IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WATERFOWL SURVEY

November 13, 2026

The statewide duck count increased by 19.9% and the Canada goose count increased by 51.9% from last week. Mallards were the most abundant duck followed by northern pintail and green-winged teal. At a statewide scale, observers counted 32.9% more ducks and 40.4% fewer Canada geese than during this week last year. The graphs below compare the 2026 migration (turquoise bars) so far to both 2025 (gold bars) and the 2016-2025 average (blue line). Counts below the shaded region are considered below average, and counts above are considered above average.

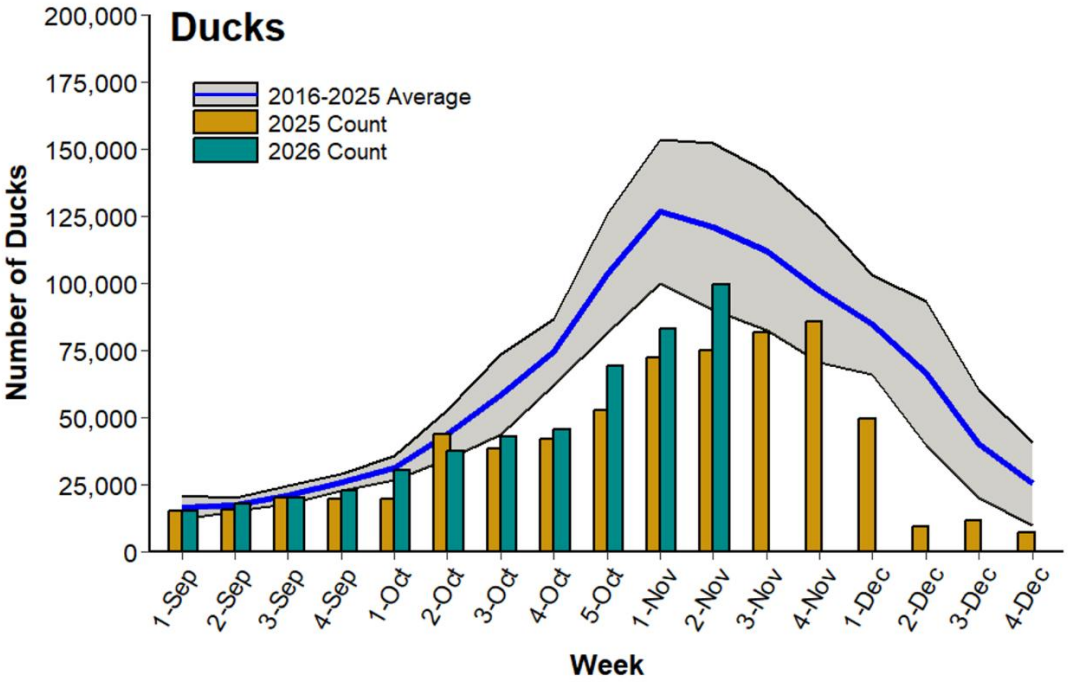


Figure 1. The number of ducks surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

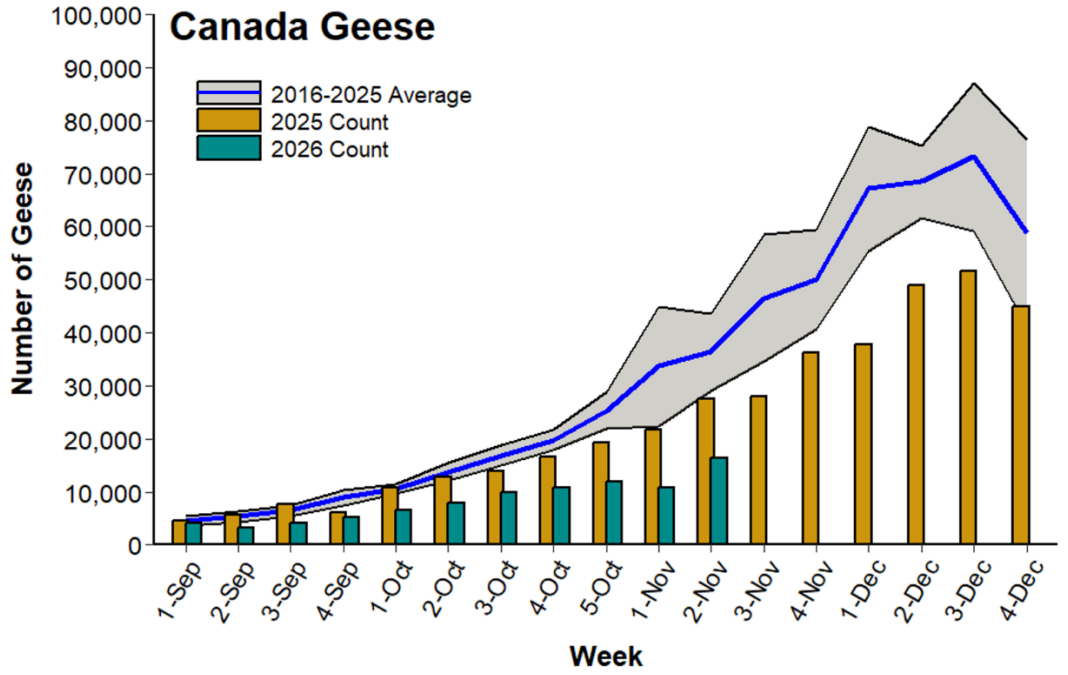


Figure 2. The number of Canada geese surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

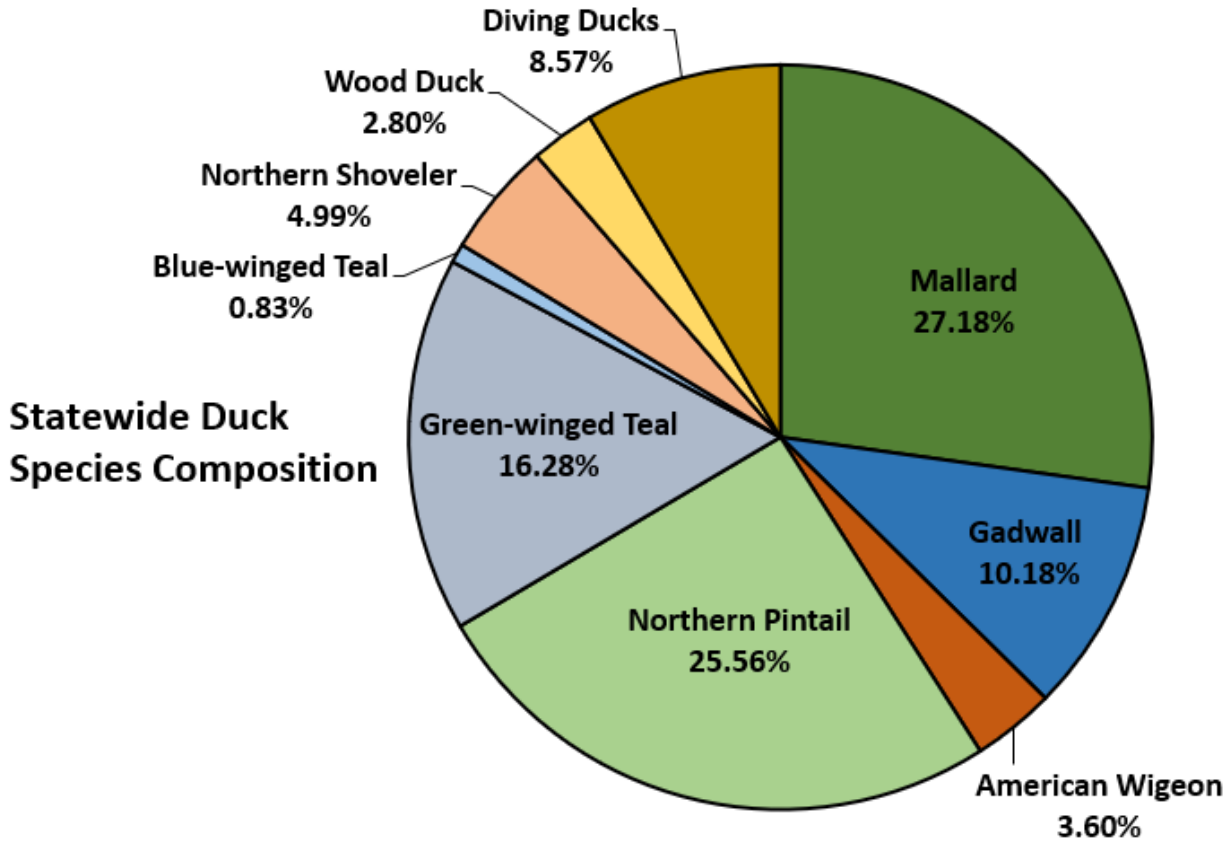


Figure 3. Statewide Duck Species Composition

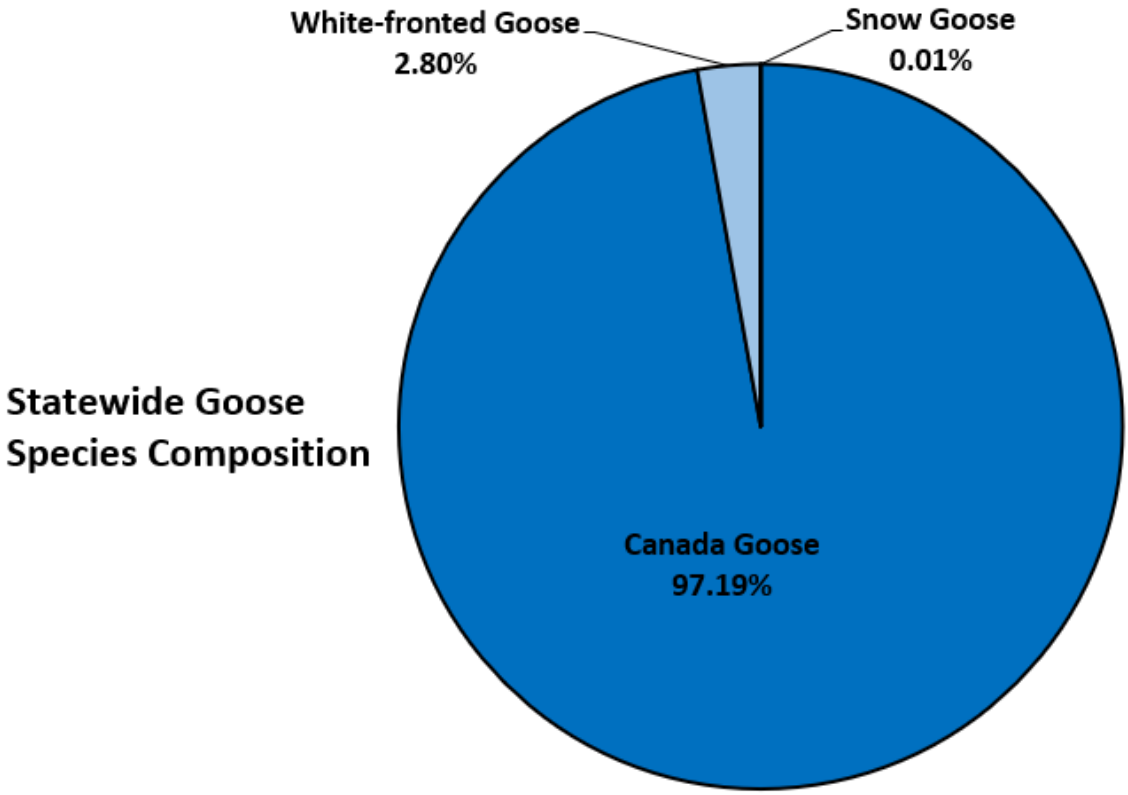


Figure 4. Statewide Goose Species Composition

Fall Migration Waterfowl Survey

Week Ending: November 13, 2026

Survey Area	Ducks					Geese			
	Abundance		Composition (%)			Abundance		Composition (%)	
	Total	Previous Week	Mallard	Other Dabblers	Divers	Total	Previous Week	Dark	Light
Bays Branch Areas	2315	3291	24	76	0	800	725	100	0
Big Marsh	4815	3140	62	37	1	75	25	100	0
Black Hawk Areas	2520	1975	23	67	10	1420	805	100	0
Coralville Areas	7725	5511	32	63	5	0	0	--	--
Grand River Areas	179	73	11	78	11	38	0	100	0
Green Island	12234	4754	37	63	1	1751	1250	100	0
Ingham Areas	1230	205	35	48	17	880	20	100	0
Lake Odessa Areas	7790	4520	42	51	7	1095	690	100	0
Lake Sugema Areas	255	130	35	59	6	90	20	100	0
Missouri River Oxbows	5979	4482	31	61	8	3791	2090	100	0
Otter Creek	1902	1310	21	71	8	50	50	100	0
Princeton	795	1025	31	69	0	0	0	--	--
Rathbun Areas	8695	9760	20	76	4	1700	1270	100	0
Red Rock	12800	12900	14	73	13	350	500	100	0
Rice Lake/Clear Lake	4505	5018	39	38	23	2701	2658	100	0
Riverton/Fremont Co.	18960	16895	11	81	8	120	80	100	0
Ruthven Areas	390	390	68	32	0	0	0	--	--
Saylorville Areas	3200	4300	20	62	17	350	150	100	0
Spirit Lake Areas	1128	240	32	41	28	527	142	100	0
Sweet Marsh	2309	3260	43	13	44	1200	1250	100	0
Total	**99726**	**83179**	**27**	**64**	**9**	**16938**	**11725**	**100**	**0**

Species	% Change in count from Previous Week
Canada Goose	+51.9
Greater White-fronted Goose	-46.3
Snow Goose	-66.7
Mallard	+80.0
Gadwall	+49.5
American Wigeon	+7.7
Northern Pintail	+13.1
Green-winged Teal	-11.7
Blue-winged Teal	-61.6
Northern Shoveler	0.0
Wood Duck	-32.4
Diving Ducks	+47.1

Migration Survey Areas

