

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WATERFOWL SURVEY
September 11, 2026

The statewide duck count increased by 15.6% and the Canada goose count decreased by 19.5% from last week. Wood ducks were the most abundant duck followed by blue-winged teal and mallards. At a statewide scale, observers counted 15.6% more total ducks, 12.5% more teal, and 43.5% 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.

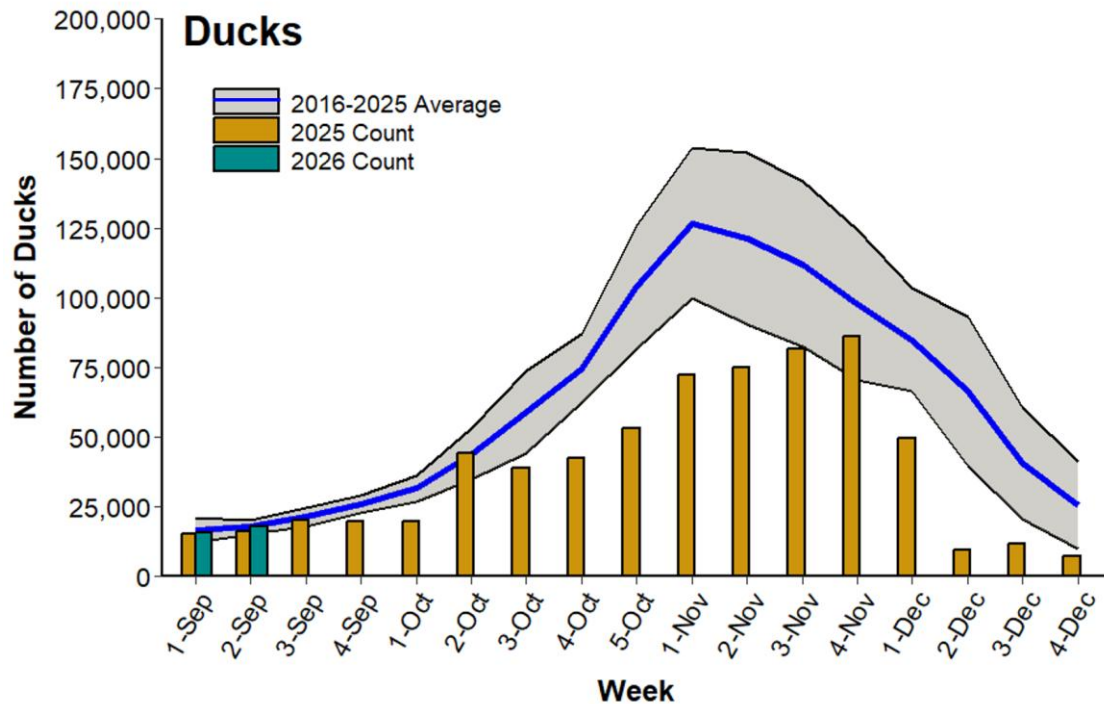


Figure 1. The number of ducks surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

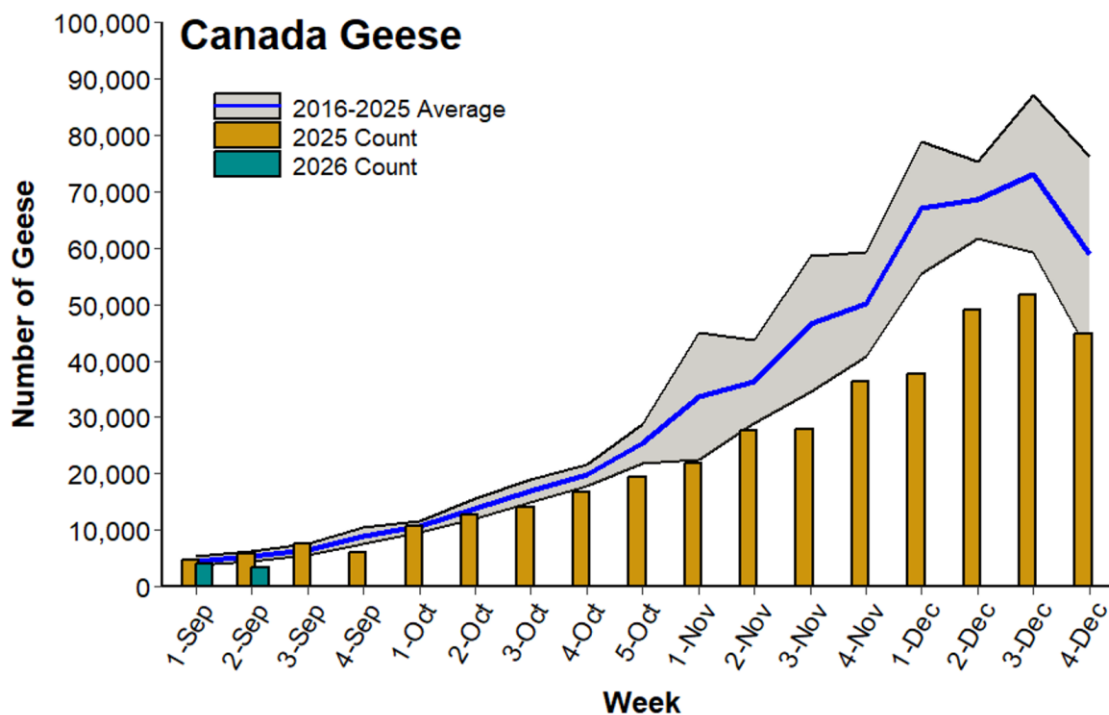
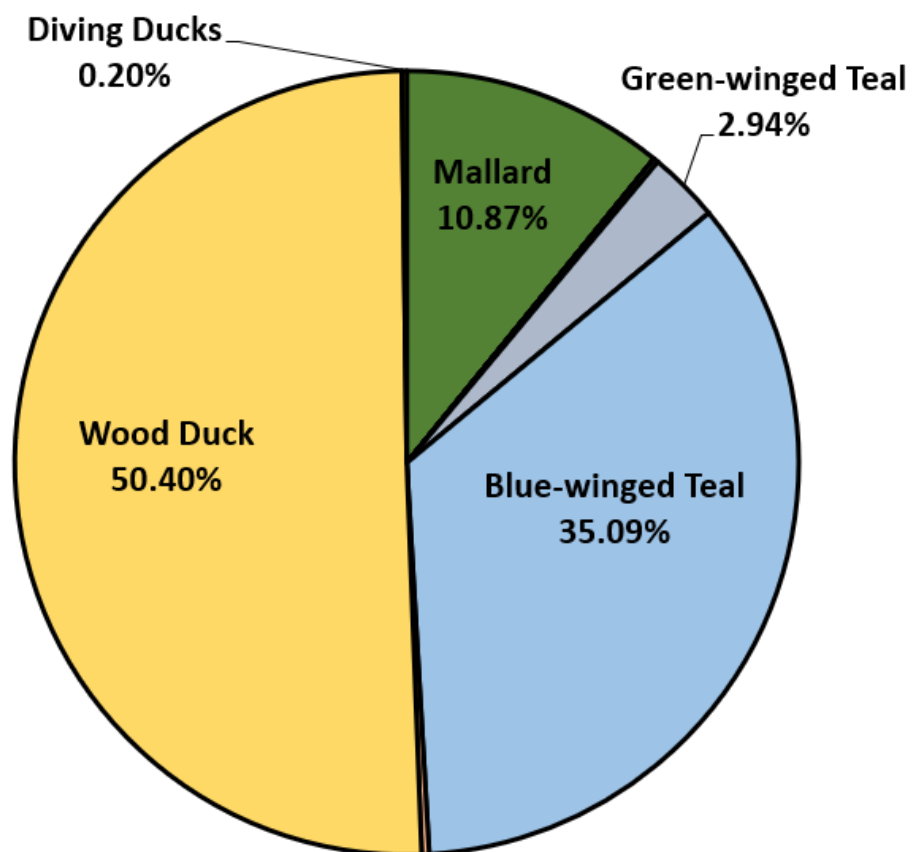
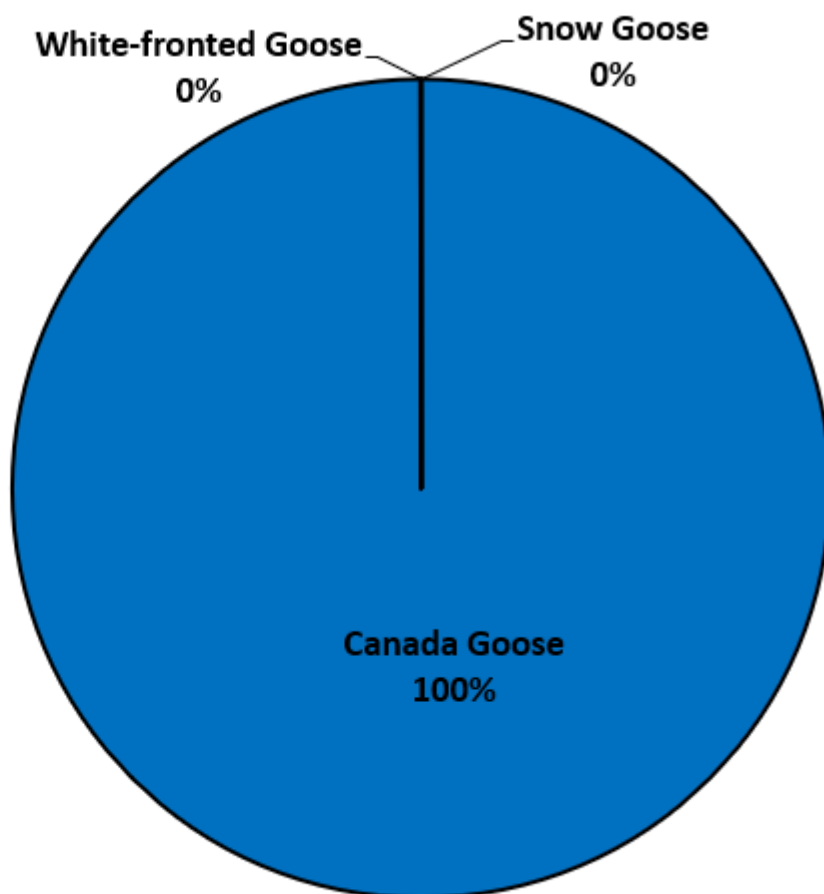


Figure 2. The number of Canada geese surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

**Statewide Duck
Species Composition**



**Statewide Goose
Species Composition**



Fall Migration Waterfowl Survey

Week Ending: September 11, 2026

Survey Area	Ducks					Geese			
	Abundance		Composition (%)			Abundance		Composition (%)	
	Total	Previous Week	Teal	Other Dabblers	Divers	Total	Previous Week	Dark	Light
Bays Branch Areas	675	625	46	54	0	130	110	100	0
Big Marsh	385	362	9	91	0	2	25	100	0
Black Hawk Areas	1000	1020	20	76	3	505	505	100	0
Coralville Areas	1600	950	56	44	0	150	450	100	0
Green Island	2050	1610	22	78	0	300	300	100	0
Ingham Areas	546	1001	35	64	1	110	850	100	0
Lake Odessa Areas	1650	1600	9	91	0	50	50	100	0
Lake Sugema	200	225	10	90	0	45	85	100	0
Missouri River Oxbows	52	39	19	81	0	94	57	100	0
Otter Creek	68	155	9	91	0	1	0	100	0
Princeton	740	470	61	39	0	0	0	--	--
Rathbun Areas	2435	1645	45	55	0	850	850	100	0
Red Rock	1750	650	57	43	0	150	0	100	0
Rice Lake Areas	1430	1275	53	47	0	220	102	100	0
Riverton/Forney	420	475	55	45	0	0	0	--	--
Ruthven Areas	1230	1915	29	71	0	60	75	100	0
Saylorville Areas	360	100	69	31	0	200	150	100	0
Spirit Lake Areas	865	910	31	69	0	147	225	100	0
Sweet Marsh	425	382	24	76	0	200	150	100	0
Union County Areas	26	82	46	54	0	43	60	100	0
Total	17907	15491	38	62	0	3257	4044	100	0

Species	% Change in count from Previous Week
Canada Goose	-19.5
Greater White-fronted Goose	--
Snow Goose	--
Mallard	+0.5
Gadwall	--
American Wigeon	-100
Northern Pintail	--
Green-winged Teal	+110.4
Blue-winged Teal	+17.6
Northern Shoveler	--
Wood Duck	+14.1
Diving Ducks	-21.7