



DELAWARE

2026 REPORT AND FACT SHEET



MIDLANDS AND BLACKISTON WMAS

Ducks Unlimited and Delaware Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) will take part in two wetland restoration projects in the upcoming year. Through funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), DU will collaborate with DNREC to restore approximately 45 acres of wetlands on two Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs): Blackiston and Midlands. The restoration will increase public opportunities for waterfowl hunting and wildlife viewing, representing one of many ongoing efforts to reduce non-point source pollution in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The partnership between DU and DNREC presents numerous opportunities and will be a major focus for DU in the coming year.

DELAWARE'S BOMBAY HOOK NWR

Considering the economic and ecological value of the wetlands at Delaware's Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, it is crucial to have the ecosystems functioning at their optimal level. Brackish water and tidal flow present numerous challenges to the staff at Bombay Hook, including increased storm flows and higher-energy wave events resulting from marsh loss. In April – May 2026, with grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), DU will repair five failing water control structures at Money Marsh: Sheariness, Bear Swamp, Finnis (north and south), and Raymond wetland pools. The structures will undergo repairs and replacements of tidal gates, flap structures, and gate boards to maintain optimal salinity and water levels, supporting the growth of diverse freshwater plants that provide essential habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl such as the American black duck. The repairs will also allow staff to manage these freshwater areas for shorebirds during the early spring and fall, as exposed mudflats will increase macroinvertebrate availability for foraging. Like freshwater plant communities, macroinvertebrates are also sensitive to changes in salinity levels. In its entirety, this project will restore a minimum of 270 acres.



TRAIL CAMERA FOOTAGE WILL MAXIMIZE BLACK DUCK HABITAT

Ducks Unlimited has partnered with the University of Delaware and the Black Duck Joint Venture (BDJV) on a study evaluating the response of wintering black ducks to habitat restoration and enhancement of freshwater wetlands. The project also includes the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Working Lands for Wildlife Black Duck Program, which aids landowners who voluntarily enroll their properties in conservation easements. The study will utilize footage from dozens of strategically placed trail cameras to monitor the use of Chesapeake Bay and Delmarva Peninsula marshes by black ducks. BDJV's \$223,000 grant, along with \$28,000 and \$35,000 contributions from the University of Delaware and DU, respectively, will enable researchers to deploy 100 Bluetooth-enabled trail cameras over two years, allowing wetlands in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and New Jersey to be monitored with minimal human disturbance. The study, which is expected to take three to four years to complete, will also incorporate ground surveys. Over the past decade, the BDJV has prioritized research on the wintering ecology of Atlantic Flyway black ducks.



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

ducks.org/delaware



MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 7,536
Members: 7,198
 General Members: 6,329
 Greenwings: 499
 Legacy Greenwings: 44
 Sponsor Members: 326
Major Sponsors: 338
Feather Society Members: 34

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised: **\$1,045,920**
 Number of committees: **20**
 Number of fundraising events: **60**
 Local chapter volunteers: **343**

FY25 FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: **\$1,978,913**

Location of projects: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Maritimes

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (historically since FY1984): **18,416**

Total Acres of Conservation in the state (FY2025): **1**

Amount spent on projects in the state: **\$6,972,234**

Amount spent on projects in ATL Flyway (through FY2025): **\$358,750,076**

Primary waterfowl species:

Wood Duck; Mallard; Black Duck; Canada and Lesser Snow Goose; Scaup; Gadwall; Redhead; Ring-Necked Duck; Goldeneye; Bufflehead and Ruddy Duck.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Keith Windsor
 DE State Chairman
 Keithw1104@gmail.com

For Information on DU Events:

Danielle Lester
 Regional Director
 (302) 535-2415
 dlester@ducks.org

Dan DeLawyer
 Director Fundraising & Volunteer Relations
 (607) 331-8695
 ddelawyer@ducks.org

For Information on becoming a Major Sponsor:

Jake McPherson
 Managing Director of Development
 (410) 690-7346
 jmcpherson@ducks.org

Taylor Deemer
 Director of Development
 (302) 245-4780
 tdeemer@ducks.org

For Information on DU's Gift Planning Program:

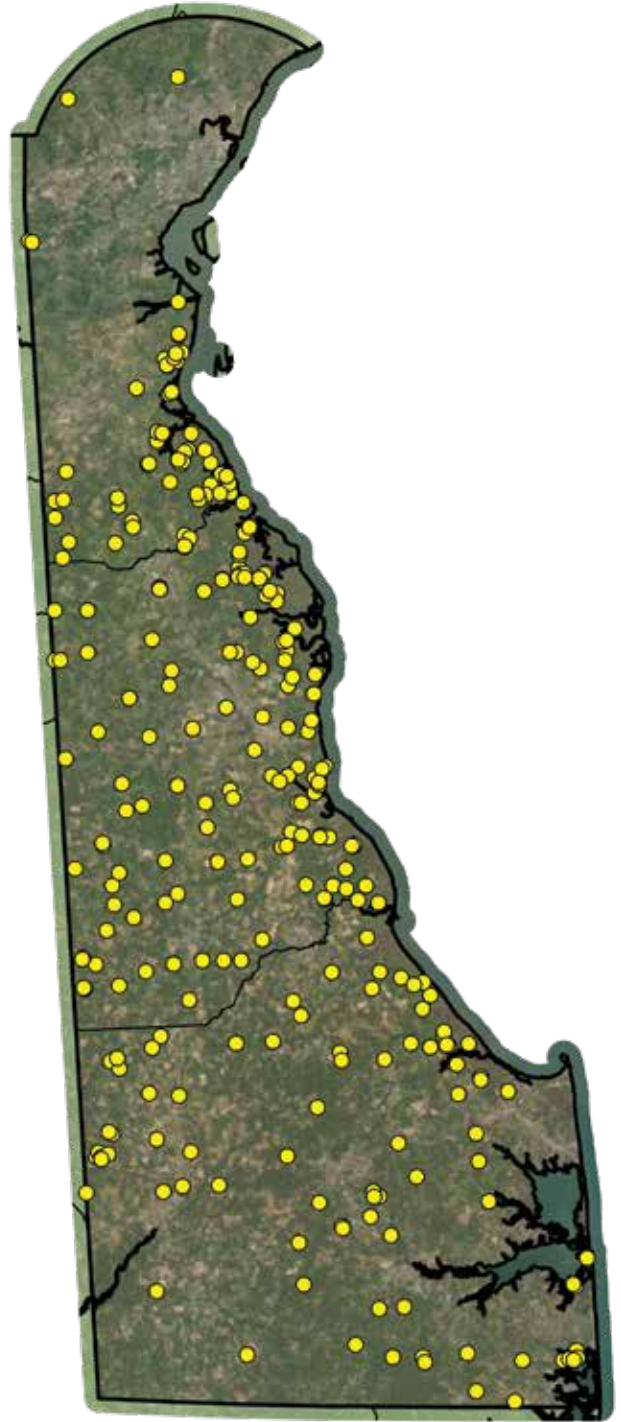
Wayne Roberts
 Director of Gift Planning
 (484) 553-7088
 wroberts@ducks.org

For Info on Delaware's Conservation Programs:

Amanda Hoyt
 Regional Biologist
 (443) 439-6593
 ahoyt@ducks.org

For Information on DU's Youth Engagement Programs:

Hayley Faith
 Youth Engagement Coordinator
 (609) 233-6760
 hfaith@ducks.org



Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

.....
 ● Completed Project(s)

Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



For a digital copy of this and other state reports, use your phone to scan the QR code.



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/delaware