

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WATERFOWL SURVEY

September 19, 2025

The statewide duck count increased by 26.9% and the Canada goose count increased by 31.9% from last week. Wood ducks were the most abundant duck followed by blue-winged teal and mallards. At a statewide scale, observers counted 1.1% fewer ducks and 36.3% 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.

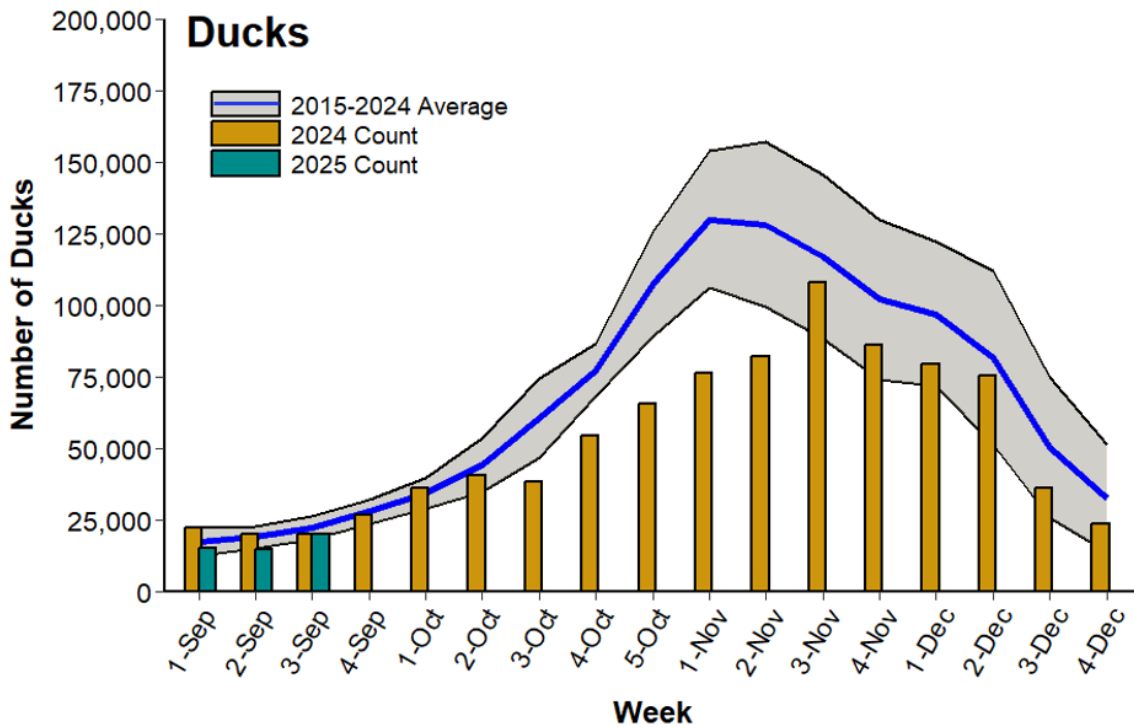


Figure 1. The number of ducks surveyed in 2025 (turquoise bars) and 2024 (gold bars) compared to the 2015-2024 average (blue line).

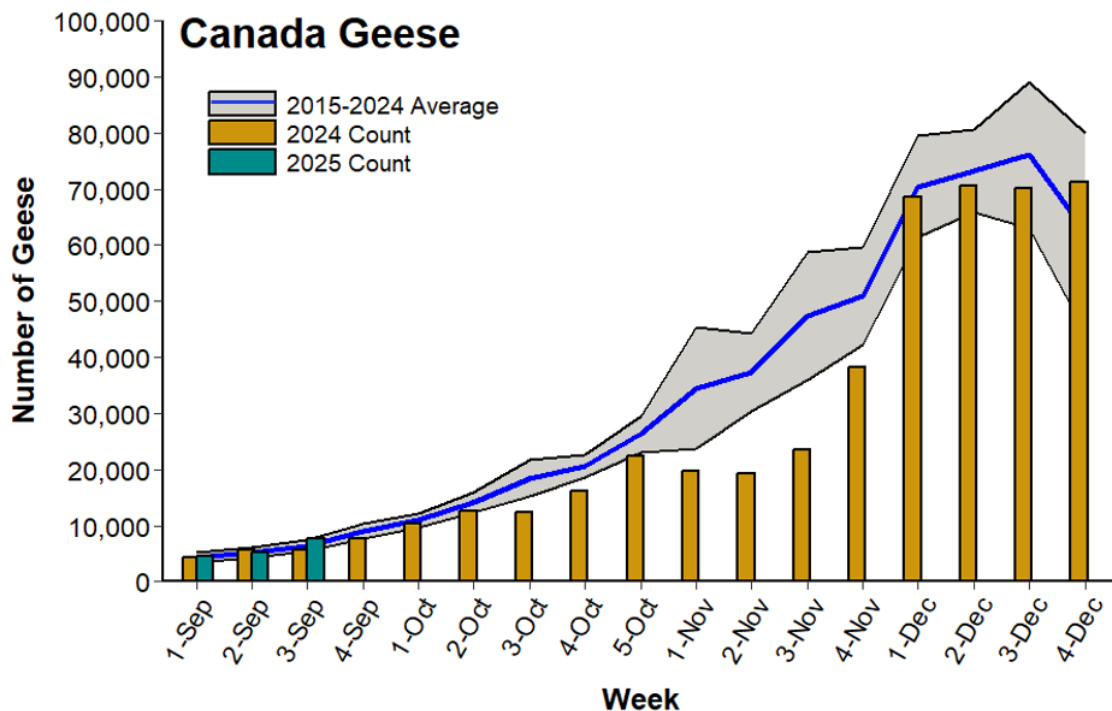
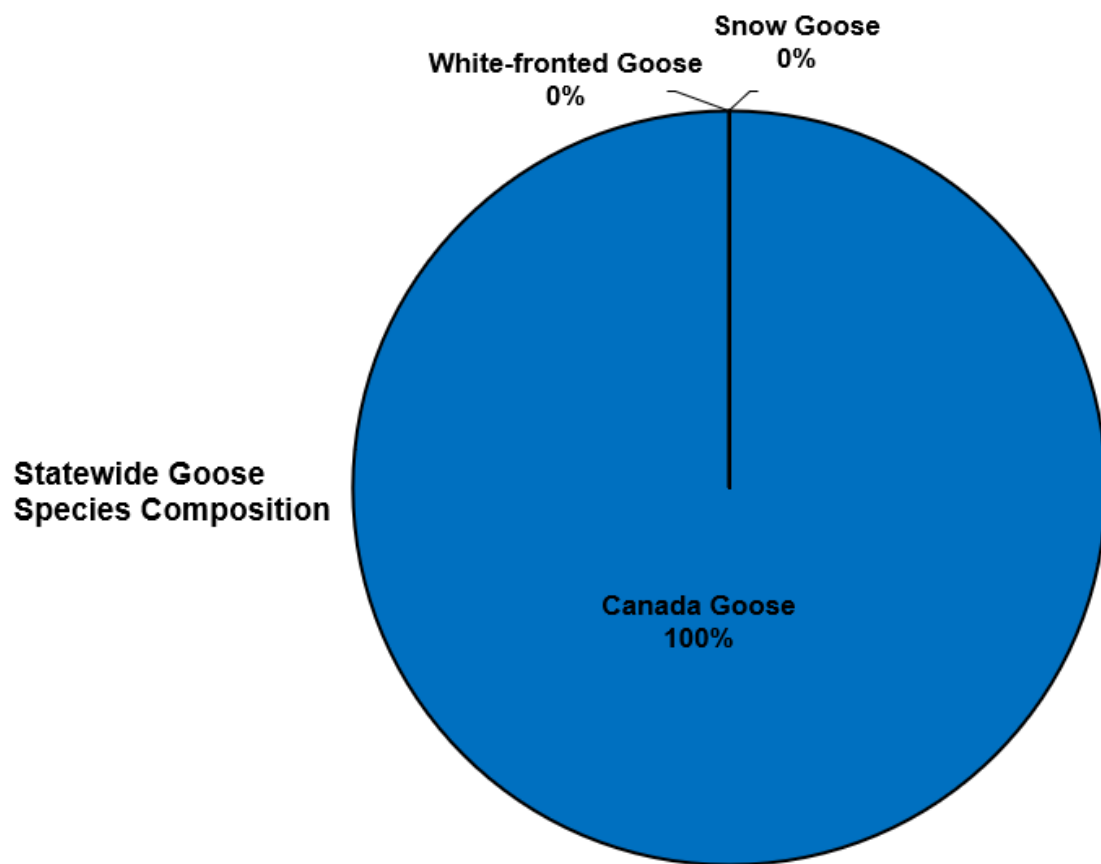
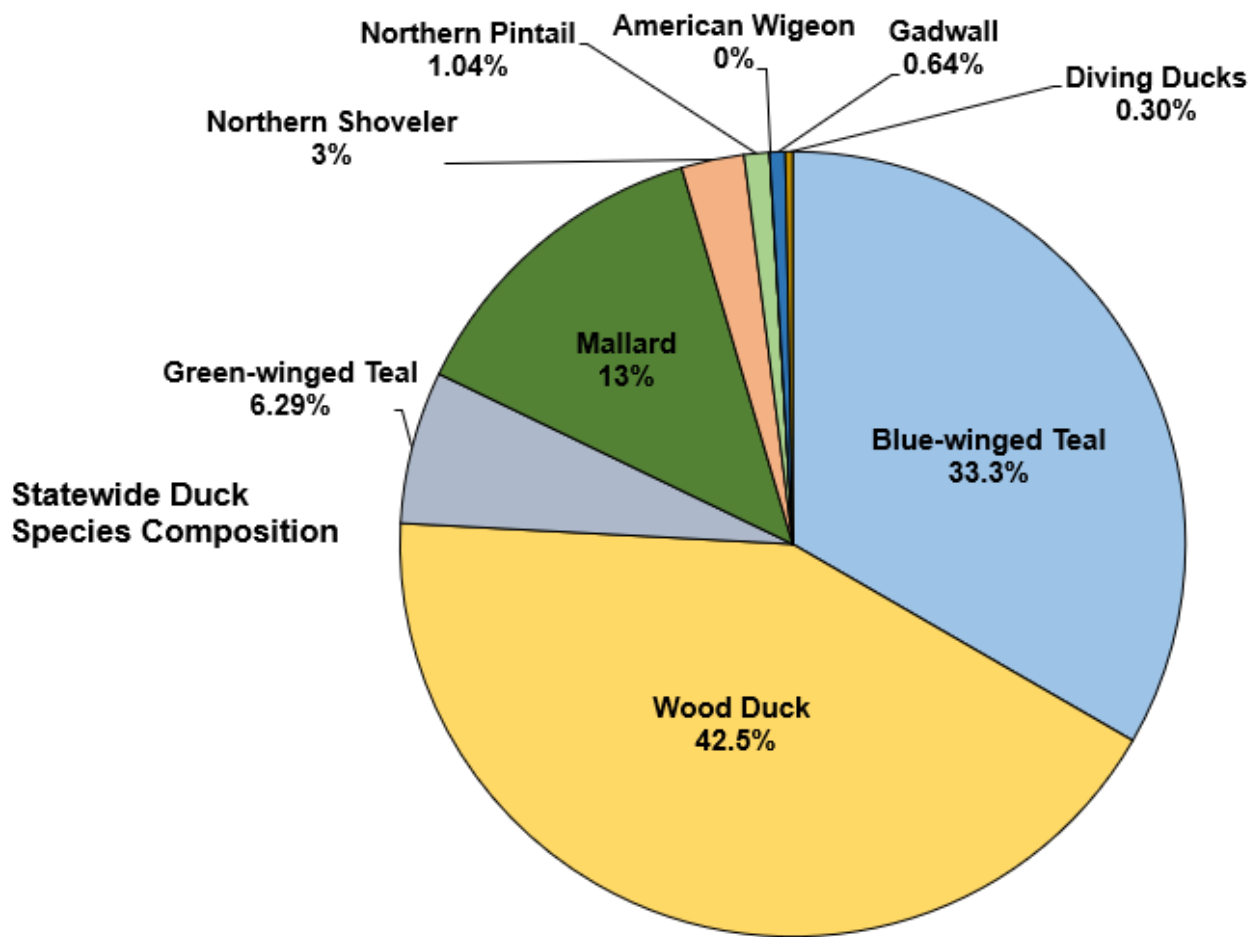


Figure 2. The number of Canada geese surveyed in 2025 (turquoise bars) and 2024 (gold bars) compared to the 2015-2024 average (blue line).



Fall Migration Waterfowl Survey

Week Ending: September 19, 2025

Survey Area	Ducks					Geese			
	Abundance		Composition (%)			Abundance		Composition (%)	
	Total	Previous Week	Mallards	Other Dabblers	Divers	Total	Previous Week	Dark	Light
Bays Branch Areas	1810	990	12	88	0	325	290	100	0
Big Marsh	300	170	17	83	0	10	10	100	0
Black Hawk Areas	1825	1805	12	87	1	445	371	100	0
Coralville Areas	1260	1100	12	88	0	500	525	100	0
Green Island	1500	1565	3	96	1	400	400	100	0
Ingham Areas	380	--	20	80	0	1150	--	100	0
Lake Odessa Areas	1065	965	1	99	0	200	200	100	0
Lake Sugema	260	170	4	96	0	140	50	100	0
Missouri River Oxbows	444	140	7	93	0	480	213	100	0
Otter Creek	750	650	13	87	0	25	25	100	0
Princeton	300	350	25	75	0	0	0	--	--
Rathbun Areas	1325	1305	11	89	0	1080	1145	100	0
Red Rock	2450	1350	22	78	0	175	200	100	0
Rice Lake Areas	991	907	19	78	4	555	391	100	0
Riverton/Forney	406	565	0	100	0	0	0	--	--
Ruthven Areas	1805	2490	7	93	0	115	130	100	0
Saylorville Areas	825	--	6	94	0	150	--	100	0
Spirit Lake Areas	1775	805	30	70	0	600	715	100	0
Sweet Marsh	500	385	10	90	0	300	150	100	0
Union County Areas	135	135	22	78	0	950	950	100	0
Total	20106	15847	13	86	0	7600	5765	100	0

Species	% Change in count from Previous Week
Canada Goose	+31.9
Greater White-fronted Goose	NA
Snow Goose	NA
Mallard	+53.8
Gadwall	+184.4
American Wigeon	NA
Northern Pintail	+68.0
Green-winged Teal	+92.8
Blue-winged Teal	+24.2
Northern Shoveler	+92.6
Wood Duck	+12.5
Diving Ducks	+258.8