

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WATERFOWL SURVEY
October 31, 2025

The statewide duck count increased by 25% and the Canada goose count increased by 16.2% from last week. Mallards were the most abundant duck followed by northern pintail and green-winged teal. At a statewide scale, observers counted 19.8% fewer ducks and 9.3% fewer 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.

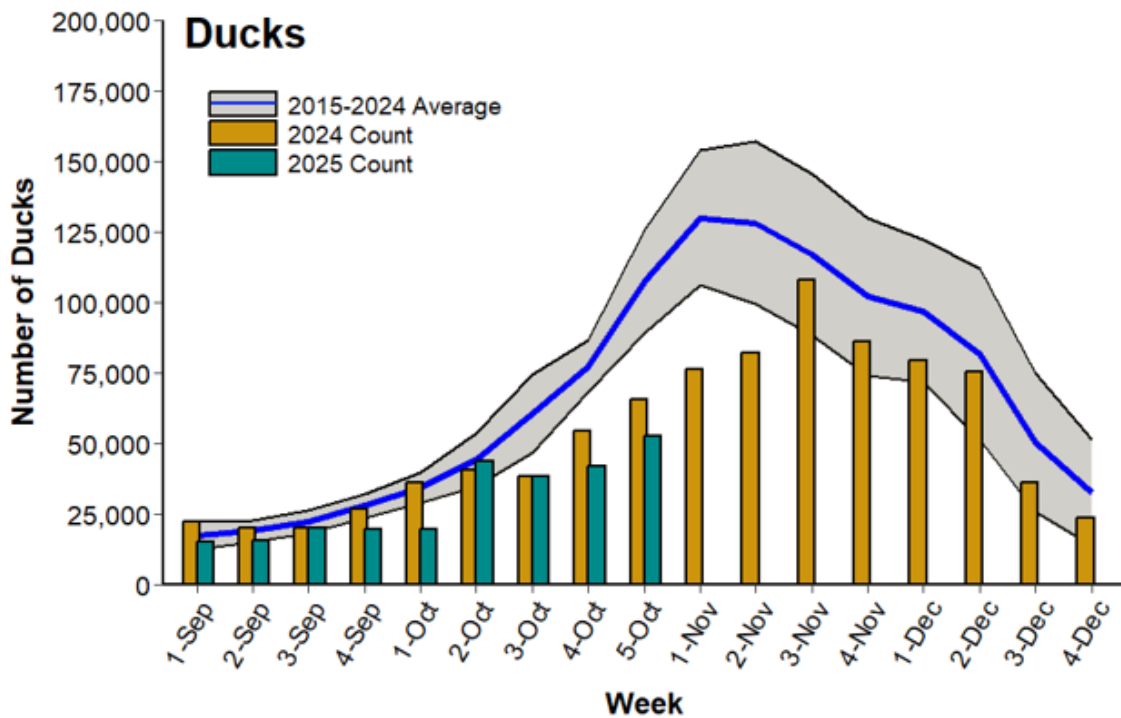


Figure 1. The number of ducks surveyed in 2025 (turquoise bars) and 2024 (gold bars) compared to the 2015-2024 average (blue line).

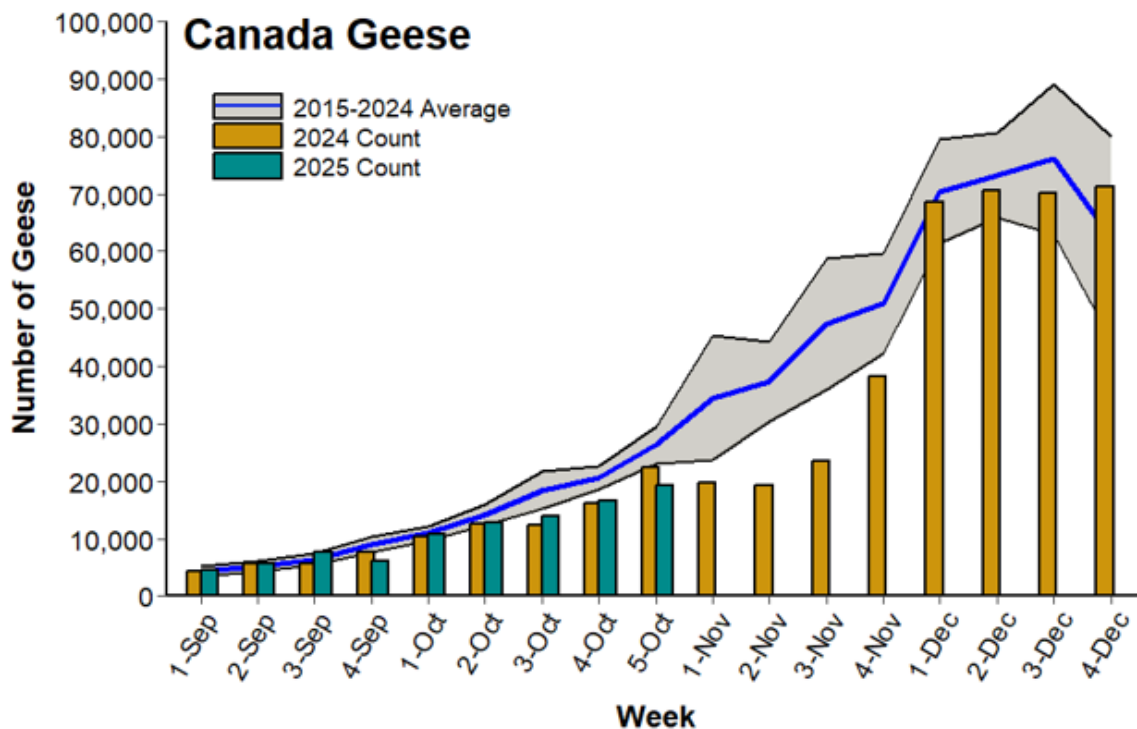
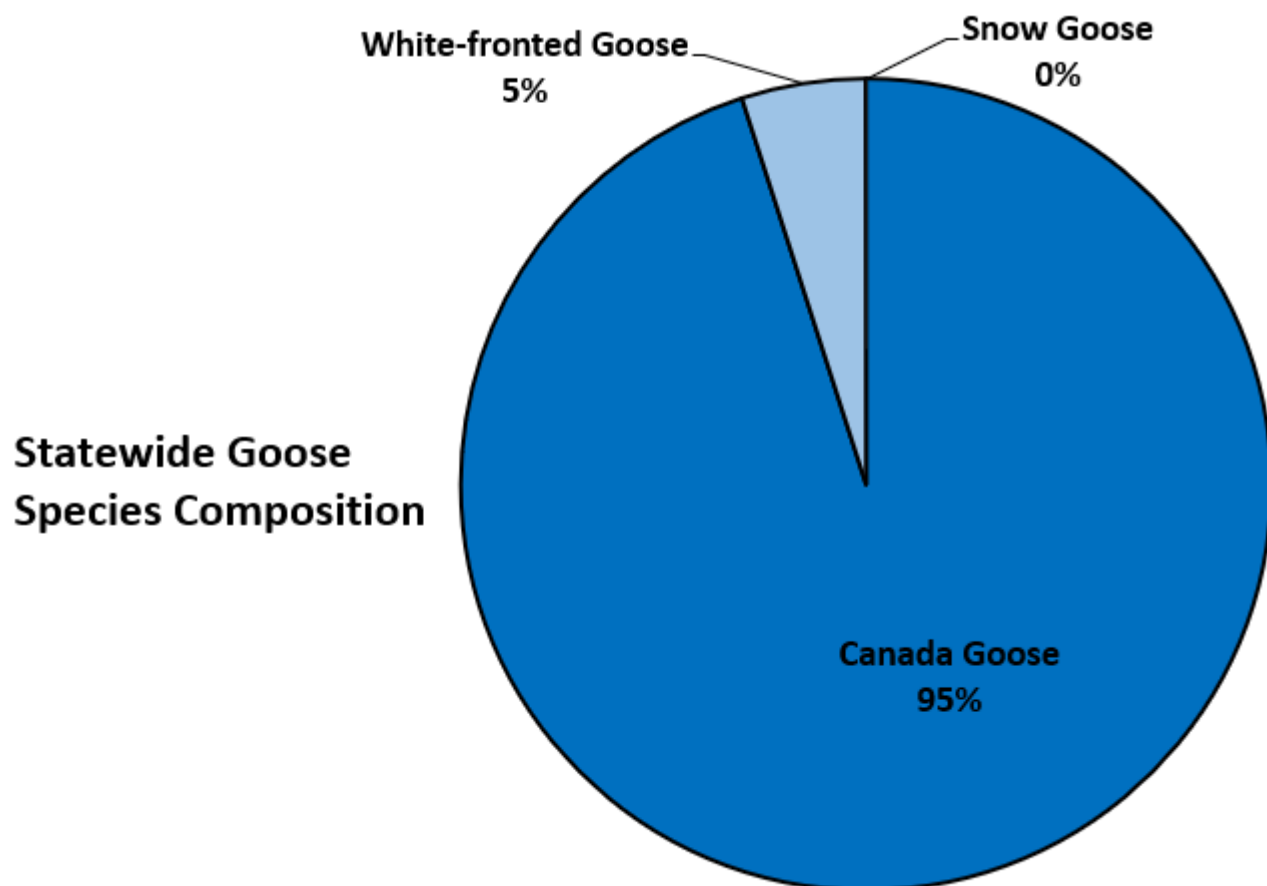
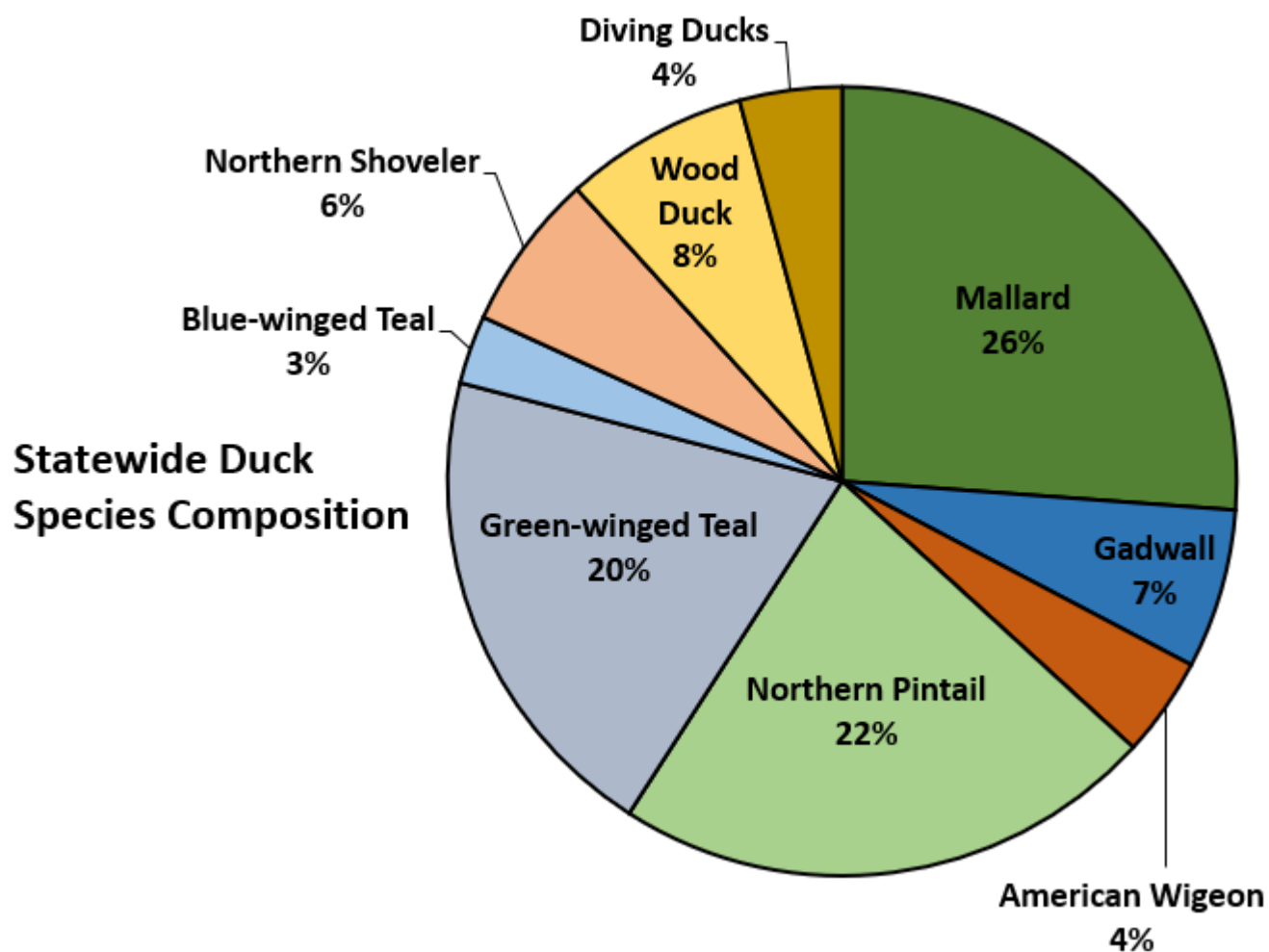


Figure 2. The number of Canada geese surveyed in 2025 (turquoise bars) and 2024 (gold bars) compared to the 2015-2024 average (blue line).



Fall Migration Waterfowl Survey

Week Ending: October 31, 2025

Survey Area	Ducks					Geese			
	Abundance		Composition (%)			Abundance		Composition (%)	
	Total	Previous Week	Mallards	Other Dabblers	Divers	Total	Previous Week	Dark	Light
Bays Branch Areas	2170	1889	30	67	3	2600	2200	100	0
Big Marsh	1600	1330	44	56	0	25	200	100	0
Black Hawk Areas	1891	1475	49	46	4	850	810	100	0
Coralville Areas	3675	2900	41	59	0	0	350	--	--
Green Island	4804	4130	16	83	1	754	1005	99	1
Ingham Areas	715	200	30	34	36	1200	2000	100	0
Lake Odessa Areas	1422	1010	74	25	1	1230	685	100	0
Lake Sugema	150	160	13	63	23	150	200	100	0
Missouri River Oxbows	3025	286	54	44	2	3225	780	100	0
Otter Creek	1500	915	20	80	0	290	350	100	0
Princeton	--	580	--	--	--	--	0	--	--
Rathbun Areas	4590	4285	18	74	8	1480	1375	100	0
Red Rock	4100	4575	13	78	9	300	500	100	0
Rice Lake Areas	3288	2611	47	38	14	1956	2274	100	0
Riverton/Forney	14320	10695	10	89	1	550	120	100	0
Ruthven Areas	1190	2290	35	52	13	500	720	100	0
Saylorville Areas	425	--	41	59	0	0	--	--	--
Spirit Lake Areas	1466	1529	48	46	6	655	840	100	0
Sweet Marsh	1885	1350	16	82	2	3000	1100	100	0
Union County Areas	595	50	20	76	4	1600	1525	100	0
Total	52811	42260	26	70	4	20365	17034	100	0

Species	% Change in count from Previous Week
Canada Goose	+16.2
Greater White-fronted Goose	+172.6
Snow Goose	NA
Mallard	+52.0
Gadwall	+18.0
American Wigeon	+55.0
Northern Pintail	+17.7
Green-winged Teal	+58.0
Blue-winged Teal	-66.4
Northern Shoveler	+74.0
Wood Duck	-9.0
Diving Ducks	+55.3