



CONSERVING THE BEST. RESTORING THE REST.



Ducks Unlimited's goal in Kentucky is to perpetually secure habitat and the future of Kentucky as a key wintering and migration area for waterfowl in North America. Your support of DU will help us achieve this goal.

DUCKS UNLIMITED IN KENTUCKY

Since its inception in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved over 12 million acres of habitat for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife throughout North America. With almost 1 million supporters and numerous partners, DU has been able to maintain focus on its mission of conserving, restoring and managing wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

In Kentucky, DU has conserved over 12,000 acres of habitat on both private and public lands since 1987. Throughout the state, 66 local chapters and over 10,000 members raise funds for DU to accomplish its mission.

The mallard is the most common duck in the U.S. The flooded forests of Kentucky provide vital habitat for mallards and other waterfowl. Join DU today to help us conserve these habitats.





CONTINENTAL CONNECTION

Kentucky is part of the Mississippi Flyway and provides important winter and migration habitat for waterfowl produced in the Prairie Pothole Region and Great Lakes states. Kentucky has the potential to winter large numbers of mallards, black ducks and wood ducks. The link between the breeding grounds and Kentucky is obvious- waterfowl that winter in the state migrate to breeding grounds located hundreds of miles away. While Kentucky's annual migration originates from across the Northern U.S. and Canada, the vast majority of our ducks come to us from the Prairie Pothole Region, also known as the “Duck Factory”, which has been Ducks Unlimited’s #1 conservation priority area since our founding in 1937.





MISSOURI COTEAU PRAIRIE POTHOLE REGION

THE PRAIRIE POTHOLE REGION

Wetlands provide important food resources for breeding waterfowl; however, adjacent grasslands provide essential cover for nesting hens. The best breeding habitat within the PPR is the Missouri Coteau, a 25,800-square-mile ribbon of grass and wetlands stretching through the prairies of the northern U.S. and Canada. Research suggests that this area is the most important breeding habitat in North America for continental duck populations. As habitat continues to be lost across the PPR, the Missouri Coteau represents one of the last remaining strongholds of mixed-grass prairie.

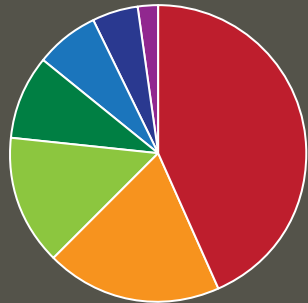
The PPR has lost 50-90% of its wetlands. Upland nesting habitats are under even greater siege- over 56 million acres of grasslands have been lost. The PPR is the world's most significant waterfowl breeding habitat because:

- It supports 20-30 million breeding waterfowl
- In wet years, 70% or more of the continent's duck production originates here
- Over 75% of banded ducks recovered in Kentucky originate here.

ORIGINS OF
KENTUCKY'S WATERFOWL



CAUSES FOR THE MID-CONTINENT MALLARD POPULATION CHANGE



- 43% ■ NESTING SUCCESS
- 19% ■ HEN BREEDING SURVIVAL
- 14% ■ DUCKING SURVIVAL
- 9% ■ HEN NON-BREEDING SURVIVAL
- 7% ■ STATISTICAL NOISE
- 5% ■ RE-NESTING INTENSITY
- 2% ■ CLUTCH SIZE

THE NEED

Kentucky has a rich diversity of fish and wildlife resources. With this diversity comes a responsibility to conserve the habitats they require to survive. For waterfowl, high-quality habitat is needed throughout the bird's annual life cycle: during breeding season, fall and spring migrations and winter months. Fortunately, through the efforts of DU, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and others, we continue to meet the needs of migrating and wintering waterfowl throughout the state. However, the need on the breeding grounds is more critical because we continue to lose tens of thousands of acres each year. Factors that determine whether waterfowl populations increase or decrease occur mainly on the breeding grounds. Protecting these habitats will ensure that waterfowl return to Kentucky year after year.

A CALL FOR ACTION

Wings Over Kentucky is a Major Sponsor conservation initiative to raise funds for protection and restoration of waterfowl habitat. Over the next 5 years, this critical initiative seeks to raise \$3 million to fund habitat conservation work associated with breeding grounds projects and various conservation projects in Kentucky. The goal is to raise \$2 million for breeding ground protection and \$1 million for work in Kentucky. Feather Society pledges will ensure the success of these important conservation programs beyond the 5-year period of Wings Over Kentucky.

THE NEEDS ARE URGENT AS WE CONTINUE TO LOSE HABITAT IN THE BREEDING AREAS THAT ARE CRITICAL TO KENTUCKY. PLEASE JOIN US TODAY TO SECURE A BRIGHTER FUTURE AND LEAVE A LEGACY FOR GENERATIONS!



KENTUCKY PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

BALLARD WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Enhanced 860 acres of waterfowl habitat through construction of levees and installation of several water control structures. Ballard WMA lies near the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. Historically, the area was covered with bottomland hardwoods, but most of the timber was converted to agricultural production. Purchased in the 1950's, Ballard WMA was essential in providing habitat to the Mississippi Valley population of Canada geese. The enhanced area will be managed for moist-soil habitats, although rotation of agricultural crops will be incorporated. This project is managed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to provide quality wintering habitat for waterfowl and additional public hunting opportunities.

LICKING RIVER WETLANDS RESTORATION

Steve Morris Memorial Project – Restored a total of 46 acres of wetlands on the Daniel Boone National Forest. The Morris Licking River Wetland Restoration Project improved habitat for many plants and animals and taught hundreds of individuals about the value of wetlands in eastern Kentucky. The project restored 44 shallow water and 35 seasonal wetlands near Cave Run Lake.

Wetlands surrounding Cave Run Lake receive extensive use by a variety of waterfowl including mallards, wood ducks, black ducks and Canada geese. The area is managed by the U.S. Forest Service to provide quality wintering habitat for waterfowl.

SLOUGHS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Crenshaw Tract – Enhanced 75 acres of waterfowl habitat on Sloughs WMA to provide additional waterfowl habitat along the Ohio River and to enhance public hunting opportunities. The units are flooded in mid-October with a goal of 100% water capacity by opening day of duck season. The project is managed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to provide quality wintering habitat for waterfowl and additional public hunting.

BARREN RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Calvert Springs Wetlands Tract – Constructed 1,200 feet of levees and installed three water-control structures to create two wetland units with water management capabilities. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources will manage the area for natural wetlands vegetation, seasonally flooded bottomland hardwoods and flooded agricultural crops to supplement natural wildlife foods. Restored wetlands will support migrating and wintering mallards, green-winged teal, northern shovelers and gadwall. The area is open for public recreation, including waterfowl hunting.

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