

## January 3, 2020 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This the first waterfowl ground survey for the 2020 decade. Many folks are off for the holidays, so forgive us if the list is incomplete again this week. The Ohio River gauge at Cairo, IL is once again threatening to close Ballard WMA. The river is scheduled to crest over 43' on Sunday. Staff are expecting this event to close Ballard either Saturday or Sunday. We will advertise the closure 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  1/3/2020	<i>not surveyed due to floods</i>		Due to water being over roads at Boatwright and now Ballard, we did not do a count today. Ohio River is predicted to crest at 44' by Monday Jan 6. It's currently 42' at 12:00 PM today.
Boatwright  1/3/2020	<i>not surveyed due to floods</i>		Due to water being over roads at Boatwright and now Ballard, we did not do a count today. Ohio River is predicted to crest at 44' by Monday Jan 6. It's currently 42' at 12:00 PM today.
Duck Island	<i>not surveyed</i>		
Doug Travis WMA  1/2/2020	9,500 Ducks	90% Mallard, 7% mixed divers, and 3% mixed puddlers	At the time of survey, the river gauge at Cairo is forecasted to rise to 43.5 feet; water begins to cross the road near the fish lake bridge at 41-42 feet.
Sloughs WMA	10,700 ducks 162 CA geese 1,850 WF geese	92% Mallard, 5% Gadwall, 3% greenwing teal,	The survey at sloughs WMA was held on a Dreary, rainy Monday

<p>12/16/2019</p>	<p>3,220 snows 210 Tundra swans</p>	<p>widgeon, black ducks and pintail</p>	<p>for the region. Birds were active most of the day with a low ceiling and heavy cloud cover. A cold weather front is pushing through the region with lows expected in the lower 20's midweek. Habitat on Sloughs is still looking very good with Pond Creek Marsh elevated making food readily available. During our survey period, birds were seen over much of the refuge. 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 had receded from previous flood conditions but are increasing and predicted to steadily increase up until December 24. Happy hunting.</p>
<p>Peabody WMA</p>	<p>793 ducks 177 Canada geese 2 Swans</p>	<p>75% Mallards, 25% gadwall &amp; ring-necked ducks.</p>	<p>All moist soil units are full of water.</p>
<p>12/19/2019 Yellowbank WMA</p>	<p>500 Ducks</p>	<p>85% Mallard, 10% gadwall and 5% other</p>	<p>All units are at maximum capacity.</p>
<p>1/2/2020</p>			

Barren River Lake WMA  <i>12/12/2019 last duck survey</i>	275 ducks 55 CA geese  12/23/2019: 449 Sandhill Cranes	80/20 dabblers and divers Mallards, shovelers, wood ducks, redheads and hooded mergansers noted.	12/24/2019: Lake level is 549 (+21.0).  Peters Creek MSU 80% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 100%, other units 75-80% full.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	<i>not surveyed</i>		
Herrington Lake	<i>not surveyed</i>		
Cave Run Lake  <i>1/2/2020</i>	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.