

## December 16, 2021 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count for December 13 through December 17, 2021. Temps remain unseasonably warm and some areas are still pretty dry. On a positive note, some areas like Ballard and Boatwright WMA's have reported a major increase in birds. Habitat conditions are still dry in some places, but everywhere that can mechanically move water has huntable water. 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. 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>12/15/2021</i>	27,107 ducks 6,085 WF geese 45 CA geese	89% Mallard 11% ring-neck, gadwall, wigeon, shoveler, and teal.	Still moving water to area where needed, but water levels are good overall. Moist soil and food plots are looking great.
Boatwright <i>12/15/2021</i>	12,508 ducks 40 CA geese	96% Mallard 3 % GW teal 1% ring-necked duck	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>12/16/2021</i>	503 Ducks	99% mallard 1% mixed dabblers	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 huntable 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.
Sloughs WMA  <i>12/13/2021</i>	6,750 ducks 2,200 WF goose 6,000 Snow goose 50 CA goose 35 Tundra Swan	80% Mallard 15% Gadwall and Widgeon 5% Teal and Ringneck	The region picked up some measurable rainfall but again, habitat conditions continue to be extremely dry. Water is available within all of the hunt units on the WMA and Jenny Hole. Birds are still concentrated around the refuge areas with water. Pond creek marsh along with other natural wetland areas still have little to no water.
Peabody WMA  <i>12/15/2021</i>	146 ducks 170 CA geese	131 mallards 15 ring-necked ducks	
Yellowbank WMA  <i>12/13/2021</i>	700 Ducks	85% mallard 5% black duck 5% pintail 5% other dabbling ducks	Excellent moist soil plant response and row crops in most units. Moist-soil units are at 75% water capacity.
Barren River WMA  <i>12/15/2021</i>	0 ducks 85 CA geese 0 Sandhill cranes		Peters Creek MSU 60% 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, with corn and MSU plants in great condition.

			Lake 530.5(+2.5) down 0.6 ft 3001cfs
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Cave Run Lake  12/16/2021	174 Ducks, 777 CA geese 133 coots	14 Mallard 2 Gadwall 86 Bufflehead 63 ruddy duck 7 Ring-necked ducks 2 hooded merganser	Lake level – 725.8'  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.