

January 31, 2020 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for January 27-31, 2020. Temps have stayed fairly mild, though cooler than what we have been experiencing most of the winter. The rains have held off, allowing swollen rivers to reside some. Lake levels continue to remain high; many remain well above normal levels. There is still an abundance of backwater habitat still present. We hope that your duck season finished strong!

Ballard WMA closed on Saturday, 1/4, and finally reopened to hunters on the 29th. We look forward to seeing the results after three weeks of rest. 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 7th, 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 hope you experienced some luck this year. Even without the heavy straps, I hope you all got to experience some time outdoors with friends and family. Be safe, and enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard 1/10/2020	<i>not surveyed due to flood cleanup</i>		Ballard is reopened, but staff did not have time to do a survey this week.
Boatwright 1/10/2020	<i>not surveyed due to floods</i>		Due to water being over roads at Boatwright, 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 1/27/2020	7,783 ducks 310 CA geese 4,600 WF geese 9,300 snows 14 Tundra swans	92% Mallard, 8% GW teal, Widgeon, Black Ducks and Pintail.	Birds were active most of the day with a low ceiling and heavy cloud cover. Habitat on Sloughs is good with Pond Creek Marsh elevated making food readily available. During our survey period, birds were seen over much of the area and observed

			in multiple different habitat types. WF Geese and Snow geese continue to trade back and forth in the area, feeding on waste grain in adjacent fields with an abundance of each using the area at any given time. River Stages have receded from previous flood conditions and remain stable. As of Monday, roads were open leading to Grassy Pond/Powell's Lake and Highland Creek Units. Happy hunting.
Peabody WMA	<i>not surveyed</i>		All moist soil units are full of water.
Yellowbank WMA <i>1/28/2020</i>	1225 Ducks 30 CA geese	80% Mallard, 5% Gadwall, 5% Black Duck, 5% Pintail, 5% Other	
Barren River Lake WMA <i>1/22/2020</i>	105 ducks 0 CA geese	80% mallards, shoveler, wood ducks, 20% scaup and redhead	Lake is at 559.3' (+31.5') Moist Soil units frozen
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	<i>not surveyed</i>		
Herrington Lake	<i>not surveyed</i>		
Green River Lake	<i>not surveyed</i>		
Cave Run Lake <i>1/27/2020</i>	280+ ducks	2 mallard and 2 gadwall, 40 bufflehead, 30 ruddy ducks, 8 Scaup. 200+ rafts on the flats consisting of Canvasback, Ruddy, Mallard, Bufflehead, and Gadwall, all intermixed.	Lake level is 730.2, Outflow – 4,126 at 6 a.m.