



Audubon Connecticut & New York

2025
IMPACT
REPORT



Audubon

CONNECTICUT &
NEW YORK

FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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.

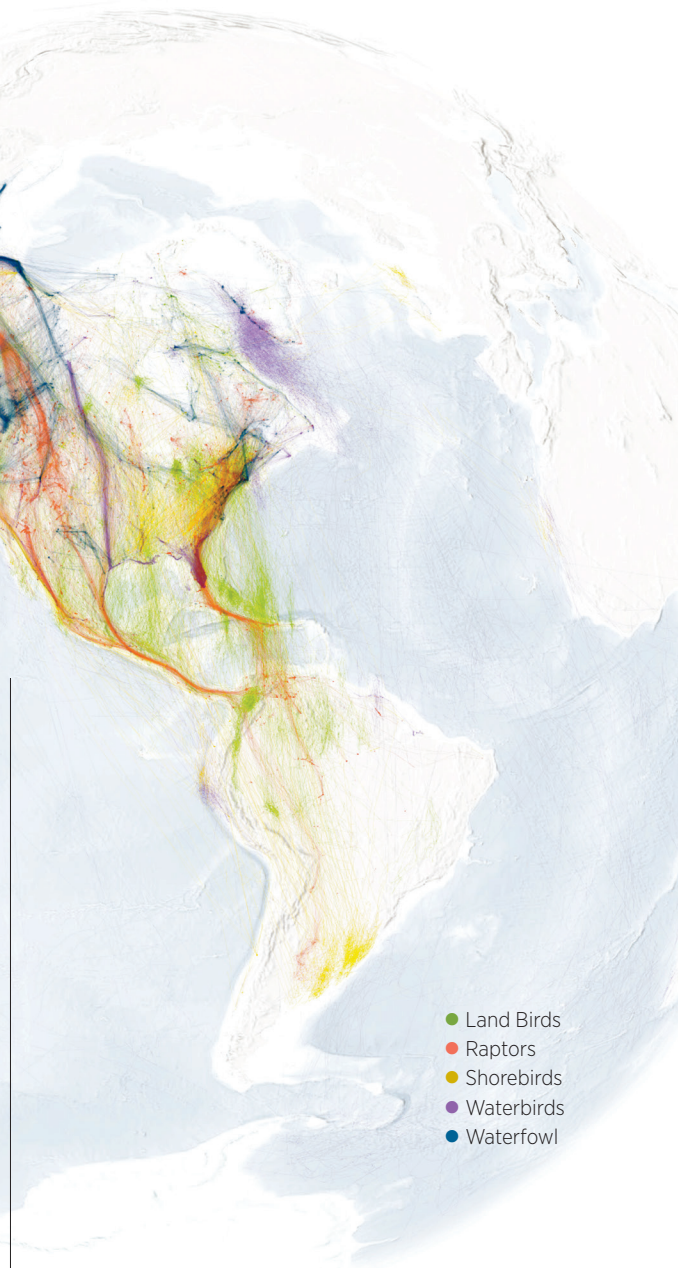
Together with partners and supporters like you, Audubon is achieving lasting conservation results across the hemisphere and here in Connecticut and New York.

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,

MICHAEL BURGER, PH.D.
VICE PRESIDENT AND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AUDUBON CONNECTICUT
AND NEW YORK



- 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.



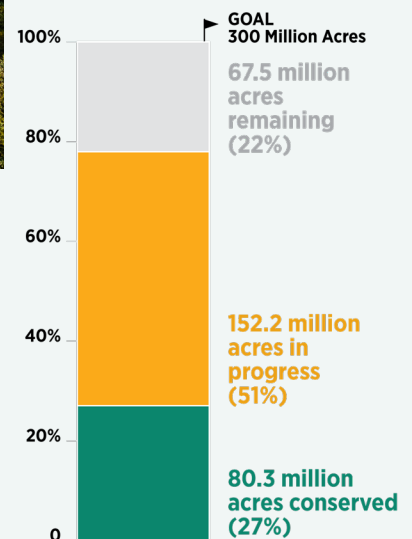
Seal River Watershed
Indigenous Protected
Area Initiative

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.
- Through *BirdReturns*, Audubon has worked with private landowners in California's Central Valley to create 90,000 acres of temporary flooded habitat, providing healthy habitat for 500,000 birds and improved water quality for communities.
- 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.



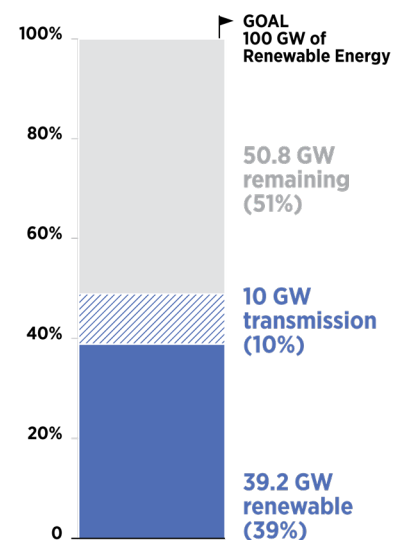
Wind turbines in the ocean off the coast of Block Island near Rhode Island.

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

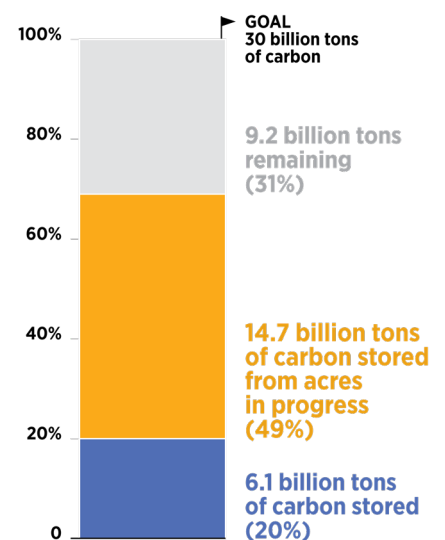
Audubon has sequestered and stored 6.1 billion tons of carbon, with another 14.7 billion tons expected from landscapes where lasting protection and restoration is already in motion, reflecting the powerful impact of conservation work underway today.

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 CO₂, 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 we 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

Connecticut and New York



Piping Plover

IN CONNECTICUT AND NEW YORK, WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN OUR WORK TOWARDS AUDUBON'S FLIGHT PLAN MILESTONES. We advanced salt marsh restoration and living shoreline projects, improved the management of tens of thousands of forested acres, and engaged young people with conservation programming and paid work experiences.

By ensuring healthy and robust coastal forest habitat here in Connecticut and New York, we give migratory birds like the Piping Plover and Wood Thrush a stronger chance of finding the areas they need to nest and raise the next generation. In addition, this work helps protect local communities from flooding and erosion, maintains healthy water, and supports recreational activities for the people of Connecticut and New York.

Successful Coastal Stewardship = Big Wins for Beach-Nesting Birds



American Oystercatchers

Audubon Connecticut and New York managed 2,765 acres for beach-nesting birds spread across 70 sites where 92 pairs of Piping Plovers and 106 pairs of American Oystercatchers nested. Thanks to this robust coastal stewardship, we achieved the highest productivity in ten years for plovers on the north shore of Long Island, and the largest number of pairs of plovers and oystercatchers in Connecticut.

On Long Island, the Coast Program team is utilizing technology to protect beach-nesting birds. Through the newly launched American Oystercatcher Field Camera Project, the team observed 24 oystercatcher nests with the goal of identifying predators big and small, from ghost crabs to raccoons. Over the next two years we will continue to collect results, and ultimately partner with municipalities to better address the top issues identified.



Expanding the Ranks of Bird-Friendly Professional Foresters

We brought 37,739 additional forested acres under improved management by growing Audubon's Forester Training and Endorsement and Bird-Friendly Maple programs, and through strategic partnerships and collaborations. Across Connecticut and New York, 87 professional foresters were trained and 11 achieved endorsements. These endorsed foresters manage—or have a written plan to manage—17,989 total acres.

This year, we expanded the program to our first college campus, The Ranger School, part of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Here, we taught forestry students to identify important bird habitat features so they could build bird-friendly and sustainable features into future work plans. Across related public programs, we engaged 467 forest owners in educational woods walks and workshops about creating and enhancing habitat for forest-dependent bird species.

Above: Audubon's Forester Training and Endorsement program creates a national network of professional foresters who provide high-quality habitat for birds, at scale.

HIGHLIGHTS

Through Flight Plan, Audubon has influenced 66,321 acres in Connecticut and New York. Below are 2025 highlights of the work behind the success.



Crab Meadow in Huntington, NY, where Audubon is restoring salt marsh habitat on Long Island to create resilient coasts for birds and local communities.

Crab Meadow, home to Long Island's 250-acre Jerome A. Ambro Memorial Wetland Preserve, is gearing up for an exciting refresh. Over the last few decades, Crab Meadow's large wetland preserve has lost a significant amount of wildlife habitat due to sea level rise, development, pollution, nutrient runoff, and invasive species. Thanks to a \$429,000 award from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Long Island Sound Futures Fund, Audubon, along with the Town of Huntington and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is completing a comprehensive, permit-ready design plan to improve the marsh.

IN NEW YORK, AUDUBON ADVOCATED FOR the development of strong regulations to implement the 2022 amendments to the New York State Freshwater Wetlands Act, which were finalized on January 1, 2025. The final regulations provide permitting protections for an estimated one million additional acres.

Audubon raised more than \$4.7 million in New York and Connecticut for salt marsh restoration and living shoreline projects at Crab Meadow, Sunken Meadow, and Hammonasset Beach State Parks. This work will enhance habitat for the Saltmarsh Sparrow across 474 acres of marsh.



AUDUBON CONTINUES TO ADVOCATE FOR THE HORSESHOE CRAB PROTECTION ACT in New York, legislation that would ban the harvesting of horseshoe crabs and allow their populations to recover. This is of vital importance for Red Knots, a threatened shorebird that relies on horseshoe crab eggs to fuel their migrations of up to 9,000 miles. The act was vetoed by the Hochul administration in December 2024 but passed again by the New York State Legislature in June of 2025.

Ruddy Turnstone perched on a horseshoe crab.



From top: Saltmarsh Stewards planting at Sunken Meadow State Park in Kings Park, NY; New York Director of Coastal Resilience Victoria O'Neill at the restoration site, where Audubon aims to strengthen the coastline for birds and nearby communities.

IN CONNECTICUT, Audubon advocated for the recently passed landmark legislation, House Bill No. 5004, that codifies and elevates the use of nature-based solutions—including forests, trees, meadows, wetlands, riparian buffers, and healthy soils—as part of the state's comprehensive climate action strategy.

ACROSS CONNECTICUT AND NEW YORK, OUR AUDUBON COMMUNITY CAME TOGETHER for three multiday meetings to share best practices and advance our common goals through Flight Plan. This included 57 chapter leaders representing five college campus chapters and 24 local chapters. Incredible progress was made when 20 chapters received funding to launch a region-wide bird collision reduction project.

WE EXPANDED PATHWAYS TO CAREERS IN CONSERVATION, employing 165 young adults this year to monitor wildlife, help restore habitat, and lead summer camps. Through 971 school and public programs, our conservation messaging reached 17,122 young people across Connecticut and New York.

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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