

# American Black Duck Conservation Plan



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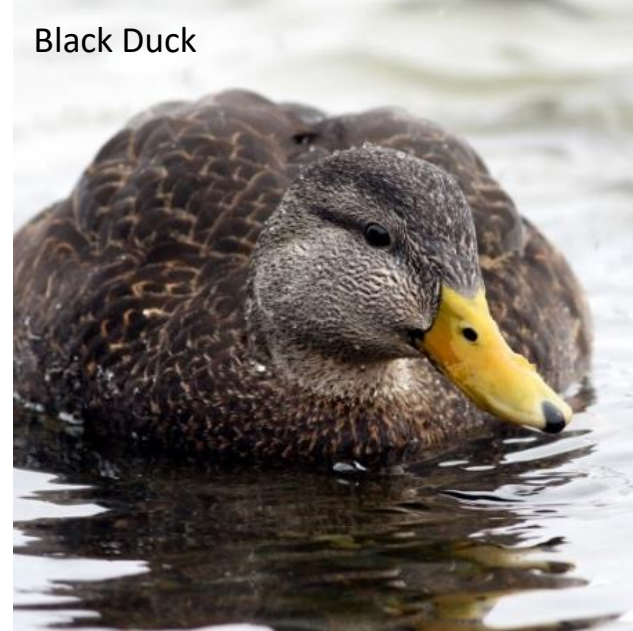




Black Rail



Saltmarsh Sparrow



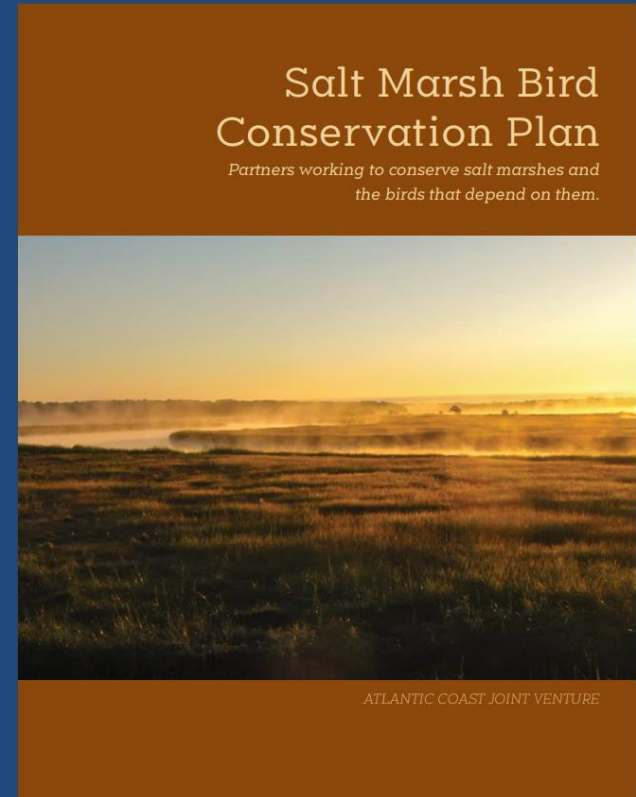
Black Duck

Current Focus

Salt marsh habitat  
3 “flagship” species:

# Salt Marsh Bird Conservation Plan

- Identifies strategies & actions
- Implementation focus on most imperiled species (high marsh)



# Salt Marsh Bird Conservation Plan

Strategies for:

- **Habitat Conservation**
- **Policy, Planning & Outreach**
- **Research & Monitoring**



# Complementary Species Plans

## Black Rail Conservation Plan

*Atlantic Coast Joint Venture partners  
working to conserve an imperiled species.*



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## Saltmarsh Sparrow Conservation Plan

*Partners working to conserve salt marshes and  
the birds that depend on them.*



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# Species Action Plans

Population & habitat objectives

Threats & strategies

Tailored management recommendations

Priority maps

Science needs

# ABDU Plan

- Based on NAWMP Population Goal (80<sup>th</sup> %)
- Focus on **non-breeding** habitat (US Atl Flyway)
- First draft circulated March 2021
- Seeking input to refine
- Finalize & approve by fall 2021

# Threats

| Threat  | Rating    |
|---|-----------|
| Habitat loss from sea level rise                        | Very High |
| Habitat loss from development                           | High      |
| Land use incompatible with marsh migration              | High      |
| Tidal restrictions that change hydrology                | High      |
| Transportation infrastructure that restricts tidal flow | High      |
| Human disturbance                                       | High      |
| Invasive species - Phragmites                           | Medium    |
| Dams that reduce sediment transport                     | Medium    |
| Invasive species - Mallards                             | Medium    |



# Implementation Strategies

- Protect Marsh Migration Corridors
- BMPs to Facilitate Marsh Migration
- Restore Tidal Wetland Hydrology
- Water Level Management (Impoundments)
- Control Exotic & Invasive Species
- Restore & enhance non-tidal wetland hydrology

# Habitat Objectives

- Based on the Decision Support Tool (DU)
- State by state goals
- Habitat quality/capacity varies by type
- Currency is DUD (food energy)

# Integrating Across Species

- Focus on quality & quantity of tidal marshes
- Improve marsh resiliency
- Ensure marsh migration
- Collateral benefits expected
- Ongoing protection/restoration/enhancement



## Implementation Strategies

### Black Rail:

- Create new non-tidal habitat areas
- Impoundment management
- Prescribed fire & agriculture BMPs
- Facilitated marsh migration BMPs

# NAWCA Grants

- FY21: 17 Standard + 7 Small grants
- **\$19.6 M** in grants (match)
- Leveraged \$50 M match (\$21.6 M non-match)
- **75,307 acres** conserved
- Most of these projects benefit ABDU!

# Highest Priorities

- Test Promising Management Actions
  - get more conservation on the ground!
- Facilitate regional implementation efforts
- Integrate across species to optimize efforts



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