevated in the bottoms with current readings on the Evansville gauge at approximately 31 feet. Happy hunting.
Peabody WMA  <i>12/19/2019</i>	793 ducks 177 Canada geese 2 Swans	75% Mallards, 25% gadwall & ring-necked ducks.	All moist soil units are full of water.
Yellowbank WMA  <i>1/14/2020</i>	700 Ducks	75% Mallard, 10% gadwall and 5% black duck, 10% other	All units are at maximum capacity.
Barren River Lake WMA  <i>1/15/2020</i>	350 ducks 105 CA geese	80% mallards, shoveler, wood ducks, 20% scaup and redhead	Lake is at 561.7' (+33.7') Hundreds of mallards and a few wood ducks at Long Creek MSUs. Mallards, shovelers, divers on the main lake in small to medium size rafts, in big open water near Masons Island. Probably thousands of ducks in the flooded crop fields/weedy fields/flooded timber, now that the lake is 10' over summer pool.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	<i>not surveyed</i>		
Herrington Lake	<i>not surveyed</i>		
Green River Lake	Low numbers being seen,		Green River Lake level is currently 24 feet above

1/6/2020	though finding them is difficult with all the flooded habitat available.		summer pool and is expected to rise with predicted rain starting Friday. Most blind sites in the bottoms are already under water, as are the sites on the lake. There are not many options for launching a boat as most boat ramps are closed due to flooding.
Cave Run Lake 1/2/2020	50 ducks 50 CA goose	20 bufflehead, 10 ruddy ducks, 20 unknown species	Lake level is 737, Outflow – 2699 at 6 a.m. Lake levels made access to usual survey viewing locations not possible.