

Survival by Degrees: 204 Bird Species at Risk in NC



Birds are telling us it's time to take action on climate.

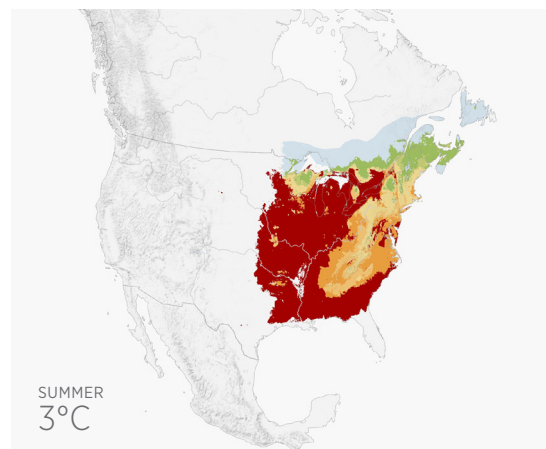
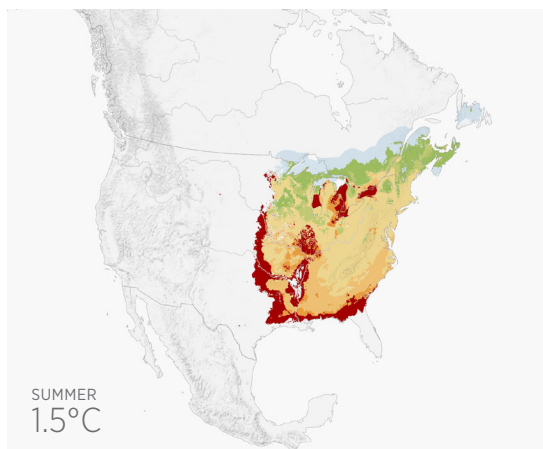
OVERVIEW

The National Audubon Society released a new scientific report showing that two-thirds (389 out of 604) of North American bird species are at risk of extinction because of changes to our climate, including 204 in North Carolina. The good news is our science also shows that if we take action now we can help improve the chances for more than 70% of species at risk in our state. We know what to do to protect the birds we love and the places we all need now and in the future.

If we hold warming to 1.5° C, we significantly lessen the risk of extinction for more than 140 bird species in North Carolina.

Wood Thrush

At 3° C rise, the Wood Thrush is on track to decline or vanish from 90% of its North Carolina range. At 1.5° C rise, the species would remain stable across more than half its range in the state.



■ RANGE LOST
 ■ STABLE—WORSENING
 ■ STABLE—IMPROVING
 ■ RANGE GAINED

CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED THREATS AFFECTING BIRDS & PEOPLE

Audubon scientists looked at projected range shifts of birds, but they also separately examined nine climate threats birds face. In North Carolina, many places are dealing with a confluence of these pressures all at once. Across the state, the top threats are urbanization, extreme spring heat, and heavy rain. On the coast, many species are grappling with another threat—rising seas.



SPRING HEAT WAVES



URBANIZATION

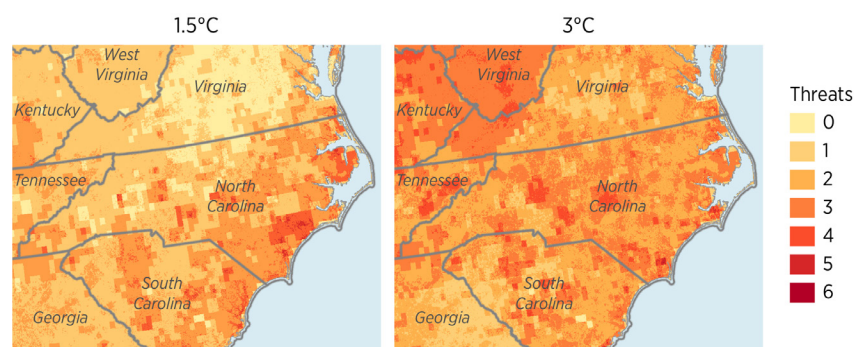


HEAVY RAINS



SEA-LEVEL RISE

CUMULATIVE CLIMATE THREATS



North Carolina faces overlapping potential hazards related to climate change. The impacts of all threats would be reduced under a 1.5° C warming scenario.

TAKE ACTION

- Protect and manage the places birds need now and in the future.
- In addition to taking personal action at home, we must urge action by state and federal officials to accelerate the transition to clean energy.

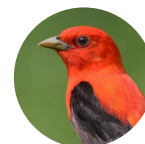
Birds tell us; it's time to act on climate!
 Get involved today at **nc.audubon.org**

PREVIOUS PAGE: Wood Thrush Photo: Will Stuart; Maps: Stamen Design; THIS PAGE: From top: Luke Franke/Audubon; Scarlet Tanager. Photo: Daniel Behm/Audubon Photography Awards; Brown-headed Nuthatch. Photo: Denise Massie/Eastside Audubon; American Oystercatcher. Photo: David Pugsley/Audubon Photography Awards



BIRDS, PEOPLE & OUR COMMUNITIES

The fate of birds and humans are deeply connected. Because birds are present in every landscape, #BirdsTellUs about the health of the places we all live. If a landscape or ecosystem is broken for birds, it is or will soon be for people.



Forests

Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush, Golden-winged Warbler

Hotter springs coupled with heavier rain and urbanization will make life difficult for forest birds across North Carolina. More than half of vulnerable breeding birds in the state fall into this category, including many of our breeding warblers. At the lowest warming scenario, we can reduce the number of vulnerable forest species.



Backyards

Brown-headed Nuthatch, Eastern Towhee, American Goldfinch

The effects of climate change extend into our backyards, where even familiar birds that visit our feeders are at risk. The goldfinch, for example, would be nearly gone from our state under the worst scenario, but would remain if we hold future temperature increases.



Coasts

American Oystercatcher, Black Skimmer, Brown Pelican

North Carolina's coastal birds will face a mixture of climate-related threats at 3.0° C warming, most notably sea level rise, which causes flooding of vital nesting habitat. If we keep warming to 1.5° C, we can greatly reduce the number of threats these birds face.