

Great Gray Owl. Photo: Gary Kunkel/Audubon Photography Awards



April 2020

Donor Impact Report

Prepared for *Great Egret Society* Members

*Thank you for your help in our work
to protect the birds we love!*

 **Audubon**
Great Egret Society



Audubon Is Breaking Through the Noise

We're speaking for birds more loudly and clearly than ever before. Thanks to your support, we're being heard.



“ In reflecting on our achievements, I'm proud of the work we've done, but I'm most excited when I consider what it means for the future. Fueled by a deep-seated passion for birds, guided by sound science, and inspired by the energy of new and younger members, we can change the laws of the land, the field and the face of conservation, and the future for birds. Onward. I hope you'll continue to make your voice heard and keep lending your support to Audubon. **Thank you for all that you do to help safeguard birds and the places they need. You are what hope looks like to a bird.** ”



Confronting the Climate Crisis

Audubon's latest climate report, *Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink*, localizes the threat of climate change — and the world takes notice.

More and more, the climate crisis is affecting all we do. From extreme flooding and wildfires to the loss of 3 billion birds in our lifetime, the impact of our changing climate on birds (and the places they need) has become irrefutable and inescapable — and this relationship will only grow stronger in years to come.

In October, Audubon published our most in-depth analysis to date of the climate crisis. *Survival by Degrees* integrated 140 million data points gathered across the continent to identify the locations where more than 600 North American bird species nest and breed — and to determine what will happen to these places if current trends persist. The results were sobering: Two-thirds of North American bird species are at risk of extinction if the global temperature increases by 3 degrees Celsius.

But there is hope. If we can limit temperature increases to 1.5 degrees, we can help improve outcomes for 76 percent of those species at risk. By making abstract ideas around climate change tangible, personal, and actionable today, Audubon is setting the stage for a groundswell of momentum that will help fuel a national mandate for sound climate policy.

To learn more, visit climate.audubon.org.

389

Species at Risk

Research conducted by Audubon scientists indicates that 389 species, or nearly two-thirds of North American bird species, are at risk of extinction due to climate change.

Preserving Critical Environmental Protections

While playing defense in D.C., we're winning on clean energy policy in statehouses across the country, from Virginia to Washington state.

Since 2017, bedrock environmental protections across the country have been under unprecedented and constant attack. But we're using every tool at our disposal, from local ordinances and state laws to federal policy, to fight back and protect birds and the places they need.

Our reputation as a pragmatic, solutions-driven force for sound environmental policy is raising our profile in Washington, D.C., where we frequently meet with lawmakers, deliver testimony, and help inform new legislation.

In 2019, our network rallied to pass the Solar Access Act in Arkansas and the Energy Freedom Act in South Carolina — making

two conservative-leaning states new leaders in the clean energy movement. We also played an important role in the passage of New York and Washington state resolutions to move to 100 percent clean energy over the next 30 years, with New York calling for the greatest reduction in carbon emissions and a first-ever economy-wide climate solution.

We can muster support for common-sense policy like no other conservation organization because we have local, grassroots support everywhere. It's not enough to just be present in the places where birds need us; we also must be highly effective — and the leadership we demonstrated in 2019 reinforces Audubon's growing stature as a policy powerhouse.



Tree Swallow. Photo: Lee Greengrass/Audubon Photography Awards



Photo: Luke Franke/Audubon

150,000

Audubon Advocates

Over the past year, almost 150,000 Audubon supporters took 600,000 online actions on behalf of birds.



Tatiana Morales (featured right) and other potential birding guides learn how to lead bird tours at Reserva Natural La Planada in Nariño, Colombia. Photo: Luke Franke/Audubon

Doubling Down on Hemispheric Conservation

We're creating a groundbreaking technology platform that tracks birds' migrations. It will transform the future of conservation, from Canada's boreal forest to the grasslands of Argentina.

Audubon's vision for bird conservation doesn't just stretch from coast to coast; it encompasses the length and breadth of the Western Hemisphere. Because borders don't matter to birds, Audubon launched our landmark Migratory Bird Initiative (MBI) in 2019 to map migratory patterns and identify the most important places for birds, from Chile to the Arctic. We project that by the end of 2020, Audubon scientists and affiliated partners will have mapped the journeys undertaken by 300 out of 520 migrating North American bird species.

The MBI will position Audubon to collaborate more effectively with international partners, so that together we can conserve the places most critical to birds, wherever their travels take them. For example, Colombia — the

“birdiest” place on Earth — is home to more than 1,900 species. Over the last five years, Audubon has worked with government representatives and on-the-ground partners to develop a national network of birding trails. These trails have helped conserve 3.6 million acres of land for birds and other wildlife.

520 Species Protected
under the MBI

The MBI will protect 520 bird species by identifying the migration stopover sites, overwintering grounds, breeding habitats, and other places they need — thus focusing our work where it matters most.

A large flock of sandhill cranes is shown in a field of tall, golden grass. The cranes are mostly grey with white heads and necks, and a distinctive red patch on their foreheads. They are standing in various poses, some looking towards the camera and others looking away. The background is a soft-focus field of similar grass, creating a sense of depth.

Thanks for giving a flock.

The logo for the Audubon Great Egret Society features a stylized line drawing of an egret in flight, positioned to the left of the organization's name.

Audubon
Great Egret Society

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Sandhill Cranes. Photo: Kimberly Beauchemin/Audubon Photography Awards