



Audubon NORTH CAROLINA

birds + climate change

I want to thank you for your generous support of Audubon's work to protect our North Carolina birds. Because of support like yours, our best minds have developed technologies and tools to help us identify where and what birds need from us to continue to thrive. Some of these technologies have been used to create the information included in Audubon's recent report of the potential impact global warming will have on birds in North Carolina and across the Americas.



Analyzing forty years of data, Audubon scientists have created a model that gives us a good indication of where birds are likely to lose habitat due to the effects of climate change. It also shows us where these same birds will need to go to continue to survive. In some cases, there may not be sufficient habitat available to support a particular species. These are the birds most threatened. In other cases, there will most likely be sufficient habitat and the birds will try to shift where they go. It is our job to

act now to make sure these places are protected and have adequate food and nesting sites.

The Audubon climate change model for bird protection not only gives us information based on over 40 years of data collection and millions of records, it gives us something much more important. It gives us hope. Together, we can take the actions that will save our birds. It is not too late. It is just in time.

As a bird lover and Audubon supporter, you have already been helping climate threatened species that live, breed, nest or spend the winter in North Carolina - birds who are responding to programs that you made possible.

I can never thank you enough for standing alongside us. Together we will do everything possible to protect North Carolina's birds now and into the future.

With gratitude,

Heather Starck Hahn
Executive Director

American Oystercatcher

Not enough is known about the habits of oystercatchers so for the last several years, in partnership with NC State University, Audubon Toyota TogetherGreen and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, we have been researching this spectacular coastal bird through our American Oystercatcher Tracking Project and other methods. This research is being used to develop a plan for long-term protection of the oystercatcher.



PHOTO BY WALKER GOLDER

climate threatened birds



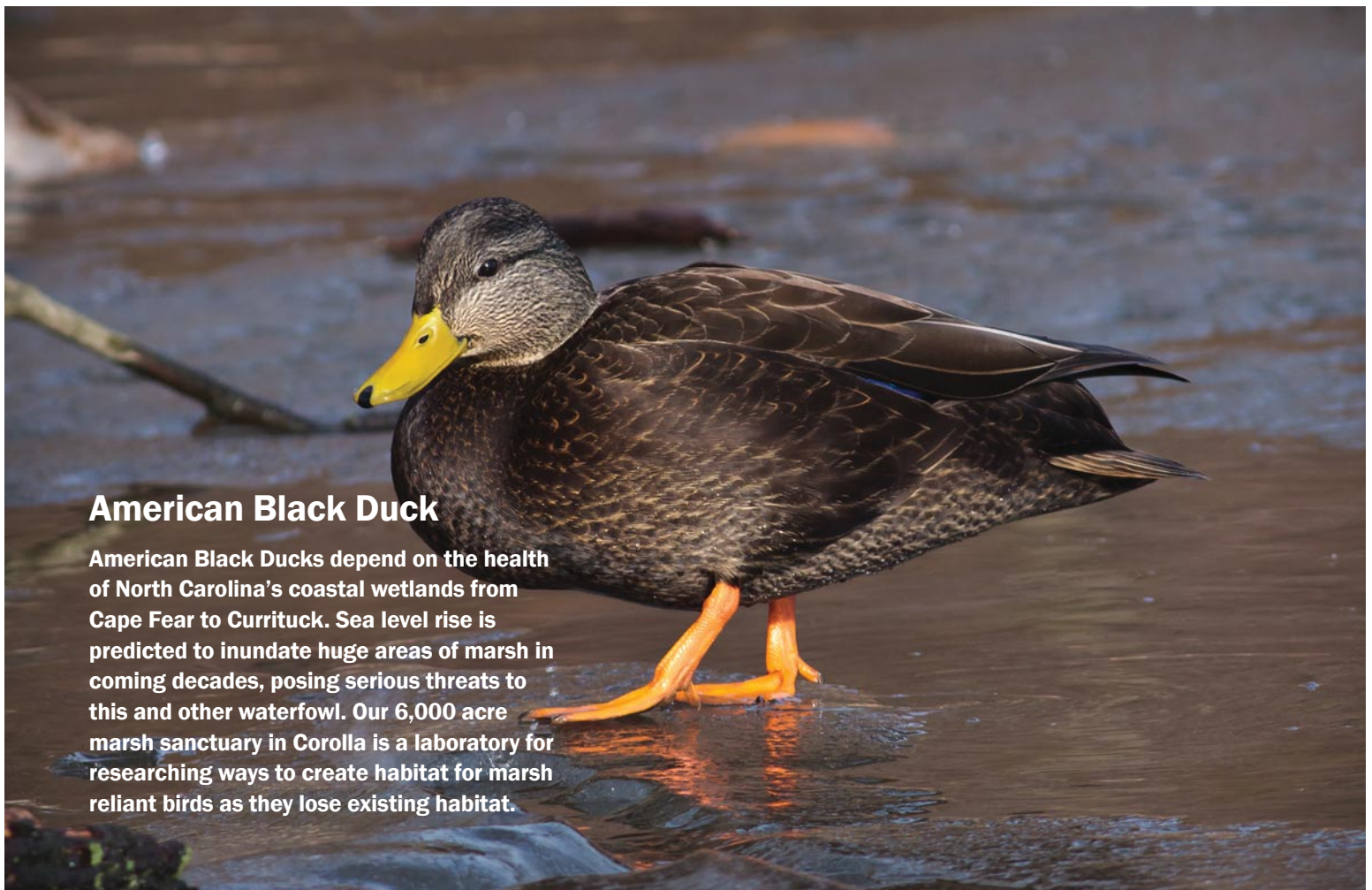
Brown Pelican

Nearly half of North Carolina's Brown Pelicans nest on Audubon Sanctuaries. These sanctuaries will continue to be important strongholds for pelicans and other birds that nest together in colonies in the coming decades.



Piping Plover

Piping Plovers are one of the most threatened shorebirds in the United States. They live on North Carolina's coast year round - nesting, migrating and wintering. Because of this, we carry a big responsibility for the protection and survival of this species.



American Black Duck

American Black Ducks depend on the health of North Carolina's coastal wetlands from Cape Fear to Currituck. Sea level rise is predicted to inundate huge areas of marsh in coming decades, posing serious threats to this and other waterfowl. Our 6,000 acre marsh sanctuary in Corolla is a laboratory for researching ways to create habitat for marsh reliant birds as they lose existing habitat.

help for coastal climate threatened birds

For over 30 years, Audubon has developed and protected a bird sanctuary system along the coast of North Carolina. With the tremendous impact that growth of home sites and businesses, tourism and coastal engineering have on our coastline, we cannot overstate how important these sanctuaries have become for birds. Without them, there would be many fewer birds such as the Brown Pelican, the Least Tern and the White Ibis. The more threatened a bird species is, the harder Audubon fights to protect the areas these birds need to survive. Our 21 sanctuaries include beach sites, coastal islands and river islands and they protect 1 in 3 waterbirds that spend time in North Carolina. The threats will not abate, and our work remains clear – continue to protect the birds using the sanctuaries, expand sanctuaries and habitat protections, continue researching the best methods for protecting the birds, involve partner organizations in the work, and continue our fight against the big issues that, left unchecked, will significantly decrease these populations of birds we have taken responsibility for.

With your loyal support the Brown Pelican population has grown from 200 birds in the late 1970s to over 8,000 birds nesting in North Carolina today and the Battery Island Sanctuary hosts one of the largest White Ibis colonies in North America.

Last year, we added a Beach Bird Stewards program where dozens of volunteers spend hundreds of hours educating the public on the treasure of bird life we host in coastal North Carolina and how each person can make a difference to the lives of this incredible diversity of shorebirds.

With a staff living and working in Wilmington, we understand first-hand the issues facing coastal communities and the pressure to balance recreation with protection.

As supporters of the protection of birds and wildlife, you are helping to make the future better for our beloved coastal birds. Climate threatened birds like the Brown Pelican and the American Oystercatcher are already being helped by your efforts. Together, we will do so much more.



PHOTO BY LINDSAY ADDISON



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