



VIRGINIA

2026 STATE REPORT AND FACT SHEET



BLACK DUCK HABITAT ON COASTAL VA FARMS

Ducks Unlimited expanded its partnership with the Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide wetland restoration guidance on both sides of the Chesapeake Bay in 2025. Working Lands Biologists with DU worked closely with USDA staff to implement wetland restoration and conservation on farms and agricultural lands in 38 counties. The partnership focuses on habitat for American black duck, a once prominent species in the Chesapeake Bay which relies on fresh and saltwater wetlands along the Bay and its rivers.



Ragged Island WMA along the James River is a vital coastal marsh supporting waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife while providing water filtration, storm surge protection, and recreation for the Hampton Roads community. Severe shoreline erosion threatened this habitat, prompting Ducks Unlimited and the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources to implement a living shoreline project. Breakwaters and oyster reefs now stabilize 1.2 miles of shoreline and create new marsh. Working with NOAA Fisheries, EPA, Christopher Newport University, and local partners, DU designed a resilient, community supported solution. Construction finished in 2025, with marsh planting in 2026, made possible through NOAA and Cox Chesapeake funding.

Ducks Unlimited is partnering with USFWS, VDWR, and HRSD to enhance 550 acres of wetlands at **Lake Tecumseh** in Virginia Beach. The project aims to restore natural hydrology and revive historic SAV levels to improve waterfowl habitat. Decades of wind driven dewatering, caused by a 1960s canal connection to Back Bay, increased turbidity and eliminated SAV. After successful weir

installations in 2012 and a subsequent failure in 2021, DU and partners are installing a new 800 foot sheet pile wall and weir to stabilize water levels and disconnect the lake from the canal. Funding comes from VA Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Grants and NAWCA.



SOUTHERN
REGION

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MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 15,545
Members: 14,812
 General Members: 12,265
 Greenwings: 1,223
 Legacy Greenwings: 155
 Sponsor Members: 1,169
Major Sponsors: 733
Feather Society Members: 100

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised: **\$2,801,485**
 Number of committees: **76**
 Number of fundraising events: **168**
 Local chapter volunteers: **1,336**

FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: **\$779,000**

Location of projects: Quebec
 Habitat Initiative: St. Lawrence Plain, Municipal & Eastern Boreal Stewardship

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (historically since FY1984): 88,804

Total Acres of Conservation in the state (FY2025): 2,032

Amount spent on projects in the state: \$35,193,350

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

Primary waterfowl species:
 Black Duck; Mallard; Wood Duck; Ring-Necked Duck; Green-Winged Teal and Golden-eye.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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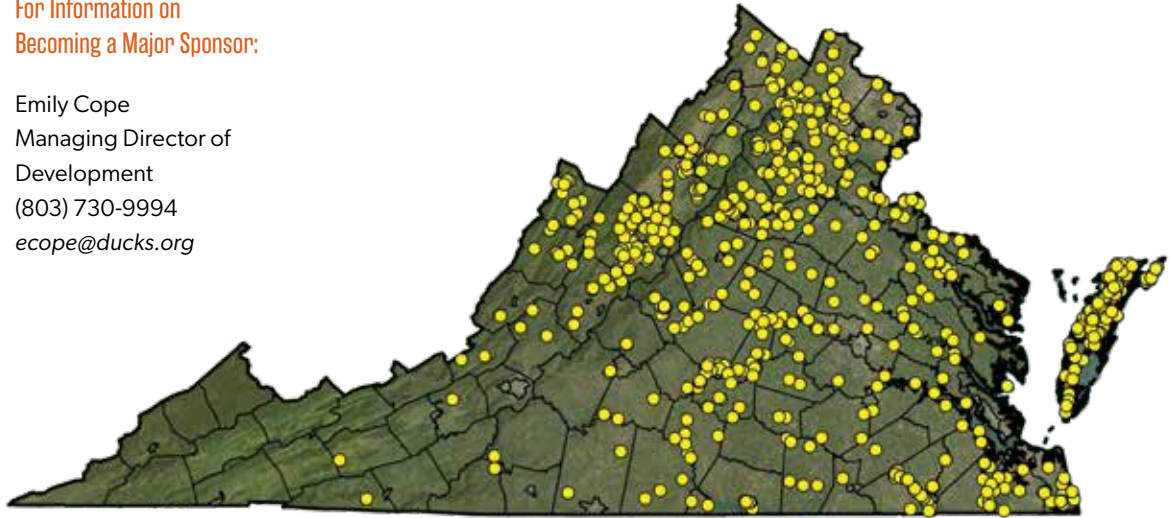
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Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

.....
 ● Completed Project(s)

 Note: Project points may represent more than one project.

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SOUTHERN REGION

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ducks.org/virginia