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| Spring Migrating American Golden-plovers – Douglas County, IL Farming and Conservation Synergy Every year hundreds of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl migrate through Midwestern states on their way to breeding grounds further north. Many of these species have experienced severe population declines as natural wetland habitat was drained to promote row-crop agriculture. The SCARC program is working to reverse this by using modern agricultural practices for the benefit of wildlife.   * Maintain wet and flooded fields during early spring. * Provide habitat for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl * Reduce Nitrogen and other nutrient runoff * Maintain current planting schedules * Increase harvest yields |  |  | |  | | --- | | Who We Are and What We Do?About Us The SCARC program represents a cooperative effort between the University of Illinois, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Audubon Society, USDA-NRCS, and local farmers throughout central Illinois. Program Goals The SCARC program is working to create valuable stopover habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl throughout central Illinois. SCARC participants use drainage water management to maintain water levels in agricultural fields that are at or above the soil surface. Through the use of drainage water management the SCARC program is looking to provide critical stopover habitat and reduce Nitrogen and nutrient loss, all while allowing farmers to maintain current farming practices. Contact Us Phone: [Telephone] Email: [Email address] Web: [Web address] | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Image result for university of Illinois logo |  |  |   **Contact Us**  Mike Ward (217) 244-4089  mpward@illinois.edu  Kirk Stodola (217) 300-4003  kstodola@illinois.edu | |  |  | |  | | --- | |  | |  | | SCARC | | Shorebird Conservation Acreage via drainage water Runoff Control | |

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| How does SCARC work?Drainage Water Management as tool for conservation The SCARC program is providing financial and technical assistance to farmers interested in installing water control structures (pictured above) in their fields. These water control structures can be used to create temporary wetlands vital to migrating shorebirds and waterfowl, while helping to reduce nutrient runoff. Better yet, the water control structures allow the farmer to maintain current farming practices and planting schedules! |  |  | Program Successes The SCARC program has helped create hundreds of acres of wet and flooded fields during the months of March and April. Dozens of farmers have participated and have been happy with the results.  “All the surface water was gone 24 hours after I opened the tile. I was pleased that the farm drained as quickly as it did…... Interesting experiment overall!!!” – SCARC participant, Douglas County, IL Benefits to Wildlife Shorebirds are 15 times more likely to use SCARC fields compared to nearby fields not enrolled in the program. As a result, the SCARC program has provided stopover habitat to tens of thousands of American Golden-plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, and other shorebirds! Furthermore, the program has provided habitat to numerous waterfowl frog species. |  |  | [American Golden-plovers in Edgar County, IL field] Learn More About the SCARC Program The SCARC program is merging modern farming practices with and cutting-edge conservation science for the benefits of both the producer and wildlife. Through a unique cooperative between state and federal agencies, the University of Illinois is leading the way in transforming the central Illinois landscape into one that is more prosperous, sustainable, and wildlife friendly. To learn more about the program, please contact us:  Mike Ward (217) 244-4089  mpward@illinois.edu  Kirk Stodola (217) 300-4003  kstodola@illinois.edu |