

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WATERFOWL SURVEY

December 19, 2025

The statewide duck count increased by 23.3% and the Canada goose count increased by 5.5% from last week. Mallards were the most abundant duck followed by diving ducks and green-winged teal. At a statewide scale, observers counted 67.6% fewer ducks and 26.3% 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.

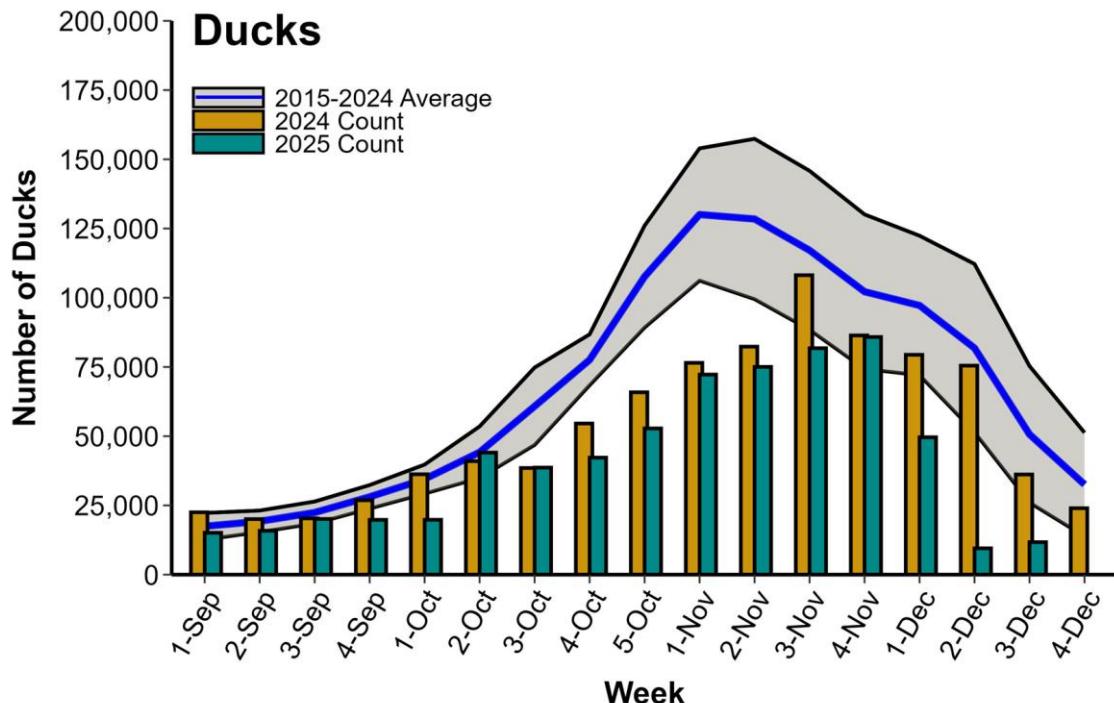


Figure 1. The number of ducks surveyed in 2025 (turquoise bars) and 2024 (gold bars) compared to the 2015-2024 average (blue line).

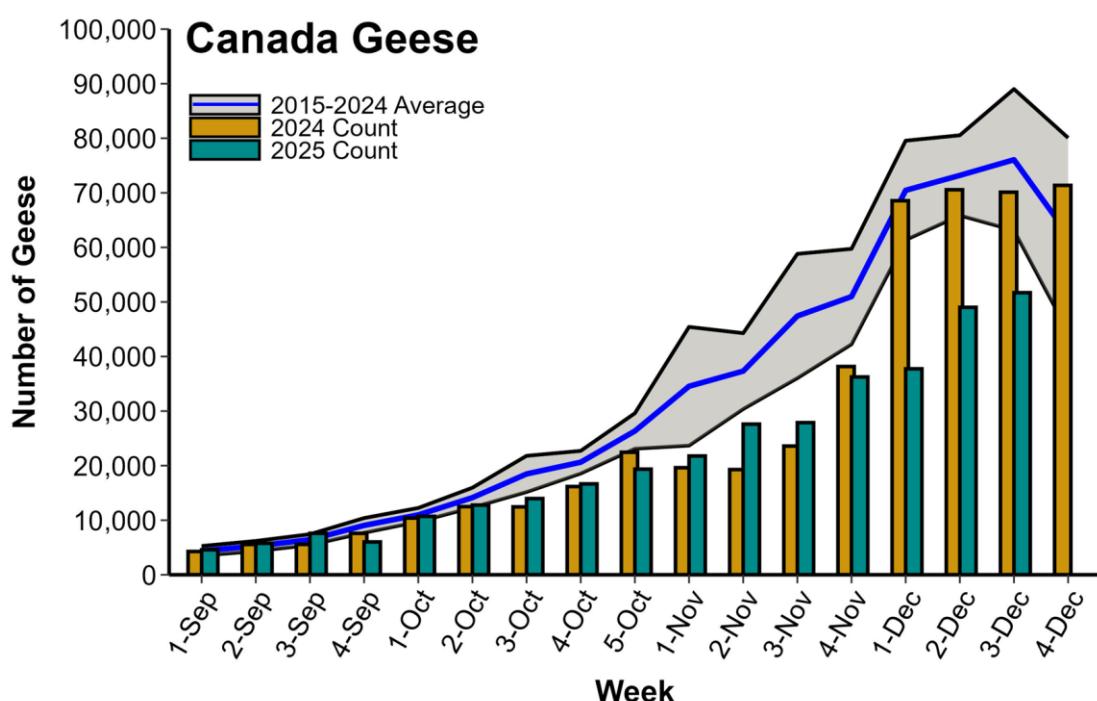
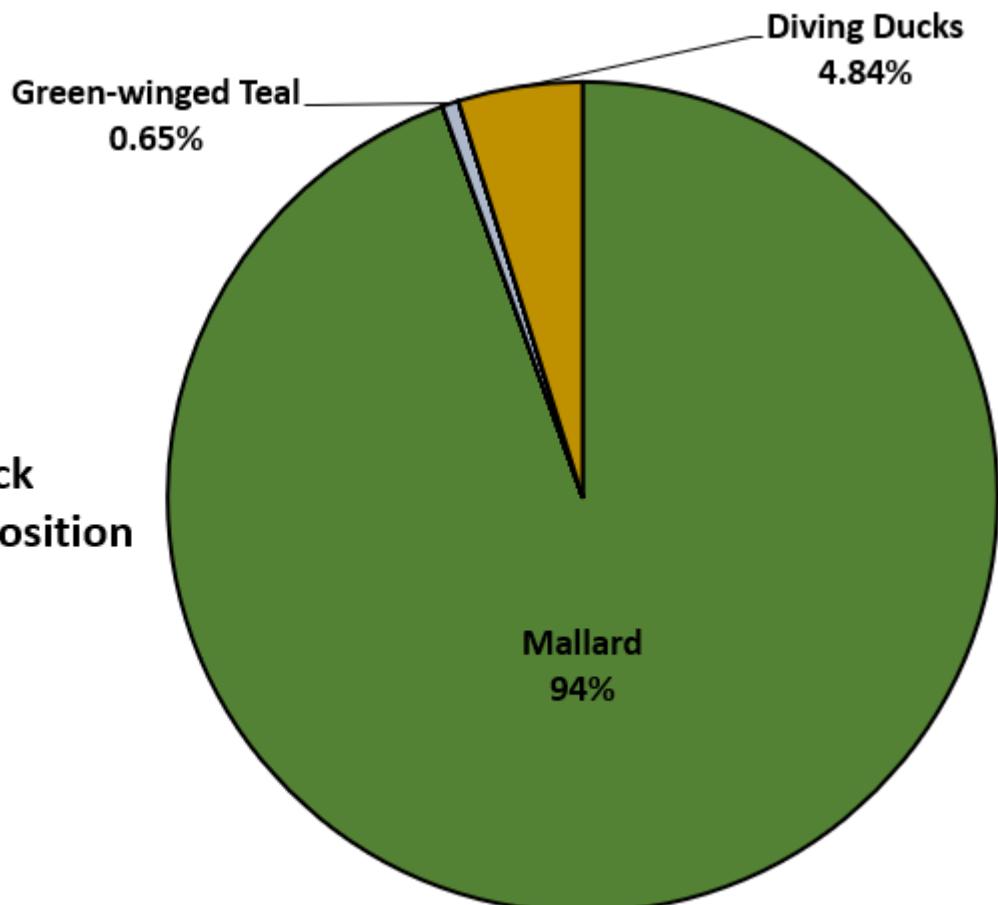
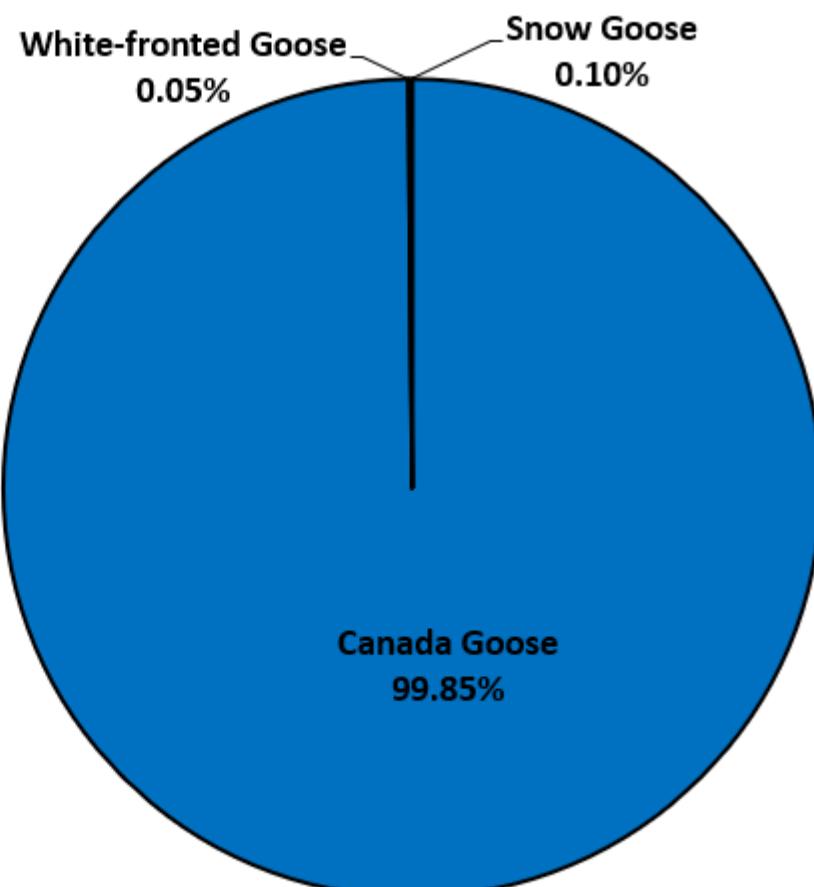


Figure 2. The number of Canada geese surveyed in 2025 (turquoise bars) and 2024 (gold bars) compared to the 2015-2024 average (blue line).

Statewide Duck Species Composition



Statewide Goose Species Composition



Fall Migration Waterfowl Survey

Week Ending: December 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	680	550	100	0	0	6850	4950	100	0
Big Marsh	37	45	97	3	0	20	15	100	0
Black Hawk Areas	1125	235	90	0	10	12501	5160	100	0
Coralville Areas	0	0	--	--	--	0	0	--	--
Green Island	0	0	--	--	--	0	0	--	--
Ingham Areas	0	0	--	--	--	300	300	100	0
Lake Odessa Areas	0	5	--	--	--	200	50	100	0
Lake Sugema	4	39	25	0	75	7	520	100	0
Missouri River Oxbows	6936	1484	100	0	0	9092	3529	100	0
Otter Creek	0	0	--	--	--	0	0	--	--
Princeton	0	0	--	--	--	0	0	--	--
Rathbun Areas	650	700	77	0	23	5000	5000	100	0
Red Rock	1150	2815	87	0	13	4000	4000	100	0
Rice Lake Areas	26	130	19	0	81	2400	3800	100	0
Riverton/Forney	1075	1980	84	7	9	775	860	94	6
Ruthven Areas	0	150	--	--	--	150	350	100	0
Saylorville Areas	0	0	--	--	--	225	150	100	0
Spirit Lake Areas	44	885	100	0	0	203	299	100	0
Sweet Marsh	6	0	100	0	0	50	50	100	0
Union County Areas	0	495	--	--	--	10000	20000	100	0
Total	11733	9513	95	1	5	51773	49033	100	0

Species	% Change in count from Previous Week
Canada Goose	+5.5
Greater White-fronted Goose	+160.0
Snow Goose	+1200.0
Mallard	+19.3
Gadwall	-100.0
American Wigeon	NA
Northern Pintail	-100.0
Green-winged Teal	-50.6
Blue-winged Teal	NA
Northern Shoveler	NA
Wood Duck	-100.0
Diving Ducks	-69.8