

2024

FISCAL YEAR SUMMARY

CONSERVING GEORGIA'S
WILDLIFE



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION



CONSERVING
WILDLIFE



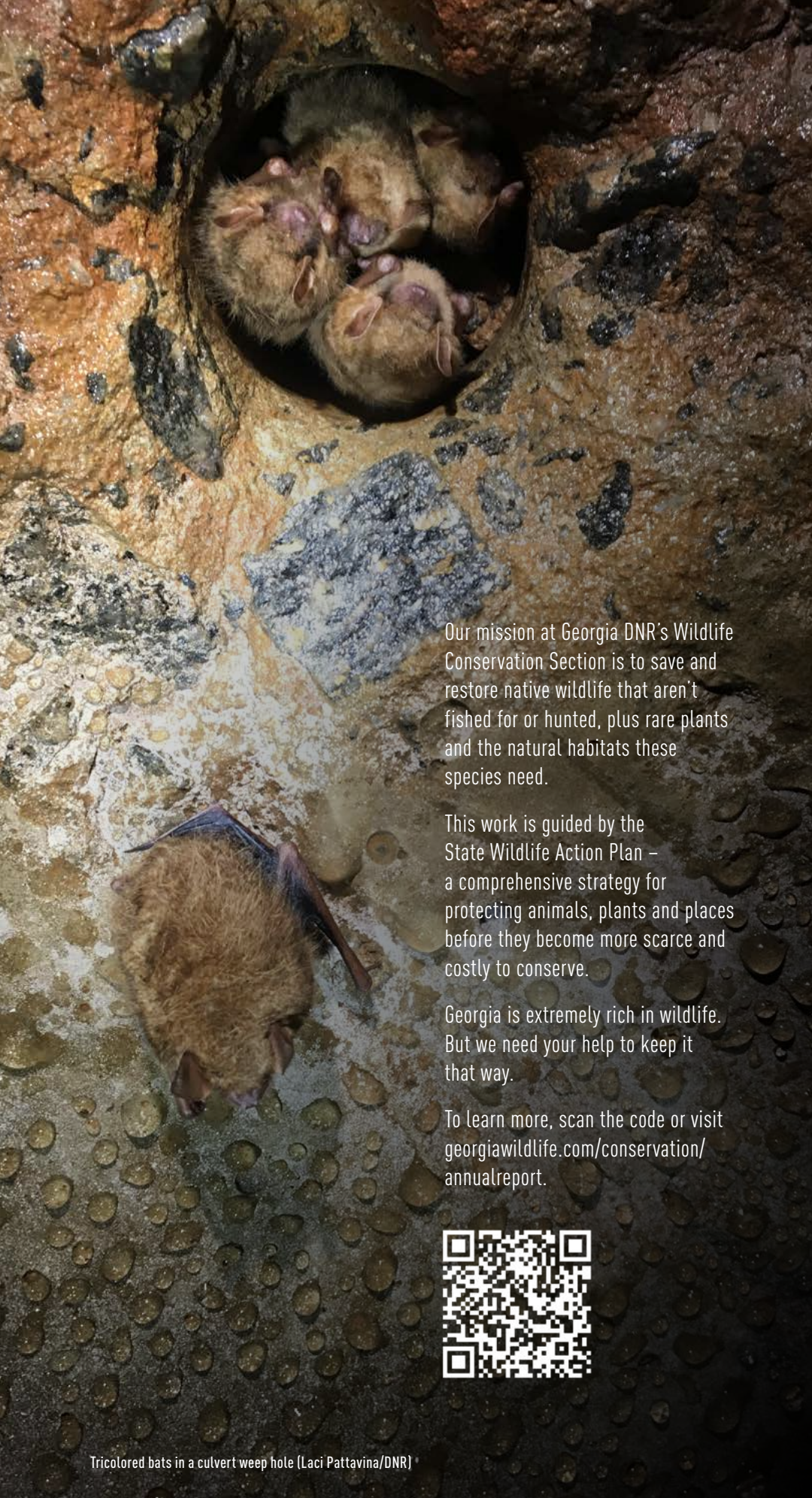
RESTORING
HABITAT

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



ENGAGING GEORGIANS





Our mission at Georgia DNR's Wildlife Conservation Section is to save and restore native wildlife that aren't fished for or hunted, plus rare plants and the natural habitats these species need.

This work is guided by the State Wildlife Action Plan – a comprehensive strategy for protecting animals, plants and places before they become more scarce and costly to conserve.

Georgia is extremely rich in wildlife. But we need your help to keep it that way.

To learn more, scan the code or visit georgiawildlife.com/conservation/annualreport.



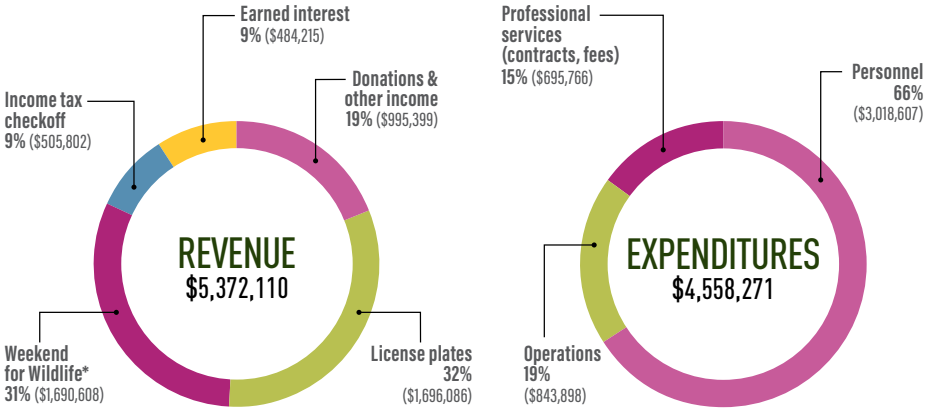
HIGHLIGHTS

- Returned rare red-cockaded woodpeckers to Sprewell Bluff WMA after a 50-year absence.
- Teamed with Georgia DOT on historic agreements to protect bat habitat and streamline roadwork.
- Documented the short life of a North Atlantic right whale calf hit by a vessel, underscoring the threats these imperiled whales face.
- Combated invasive species, from Chinese privet in Montezuma Bluffs swamps to tegus in Toombs and Tattnall counties.
- Worked with Mercer University to strengthen populations of endangered fringed campion.
- Found and promoted for bird-friendly viewing a state-rare nest of common ravens at Tallulah Gorge.
- Helped set a DNR prescribed fire record of 96,600 acres burned while also meeting new air quality standards.
- Monitored increases in rare mussels in southwest Georgia and sicklefin redhorse in northwest Georgia.
- Recorded more than 19,000 colonial wading bird nests in the first Coastal Plain-wide survey since 1996.
- Came within one site of the Gopher Tortoise Conservation Initiative's goal to protect 65 populations in Georgia. *(Tip: No. 65 is in the works!)*
- Informed thousands about wildlife via social media, events, camps and teacher workshops.



FULL REPORT AT georgiawildlife.com/conservation/annualreport

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



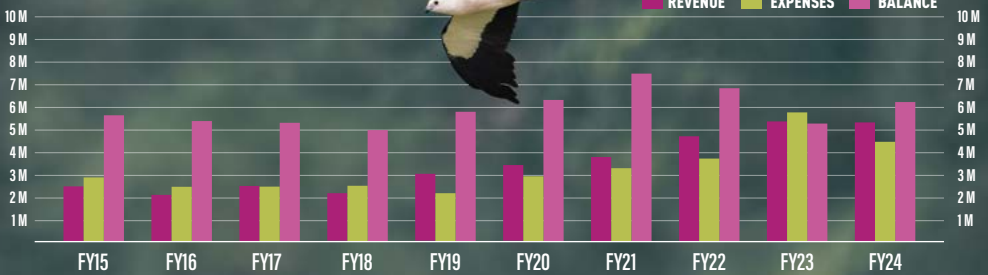
Revenue to the Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund. Does not include grants or state appropriations for the Wildlife Conservation Section.

Expenditures paid through the Nongame Fund.

*2024 Weekend for Wildlife revenue disbursed by the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation in fiscal 2025.

NONGAME WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND

Listed in millions per year



Swallow-tailed kite (Brian Mitchell)



DNR's Joyce Sanks with an egg sampled from a loggerhead sea turtle nest

DID YOU KNOW?

State funding made up less than one half of 1% of the Wildlife Conservation Section's research and conservation budget in fiscal 2024. That means we depend on fundraisers, grants and donations.

Join with us as a supporter, volunteer, landowner or organization and give wildlife a chance!



Firefly survey crew near Lake Hartwell (Special to DNR)

HOW YOU CAN HELP



BUY an eagle or monarch butterfly license plate or renew these or an older design, like the hummingbird tag. Most of the \$25 fee goes directly to wildlife!



DONATE to the Georgia Wildlife Conservation Fund at gooutdoorsgeorgia.com. Simply click "Licenses and Permits" to create an account and give.



CONTRIBUTE through the Wildlife Conservation Fund state income-tax checkoff. Details at georgiawildlife.com/donations.



PURCHASE a hunting or fishing license. A license returns to Georgia wildlife the fee *plus* up to \$45 in federal excise taxes paid by hunters and anglers.



VOLUNTEER with DNR and join conservation organizations such as our friends group, The Environmental Resources Network. More at gooutdoorsgeorgia.com and tern.homestead.com.



“We are incredibly thankful to all of our partners who work with us to conserve Georgia’s amazing biodiversity and natural beauty. From individuals to foundations, nonprofits and businesses, your support is critical. We sincerely appreciate the donations, collaborations and connections that make our mission possible.”

Matt Elliott | Chief, Wildlife Conservation Section

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COVER: Endangered fringed campion

PHOTO CREDITS

INSIDE COVER: Finedlined pocketbook mussel | Monarch butterfly on aquatic milkweed
Outdoor Wildlife Leadership School participants in north Georgia | Red-cockaded woodpecker
All photos are from DNR unless noted.