

KENTUCKY PERIODIC WATERFOWL INVENTORY

Conducted January 4-9 2017

The Mid-Winter Waterfowl survey has been delayed this year due to poor flight conditions last week. This year's surveys found similar conditions to last winter. The record high fall and early winter temperatures experienced throughout the Mississippi Flyway states this year seems to have delayed migration this season, and left high hopes for good waterfowl numbers during this survey. Unfortunately, the recent rain events we have experienced in KY left birds scattered across the landscape for all but one of the flights. Moist soil units, beaver impoundments and ponded depressions in crop fields provided excellent habitat for ducks and geese on the days the surveys were flown. Listed below is the survey data obtained during our Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey across the state. As always... stay safe and happy hunting!

Mid-Winter Survey Report for Western Kentucky - Purchase Region

Flown by: Pat Hahs on January 4, 2017

Site	Dabblers	Divers	Total Ducks	Canada geese	Snows/Blues	WF Geese	Coots	Eagles	Sandhill Crane
Bayou De Chien	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Obion Creek	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mississippi River	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mayfield Creek	190	0	190	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reelfoot NWR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ballard	22,300	150	22,450	120	140	2,200	0	0	0
Boatwright WMA	4,270	300	4,570	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio R. (Wickliffe-Paducah)	150	325	475	0	75	0	0	0	0
Ohio R. (Paducah-Golconda)	4,711	370	5,081	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barkley Lake (N of 68)	915	360	1,295	150	0	0	0	0	0
Barkley Lake (S of 68)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
duck Island	2,055	0	2,055	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kentucky Lake	98	370	468	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kaler Bottoms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birdsville Islands	3,888	0	3,888	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doug Travis WMA	195	25	220	0	0	0	0	0	0
Obion Creek (Travis Slough tract)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Obion Creek (L.E. Schaaf tract)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38,822	1,900	40,722	270	215	2,200	0	0	0

Notes from Pat... Waterfowl observations were generally normal for this time of year. We have experienced some very odd weather prior to the survey date. Temperatures were normal for the season on survey day, but we have experienced temperatures both 15-20 degrees above normal and 15-20 degrees below normal for extended periods this winter. Habitat conditions were pretty good, although we have had minimal major rain events leaving the big rivers and tributaries in moderate flow at most. No flood conditions were noted during the survey and the majority of water holes likely have been pumped. Species distribution is roughly consistent with early January other than an unusually high percentage of green-winged teal that be using duck island for several weeks. Some species such as goldeneye and canvasback normally associated with colder, mid-Winter weather were not observed in significant numbers.

Lower Ohio River & Western Coalfield

Flown by: Thomas Young on January 9, 2017

Site	Dabblers	Divers	Total Ducks	Canada geese	Snows/Blues	WF Geese	Coots	Eagles	Sandhill Crane
Ohio R. (Owensboro-Green River)	270	5	275	175	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio R. (Green River-Henderson)	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio R. (Henderson-Sloughs WMA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sloughs WMA	14,410	525	14,935	1,851	400	8,123	200	3	0
Ohio R. (GPPL & JHHC)	27	39	66	50	0	0	0	3	0
Ohio R. (Uniontown-Shawneetown)	25	0	25	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ohio R. (Shawneetown-Tradewater R.)	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio R. (Tradewater R.-E. end of Hurricane Isl.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio R. (Hurricane Isl.-Golconda)	70	25	95	24	0	0	0	4	0
Hovey Lake WMA (Indiana)	1,006	25	1,031	12	0	0	0	0	0
Pond River-White City WMA	483	0	483	0	0	0	200	4	0
Tradewater River	511	120	631	50	0	0	0	0	0
Peabody Coal Property	3,840	673	4,513	1,143	0	0	50	1	0
Totals	20,654	1,412	22,066	3,330	400	8,123	450	16	0

Rough River – Yellowbank WMA

Flown by: Thomas Young on January 5, 2016

Site	Dabblers	Divers	Total Ducks	Canada geese	Snows/Blues	WF Geese	Coots	Eagles	Sandhill Crane
Rough River	25	40	65	45	0	0	0	2	0
Yellowbank WMA	59	0	59	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio R. (Brandenburg - Owensboro)	469	0	469	36	0	0	0	2	0
Totals	553	40	593	81	0	0	0	4	0

Notes from Thomas... The Ohio River was at normal pool. Below freezing conditions were present over the region for several consecutive days before the survey. All shallow water impoundments were covered in ice except a couple holes kept open by waterfowl on Hovey Lake, Slough's Refuge and Peabody Refuge.

Mid-Winter Survey Report for Central and Eastern KY

Flown by: Josh Lilpop & Wes Little on January 4, 2017

Site	Dabblers	Divers	Total Ducks	Canada geese	Snows Blues	WF Geese	Coots	Eagles	Sandhill Crane
Herrington Lake	50	0	50	50	0	0	0	0	0
Cedar Creek Lake	760	0	760	0	0	0	0	3	0
Lake Cumberland	114	0	114	85	0	0	0	0	0
Dale Hollow Lake	1,493	101	1,594	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barren River Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	250
Green River Lake	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taylorsville Lake	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Central Ohio River	422	0	422	708	0	0	0	0	0
Blue Grass Army Depot	210	52	262	130	0	0	50	0	0
Licking River (Southern)	62	0	62	33	0	0	0	1	0
Cave Run Lake	0	6	6	35	0	0	0	2	0
Grayson Lake	36	0	36	33	0	0	0	0	0
Yatesville Lake	0	0	0	46	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio River- (Ashland to Scioto R.)	14	0	14	12	0	0	0	0	0
Scioto River	77	14	91	0	0	0	0	0	0

Site	Dabblers	Divers	Total Ducks	Canada geese	Snows Blues	WF Geese	Coots	Eagles	Sandhill Crane
Ohio River (Scioto R. to Licking R.)	733	32	765	1088	0	0	0	1	0
Licking River (Northern)	9	0	9	171	0	0	0	0	0
Campbell County Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kincade Lake	0	0	0	86	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	3,991	205	4,185	2,477	0	0	50	8	250

Notes from Terri... The Central survey was conducted with clear sunny skies and mild winds <10 mph, daytime temperatures ranged from 30 degrees at start to mid to lower 40's by mid-day. Standing water in low lying fields indicated recent rainfall however most reservoirs appeared to be lower than normal winter pool levels. Barren and Green River Lake, which typically have low winter pool depths, appeared to have more exposed mud flats and dried up coves or oxbows than normal. No frozen water was observed on any reservoirs and even small ponds and lakes which showed signs of low water levels appeared to be unfrozen at time of the survey. The Ohio River appeared to be slightly above normal level but remained within banks. In the central region the most abundant dabbling ducks were Black ducks (1520) followed by Mallards (1286) and Gadwall (32). Black ducks were only observed on Dale Hollow Lake and Cedar Creek Lake while Mallards were easily the most wide spread dabbling duck in the central region occurring throughout the region in varying group sizes. Diver numbers were low and only observed on Dale Hollow Lake, Canvasback (46) and Ring-neck (55). Canada Geese (843) observations were lower than expected with majority of observations coming from the Ohio River.

Notes from Wes.... The Eastern flight was conducted in mostly clear to partly cloudy skies, with 5-20 mph west winds, mostly in the 10-15 mph range. Temperatures were in the low to mid throughout the day. Temperatures have been mild this hunting season. The season's rainfall has been lower than average, but late rains have provided water across the landscape during the survey. No ice was noted during the survey. Most reservoirs were either at or lower than winter pool. Cave Run Lake had some water covering the shallow flats, but vegetation seemed a little sparse. The Ohio River was above normal levels, with high current from the recent rains, but was within the banks. The Northern Licking river was also above normal levels with high current. Most fields with low areas and oxbows around the rivers showed good moist soil habitat, and were full of water. With the lack of ice and abundant moist soil habitat throughout the state, waterfowl are scattered across the state, making this year's count seem low. The most abundant dabbling duck was Mallards (859). Black duck (194) was the second most abundant puddle duck followed by Gadwall (76) and Green-winged Teal (27), with no other dabbling ducks being observed in large numbers. There were no dabbling ducks present on Cave Run Lake, and fewer geese than normal. Very few divers were seen this year. Ring-necks were the most abundant diver (35) followed by Bufflehead (31), Goldeneye (13), Scaup (13), and Canvasback (12). There were 1,634 Canada geese counted total. I hope everyone had a great holiday season, and enjoy the remainder of your duck and goose season!