DUCKS UNLIMITED

New England

2025 STATE REPORT

WELLS HARBOR THIN LAYER PLACEMENT MAINE

The Wells Harbor Thin Layer Placement Project at Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is DU's most pressing project in New England. The goal is to implement Maine's first beneficial use of dredge sediment placement. This work will ultimately develop the blueprint for a promising practice to increase marsh elevation in the Gulf of Maine, which is being lost due to rising sea levels. Located within the Webhannet River Estuary, the second-largest salt marsh in Maine, this area is designated as a Statewide Area of Ecological Significance, Significant Wildlife Habitat, Important Tidal Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat, and shorebird staging and foraging area. It is also home to the Saltmarsh Sparrow, a candidate for the federal endangered species listing.

Thin-layer sediment placement and restoration of marsh hydrology will serve as a model for restoring Saltmarsh and Nelson's Sparrow habitat. The first phase (completed in fall 2024) prepped the marsh for sediment placement, using a suite of low-cost, nature-based restoration techniques. Phase II (completed by Spring 2025) will use clean sediment from Wells Harbor to increase the elevation of 2 acres of degraded salt marsh by 3 to 6 inches.

RISING SEAS THREATEN SCARBOROUGH MARSH MAINE

At Scarborough Marsh, Maine's largest salt marsh, DU is developing a pipeline of low-cost, low-tech restoration projects that repair the impacts of past agricultural practices and infrastructure failures that have caused the marsh to sink. Restoring natural hydrological functions is vital to the marsh's health. Scientific data will guide the design of tidal road crossings around the marsh, prioritizing public access while balancing habitat conservation in a landscape threatened by sea-level rise. The initiative will establish a collaborative multi-agency model for Maine's large-scale, climate-resilient conservation efforts.

The population in the Town of Scarborough has increased 17% from 2010 to 2020. This growth, coupled with frequent tidal flooding, has profoundly impacted the region's infrastructure and ecological systems. Scarborough Marsh acts as a buffer, protecting residential homes and commercial businesses from flooding during storm surges.

HAMMOCK RIVER MARSH UPDATE CONNECTICUT

Construction will begin this spring on an innovative bridge and tidal gate project that will improve the management of water entering a 185-acre salt marsh from the Hammock River. The bridge and gates will take around 18 months to complete. Once finished, water can drain from the marsh more rapidly, improving habitat for nesting birds. DU and its partners also completed a comprehensive study of birds within the marsh, monitoring 76 tidal marsh bird nests (saltmarsh sparrow, seaside sparrow, clapper rail, Virginia rail, willet, mallard, and black duck), with 51% of nests fledging young.

RESTORING CENTURY BOG AND RED BROOK STREAM MASSACHUSETTS

Since its acquisition in 2010, the 245-acre Century Bog has been a restoration priority of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The Division and other organizations have worked to restore habitat along Red Brook, a cold-water stream in East Wareham that supports multiple anadromous fish species (fish that spend part of their lives in the ocean and freshwater rivers and streams). Analysis by Massachusetts Audubon and partners shows at least 56 Species of Greatest Conservation Need benefit from efforts to restore streams, wetlands, riparian zones, and uplands at the sites of abandoned cranberry bogs in southeastern Massachusetts. This project includes the restoration of 48 acres of wetlands, renaturalizing (creating bends) ±6,900 linear feet of stream, revegetation to enhance shading, removing four impediments to fish passage, restoring 47 acres of upland pine barrens within the former cranberry bog, and reconnecting the soil surface with groundwater so that native habitats can thrive.

CONNECTICUT 2025 State Report

MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 2,349
Members: 2,240
General Members: 2,030
Greenwings: 50
Legacy Greenwing Members: 8
Sponsor Members: 152
Major Sponsors: 109
Feather Society Members: 13

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised: $496,468
Number of committees: 12
Number of fundraising events: 25
Local chapter volunteers: 114

FY24 FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: $125,254.00

Location of projects: Quebec: St. Lawrence Islands

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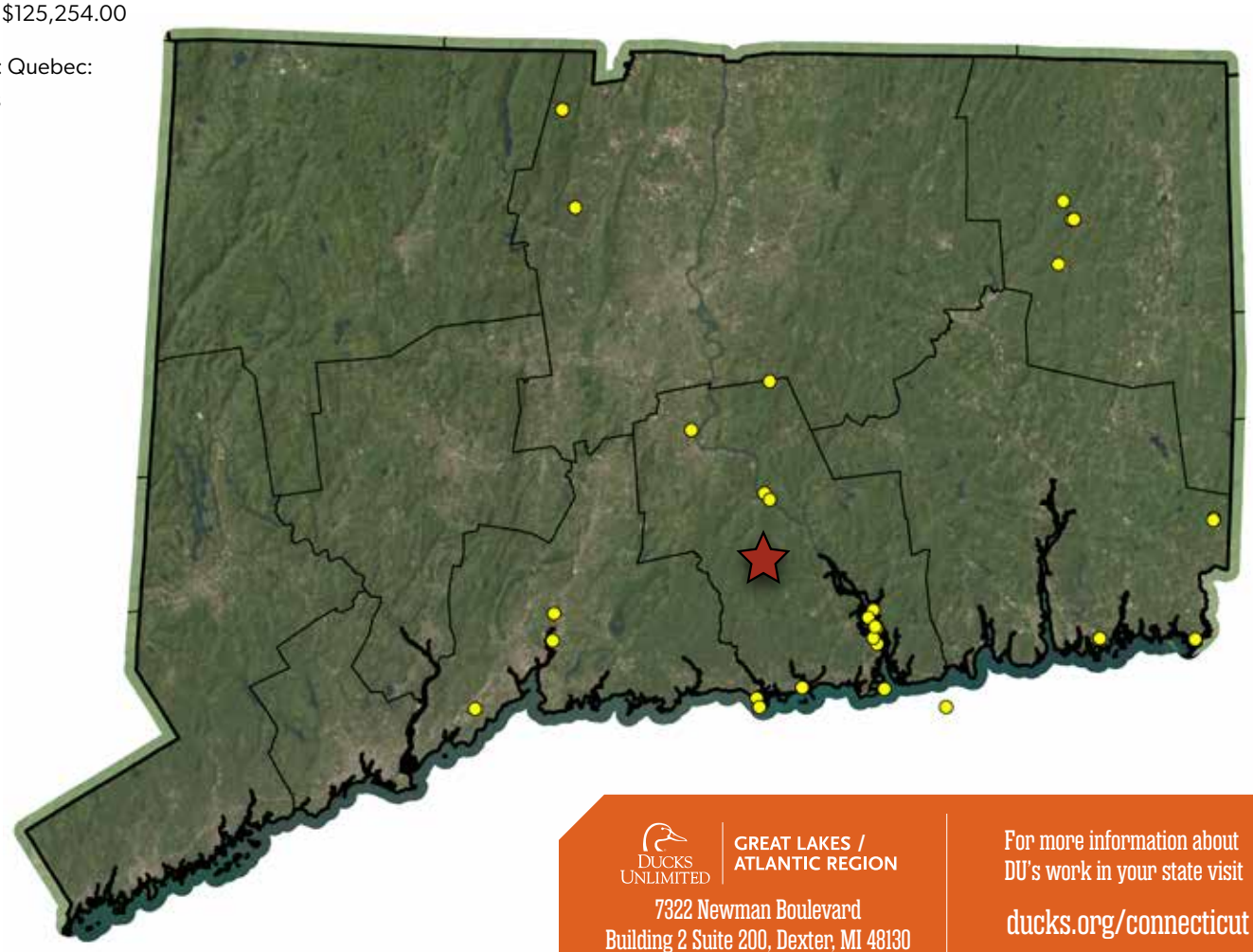
US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (*historically since FY1984*): **1,612**

Amount spent on projects in the state: **$2,069,630**

Amount spent on projects in ATL Flyway (*through FY24*): **$309,257,281**



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For more information about DU's work in your state visit
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