

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WATERFOWL SURVEY

September 5, 2025

The statewide duck count increased by 35.4% and the Canada goose count increased by 40.5% from last week. Wood ducks were the most abundant duck followed by blue-winged teal and mallards. At a statewide scale, observers counted 32.8% fewer ducks and 7.2% more Canada geese than during this week last year. The graphs below compare the 2025 migration (turquoise bars) so far to both 2024 (gold bars) and the 2015-2024 average (blue line). Counts below the shaded region are considered below average, and counts above are considered above average.

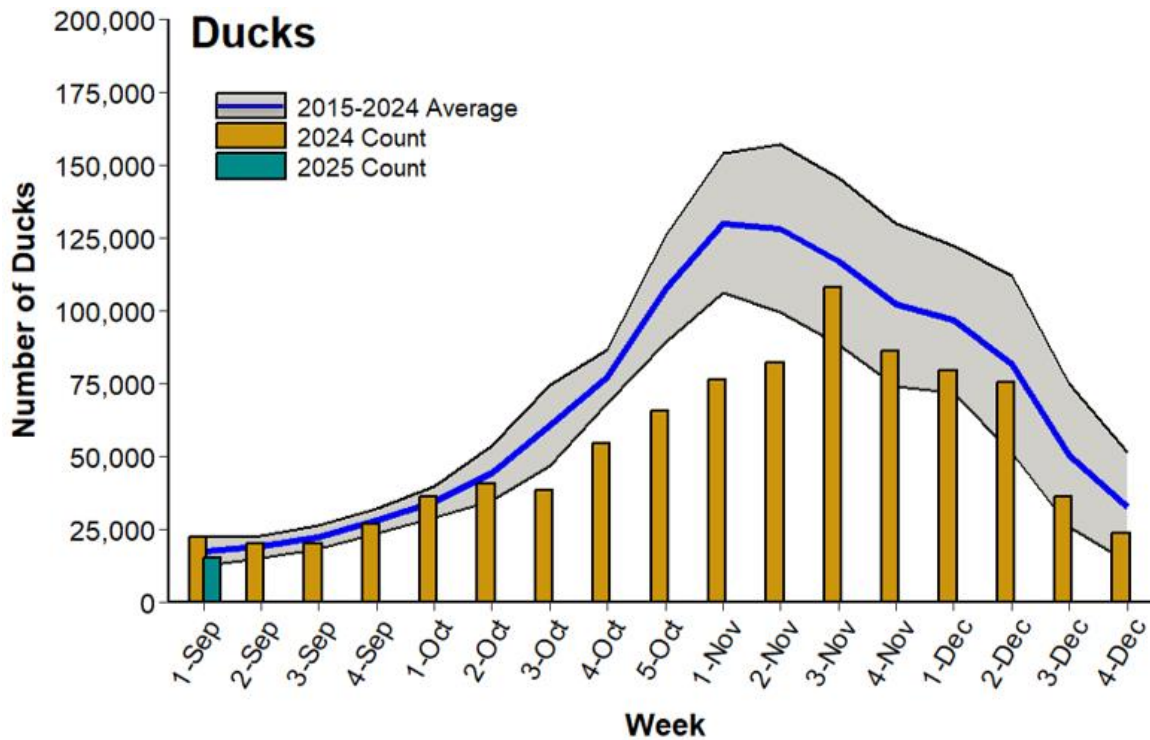


Figure 1. The number of ducks surveyed in 2025 (turquoise bars) and 2024 (gold bars) compared to the 2015-2024 average (blue line).

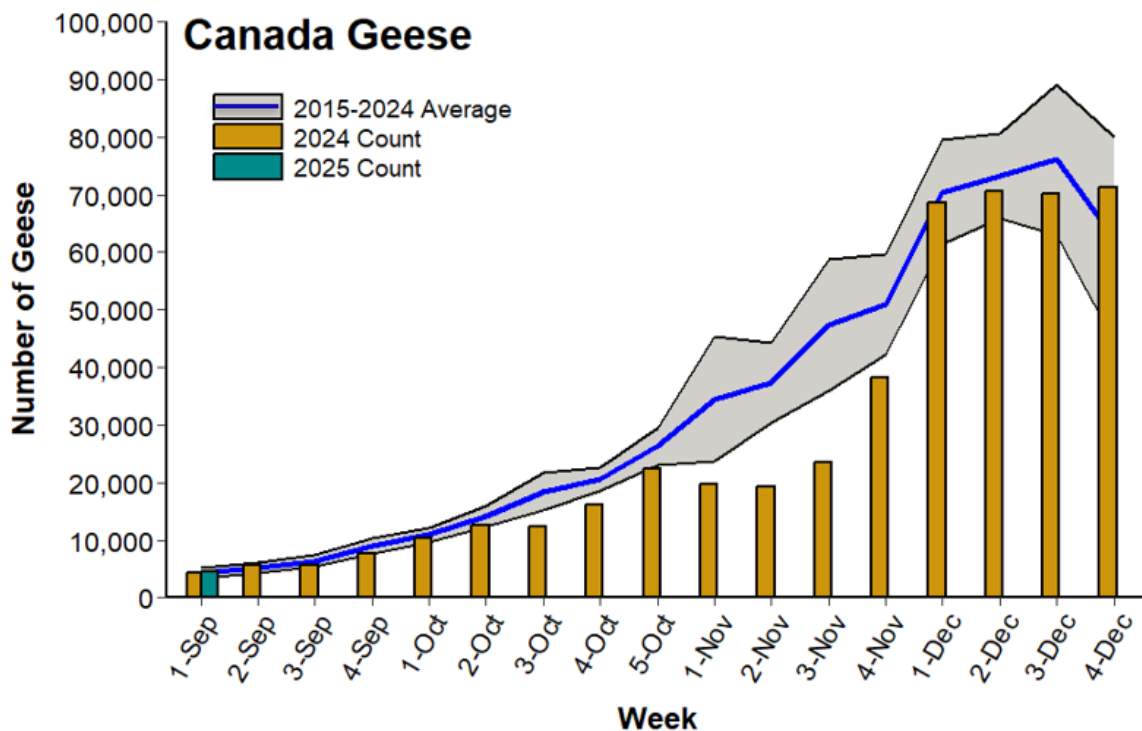
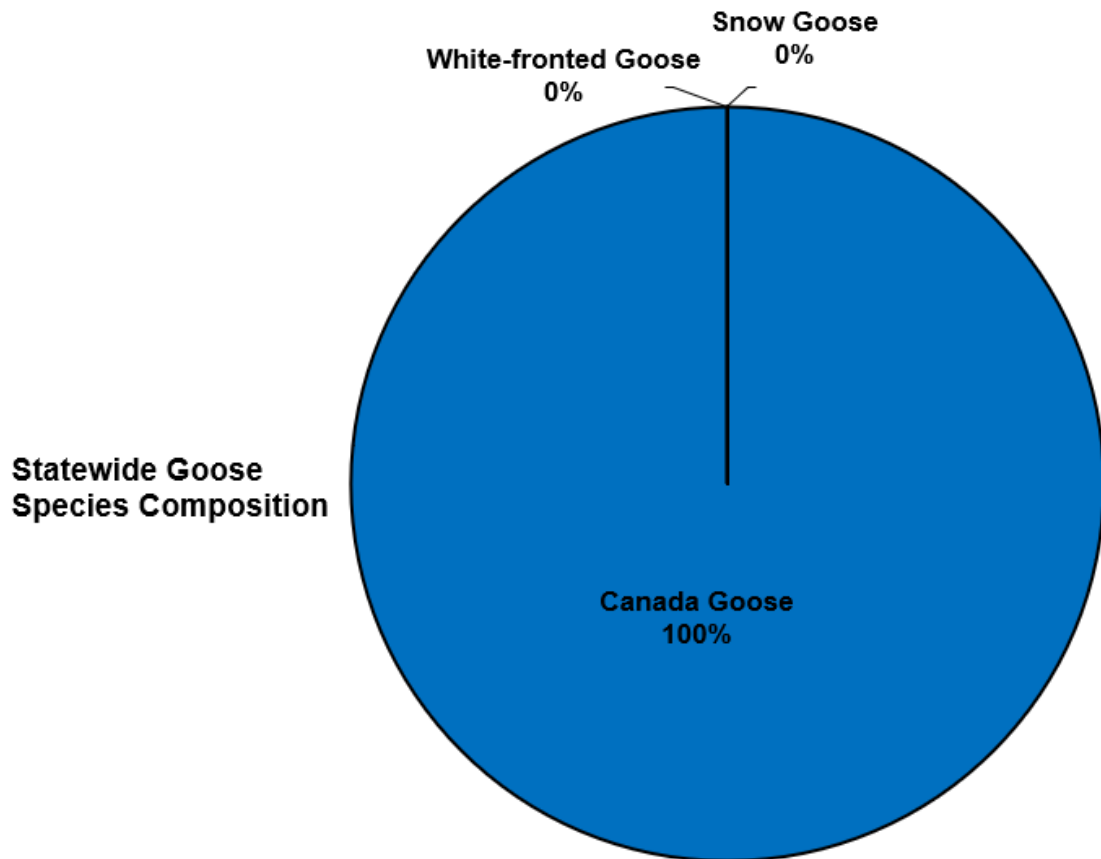
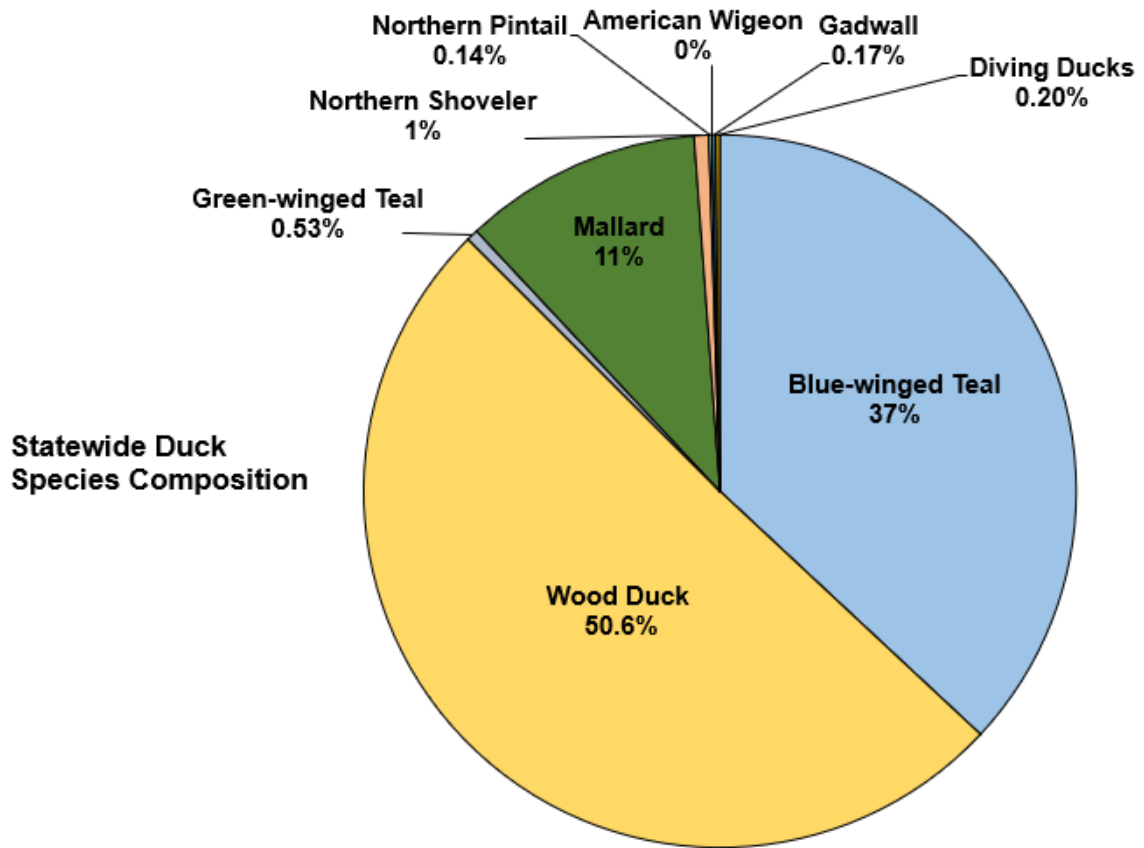


Figure 2. The number of Canada geese surveyed in 2025 (turquoise bars) and 2024 (gold bars) compared to the 2015-2024 average (blue line).



Fall Migration Waterfowl Survey

Week Ending: September 5, 2025

Survey Area	Ducks					Geese			
	Abundance		Composition (%)			Abundance		Composition (%)	
	Total	Previous Week	Mallards	Other Dabblers	Divers	Total	Previous Week	Dark	Light
Bays Branch Areas	1200	870	6	94	0	250	250	100	0
Big Marsh	300	--	17	83	0	--	--	100	0
Black Hawk Areas	1670	1570	11	87	2	335	335	100	0
Coralville Areas	860	825	12	88	0	50	50	100	0
Green Island	2175	1712	5	95	0	350	350	100	0
Ingham Areas	165	--	9	91	0	--	--	100	0
Lake Odessa Areas	500	1024	0	100	0	50	50	100	0
Lake Sugema	360	272	6	94	0	110	110	100	0
Missouri River Oxbows	48	107	0	100	0	140	140	100	0
Otter Creek	425	305	12	88	0	0	0	100	0
Princeton	352	350	21	79	0	0	0	100	0
Rathbun Areas	1834	1585	12	88	0	950	950	100	0
Red Rock	1275	1000	12	88	0	250	250	100	0
Rice Lake Areas	628	518	21	79	0	160	160	100	0
Riverton / Forney	255	30	0	100	0	0	0	--	--
Ruthven Areas	875	1545	10	90	0	180	180	100	0
Saylorville Areas	402	--	12	88	0	--	--	100	0
Spirit Lake Areas	1340	1021	16	84	0	585	585	100	0
Sweet Marsh	200	292	25	75	0	150	150	100	0
Union County Areas	260	--	19	81	0	---	--	100	0
Total	15124	13026	11	89	2	3560	3560	100	0

Species	% Change in count from Previous Week
Canada Goose	+40.5
Greater White-fronted Goose	NA
Snow Goose	NA
Mallard	+9.7
Gadwall	+150.0
American Wigeon	NA
Northern Pintail	+5.0
Green-winged Teal	+12.7
Blue-winged Teal	+107.6
Northern Shoveler	-24.8
Wood Duck	+13.9
Diving Ducks	-30.2