

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WATERFOWL SURVEY

October 17, 2025

The statewide duck count decreased by 12.3% and the Canada goose count increased by 9.3% from last week. Blue-winged teal were the most abundant duck followed by northern pintail and mallards. At a statewide scale, observers counted a similar number of ducks and 12.2% 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.

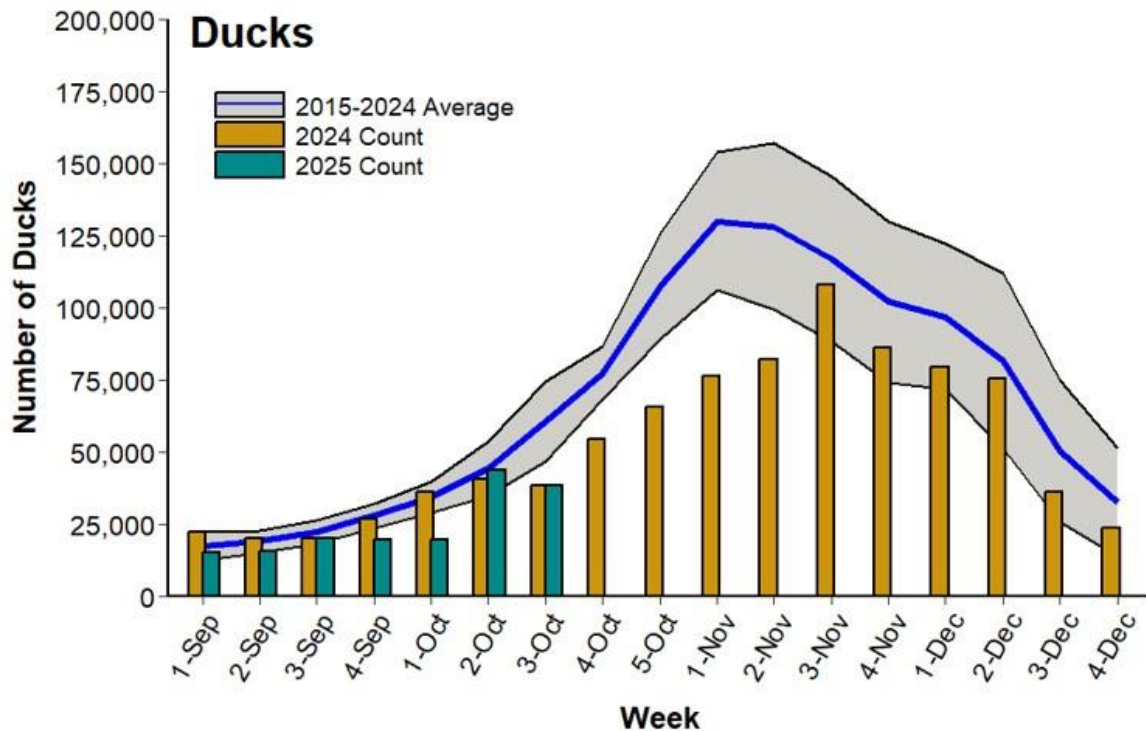


Figure 1. The number of ducks surveyed in 2025 (turquoise bars) and 2024 (gold bars) compared to the 2015-2024 average (blue line).

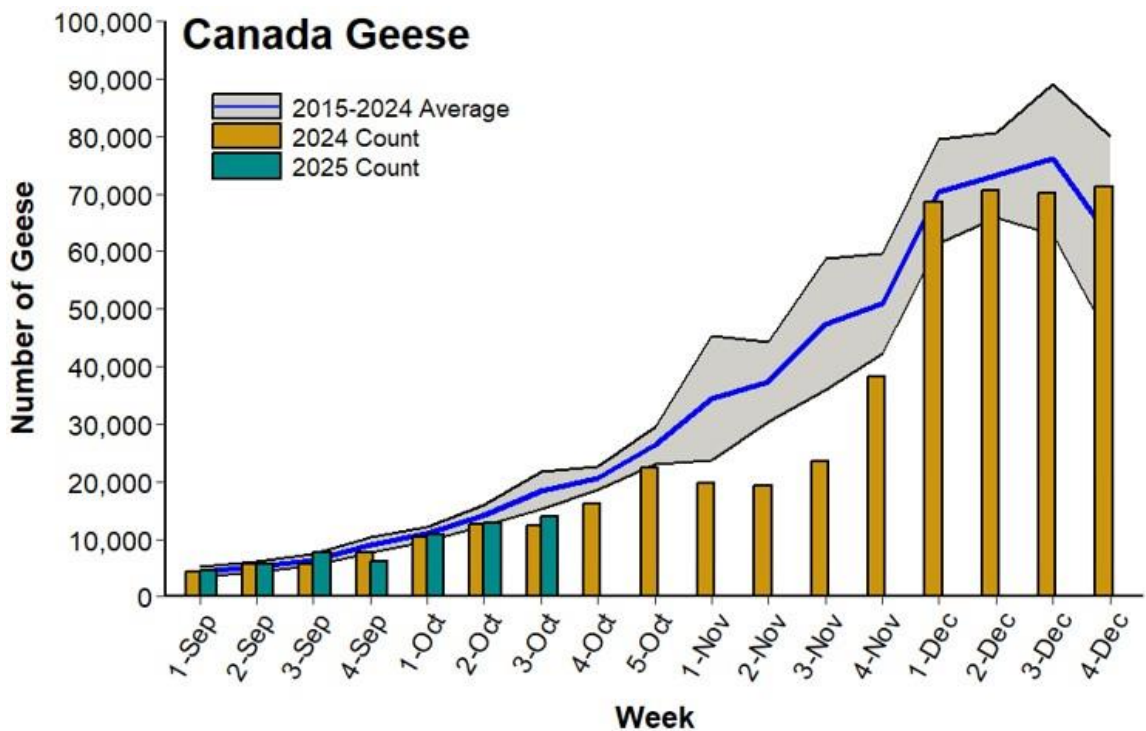
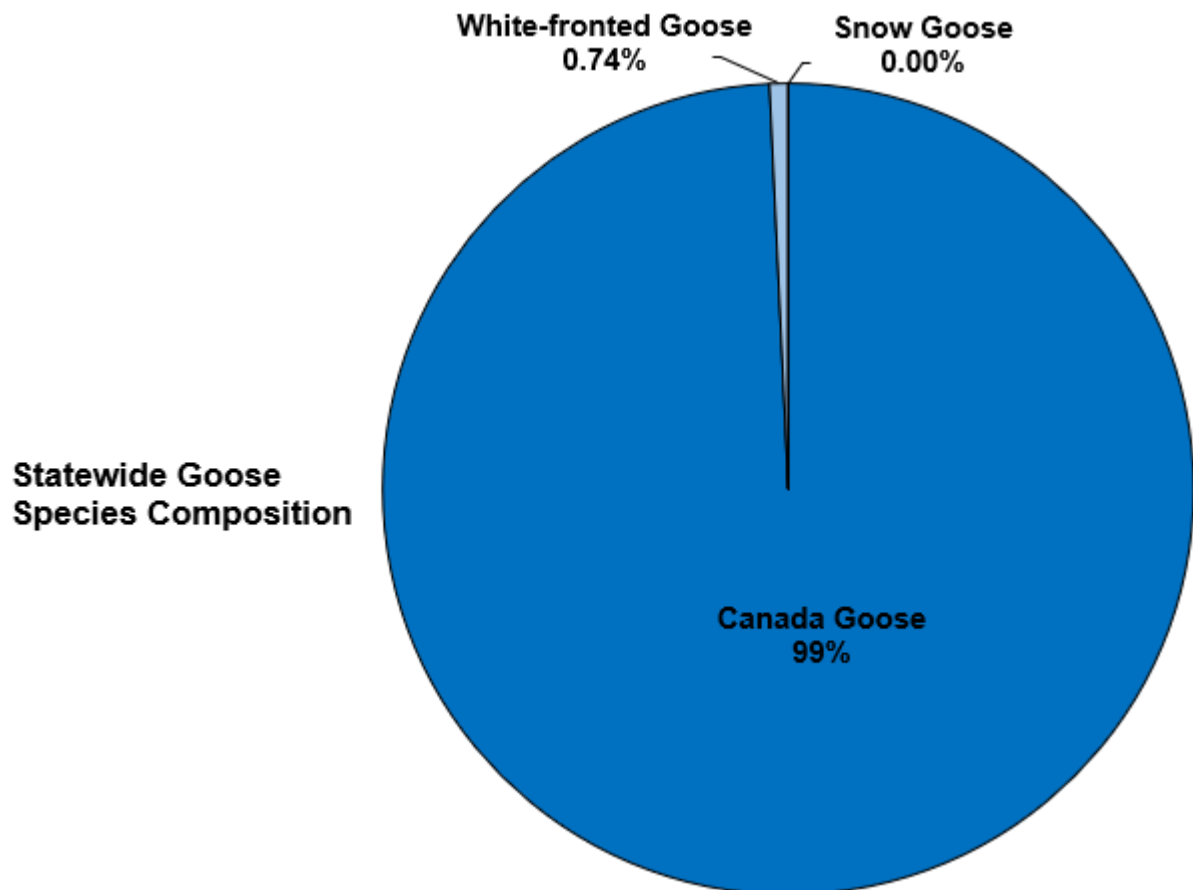
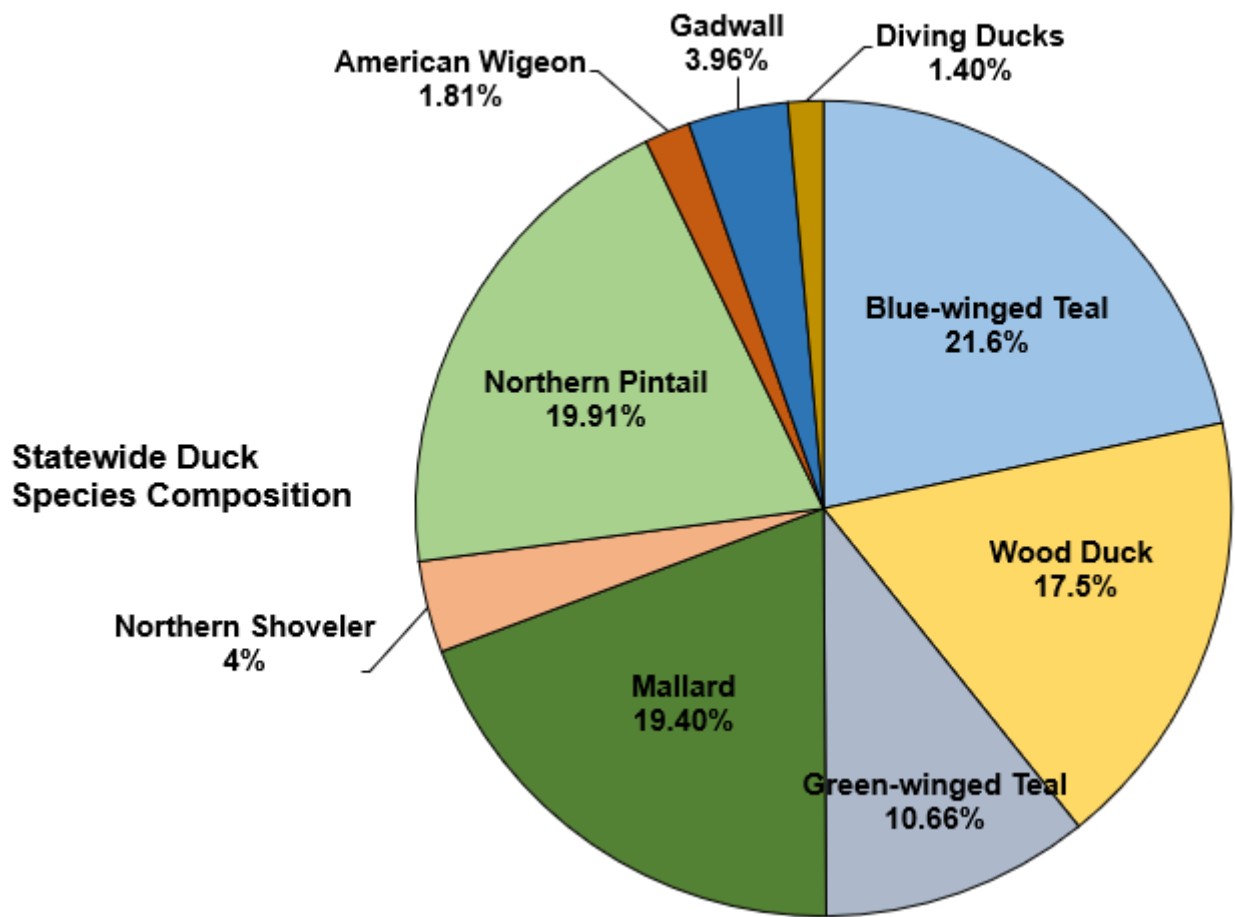


Figure 2. The number of Canada geese surveyed in 2025 (turquoise bars) and 2024 (gold bars) compared to the 2015-2024 average (blue line).



Fall Migration Waterfowl Survey

Week Ending: October 17, 2025

Survey Area	Ducks					Geese			
	Abundance		Composition (%)			Abundance		Composition (%)	
	Total	Previous Week	Mallards	Other Dabblers	Divers	Total	Previous Week	Dark	Light
Bays Branch Areas	1980	2496	20	79	1	2100	3000	100	0
Big Marsh	1635	1600	31	69	1	50	100	100	0
Black Hawk Areas	1285	1590	17	82	0	740	760	100	0
Coralville Areas	1285	510	39	61	0	150	0	100	0
Green Island	2655	2245	15	83	2	754	500	100	0
Ingham Areas	305	470	39	61	0	1515	1150	100	0
Lake Odessa Areas	420	1180	5	95	0	450	550	100	0
Lake Sugema	212	465	6	94	0	275	300	100	0
Missouri River Oxbows	496	244	50	50	0	812	704	100	0
Otter Creek	1085	1090	14	85	1	150	150	100	0
Princeton	600	515	12	85	2	4	0	100	0
Rathbun Areas	3945	2890	12	83	5	1050	750	100	0
Red Rock	3300	2650	23	73	5	500	300	100	0
Rice Lake Areas	1670	1325	46	49	5	2035	1710	100	0
Riverton/Forney	11460	20515	4	96	0	75	865	100	0
Ruthven Areas	2920	1690	48	52	0	70	420	100	0
Saylorville Areas	170	575	15	85	0	250	250	100	0
Spirit Lake Areas	1594	375	42	58	0	640	65	100	0
Sweet Marsh	1550	1266	19	81	0	1100	800	100	0
Union County Areas	100	385	0	100	0	1350	1250	100	0
Total	38667	44076	19	79	1	14070	13624	100	0

Species	% Change in count from Previous Week
Canada Goose	+9.3
Greater White-fronted Goose	-87.8
Snow Goose	NA
Mallard	+66.3
Gadwall	+32.0
American Wigeon	-1.4
Northern Pintail	+38.1
Green-winged Teal	+32.7
Blue-winged Teal	-57.4
Northern Shoveler	+6.8
Wood Duck	-11.8
Diving Ducks	+53.4