



AGENCY LEADERS ADVOCATE FOR FALL FLIGHTS

Minnesota and Arkansas Agency Leaders Tour Canadian Waterfowl Habitats

MINNESOTA AND ARKANSAS AGENCY LEADERS ADVOCATE FOR FALL FLIGHTS AFTER INSPIRING TOURS OF CANADIAN WATERFOWL HABITATS

Leaders from Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) recently returned from eye-opening tours of key waterfowl habitats in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. These visits provided valuable insights that will help both agencies make informed decisions about their investments in Canada.

MINNESOTA HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRSTHAND OBSERVATION ↴

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Witnessing the wetland and grassland complexes and seeing the numerous duck broods and other wildlife benefiting from our investments, assured me that these investments lead to more birds migrating to and through Minnesota each fall.”

~ Pat Rivers, Fish and Wildlife Division Deputy Director at the Minnesota DNR, emphasized the significance of seeing these habitats firsthand.



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I was amazed at the scale of work just at one site in Manitoba. The DU-Canada staff are efficient at utilizing dollars on the ground for large scale habitat work. Being able to have eyes on the end product helps bring that message back to MN with a personal touch. It revitalizes the commitment made and strengthens support for this habitat work. As we all struggle with doing more with less resources, it is easy to lose sight of this work in Canada. As I look forward to the arrival of migrating birds this fall, I can't help but think back to our trip to Manitoba and know that Minnesota is doing our part to ensure these birds keep coming.”

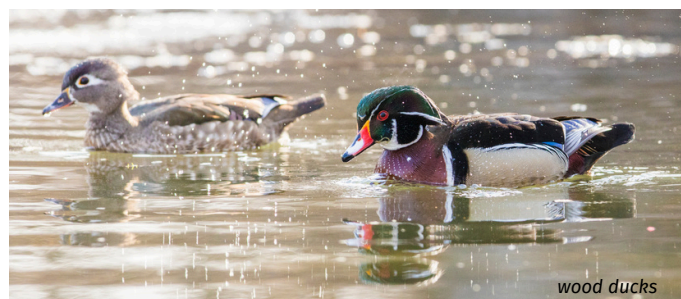
~ Jamie Gangaware, Minnesota DNR Wildlife Operations Manager echoed Rivers sentiments.



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← Photo: Kelly Straka, Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife; Landowner; Jamie Gangaware, Wildlife Operations Manager; and Pat Rivers, Deputy Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife



wood ducks

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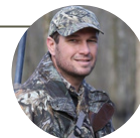
ARKANSAS RECOMMENDS COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF PARTICIPATION

Arkansas leads the nation with an \$800,000 investment in Fall Flights - \$100,000 beyond their initial goal. To maintain support for these efforts, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) periodically visits Canada to learn more about how their investments are protecting priority waterfowl habitats.

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“These visits are crucial for maintaining support within our agency. Having staff and commissioners visit Canada together provides an opportunity to focus fully on our waterfowl conservation goals without distractions. We can share ideas with our commissioners and learn directly from Ducks Unlimited Canada.”

~ Brad Carner Deputy Director of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission



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This past spring, Arkansas Game and Fish Commissioner traveled to Saskatchewan. Commission Chair J.D. Neeley was impressed by what he saw. ↴

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“As commissioners, our attention is often divided among many issues. This trip allowed us to concentrate on waterfowl conservation. It was eye-opening to see the scale of what’s needed to put habitat on the ground – and what we risk losing if we do nothing.”

~ Chair J.D. Neeley, Arkansas Game and Fish Commissioner



““The return on investment has been nearly thirty years of liberal duck seasons, and we want to keep that going.”

~ Brad Carner Deputy Director of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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TAKE THE NEXT STEP: PLAN YOUR STATE’S TRIP TO CANADA

Interested in learning more about how Fall Flights benefits your state? Consider scheduling a trip to Canada to see firsthand how your investments in Fall Flights are contributing to increased duck populations, providing essential habitat for migratory birds, and ensuring future generations will be able to connect with nature through the wonder of bird migrations.

Times available for these tours fill up quickly, so contact DU-Canada or Manitoba Habitat Conservancy (MHC) soon. To organize a trip with DU-Canada, contact Howie Singer at h_singer@ducks.ca. For a trip with Delta Waterfowl and MHC, reach out to Roald Stander at rstander@mbhabitat.ca.



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