

## November 10, 2016 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the first waterfowl ground count of the 2016-17 wintering period. Many areas did not have the opportunity to survey this week as this is a week earlier than we traditionally conduct the survey. In general, low numbers of ducks are around. Warm weather in Kentucky and in northern areas has the mass of duck migration still well north of Kentucky. Look for improvements in the coming weeks with cold fronts hitting the US and Canada. This breeding season had the highest number of ducks ever recorded (again) on breeding ground surveys. Look for above average numbers of ducks to eventually make it to Kentucky.

Overall, most of the states wetlands are in relatively good shape. In some regions local agricultural plantings were impacted by the summer rains and/or flooding and yields may be reduced. Moist soil plants look great across the state. Wetland conditions are still good considering the lack of rain this fall, and should only improve with additional precipitation.

Kentucky's 2016-17 duck and goose seasons open Thursday, November 24. The first duck and goose season segment will close on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. The second segment of duck and season will open December 5<sup>th</sup> and the duck season will remain open until Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. The second segment of the goose season will remain open until Wednesday, February 15, 2017. Good luck to all waterfowl hunters and remember to be safe whenever you are out pursuing the resource this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	11,218 Ducks	73%% Mallards. 16% Gadwalls, 8% Green wing teal, and 3% Wood duck, Wigeon and Black Ducks.	With unseasonably warm temps over the last few weeks, our duck numbers are very weak. We have had a small cold front push down over the last couple of nights. Ohio River is too low to pump from, but wells are pumping where possible to have water by opener.
Barren River Lake	Not surveyed		
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not surveyed		
Duck Island	1,200 ducks 75 Canada Geese	90% Mallards, GW Teal, Gadwall and Pintail. 10% Wigeon and Shoveler.	Current water levels on the island are ideal. We have a good source of water stockpiled in the north impoundment and will gravity flow

			into the central as needed. The central level will be brought up slowly to maximize availability of foraging resources for the waterfowl moving through. The lakes have been staying very near winter pool, resulting in large areas of exposed mudflats... especially on Lake Barkley.
Boatwright WMA	1,010 Ducks	99% Mallards, 1% wood ducks	Wells are pumping where possible to have water by season opener.
Doug Travis WMA	Not Surveyed		
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)	Not surveyed		
Herrington Lake	Not surveyed		
Taylorsville Lake	Not surveyed		
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		