

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WATERFOWL SURVEY

October 9, 2026

The statewide duck count increased by 24.3% and the Canada goose count increased by 17.3% from last week. Blue-winged teal were the most abundant duck followed by northern pintail and wood duck. At a statewide scale, observers counted 14.3% fewer ducks and 38.8% 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.

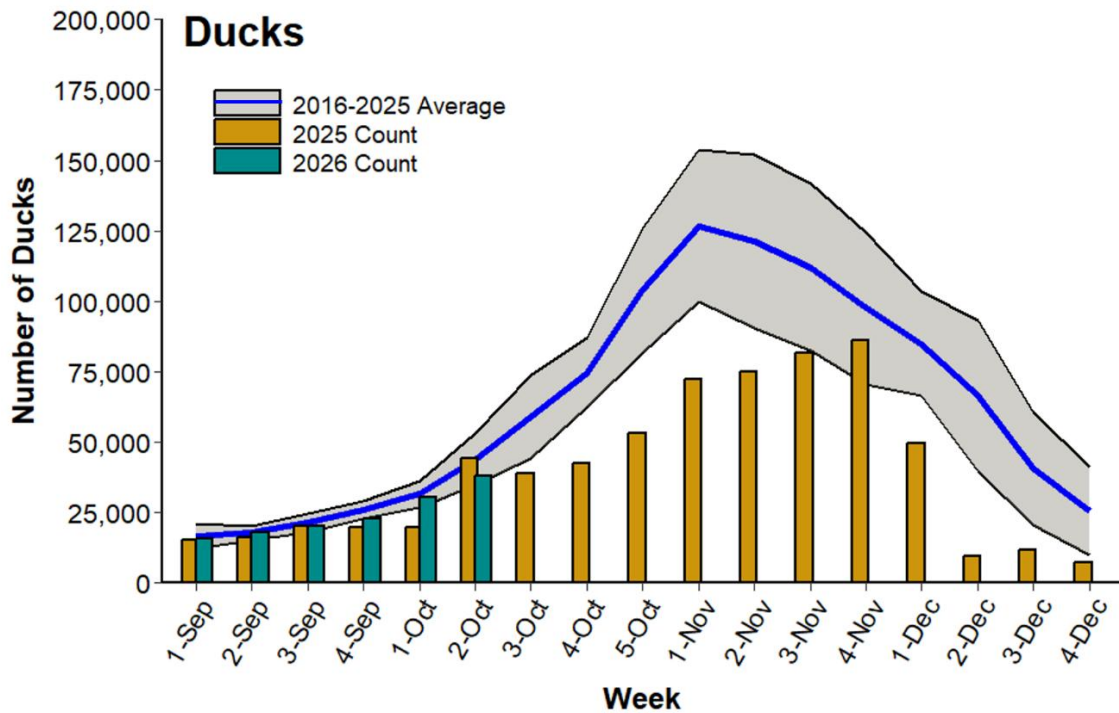


Figure 1. The number of ducks surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

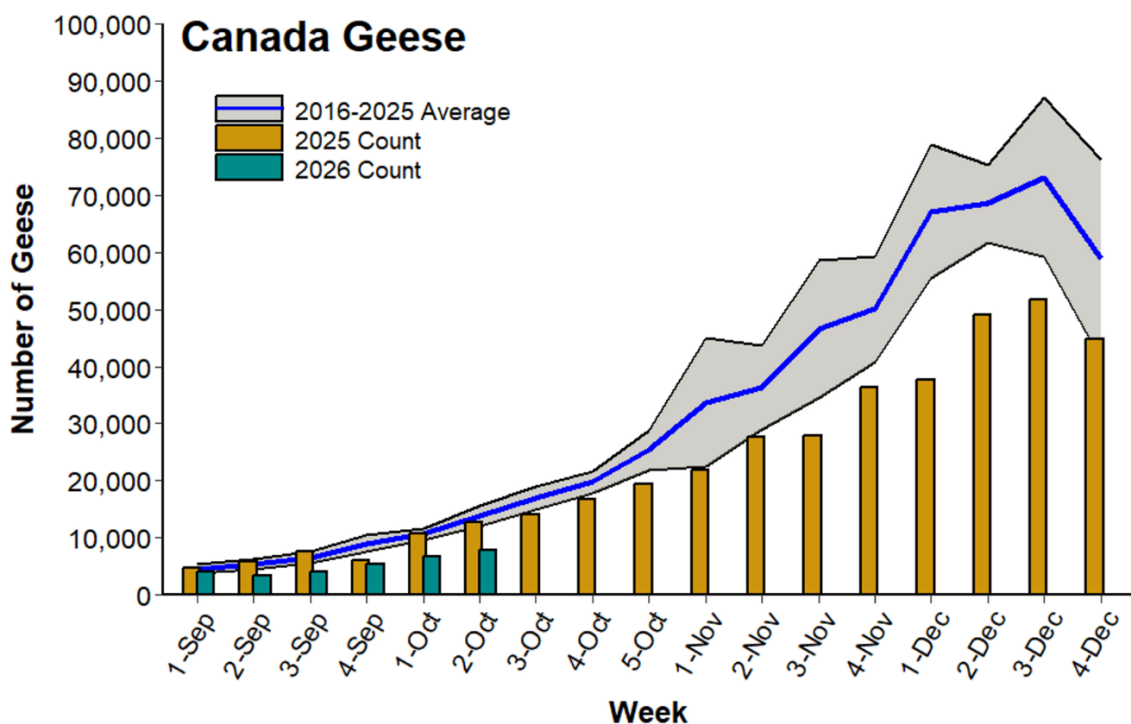
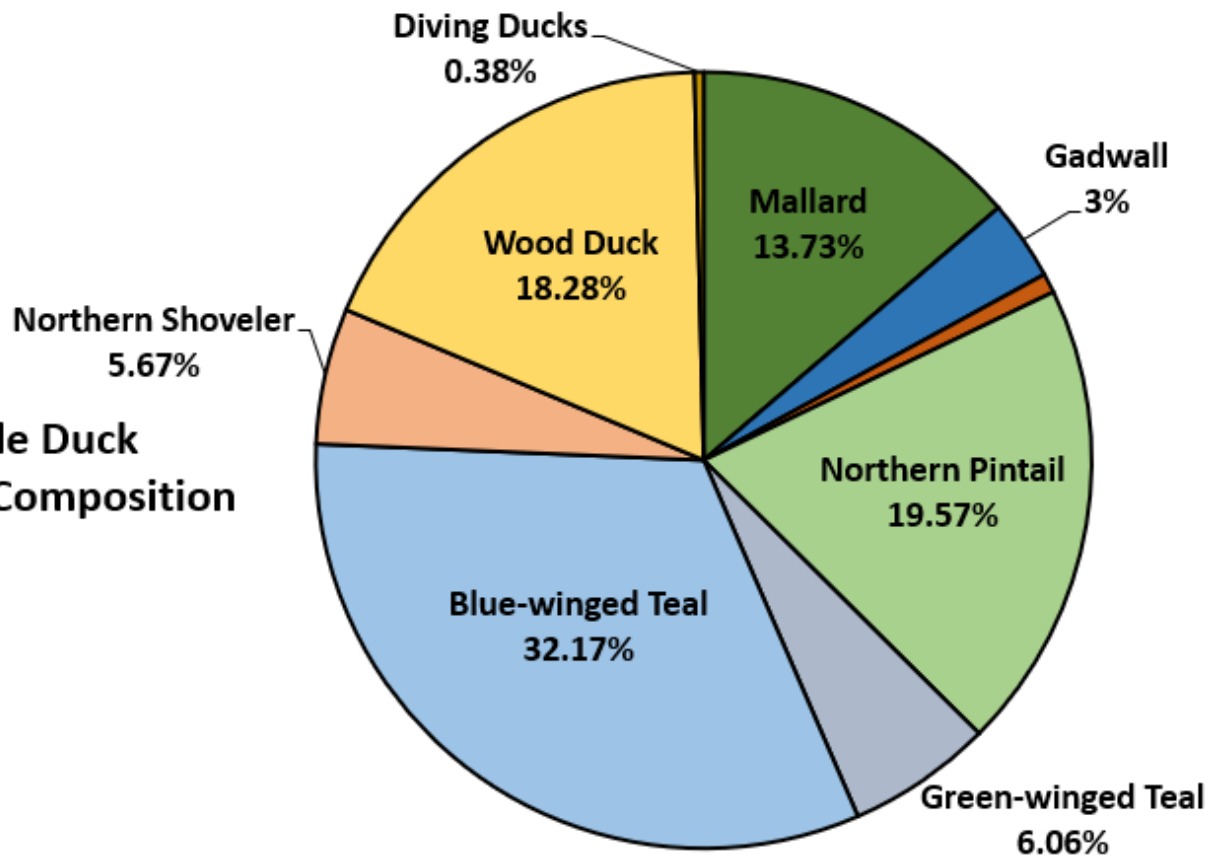
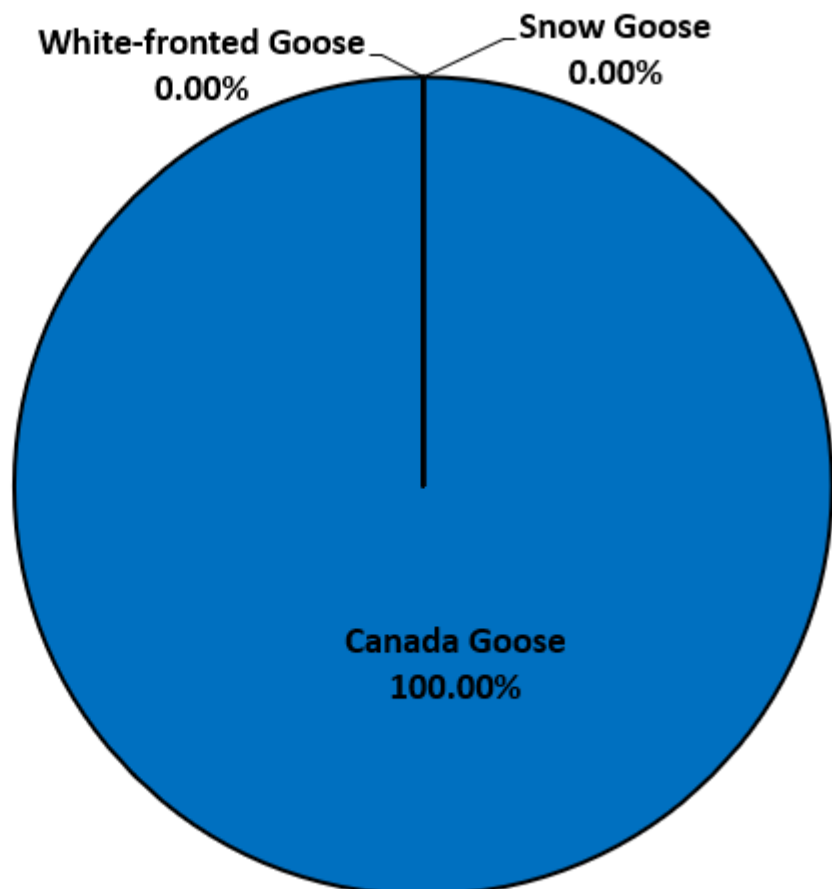


Figure 2. The number of Canada geese surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

**Statewide Duck
Species Composition**



**Statewide Goose
Species Composition**



Fall Migration Waterfowl Survey

Week Ending: October 9, 2026

Survey Area	Ducks					Geese			
	Abundance		Composition (%)			Abundance		Composition (%)	
	Total	Previous Week	Mallard	Other Dabblers	Divers	Total	Previous Week	Dark	Light
Bays Branch Areas	1280	1255	9	91	0	425	350	100	0
Big Marsh	1159	1225	17	82	1	50	50	100	0
Black Hawk Areas	1870	1727	20	79	2	570	520	100	0
Coralville Areas	1925	2400	26	74	0	0	300	--	--
Green Island	3800	2775	13	86	1	500	500	100	0
Ingham Areas	365	215	66	34	0	480	395	100	0
Lake Odessa Areas	605	220	3	97	0	700	700	100	0
Lake Sugema	250	230	4	96	0	165	40	100	0
Missouri River Oxbows	1587	854	24	76	0	998	176	100	0
Otter Creek	560	1110	9	91	0	35	9	100	0
Princeton	465	565	11	89	0	0	40	--	--
Rathbun Areas	4015	3375	16	84	0	900	750	100	0
Red Rock	4300	3850	6	94	0	500	350	100	0
Rice Lake Areas	2465	2027	46	54	0	1060	1445	100	0
Riverton/Forney	9495	3680	4	96	0	90	0	100	0
Ruthven Areas	890	1095	16	84	1	95	0	100	0
Saylorville Areas	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Spirit Lake Areas	514	1456	20	77	4	366	381	100	0
Sweet Marsh	1997	1851	8	92	0	800	650	100	0
Union County Areas	238	480	3	97	0	80	4	100	0
Total	37780	30390	14	86	0	7814	6660	100	0

Species	% Change in count from Previous Week
Canada Goose	+17.3
Greater White-fronted Goose	--
Snow Goose	--
Mallard	+44.6
Gadwall	+282.1
American Wigeon	+427.6
Northern Pintail	+180.6
Green-winged Teal	+37.0
Blue-winged Teal	-6.2
Northern Shoveler	+166.4
Wood Duck	-16.5
Diving Ducks	+94.6