

November 10, 2017 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the first waterfowl ground count of the 2017-18 wintering period. Many areas did not have the opportunity to survey this week, as we are still a little early in the season. In general, low numbers of ducks are around, but we have certainly seen some activity from the North. Cooler weather in Kentucky and in northern areas has produced some movement, and brought some new birds into the state. Look for improvements in the coming weeks with cold fronts and snow hitting the US and Canada. Breeding ground surveys are showing many ducks, such as mallard, gadwall and teal, being way above the long-term averages. IF weather conditions will hold, we can anticipate an exciting opener!

Overall, most of the states wetlands are in above average condition. Moist soil plants look great across the state. Crops favored well in most places, and conditions for ducks should only improve with additional precipitation.

The Kentucky 2017-18 duck and goose seasons open Thursday, November 23. The first duck season segment will close on Sunday, November 26. The second segment of duck and season will open December 4 and the duck season will remain open until Sunday, January 28. The goose season will remain open until Wednesday, February 14, 2018. Good luck to all waterfowl hunters, and remember to be safe whenever you are out pursuing birds this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	25,382 Ducks 91 CA geese	75% Mallard, 12% Green wing teal, 9% Gadwall, and 4% Shoveler, Pintail, Wood duck, Wigeon, Black duck and Hooded Mergs.	Birds are utilizing abundant shallow MSU's scattered across the area. Largest congregation of birds are on Mitchell Lake MSU.
Boatwright WMA	321 Ducks (on survey route)	62% Ring-neck and 36% Mallard, remainder is Wood duck and Hooded mergs.	
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not surveyed		
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Barren River Lake	Not surveyed		
Doug Travis WMA	2400 Ducks	50% Mallard, 30% Wood ducks, 10% GW Teal, 5% Gadwall and Wigeon, 5% Ring-neck and Lesser Scaup	The area is 40% flooded and 2 wells are running
Cave Run Lake	Not surveyed		
Clear Creek WMA	Not surveyed		
Peabody WMA	Not surveyed		

Sloughs WMA	Not surveyed		
Yellowbank WMA	Not surveyed		
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	158 Ducks	8 Black ducks, 75 Hooded mergs, 25 Ring-neck, and 50 small divers, perhaps Ruddy ducks.	All impoundments are holding water according to schedule and MSU plants are looking good.
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		
Taylorville Lake	Not surveyed		
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		