

Quebec's BOREAL DUCKS

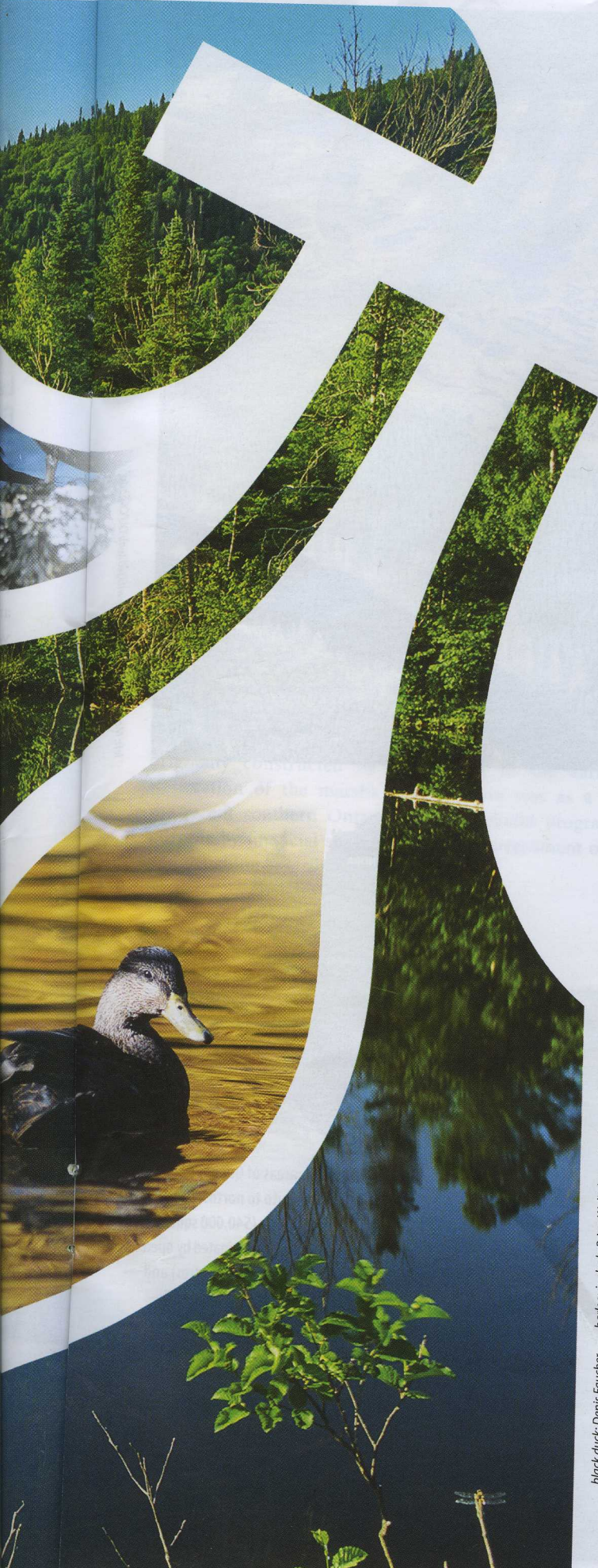


In the boreal forests of *La Belle Province* – a region twice the size of Texas – Ducks Unlimited Canada faces monumental and unique conservation challenges. More than up for the task, DUC is helping to conserve the vast area's wetland treasures.

by MARCEL DARVEAU

WHEN I STARTED AT DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA (DUC) in 2003, I accepted the challenge of developing a conservation program for the waterfowl in Quebec's boreal forest. The challenge was both colossal and stimulating, working on the conservation of wetlands and waterfowl in an immense territory of 1.2 million square kilometres – or over 294 million acres.

The early years of Quebec's boreal forest program focused on research to inform conservation decisions. We asked four major questions: ❶ How are the wetlands distributed on the landscape? ❷ Where are the areas with high waterfowl abundance? ❸ What are the major threats to those areas? and ❹ What are the most appropriate conservation approaches?



background: © Garth Lenz

harlequin duck: Brian Wolitski

black duck: Denis Faucher

