

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WATERFOWL SURVEY
October 2, 2026

The statewide duck count increased by 33.4% and the Canada goose count increased by 27.2% from last week. Blue-winged teal were the most abundant duck followed by wood ducks and mallards. At a statewide scale, observers counted 53.4% more ducks and 37.8% 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.

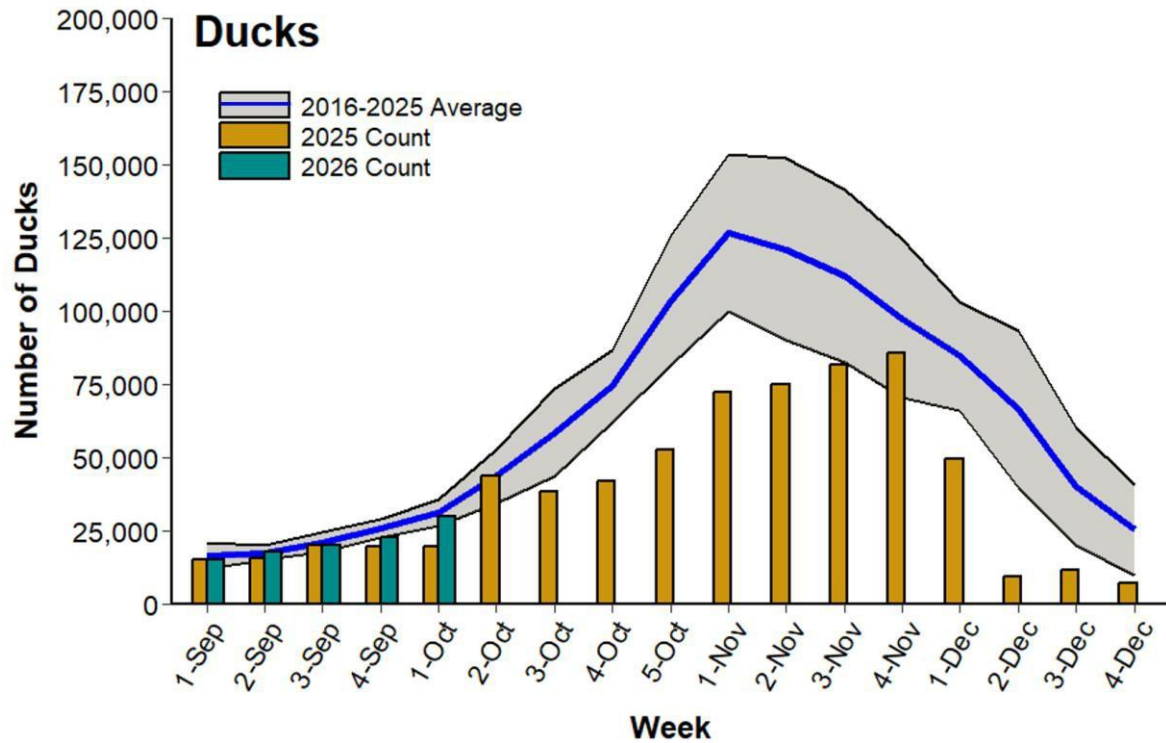


Figure 1. The number of ducks surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

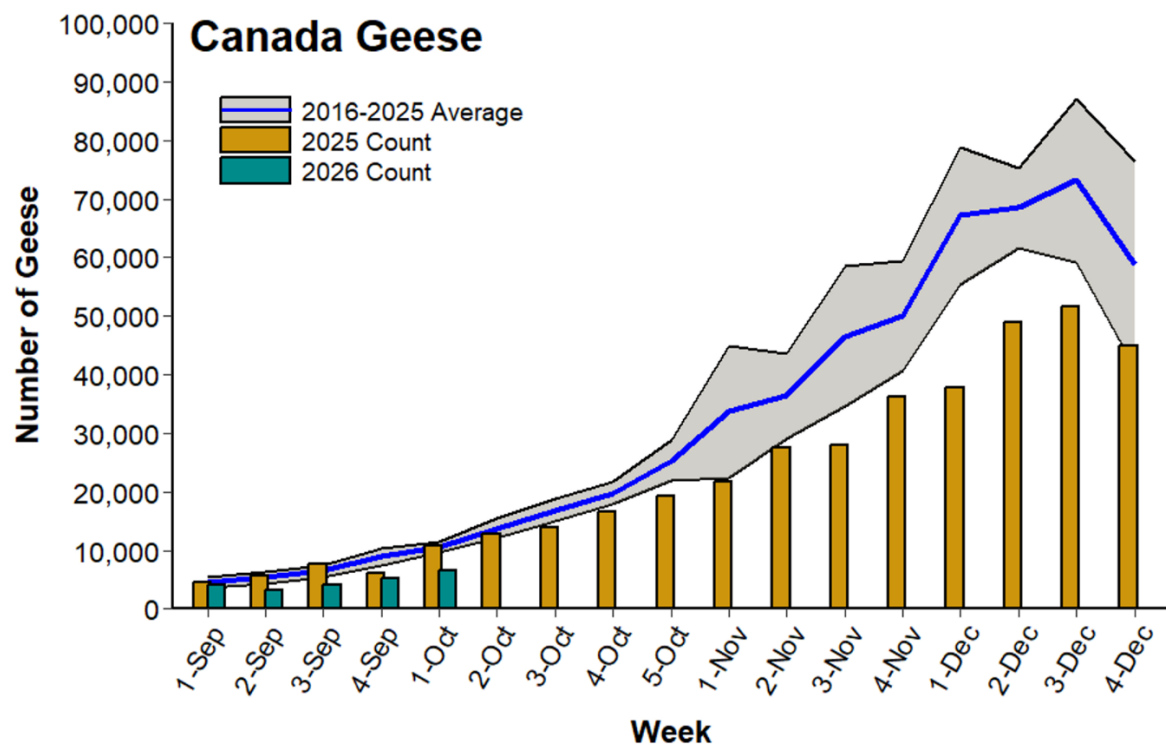
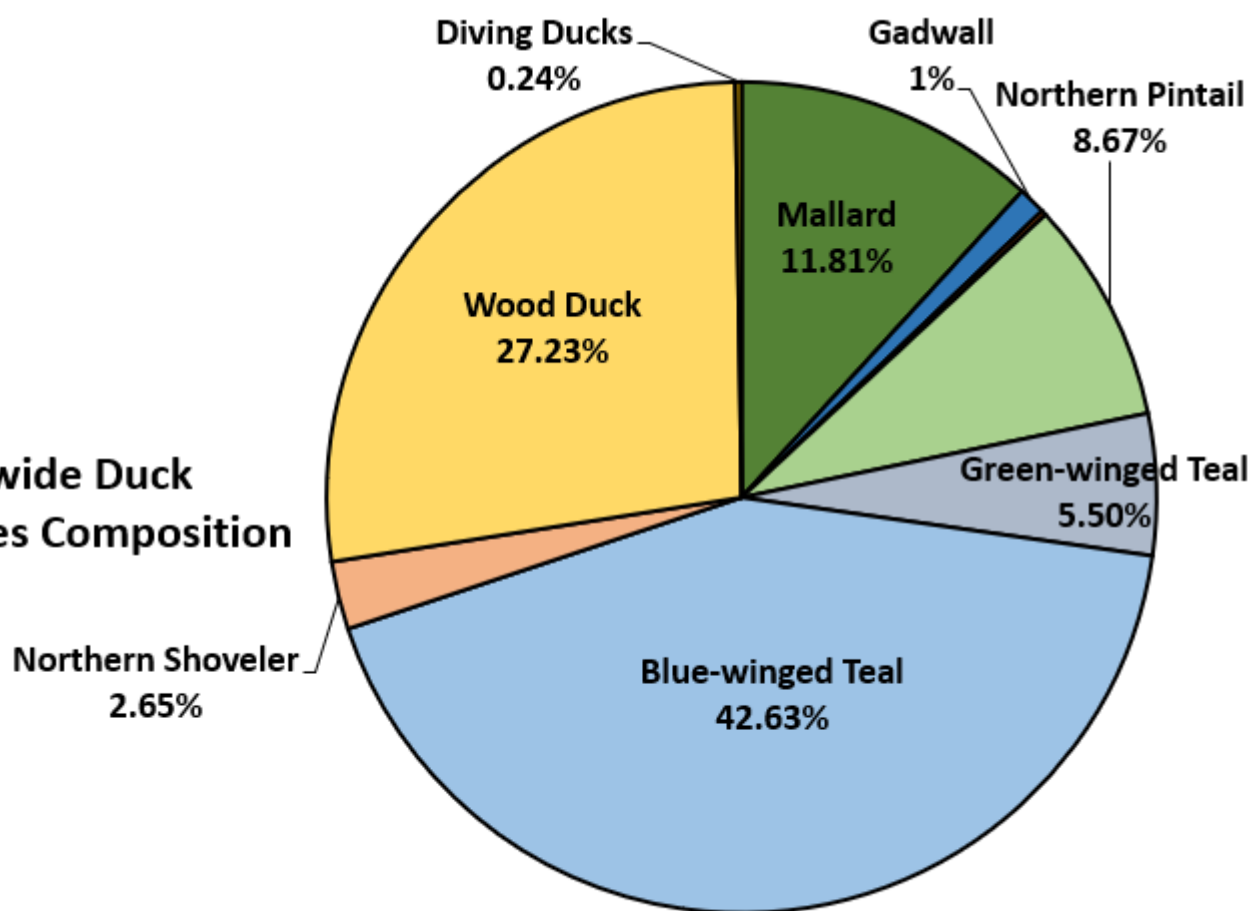
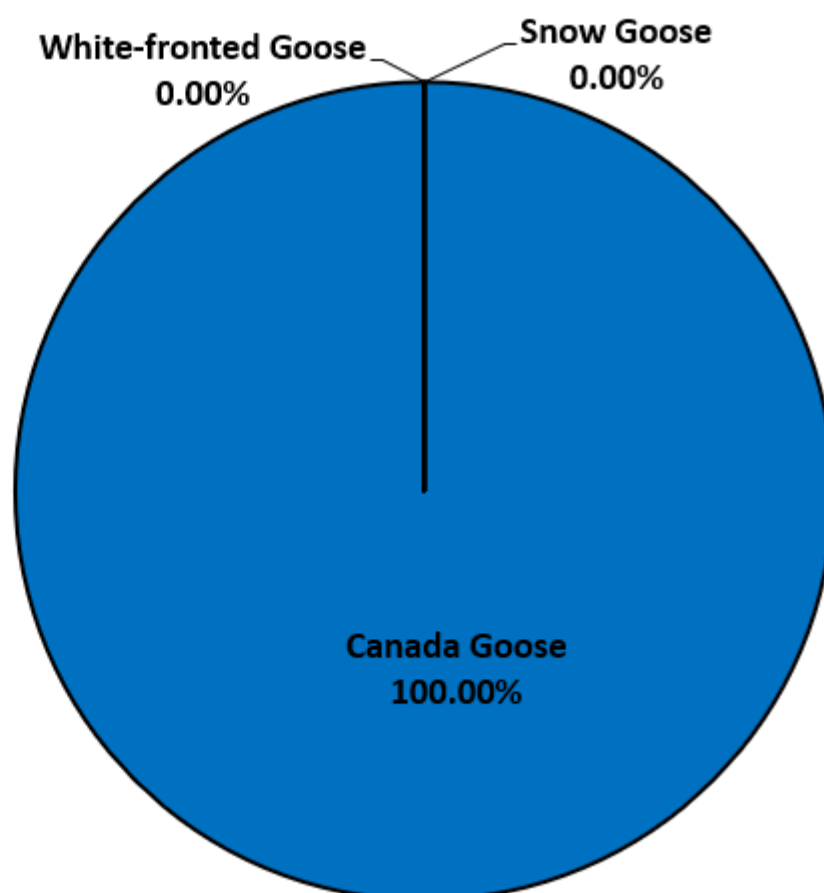


Figure 2. The number of Canada geese surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

**Statewide Duck
Species Composition**



**Statewide Goose
Species Composition**



Fall Migration Waterfowl Survey

Week Ending: October 2, 2026

Survey Area	Ducks					Geese			
	Abundance		Composition (%)			Abundance		Composition (%)	
	Total	Previous Week	Mallard	Other Dabblers	Divers	Total	Previous Week	Dark	Light
Bays Branch Areas	1255	1505	7	93	0	350	150	100	0
Big Marsh	1225	780	10	90	0	50	30	100	0
Black Hawk Areas	1727	1705	15	83	2	520	510	100	0
Coralville Areas	2400	2250	12	88	0	300	150	100	0
Green Island	2775	2215	9	90	1	500	500	100	0
Ingham Areas	215	275	19	81	0	395	695	100	0
Lake Odessa Areas	220	775	9	91	0	700	350	100	0
Lake Sugema	230	200	2	98	0	40	50	100	0
Missouri River Oxbows	854	322	14	86	0	176	126	100	0
Otter Creek	1110	595	4	96	0	9	25	100	0
Princeton	565	700	9	91	0	40	25	100	0
Rathbun Areas	3375	3085	14	86	0	750	825	100	0
Red Rock	3850	2700	8	92	0	350	250	100	0
Rice Lake Areas	2027	2082	35	65	0	1445	730	100	0
Riverton/Forney	3680	775	0	100	0	0	0	--	--
Ruthven Areas	1095	1070	34	66	0	0	30	--	--
Saylorville Areas	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Spirit Lake Areas	1456	740	21	78	0	381	255	100	0
Sweet Marsh	1851	802	5	95	0	650	500	100	0
Union County Areas	480	213	4	96	0	4	36	100	0
Total	30390	22789	12	88	0	6660	5237	100	0

Species	% Change in count from Previous Week
Canada Goose	+27.2
Greater White-fronted Goose	--
Snow Goose	--
Mallard	+19.6
Gadwall	+338.7
American Wigeon	--
Northern Pintail	+181.7
Green-winged Teal	+37.1
Blue-winged Teal	+44.4
Northern Shoveler	+97.5
Wood Duck	+1.5
Diving Ducks	+252.4