

January 10, 2020 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the ground count survey for January 6-10, 2020. There is an abundance of water on the landscape, and many areas could not survey because of flooding. Many lakes and reservoirs are well above summer pool. Most rivers are swollen if not already out of their banks. Ballard WMA closed on Saturday, 1/4, and will remain closed until it is safe for hunters to access. We will advertise details or on the department webpage, the Ballard WMA Facebook page, and the KDFWR main Facebook page. Hunters may also call the Ballard Waterfowl Hotline, 270-224-2244 ext. 1 to get updates. 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. We also flew the aerial mid-winter waterfowl survey this week. Check that report out online as well.

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 wish everyone great luck this year. Be safe, and enjoy your time afield.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard 1/10/2020	<i>not surveyed due to floods</i>		Due to water being over roads at Boatwright and Ballard, we did not do a count today.
Boatwright 1/10/2020	<i>not surveyed due to floods</i>		Due to water being over roads at Boatwright and Ballard, 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 1/6/2020	6,500 ducks 62 CA geese 7,400 WF geese 7,000 snows 45 Tundra swans	92% Mallard, 5% Gadwall, 3% teal including a group of 25 blue wings, widgeon, black ducks and pintail	The survey at sloughs WMA was held on a Blue bird sunny day. Birds were not active, most being observed in flooded buttonbush and standing timber. A warm front is expected to push through the region Thursday with highs in the upper 50's to low 60's, and a high probability of rain

			through Saturday. Habitat on Sloughs is still looking very good with Pond Creek Marsh elevated, making food readily available. Geese continue to trade back and forth on the area feeding on waste grain and adjacent fields. River Stages have receded from an elevated condition but are expected to increase with the predicted 4-6 inch rain through Saturday.
Peabody WMA 12/19/2019	793 ducks 177 Canada geese 2 Swans	75% Mallards, 25% gadwall & ring-necked ducks.	All moist soil units are full of water.
Yellowbank WMA 1/2/2020	500 Ducks	85% Mallard, 10% gadwall and 5% other	All units are at maximum capacity.
Barren River Lake WMA	<i>not surveyed</i>		
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	<i>not surveyed</i>		
Herrington Lake	<i>not surveyed</i>		
Green River Lake 1/6/2020	Low numbers being seen, though finding them is difficult with all the flooded habitat available.		Green River Lake level is currently 24 feet above summer pool and is expected to rise with predicted rain starting Friday. Most blind sites in the bottoms are already under water, as are the sites on the lake. There are not many options for launching a boat as most boat ramps are closed due to flooding.
Cave Run Lake 1/2/2020	50 ducks 50 CA goose	20 bufflehead, 10 ruddy ducks, 20 unknown species	Lake level is 737, Outflow – 2699 at 6 a.m. Lake levels made

			access to usual survey viewing locations not possible.
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