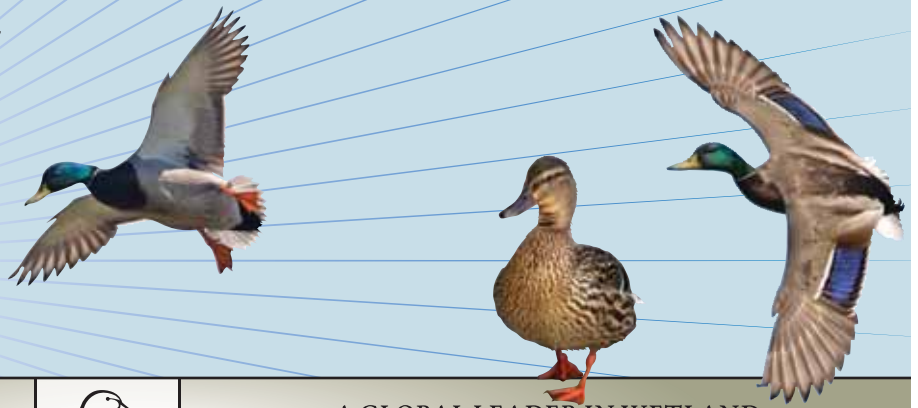


# DUCKS UNLIMITED in Connecticut



## 2007 CONSERVATION REPORT



A GLOBAL LEADER IN WETLAND, WATERFOWL AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



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### CONSERVATION SUMMARY

Ducks Unlimited (DU) conserves habitat on a continental level to meet the life-cycle needs of North America's waterfowl. Connecticut is part of the Atlantic Flyway, providing important migration, breeding and wintering areas for many of the continent's waterfowl such as American black ducks, greater scaup, brant and Canada geese.

Connecticut's conservation projects are designed to maximize the quantity and quality of migration, breeding and wintering waterfowl habitats, as well as improve conditions for waterfowl production.

*Your support of Ducks Unlimited will help achieve that goal!*

## Public Policy

U · P · D · A · T · E

The 2007 Farm Bill is DU's top policy priority! Grassroots involvement is essential for success. You can help spread the word to your elected officials:

- **CRP must be renewed!**  
Each year more than 2 million ducks are produced on Conservation Reserve Program lands in the Prairie Pothole Region.
- **Save Swampbuster!**  
The United States continues to lose wetlands each year. Swampbuster protects existing wetlands for ducks.
- **WRP must be renewed!**  
The Wetlands Reserve Program has restored more than 1.75 million acres of waterfowl habitat.
- **Save our prairies!**  
Half of the remaining native prairie could be plowed without a "Sodsaver" amendment to the Farm Bill.
- **Include wildlife conservation goals in biofuels policy development!**

"Farm the Best, Conserve the Rest"

For more information and to TAKE ACTION to protect waterfowl in the Farm Bill, see [www.ducks.org/2007FarmBill](http://www.ducks.org/2007FarmBill)

## Project Spotlight:

### DU SUPPORTS WINTERING BLACK DUCK STUDY

How many times have you said that some day you'd like to get out, really get your hands dirty and see what waterfowl biology is all about? Well, now is your chance. Volunteers are needed to assist with an upcoming research study of wintering American black ducks in Connecticut being conducted by Min Huang, Migratory Bird Program biologist for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Wildlife Division. The study will investigate habitat use and food availability for black ducks wintering in Connecticut's coastal habitat, with an eye toward identifying those habitat features that are most important to the survival of black ducks during the critical wintering period. Information derived from the study will be used to focus habitat restoration efforts of DU and DEP on those features that will provide maximum benefit to wintering waterfowl.

The study will utilize radio telemetry, whereby birds are fitted with radio transmitters that allow investigators to locate individual birds, follow their movements and determine where they are spending most of their time. Once the specific habitat preferences are identified, detailed studies of vegetation types and distribution and abundance of food items can be conducted. In-depth knowledge of when and how the birds are using Connecticut's coastal salt marshes will ensure that the efforts of DU, DEP and other partners are targeted to help the



birds survive this critical period in their annual life cycle so that they can return to their northern breeding grounds in a healthy condition.

The study will be conducted beginning in early winter 2007, and volunteers are needed to assist DEP with various aspects of the study. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Craig Ferris.



# Mallards

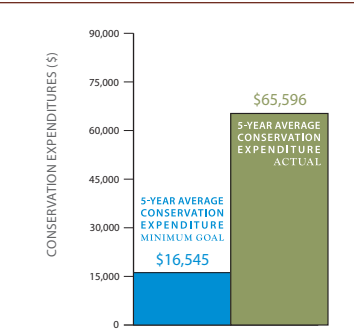
## FROM CANADA TO THE GREAT LAKES/ATLANTIC STATES

The Great Lakes/Atlantic Region supports nearly 1 million breeding mallards and a myriad of other wetland species. The Great Lakes and Atlantic states have lost more than half of their original wetlands, with urban sprawl and industrialization in the region posing significant conservation challenges. In facing these challenges, Ducks Unlimited partners with farmers, corporations, federal, state and provincial conservation and agriculture agencies and other conservation organizations to protect, restore and manage critical mallard breeding habitat in the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay and North Atlantic states. In Ontario and Quebec, DU also focuses on the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence region, where wetland loss rates have been high (up to 95%). Wetland protection and enhancement of pair and brood water are high priorities. DU Canada staff also manage more than 300,000 acres of waterfowl habitat in Ontario.



**DU CONNECTICUT**  
GRASSROOTS AND CONSERVATION  
2001–2006

The minimum conservation goal for each state is to spend the equivalent of 7.5% of total grassroots income raised in that state. This is based on a five-year average.



**IMPORTANT NEWS**  
Avian Influenza continues to appear in the news. Typically, about 5–10% of waterfowl may carry some strain of the Avian Influenza virus. However, the strain in the news, Asian H5N1, has not been documented in North America through extensive monitoring of over 50,000 wild birds.  
For more information and updates, see [www.ducks.org/birdflu](http://www.ducks.org/birdflu)

LEADER IN WETLAND, WATERFOWL AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



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