

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WATERFOWL SURVEY
September 25, 2026

The statewide duck count increased by 13.3% and the Canada goose count increased by 28.6% from last week. Blue-winged teal were the most abundant duck followed by wood ducks and mallards. At a statewide scale, observers counted 15.1% more ducks and 12.9% 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.

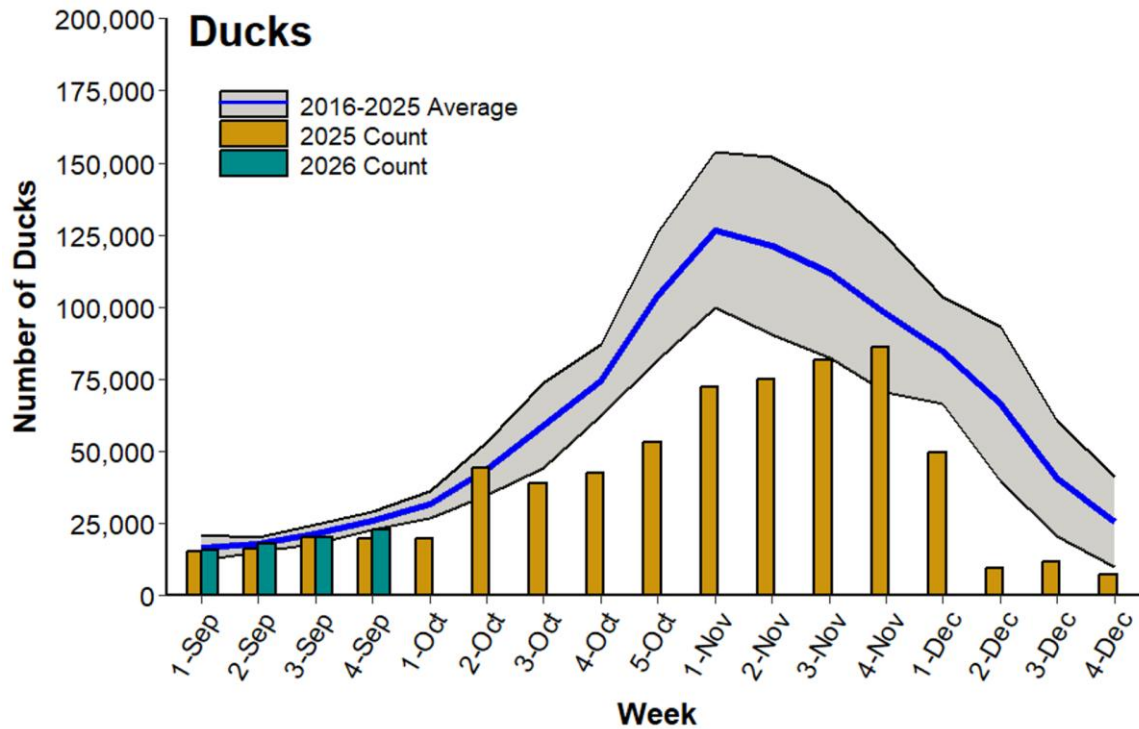


Figure 1. The number of ducks surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

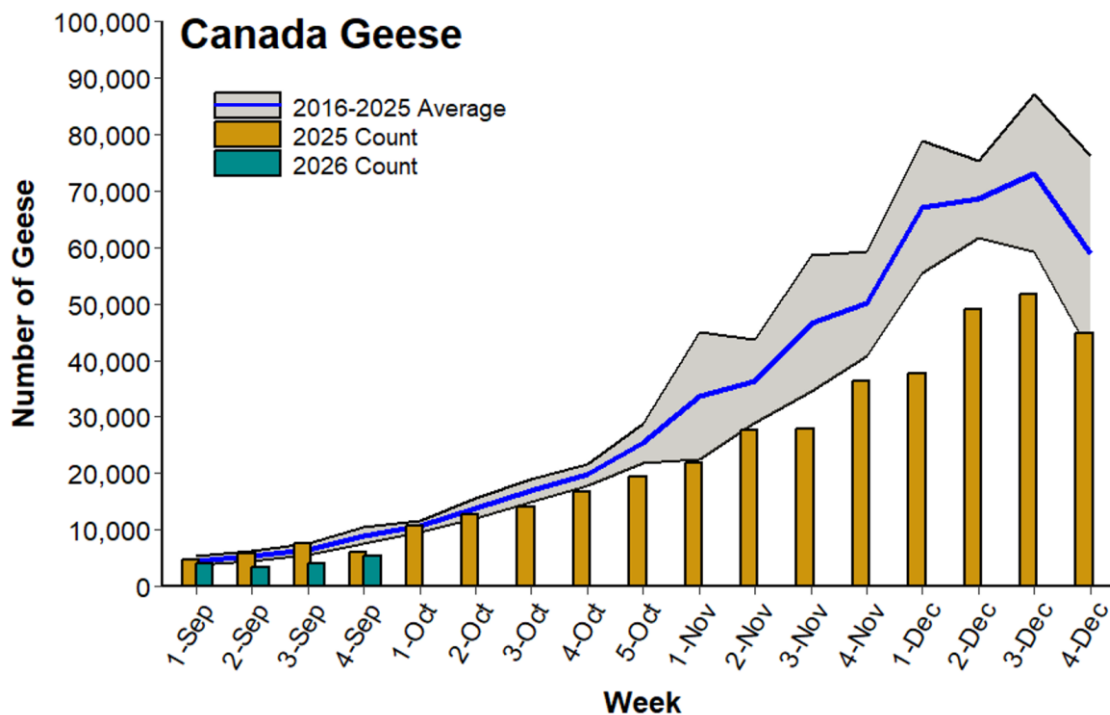
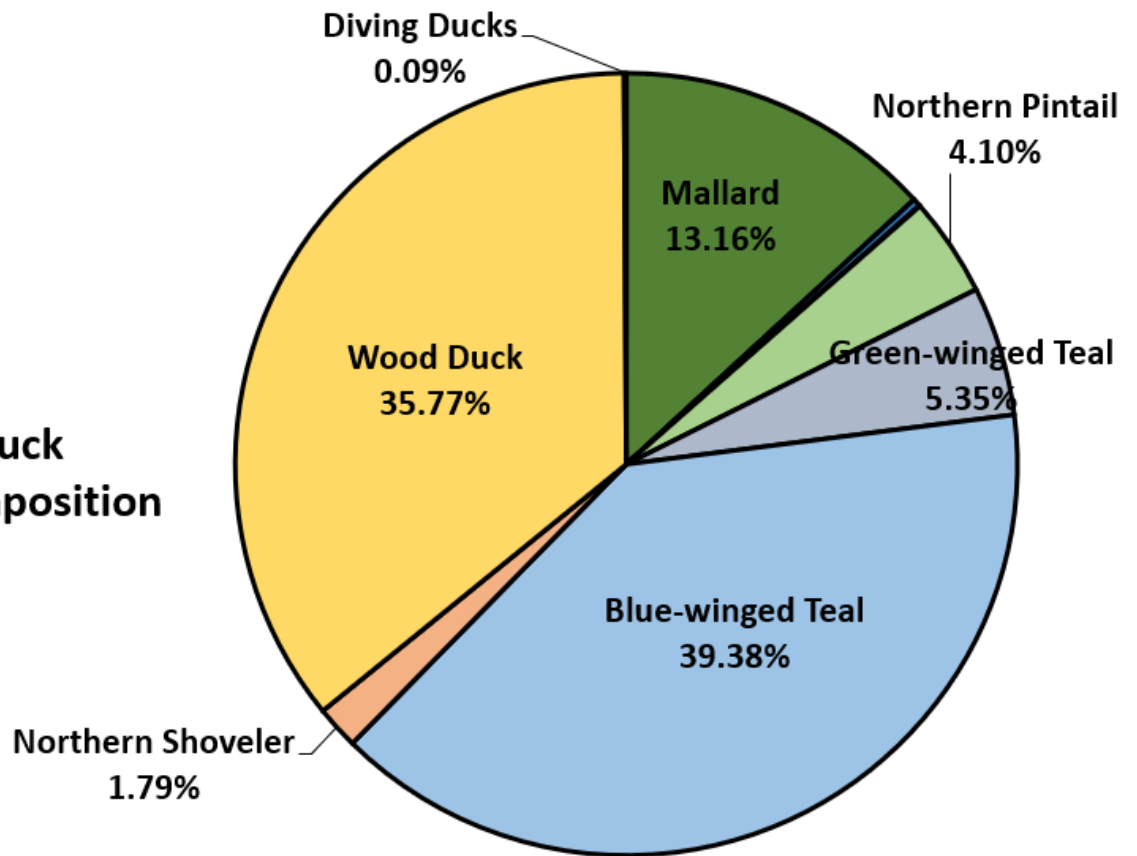
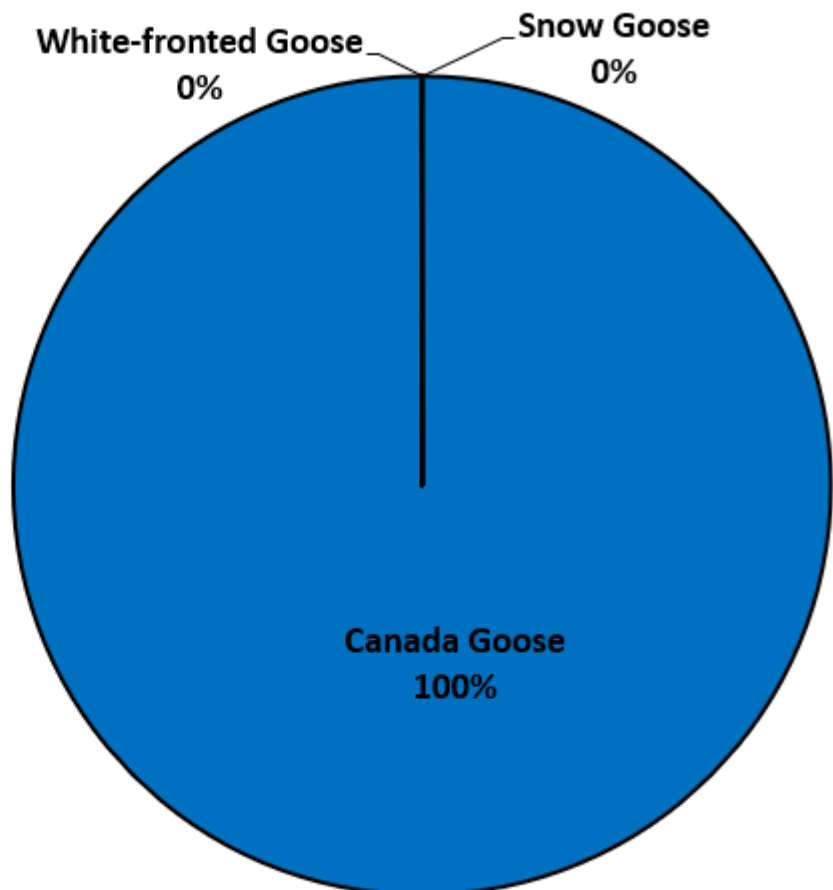


Figure 2. The number of Canada geese surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

**Statewide Duck
Species Composition**



**Statewide Goose
Species Composition**



Fall Migration Waterfowl Survey

Week Ending: September 25, 2026

Survey Area	Ducks					Geese			
	Abundance		Composition (%)			Abundance		Composition (%)	
	Total	Previous Week	Mallard	Other Dabblers	Divers	Total	Previous Week	Dark	Light
Bays Branch Areas	1505	852	5	95	0	150	170	100	0
Big Marsh	780	550	13	87	0	30	20	100	0
Black Hawk Areas	1705	1377	21	78	1	510	495	100	0
Coralville Areas	2250	1650	11	89	0	150	125	100	0
Green Island	2215	1900	7	93	0	500	350	100	0
Ingham Areas	275	505	44	56	0	695	450	100	0
Lake Odessa Areas	775	1715	0	100	0	350	100	100	0
Lake Sugema	200	240	10	90	0	50	25	100	0
Missouri River Oxbows	322	240	8	92	0	126	131	100	0
Otter Creek	595	288	3	97	0	25	8	100	0
Princeton	700	450	7	93	0	25	6	100	0
Rathbun Areas	3085	2835	12	88	0	825	826	100	0
Red Rock	2700	1850	9	91	0	250	0	100	0
Rice Lake Areas	2082	2255	34	66	0	730	632	100	0
Riverton/Forney	775	685	0	100	0	0	55	--	--
Ruthven Areas	1070	815	26	74	0	30	50	100	0
Saylorville Areas	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Spirit Lake Areas	740	1033	18	82	0	255	327	100	0
Sweet Marsh	802	700	9	91	0	500	300	100	0
Union County Areas	213	182	2	98	0	36	1	100	0
Total	22789	20122	13	87	0	5237	4071	100	0

Species	% Change in count from Previous Week
Canada Goose	+28.6
Greater White-fronted Goose	--
Snow Goose	--
Mallard	+1.0
Gadwall	--
American Wigeon	--
Northern Pintail	+519.2
Green-winged Teal	+143.3
Blue-winged Teal	+25.1
Northern Shoveler	+139.4
Wood Duck	-10.7
Diving Ducks	-30.0