



MAINE - NEW HAMPSHIRE - VERMONT

New England - North

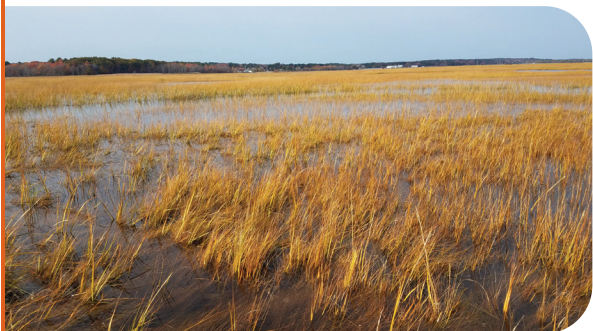
2022 STATE CONSERVATION REPORT

GREAT LAKES & ATLANTIC REGION

COMPLETING THE CYCLE INITIATIVE

★ ALBURGH BLUFF PROTECTION Vermont

Ducks Unlimited is cooperating with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to protect a 150-acre tract at Alburgh Bluff State Park, Alburgh, VT. The site will likely provide essential breeding and staging habitat for various birds, including the Black Ducks and Wood ducks. The property will close in March 2022.



DU HELPING ADVANCE WIDESPREAD CONSERVATION EFFORT IN MAINE

The Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) is leading several programs that will enhance or protect more than 91,000 acres in the state, and Ducks Unlimited is helping on three coastal projects. "Ducks Unlimited has been an important partner for MCHT over the years, and we are grateful that they are working with us on this important effort to bring federal wetlands dollars into the state," said Betsy Ham, director of land protection for Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Current ongoing projects include:

★ RACHEL CARSON NWR

A long with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, DU is working to restore 356 acres of coastal marsh habitat. The project will continue over 3-year and was funded by NAWCA. DU will work at three marshes, Marshall Point, Wells Harbor and Elbridge Marsh. The newly restored channels will allow water to flow in and out of the wetlands with each tide cycle, improving aquatic vegetation and high marsh habitat. The project will be completed by summer 2024.

★ COUSINS RIVER FIELDS AND MARSH PROTECTION PROJECT Completed

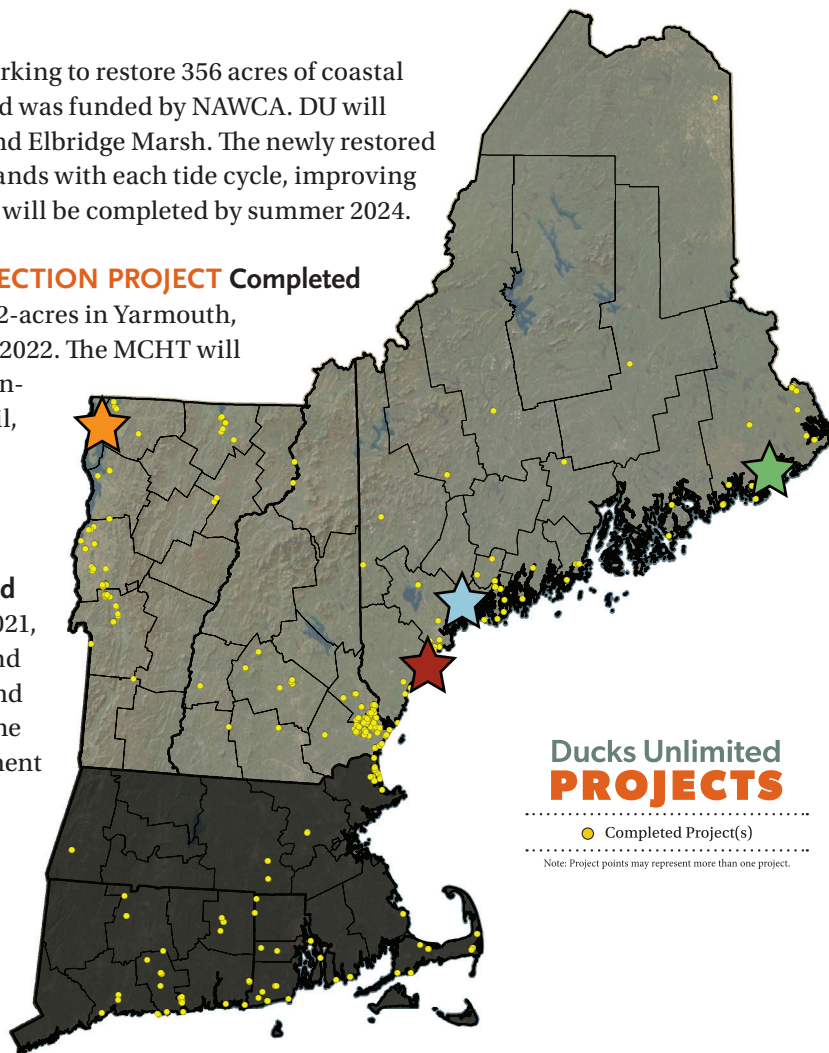
Ducks Unlimited assisted MCHT by protecting 82-acres in Yarmouth, Maine. The land acquisition was completed in January 2022. The MCHT will manage the property for wildlife and outdoor recreational opportunities. It will benefit the black duck, black rail, Saltmarsh sparrow and many other species.



★ POND COVE ISLAND

Completed
In October of 2021, Pond Cove Island was acquired and transferred to the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

and is now part of Roque Bluff State Park. The site will provide wildlife habitat and be open for kayakers and boaters to birdwatch, picnic, hike, hunt and fish.



Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

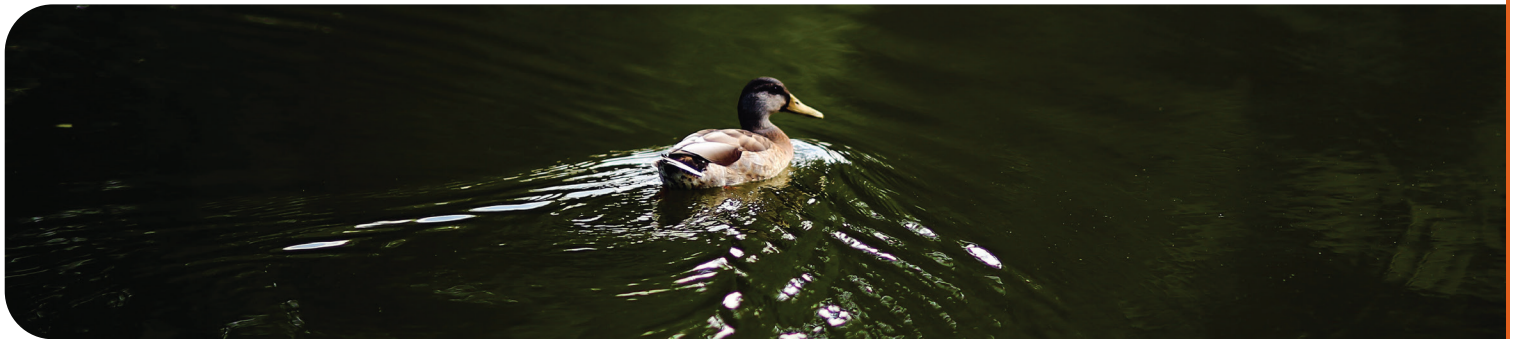
● Completed Project(s)

Note: Project points may represent more than one project.

PARTNERS INITIATE LARGE-SCALE STUDY TO EVALUATE DECLINE IN EASTERN MALLARDS

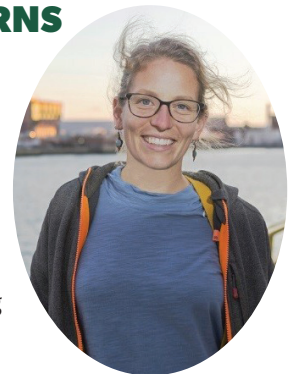
Mallards are a shared migratory resource and one of the most important species to hunters in the Atlantic Flyway. Based on banding data, locally produced mallards often contribute substantially to the annual harvest. Despite their value, the eastern mallard breeding population has declined 1% annually from a peak of 1.4 million birds in the mid-1990s to 1.05 million birds in 2019. The overall trend is worrisome but of greater concern is that the sub-population of breeding mallards in the northeastern US has declined by an estimated 36% over the past 20 years, while the sub-population in eastern Canada has remained relatively stable.

To shed light on the decline, a partnership including 21 state, federal and non-profit organizations from across the Atlantic Flyway have come together to initiate a new study to investigate the migration ecology and demographics of eastern mallards. Over the next four winters, partners will mark more than 1,000 hen mallards from South Carolina to eastern Canada using state of the art solar powered GPS-acceleration (behavioral) radio transmitters. This winter, project partners will be deploying 330 transmitters starting in January. Location and activity data collected via these transmitters will allow us to evaluate survival, nesting, migration timing, and habitat use differences throughout the year between the northeastern US and eastern Canada sub-populations. Several DU major donors are generously providing financial support for DU's involvement in this work.



RECENT EXPANSION INTO ECOSYSTEM SERVICES, MS. SARA BURNS

In recent years, DU has increased investments in understanding and describing the many benefits wetlands provide. Wetlands are a multi-tool in the environment, providing habitat, improving water quality, storing floodwaters, and helping to mitigate the impacts of drought. In some cases, they can also help store carbon. DU has recognized growing opportunities to engage with new partners and funders to grow our wetland conservation and restoration programs. Sara Burns was hired in 2021 as our Water Program Specialist to capitalize on these opportunities. Sara comes to DU from The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts. She will work with DU's state biologists and North America ecosystem services team to continue identifying and growing new partnerships and funding opportunities to increase wetland delivery in DU priority landscapes and habitats.



New England by the Numbers

HISTORIC

- More than \$9.5 Million invested
- Over 40,500 acres conserved

For more information visit www.ducks.org



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Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.DUCKS.ORG



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