

December 10, 2021 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count for December 6 through December 10, 2021. The second segment of duck season opened this week, and weather hasn't been great. The cold front early on gave way to mild weather. Some areas lost birds without seeing any replacements. There is a storm front coming Friday, but from the south. Habitat conditions are still dry, but food is plentiful. Growing conditions this summer were favorable for both planted crops and moist soil plants. Most areas report ample food available for ducks this season. Water levels in hunt units are mostly right where we want them, but units that cannot be mechanically filled are dryer than normal. We are adding water where possible to keep adequate hunting water. Overall, wetland conditions and food availability are 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>12/8/2021</i>	19,130 ducks 5,441 WF geese 12 CA geese	90% Mallard 10% Gadwall, ringneck, shoveler, and teal.	River is back up and the big pump is running. Huntible water in most units, and pumping where possible. Moist soil and food plots are looking great.
Boatwright <i>12/8/2021</i>	1,114 ducks	65% Mallard 35 % gadwall	Rain helped some but still dryer than we would like. Pumps are running where possible. Moist soil and food plots all look great.
Duck Island <i>12/3/2021</i>	4,000 ducks 200 CA geese 200 WF geese	70% Mallard 10% pintail 10% Gadwall 10% GW teal, ring-neck, scaup canvasback, ruddy duck and wigeon.	Water levels are optimum. Habitat is good/excellent this year. Birds were spread out and in vegetation, so a really good view was not possible.
Doug Travis WMA <i>12/8/2021</i>	1,018 Ducks	98% Mallard 2% Ringnecks & Wood ducks	Water levels remain low due to low river levels. Most blind spots have some water in their respective impoundments, however most walk-in units do NOT have

			<p>hunnable water yet. Use caution getting to boat-in spots. DISCLAIMER: Well 2 was struck by lightning last week and is currently inoperable; Blinds 11-14 (including Mobility-Impaired blind 13) do not have water pumping into their impoundments and are losing water.</p>
<p>Sloughs WMA <i>12/6/2021</i></p>	<p>9,500 ducks 9,200 WF goose 5,000 Snow goose 37 Tundra Swan</p>	<p>80% mallard 15% gadwall, teal and widgeon 5% shoveler</p>	<p>The region picked up some measurable rain but again, habitat conditions continue to be extremely dry. Water levels within most of the hunt units on the WMA and Jenny Hole are low but huntable. Birds are still concentrated around the few refuge areas with water. Pond creek marsh along with other natural wetland areas have little to no water.</p>
<p>Peabody WMA <i>12/8/2021</i></p>	<p>"kinda sparse"...</p>		
<p>Yellowbank WMA <i>12/6/2021</i></p>	<p>550 Ducks</p>	<p>85% mallard 5% black duck 5% pintail 5% other dabbling ducks</p>	<p>Excellent moist soil plant response and row crops in most units. Moist-soil units are at 75% water capacity.</p>
<p>Barren River WMA <i>12/8/2021</i></p>	<p>5 ducks 10 Sandhill cranes</p>	<p>5 wood ducks</p>	<p>Peters Creek MSU 50% full. Long Creek- Calvert Springs main unit 80%, and units above and below the main spring 50-80%. MSUs off hwy 100 are 40-80% full,</p>

			with corn and MSU plants in great condition. Lake 530.7(+2.7) up 0.8 ft 806cfs
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Cave Run Lake <i>12/9/2021</i>	152 Ducks, 362 CA geese 209 coots	24 Mallard 2 Gadwall 123 Bufflehead 3 Ring-necked ducks	Lake level – 725.9' Birds observed tended to be out in the water but fairly close to shore, geese were mostly close to or on shore resting, while divers were more out in open water.