

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WATERFOWL SURVEY

September 4, 2026

The 2026 fall migration survey began this week. Wood ducks were the most abundant duck followed by blue-winged teal and mallards. At a statewide scale, observers counted 2.4% more ducks and 11.7% fewer Canada geese than during this week last year. The graphs below compare the 2026 migration (turquoise bars) so far to both 2025 (gold bars) and the 2016-2025 average (blue line). Counts below the shaded region are considered below average, and counts above are considered above average.

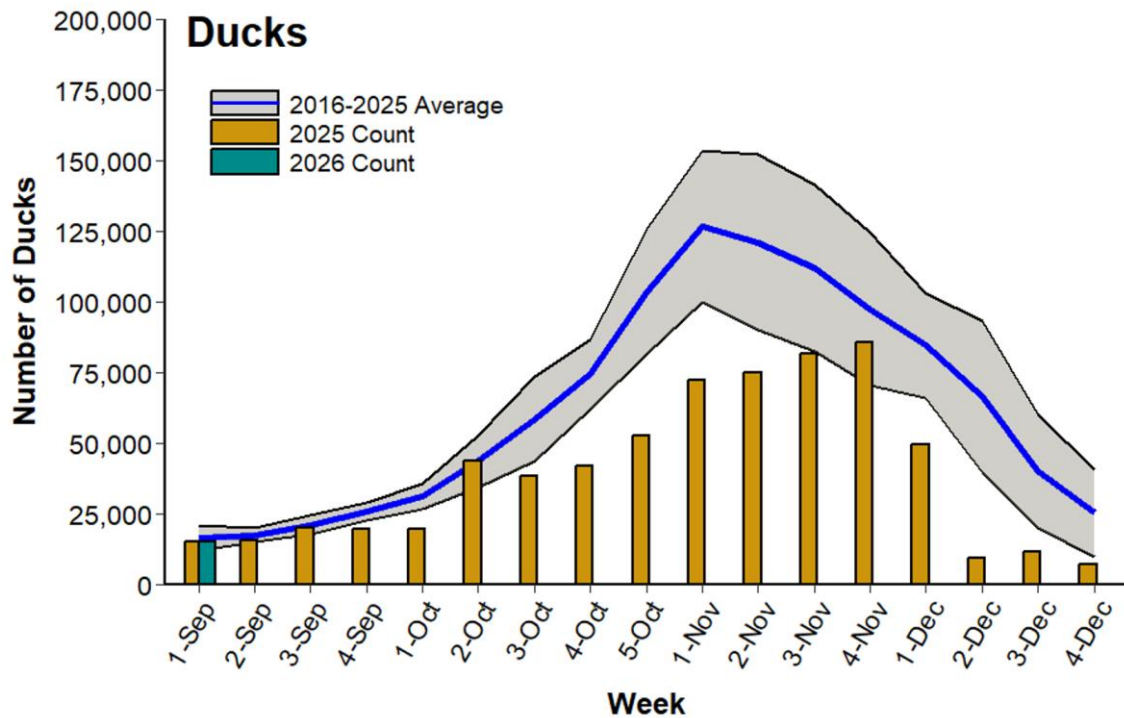


Figure 1. The number of ducks surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

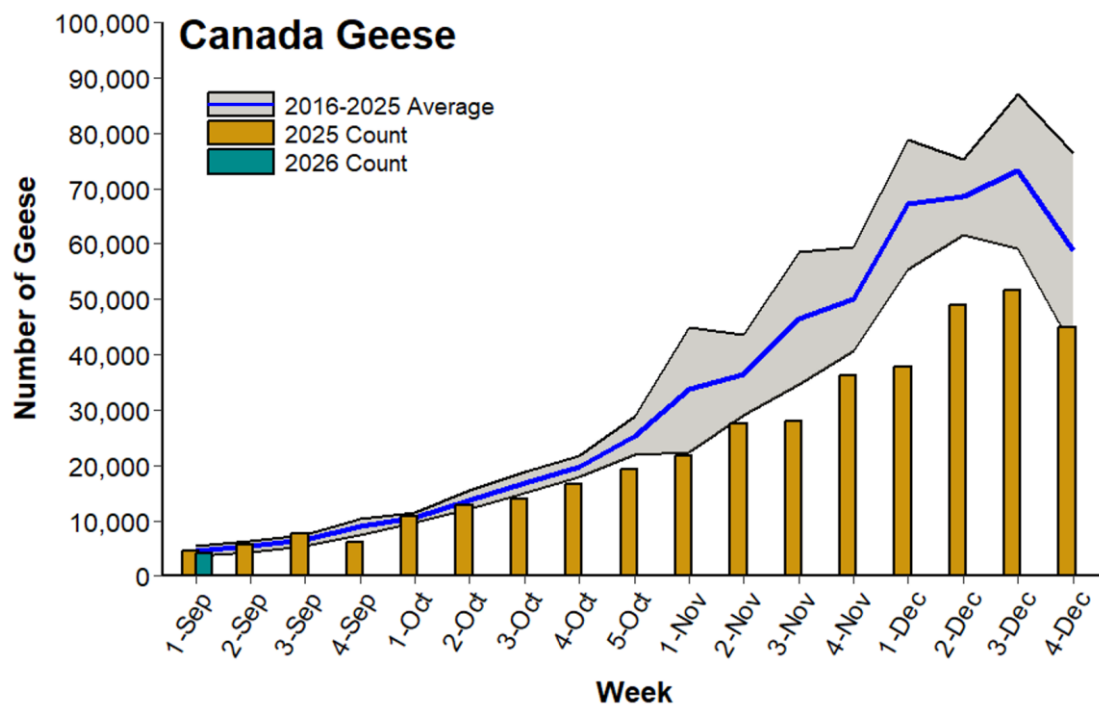
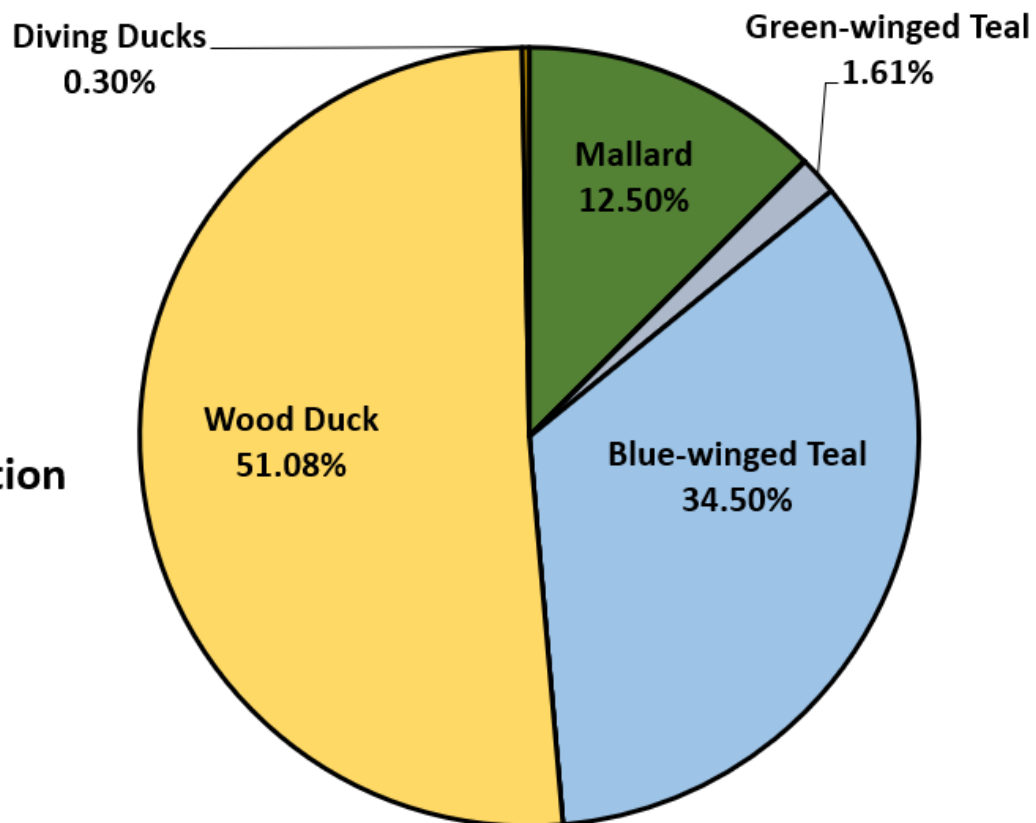
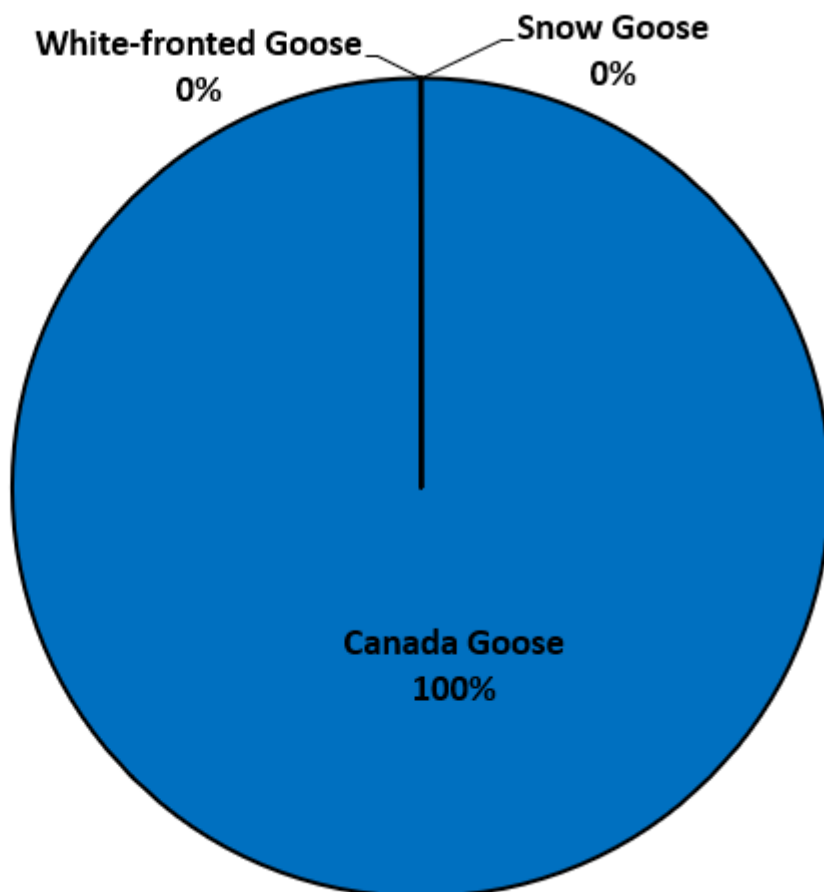


Figure 2. The number of Canada geese surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

**Statewide Duck
Species Composition**



**Statewide Goose
Species Composition**



Fall Migration Waterfowl Survey

Week Ending: September 4, 2026

Survey Area	Ducks					Geese			
	Abundance		Composition (%)			Abundance		Composition (%)	
	Total	Previous Week	Mallards	Other Dabblers	Divers	Total	Previous Week	Dark	Light
Bays Branch Areas	625	--	10	90	0	110	--	100	0
Big Marsh	362	--	28	72	0	25	--	100	0
Black Hawk Areas	1020	--	28	68	4	505	--	100	0
Coralville Areas	950	--	16	84	0	450	--	100	0
Green Island	1610	--	4	96	0	300	--	100	0
Ingham Areas	1001	--	18	81	1	850	--	100	0
Lake Odessa Areas	1600	--	0	100	0	50	--	100	0
Lake Sugema	225	--	2	98	0	85	--	100	0
Missouri River Oxbows	39	--	15	85	0	57	--	100	0
Otter Creek	155	--	3	97	0	0	--	--	--
Princeton	470	--	4	96	0	0	--	--	--
Rathbun Areas	1645	--	9	91	0	850	--	100	0
Red Rock	650	--	15	85	0	0	--	--	--
Rice Lake Areas	1275	--	17	83	0	102	--	100	0
Riverton/Forney	475	--	5	95	0	0	--	--	--
Ruthven Areas	1915	--	20	80	0	75	--	100	0
Saylorville Areas	100	--	10	90	0	150	--	100	0
Spirit Lake Areas	910	--	18	82	0	225	--	100	0
Sweet Marsh	382	--	8	92	0	150	--	100	0
Union County Areas	82	--	0	100	0	60	--	100	0
Total	15491	--	12	87	0	4044	--	100	0

Species	% Change in count from Previous Week
Canada Goose	--
Greater White-fronted Goose	--
Snow Goose	--
Mallard	--
Gadwall	--
American Wigeon	--
Northern Pintail	--
Green-winged Teal	--
Blue-winged Teal	--
Northern Shoveler	--
Wood Duck	--
Diving Ducks	--