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For Immediate Release

Audubon Climate Report clarion call: 389 Bird Species on the Brink

MIAMI, Fla. — National Audubon Society released a groundbreaking climate report today titled [*Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink*](#). As a result of climate change, two-thirds of America's bird species are threatened with extinction. The report concludes, however, that there is still time to save up to 75 percent of these at-risk species if action is taken now.

Tropical Audubon Society Executive Director Paola Ferreira says, "Florida is ground zero for climate change, and the State should increase its ambition on climate mitigation in order to avoid the worst impacts." She notes that "the *Survival by Degrees* report uses science to highlight what will happen to birds if we don't take decisive actions to substantially reduce our greenhouse gas emissions."

Audubon Florida (AF) is working proactively with Tropical Audubon Society (TAS) and its other chapter affiliates to help reduce Florida's carbon footprint and save taxpayer dollars by improving energy efficiency, to help make our state's coastal areas more resilient, and to inspire our citizens to work with their elected officials to expand renewable energy sources.

In *Survival by Degrees*, 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. AF Executive Director Julie Wraithmell says, "Like canaries in the coal mine, birds show us the real threat posed to us by climate change. What affects birds affects us all — if we act now, we can avoid the worst impacts, to birds and ourselves."

In Florida, we are already experiencing sea level rise and increased heat waves that affect people and wildlife as a result of climate change. TAS's Ferreira says, "We need to work together and support policies, like a carbon-fee and -dividend plan, to reduce emissions at the state level, and we all need to engage with elected officials, counties and cities to increase the level of ambition on climate mitigation."

In addition to the climate model, the National Audubon 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. Florida species remain particularly vulnerable to a rising Gulf and Atlantic, as well as development, changes in rainfall patterns and more. >

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In *Survival by Degrees*, Audubon scientists outlined five key steps to tackle global climate change:

1. Reduce your energy use 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, such as 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, such as a fee on carbon. Another option is to address carbon emissions one sector at a time, such as setting a clean energy standard for electricity generation.
4. Advocate for natural solutions, from increasing wetlands along coasts and rivers to absorb soaking rains, to protecting forests and grasslands that are homes to birds and serve as carbon storage banks, to planting native plants everywhere to help birds adapt to climate change.
5. Ask your elected leaders to be climate and conservation champions.

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 activity. Climate change will further exacerbate the challenges birds are already facing from human activity.

In 2014, National 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 then-current ranges by 2080 due to rising temperatures. Audubon's newly released 2019 findings reflect an expanded and more precise data set, and indicate the dire situation for birds and the habitats they require for survival will continue.

Learn how five Florida species will respond to a changing climate in our [multi-media illustration](#).

Click here to read [Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink](#).

Attachments: Wood Thrush photo by Kathy Johnston, Audubon Photography Awards; American Redstart photo by Donald Phillips, Audubon Photography Awards.

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