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**Media Note:** Photos to accompany this article and a MS Word version of this press release are available for download from the Atlanta Audubon DropBox folder at <https://bit.ly/2xT2BmQ>.

## **New Audubon Science: Two-Thirds of North American Birds at Risk of Extinction Due to Climate Change**

*Enter your zip code into [Audubon's Birds and Climate Visualizer](#) and it will show you how climate change will impact your birds and your community and includes ways you can help.*

NEW YORK (October 10, 2019) – Today, the National Audubon Society announced a groundbreaking climate report, [Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink](#). “Two-thirds of America’s birds are threatened with extinction from climate change, but keeping global temperatures down will help up to 76 percent of them. There’s hope in this report, but first, it’ll break your heart if you care about birds and what they tell us about the ecosystems we share with them. It’s a bird emergency,” said **David Yarnold**, ([@david\\_yarnold](#)), CEO and president of Audubon.

“A lot of people paid attention to last month’s report that North America has lost nearly a third of its birds. This new data pivots forward and imagines an even more frightening future,” Yarnold said. “And, you can use a first-of-its kind web tool to find threatened birds in your zip code, as well as a list of things everyone can do.”

Audubon scientists studied 604 North American bird species using 140 million bird records, including observational data from bird lovers and field biologists across the country.

Audubon’s zip code-based tool, the Birds and Climate Visualizer, helps users understand the impacts to birds where they live, making climate change even more local, immediate and, for tens of millions of bird fans, deeply personal.

“In Georgia, 23 percent, or 58 of Georgia’s 254 bird species are vulnerable to climate change according to this groundbreaking report,” says Adam Betuel, Director of Conservation for Atlanta Audubon. “Without substantial climate change mitigation, many common Georgia species like the Brown Thrasher, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Eastern Towhee, and many others could become uncommon or even extirpated in Georgia. It is critical that we take prompt, meaningful steps to reduce global warming so that these birds can remain part of our lives and landscapes.”

Eight Georgia birds were named species of high concern, including Red-headed Woodpecker, Fish Crow, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Nelson’s Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, and Yellow-throated Warbler. The five primary climate-related threats facing Georgia birds include sea level rise, urbanization, extreme spring heat, heavy rain, and false spring. To learn more about specific Georgia threats, visit <http://audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees/state/us/ga>.



“Birds are important indicator species, because if an ecosystem is broken for birds, it is or soon will be for people too,” said [Brooke Bateman, Ph.D.](#), the senior climate scientist for the National Audubon Society. “When I was a child, my grandmother introduced me to the Common Loons that lived on the lake at my grandparent’s home in northern Wisconsin. Those loons are what drive my work today and I can’t imagine them leaving the U.S. entirely in summer but that’s what we’re facing if trends continue.”

Dr. Bateman and her team also studied climate-related impacts on birds across the lower 48 states, including sea level rise, Great Lakes level changes, urbanization, cropland expansion, drought, extreme spring heat, fire weather and heavy rain.

“We already know what we need to do to reduce global warming, and we already have a lot of the tools we need to take those steps. Now, what we need are more people committed to making sure those solutions are put into practice,” said [Renee Stone](#), vice president of climate for the National Audubon Society. “Our elected officials at every level of government must hear from their constituents that this is a priority. Audubon is committed to protecting the places birds need now and in the future and taking action to address the root causes of climate change.”

Audubon has outlined five key steps:

1. Reduce your use of energy at home and ask your elected officials to support energy-saving policies that reduce the overall demand for electricity and that save consumers money.
2. Ask your elected officials to expand consumer-driven clean energy development that grows jobs in your community – like solar or wind power.
3. Reduce the amount of carbon pollution released into the atmosphere. In order to drive down carbon emissions, we will need innovative economy-wide solutions that address every sector of the economy – like a fee on carbon. Another option is to address carbon emissions one sector at a time like setting a clean energy standard for electricity generation.
4. Advocate for natural solutions, from increasing wetlands along coasts and rivers that absorb soaking rains to protecting forests and grasslands that are homes to birds and serve as carbon storage banks, and putting native plants everywhere to help birds adapt to climate change.
5. Ask elected leaders to be climate and conservation champions.

Enter your zip code into Audubon’s Birds and Climate Visualizer to see how climate change will impact your birds, your community, and the ways you can help.

Audubon’s report is based on the 2014 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report models for 1.5, 2.0 and 3.0 degrees C of global warming. At the highest warming scenario of 3.0 C, 305 bird species face three or more climate-related impacts.

Last month, *Science* published [a study by a joint team of conservation biologists](#) describing a grim picture: a steady decline of nearly three billion North American birds since 1970, primarily as a result of human activities. Climate change will further exacerbate the challenges birds are already facing from human activity.

In 2014, Audubon published its first [Birds and Climate Change Report](#). The study showed that more than half of the bird species in North America could lose at least half of their current ranges by 2080 due to rising temperatures. Audubon’s new findings reflect an expanded and more precise data set, and indicate the dire situation for birds and the places they need will continue.



The full report, visuals and assets are available in the [Media Kit](#).

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**About Audubon**

*The **National Audubon Society** protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. Audubon works throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation. State programs, nature centers, chapters, and partners give Audubon an unparalleled wingspan that reaches millions of people each year to inform, inspire, and unite diverse communities in conservation action. A nonprofit conservation organization since 1905, Audubon believes in a world in which people and wildlife thrive. Learn more at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) and on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @audubonsociety.*

**About Atlanta Audubon:**

***Atlanta Audubon** is building places where birds and people thrive. We create bird-friendly communities through conservation, education, and community engagement. We are an independent chapter of National Audubon with our own board, staff, and membership. Learn more at [www.AtlantaAudubon.org](http://www.AtlantaAudubon.org) or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.*