

# Manteo

## Wildlife and Habitat Management Office



photo: USFWS



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### Photos (top to bottom)

*This Canada goose was satellite tagged at Pea Island NWR. It will provide valuable information on timing and paths taken by Canada geese migrating between Pea Island and the breeding grounds on the Canadian tundra.*

*Moist soil management on private lands. North Carolina Partners provides cost share funds and technical assistance to private landowners for wetland restoration and management. Prior converted croplands are converted to moist soil management to provide valuable habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, rails and a diversity of other wildlife species. NC Partners is a joint effort between USFWS, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Ducks Unlimited.*

*This water control structure, provided through a Partners for Fish and Wildlife Project, restored 66 acres of drained pocosin and non-alluvial swamp in eastern North Carolina.*

*A refuge impoundment drawn down to provide shorebird habitat for spring migration.*

### Station Facts

- Established: 1967.
- FY 05 budget: \$298,000.
- Staff: four FTEs.
- Work Area: North Carolina, South Carolina, Atlantic coast.

### Station Goals

- Coordinating and integrating migratory bird surveys and management in NC and SC.
- Providing cross coordinated/consistent biological/scientific support and consultation for all national wildlife refuges in NC and SC, emphasizing Trust Species resources and ecosystem approach.

- Implementing the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Restoring and improving wetland wildlife habitat on private lands with emphasis on migratory birds.

### Services Provided to

- Private landowners.
- National wildlife refuges in NC and SC.
- Other state and Federal agencies.

### Activity Highlights

- This office is cooperating with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Cornell University Cooperative Wildlife Unit and area refuges to determine migration times and pathways of Atlantic Population and Maritime (North Atlantic) Population Canada geese that winter in NC. Satellite tags have or will eventually be placed on 10 geese at Pea Island NWR and 12 geese at Mattamuskeet/Pocosin Lakes NWR. These tags then provide data, through satellites, on the location of these birds for approximately 15 months.
- Coordinates the annual dove call counts for NC and SC, mid-winter surveys for waterfowl, tundra swan banding, and tundra swan and snow goose productivity surveys for NC.
- We are currently developing, in cooperation with the Ecosystem teams, a coordinated shorebird management plan for the South Atlantic Coast. Scheduled to continue in spring of 2002, this plan will set acreage goals for managed habitat to be available for shorebird migration (fall and spring).
- Working closely with refuge manager and biologists to conduct biological reviews, which can be used in the CCP and HMP planning process.

The acreage goals will be set according to expected migration times through three latitudinal zones. Participating managers (Federal, state and private) will be able to view these goals via internet and indicate when their managed areas will be available for shorebirds, while “seeing” when other managed areas are available. Census data will also be centrally stored and available for all managers and researchers.

- The North Carolina Partners Program was developed jointly by this office, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Ducks Unlimited. This program cost shares with landowners to restore/enhance drained wetlands and winter flood farmland to provide migratory bird habitat. Since its beginning in 1997, the program has produced over 3,000 acres of migratory bird habitat on private land in North Carolina.
- Through “Partner for Fish and Wildlife”, a national Fish and Wildlife Service Program, this office has restored approximately 2,000 acres of drained wetland since 1996.

### Questions and Answers

*How can I get help with restoring wildlife habitat on my property?*

Contact this office and tell us about your property and what you want to achieve on it for wildlife. We will schedule a visit with you to your site, where we will discuss your objectives, provide suggestions on habitat management and explain our programs (Partners for Fish and Wildlife and NC Partners) and determine which one best suits your land and what you want. We will then develop a plan for you. Once you have approved it we will submit it for funding.

*If I am interested in making my managed impoundment part of the South Atlantic Coordinated Shorebird Management Plan what should I do?*

Contact this Office. We will give you more details about the plan and see if your area can be managed to fit into the overall goals. If so we will begin to get you integrated into the plan.