

### TRI-COUNTY FWA — KNEPPER MARSH ENHANCEMENT

Tri-County Fish & Wildlife Area (FWA) is an expansive 3,546-acre area, including 650 acres of lakes and impoundments, located at the intersection of Kosciusko, Noble, and Whitley Counties, IN. One of the units at Tri-County FWA is Knepper Marsh, which was once hailed as one of the premier waterfowl hunt units at Tri-County FWA. The site's managers have faced challenges due to its aging management infrastructure. In June 2025, DU used proceeds from its specialty license plate program to enhance on-site management infrastructure. Enhancement work focused on restoring functional benefits for wildlife and improving waterfowl hunting experiences by replacing the failed water control structure and reinforcing the compromised berm. These improvements helped restore hydrologic function to the wetlands, making it easier for IN DNR staff to manage the habitat effectively for wildlife and public recreation.



### PATOKA RIVER NWR CONTINUED EXPANSION AND SUPPORT

In 2025, DU continued its work to expand the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) by acquiring a 130-acre tract. This property includes 1/4 mile of Patoka River frontage and offers opportunities to restore and protect on-site bottomland forests. Upon transfer to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), this property will be perpetually protected and expand public recreation opportunities on the Refuge. DU's continued work at Patoka River NWR is being supported by multiple foundations,



such as the Duke Energy Foundation, which will join DU on-site in May for a volunteer tree planting day, as well as the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, which provided a two-year grant to offset acquisition and restoration costs. DU continues to pursue potential acquisitions at Patoka River NWR when opportunities arise.



### ARCHER DANIELS MIDLAND COVER CROP PARTNERSHIP

**2025** proved to be another successful year in implementing cover crops across Indiana through the Ducks Unlimited and Archer Daniels Midland partnership. Payment rates included \$20 per acre for new adopters and \$10 per acre for returning participants. In total, Indiana enrolled more than 300 producers, resulting in nearly 190,000 acres of cover crops. An additional 30,000 acres of wheat were established across 19 producers, with 15,000 of those acres followed by a double crop to maintain a living root year-round, supported by an additional \$2 per acre incentive. Together, these efforts continued to advance soil health, water quality, and long-term farm resilience across the state.

### GLFWRA PRIVATE LANDS WORK

In 2025, Ducks Unlimited was awarded a \$1 million grant from the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (GLFWRA) grant program. This 3-year grant will further a partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) program and Ducks Unlimited. The primary focus of this grant is to restore or enhance wetland and grassland habitat for federally listed species and migratory birds on private properties in the Lake Michigan watershed in Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin.

Annually, over 3 million ducks, primarily mallards, black ducks, scaup, canvasbacks and redheads are estimated to migrate through the Lake MI watershed as they move between breeding and wintering areas. This area provides important breeding habitat for mallards, wood ducks, and giant Canada geese, as well as important migration habitat for northern pintails, wood ducks, and Southern James Bay Canada geese breeding to the north.

This partnership is not new; DU and PFW have been working together for many years to complete GLFWRA-funded projects in the headwaters of the Western Lake Erie Basin watershed. Although Indiana is only home to about 10% of this watershed, there is no shortage of wetland and grassland projects that landowners are eager to complete. In 2025, this partnership completed 4 different private lands projects impacting over 43 acres of wetland and grassland habitat in Northeast Indiana. These projects not only benefit waterfowl by restoring crucial wetland/grassland complexes for nesting but also benefit the surrounding communities by providing cleaner water.





# INDIANA 2026 STATE REPORT AND FACT SHEET



## MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 16,409  
**Members: 15,855**  
 General Members: 14,036  
 Greenwings: 566  
 Legacy Greenwings: 325  
 Sponsor Members: 928  
**Major Sponsors: 554**  
**Feather Society Members: 132**

## STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised: **\$2,141,969**  
 Number of committees: **52**  
 Number of fundraising events: **167**  
 Local chapter volunteers: **976**

## FY25 FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: **\$1,454,598**  
**Location of projects:** Ontario: Wye Marsh, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Southwestern Ontario Wetlands, Southern Ontario Habitat Initiative

## US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (historically since FY1984): **32,334**  
 Total Acres of Conservation in the state (FY2025): **283,141**  
 Amount spent on projects in the state: **\$20,484,466**  
 Amount spent on projects in MS Flyway (through FY2025): **\$921,117,840**

## Primary waterfowl species:

Black Duck; Mallard; Wood Duck; Canvasback and Redhead.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Steve Hubacher  
 State Chairman  
[whiteriverdu@gmail.com](mailto:whiteriverdu@gmail.com)

### For Information 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 Information on becoming a Major Sponsor:

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

RJ Sutphin  
 Director of Development – IN  
 (260) 437-3147  
[rsutphin@ducks.org](mailto:rsutphin@ducks.org)

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

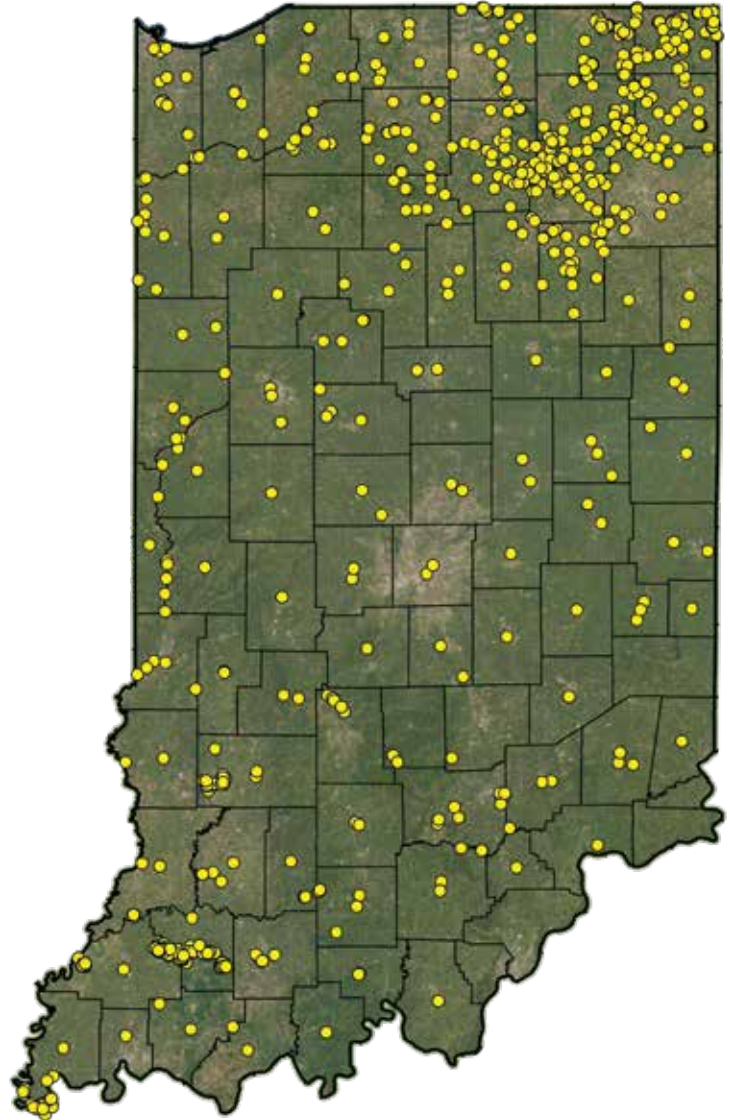
Sarah McCallum  
 Senior Director of Gift Planning  
 (734) 623-2000  
[smccallum@ducks.org](mailto:smccallum@ducks.org)

### For Info on Indiana's Conservation Programs:

Jena Herrick  
 Manager of Conservation Programs  
 (815) 878-8844  
[jherrick@ducks.org](mailto:jherrick@ducks.org)

### For Information on DU's Youth Engagement Programs:

JP Munich  
 Youth Engagement Coordinator  
 314-920-3859  
[jmunich@ducks.org](mailto:jmunich@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/indiana](https://ducks.org/indiana)