



# Audubon California

2025  
IMPACT  
REPORT



Audubon

CALIFORNIA



FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT

# Uniting Through Birds



**FOR 120 YEARS**, Audubon has brought people together through the shared wonder of birds. What began as a movement to protect these species has grown into a hemispheric force for conservation—safeguarding the habitats that sustain us all.

Today, as the planet faces unprecedented environmental challenges, we are building on that legacy to meet this moment. Like the birds we protect, Audubon continues to adapt and evolve to match the scale and complexity of the threats ahead.

As we approach the midpoint of Flight Plan, our strategic plan, I am proud to share the stories and accomplishments that reflect the progress we have made toward our ambitious goals.

Flight Plan calls for the protection and conservation of 300 million acres of connected, climate-resilient habitat stretching from Chile to Alaska. We are also accelerating the transition to renewable energy and advancing natural climate solutions that store billions of tons of carbon in forests, wetlands, and grasslands to slow the effects of climate change.

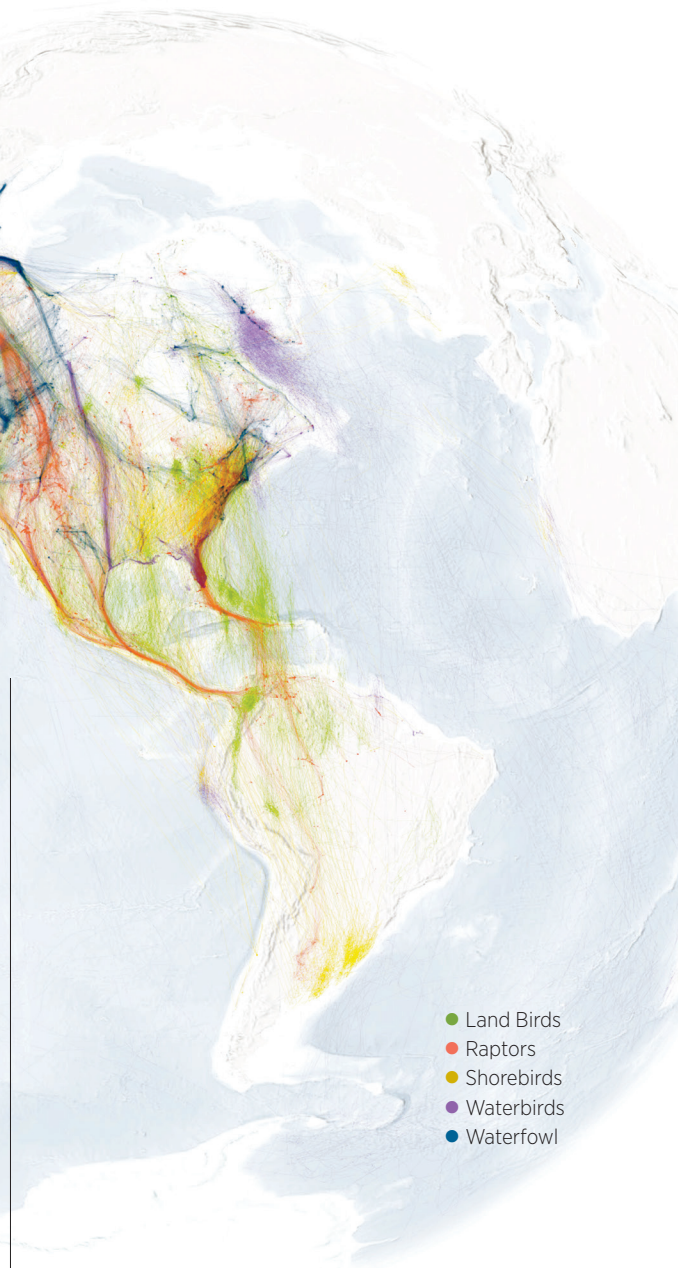
Together with partners and supporters like you, Audubon is achieving lasting conservation results across the hemisphere and here in California.

This report highlights how our regional work contributes to this collective effort. Every acre protected, every policy advanced, and every person inspired by birds brings us closer to a future where birds, people, and the planet thrive.

Thank you for your continued commitment.

With gratitude,

**ANDREA JONES**  
**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**AUDUBON CALIFORNIA**



- Land Birds
- Raptors
- Shorebirds
- Waterbirds
- Waterfowl

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## From Vision to Impact: Audubon's Flight Plan Progress

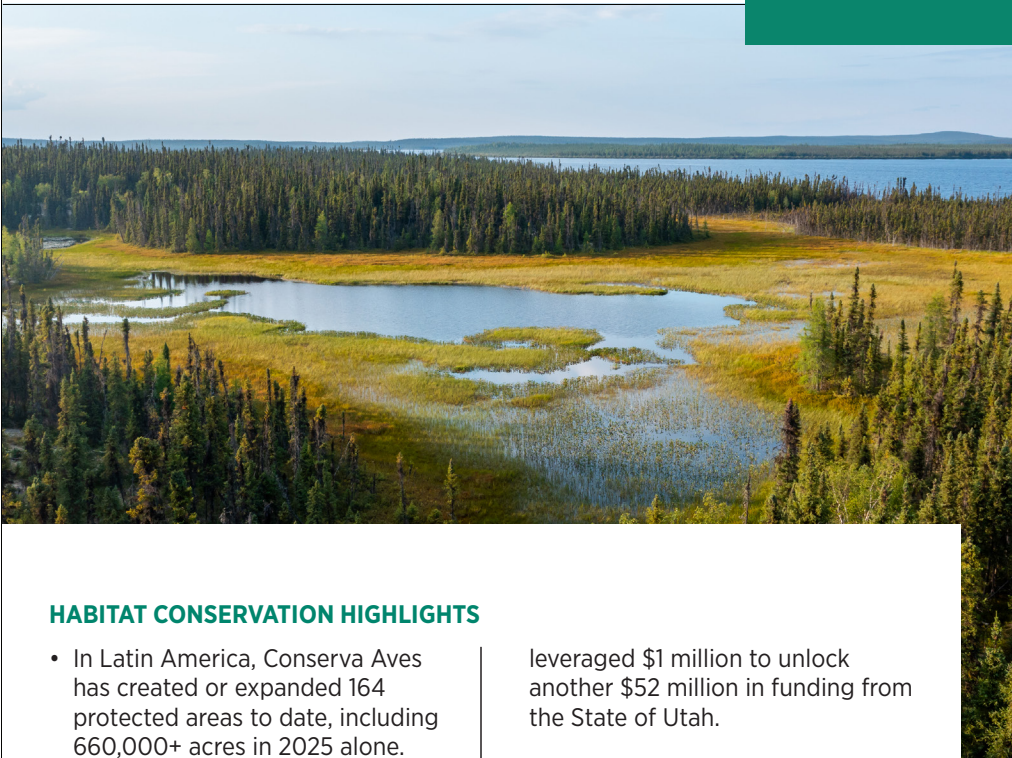
Through Flight Plan, Audubon is leveraging the power of birds to drive conservation at the scale our planet needs. From conserving millions of acres of habitat to advancing renewable energy and deepening connections across the hemisphere, we are proving that, together, we can tackle the drivers of climate change and biodiversity loss while reversing the precipitous decline of birds across the Americas.



### 2028 MILESTONE: HABITAT CONSERVATION

#### Protect 300 million acres of connected, climate-resilient bird habitat across the Americas

Under Flight Plan, Audubon is influencing more than 200 million acres—an extraordinary achievement that includes over 80 million acres already conserved and another 152 million in the pipeline.



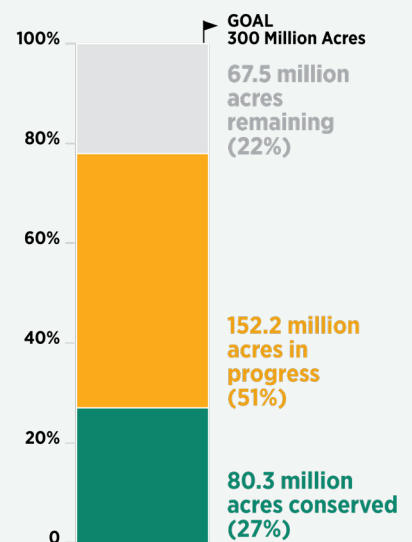
Seal River Watershed  
Indigenous Protected  
Area Initiative

#### HABITAT CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

- In Latin America, Conserva Aves has created or expanded 164 protected areas to date, including 660,000+ acres in 2025 alone.
- In Maryland, Audubon and partners identified 29,000 acres of saltmarsh for protection and restoration benefitting birds and people in coastal communities.
- The Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Trust, co-led by Audubon and The Nature Conservancy, delivered more than 70,000 acre-feet of water to the lake and its wetlands and leveraged \$1 million to unlock another \$52 million in funding from the State of Utah.
- In Canada, the 12-million-acre Seal River Watershed took a huge step toward permanent protections with interim protections from industrial development.
- In South Dakota, we secured 22,000+ acres of marginal cropland and adjacent upland for restoration into healthy grasslands through our Conservation Forage program.

#### PROGRESS TOWARD GOAL

As of July 1, 2025







## 2028 MILESTONE: CLIMATE ACTION

**Advocate for the deployment of 100 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy—enough to power 75 million homes—and support responsibly sited transmission infrastructure • Conserve forests, wetlands, grasslands, and other habitats that can collectively sequester and store 30 billion tons of carbon**

Audubon's Climate Milestone addresses the climate crisis in ways that benefit both birds and people—pairing rapid, responsible expansion of renewable energy with the power of natural systems to sequester and store carbon.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY

Audubon has advanced 70 projects that are accelerating decarbonization while protecting important habitat. We have moved forward nearly 40 GW of renewable generation and 10 GW of transmission.



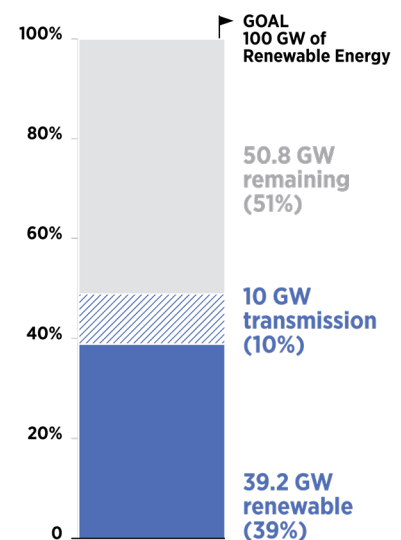
Wind turbines in the ocean off the coast of Block Island near Rhode Island.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Audubon helped pass a landmark Minnesota law allowing power transmission lines to be co-located along highway corridors, reducing habitat fragmentation while helping unlock clean energy access.
- We partnered with a solar project developer on a 1.3 GW project in Wisconsin to protect habitat of the Greater Prairie Chicken.
- Working with lawmakers and utilities in California, we helped strengthen wildlife-friendly solar siting standards, including the Darden Clean Energy Project in Fresno County—the largest in the U.S.

### PROGRESS TOWARD GOAL

As of July 1, 2025



### NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

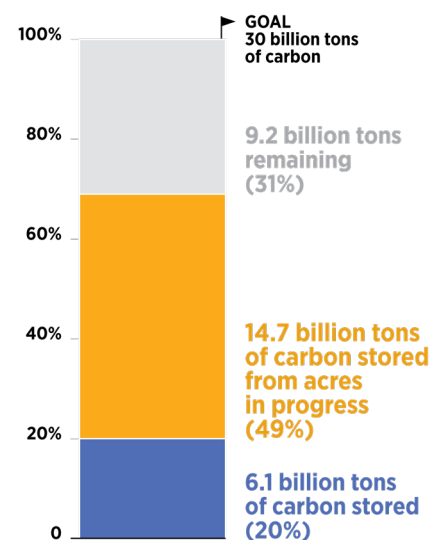
Audubon has sequestered and stored 6.1 billion tons of carbon, with another 14.7 billion tons expected from landscapes where lasting protection and restoration is already in motion, reflecting the powerful impact of conservation work underway today.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Audubon completed a major study of mangroves in Panama Bay and Parita Bay, which concluded that this habitat is projected to sequester 26.6 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, providing \$155 million annually in economic benefits.
- We secured \$1.2 million from the U.S. Forest Service to support our work with South Carolina “small-acreage” forest owners—who collectively manage 87 percent of the state’s privately owned forests, which effectively sequester and store carbon.
- At Climate Week NYC 2025 and IUCN’s 2025 World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi, Audubon presented our natural climate solutions science, and led discussions on natural climate solutions at COP30 in Brazil.

### PROGRESS TOWARD GOAL

As of July 1, 2025





## 2028 MILESTONE: POLICY LEADERSHIP

### Work with policymakers at the local, state, country, and global levels to accomplish Audubon's Healthy Birds, Healthy Planet policy agenda



**Bold policy action and sustained public funding are essential for reversing biodiversity loss and addressing climate change. Since Flight Plan launched, Audubon has helped secure more than 100 policies shaping a healthier future for birds and people.**

**Photo: Farmers, ranchers, and Audubon staff gathered in Washington, D.C., for the 2025 Farm Bill Fly-In, meeting with members of Congress on Capitol Hill.**

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Audubon supported the passage of three federal policies: the America's Conservation Enhancement Reauthorization Act, the Bolstering Ecosystems Against Coastal Harm Act, and the Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act.
- With 30 Senate and Hill staffers, we co-hosted a State of the Birds briefing on Capitol Hill to support the threatened Bird Banding Lab and the North American Breeding Bird Survey—critical federal programs that advance bird science.
- We secured record-high funding for key Farm Bill conservation programs, scaling Audubon Conservation Ranching and the Conservation Forage initiatives.
- We helped pass Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund which steers nearly half of state lottery proceeds—approximately \$2 billion—to conservation over the next 25 years.



## 2028 MILESTONE: COMMUNITY BUILDING

### Double the number of bird lovers and conservationists who support Audubon and advance our mission



**Birding during Little Creek Summer Camp near the Audubon Center at Riverlands in Florissant, Missouri.**

**Flight Plan unites Audubon's community work, linking Conservation Action Centers, Sanctuaries, Community and Campus Chapters, next generation programs, community science initiatives, and millions of members and supporters into a powerful network of action.**

**In 2025 alone, Audubon directly engaged 2.3 million bird lovers and conservationists through this network.**

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- 32 Centers and 29 Sanctuaries serve as Audubon's front doors, welcoming individuals and communities into conservation action.
- More than 400 active community chapters connect people locally through conservation and advocacy.
- Audubon on Campus now spans 100 colleges and universities in 38 states, including 22 chapters at Minority Serving Institutions and eight at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
- We hosted two Audubon Leadership Conferences: 350+ participants from 32 states and 11 countries at Estes Park, Colorado, in 2023; 450+ participants from 48 states and 11 countries in Montreal, Canada, in 2025.
- Audubon mobilized an annual average of 80,000+ participants across 21 countries in the Christmas Bird Count, completing more than 5,300 counts and documenting over 85 million birds.

Connecting healthy,  
climate-resilient habitat  
across the Americas

# California



Long-billed  
Dowitchers

**AUDUBON CALIFORNIA IS PROUD OF THE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE IN OUR WORK TOWARDS AUDUBON'S FLIGHT PLAN MILESTONES.**

From the Southern California desert where we co-lead the effort to establish the Chuckwalla National Monument, to the agricultural fields of the Central Valley where we create temporary wetlands during migratory seasons, we are leading critical conservation efforts across the state.

By ensuring biodiverse habitats are protected all along the Pacific Flyway, when and where they're needed, we give birds like the Long-billed Dowitcher the best chance of succeeding in their awe-inspiring migrations and in raising the next generation.



## Making Our Working Lands Work for Birds

**OUR WINGS OVER WORKING LANDS TEAM** celebrated 10 years of BirdReturns, an innovative temporary habitat program that transforms working wetlands and farmland across the Central Valley into flooded fields for migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. This year, our team worked with more than 150 private landowners to create 60,000 acres during crucial spring, summer, and fall cycles. Created in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and Point Blue Conservation Science, this program has created over 180,000 acres of wetland habitat, supporting 79 wetland species, 65 farmland species, and more than 500,000 birds. BirdReturns not only provides safe havens for hundreds of thousands of shorebirds during their hemispheric migrations, it also helps recharge groundwater aquifers, improve air quality, and boost carbon storage.

Photo: The Central Valley

## National Monument Designation for Chuckwalla



**Audubon California played a key role** advocating for the designation of the Chuckwalla National Monument—624,000 acres of vital public land in the Mojave desert near the Salton Sea.

The years-long tribal-led effort brought together a diverse coalition of voices, from community leaders and environmental organizations to business owners and veterans. The designation delivers lasting benefits to birds, other wildlife, and people, including the preservation of biodiversity, protection of cultural areas, stimulation of local economies, and much-needed equitable access to nature.

Audubon will work to ensure that this land continues to function as nature intended.



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Through Flight Plan, Audubon California is influencing 4.7 million acres. Below are 2025 highlights of the work behind the success.

#### WE CO-SPONSORED AND HELPED PASS

two major pieces of legislation that will invest millions of dollars in key habitats, through the Habitat Conservation Fund, and strengthen crucial protections for birds, by making the California Migratory Bird Protection Act permanent. Assembly Bill 454 ensures lasting safeguards for the hundreds of bird species that rely on California by permanently reinstating the recently expired California Migratory Bird Protection Act, put in place to mitigate the weakening of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Senate Bill 427 extends the successful Habitat Conservation Fund by five more years through 2035, funding \$150 million in essential wildlife habitats, including restoration projects for birds like Burrowing Owls.

**AUDUBON CONSERVATION RANCHING (ACR)** has continued to rapidly expand in California with 16 ranching operations certified on 263,533 acres of grasslands, oak woodlands and riverine habitats, and an additional 10 ranches in the process of certification. Once complete, California will have approximately 430,000 acres of rangeland managed under ACR's bird-friendly practices to benefit declining grassland species, like the Grasshopper Sparrow.

**OUR TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD CONSERVATION PROGRAM** also celebrated 10 years of bringing back this near-endemic state threatened species from the brink of extinction. The incentive program partners with dairy farmers in the San Joaquin Valley, where nearly 90 percent of the current global population of Tricolored Blackbirds breed and nest, to manage their land in ways that protect thousands of birds and fledglings every year.

**From Top: Bobcat Ranch was the first property in California to earn Audubon Conservation Ranching certification.**

**The Audubon Center at Debs Park in Los Angeles.**



**WE PUBLISHED A SCIENCE BRIEF—***Shifting Habitat Conditions at the Salton Sea Create New Opportunities for Conservation*—that analyzes approximately seven years of bird and habitat data at the Salton Sea. The brief concludes that despite changing conditions, the Salton Sea is still a thriving hotspot for birds, particularly shorebirds. It provides science-backed information for use in advocating for habitat restoration to support migratory shorebirds, wintering shallow-water waterfowl, and local communities.

**AUDUBON CONSERVATION ACTION CENTERS** connect local communities to the joy of birds and to our greater conservation efforts. The Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary in the Bay Area and the Audubon Center at Debs Park in Los Angeles together hosted more than 2,400 volunteers at community events and stewardship days, contributing over 13,500 hours to habitat restoration, trail maintenance, and bird surveys.

**OUR CENTERS** also host transformative youth leadership programs. This year, the Debs Park FLIGHT (Future Leaders Igniting Greater Habitat Transformation) program engaged 96 college and high school students—the majority from underfunded communities—in hands-on conservation and professional development. The Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary hosted a record 18 Audubon Youth Leaders, who graduate with their California Naturalist certification, and seven interns in the rigorous Environmentalism in Media program.

**AUDUBON CALIFORNIA CONTINUED TO EXPAND** our Next Generation education and leadership efforts, building on the success of our first Coastal Leadership Program, with the launch of the Salton Sea and Deserts Leadership Program in Southern California. These future conservation leaders from diverse backgrounds gain experience in birding, ecology, advocacy, community-building, and climate resilience—all while building networks with peers, Audubon staff, chapters, and partners that can help them launch their careers.

# Thank you for your partnership!

From backyard feeders to global migratory flyways, we are building a more biodiverse, climate-resilient environment for birds and people across the Americas.

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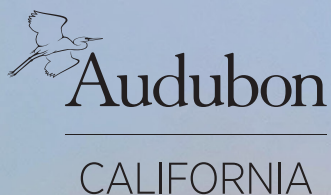
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