

## November 17, 2017 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter waterfowl ground count November 13-17, 2017. Many areas did not have the opportunity to survey this week, as we are still a little early in the season. Cooler weather in Kentucky and in northern areas has produced some movement, and brought some new birds into portions of the state, however, others have lost a few birds. Look for improvements in the coming weeks with cold fronts and snow hitting the US and Canada. The aerial surveys along the Illinois and Mississippi rivers found four times as many ducks than the average late November surveys. If the current weather conditions 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.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Species Composition</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Ballard WMA	17,333 Ducks 60 CA geese 200 WF geese	68% Mallard, 15% Green wing teal, 13% Gadwall, and 4% Shoveler, Wood duck, Canvasback and Hooded Merganser.	Ducks are spreading out on area and neighboring land with each day that passes. Ducks were hugging water edges this morning making it hard to spot them in several areas. Some of our hunt units are holding rain water, and ducks are utilizing the abundant moist soil vegetation and invertebrates
Boatwright WMA	4,885 Ducks 50 CA geese	86% Mallard, 9% GW teal, 4% Ring-necked duck and 1% Gadwall and Wigeon.	Ducks and geese are both using Long Pond and Arrowhead with water levels being shallow. Swan lake had a good group of Ring Necks rafted up in the middle. Ducks are spread out in the cypress trees in Swan.
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		

Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not surveyed		
Duck Island	Not surveyed		
Barren River Lake	Not surveyed		
Doug Travis WMA	3,300 Ducks	60% Mallard, 10% Wood ducks, 10% GW Teal, 10% Gadwall, 10% Ring-necked duck.	The area is 55% flooded and 2 wells are running
Cave Run Lake	109 Ducks 2000+ coots 130 CA geese	20 Mallards, 38 Gadwall, 19 Bufflehead, 2 Scaup, 14 other divers, 15 Hooded mergansers, 1 Red-breasted merganser and at least 2000 coots.	
Clear Creek WMA	Not surveyed		
Peabody WMA	15 Mallards 277 CA Geese		
Sloughs WMA	8,830 Ducks 60 CA geese 7,500 WF geese 600 Snow geese 40 Tundra Swans	60% Mallard, 40% mix of gadwall, green-winged teal, wigeon, pintail, and ring-necked duck.	Water levels in natural cypress sloughs remain relatively low, therefore affording excellent feeding conditions for waterfowl. Similarly, the Pond Creek wetland complex is at 50% of it's normal winter water capacity, with water depths between 6-12 inches in the lower areas of the marsh complex.
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	3 coots	They were cute coots though...	

Taylorsville Lake	Not surveyed		
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		