

Audubon North Carolina 2022 Policy Agenda

Taking Action at the Local, State, and Federal Level for Birds



Policy and Advocacy for Birds in 2022

Thanks to Audubon's dedicated advocates, we saw [major victories for birds in 2021](#), from local native plants ordinances to a [landmark bipartisan climate bill](#) in the N.C. General Assembly. Along the way, we more than doubled our flock of people taking action for birds.

We're continuing the momentum in 2022 and will be speaking up for bipartisan policy solutions for birds and people alike. From climate change to habitat loss, the threats to birds have never been greater, and birds tell us the time to act is now. That's why we're taking action at all levels of government—local, state, and federal.

LOCAL

Last year, Audubon chapters across the state led a series of [inspiring victories](#) for birds by organizing their peers and working with their city councils. In just the first six weeks of 2022, chapters in Greensboro and Asheville finalized Lights Out programs with their cities, making the night skies safer for migrating birds.

We have a lot more in store. From mountains to coast, we're working with chapters on a suite of new bird-friendly ordinances and proclamations, with a particular focus on Lights Out programs and native plants ordinances. To get involved, reach out to [your local chapter](#).

STATE

Protecting Birds and Family Landowners: Last year, Audubon advocates helped pass a [bill in the House](#) that would protect family landowners by helping them keep their land and wildlife habitat intact. These families, known as heirs property owners, are vulnerable to involuntary land loss. The problem disproportionately affects Black families, and is present across the state. House Bill 367 would provide important protections for these families. We'll be focused on passing the bill through the Senate this year.

Growing the Market for Native Plants: Last year, Audubon advocates helped pass our state's strongest native plants bill through the Senate. This year, we're focused on supporting [Senate Bill 628](#) in the House. The bill would ensure native trees, shrubs, and flowers are used for landscaping on state property.

Sustaining Conservation Funding: The state budget approved last fall includes [historic investments in conservation funding and flood resilience](#). We'll be speaking up to ensure this funding continues to be a priority in future state funding decisions.

Ensuring an Equitable Clean Energy Transition: The bipartisan climate bill passed last year requires the N.C. Utilities Commission to develop a Carbon Plan to draw down power sector carbon emissions. Audubon is engaging in the stakeholder process to ensure the plan delivers emissions reductions and protects low- and moderate-income families from high electric bills.

FEDERAL

Removing Barriers for Responsible Offshore Wind Energy: North Carolina has more offshore wind energy potential than any state on the East Coast. An offshore wind ban instituted by the previous administration begins this summer. Audubon is focused on reversing the ban and will continue to engage with existing projects to ensure they're developed responsibly, in ways that protect birds and fight climate change.

Supporting Federal Investments in Wildlife: The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (HR 2773, S 2372) represents the biggest investment in wildlife and habitat in a generation. Our state's Congressional delegation has shown strong bipartisan support for this bill, and Audubon will be mobilizing to help pass it in 2022.