



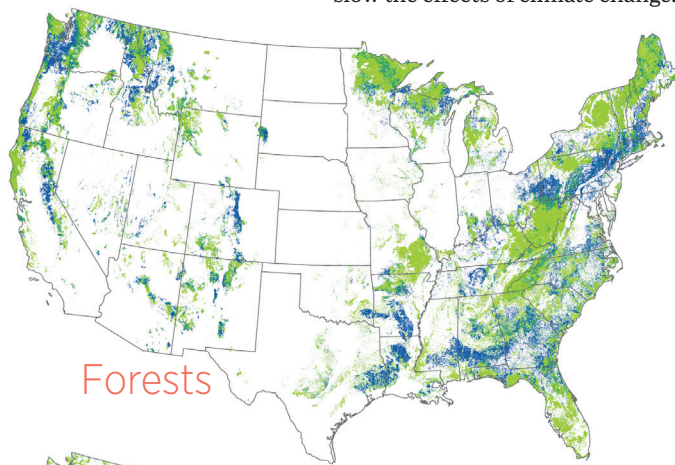
Western Meadowlark at Pawnee National Grassland, Colorado  
Photo: Evan Barrientos/Audubon Rockies

# Places Important to Birds are Good for the Climate, Too

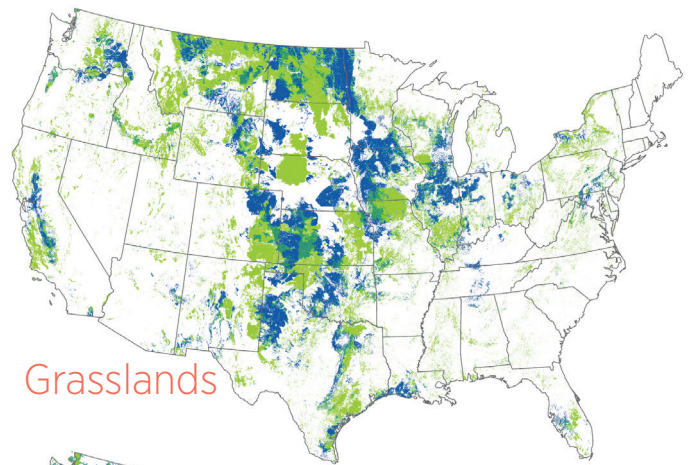
**Maintaining natural landscapes** does more than just beautify our world. These places are also key to fighting climate change. Forests, grasslands, wetlands, and other landscapes capture carbon and keep it out of the atmosphere, where it is turned into harmful greenhouse gas. Our scientists have also found that many places that naturally store carbon the best are also key to the survival of the birds we love.

■ Areas we need to **maintain**    These maps show the places that provide critical habitat for birds while also storing atmospheric carbon, helping mitigate floods, and making our air and water cleaner. By maintaining these existing places and restoring areas that have been lost, the U.S. can go a long way toward meeting its climate commitments to slow the effects of climate change.

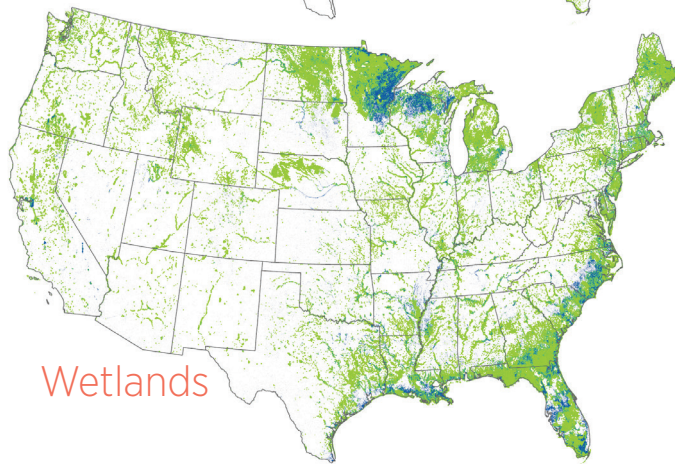
■ Areas we need to **restore**



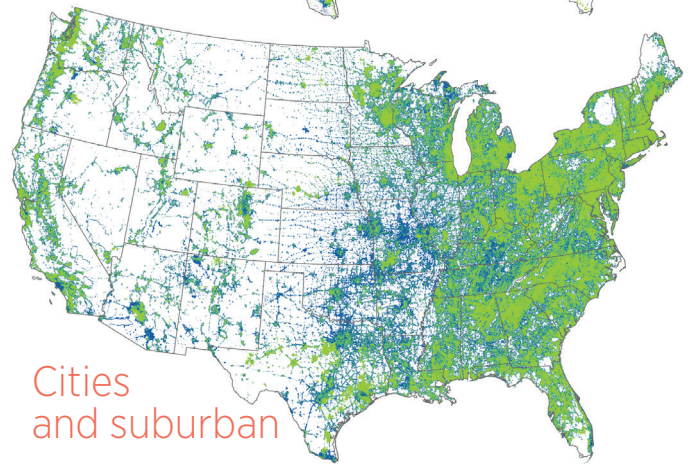
Forests



Grasslands



Wetlands



Cities  
and suburban

# A Closer Look at the Four Opportunities for Change

**Carbon Stored\*** (in tons): ■ Maintain ■ Restore **Size** (in acres) and **Ownership** (in percent): ■ Private ■ Public ■ Tribal ■ Other/unknown



Florida Scrub-Jay



Cerulean Warbler

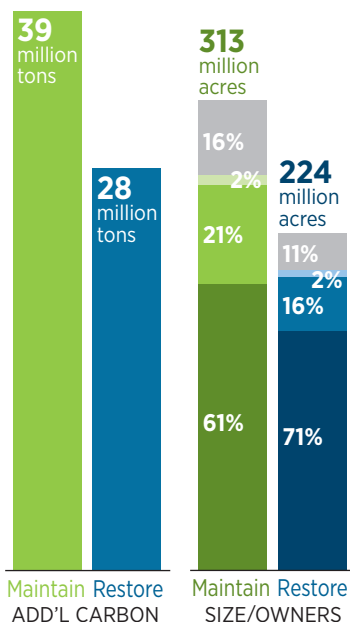


Brown-headed Nuthatch

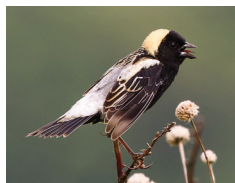


Wilson's Warbler

**Forest** management and reforestation are the two most-effective ways to store carbon, and they are also among the cheapest. Forests keep more carbon out of the atmosphere than any other habitat, and effective management on both public and private lands will only increase that amount.



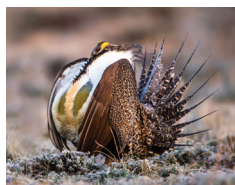
Eastern Meadowlark



Bobolink

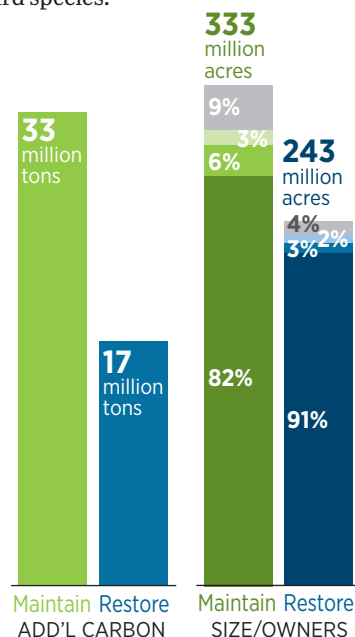


Grasshopper Sparrow



Greater Sage-grouse

**Grasslands** play a significant role in sequestering atmospheric carbon and preserving habitat for birds. By maintaining existing grassland and supporting farmers and ranchers in conservation-focused agriculture, we can easily capture a huge amount of atmospheric carbon and protect threatened grassland bird species.

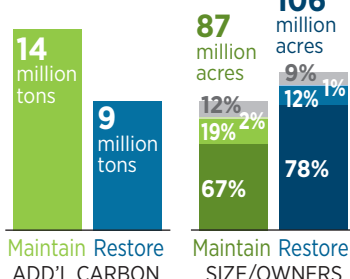


Louisiana Waterthrush



Clapper Rail

**Interior wetlands** provide critical breeding habitat for many species and Audubon scientists believe that maintained and protected wetlands can serve as important carbon sinks.

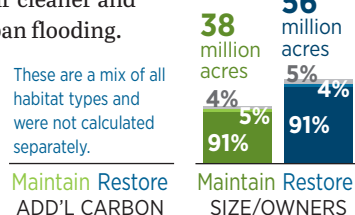


American Goldfinch



American Robin

**Cities and suburban** green space have a role to play, too. These places provide homes for migratory and local bird species, critical outdoor space to the millions of people who live near them, and they can also help keep air cleaner and manage urban flooding.



Long-billed Curlew

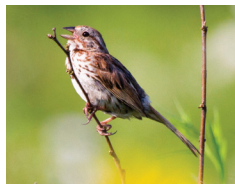


Saltmarsh Sparrow

**Coastal wetlands'** carbon storage is pretty good, but these critical bird habitats have an additional role to play: They're excellent at absorbing storm surges and protecting coastal communities.



Northern Mockingbird



Song Sparrow

Photos (from top), all Audubon Photography Awards: **Forests** Steven Chu, Charlie Trapani, Keith Burroughs and George Scott; **Grasslands** Melissa James, Heidi Cleven, Charlie Trapani, M. Verdon Tomajko; **Wetlands** Darla J. Oathout, Shayna Marchese, Ian Jackson, Frank Lehman; **Cities and suburban** Nina Hakanson, Sandy Spicknall, Ronald Tomawski, Sally Stone

\*Carbon stored (in tons) refers to additional atmospheric carbon that could be stored if habitats are maintained or restored.