

PEYTON ADAMS: LEADING THE NEXT GENERATION

Ducks Unlimited's success begins and ends with its volunteers, and Peyton Adams is proof of that. Though young, she has already made a major impact on DU and its wetland and waterfowl conservation mission. As a founding member of the Lewisburg Varsity DU chapter, Peyton has served as chairman for three years, building a strong team of students and parents whose efforts have helped the chapter raise more than \$252,000 net for DU's mission.

"Over the past three years, being a DU chairman has felt like such a fever dream, but the best part has been the people," Peyton said. "These friendships aren't just for high school—they're the kind of solid, authentic bonds you know will last. I'd do it all over again just to stay in this little bubble with them. It's been so special to find a community that feels this grounded and real."

At its March 2026 dinner, Lewisburg hosted the largest event in the state, netting \$135,000 in one night. Peyton and her team of young conservationists have shown they are not only the future of DU, but also its present. The chapter credits its success to year-round planning, sponsorship sales, and donation support that help reduce expenses.

Regional Director Hunter Pridgen said, "What Peyton and her team accomplished at this year's event was remarkable. Watching a group of varsity students raise more than \$100,000 in one night was incredible. Mississippi's youth and education program has been successful for years, but I don't think any of us—volunteers or staff—realized they would make this kind of impact."

Peyton recently received a scholarship through DU's national scholarship program and will attend the University of Memphis. We look forward to seeing all she accomplishes in the years ahead.

Ducks Unlimited delivered another strong year for conservation across Mississippi in FY26, advancing large-scale habitat restoration, forest development, and long-term sustainability efforts throughout the state.



ADVANCING YAZOO BACKWATER MITIGATION

Momentum continues to build under the Yazoo Backwater mitigation effort, with **approximately 3,300 acres enrolled across eight properties** and more in the pipeline.

EXPANDING FORESTS ON PRIVATE LANDS

DU continued its commitment to reforestation through the Flyway Forests initiative, planting more than **1,600 acres** of bottomland hardwoods. These lands are permanently protected under conservation easements and are expected to generate both wildlife habitat and future carbon credit revenue to sustain conservation work.

INVESTING IN PUBLIC LANDS

More than **\$3.4 million** was invested in conservation, resulting in meaningful improvements to public and private lands. At Howard Miller WMA, efforts enhanced over **1,500 acres** through upgraded water management systems across 16 impoundments. These improvements allow for more precise water-level management, directly benefiting waterfowl and other wetland birds.

At Panther Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, an additional **90+ acres** of habitat were restored. New berms, upgraded infrastructure, and improved water flow systems are helping create higher-quality moist soil environments within key waterfowl impoundments.



MISSISSIPPI 2026 STATE REPORT AND FACT SHEET



MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 10,024

Members: 9,570

General Members: 7,538

Greenwings: 391

Legacy Greenwings: 800

Sponsor Members: 841

Major Sponsors: 454

Feather Society Members: 83

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars

raised: **\$2,317,399**

Number of committees: **58**

Number of fundraising events:

98

Local chapter volunteers: **1,068**

FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions:

\$2,634,119

Location of projects: Manitoba, Saskatchewan: Eastern Saskatchewan Parklands Landscape, Sask PPR target areas

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (historically since FY1984): **372,014**

Total Acres of Conservation in the state (FY2025): **16,575**

Amount spent on projects in the state: **\$87,161,452**

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

Primary waterfowl species:

Mallard, Wood Duck, Ring-Necked Duck, Gadwall, Canvasback, American Wigeon and Green-Winged Teal.

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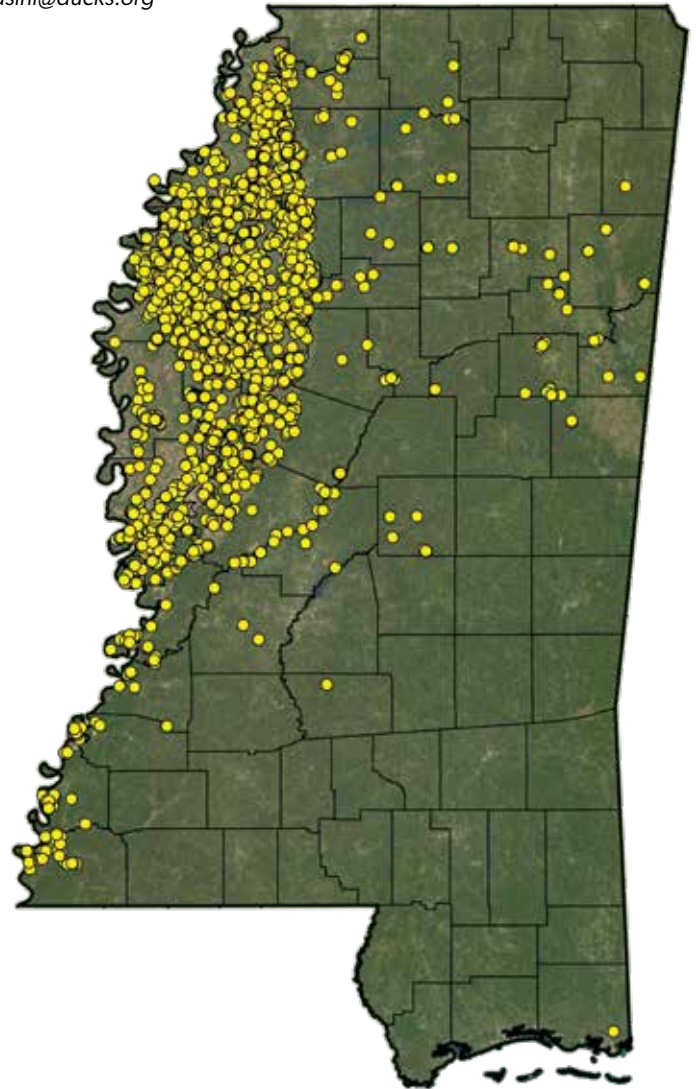
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Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

● Completed Project(s)

Note: Project points may represent more than one project.

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**SOUTHERN
REGION**

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