**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

# WATERFOWL SURVEY

**November 6, 2026**

The statewide duck count increased by 20.3% and the Canada goose count decreased by 9.7% from last week. Northern pintail were the most abundant duck followed by green-winged teal and mallard. At a statewide scale, observers counted 15.1% more ducks and 50.2% 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.

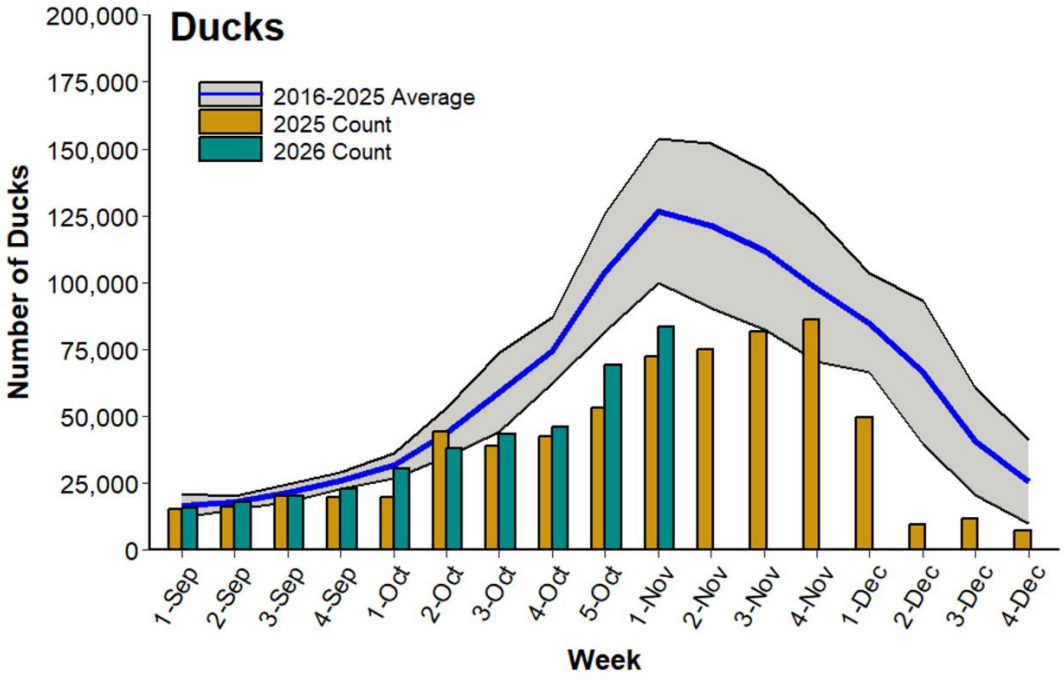



**Figure 1. The number of ducks surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).**

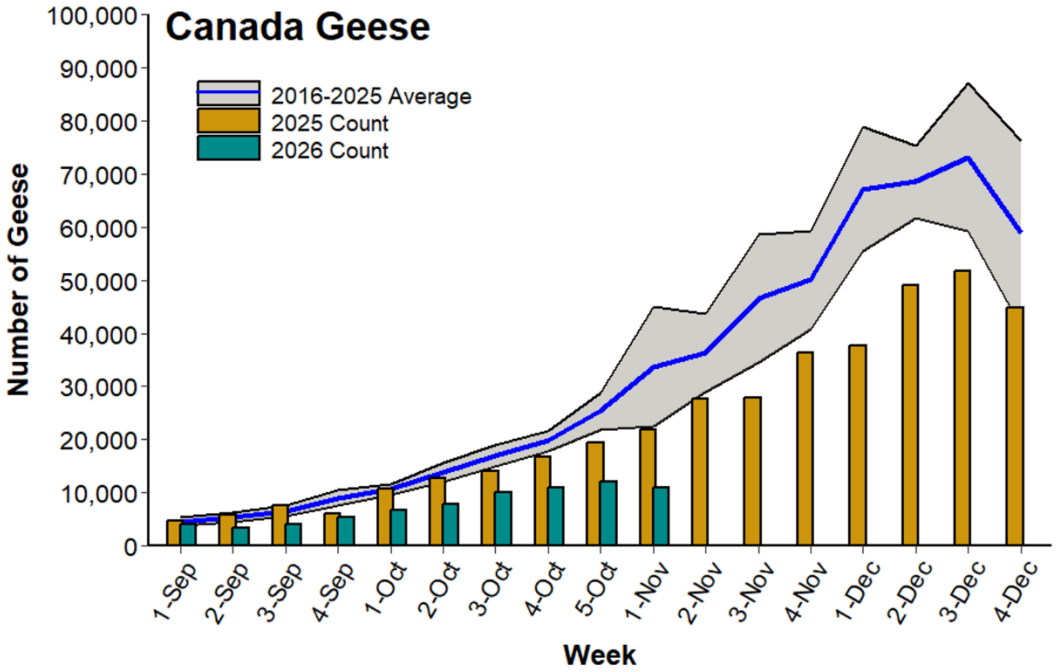



**Figure 2. The number of Canada geese surveyed in 2026 (turquoise bars) and 2025 (gold bars) compared to the 2016-2025 average (blue line).**

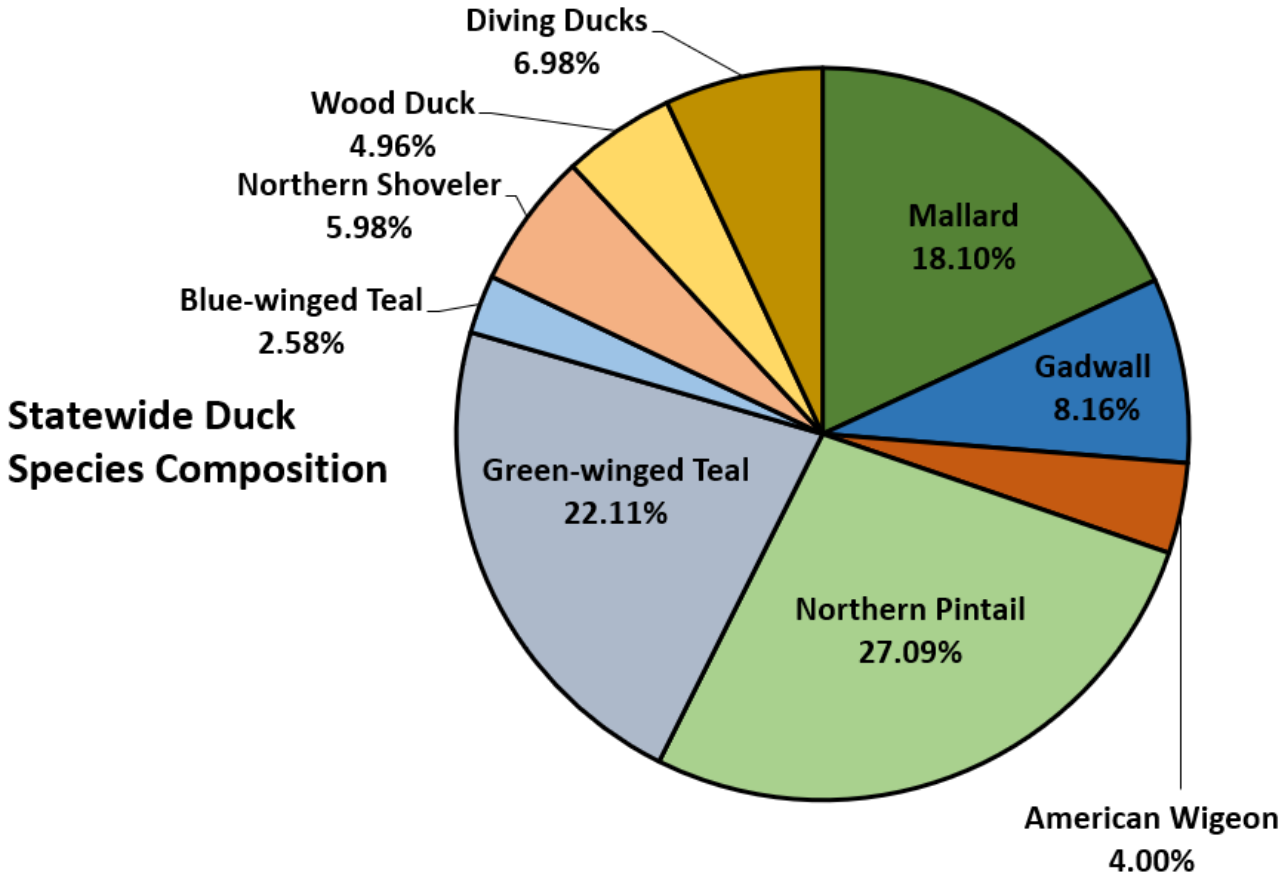



**Figure 3. Statewide Duck Species Composition**

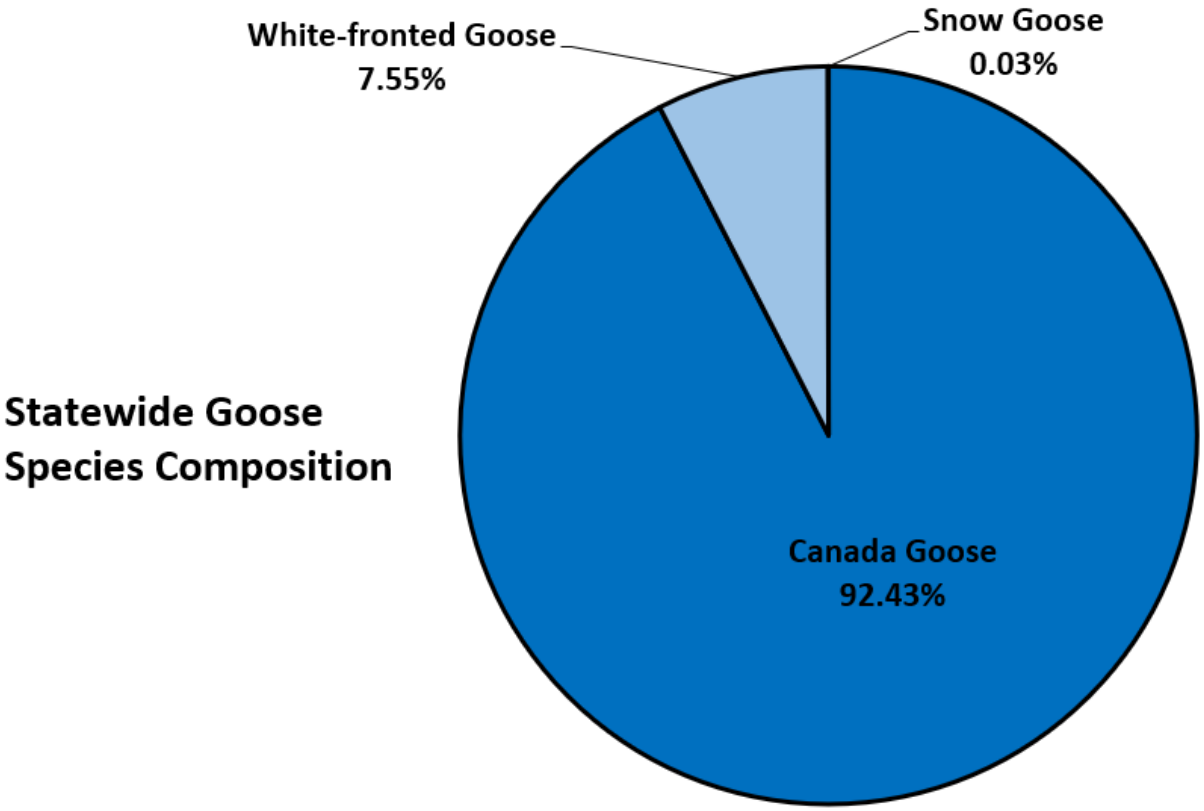



**Figure 4. Statewide Goose Species Composition**

## Fall Migration Waterfowl Survey

Week Ending: November 6, 2026

| Survey Area | Ducks | | | | | Geese | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Abundance | | Composition (%) | | | Abundance | | Composition (%) | |
| | Total | Previous Week | Mallard | Other Dabblers | Divers | Total | Previous Week | Dark | Light |
| Bays Branch Areas | 3291 | 3285 | 19 | 81 | 0 | 725 | 900 | 100 | 0 |
| Big Marsh | 3140 | 2090 | 32 | 68 | 0 | 25 | 100 | 100 | 0 |
| Black Hawk Areas | 1975 | 1900 | 22 | 72 | 6 | 805 | 705 | 100 | 0 |
| Coralville Areas | 5511 | 4400 | 20 | 78 | 2 | 0 | 50 | -- | -- |
| Grand River Areas | 73 | 138 | 0 | 52 | 48 | 0 | 22 | -- | -- |
| Green Island | 4754 | 3709 | 42 | 58 | 0 | 1250 | 1001 | 100 | 0 |
| Ingham Areas | 205 | 380 | 54 | 46 | 0 | 20 | 1220 | 100 | 0 |
| Lake Odessa Areas | 4520 | 3596 | 22 | 78 | 0 | 690 | 550 | 100 | 0 |
| Lake Sugema Areas | 130 | 346 | 31 | 69 | 0 | 20 | 120 | 100 | 0 |
| Missouri River Oxbows | 4482 | 2811 | 24 | 73 | 4 | 2090 | 1825 | 100 | 0 |
| Otter Creek | 1310 | 1820 | 23 | 77 | 0 | 50 | 250 | 100 | 0 |
| Princeton | 1025 | 1025 | 24 | 76 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -- | -- |
| Rathbun Areas | 9760 | 8775 | 15 | 79 | 5 | 1270 | 1175 | 100 | 0 |
| Red Rock | 12900 | 12450 | 12 | 78 | 10 | 500 | 450 | 100 | 0 |
| Rice Lake/Clear Lake | 5018 | 4957 | 32 | 45 | 23 | 2658 | 2750 | 100 | 0 |
| Riverton/Fremont Co. | 16895 | 11635 | 6 | 88 | 6 | 80 | 95 | 100 | 0 |
| Ruthven Areas | 390 | 300 | 62 | 38 | 0 | 0 | 25 | -- | -- |
| Saylorville Areas | 4300 | -- | 17 | 65 | 17 | 150 | -- | 100 | 0 |
| Spirit Lake Areas | 240 | 1616 | 50 | 25 | 25 | 142 | 401 | 100 | 0 |
| Sweet Marsh | 3260 | 3900 | 12 | 72 | 16 | 1250 | 1000 | 100 | 0 |
| **Total** | **83179** | **69133** | **18** | **75** | **7** | **11725** | **12639** | **100** | **0** |

| Species | % Change in count from Previous Week |
|---|---|
| Canada Goose | -9.7 |
| Greater White-fronted Goose | +40.5 |
| Snow Goose | 0.0 |
| Mallard | +38.6 |
| Gadwall | +33.5 |
| American Wigeon | +9.1 |
| Northern Pintail | +7.9 |
| Green-winged Teal | +43.2 |
| Blue-winged Teal | -41.4 |
| Northern Shoveler | +17.1 |
| Wood Duck | -23.9 |
| Diving Ducks | +90.5 |

# Migration Survey Areas

