



ILLINOIS

2026 STATE REPORT AND FACT SHEET



PHILLIPS 66 RENEWS COMMITMENT TO DUCKS UNLIMITED WITH A \$650,000 GRANT

Ducks Unlimited conservation partner Phillips 66 renewed its commitment to Ducks Unlimited with a \$650,000 grant to support wetland enhancement projects in Colorado, Texas, Louisiana, Illinois, and New Jersey. The Illinois project supported by the 2025 grant award include: The Banner Lakes State Wildlife Area Wetlands Enhancement Phase I Project to improve 154 acres of wetlands in Weld County, Colorado; The Texas Playa Conservation Initiative restoring playa lakes in the Texas Panhandle; The Louisiana Mottled Duck Project to restore habitat in southwest Louisiana; The Moore Odom Wildlife Foundation Levee Repairs Project in Cameron Parish, Louisiana; The Cattus Island County Park Restoration Project in New Jersey to enhance and protect 500 acres of coastal habitat and 67 miles of shoreline in northern Barnegat Bay; and The Horseshoe Lake State Park: Lower End Unit Project to enhance 286 acres of wetland habitat while addressing stormwater flooding near Pontoon Beach, Illinois.



FALL COVERS FOR SPRING SAVINGS

DU provided technical assistance and staff support for the Fall Covers for Spring Savings Program (FCSS) through a continued partnership with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, enrolling 140,000 acres across 91 counties. Under FCSS, DU staff work directly with landowners to implement cover crops and regenerative agriculture practices. FCSS enrollment supports Illinois' Nutrient Reduction Strategy, which has set a goal of reducing 15% of nitrate-nitrogen and 25% of phosphorus. Cover crop implementation is one of the most effective in-field practices for filtering nutrients before they enter our waterways.

SCHEELS INVESTS \$200,000 TO UPGRADE INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2025, SCHEELS partnered with DU and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to advance a critical wetland restoration effort at the Sanganois State Fish and Wildlife Area walk-in, a 402-acre unit open to public waterfowl hunting in the fall. SCHEELS' \$200,000 donation helped install a spillway and replace outdated water-control structures at the Walk-In Unit, which expanded the number of hunting locations from six to 80. DU and the IDNR have restored water level management capabilities at the Walk-In Unit by building an armored emergency spillway that can quickly equalize hydrologic pressure, minimizing damage to wetland infrastructure. A new water-control structure was installed to better manage water flow into and out of the unit.



ILLINOIS NRCS EASEMENT TEAM

DU Biologists Steven Adamson and Lane Hudspeth provide critical support to the IL Easement Team, assisting with the delivery of ACEP (Agricultural Conservation Easement Program) and WRE (Wetland Reserve Easements). Based in Champaign and Harrisburg, Steven and Lane provide technical assistance to landowners and support the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with compatible use agreements, on-site monitoring, surveys, wetland design, and other related services. Both biologists began their positions in early 2025 and have influenced over 18,000 acres. In 2026, they will continue to deliver these programs in IL and help landowners navigate conservation programs, as well as improve management on their acres.

DUCKS UNLIMITED, WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST PURCHASE 1,318-ACRE PROPERTY AT DOGTOOTH BEND

Ducks Unlimited, along with other partners, has been acquiring properties located on the 17,000-acre Dogtooth Bend peninsula since 2022. In 2025, Ducks Unlimited and Wetlands America Trust closed on one of the biggest properties, 1,318-acre Pecord Farms. This property will eventually be transferred to the USFWS as part of the Middle Mississippi NWR. This is one of the largest acquisitions in DU's history in the Great Lakes/Atlantic regions.



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

ducks.org/illinois



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MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 26,319
Members: 25,513
 General Members: 21,246
 Greenwings: 1,574
 Legacy Greenwings: 277
 Sponsor Members: 2,416
Major Sponsors: 806
Feather Society Members: 171

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised: **\$4,930,178**
 Number of committees: **95**
 Number of fundraising events: **249**
 Local chapter volunteers: **1,359**

FY25 FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions:
\$16,192,615

Location of projects:

Saskatchewan: Prairie Care-Pelican N et al, Quill Lakes, & Saskatchewan Parklands;
 Manitoba: NAWMP & NAWCA in Prairie Canada, Parklands

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (historically since FY1984):
64,881

Total Acres of Conservation in the state (FY2025): **141,680**

Amount spent on projects in the state: **\$29,131,980**

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

Primary waterfowl species:

Black Duck, Mallard; Wood Duck; Canvasback; Redhead; Canada Goose and Blue-Winged Teal.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phil Houser
 State Chairman
philhouser220@gmail.com

For Information on DU Events:

Nick Cosmos
 Regional Director – Northeast IL
 (217) 299-5318
ncosmos@ducks.org

Fletcher Morgan
 Regional Director – Central IL
 (217) 381-9227
fmorgan@ducks.org

Nathan Barron
 Regional Director – South IL
 (256) 763-9040
nbarron@ducks.org

Jim King
 Director of Fundraising & Volunteer Relations
 (217) 553-1463
jking@ducks.org

For Information on becoming a Major Sponsor:

James Roberts
 Managing Director of Development
 (678) 907-4979
jroberts@ducks.org

TJ Verdun
 Director of Development
 (708) 653-2246
tverdun@ducks.org

For Information on DU's Gift Planning Program:

Sarah McCallum
 Senior Director of Gift Planning
 (734) 623-2000
smccallum@ducks.org

For Info on Illinois's Conservation Programs:

Casey Bergthold
 Director of Conservation Programs
 (573) 606-0585
cbergthold@ducks.org

Jena Herrick
 Manager of Conservation Programs
 (815) 878-8844
Jherrick@ducks.org

Hunter Mentges
 Biologist
 (618) 929-4883
hmentges@ducks.org

For Information on DU's Youth Engagement Programs:

JP Munich
 Youth Engagement Coordinator
 314-920-3859
jmunich@ducks.org



Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

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 ● Completed Project(s)

 Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



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

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