

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WATERFOWL SURVEY

September 18, 2026

The statewide duck count increased by 12.4% and the Canada goose count increased by 25% from last week. Wood ducks were the most abundant duck followed by blue-winged teal and mallards. At a statewide scale, observers counted a similar number of ducks and 46.4% 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.

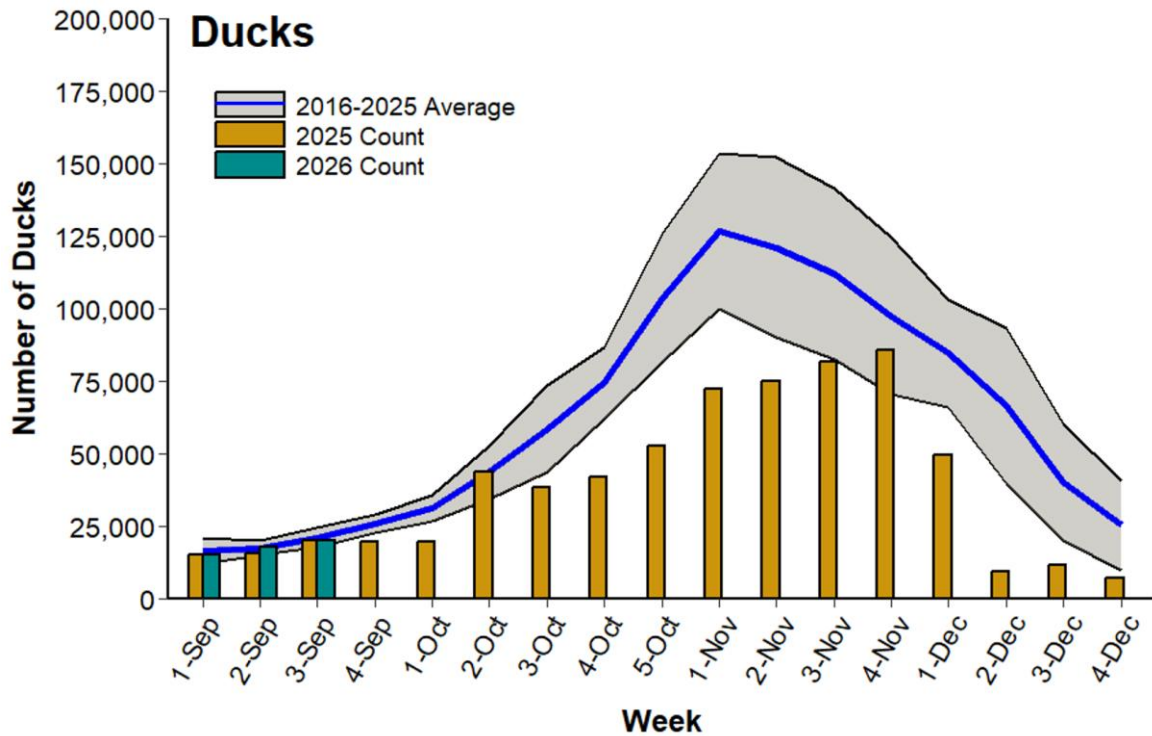


Figure 1. The number of ducks surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

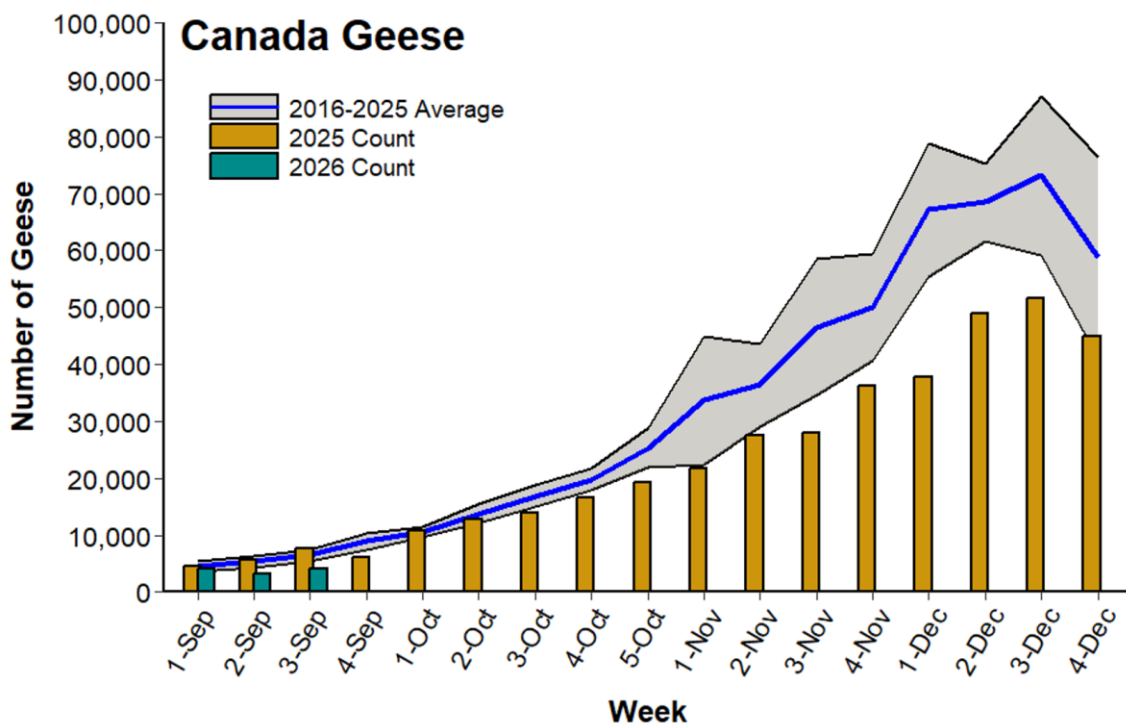
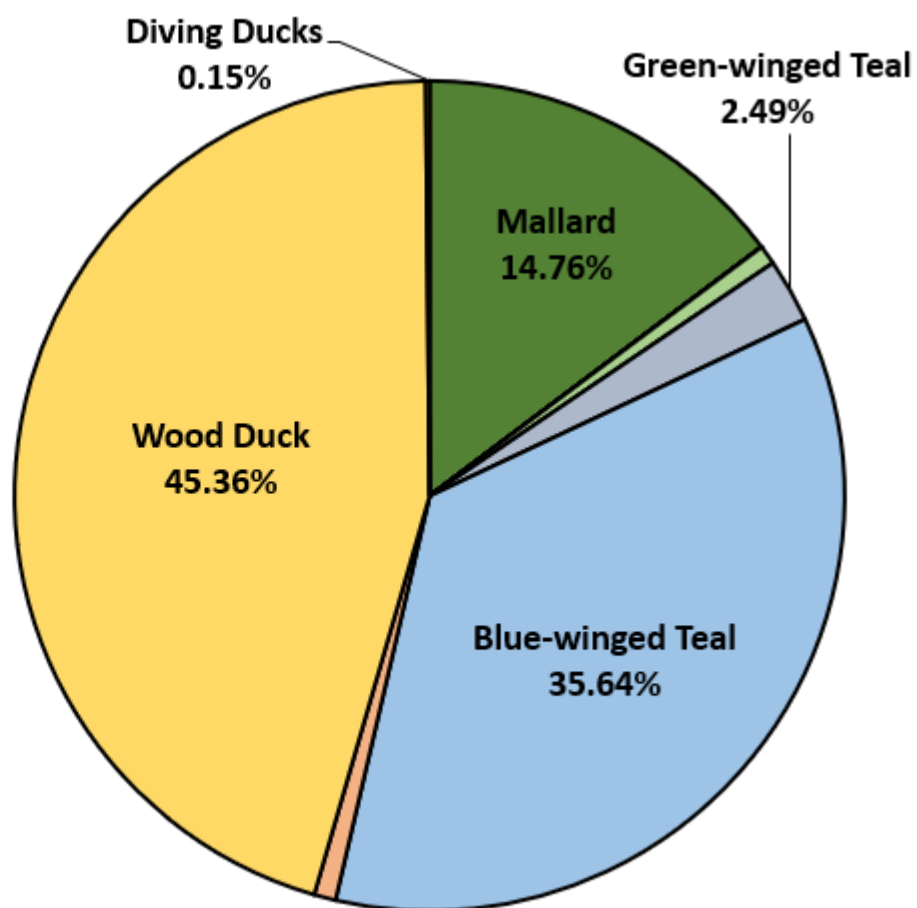
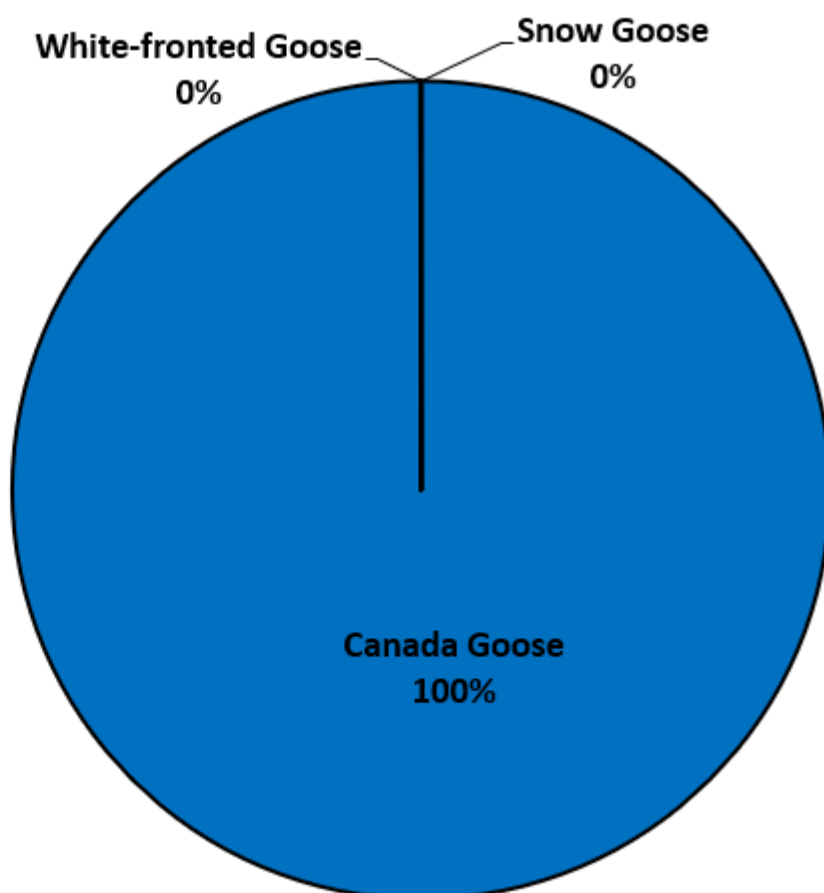


Figure 2. The number of Canada geese surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

**Statewide Duck
Species Composition**



**Statewide Goose
Species Composition**



Fall Migration Waterfowl Survey

Week Ending: September 18, 2026

Survey Area	Ducks					Geese			
	Abundance		Composition (%)			Abundance		Composition (%)	
	Total	Previous Week	Mallard	Other Dabblers	Divers	Total	Previous Week	Dark	Light
Bays Branch Areas	852	675	12	88	0	170	130	100	0
Big Marsh	550	385	18	82	0	20	2	100	0
Black Hawk Areas	1377	1000	23	75	2	495	505	100	0
Coralville Areas	1650	1600	15	85	0	125	150	100	0
Green Island	1900	2050	5	95	0	350	300	100	0
Ingham Areas	505	546	31	69	0	450	110	100	0
Lake Odessa Areas	1715	1650	0	100	0	100	50	100	0
Lake Sugema	240	200	2	98	0	25	45	100	0
Missouri River Oxbows	240	52	25	75	0	131	94	100	0
Otter Creek	288	68	2	98	0	8	1	100	0
Princeton	450	740	11	89	0	6	0	100	0
Rathbun Areas	2835	2435	11	89	0	826	850	100	0
Red Rock	1850	1750	14	86	0	0	150	--	--
Rice Lake Areas	2255	1430	36	64	0	632	220	100	0
Riverton/Forney	685	420	0	100	0	55	0	100	0
Ruthven Areas	815	1230	20	80	0	50	60	100	0
Saylorville Areas	--	360	--	--	--	--	200	--	--
Spirit Lake Areas	1033	865	21	79	0	327	147	100	0
Sweet Marsh	700	425	11	89	0	300	200	100	0
Union County Areas	182	26	0	100	0	1	43	100	0
Total	20122	17907	15	85	0	4071	3257	100	0

Species	% Change in count from Previous Week
Canada Goose	+25.0
Greater White-fronted Goose	--
Snow Goose	--
Mallard	+52.6
Gadwall	--
American Wigeon	--
Northern Pintail	+331.4
Green-winged Teal	-4.8
Blue-winged Teal	+14.1
Northern Shoveler	+209.1
Wood Duck	+1.1
Diving Ducks	-16.7