



NORTH CAROLINA

2021
**POLICY
AGENDA**





AUDUBON ADVOCATES FOR BIRDS, PEOPLE, AND THE PLACES WE NEED.

As one of North Carolina's oldest and most effective conservation organizations, we are focused on creating durable bipartisan support for Audubon's conservation vision. That means promoting common-sense policy solutions that address the biggest threats to birds, people, and the places we need now and into the future.

If birds are in trouble, so are we. The birds are telling us it's time to act. Audubon's bipartisan network of more than 53,000 people represents communities across the state, including nine all-volunteer chapters and four campus chapters. While our flock is diverse, we speak with a unified voice. Working arm in arm with experts and grassroots leaders, we take action at the local, state, and national level to address threats to our changing climate, secure and restore important natural habitat, make our coasts more resilient, and defend our nation's bedrock conservation laws like the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.



(Top) Audubon North Carolina advocates meet for virtual Advocacy Day in 2020. (bottom) In 2019, advocates flocked to the capitol for Advocacy Day, and we hope to return in-person again soon.

Here is Audubon North Carolina's state policy agenda for 2021.



Northern Pintails

INVESTING IN CONSERVATION

Protecting birds and the places they need is the core of our mission. When we protect and restore habitat, natural areas, and clean air and water, we ensure a better future for people too.

1

STRENGTHEN the state’s conservation trust funds to protect clean air, water, and habitat, keep pace with population growth, and maximize economic benefits of wildlife viewing, hunting and recreation.

2

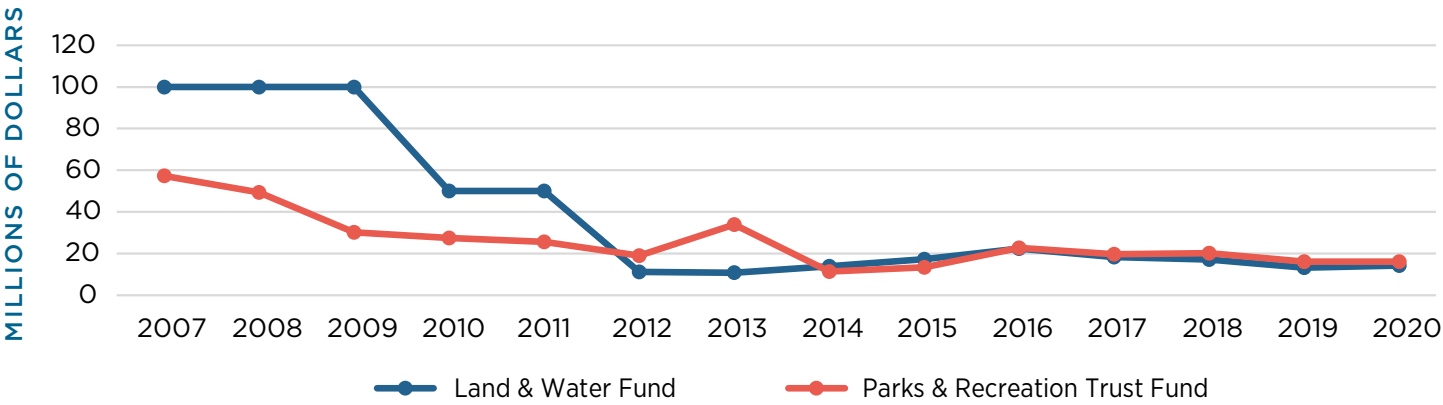
PROTECT inland and coastal communities and critical bird habitat from increased flooding threats with permanent funding for watershed modeling and floodplain and wetlands conservation. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

3

RESTORE our native plants and wildlife habitat by securing federal funds with state match dollars to support management work on gamelands, parks, and private lands.

ROOM FOR GROWTH

NORTH CAROLINA’S CONSERVATION TRUST FUNDS



Source: NC Forever, Land for Tomorrow

SUPPORTING BIRD-FRIENDLY CLEAN ENERGY

A strong, healthy clean energy economy is important for birds and people. Clean energy is critical to protecting our air and water, protecting against changes to our climate, and preserving the places birds need to survive.

1

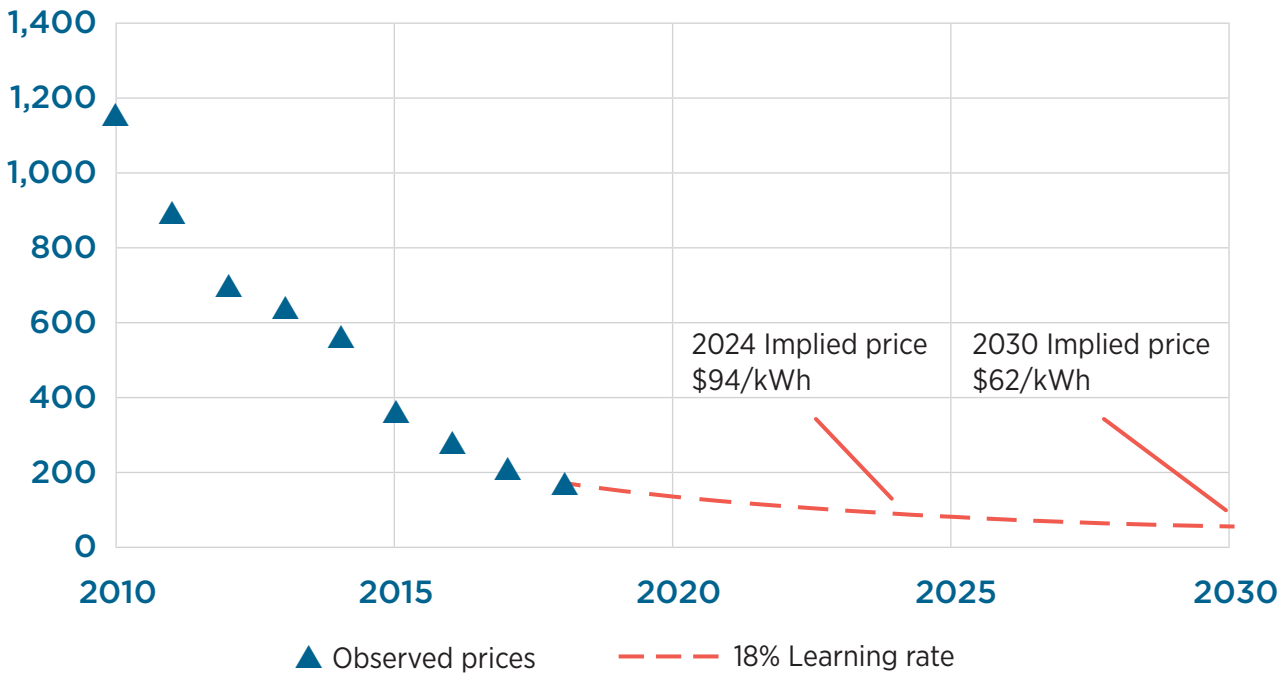
EXPAND competitive markets for energy storage and clean energy to create jobs, grow the local tax base, and make our electric grid more reliable, resilient, and affordable in the face of natural and manmade disasters.

2

ELIMINATE WASTE and protect migrating birds by requiring state agencies to turn off building lights in late evening and early morning hours when not in use.

DECLINING BATTERY STORAGE COSTS

LITHIUM-ION BATTERY PACK PRICE (REAL 2018 \$/kWh)



Source: BloombergNEF

PROTECTING FAMILY LAND

Ensuring family land is protected and eligible for federal conservation programs is good for North Carolina’s farmers and our birds. Families need clear title to qualify for important habitat funding and are less likely to see their land—and bird habitat—fragmented.

PASS “heirs property” model legislation to preserve property rights and protect multi-generational family farms from forced sales that lead to loss of family land and fragmentation of habitat important to birds. This legislation also ensures that landowners in North Carolina have full access to federal cost share programs that lead to improved productivity and habitat.

Red-shouldered Hawk



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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Bald Eagle

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Audubon North Carolina advocates

Photos: (top) Audubon; (bottom) Luke Franke/Audubon

Northern Pintails

Photo: Tara Tanaka/Audubon Photography Awards

Red-shouldered Hawk

Photos: Sandra Rothenberg/Audubon Photography Awards

Northern Cardinal

Photo: Sujata Roy/Great Backyard Bird Count

Northern Cardinal

