



### ★ PATOKA RIVER NWR PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS

**D**uring 2024, DU acquired two tracts (40 acres and 73 acres), to add to Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Both properties border the Refuge and are within the floodplain of the Patoka River; one includes frontage on the river itself. These properties protect existing habitats and restorable bottomlands for federally and state threatened and endangered species, waterfowl, other migratory birds, and native fish. Following the transfer of these properties to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife (USFWS), land protection will expand and enhance public recreation opportunities.



### ★ KANKAKEE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION

**In** 2023, DU purchased a 267-acre tract along the Kankakee River in Starke County. The property is adjacent to Kankakee Fish & Wildlife Area (FWA), adding to 4,200 acres of already protected floodplain forests, emergent and riverine wetlands, native prairie, and grassland habitats. Kankakee FWA provides nesting and brood-rearing habitat for breeding ducks and is a critical stopover for migratory waterfowl. DU transferred ownership of the property to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in March 2024. The IDNR will manage the site as part of Kankakee FWA, open to public hunting, birdwatching, fishing, and other recreational opportunities.



### ★ CRANE HABITAT AT JASPER-PULASKI FWA

**J**asper-Pulaski FWA, located in northwestern Indiana, spans over 8,000 acres encompassing diverse habitats, including wetlands, prairies, and woodlands, which provide essential stopover and wintering habitat for thousands of migratory birds. Central to the area is Crane Pasture, a special management area with a significant population of sandhill cranes each year. The IDNR's ability to manipulate water levels has been limited by degraded structures in the drainage ditches, relying primarily on sporadic sheet water following heavy rainfall. Using a combination of state funding and proceeds from DU's specialty license plates, the partnership completed the first of two improvements, installing a structure to aid in the capture of water to flood 75 acres in Sept. 2024. Plans to improve the management of an additional 26 acres in the Crane Pasture are underway.



### COVER CROP PROGRAM UPDATE

**T**hanks to DU's partnership with Archer-Daniels-Midland (ADM), Indiana has over 430 producers participating in cover crop implementation. In 2024, nearly 325,000 acres have been enrolled in the cover crop program statewide. Additionally, there were 171 producers that enrolled 44,000 acres of winter wheat. DU works with private landowners to enroll acres into cover crop contracts. In return, landowners receive a \$10 to \$25 per acre incentive payment. Cover crops are a crucial conservation tool that benefits soil health, slows erosion, sequesters carbon, reduces atmospheric greenhouse gases, and provides cleaner water by filtering nutrients from run-off.



### PRIVATE LANDS PARTNERSHIPS

**In** 2024, DU continued its partnership with the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife program (PFW) to restore 119 acres of private land across Indiana. These wetland and grassland conservation efforts were possible thanks to funding from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (GLFWRA), and a cooperative agreement with PFW. Many of these projects focus on agricultural fields. By restoring small, shallow wetlands that may have historically been drained, these areas provide new habitat for waterfowl, particularly Great Lakes mallards.



# Indiana 2025 State Report

## MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 16,390

**Members: 15,896**

General Members:

Greenwings: 672

Legacy Greenwing Members: 278

Sponsor Members: 896

**Major Sponsors: 494**

**Feather Society Members: 133**

## STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised:

\$1,971,947

Number of committees: 49

Number of fundraising events: 153

Local chapter volunteers: 937

## FY24 FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions:

\$1,454,598.23

Location of projects: Ontario: Wye

Marsh, Saskatchewan, Manitoba,

Southwestern Ontario Wetlands,

Southern Ontario Habitat

Initiative.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Steve Hubacher

State Chairman

(503) 475-1738

[whiteriverdu@gmail.com](mailto:whiteriverdu@gmail.com)

## For Info on DU Events:

Josh Hall

Regional Director – North IN

(641) 530-2905

[jhall@ducks.org](mailto:jhall@ducks.org)

Wyatt Lucas

Regional Director – South IN

(765) 652-3094

[wlucas@ducks.org](mailto:wlucas@ducks.org)

Jim King

Director of Fundraising

& Volunteer Relations

(217) 553-1463

[jking@ducks.org](mailto:jking@ducks.org)

## For Info on Becoming a Major Sponsor:

James Roberts

Managing Director

of Development

(678) 907-4979

[jroberts@ducks.org](mailto:jroberts@ducks.org)

Jason Kern

Director of Development

(678) 674-8907

[jkern@ducks.org](mailto:jkern@ducks.org)

## For Info on DU's Gift Planning Program:

Sarah McCallum

Senior Director of Gift Planning

(734) 623-2000

[smccallum@ducks.org](mailto:smccallum@ducks.org)

## For Info on Indiana's Conservation Programs:

Jena Herrick

Manager of

Conservation Programs

(815) 878-8844

[jherrick@ducks.org](mailto:jherrick@ducks.org)

Dane Cramer

Regional Biologist

(734) 646-7896

[dcramer@ducks.org](mailto:dcramer@ducks.org)

Hunter Mentges

Biologist

(618) 929-4883

[hmentges@ducks.org](mailto:hmentges@ducks.org)

Monica Pohlar

Regional Agronomist

(815) 760-1895

[mpohlar@ducks.org](mailto:mpohlar@ducks.org)



## US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in  
the state (*historically since  
FY1984*): **32,287**

Total Acres of Conservation in  
the state (*FY2024*): **219,631**

Amount spent on projects in  
the state: **\$19,677,166**

Amount spent on projects in  
MS Flyway (*through FY24*):  
**\$794,952,058**



GREAT LAKES /  
ATLANTIC REGION

7322 Newman Boulevard  
Building 2 Suite 200, Dexter, MI 48130

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

[ducks.org/indiana](https://ducks.org/indiana)

