

## November 27, 2017 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the winter waterfowl ground count for November 27- December 1, 2017. Mild weather has continued this week, not bringing in many new birds. Most waterfowl WMA's are reporting a fair number of birds still, considering the warmer weather experienced the last two weeks. The good news.... aerial surveys along the Illinois and Mississippi rivers are still finding more than 800,000 birds congregated along the survey route, which is four times greater than the average late November surveys. These birds are staged up and waiting for a North wind to blow them to us!

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 opens 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. 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	14,032 Ducks 60 CA geese 2,500 WF geese 1000 Snow geese	87% Mallard, 6% Ring-necked duck, 3% Green wing teal, 3% Gadwall, and 1% Shoveler, Wigeon, Pintail, Wood duck and Black Duck.	Habitat is looking great! We are adding new water everywhere we can to enhance food availability.
Boatwright WMA	2,775 Ducks	77% Mallard, 22% GW teal & 1% Ring-necked duck.	We are adding water to any spot that we can to increase food availability.
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Not surveyed		
Duck Island	4,000 ducks	85% Mallard, 8% GW teal, 5% Pintail & 2% Gadwall, Shoveler, Black duck and Scaup.	
Barren River Lake	Not surveyed		
Doug Travis WMA	3,450 Ducks	60% Mallard, 10% GW Teal, 10% Wood ducks, 10% Ring-necked ducks, and 10% mixed dabblers and divers.	The area is 55% flooded and 2 wells are running

Cave Run Lake	157 Ducks 125 CA Geese 2000+ Coots	72% mixed divers & 28% mixed dabblers	
Clear Creek WMA	Not surveyed		
Peabody WMA	136 Ducks 17 CA Geese	74% Mallards	
Sloughs WMA	9,917 Ducks 45 CA geese 10,760 WF geese 6,730 Snow geese 211 Swans	60% Mallard, 40% mix of Gadwall, Shoveler, Northern pintail, GW teal, and Wood ducks.	Warm, dry, and sunny conditions have prevailed over the last week across the area. Ducks are concentrated along timbered edges of the Pond Creek marsh complex, or scattered across natural cypress sloughs, and are roosting in moist-soil impoundments and flooded standing corn on the area. Geese were scattered across the WMA throughout survey period. Both white-fronts and snow geese are feeding in dry winter wheat fields, particularly on the south side of HWY 268. They were also observed loafing in the Pond Creek marsh complex and Muddy Slough.
Yellowbank WMA	215 Ducks	55% Wood duck, 30% Mallard, 10% Gadwall, 5% Black Duck	
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	71 Ducks	45 Mallard, 20 gadwall, 2 black ducks, & 4 ring-necked ducks.	
Herrington Lake	0 Ducks	....but I did see 3 red-tailed hawks, 2 kestrels, 4 road-killed coons, 2 rabbits and several thousand vultures in the palisades. :D	

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