

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WATERFOWL SURVEY

October 16, 2026

The statewide duck count increased by 14.4% and the Canada goose count increased by 27.5% from last week. Blue-winged teal were the most abundant duck followed by northern pintail and wood duck. At a statewide scale, observers counted 11.7% more ducks and 28.7% 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.

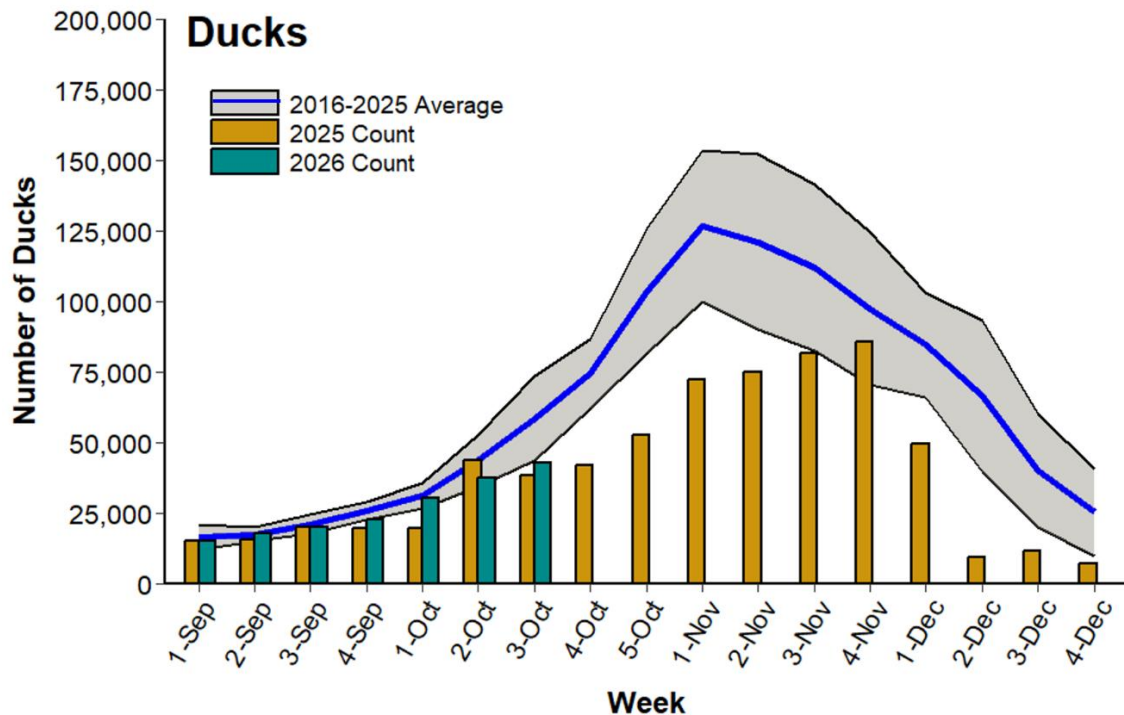


Figure 1. The number of ducks surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

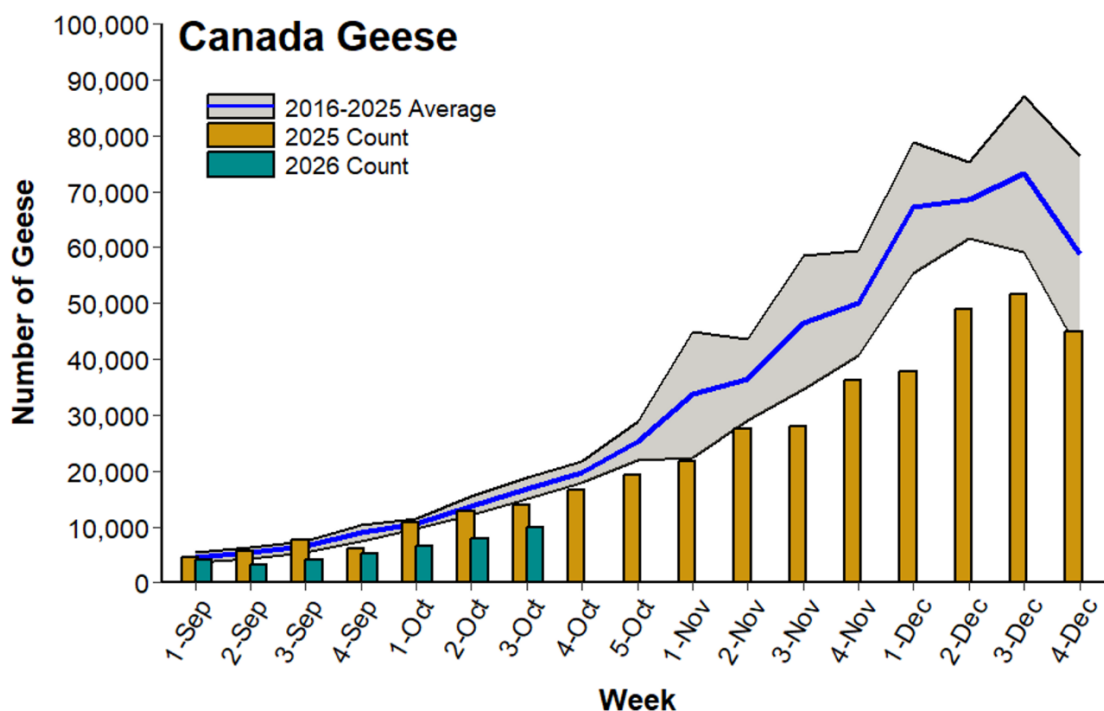
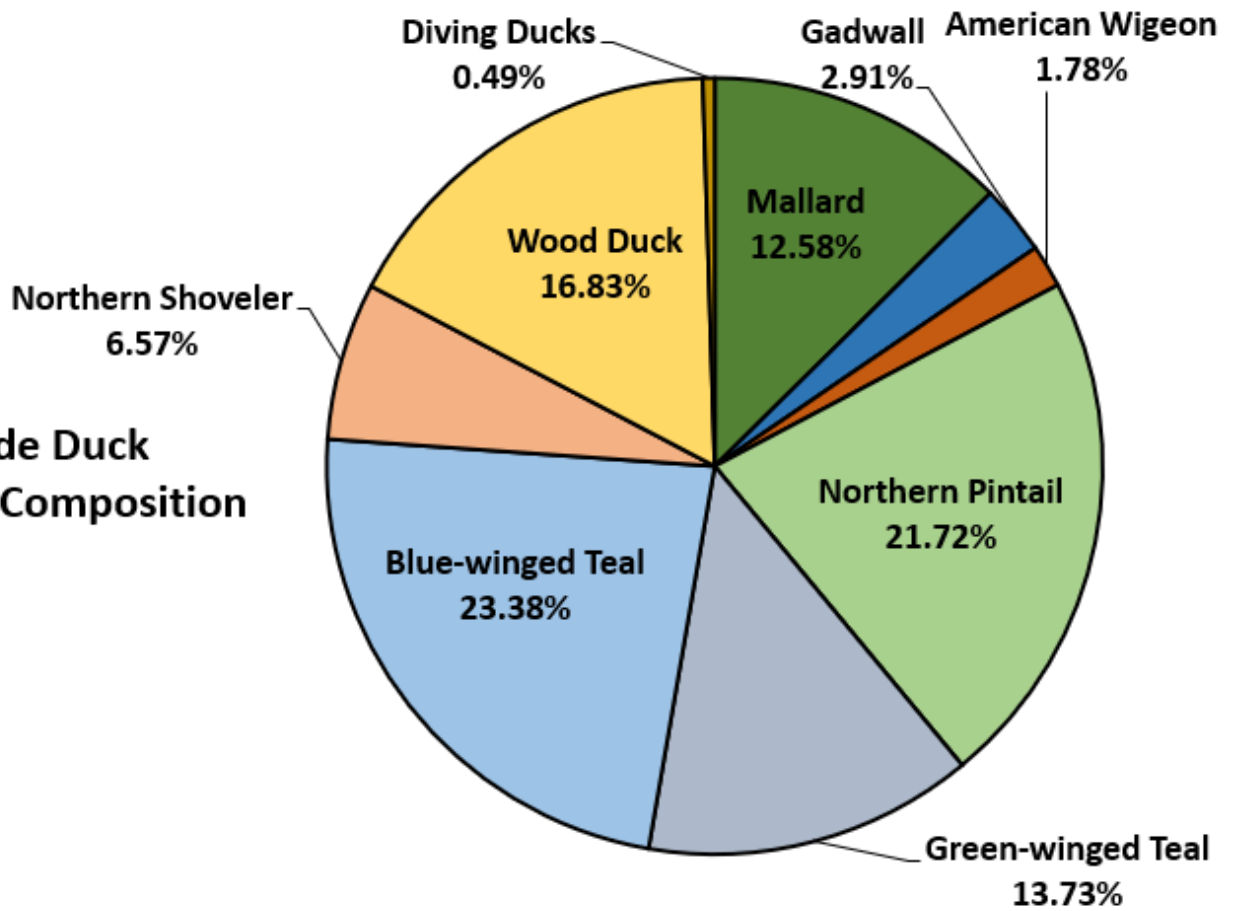
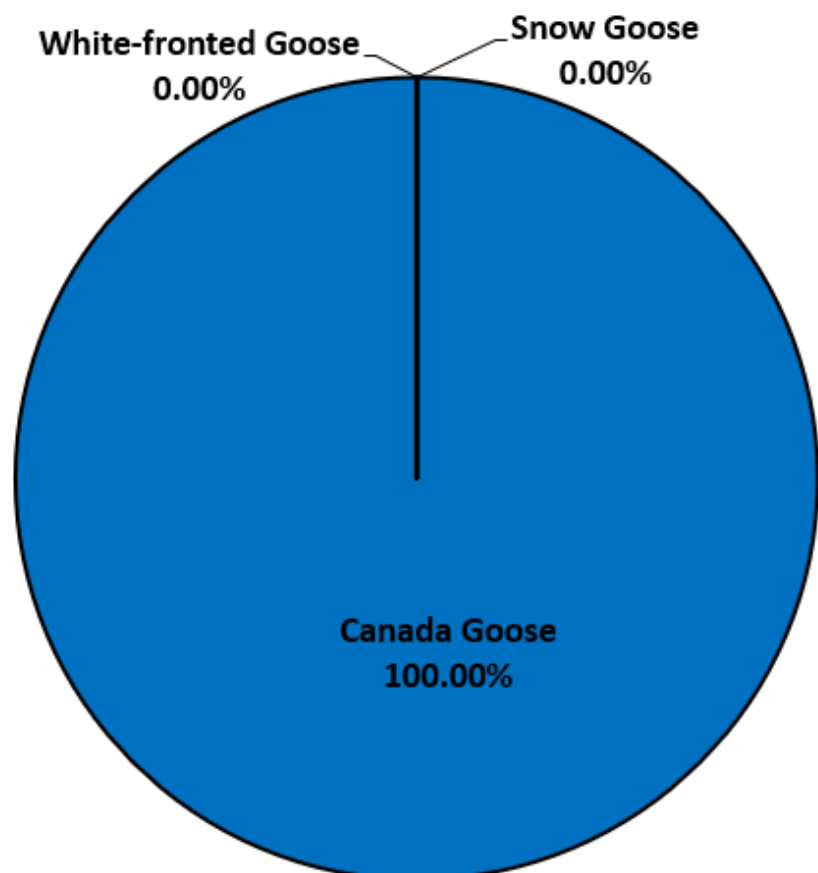


Figure 2. The number of Canada geese surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

**Statewide Duck
Species Composition**



**Statewide Goose
Species Composition**



Fall Migration Waterfowl Survey

Week Ending: October 16, 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	--	--	--	--	425	--	--
Big Marsh	2075	1159	14	86	0	20	50	100	0
Black Hawk Areas	1720	1870	20	78	2	570	570	100	0
Coralville Areas	3225	1925	16	84	0	125	0	100	0
Green Island	2900	3800	14	84	2	500	500	100	0
Ingham Areas	195	365	77	23	0	895	480	100	0
Lake Odessa Areas	270	605	19	81	0	525	700	100	0
Lake Sugema	195	250	0	100	0	100	165	100	0
Missouri River Oxbows	5187	1587	17	83	0	2899	998	100	0
Otter Creek	441	560	18	82	0	5	35	100	0
Princeton	475	465	11	89	0	0	0	--	--
Rathbun Areas	4855	4015	11	89	0	975	900	100	0
Red Rock	5000	4300	7	93	0	500	500	100	0
Rice Lake Areas	1925	2465	35	63	2	1610	1060	100	0
Riverton/Forney	10645	9495	4	96	0	60	90	100	0
Ruthven Areas	395	890	19	81	0	30	95	100	0
Saylorville Areas	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Spirit Lake Areas	1250	514	35	60	5	348	366	100	0
Sweet Marsh	2255	1997	7	93	0	800	800	100	0
Union County Areas	197	238	13	87	0	2	80	100	0
Total	43205	37780	13	87	0	9964	7814	100	0

Species	% Change in count from Previous Week
Canada Goose	+27.5
Greater White-fronted Goose	--
Snow Goose	--
Mallard	+4.8
Gadwall	0
American Wigeon	+151.3
Northern Pintail	+27.0
Green-winged Teal	+159.1
Blue-winged Teal	-16.9
Northern Shoveler	+32.4
Wood Duck	+5.3
Diving Ducks	+47.9