IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WATERFOWL SURVEY

October 30, 2026

The statewide duck count increased by 50.6% and the Canada goose count increased by 11.1% from last week. Northern pintail were the most abundant duck followed by green-winged teal and mallard. At a statewide scale, observers counted 30.9% more ducks and 38.0% 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.

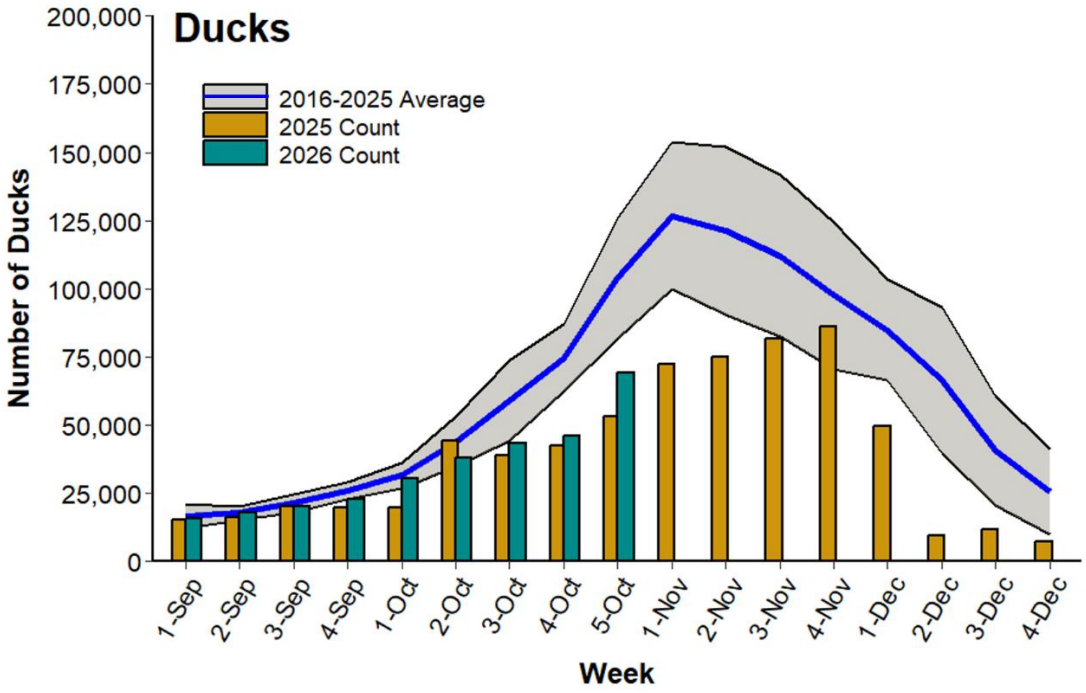


Figure 1. The number of ducks surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

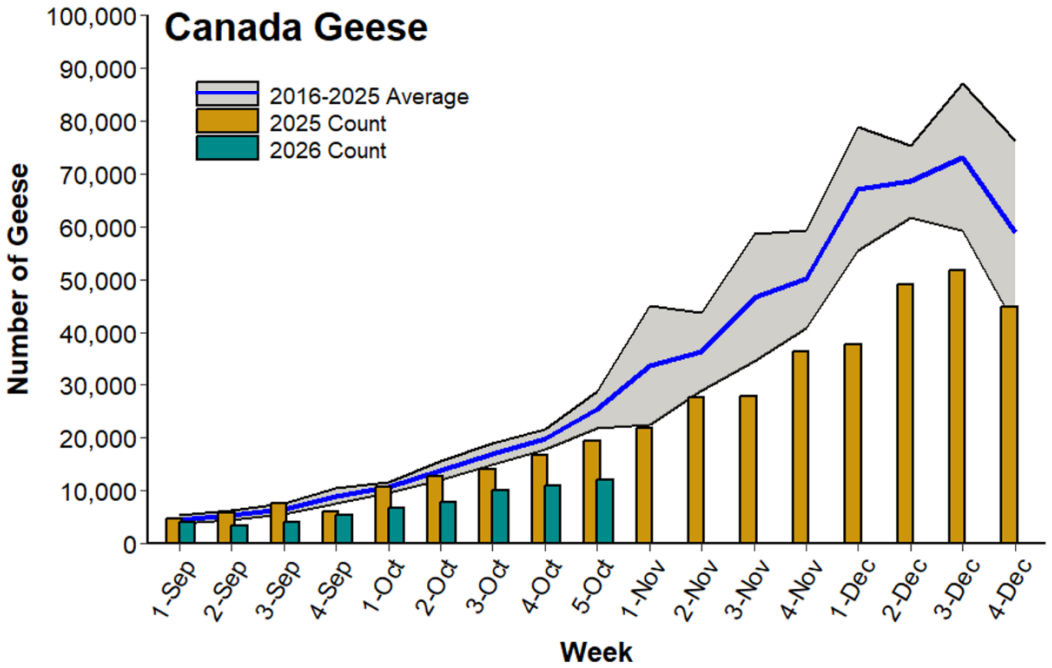


Figure 2. The number of Canada geese surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).

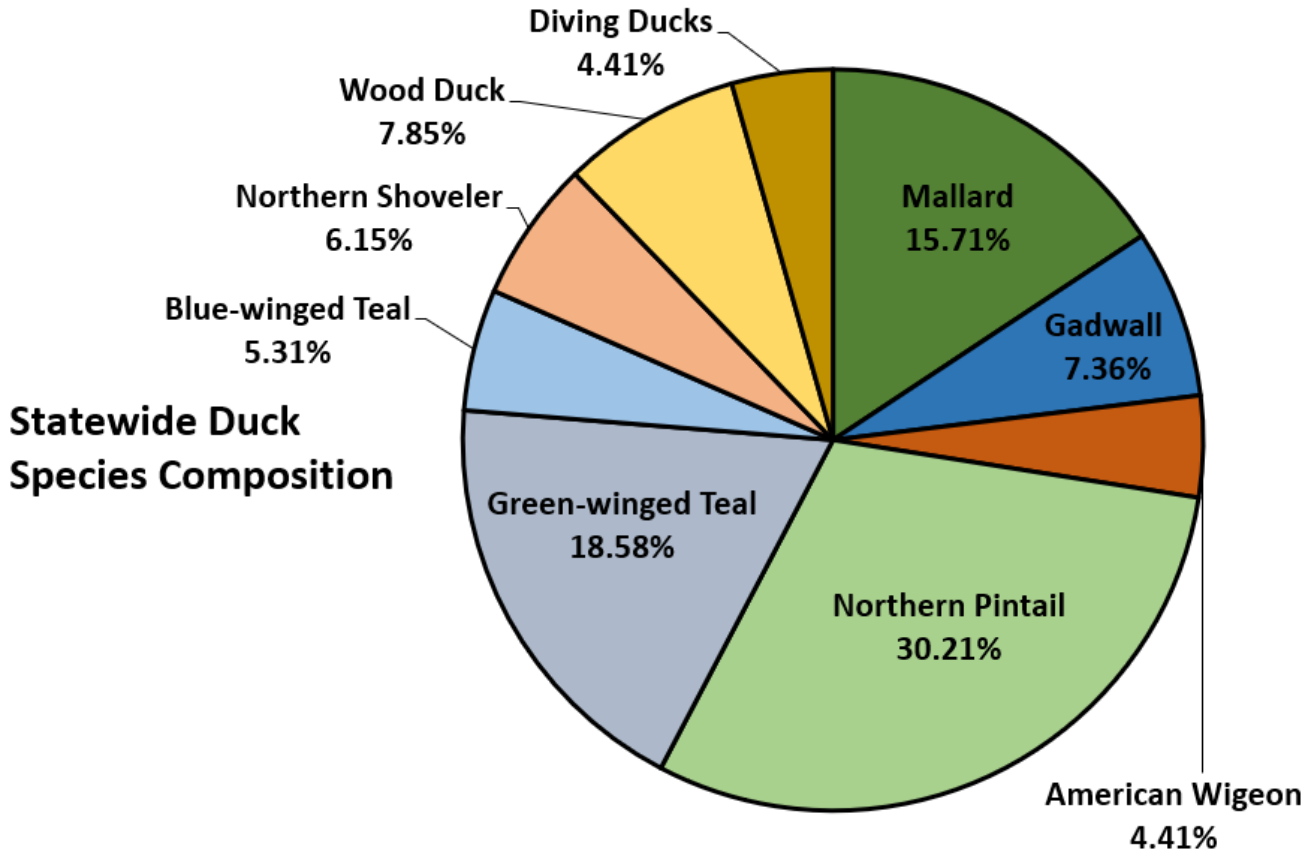


Figure 3. Statewide Duck Species Composition

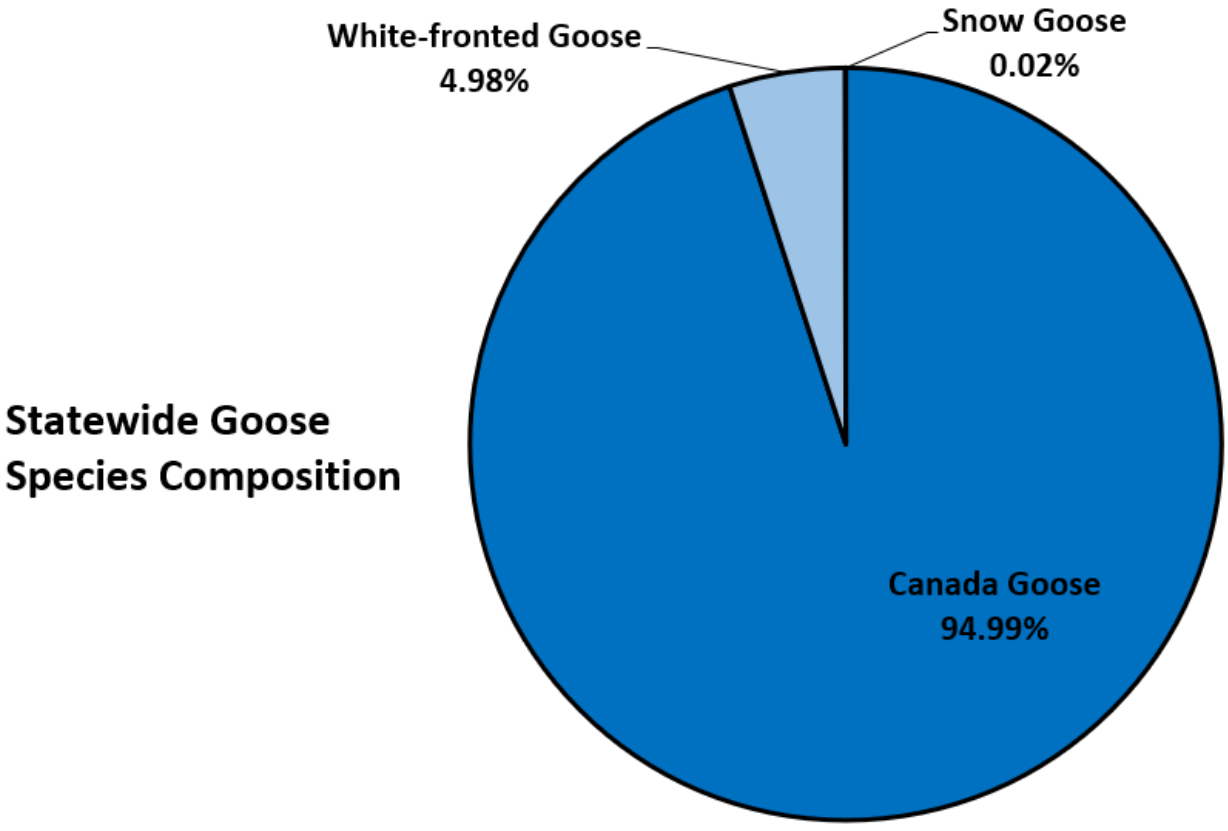


Figure 4. Statewide Goose Species Composition

Fall Migration Waterfowl Survey

Week Ending: October 30, 2026

Survey Area	Ducks					Geese			
	Abundance		Composition (%)			Abundance		Composition (%)	
	Total	Previous Week	Mallard	Other Dabblers	Divers	Total	Previous Week	Dark	Light
Bays Branch Areas	3285	1335	16	84	1	900	1100	100	0
Big Marsh	2090	2200	36	63	1	100	30	100	0
Black Hawk Areas	1900	1580	20	74	6	705	605	100	0
Coralville Areas	4400	3310	16	84	0	50	0	100	0
Grand River Areas	138	143	0	60	40	22	38	100	0
Green Island	3709	9153	27	72	1	1001	750	100	0
Ingham Areas	380	193	68	32	0	1220	655	100	0
Lake Odessa Areas	3596	525	17	83	1	550	505	100	0
Lake Sugema Areas	346	260	32	65	3	120	200	100	0
Missouri River Oxbows	2811	3342	29	67	4	1825	2720	100	0
Otter Creek	1820	1250	13	86	1	250	6	100	0
Princeton	1025	1225	15	85	0	0	0	--	--
Rathbun Areas	8775	4060	15	83	2	1175	870	100	0
Red Rock	12450	7000	8	86	6	450	450	100	0
Rice Lake/Clear Lake	4957	2689	35	51	14	2750	2261	100	0
Riverton/Fremont Co.	11635	5410	4	96	0	95	120	100	0
Ruthven Areas	300	450	28	72	0	25	100	100	0
Saylorville Areas	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Spirit Lake Areas	1616	--	33	53	14	401	--	100	0
Sweet Marsh	3900	1770	6	72	21	1000	800	100	0
Total	**69133**	**45895**	**16**	**80**	**4**	**12639**	**11210**	**100**	**0**

Species	% Change in count from Previous Week
Canada Goose	+11.1
Greater White-fronted Goose	+55.6
Snow Goose	--
Mallard	-3.1
Gadwall	+179.3
American Wigeon	+182.1
Northern Pintail	+78.8
Green-winged Teal	+70.5
Blue-winged Teal	-3.0
Northern Shoveler	+70.2
Wood Duck	-7.9
Diving Ducks	+680.1

Migration Survey Areas

