

December 29, 2021 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count for December 27 through December 29, 2021. During the holiday season, some areas may not be surveyed.

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>12/29/2021</i>	33,058 ducks 8,020 WF geese 5,500 Snow geese 47 CA geese	84% Mallard 12% Ring-necked duck 4% other species	Most activity is happening at first light. Moist soil and food plots have water and are looking great. Food still in abundance.
Boatwright <i>12/29/2021</i>	2,293 ducks 39 CA geese	72% Mallard 16 % GW teal 8% Canvasback 4% Ring-neck and gadwall	Water levels are maintaining. Moist soil and food plots all look great.
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>12/27/2021</i>	4,700 ducks 6,000 WF goose 7,000 Snow goose 85 CA goose 59 Tundra Swan	75% mallard 20% gadwall and widgeon 5% teal and ring-neck	The region continues to be dry and warm with little rainfall or cold temperatures from the last survey. Habitat conditions did not improve much on the area, but 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 has picked up some water and birds have started using the available habitat.
Peabody WMA <i>12/28/2021</i>	212 Ducks 102 CA geese	85% mallard	
Yellowbank WMA <i>12/27/2021</i>	675 Ducks	80% mallard 5% black duck 10% pintail 5% other dabbling ducks	Excellent moist soil plant response and row crops in most units. Moist-soil units are above 75% water capacity.
Barren River WMA <i>12/29/2021</i>	40 ducks 85 CA geese 3,266 Sandhill cranes	Wood ducks, mallards, bufflehead	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 530.9(+2.9) down 0.9 ft 3728cfs
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'