

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WATERFOWL SURVEY
October 23, 2026

The statewide duck count increased by 6.2% and the Canada goose count increased by 8.4% from last week. Northern pintail were the most abundant duck followed by mallard and green-winged teal. At a statewide scale, observers counted 8.6% more ducks and 35.1% 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.

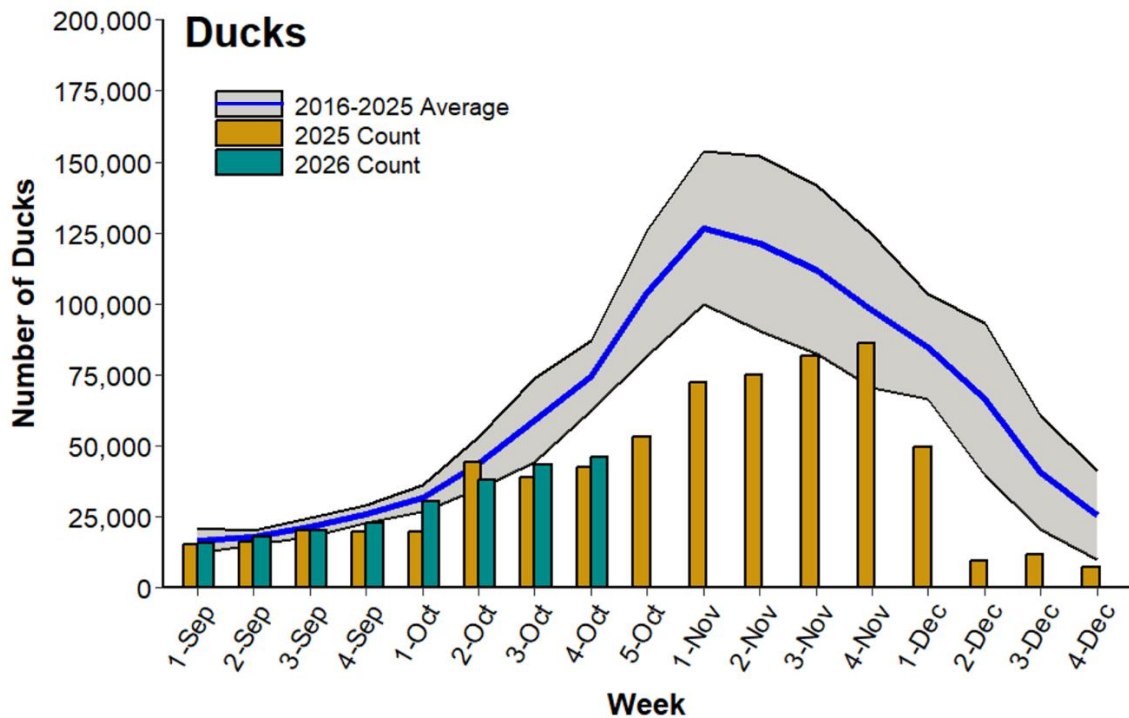


Figure 1. The number of ducks surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

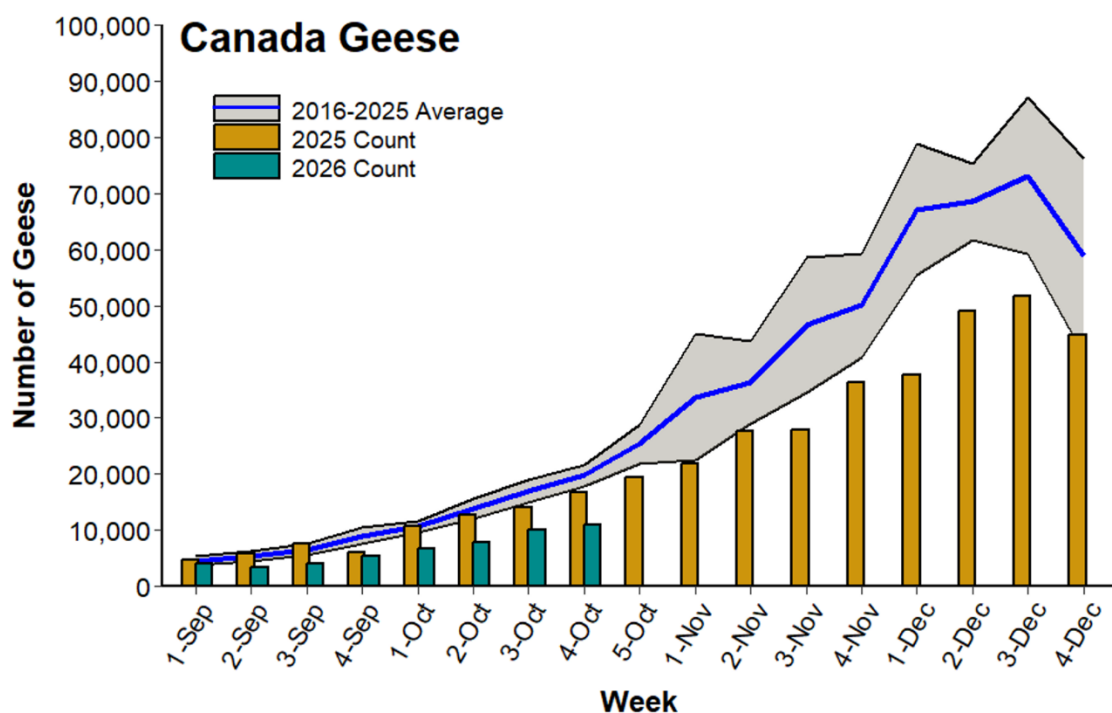
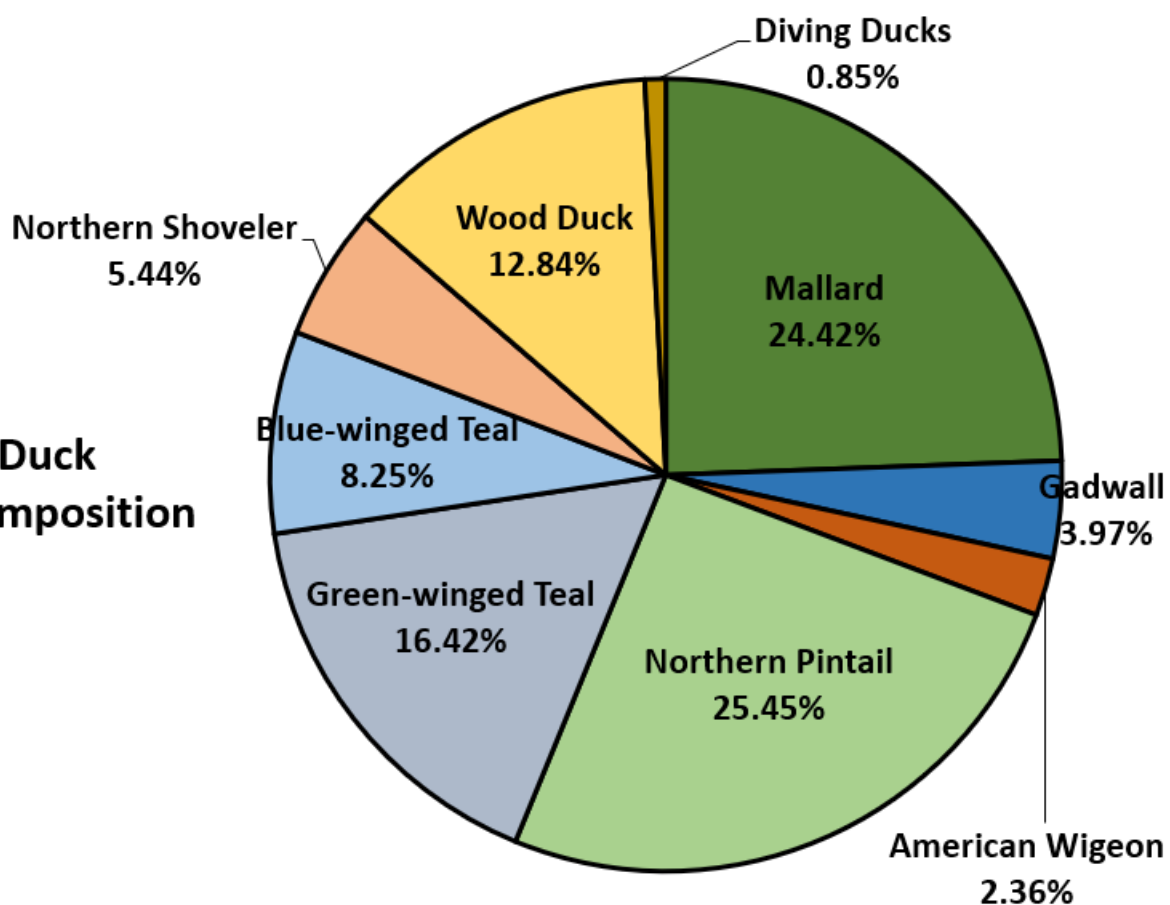
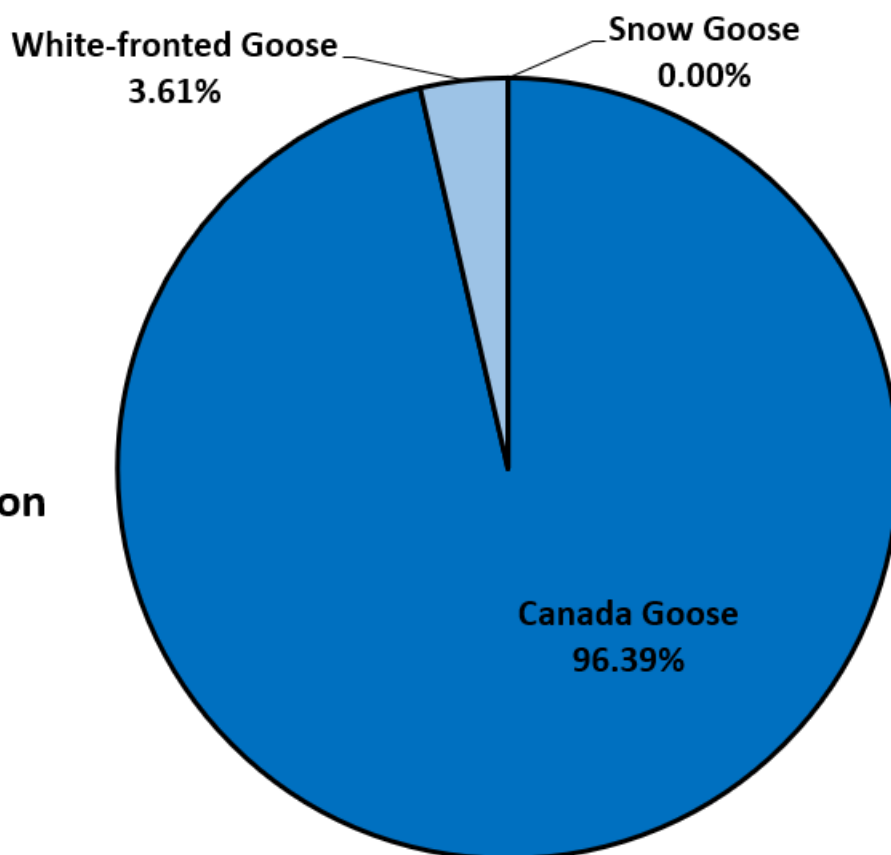


Figure 2. The number of Canada geese surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

**Statewide Duck
Species Composition**



**Statewide Goose
Species Composition**



Fall Migration Waterfowl Survey

Week Ending: October 23, 2026

Survey Area	Ducks					Geese			
	Abundance		Composition (%)			Abundance		Composition (%)	
	Total	Previous Week	Mallard	Other Dabblers	Divers	Total	Previous Week	Dark	Light
Bays Branch Areas	1335	--	17	83	0	1100	--	100	0
Big Marsh	2200	2075	23	77	0	30	20	100	0
Black Hawk Areas	1580	1720	20	76	3	605	570	100	0
Coralville Areas	3310	3225	21	79	0	0	125	--	--
Green Island	9153	2900	44	56	1	750	500	100	0
Ingham Areas	193	195	34	62	4	655	895	100	0
Lake Odessa Areas	525	270	4	96	0	505	525	100	0
Lake Sugema	260	195	13	87	0	200	100	100	0
Missouri River Oxbows	3342	5187	69	31	0	2720	2899	100	0
Otter Creek	1250	441	16	83	1	6	5	100	0
Princeton	1225	475	12	88	0	0	0	--	--
Rathbun Areas	4060	4855	12	88	0	870	975	100	0
Red Rock	7000	5000	11	86	3	450	500	100	0
Rice Lake Areas	2689	1925	42	56	2	2261	1610	100	0
Riverton/Forney	5410	10645	2	98	0	120	60	100	0
Ruthven Areas	450	395	23	77	0	100	30	100	0
Saylorville Areas	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Spirit Lake Areas	--	1250	--	--	--	--	348	--	--
Sweet Marsh	1770	2255	6	94	0	800	800	100	0
Union County Areas	143	197	11	89	0	38	2	100	0
Total	45895	43205	24	75	1	11210	9964	100	0

Species	% Change in count from Previous Week
Canada Goose	+8.4
Greater White-fronted Goose	--
Snow Goose	--
Mallard	+106.2
Gadwall	+44.9
American Wigeon	+40.7
Northern Pintail	+24.4
Green-winged Teal	+27.0
Blue-winged Teal	-62.5
Northern Shoveler	-12.0
Wood Duck	-19.0
Diving Ducks	+83.6