



NEW ENGLAND

2026 REPORT AND RHODE ISLAND FACT SHEET



SCIENCE AND STEWARDSHIP FOR MAINE'S EIDERS

Common Eiders are an iconic sea duck along Maine's coast, nesting on small offshore islands and depending on healthy marine ecosystems to successfully raise their young. A changing climate, stronger storms, shifting food resources, and marine debris threaten these birds and their habitats.

To address these challenges, DU has partnered with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Biodiversity Research Institute, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct aerial surveys of approximately 200 coastal islands to document where eiders nest and how breeding populations are changing. We will also deploy GPS tracking on hens to better understand duckling survival and habitat use to inform future habitat improvement prioritization. In addition to the research, DU will work with local volunteers to remove marine debris from nesting areas to enhance habitat quality. We anticipate that this project will provide several benefits to the common eider and other species.

HEALTHY MARSHES, STRONGER FLYWAYS AT PARKER RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

DU is in the final year of a \$3 million grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to restore 1,450 acres of coastal marsh within the Great Marsh and Parker River National Wildlife Refuge in Essex County, Massachusetts. The project, which includes partners from organizations such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and MassAudubon, is improving the health of the salt marsh ecosystem by applying innovative, low-cost, low-disturbance restoration techniques. Over the past three years, we have actively engaged people in hands-on conservation with Refuge staff and conservation partners, as well as with youth and community volunteers, working together to carry out on-the-ground restoration activities, including filling ditches and reconnecting tidal flows.

By improving natural tide flows and strengthening marsh vegetation, the project is rebuilding high-quality habitat for waterfowl such as American Black Ducks, migrating shorebirds, wading birds, and rare species like the saltmarsh sparrow.



HAMMOCK RIVER RESTORATION UNDERWAY

DU began construction on the Hammock River Restoration Project in July 2025. The ongoing project, an \$8 million partnership between DU and several local, state, and federal organizations, is replacing an outdated bridge and tide gates to enhance marsh hydrology, benefiting wildlife habitat, fish passage, and greater flood protection for nearby homes. The project will restore about 1,700 acres by reducing the frequency and intensity of high-tide flooding that has historically occurred in this marsh, caused by impounded water resulting from dilapidated infrastructure. The new bridge and self-regulating tide gates will allow for full tidal flushing of the marsh while simultaneously dampening the highest tides to minimize flooding, providing benefits to local homeowners and breeding bird species alike. Species such as the Clapper Rail and the threatened Saltmarsh Sparrow are expected to benefit from this project.



RESTORING RHYTHMS: GALILEE SALT MARSH'S COMEBACK

DU has reignited partnerships with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Save the Bay to restore the Galilee Bird Sanctuary, a 100-acre salt marsh complex. The project seeks to investigate the current condition of the tide gates that regulate tidal flow to the salt marsh, with likely modifications and enhancements to follow. DU, along with project partners, will assess the current condition of the salt marsh and provide recommendations to more actively manage tidal flows to support waterfowl and other tidal marsh-nesting birds, as well as overall marsh health. DU will also be integral to developing a management plan for the salt marsh.

RETURNING THE TIDES TO SUPPORT WILDLIFE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE MARSHES

DU now has funding in hand to advance several salt marsh restoration planning projects across coastal New Hampshire. Working in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, New Hampshire Fish and Game, New Hampshire Coastal Program, and Rockingham County Conservation District, we will conduct marsh assessments and designs to ultimately restore about 200 acres of public land in Stratham, Newmarket, and Rye. The goals of these projects are to improve the ecological function, increase wildlife habitat and boost coastal resilience. Ultimately, we will restore natural tidal flooding, fix historical drainage alterations from marsh agriculture, and raise the marshes' elevations so they can better adapt to changing conditions.



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

ducks.org/rhode-island



RHODE ISLAND 2026 STATE REPORT AND FACT SHEET



MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 581
Members: 526
 General Members: 484
 Greenwings: 3
 Legacy Greenwings: 3
 Sponsor Members: 36
Major Sponsors: 55
Feather Society Members: 3

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised: **\$23,002**

Number of committees:

Number of fundraising events: **6**

Local chapter volunteers: **35**

FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: **\$32,000**

Location of projects: Atlantic Canada: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Foundland and Labrador.

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (historically since FY1984): **702**

Total Acres of Conservation in the state (FY2025): **30**

Amount spent on projects in the state: **\$1,979,277**

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

Primary waterfowl species:
 Wood Duck; Mallard; Black Duck; Canada Goose; Green-Winged Teal and Blue-Winged Teal.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Christopher Mantia
 State Chairman
christopherjmantia@gmail.com

For Information on DU Events:

Mike Compo
 Regional Director
 (315) 523-3848
mcompo@ducks.org

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

For Information on becoming a Major Sponsor:

Philip J. Brekke
 Director of Development
 (603) 397-2799
pbrekke@ducks.org

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

For Information on DU's Gift Planning Program:

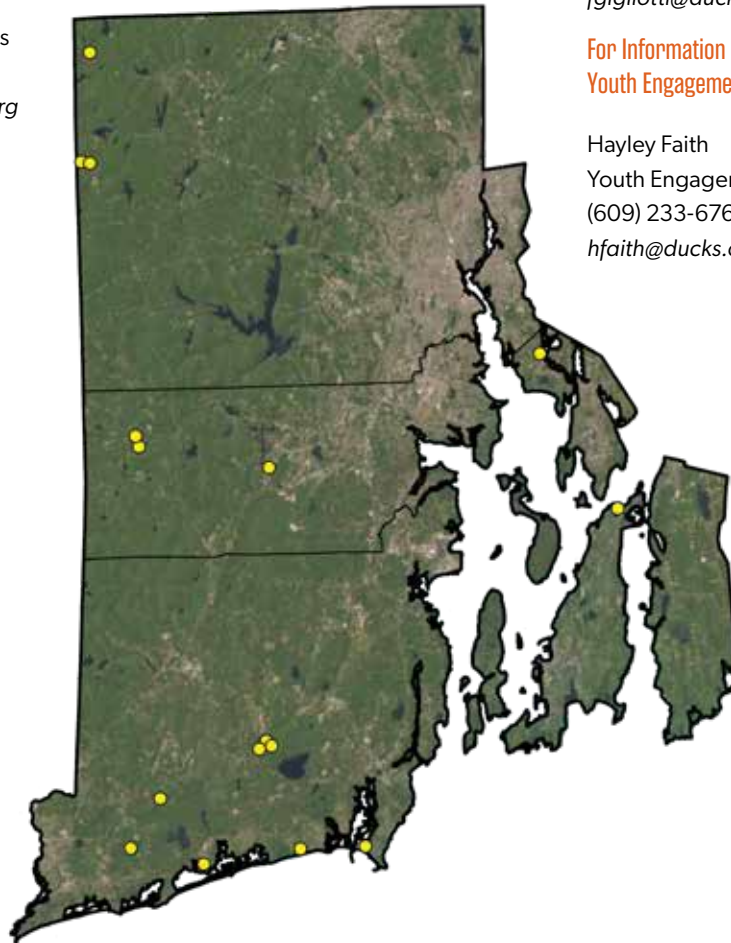
Wayne Roberts
 Director of Gift Planning
 (484) 553-7088
wroberts@ducks.org

For Info on Rhode Island's Conservation Programs:

Dr. Franco Gigliotti
 Regional Biologist – CT & RI
 (860) 918-7453
fgigliotti@ducks.org

For Information on DU's Youth Engagement Programs:

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



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Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

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 ● Completed Project(s)
 Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



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/rhode-island