



Audubon Alaska

2025
IMPACT
REPORT



 Audubon
ALASKA

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.

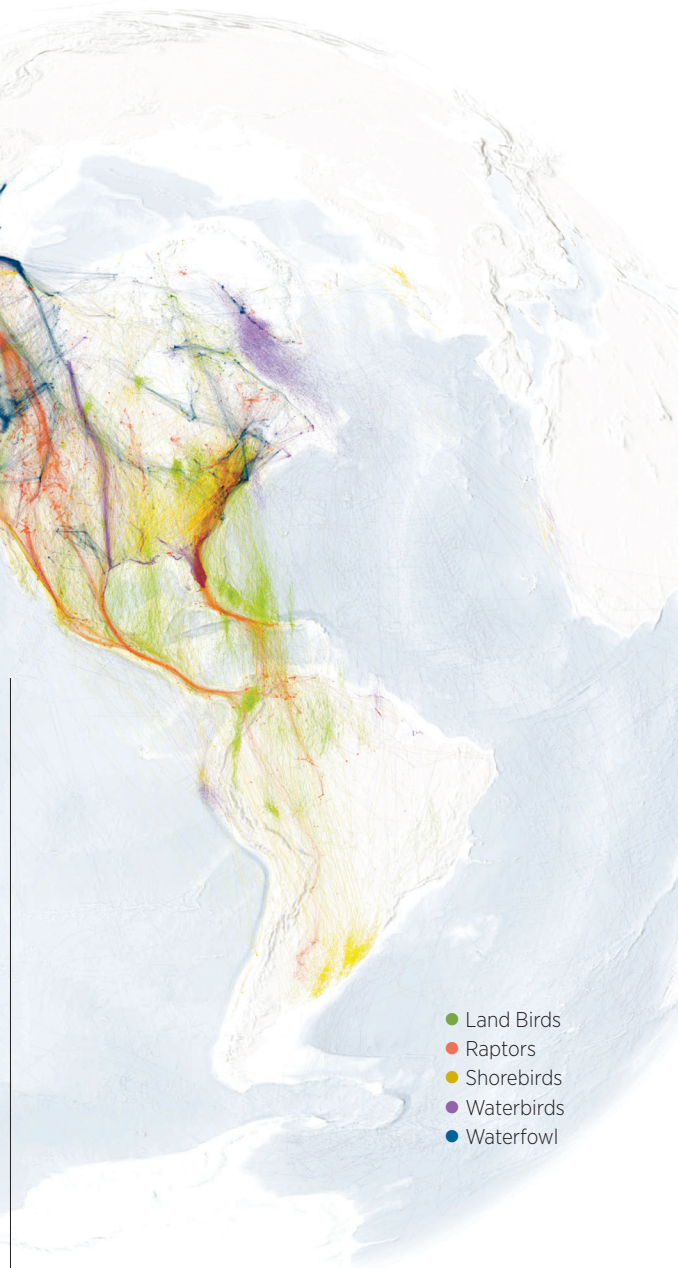
Together with partners and supporters like you, Audubon is achieving lasting conservation results across the hemisphere and here in Alaska.

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,

DAVID KRAUSE
VICE PRESIDENT
AUDUBON ALASKA



- 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.



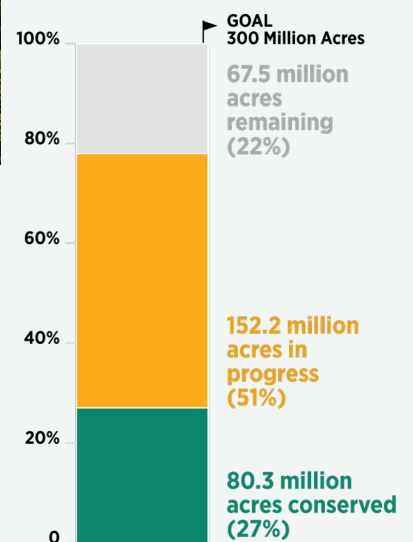
Seal River Watershed
Indigenous Protected
Area Initiative

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.



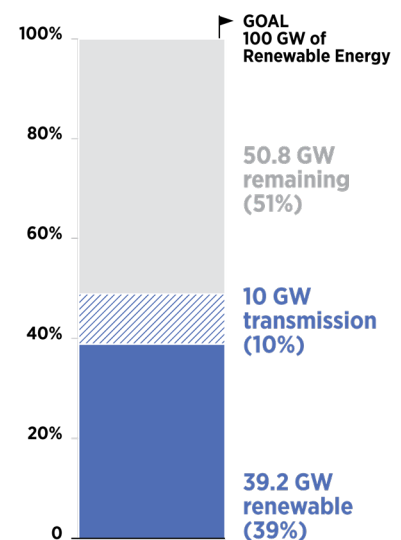
Wind turbines in the ocean off the coast of Block Island near Rhode Island.

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

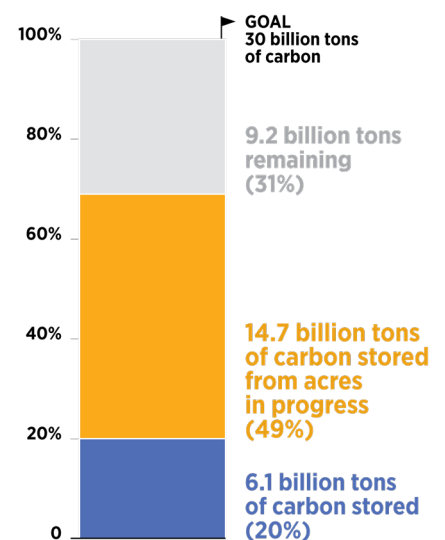
Audubon has sequestered and stored 6.1 billion tons of carbon, with another 14.7 billion tons expected from landscapes where lasting protection and restoration is already in motion, reflecting the powerful impact of conservation work underway today.

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 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. \$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

Alaska



Brant

AUDUBON ALASKA HAS CONTINUED TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN OUR WORK TOWARD AUDUBON'S FLIGHT PLAN MILESTONES. Along with partners, we launched the Utqiaġvik Birding Trail, hosted Alaska's bird festival organizers to build our state's community, and implemented our education program, Shorebirds for Today and Tomorrow/Ceñairet Maa-irpak Kingunemteñun-llu.

With the understanding that many Alaska-breeding birds like the Brant have been traditionally hunted for subsistence and recreation in Alaska, we are committed to ensuring that Alaska's habitats are healthy and resilient, so that migratory and resident birds have the habitats they need now and into the future.

A Birding Trail That Builds Community

The Utqiaġvik Birding Trail was launched with details on 10 birding sites throughout the community of Utqiaġvik—the economic, transportation, and administrative center of the North Slope Borough and the northernmost community

in the United States. The trail offers potential species sightings at specific places, special travel notes, and driving directions. Bird and place names in Iñupiaq—an Alaska Native language—are included in the materials for visitors and Utqiaġvik residents. This trail was created as a community asset for economic development

and educational purposes in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Iñupiat College, Iñupiat Heritage Center, North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management, Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation (UIC) Science (LLC), and Tuzzy Consortium Library.



Classroom Kits for the Next Generation of Conservationists

The program Shorebirds for Today and Tomorrow/Ceñairet Maa-irpak Kingunemteñun-llu, inspired by shorebirds' lives across ecosystems and countries, provided learning materials and activities packaged in free classroom kits to educators in Western Alaska. The materials in these kits are centered on the migrating shorebirds, Yup'ik culture and language, and environments of Western Alaska, while the program is inclusive of all peoples and cultures in Alaska and beyond. The classroom kit included lessons, slides, short documentary movies, bird call recordings, coloring sheets, stickers, and more in English and the Yup'ik language. Migratory shorebirds lent context for engaging lessons on science (form, function, and adaptations), geography (migrations), math (populations), language arts (English and Yup'ik), art (paint a godwit flock), Yuuyaraq (Yup'ik values, personal life skills, and health), and social studies (all places and cultures along shorebirds' migration routes). In 2025, Audubon Alaska sent more than 50 classroom kits to educators in Western Alaska.

HIGHLIGHTS

Through Flight Plan, Audubon Alaska is influencing 54.7 million acres. Below are some 2025 highlights of our work behind the success.

AUDUBON ALASKA HAS PLAYED A LEAD ROLE IN SECURING POLICY DECISIONS

supporting the protection and sound management of irreplaceable Alaska landscapes, such as the 1.5-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain, 13 million acres of Special Areas in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska of the Western Arctic, the proposed Ambler Road corridor in the Brooks Range, the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, and 28 million acres of D-1 public lands spread across Alaska. We will continue our important work to keep these areas protected and resilient through a powerful combination of policy, communications, and public engagement.



Overlook at Chilkat State Park, part of Audubon's Southeast Alaska Birding Trail—home to more than 350 bird species, including the world's highest densities of Marbled Murrelets and Bald Eagles.



Left from top: A birder scans the skies at Barrow Cemetery along the Utqiagvik Birding Trail. Participants at the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival.



Right, from top: A Bald Eagle at a viewpoint along Audubon's Southeast Alaska Birding Trail near Haines.



THIS YEAR, WE CONVENED BIRD FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS FROM ACROSS THE STATE TO SHARE INFORMATION, IDEAS, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION.

The series of meetings, held throughout winter and spring, resulted in a report of recommendations for how to grow the reach and impact of bird festivals in small Alaskan communities to continue building a powerful constituency for birds. We also sponsored and participated in three major festivals:

- The **Utqiagvik Migratory Bird Festival** drew more than 150 attendees from Utqiagvik and beyond to participate in workshops, hear lectures, and observe birds in the Arctic. This is where we introduced the newly launched Utqiagvik Birding Trail (see sidebar).
- The four-day **Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival** featured guided birding trips, art workshops, family activities, and community celebrations. The largest contiguous wetland system of North America's Pacific Coast, the Copper River Delta hosts up to 8 million migratory shorebirds each spring.
- The **Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival** featured expert speakers, naturalists, and guides who shared their extensive wealth of birding knowledge. Audubon Alaska Communications Manager Lauren Cusimano presented on bird tourism in Alaska, as well as Audubon projects like birding trails.

We will continue finding more ways to expand Alaska's conservation community to shape a brighter future for birds and the places they need most.

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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