



ALABAMA

2026 STATE REPORT AND FACT SHEET



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: DAVID PATTON'S 21-YEAR COMMITMENT TO DUCKS UNLIMITED

For more than two decades, David Patton has helped advance wetland conservation across the country as a dedicated Ducks Unlimited volunteer. Since becoming a DU member in 2005, he has served in chapters from California to Virginia, Colorado, and Alabama, building relationships, supporting events, and helping carry DU's mission forward at every stop.

Patton's DU story began with event volunteer work and continued to grow as he took on leadership roles in multiple states. In Monterey, California, he served as Area Co-Chairman before later becoming Area Chairman for the Scotch and Cigar Chapter in Birmingham, Alabama. His leadership continued in Birmingham as District Chairman, and he now serves as Alabama State Public Policy Chairman.

That progression reflects a long-standing commitment not only to DU's fundraising and event success, but also to strengthening the volunteer network that makes the organization's conservation work possible.

Like many DU volunteers, he knows that meaningful conservation work requires time, planning, and people willing to step forward. Carving out time for planning meetings can be challenging, and recruiting new volunteers who want to grow within the organization remains an ongoing priority.

When asked about his favorite part of being involved with DU, he pointed to three things: feeling valued as a volunteer, seeing time and dollars translate into real conservation results on the ground, and being surrounded by great people across North America who share the same values.

For him, DU's impact is clear. The organization converts private support into meaningful habitat work through partnerships with landowners, businesses, and local, state, and federal agencies. That collaborative approach helps protect and conserve the wetlands that waterfowl and countless other wildlife species depend on.

He is quick to note that while DU was formed by waterfowl hunters, it is not a hunt club. At its core, DU's mission is about ensuring future generations can enjoy the wildlife and habitats that depend on healthy wetlands.

Patton's example reflects the heart of Ducks Unlimited: volunteers giving their time, leadership, and passion to conserve wetlands and preserve the waterfowl heritage for generations to come.



CONSERVATION IN ACTION ACROSS ALABAMA

Across Alabama, Ducks Unlimited's conservation mission is taking shape through practical, on-the-ground habitat improvements that benefit waterfowl, wildlife, and the people who value healthy wetlands. From Jackson County to Lowndes County, current projects are focused on improving water management, restoring shallow-water habitat, and strengthening the infrastructure needed to maintain productive wetlands over time.

At Big Coon Creek Special Opportunity Area in Jackson County, work is underway to develop shallow-water habitat impoundments that can provide valuable foraging and resting areas for migrating and wintering waterfowl. Similar work is occurring at Lowndes Wildlife Management Area, where aging water control structures are being replaced and woody vegetation is being removed from dikes on shallow-water impoundments to improve long-term habitat management.

Also in Jackson County, Raccoon Creek Wildlife Management Area is seeing important infrastructure improvements. Crews are replacing water control structures, removing woody vegetation from dikes, and dredging water intake and outfall ditches—work that will help managers move water more efficiently and maintain habitat conditions when waterfowl need them most.

At Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area's Greentree Reservoir, conservation partners are designing and installing a new water control structure to support more effective water management in one of Alabama's important public wetland systems.



**SOUTHERN
REGION**

ducks.org/alabama



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MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 9,531

Members: 9,251

General Members: 8,454

Greenwings: 304

Legacy Greenwings: 132

Sponsor Members: 361

Major Sponsors: 280

Feather Society Members: 43

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised: **\$1,850,249**

Number of committees: **45**

Number of fundraising events: **73**

Local chapter volunteers: **823**

FY25 FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: **\$2,220,116**

Location of projects: Southern Ontario Initiative (Oshawa Second Marsh, St. Luke's Purchase); Manitoba (historic) Initiative

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (historically since FY1984): **19,524**

Amount spent on projects in the state: **\$2,846,936**

Amount spent on projects in MS Flyway (through FY2025): **\$921,117,840**

Primary waterfowl species:

Mallard; Black Duck; Wood Duck; Ring-Necked Duck; Blue-Winged Teal; Canvasback and Redhead.

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Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

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● Completed Project(s)
.....
Note: Project points may represent more than one project.

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SOUTHERN REGION

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

ducks.org/alabama