



CONNECTICUT &  
NEW YORK

# 2026 Donor Impact

REPORT





## A Note of Thanks

Welcome to our 2026 Impact Report. This report highlights key areas where Audubon is protecting the natural systems that sustain us all. These results were all driven by your generosity. Critical habitats protected. Fragile ecosystems restored. Vulnerable wildlife thriving. Thank you for your partnership and unwavering support. We did this together.

**Shabina N. Bahl**

Chief Development Officer  
National Audubon Society

# Stronger Together

Delivering conservation impact at scale through philanthropic partnerships

**Audubon's work to lead bird-powered conservation throughout the hemisphere is taking our organization to new places.**

The Boreal Forest of Canada. The ranches of Mexico. The Central Andes of Peru. Every project is delivering measurable results that benefit local ecosystems. Collectively, this work is advancing critically needed conservation across the Americas.

We are midway through our ambitious strategic plan, Flight Plan, and seeing very real impacts. And that is thanks to you: Audubon's community of generous donors.

Contributions for specific projects and places fuel important work, but the combined momentum of partners, volunteers, and philanthropists is what drives large-scale efforts like those you will read about here. And unrestricted giving provides the flexibility we need to fully leverage these partnerships by quickly deploying resources where and when they are needed most.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, for example, offers critical grant funding enabling us to conserve millions of acres of grassland habitat and other projects; however, we often need matching funds from private donors to secure these federal dollars, making unrestricted gifts essential. "We value organizations that are deeply committed to delivering conservation work at scale for people and wildlife in our communities," says Arnold Randall, Executive Director of the Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation. "Audubon works strategically and

builds partnerships that bring other funders and public dollars together around shared goals. We see what that sustained commitment and leverage can achieve, and it is why we are proud to be a long-term supporter."

Each supporter is an essential partner in this work, as important as the businesses, governments, policymakers, and other partner organizations with whom we work to advance conservation. By investing in clean air, clean water, and resilient land, you are partnering with Audubon to confront the dual crises of habitat loss and climate change head-on. According to Lawren Cooper, Director of Sustainability at PepsiCo, "Audubon's scientific expertise and on-the-ground knowledge helped translate a shared vision into meaningful results, demonstrating the value of collaboration in helping create positive outcomes for both nature and local communities."

By uniting behind a shared vision of conservation across the Americas, you enable this critical work to scale in unprecedented ways. While one person can spark change, it takes a community of supporters to truly drive impactful results forward. "The environmental challenges we all face are constantly evolving, and I know Audubon will direct my legacy gift toward making the greatest, most immediate impact," says Canopy and Grinnell Legacy Society member Dorothea Skowron from Florida.

Audubon is meeting this pivotal moment for our planet, and we are immensely grateful to share this journey with each and every one of you.

American  
White Pelicans



# Our Shared Future

Harnessing the power of birds for conservation across the Americas

**Birds are sentinels of the natural world.** Through the health of their populations, they reveal the health of the ecosystems on which we all depend. Yet, birds do so much more. They guide and inspire us to take action to protect our planet. They connect us across generations and geographies, weaving a common thread through communities thousands of miles apart.

This truth sits at the heart of Flight Plan, Audubon’s five-year strategic plan that sets us on a path to halt and ultimately reverse the decline of birds across the Americas. Keeping migratory birds safe and healthy here in Connecticut and New York means protecting the places they need throughout their journeys. That’s why Audubon is leveraging the power of birds from the Arctic to the Andes to conserve habitat, deliver clean energy and natural climate solutions, advance policies that benefit birds and people, and build the next generation of environmental champions.

You are not simply funding this work. You are part of what makes it endure. And you are part of a growing community of conservation leaders delivering impactful results across the hemisphere.

Right here in Connecticut and New York, that hemispheric vision comes to life through the direct program efforts that you support.

Our 2026 Impact Report showcases what happens when unified efforts meet collective passion. Your support is behind every acre restored, every partnership forged, and every species given a fighting chance. Thank you for partnering with us, for listening to the birds, for caring for nature, and for investing in results that deliver impact across the hemisphere.

With gratitude,

**Michael Burger, Ph.D.**  
Vice President,  
Audubon Connecticut and New York

The intricate plumage of a Steller’s Jay

FLIGHT PLAN

# Flying Further Together

| MILESTONE                                                                                                       | METRIC                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>Habitat Conservation</b> | 300 million acres (121M ha) of quality, connected, and climate-resilient bird habitat conserved                          |
|  <b>Climate Action</b>      | 100 gigawatts of new renewable generation and transmission sited                                                         |
|                                                                                                                 | 30 billion tons of carbon kept stored in forests, wetlands, and grasslands, with additional carbon sequestered each year |
|  <b>Policy</b>             | The <i>Healthy Birds, Healthy Planet</i> Policy Agenda passed                                                            |
|  <b>Community Building</b> | Audubon membership doubled<br>Influential coalitions activated                                                           |

A flock of Sanderlings in flight



**Audubon’s work in Connecticut and New York is delivering measurable results towards our Flight Plan goals. Highlights of the past year include:**

- Securing over \$4 million in funding for coastal resilience projects, targeting nearly 700 acres of critical marsh habitat that benefits Saltmarsh Sparrows, coastal ecosystems, and communities, and managing approximately 4,000 acres for beach-nesting birds like Piping Plovers and American Oystercatchers
- Bringing more than 21,000 acres under improved forest management, benefiting birds, forest health, and local communities, by engaging over 1,000 forestry professionals and forest owners through strategic partnerships, Bird-Friendly Maple, and Forester Training and Endorsement programs
- Engaging next-generation environmental champions: 47 trained through the Coastal Stewardship Program; 20 student participants at our Youth Advocacy Day in Albany and seven high school students from Title 1 schools engaged in hands-on conservation work at our two salt marsh restoration sites

# Habitat Conservation

Over the past fiscal year, Audubon’s conservation footprint reached 159 million acres—nearly doubling last year’s figure of more than 80 million acres—and we have more than 500,00 acres in progress. We have passed the halfway point of our goal of conserving 300 million acres by 2028.



A flock of American Avocets takes flight from Farmington Bay of Great Salt Lake.

## Breathing new life into Great Salt Lake

Great Salt Lake is a critical resource for people, communities, businesses, and 12 million migratory birds. But water diversions and the effects of climate change are drying it up. Co-managed by Audubon and The Nature Conservancy, the Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Trust secured more than 72,000 acre-feet of water for the lake this past year—the equivalent of 72,000 football fields covered by a foot of water! This effort included the first-ever agricultural water delivery without the need to remove fields from production and a long-term lease of water conserved by urban users.



## Protecting a 12-million-acre watershed

Approximately the size of New Hampshire and Vermont combined, the Seal River Watershed is one of the largest ecologically intact watersheds on Earth. In recognition of its global importance, the Seal River Watershed Alliance, the Manitoba government, and the government of Canada released a joint proposal to eventually designate this landscape as a 12-million-acre, co-managed Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area overlaid with a national park and provincial park. Audubon has been collaborating with the Alliance for years, helping to showcase the region’s significance to birds, people, and the planet and providing support to its Guardian program. Our team is proud to support this Indigenous-led effort and applaud our partners on this historic milestone.



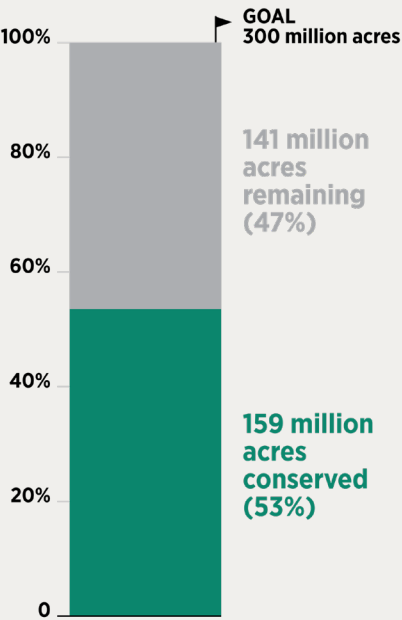
Audubon and partners celebrated the proposed agreement for the Seal River IPCA in Winnipeg. L to R: Minister Mike Moyes; Chief Simon Denechezhe; Stephanie Thorassie; Chief Kelly-Ann Thom-Duck; Chief Shirley Ducharme; Premier Wab Kinew; Councilor Lyle Jonsson; Marshall Johnson.



Working to identify places that host rich wildlife and are used by people, residents identified more than 200 species in Peru’s Central Andes as part of a Conserva Aves effort.

## PROGRESS TOWARD HABITAT CONSERVATION GOAL

As of July 1, 2026



## On track to exceed our goals in Latin America

Conserva Aves is an initiative to create more than 100 protected areas across Latin America by 2030. This year, Audubon celebrated the program’s five-year anniversary with core partners: American Bird Conservancy, BirdLife International, Birds Canada, and the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds (RedLAC). Positioned to surpass our target, with 47 protected areas declared and 142 in the pipeline, we are sustaining vital ecosystems across more than 7.4 million acres. Conserva Aves has received early and continued support from catalyst funder Benjamin Olewine IV.



# Climate Action

**Renewable Energy** ➤ Audubon has influenced the responsible siting of approximately 73 gigawatts of renewable energy generation and supporting transmission—an increase of more than 23 gigawatts since last year and nearly 73 percent of our 100-gigawatt goal for 2028.

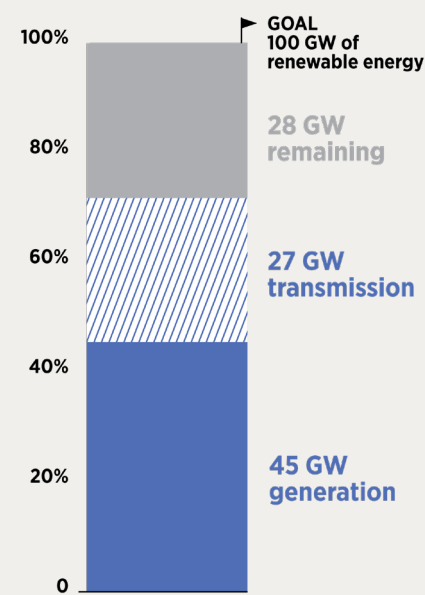
## Lights on for major renewable energy project

In June, the SunZia Wind and Transmission Project was brought online, delivering nearly four gigawatts of New Mexico wind energy—enough to power 1.2 million homes—to the Western grid. At the celebration ceremony, Pattern Energy CEO Hunter Armistead highlighted Audubon's support as instrumental in making the project a reality. This is one example of how our science and expertise help us move the needle on renewable energy. Another is our behind-the-scenes leadership building support for the now-historic Governors' Agreement, in which bipartisan governors from 11 Western states signed a Letter of Agreement to coordinate transmission planning across the Intermountain West.

Construction of the SunZia Wind and Transmission Project is bringing renewable energy generated in New Mexico to Arizona and customers across the Western grid.

### PROGRESS TOWARD RENEWABLE ENERGY GOAL

As of July 1, 2026



**Natural Climate Solutions** ➤ Since the start of Flight Plan, Audubon's habitat work has helped keep an estimated 9 billion tons of carbon stored—an increase of 3 billion tons since last year and 30 percent of our goal of keeping 30 billion tons stored by 2028.



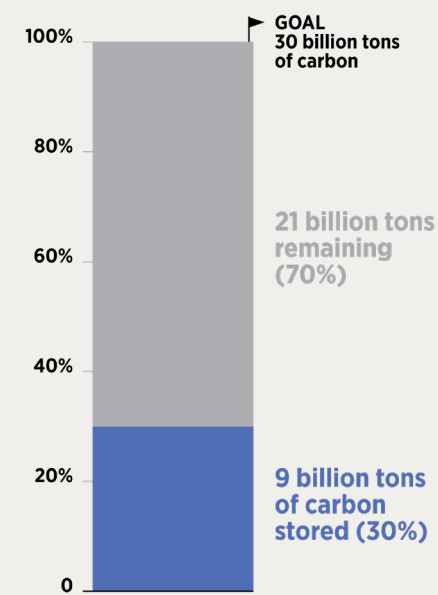
## Audubon science report advances innovative climate solutions

Published in *Scientific Reports*, Audubon's groundbreaking "Triple Benefit" report provides a new decision-making framework that helps identify areas where conservation efforts help protect bird habitat, store and sequester carbon, and improve human well-being. The efficacy of this framework is exemplified by work in the Great Lakes, where Audubon and partners have undertaken with community members to restore degraded marshland as part of a broader revitalization of the Little Calumet River corridor. By addressing all three of these factors together, instead of separately, we increase the likelihood of conservation success on all fronts and engage local communities that have the most at stake.

A volunteer works at Highland's Heron Rookery in Indiana during an event run by Audubon Great Lakes, The Wetlands Initiative, and Little Calumet River Conservation Collaborative.

### PROGRESS TOWARD NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS GOAL

As of July 1, 2026



## Leading conservation across borders at COP15

At COP15's Convention on Migratory Species in Brazil, Audubon helped lead the effort to advance international cooperation to protect critical ecosystems. We worked with government officials and BirdLife International partners to highlight our priorities, including support for Conserva Aves; strengthening cooperation along America's flyways to safeguard critical lands and waters; and driving protections for shorebirds whose migrations connect ecosystems across the hemisphere.



# Policy Leadership

Over the past two years, Audubon worked with coalitions and partners across the Americas to advance our priorities—from helping to protect or secure more than \$11.6 billion through Congress and state legislatures to advancing protection, partnerships, and policies in Canada and Latin America and the Caribbean.



## Funding critical salt marsh restoration

Audubon secured a \$13 million grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for a 600-acre wetland-restoration project. These ecosystems store carbon and serve as storm buffers and support vulnerable wildlife, but they are disappearing due to rising seas, flooding, and other threats. This funding is a major step forward for Marshes for Tomorrow, an Audubon-led initiative addressing Maryland's salt marsh crisis through science-based, nature-driven solutions.



## Rallying bipartisan support for Farm Bill conservation funding

This summer, farmers and ranchers—many participating in Audubon Conservation Ranching—joined Audubon in meetings with 18 bipartisan Congressional offices to champion strong Farm Bill conservation programs. The nation's largest investment in private lands conservation, the Farm Bill supports farmer, rancher, and forest landowner efforts to improve wildlife habitat, soil health, and water quality, benefitting birds, people, and rural economies.

Above: Salt marsh habitat at Irish Grove Sanctuary in Marion Station, part of Audubon's work in Maryland.

Left: During Farm Fly-In Day on Capitol Hill, Audubon staff, farmers, and ranchers met with legislators to discuss Farm Bill programs as they relate to conservation.



# Community Building

Last year, we grew our membership by five percent and our supporter network by 37 percent. Community Chapters attracted more than 300,000 first-time event participants. In addition, we added 21 Audubon on Campus chapters, including eight at Minority Serving Institutions and two at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and 2,000 Christmas Bird Count participants across the hemisphere.



## Investing in the next generation of environmental leaders

Audubon is empowering tomorrow's leaders, from students on college campuses to emerging professionals working around the world. One example is the Audubon Seabird Institute's Herz Fellowship, generously funded by the Josephine D. Herz Seabird Fellowship Fund, which equips emerging seabird managers with proven conservation techniques they can bring home and put into practice. This year's fellows hailed from Argentina, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and Sri Lanka.



## Expanding our impact in Mexico

This year, we convened government officials, environmental groups, and community leaders in Mexico City for the "Joy of Migration," an event designed to help strengthen migratory bird conservation, collaboration, and hemispheric initiatives like the Conserva Aves initiative.

## Welcoming all generations to Audubon's Conservation Action Centers

Nestled in the heart of the Western Everglades, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary protects the largest remaining old-growth bald cypress forest in the world. Its newly opened Spurlino Foundation Discovery Center completes Phase 1 of a \$20 million campus transformation and offers an interactive, multisensory space that connects visitors to the Everglades ecosystem and inspires them to help protect it.



From top: Researchers conduct Black Guillemot productivity checks and chick banding in front of the Egg Rock Hilton field station.

Summer campers at the Spurlino Foundation Discovery Center.

Audubon staff with partners at Santo Domingo de Yunku Hacienda in Mexico.

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## CONNECTICUT & NEW YORK

The National Audubon Society is a leading nonprofit conservation organization with 120 years of science-based, community-driven impact, dedicated to protecting birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow.

**Photography Credits:** (cover) Patricia Kappmeyer/Audubon Photography Awards; (inside cover) Beth Shepherd/Audubon Photography Awards; (p2) Danny Hancock/Audubon Photography Awards, Luke Franke/Audubon (inset); (p3) Tim Timmis/Audubon Photography Awards; (p4) Mary Anne Karren; (p5) from top: Gerson Ferrer/Yunkawasi, Colin Corneau; (p6) Pattern Energy; (p7) Sydney Walsh/Audubon; (p8) from top: Sydney Walsh/Audubon, Elizabeth Frantz; (p9, top, clockwise from top left) Jean Hall, Em Kless/Audubon Florida, Claudio Contreras Koob; (back cover) Cielo Millan Alvarez/Audubon Photography Awards

**Cover: Great Egret.  
This page: Ruby-topaz Hummingbird.**