



NEW JERSEY

2026 STATE REPORT AND FACT SHEET



NRCS PROGRAMS BENEFIT BLACK DUCKS IN NEW JERSEY

Since launching Ducks Unlimited's Working Lands initiative in New Jersey in August 2024, the program has built a strong foundation for long-term wetlands conservation

in partnership with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Over the past two years, in 2024 and 2025, DU focused on expanding awareness of Farm Bill conservation opportunities, building interest through targeted outreach campaigns, including postcard mailings, articles in regional agricultural publications, and developing accessible handouts to help landowners understand how wetland restoration can improve soil health, reduce flooding, and enhance wildlife habitat. We have also prioritized in-person connections with agricultural producers who can benefit from wetland restoration on their operations. An early morning outreach campaign, Breakfast with Biologists, was initiated in March 2025 and aims to meet agricultural producers in their communities at a place and time convenient to their schedules. These efforts, in addition to webinars and a growing presence at community events, have generated multiple applicants for both the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and the Wetland Reserve Easement Program, positioning New Jersey for meaningful conservation gains as funding decisions are made for 2026. Although the program is still new, the momentum is clear. We are seeking additional producers interested in improving their land while contributing to New Jersey's broader conservation goals. Landowners who want to explore wetland restoration opportunities are encouraged to reach out and learn how Ducks Unlimited and NRCS can support their vision for productive, resilient working lands.

DELAWARE BAY LAND PROTECTION PROJECT

DU, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, New Jersey Fish and Wildlife, and New Jersey Natural Resources Conservation Service received a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant to help protect high-priority habitats in Delaware Bay. The project targets land protection and will enable DU and its partners to identify critical parcels for conservation, engage with landowners and steward these protected areas. These outcomes will enable DU and its partners to enhance their understanding of land protection program opportunities in the focus area, thereby

increasing enrollment in available programs and the acreage of protected priority nearshore habitats.



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.



GARRISON SALT MEADOW RESTORATION

Ducks Unlimited, our partners, and volunteers continue to work on the Garrison Salt Meadow Restoration pilot project in Cumberland County, New Jersey. More than 430 acres were purchased through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection Program Floodplain Easement in 2018 from the Garrison family. NRCS maintains the easement, and Natural Lands manages the site for conservation. DU is providing biodegradable structures in a small section of the larger mudflat to reduce wave action and sedimentation, allowing marsh vegetation to establish and stabilize. The site is a former salt hay farm that converted to open water after the infrastructure degraded, and storms decimated the former marsh. DU and our partners are working on a series of similar sites to develop a method for restoring them to a healthy, resilient marsh. This pilot project was the first step towards implementing large-scale efforts on similar sites. A National Fish and Wildlife Fund Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund grant funded the project survey, design and planning.



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

ducks.org/new-jersey



MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 4,708
Members: 4,555
 General Members: 4,206
 Greenwings: 81
 Legacy Greenwings: 8
 Sponsor Members: 260
Major Sponsors: 153
Feather Society Members: 27

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised: **\$283,175**
 Number of committees: **26**
 Number of fundraising events: **33**
 Local chapter volunteers: **163**

FY25 FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: **\$699,500**

Location of projects: New Brunswick, Quebec: St. Lawrence Islands, Quebec: Goldeneye Project, South River

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (historically since FY1984): **20,085**

Total Acres of Conservation in the state (FY2025): **58**

Amount spent on projects in the state: **\$11,828,469**

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

Primary waterfowl species:

Wood Duck; Black Duck; Mallard; Canada and Snow Goose; Gadwall; Northern Pintail Scaup; Ring-Necked Duck; Canvasback; American Wigeon; Redhead and Goldeneye.

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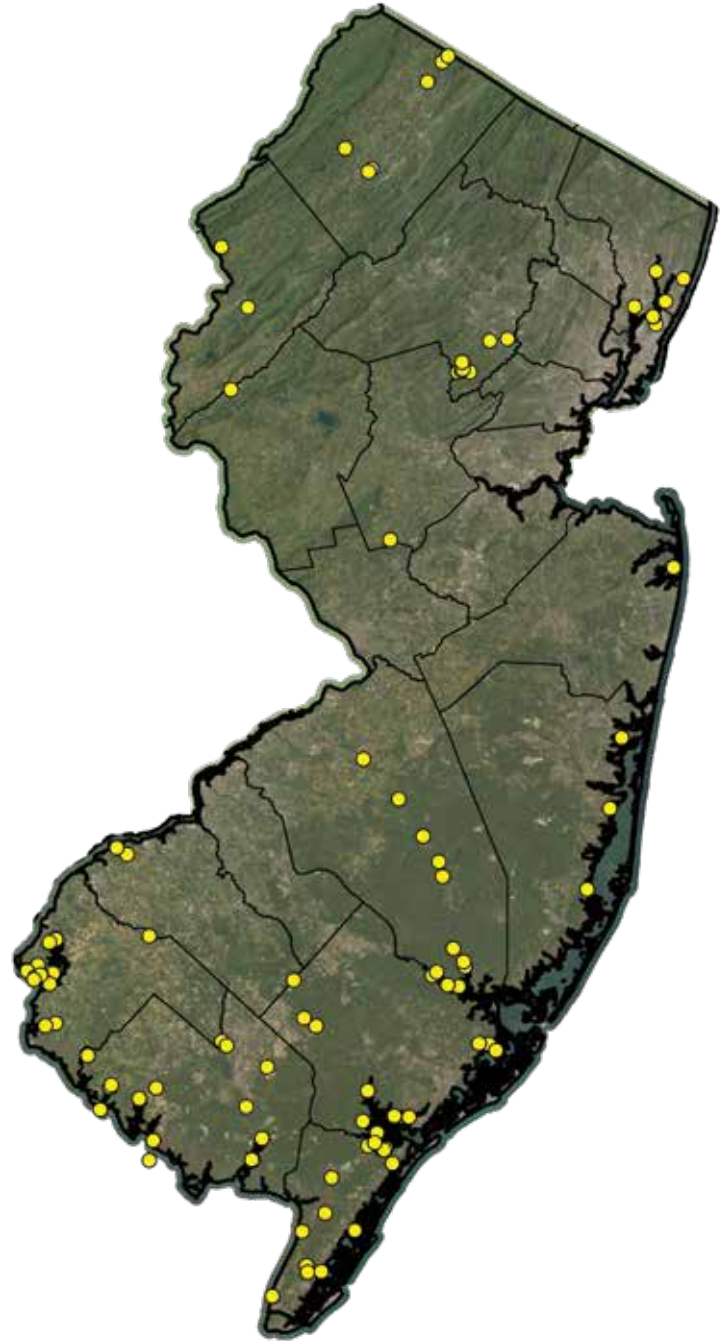
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Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

.....
 ● Completed Project(s)

Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



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

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