



TENNESSEE

2026 STATE REPORT AND FACT SHEET



TENNESSEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The completed project at Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)—a 51,358 acre system spanning the Big Sandy, Duck River, and Busseltown units—significantly improved water management in the Duck River Unit. This refuge sits along the Mississippi Flyway and supports vital habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl, including a primary objective of sustaining 200,000 wintering birds each year. Its diverse landscape of forests, wetlands, mudflats, and agricultural fields hosts more than 318 bird species, 51 mammals, 89 reptiles and amphibians, and 144 fish species.

Within the Duck River Bottoms, over 3,042 acres can be flooded to provide critical habitat, but inconsistent rainfall often left impoundments dry. The project replaced an outdated relief pump with a modern 14,000 gallon per minute electric

pump integrated into the existing conveyance system. This upgrade now ensures reliable annual flooding across all 14 impoundments, enhancing habitat quality and giving managers consistent capacity to maintain a diverse, healthy wetland complex. Project work was done in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

BLACK BAYOU REFUGE

Ducks Unlimited (DU) and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) have completed a major wetland restoration at Black Bayou Refuge, enhancing 184 acres of habitat directly connected to Reelfoot Lake—Tennessee’s only natural lake and a nationally recognized ecological treasure. The multi phase project began in 2022 and replaced aging water control structures, rebuilt levees, and created seven new shallow water impoundments, giving managers far greater ability to adjust water levels and improve habitat quality for migratory birds, waterfowl, and other wildlife. These upgrades also boost public access and contribute to cleaner water, flood protection, climate resilience, and stronger outdoor recreation opportunities across the region. Black Bayou Refuge—an Important Bird Area that winters more than 100,000 waterfowl annually—now supports healthier soils, robust vegetation, and sustainable water storage thanks to this work. The project was made possible through support from TWRA, the Top Family Foundation, and DU.



SOUTHERN
REGION

ducks.org/tennessee



TENNESSEE 2026 STATE REPORT AND FACT SHEET



MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 13,257
Members: 12,490
 General Members: 10,453
 Greenwings: 1,102
 Legacy Greenwings: 228
 Sponsor Members: 707
Major Sponsors: 767
Feather Society Members: 120

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised: **\$2,240,859**
 Number of committees: **55**
 Number of fundraising events: **95**
 Local chapter volunteers: **922**

FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: **\$4,542,000**
Location of projects: Saskatchewan: Prairie Care-Allan Hills, Colonsay, Dana Hills West, SKNO & Saskatoon SE Landscape, Allan-Tiger-Minich, PPR target areas

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (historically since FY1984): **50,301**
 Total Acres of Conservation in the state (FY2025): **928**
 Amount spent on projects in the state: **\$21,076,495**
 Amount spent on projects in MS Flyway (through FY2025): **\$921,117,840**

Primary waterfowl species:
 Wood Duck; Black Duck; Mallard; Gadwall; American Wigeon and Canvasback

CONTACT INFORMATION

Andy Oliveira
 State Chairman
 (423) 298-1778
Oliveira-jao@outlook.com

For Information on DU Events:

Charlie Lowery
 Senior Regional Director - East Tennessee
 (423) 506-3407
clowery@ducks.org

Gabe Baker
 Regional Director - West Tennessee
 (270) 202-1687
gbaker@ducks.org

Derrick Davis
 Director of Fundraising & Volunteer Relations
 (337) 534-7999
ddavis@ducks.org

For Information on Becoming a Major Sponsor:

Shawn Battison
 Managing Director of Development
 (334) 430-8622
sbattison@ducks.org

Sage Stockton
 Director of Development
 (731) 438-0763
sstockton@ducks.org

For Information on DU's Gift Planning Program:

Buddy DuVall
 Director of Gift Planning
 (901) 571-7033
bduvall@ducks.org

For Info on Tennessee's Conservation Programs:

Tim Willis
 Managing Director of Conservation Programs
 (601) 206-5454
twillis@ducks.org

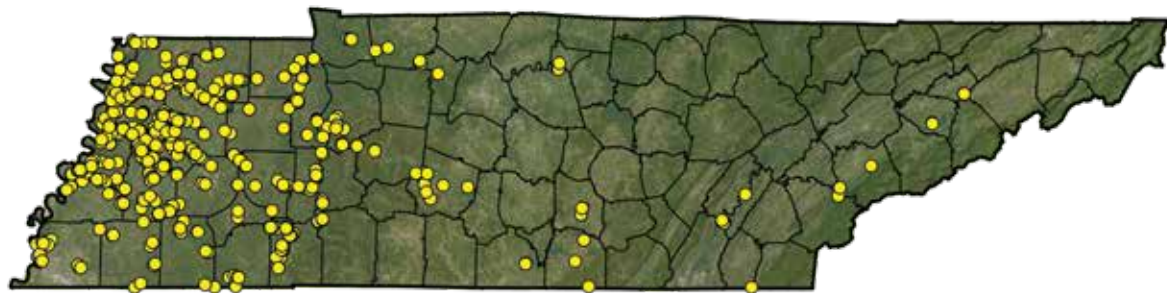
James Austin
 Director of Conservation Programs – Tennessee
 (912) 481-3821
jaustin@ducks.org

Nick Biasini
 Manager of Conservation Programs – Tennessee
 (601) 206-5434
nbiasini@ducks.org

Tyler Hand
 Biologist - Tennessee
 615-961-5820
thand@ducks.org

For Information on DU's Youth Engagement Programs:

Betsy Newbill
 Youth Engagement Coordinator
 (731) 445-2472
bnewbill@ducks.org



For a digital copy of this and other state reports, use your phone to scan the QR code.

Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

● Completed Project(s)

Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



SOUTHERN REGION

193 Business Park Dr., Suite E
 Ridgeland, MS 39157-6026

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

ducks.org/tennessee