

November 28 - December 2, 2016
Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

We are into our first split. Many good hunts were reported over the Thanksgiving season, but duck numbers are still lower than normal.

The lack of rain in last 2 months is making impacts to waterfowl habitat across the state. Scouting will be critical until rain gets here to replenish our states wet areas that we love to hunt so much.

The second segment of duck and goose season will open December 5th and the duck season will remain open until Sunday, January 29th. 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	36,422 ducks 45 CA Geese 4000 WF geese	85% Mallard, 5% GW Teal, 4% Gadwall, 2% Shoveler, 1% Ring-neck, the remaining 3% is mix bag of Wigeon, Wood Duck, Merganser and Black Duck.	We are pumping with wells where we can, have a pto-driven pump set up and pumping water from unit to unit where possible. Still not able to pump from the river. Where we do have water, waterfowl are using it. Birds are staging in moist soil units. Habitat looks great... just need some more water.
Boatwright WMA	4,535 ducks 250 CA geese	99% Mallard, 1% Wood Duck, Merganser and Black Duck.	Pumping water where possible. Habitat conditions are great minus water.
Birdsville Island	Not surveyed		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	Accurate counts not available	Staff observed good numbers of Ring Necks and Scaup, but a specific ground count was not conducted.	Overall, the lake level is up a bit. The forecast is for the lake to rise another foot (above 356.0) or so, which is well above the planned curve of 354.0-354.5. This rise may be enough to allow pumping of the south impoundment.

Duck Island	5,500 ducks	85% Mallard, 10% GW Teal, 5% pintail, gadwall and ringnecks.	Seeing good waterfowl use of the island with ideal water conditions. Overall use is generally similar to last year at this time. The central impoundment will continue to be monitored and we may raise the level a few tenths of a foot within the next 7 days. The lake level rise may be enough to allow pumping of the south impoundment.
Barren River Lake	Didn't see any waterfowl on the lake or MSUs		Peters Creek MSU 0% full, Long Creek- Calvert Springs and units adjacent to CS are 60% full, other units 0%
Doug Travis WMA	1,550 ducks 25 CA geese	85% Mallards, 10% wood ducks & 5% mixed dabblers.	All 3 wells are running and the area is about 50% flooded.
Cave Run Lake	No ducks sited at survey locations.		
Peabody WMA	129 Ducks 25 CA Geese	60% Mallard, 40% Gadwall and Teal.	Rainfall totals have been insufficient to fill moist soil units.
Sloughs WMA	3,905 Ducks 8,000 WF Geese 2,500 Snows 24 Swans	80% Mallard, 20% gadwall, GW teal, pintail, Shoveler, and ringnecks. It is suspected that duck estimates are likely low, as assessing duck numbers within natural sloughs is very difficult.	Despite receiving nearly 2 inches of yesterday, the area remains very dry. he majority of the Pond Creek wetland complex remains dry, with only small pockets of standing water that have emerged with the recent rains.
Yellowbank WMA	245 Ducks	85% Mallards, 10% Wood Ducks, 5% Gadwall.	MSU's flooded by pumps are at 40% water capacity

Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	220 ducks	56 Mallards, 44 Gadwall, 31 Black Ducks, 9 teal. Divers are mostly ring necks.	
Herrington Lake	No birds sited at survey locations.		
Taylorsville Lake	No ducks or geese observed while conducting waterfowl survey on the lake via boat.	Pump is still down, water level in lake has risen some but still 8" below winter pool.	MSUs units have not been pumped yet and a significant rain event is needed to allow us to pump from the salt river.
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	Not surveyed		
Green River WMA	Not surveyed		