



September 2024

# FALL FLIGHTS

## Program Update

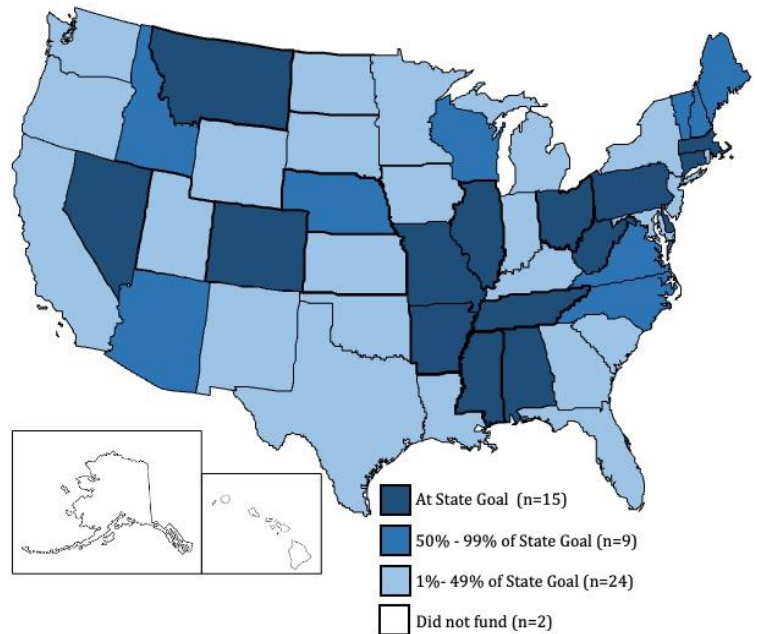


### Thank You!

- To the 48 states that invested \$5,552,708.
- To the directors, or their proxies, from 32 states who participated in Fall Flights Listening Sessions.
- To the staff from the 12 MAFWA states who participated in state team meetings.
- To Ducks Unlimited Inc. and Delta Waterfowl for matching state investments.
- To DU Canada and Manitoba Habitat Conservancy for conservation delivery.
- To everyone who advocated for Fall Flights and North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) appropriations.

### If we all do a little individually, we can accomplish a lot together!

Forty-eight states contributed \$US 5,552,708 to Canadian waterfowl habitat projects during 2023-24. This amount surpasses the previous record of \$5,270,612 in 2020-21, AFWA’s interim goal of states contributing \$5 million annually by 2026, and puts us ahead of schedule in reaching our shared goal of states contributing \$10 million by 2031. Since Fall Flights’ inception in 1991, states have invested a total of \$107,136,861 resulting in more than \$500 million in conservation actions.



It all starts with states committing to this team effort. Fifteen states are leading the way with commitments at or above goal. This year, Arkansas and Pennsylvania joined this pioneering group. Additionally, nine states are more than halfway to their goal, two years ahead of the 2026 target date.

Maine achieved this milestone this year. Ten states increased their contributions by more than \$1,000 including Arkansas, Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Pennsylvania, Arkansas, and Montana led the way with increases of \$198,000, \$180,000, and \$94,000, respectively.

The Fall Flights manager, partners, and Advisory Committee members are ready to work with all states to assist in reaching or exceeding the 50% of goal milestone to ensure success by 2026.

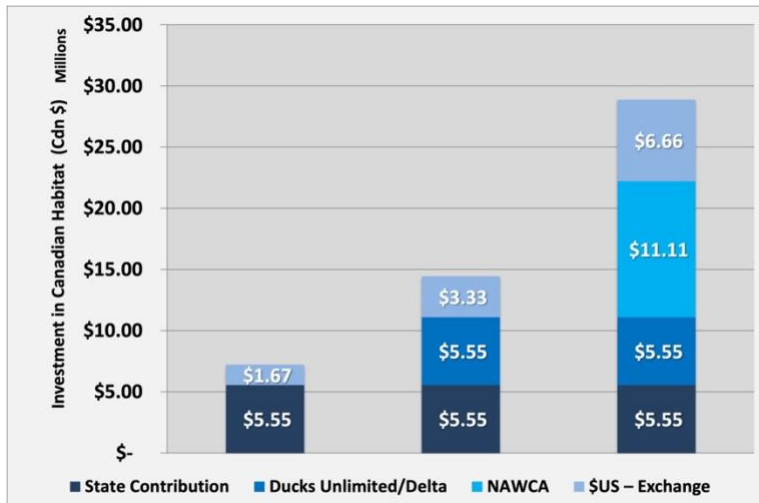
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## Making the Most of Agency Dollars

DU matched \$5,080,295 of the states' investments, thus with NAWCA funding, the investment grew to \$US 20.3M. Delta Waterfowl and Manitoba Habitat Conservancy (MHC) invested and matched the remaining \$472,413 of state funding, which grew to \$US 1.9M. Given currency exchange rates, the \$US 22.2M funds generated an additional \$CAN 6.7M that was invested in Canadian habitat. Total Canadian breeding grounds investments were nearly \$CAN 28.9 million.



## The Conservation Need

Based on currently available information, the 5-year habitat goals for the Canadian Joint Ventures are to conserve 4 million acres at a cost of \$CAN 1 billion. The 20-year outlook will require the conservation of 14 million acres at an estimated cost of \$CAN 5 billion. This seeks to conserve the national wetland base and migratory bird habitats through a thoughtful combination of **habitat securement, enhancement, and management**, promotion of sustainable land use, landowner incentives and progressive policy and regulation.

## Fall Flights Advisory Committee

Committee Position	Member Name
Advisory Comm Chair	Ryan Brown (VA)
Advisory Comm Past Chair	Chuck Sykes (AL)
Waterfowl Working Group Chair	Shaun Oldenburger (TX)
Ducks Unlimited Inc.	Karen Waldrop, CCO
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Pat Kehoe, CCO
Manitoba Habitat Conservancy/ Delta Waterfowl	Stephen Carlyle, CEO
WAFWA Director	Jeb Williams (ND)
MAFWA Director	Tim McCoy (NE)
SEAFWA Director	Austin Booth (AR)
NEAFWA Director	Judy Camuso (ME)
National Flyway Council	Vacant
Canadian Provincial Director	Christy Curley (ON)
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies	Tammy VerCauteren, Exec Dir
American Bird Conservancy	EJ Williams, VP Mig Birds & Hab
Audubon	Marshall Johnson, CCO
<b>Support:</b>	
NAWMP Director / Wildlife Liaison (AFWA)	Dean Smith
Fall Flights Manager	Andy Raedeke
Ducks Unlimited Inc.	Craig LeSchack
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Dave Kotersky
Delta Waterfowl / Manitoba Habitat Conservancy	Roald Stander

**The outlook for 2024-25 is optimistic with several states exploring options to increase investments!**

### RECORD BREAKING YEAR

*State commitments remain strong this year totaling nearly \$5.6 million from 48 states. Fifteen states meeting their AFWA goal played a significant role in reaching this record year.*

*These states are:*

*Arkansas, Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and West Virginia*

### 2024 Total: \$5,552,708

