

January 6, 2022 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count for January 3 through January 6, 2022. We have seen a lot of up and down this week, with temps ranging from 70's to the teens. Some areas got some snow, most got ample rainfall, which was very much needed. The Ohio filled up and has began to spill out into the bottoms. Ballard, Boatwright and Sloughs WMA hunters should pay attention to river levels. As the river crests, road access will likely be cut off to portions of Boatwright and Sloughs WMA. Extreme caution is advised when attempting to hunt in backwater situations.

Backwater rules go into effect for Boatwright WMA beginning Friday, January 7, through at least Sunday, January 9. Online drawings are suspended and drawing results for these dates are not valid during backwater. All hunters must check in and be assigned a spot through the in-person drawing. See waterfowl hunting [guide](#) for details.

Habitat conditions are much improved with the rain and flooding. Growing conditions this summer were favorable for both planted crops and moist soil plants. Most areas are still reporting ample food available for ducks. Water levels in hunt units are where we want them. Overall, wetland conditions and food availability remain excellent.

Duck season will run until January 31, 2022. Goose season will remain open until February 15, 2022. The western zone youth hunt will be February 5-6, 2022. All bag limits remain the same as last season. Check out the waterfowl hunting [web page](#) for more details.

Good luck hunting and be safe out there. Enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard <i>1/5/2022</i>	25,268 ducks 6,000 WF geese 1,500 Snow geese 6 CA geese	88% Mallard 11% Ring-necked duck 1% Shoveler	Moist soil and food plots have water and are looking great. Food still in abundance. Ohio River is at 35' and forecast to crest at 41' by January 10.
Boatwright <i>1/5/2022</i>	2,293 ducks 39 CA geese	72% Mallard 16 % GW teal 8% Canvasback 4% Ring-neck and gadwall	River is rising and expected to flood. Ducks are spreading out into the newly flooded habitat. Moist soil and food plots all look great. Ohio River is at 35' and forecast to crest at 41' by January 10.
Duck Island <i>Not surveyed</i>			Water levels are optimum. Habitat is good/excellent this year.

Doug Travis WMA <i>12/20/2021</i>	262 Ducks	99% Mallard	Heavy rains last week helped water conditions on the area. Well 2 remains inoperable.
Sloughs WMA <i>1/5/2022</i>	9,300 ducks 6,350 WF goose 12,850 Snow goose 85 CA goose 20 Tundra Swan	75% mallard 20% gadwall and widgeon 5% ring-neck	Habitat conditions have completely changed with the heavy rain we received in the last week. Ohio River is expected to crest Saturday on the WMA. Flood water has pushed up into the lower bottoms providing great habitat. County roads have closed so boat access will be necessary to hunt Grassy and Highland units. Birds have dispersed with the available water.
Peabody WMA <i>1/4/2022</i>	391 Ducks 104 CA geese	90% mallard	
Yellowbank WMA <i>1/3/2022</i>	650 Ducks	75% mallard 10% pintail 5% black duck 5% wood duck 5% other ducks	Excellent moist soil plant response and row crops in most units. Moist-soil units are above 100% water capacity.
Barren River WMA <i>1/5/2022</i>	10 ducks 85 CA geese 1,093 Sandhill cranes	Mallards	Peters Creek MSU 90% full. Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 80%, and units above and below the main spring 50-90%. MSUs off hwy 100 are 80-100% full, with corn and MSU plants in great condition. Lake 537.9(+9.9) up 1.3 ft 442cfs

Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Cave Run Lake <i>12/22/2021</i>	101 Ducks, 190 CA geese 123 coots	14 Mallard 33 Bufflehead 2 Ring-necked ducks 52 Ruddy ducks	Lake level – 725.2'