

January 18, 2018 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter waterfowl ground count for January 16-18, 2018. Two winter storms have hit since the last ground count report, bringing first ice, and 6" snow to most of the state (check local listings). All efforts are being made by staff to keep water open, but much of our hunt units and rest areas are frozen. Moist soil plants still look great across the state, and when the ice thaws there will be plenty of food available. Planted crops are still available in most areas, though the wheat fields have been used heavily during the winter storms and frozen weather. Warm air is predicted through the weekend and into next week, so thawing conditions will come.

The second segment of duck season is now open and will remain open until Sunday, January 28. The goose season will remain open until Monday, February 15, 2018. The Western KY youth waterfowl dates are February 3-4, 2018. Remember that adults that are taking youth out for the youth hunt can still hunt geese, but may not take any ducks. The future of the sport will always be reliant on kids being introduced to waterfowling. Please try to take a kid hunting whenever possible. Good luck to all, and remember to be safe whenever you are out pursuing birds this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	26,700 Ducks 150 CA geese 4,770 WF geese 12,005 Snow geese	99% Mallard, 1% Gadwall, GW Teal, Wigeon and Ring necks.	There is 5-6 inches of snow still covering the area, and most units are frozen. The only open water is where wells are running or where birds have kept it open. The big pump was turned on, so we will be trying to open up as much of the area as we can. Planted crops are still available to birds, and there is newly flooded moist soil units that will be available when the ice thaws. Look for conditions to improve as the weather warms this weekend.
Boatwright WMA	25 Ducks 515 CA geese	100% Mallard	Snow still covers the area, and most of the units are frozen. There is still an abundance of food available when the ice thaws.

Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not surveyed		
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Barren River Lake	Not surveyed		
Doug Travis WMA	Not Surveyed		
Cave Run Lake	975 Ducks 3,000 CA geese	700 unknown ducks that were too far out to see. 200 Canvasback, 50 buffelhead, 18 Pintail, 3 Redheads, 3 Scaup and 1 shoveler.	Ducks were stacked up on the open holes in the ice. The lake has significant ice cover, and viewing birds for accurate ID was difficult.
Clear Creek WMA	Not surveyed		
Peabody WMA	1,170 Ducks 100 CA Geese	700 Mallards, 470 divers (mostly ring-necked ducks).	
Sloughs WMA	22,045 Ducks 221 CA geese 465 WF geese 3,530 Snow geese 0 Swans	99% mallard, 21 % mix of black ducks, gadwall, and northern pintail.	The area received two winter storms over the last 4 days, with a major front hitting on Friday morning dropping a layer of ice along with 1-2 inches of snow. Snow fell again all-day Monday, bringing the total accumulation on the area to around 6 inches. Ducks were concentrated at two locations only, with nearly 90% of the ducks holding tight on open water adjacent to well outlets on the Hardy Slough moist-soil impoundments. The remaining ducks were seen loafing on an open-water hole on the

			Pond Creek Marsh. The remainder of the WMA is entirely frozen. Although large numbers of light geese are being seen daily, the majority were not present during the count. Light goose numbers are much higher than the survey shows.
Yellowbank WMA	180 ducks	50% mallard, 35% pintail, 10% gadwall, & 5% black duck.	All ducks are isolated on the waterfowl refuge with about two acres of open water. All other water holes are frozen.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	1,000 ducks 10,000 CA geese 150 WF geese	Mostly mallard with about 12 Pintail and 50 ring-necked duck.	
Taylorville Lake	Not surveyed		
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		