IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WATERFOWL SURVEY

November 20, 2026

The statewide duck count increased by 13.7% and the Canada goose count decreased by 12.4% from last week. Mallards were the most abundant duck followed by northern pintail and green-winged teal. At a statewide scale, observers counted 38.6% more ducks and 48.3% 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.

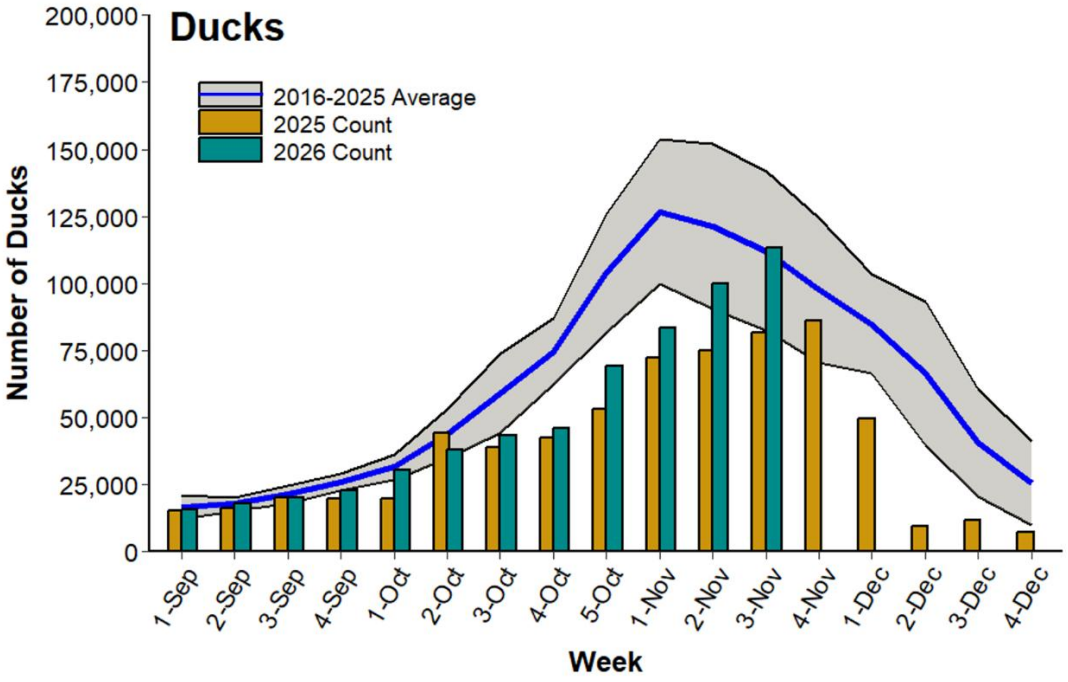

Figure 1. The number of ducks surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

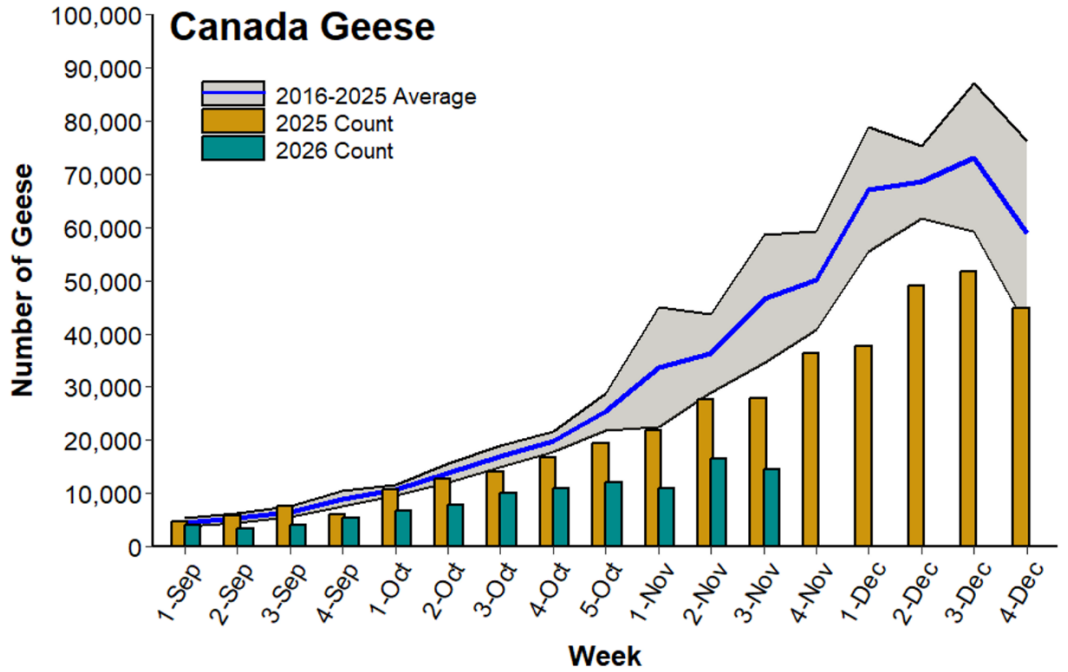

Figure 2. The number of Canada geese surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

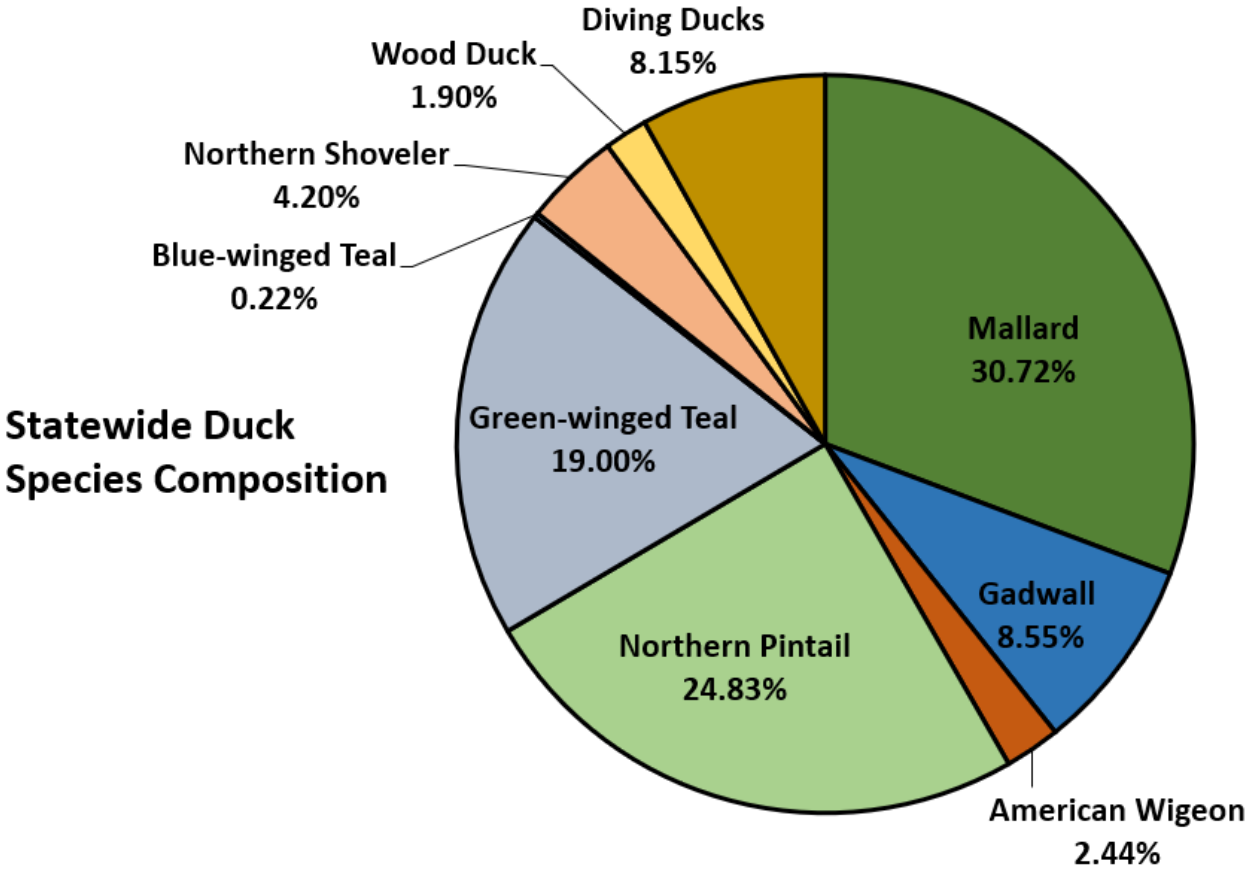

Figure 3. Statewide Duck Species Composition

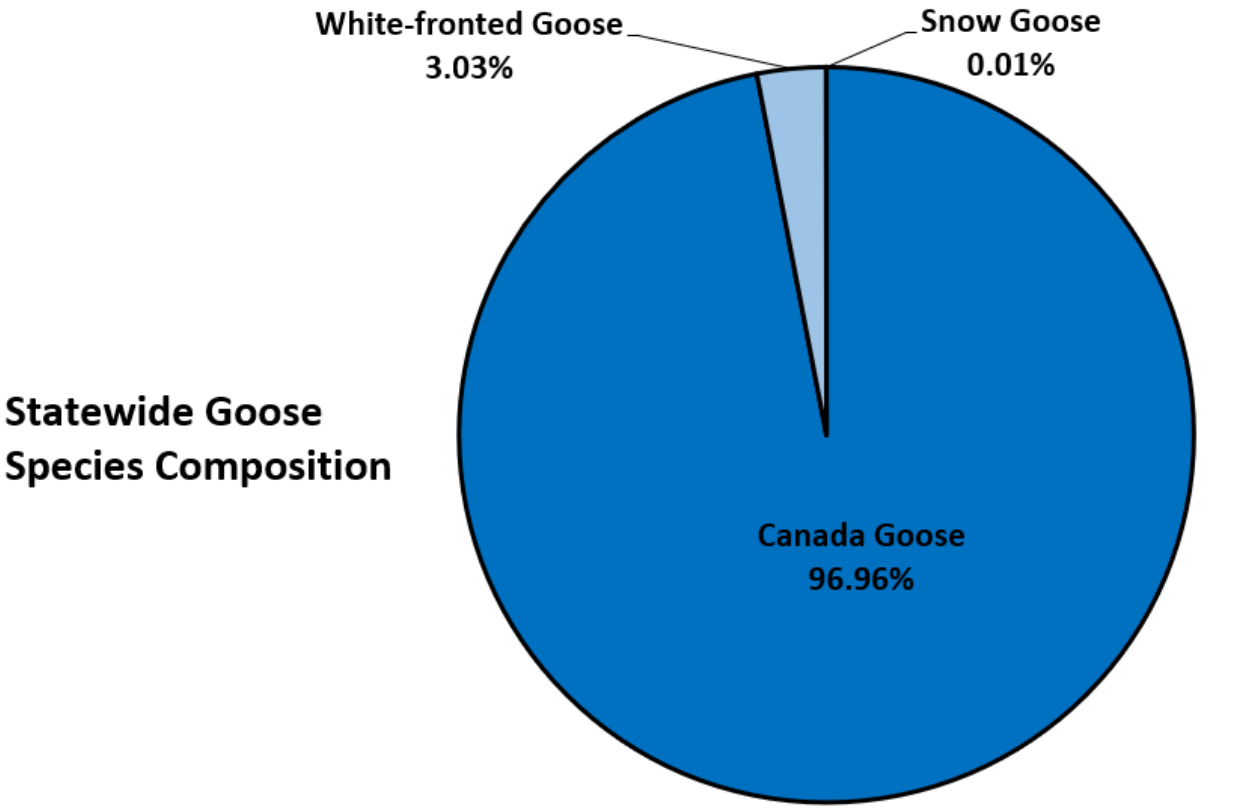

Figure 4. Statewide Goose Species Composition

Fall Migration Waterfowl Survey

Week Ending: November 20, 2026

Survey Area	Ducks					Geese			
	Abundance		Composition (%)			Abundance		Composition (%)	
	Total	Previous Week	Mallard	Other Dabblers	Divers	Total	Previous Week	Dark	Light
Bays Branch Areas	2925	2315	10	90	0	620	800	100	0
Big Marsh	5475	4815	64	35	1	250	75	100	0
Black Hawk Areas	3225	2520	24	66	9	1090	1420	100	0
Coralville Areas	6245	7725	48	44	8	0	0	--	--
Grand River Areas	100	179	10	70	20	30	38	100	0
Green Island	10655	12234	42	56	1	1500	1751	100	0
Ingham Areas	--	1230	--	--	--	--	880	--	--
Lake Odessa Areas	16060	7790	48	49	3	1800	1095	100	0
Lake Sugema Areas	112	255	31	58	11	80	90	100	0
Missouri River Oxbows	6652	5979	27	68	5	2721	3791	100	0
Otter Creek	1315	1902	23	51	26	30	50	100	0
Princeton	1145	795	44	56	0	0	0	--	--
Rathbun Areas	7800	8695	24	65	12	1655	1700	100	0
Red Rock	12300	12800	20	66	14	0	350	--	--
Rice Lake/Clear Lake	6620	4505	37	42	21	2740	2701	100	0
Riverton/Fremont Co.	24900	18960	10	84	6	100	120	100	0
Ruthven Areas	695	390	71	29	0	370	0	100	0
Saylorville Areas	2550	3200	31	55	14	250	350	100	0
Spirit Lake Areas	1277	1128	56	29	15	637	527	100	0
Sweet Marsh	3301	2309	30	39	30	1001	1200	100	0
Total	**113352**	**99726**	**31**	**61**	**8**	**14874**	**16938**	**100**	**0**

Species	% Change in count from Previous Week
Canada Goose	-12.4
Greater White-fronted Goose	-5.3
Snow Goose	--
Mallard	+28.4
Gadwall	-4.6
American Wigeon	-23.0
Northern Pintail	+10.4
Green-winged Teal	+32.6
Blue-winged Teal	-69.7
Northern Shoveler	-4.3
Wood Duck	-23.0
Diving Ducks	+8.1

Migration Survey Areas

