



# CONSERVATION WITHOUT FRONTIERS

IMPACT REPORT 2022-2023

Loddigesia mirabilis. Photo: Steve Sánchez Calle.



04. **FOREWORD**  
*Birds give wings to nature conservation in the Americas*

05. **INTRODUCTION**  
*Audubon Americas migration from theory to practice*

06. **COASTAL RESILIENCE 2022-2023**  
*Conservation and sustainable management of mangroves and coastal wetlands*

10. **REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE**  
*The Valley Where Bird Conservation Lands*

14. **BUILDING A CONSTITUENCY**  
*Weaving bird conservation into public policy*

16. **BOREAL**  
*Boreal collaboration for greater conservation*

17. **INITIATIVE**  
*Building a sustainable future with birds*

18. **PROTECTED AREAS**  
*Connecting and protecting key biodiversity sites in the Americas*

20. **SCIENCE**  
*Audubon Americas’ Secret Formula*

22. **FINANCES**  
*Earning our wings*

**IMPACT REPORT**

**Art Director**  
Kristina Deckert

**Design**  
Darío Forero

**Project Manager and Content Production**  
Poly Martínez

**Photo credits**  
American Oystercatcher  
Ritoque

Andrés Estefan

Ferney Salgado

Jordan Melograna

Marsha Díaz

Mike Fernandez

Natalia Ramos

Pedro Camargo Martínez

Randy Streufert/APA

Sebastian Herzog


Tomás Altamirano

William Dix/APA

Xianwei Zeng/APA

ECOAN



 Smoooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) are widely distributed from Florida to the northern lands of Argentina and Uruguay.

**Photo:** Ferney Salgado



# BIRDS GIVE WINGS TO NATURE CONSERVATION IN THE AMERICAS

**BERNARDO VARGAS-GIBSONE**

CHAIR / AUDUBON AMERICAS COMMITTEE

**I'M NOT AN ORNITHOLOGIST; I DIDN'T STUDY** biology; at best, I'm a rookie birdwatcher. I am, however, a bird lover. We love them because birds are masters of seduction. Not only are they beautiful, colorful, virtuous singers, but they are also mysterious, coquettish, and elusive. As if this was not enough, they are nature's great and last wardens. If they are around, then nature lives. If they are not, trouble looms around the corner, not only for nature but for the survival of the human species. The adage of "healthy birds, healthy planet" is a truism of the highest order.

However, many still resist the seduction of birds. Our job at the National Audubon Society (NAS) is to touch the hearts and open the eyes of all bird lovers and, especially those that still aren't, to see their number grow in the millions and maybe even the billions, so multitudes more join the already effervescent group of people in America that fight for the protection of birds. Ever since the 1950s, Audubon has endorsed this endeavor across Latin America and the Caribbean to create favorable conditions for birds beyond the borders of one single country and act as a force that impacts the whole hemisphere.



Casanare, in Colombia's eastern plains, is an ideal place for birdwatching, as Bernardo Vargas was able to enjoy.

**Photo:** Bernardo Vargas. Personal archive.



Our effort has accelerated dramatically in recent years, especially with the strategic transformation of the previous International Alliances Program into Audubon Americas. It has evolved into an ambitious "Flight Plan" led by the Americas' Committee and the whole Audubon team with full endorsement from the NAS Board of Directors, which will include the expenditure of resources directed at diverse and impactful public/private initiatives that involve governments, corporations, lenders, and multilateral agencies among many players across the hemisphere. This commitment will undoubtedly become apparent to readers as they dive into this report, prepared with the support of many within and outside of Audubon.

**OUR EFFORT TO CREATE  
FAVORABLE CONDITIONS  
FOR BIRDS BEYOND  
COUNTRY BORDERS  
HAS ACCELERATED  
DRAMATICALLY IN RECENT  
YEARS, ESPECIALLY  
WITH THE STRATEGIC  
TRANSFORMATION OF THE  
PREVIOUS INTERNATIONAL  
ALLIANCES PROGRAM INTO  
AUDUBON AMERICAS.**

# AUDUBON AMERICAS MIGRATION FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

**AURELIO RAMOS BORRERO**

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES  
AT NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

**WORKING ON BIRD CONSERVATION** makes you understand the meaning of a common saying: Time flies! Two years ago, in June 2021, we shared Audubon Americas Business Plan. I now notice how many "we will" the text has. It shows our optimistic and constructive approach and the National Audubon Society's (NAS) determination to grow its presence and elevate the conservation impact and climate response across the hemisphere. At that point, we were not fully aware of the incredible journey we were embarking on, just as challenging and inspirational as those thousands of birds do yearly across the Americas.

Putting together our first impact report has



Birding at the Rio Maipo Wetland, Valparaíso region, Chile.

**Photo:** Natalia Ramos.



meant understanding what impact means beyond numbers and milestones and better thinking about the people, partners, and teammates who have helped, shared their knowledge, and invested resources and time to help us grow. Connecting, building a bird-friendly community across the Americas, and bringing new perspectives into our work has also impacted Audubon.

The year 2022 marks, so to speak, a new ground for gaining greater relevance in the Americas as we project Audubon's strategies across the hemisphere, adapting or creating new ways of implementing them, keeping in mind the local context, and thinking of regional impact, from the Boreal forests to the coasts of Chile.

Science and on-the-ground experience have been fundamental in understanding the hemispherical conservation shortfalls, which have become our building blocks and a world of opportunities for Audubon. Working closely with international partners like BirdLife, American Bird Conservancy, and RedLAC, among others, and building together initiatives that have an accountable impact across the region has been a genuine shift in the way we connect people, resources, and funding for the benefit of a more significant and urgent goal: climate change response and the conservation of birds and the places they live in. Working with multilateral banks like IDB and CAF has opened new agendas, scenarios, and alliances.

This report is just a tiny part of the bigger picture Audubon Americas is working on. For me, it is not a rearview mirror of the fantastic work the team has done but a vast and clear horizon for connecting birds and people across the hemisphere.





PROTECTED AREAS

# CONNECTING AND PROTECTING KEY BIODIVERSITY SITES IN THE AMERICAS

**Conserva Aves advances in the creation of protected areas in the neotropical Andes, with Colombia and Peru leading projects in this prioritized region.**

**A**T THE ONSET OF THE STRUCTURING and design phase of Conserva Aves in 2021, Audubon Americas' first major hemispheric initiative, maps tended to show a series of colored spots tracing an irregular path between Chile and Mexico, with the promise to ensure the future biodiversity conservation pathway, particularly for endangered and migratory hemispheric bird species with declining populations. This rather simple idea, is, nevertheless, powerful both socially and scientifically, whereby two million hectares are connected with 100 newly created subnational protected areas, the backbone of connected territories of life throughout the Americas.

Two years later, a seed capital of \$14 million, made possible by the Bezos Earth Fund and other donors, as well as a strategic partnership among Audubon, BirdLife International, American Bird Conservancy, and the Network of Environmental Funds of Latin America and the Caribbean (RedLAC), helped Conserva Aves transform words into actions. In October 2022, the first call for proposals was launched in Colombia, formally implementing the Conserva Aves initiative. In April 2023, 12 co-financing projects were selected to positively impact diverse ecosystems crucial for birds and vital for the surrounding communities using an investment of USD \$2,052,000 covering approximately 32,000 hectares.

Today those obscure spots on the map now have names -Wisirare and El Cravo Sur in Palmarito, Casanare, Roble Negro in Charalá, Santander, Macondo in Piojó, Atlántico, and Herederos del Planeta - Tungurahua

- Encanto Andino in Pasto, department of Nariño, to name just a few in Colombia- and an implementation process led by Fondo Acción, RedLAC partner, with support from Calidris, a BirdLife International partner in Colombia.

Likewise, the map reflects priority points for migratory bird conservation in Peru. In July 2023, a call for proposals was made to select 10 projects that will receive co-funding that totals US\$1,158,700. In 2024 Conserva Aves will branch out to Bolivia and Ecuador, thus covering the Tropical Andes, as was prioritized. The initiative will then fly north to Panama and Mexico, with the same premise of mainstreaming subnational areas into hemispheric conservation.

In its first year of implementation, Conserva Aves laid the groundwork for a collaborative, cohesive, and inclusive initiative, based on solid scientific data and executed by local and regional communities. To this end, a communication strategy is now underway and training materials have been developed, including playbooks for Colombia and Peru that explain the step-by-step process for creating a subnational protected area.


In addition, the initiative includes an online skills training platform. Conserva Aves also provides training in management skills, negotiation and partnership building, principles of equity, gender and inclusion and knowledge transfer to benefit local organizations, ethnic groups, and community partners in each country, thus supporting the evolution and consolidation of a plethora of projects by 2026.



**19** PARTNERS  
throughout the Americas,  
from Mexico to Chile.

**12** PROTECTED  
areas or local networks  
of protected areas in  
Colombia, are now in the  
implementation phase,  
following a successful call for  
proposals in October 2022.

**32,000**  
hectares of key bird habitats  
under protection and  
improved management.

 **Right:** Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) migrates to South America during the winter in North America.

**Photo:** Randy Streufert/APA

**Left:** Abra Málaga, high in the Peruvian Andean mountains, is a magical place for birders worldwide and a subnational area Conserva Aves prioritized in the 2023 call for proposals.

**Photo:** © ECOAN.





# CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF MANGROVES AND COASTAL WETLANDS

**Audubon Americas team centers its coastal resilience strategy on two pillars — science and strategic partnerships. Although 2021 proved to be intense and full of new program designs and initiatives, 2022 and 2023 marked a decisive and enthusiastic period of implementation and assessment of initial results, namely in two countries, Panama, and Chile, which served as catalysts for local shorebird conservation in strategic points along the migratory route in the continental Pacific.**



Piping-Plover

**Photo:** Xianwei Zeng/“Audubon Photography Awards”



## PANAMA, OUR FLAGSHIP PROJECT

**P**ATRIMONIO NATURAL AZUL (BLUE Natural Heritage or PNA), a large-scale coastal resilience project that executed in 2022 with an initial investment of \$2.3 million USD and a large pool of scientific human talent to achieve the set goals. PNA served as our pilot for similar projects in other countries in the Americas.

The PNA project, executed in collaboration with the Panama Audubon Society, is supported by the UK Blue Carbon Fund and managed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) with additional support from the Packard Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As part of this project, twenty monitoring units were established at the Parita Bay pilot site and Panama Bay, both crucial for migratory birds, laboratory analyses conducted to identify carbon stocks.

Our activities involved assessment of ecosystem services, innovative mapping of mangrove species and acoustic monitoring of birds. In February 2023, we developed and presented the Conservation Plan for Parita Bay which identifies the main conservation goals in the area and is currently being disseminated among direct stakeholders



Parita Bay, Panama.

**Photo:** Mike Fernandez

### Mangrove ecosystem values and services visible and accessible to all in 2022-2023

Informational sessions and workshops held with communities.

Expansion of Aulas Verdes (Green Classrooms) Program Outreach Project benefitting

**3,758** students in

**16** schools in Panama Bay and another

**324** students in Parita Bay.

Seminars and Workshops:

**520**

representatives from NGO and CBO involved in conservation programs participated in five webinars, workshops and meetings.

Published interactive map with PMA Project results.


and government authorities. This and other complementary research will help establish a baseline for site conditions, feed policy and management processes to impact and improve the management of marine-coastal ecosystems, as well as develop the carbon market and to help support local coastal communities with the resulting income.

The scope of our coastal resilience strategy has broadened as a result of strategic partnerships that have served to enhance our scientific credibility and hone our technical skills and know how, as is evidenced in four signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU). Our agreement with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) which enables the PMA project to conduct laboratory research work and foster opportunities for future scientific collaboration in this area, is just one example.





# CHILE, AN EXPORT MODEL

 American Oystercatcher Ritoque  
**Photo:** Sebastian Herzog.

**I**F THERE IS ONE COUNTRY IN THE Americas where a coastal resilience strategy is needed to confront the challenge of climate change and protect crucial ecosystems for migratory and resident shorebirds, it is Chile, which covers 6,435 kilometers of coastline, and is a destination for hundreds of thousands of birds including thirty Nearctic and Neotropical species as well as home to a wealth of endemic species.

Audubon Americas has recently focused its efforts on the Conservation Action Plan (CAP) for the Humedal-Marisma Rocuant-Andalién IBA site, located in the municipalities of Concepción, Talcahuano, Penco and Hualpén, in the Biobío Region. The pilot endeavors to provide replicable models to reduce pressure on birds and urban coastal wetlands consistent with economic development in Chile’s second largest metropolitan area.

To ensure feasibility of the CAP, Audubon Americas launched the Coastal Stewardship Program, a pilot created by Audubon that is aimed at reducing human disturbance on resident birds during the the breeding season and migrant birds at non-breeding sites. This is accomplished by engaging and establishing conservation partnerships with neighboring communities, strategic NGOs, the private sector, and the Chilean govern-

ment. The program’s toolbox, adapted to Chile, was executed between 2022-2023 and promotes volunteering and engaging of the corporate sector in conservation initiatives, a key element used in Chile.


We held a series of interviews and workshops with twenty community leaders, in 2023, considering that their cross-cutting perspective could help attain funding for this program, attract multi-sector stakeholders and foster awareness about the need to protect birds in Chile.

Audubon Americas has started to replicate the successful Rocuant-Andalién model in other areas to leverage its hemispheric impact. An example is the 2023 partnership between Audubon Chile and the Cosmos Foundation to work in the Maipo River Wetland Nature Sanctuary, another key area for birds and biodiversity. Audubon plans to link conservation, education and research initiatives along the Pacific Flyway through an interactive museum at the site run by ExplorAves.

Given its prominence as the southernmost point along the migratory route, Audubon Chile has joined the Pacific Flyway Shorebird Conservation Initiative, which extends throughout the Pacific coast and connects all of the Americas.



# RETURN OF THE BAHAMAS

 A Black-billed Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) twice as beautiful.  
**Photo:** William Dix/ Audubon Photography Awards

**T**HE BAHAMAS RETURNED TO THE Audubon portfolio during 2022 and 2023, thanks to a grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) aimed at promoting economic opportunities to support conservation efforts in the Caribbean, an effort also strengthened after signing an agreement with the Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI).

**Activities carried out:**

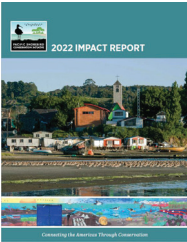
- A standardized training workshop for bird guides in the Bahamas in place since 2023.
- Assessment of opportunities for conservation based on analysis of the bird-based tourism market and a conservation action plan.
- Enhanced economic opportunities for trained guides in the region.

- Shorebird data collected and published in the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).
- Achievements include the conclusion of the following two noteworthy projects:**
- 1) ECCC - Protection of key wintering sites for the endangered Piping Plover and other endangered shorebirds in the islands of the Bahamas as well as Turks and Caicos.
  - 2) Disney-Bahamas Piping Plover Recovery Initiative.

A significant achievement was attained in March 2022 when the Cays extending from Joulter and Kemp Cays to Pigeon Cay were added to the international list of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), a result of more than a decade of monitoring and the collaborative efforts of national and international organizations and volunteers, including Audubon, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Bahamas National Trust (BNT).

Furthermore, after careful analysis, more than 20 sites in the Bahamas found to fit the biological criteria for nomination to the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN).

# THE PACIFIC, OUR CHALLENGE FOR CONSERVATION



**O**NE ONLY HAS TO LOOK AT THE 16,000 kilometers of coastline to imagine the challenge of protecting the far-flying birds that depend on habitats from northern Alaska to southern Chile. When diving into the pressing issues affecting coastal resilience along the Pacific Americas Flyway, human recreational disturbance is a major threat. How to tackle it?

Fifty-three organizations and hundreds of people across 13 countries have a working solution. They created the Pacific Shorebird Conservation Initiative (PSCI), committing

to local, regional, and international conservation highly effective actions to provide shorebirds the protections and resources they need to survive their migrations and successfully breed. Supporters—which include local and international NGOs, governments, academics, and industry partners—have invested more than \$37 million in conservation projects thus far.

In 2022, coordinated by Audubon, the partnership presented its first impact report and story map, showcasing five years of impactful conservation outcomes across the Americas.





Undoubtedly, these past two years, our great success story is our step-by-step Regenerative Agriculture Strategy.

**O**PENING THE FIELD TO SUSTAINABLE agriculture in Latin America that benefits birds requires more than readily available plots of land. Audubon America’s Regenerative Agriculture Strategy pilot, established in Colombia, was founded on meticulous scientific analysis to direct its scope and impact, understand the productive and social dynamics of the Cauca River Valley’s geography, build a network of individuals and organizations willing to embrace nature-based solutions and change rural large-scale or smallholder production

practices, in addition to monitoring and measuring impact and results that best support birds, people and biodiversity.

The first step for implementation involved designing a methodology of the strategy and establishing a baseline to measure impact, according to the “building blocks” principle. Our Regenerative Agriculture Strategy which began to deliver results in 2021, entails designing portfolios with bird-friendly practices in production landscapes that promote conservation without detriment to productivity. Since our pilots have now come to fruition, our intent is to cascade them throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. We are currently working on sustainable livestock, sugarcane, and rice, together with communities, livestock farmers, sugarcane and rice growers and agribusiness partners.

Today, this strategy is executed at two levels:

1. Local Farms

As part of this 2022-23 undertaking, we worked with landowners onsite on farms to engage them in conservation, planning and implementation of bird-friendly practices. We also co-created farms to serve as models for other landowners located in critical regions for endemic and migratory birds.

2. Landscapes

Effective conservation requires simultaneous efforts and local action that coalesce at the landscape level. We also complemented these positive actions by adding watersheds as a second area of impact. Since 2021, we have focused on two priority watersheds to promote landscape management tools

Cauca Valley demonstration farms

Our four pilot cases are structured to serve as the basis for the Strategy’s growth.

Number of partners:

9

Funds secured:

600,000

de la USFWS

Enhanced management of agricultural areas:

142,9 ha

Number of trees planted:

4,374

Community nurseries:

2

Money leveraged by local partners:

\$ 1M

from Arroz Blanquita, a private rice mill; co-investment of

\$265,560

by Fondo Agua por la Vida y la Sostenibilidad, (Water for Life and Sustainability Fund), Asocaña, ASOGUABAS, Vivo Cuenca, Providencia Mill and ICESI University; Colombian Livestock Federation and CIPAV.



Sustainable cattle ranching in Colombia’s Cauca Valley.

Photo: Andrés Estefan.



In November 2022, Audubon Americas launched the Sustainable Cattle Ranching Playbook, an illustrative publication for producers to showcase how cattle ranching can boost productivity while helping birds. The playbook shares best practices and information that can be used in almost any farm in Latin America and the Caribbean, regions where the transition to sustainable cattle ranching practices is urgently needed to stop deforestation, and overall environmental degradation.

It addresses people’s connection with birds, sustainable cattle ranching data, and implementation. Also, practices that can be used in the farms, planning for birds and productivity, and how to start bird-watching to have fun and monitor changes in the farms.







## AN IDEA THAT TAKES ROOT

The community of Cocuyos in Ginebra, Valle del Cauca, has been working for more than a year on establishing its nursery to propagate plant species of high ecological value for birds. These plants are pivotal for restoring and enriching habitats in productive landscapes. The community nursery has also served as common ground to strengthen the cohesion of the community of women. It will generate complementary income in the mid term.

that will increase landscape connectivity and provide quality bird habitats. This will, ultimately improve the capabilities of many local communities to plan and conserve biodiversity and water in their territories.

The scope of this small-scale endeavor has swiftly expanded its field of action to mainstream needs assessment and partnership facilitation. Efforts were also targeted at strengthening skills among community members and birdwatching groups, as well as help co-create community nurseries to provide bird-friendly plants suitable for restoration.

Our “Cattle Ranching for Birds: A Song for Sustainability Playbook”, published in December 2022 is a powerful tool for livestock farmers that describes the essential elements and step-by-step instructions needed to transition traditional livestock models to more sustainable production prototypes that also encompass birds. This more sustainable model, first launched in Colombia, can be replicated by other tropical countries in the region. We also developed a roadmap or geographic blueprint of the Cauca River Valley. This document serves as a guideline with recommendations based on Audubon Americas’ Regenerative Agriculture strategy actions. The Audubon Bird-Friendliness Index was also adapted for use in Colombia’s production landscapes to gauge how bird-friendly practices impact the diversity and resilience of migratory and endemic birds that inhabit the areas we serve.

For 2024, we plan to publish a sugarcane crop and bird manual and expand the aforementioned models to other parts of the country and other types of production. We look are looking forward to developing activities in other countries throughout the region to grow our portfolio and scale-up our strategy to the entire hemisphere.



Vivero Copachí, one of our pilot nurseries and an example of good and productive partnerships.

**Photo:** Andrés Estefan.



Plate-billed Toucan (*Andigena laminirostris*) can only be seen in small areas of Colombia and Ecuador.

**Photo:** Ferney Salgado.



# WEAVING BIRD CONSERVATION INTO PUBLIC POLICY

Developing national plans for bird conservation and mainstream conservation policies into development plans is one of the milestones Audubon Americas set for 2026. Chile and Colombia lead the flock after launching their strategies in 2022 and 2023, respectively. They set high standards and bring inspiring lessons for next-in-line countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.



## COLOMBIA, 1966 BIRD SPECIES AND ONE STRATEGY

ONE OF THE MOST BIOLOGICALLY diverse countries in the world, Colombia is home to 1,900+ bird species—20 percent of all species worldwide. Sadly, though, 140 species are at risk of extinction, and many more are imperiled by biodiversity and habitat loss, poorly managed development, and climate change.

In June 2023, with the contribution of more than 2000 people, Colombia launched its roadmap to safeguard birds and the places they inhabit: the Estrategia Nacional para la Conservación de Aves – ENCA 2030 (The National Strategy for the Conservation of Birds), a significant step in our work to elevate bird conservation and building it into the country's goals for economic development and sustainability. ENCA covers all habitats in Colombia—from forests, savannahs, and working lands to coastal, freshwater, and

urban habitats—and includes all bird species that inhabit the country at some point in their annual life cycle.

While many entities and individuals contributed to this national consultation process, we worked closely with two main partners for over two years to fund and facilitate ENCA 2030. This core group brought the collective expertise required to spearhead a project integrating the country's diverse economic, social, and cultural models. The Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute provided technical and scientific advice and critical political engagement. The National Network of Birdwatchers (RNOA), which brings together more than 20 regional ornithological grassroots organizations, collected insights about local cultures and development needs, actively participated in working groups, and served as a direct channel with local contributors. Audubon oversaw project management, provided technical expertise, monitored progress, and facilitated the entire process following the Open Conservation Standards.

The strategy, now under implementation, concentrates on 11 conservation targets that focus on the diversity of resident and migratory avifauna and associated habitats, including those that value the cultural systems associated with bird appreciation and bird-based tourism. Durable conservation work at scale is vital to a bright future for birds, businesses, and the people of Colombia, the “country of birds.” Completing ENCA is an essential milestone in Audubon Americas’ theory of change.



Multicoloured Tanager  
(*Chlorochrysa nitidissima*)

**Photo:** Pedro Camargo Martínez



## THE POLITICS OF BIRDS

CHILE IS THE FIRST COUNTRY in the Americas to address bird conservation as a national policy that commits the state to meet its goals. Audubon has been a partner of choice for this endeavor and the consolidation of the National Bird Conservation Strategy - ENCA 2021-2030.

There are elusive goals like the Chiricoca, but they are possible for any seasoned birder. As never seen before in Chile, the birds brought together thousands of people from diverse backgrounds, knowledge, and professional contexts to speak a common language that seeks the welfare of birds and their environments. And in that achievement, the contribution of Audubon Americas has been and continues to be significant.

It was evident throughout 2022 and continues to be seen today in every workshop and activity related to the National Bird Conservation Strategy 2021-2030 (ENCA), meetings of broad attendance, and cross-cutting participation. This is, precisely, the mobilization for birds that Audubon seeks throughout the Americas and that in Chile is already a strategy that flies.

The formulation process, initiated in 2020 under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment of Chile and the participation of more than 2000 people and 50 organizations, consolidated in January 2022, with the

launch and integration of the ENCA as a national public policy.

Today, as part of the implementation committee, made up of 24 public sector institutions, NGOs, and research centers, Audubon has a leadership role as a member of the ENCA Board of Directors, where it contributes with a strategic view to advance projects for the integration and closing of gaps in public policies that contribute to effective bird conservation in the country. Such is the case of the bird-based tourism action line, which Audubon leads; we also actively participate in ensuring the financial sustainability of this important national public policy.

Audubon has made significant contributions to planning, financing, and a long-term vision based on innovative solutions in both the multisectoral committee and the Board of Directors, specifically in two working groups: public policies and best practices and financing. Thus, like Chiricoca, Chile marks with its leadership a possible route for conserving birds and the places they inhabit in the hemisphere.



Juvenile female of Andean Condor  
(*Vultur gryphus*).

**Photo:** Tomás Altamirano.





# BOREAL COLLABORATION FOR GREATER CONSERVATION

**Through partnerships, we are bringing together Western science, Traditional Knowledge, communications, and advocacy to establish Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in their traditional territories.**



Deployment of sound records (ARUs) in Seal River Watershed of northern Manitoba, Canada.

**Photo:** Jordan Melograna / Seal River Watershed Indigenous Protected Area Initiative.

**A**UDUBON AMERICAS' goal in Canada is to protect 25 million acres of Boreal Forest. As you can imagine, the process of protecting that much land can be as complex as the Boreal itself. Nevertheless, Audubon's Boreal Conservation team—along with our partners—is making impressive headway. Collaboration is key! Through the development of partnerships, we are bringing together Western science, Traditional Knowledge, communications, and advocacy to help push forward some of the world's most ambitious land protections.

Our work with each of our Indigenous partners continues to deepen and expand as those partners' land conservation efforts progress through the complex process of establishing Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) in their traditional territories. One example is the invitation for Audubon to participate in meetings within six communities across Northern Ontario facilitated by the Mushkegowuk Council. Our expert staff is sharing information with the communities about birds of special importance to the area, and that information is also expected to be incorporated into the IPCA proposal(s) for the region including for a massive proposed Hudson-James Bay Marine Conservation Area.

Additional examples of the collaborative work we are doing across Canada include our birdsong surveying projects. We are currently working with Indigenous governments and organizations

## Boreal work, right on target

**10 IPCA**  
proposals across  
Canada—covering over

**100M**  
acres—were supported  
by Audubon.

**14 research**  
collaborations that integrate  
Western science and Indigenous  
knowledge.

**Two memorable**  
celebrations in 2022:

**1. \$800 million**

in new support of Indigenous-led conservation and Indigenous Guardians stewardship programs were announced by Canada's federal government in December 2022.

**2. At COP15,**

the government of Manitoba and the Canadian federal government formally announced the intent to carry out a feasibility study on the Seal River Watershed proposed conserved area—a major step in moving forward the Seal River Watershed IPCA.

on 10 co-led research projects that survey remote avian habitats within the Boreal Forest. Sound-monitoring devices called Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs) are placed in bird-rich areas to determine which species are present. Indigenous elders select sites for the deployment of the devices based on their traditional knowledge and connection to their lands. Then, working with youth and land users, the machines are deployed in the spring and collected in the late summer or fall. The data are then analyzed by Audubon's Boreal Conservation team and a report of findings is created which can be used to showcase the global importance of the region to the public and in discussions with the Canadian and provincial governments. These ongoing bird monitoring projects not only show the abundance of species currently present in a region but will also help us understand any changes taking place over time due to factors such as climate change and habitat quality.

The research collaboration between Audubon and the Seal River Watershed Alliance has led to the deployment of 20 ARUs by Indigenous Guardians at sites within the 12-million-acre proposed IPCA in northern Manitoba. Over the past year, the data from 2021 and 2022 was collected and analyzed and a technical report on the findings will be published soon. Audubon is also collaborating with the Dene Kayeh Institute to prepare for the deployment of 22 ARUs in the 9.8 million-acre proposed Dene K'eh Kusan IPCA in northern British Columbia during spring migration in 2024.

We finished 2022 with a stronger team, and this strategic move was a major step forward to be able to greatly increase our capacity to develop and maintain the collaborative work portfolio of the Boreal Conservation program.

# BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE WITH BIRDS

**The Americas Flyways Initiative is our most recent hemispheric, innovative, and visionary approach that combines applied science with financial mechanisms to protect and conserve critical sites for birds and wildlife.**

**T**HE COOPERATION PRACTICES BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS are essential to strengthen climate action and build long-term, nature-positive, sustainable development. To that purpose, the National Audubon Society, Birdlife International (BirdLife), and the Development Bank of Latin American and the Caribbean (CAF) established in 2022 an innovative alliance to structure the Americas Flyway Initiative (AFI), launched in September 2023. It will promote the protection, conservation, and restoration of Key Biodiversity Areas by integrating and scaling up Nature-Based Solutions (NBS).

Our portfolio of projects will prioritize bird-friendly infrastructure like safe water access (sanitation and irrigation), urban infrastructure (buildings, educational and health equipment), linear infrastructure (urban and rural roads; energy distribution lines, pipelines; towers and telecommunication lines); comprehensive solid waste management; and clean energy generation projects. AFI will also invest in natural climate solutions focused on restoring, conserving, and protecting ecosystems, coastal management to foster climate resilience, and promoting sustainable agriculture.

## Our goals

- We aim to make the most significant economic investment in the Americas focused on sustainable development projects to benefit local communities and the planet's welfare and safeguard a crucial ecosystem network.
- We will invest unprecedentedly in bird and biodiversity conservation in the Americas through more than 30 priority projects in the next ten years.
- We will contribute to the integration of the Americas by highlighting the importance of collectively helping migratory birds, which know no borders and require multi-country efforts for the region's nature conservation and sustainable development.
- We will promote collaboration among the public, private, NGO, and community sectors to work together to counter biodiversity loss and climate change's impacts in the Americas.

Flying together takes us further and makes a difference in how the Americas understand sustainable development. Our initiative is an opportunity for synergy, integration, and harmonious coexistence that unites people and nature beyond borders, seeking healthy and prosperous environments. We join forces to safeguard migratory and endemic threatened resident birds throughout the Western Hemisphere.

LED BY





# AUDUBON AMERICAS' SECRET FORMULA

**Spatial planning and impact evaluation are fundamental for informed conservation decision making in the Americas.**

**T**HE AUDUBON AMERICAS SCIENCE TEAM identifies crucial areas for birds and people, sets up monitoring programs to assess changes in bird populations and their habitats, and develops web-based tools to communicate results with key stakeholders and general audiences. Science is at the core of Audubon Americas' investment in resources, capacity building, knowledge generation, and engagement activities across the Americas. Working hand in hand with strategy leaders, they set up key performance indicators and targets for strategies and projects and coordinate the delivery of science-based analysis and products. The following are their most outstanding contributions between 2022 and 2023:

- In partnership with BirdLife International and CAF (Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean), the Audubon Americas science team identified a portfolio of 323 sites for the implementation of bird-friendly infrastructure and nature-based solutions under the Americas Flyways Initiative. To achieve this, the team assessed bird populations across the Western Hemisphere, harnessing data from multiple data sources, and evaluated site-level and potential investments in bird-friendly infrastructure and nature-based solutions to benefit bird populations. An accompanying [web tool](#) allows partners to easily access the conservation portfolio as well as ancillary data.

- Spatial priorities were defined for the conservation of migratory and resident birds, supporting the Conserva Aves initiative by guiding the creation of new protected areas across nine Latin American countries. A web tool for the nomination of new protected areas has been developed for each country where the initiative has been launched (e.g. [Colombia](#)).

- A detailed zonification of conservation efforts was produced for the Cauca Valley to support its conservation blueprint. The scientific methodology identifies the sites and conservation actions that are most cost-effective and provides a roadmap for strategies to prioritize their efforts. The analysis developed for the Cauca Valley could be used as a template for other AA prioritized landscapes.

- Data collection is as varied as the ecosystems in which the Audubon Americas team works. Today, Audubon Americas has more than [150,000](#) audio recordings from 19 mangrove sites in Parita Bay, Panama. The science team is using supervised and unsupervised machine learning frameworks to process these recordings and gain insights into the species that occur there, the factors that influence their occurrence, and their potential responses to global change.

- In 2022, our scientists led Audubon's registration as a publishing organization on the Global Biodiversity Information Facility ([GBIF](#)). Since then, we have published our monitoring datasets on the platform, and the data has been downloaded more than 5,600 times and cited in 16 instances, all with proper credit to Audubon.

- Team members established six Motus stations in Valle del Cauca, Colombia, providing support to hemispheric connectivity monitoring infrastructure and setting the groundwork to understand how Audubon Americas intervention on this landscape is connected with conservation actions and challenges elsewhere in the hemisphere, through birds.

- In collaboration with Audubon's Migratory Bird Initiative, the team is moving forward with the development of Alas Seguras, a decision-making platform funded by NASA to support spatial prioritization of conservation actions in protected areas and working lands.




Audubon Americas science team at Parita Bay, Panama, March 2023.

Photo: Marsha Díaz



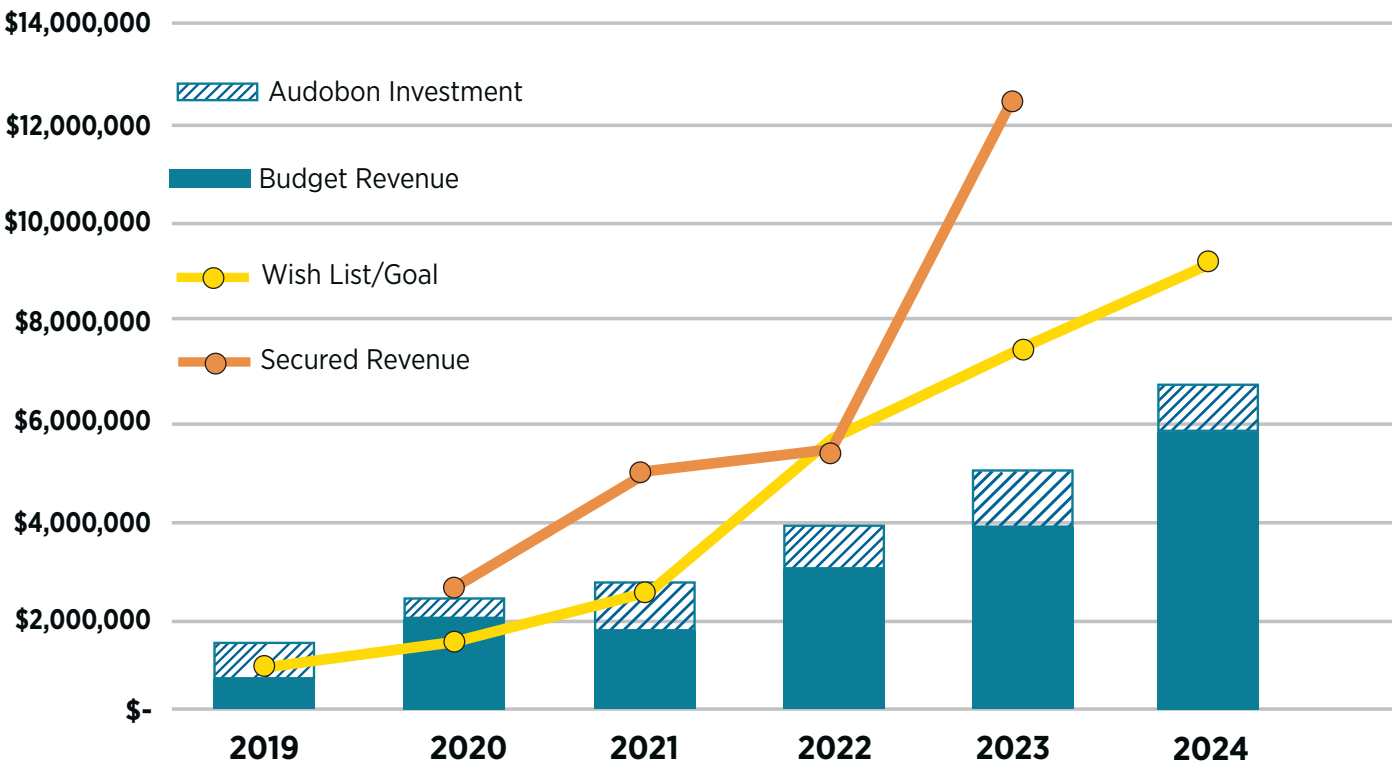


 Striped Woodpecker (*Dryobates lignarius*) is the smallest woodpecker in the temperate forests of South America.  
**Photo:** Tomás Altamirano.

# EARNING OUR WINGS

AUDUBON AMERICAS HAS GROWN FROM LESS THAN **U\$1M ANNUAL BUDGET** IN FY19 TO A **U\$ 7M IN FY24**. FY23 NEW REVENUE WAS **U\$12,3M**. THESE ARE ALIGNED WITH THE BUSINESS PLAN GROWTH PROJECTIONS.

## AA Revenue Trends by Fiscal Year





# CREDITS

## AUDUBON AMERICAS AND PARTNERS

### Audubon Americas Advisory Committee:

#### NAS BOARD MEMBERS:

Bernardo Vargas-Gibson (Chairman).  
Kevin Harris  
Steffanie Munguia  
Susan Orr  
Ángel Ortiz  
Anna Riggs  
Diane Ross-Leech  
Susan Bell

#### ADVISORY:

David Hartwell.  
Héctor Morales  
Alan Model  
Gini Stowe  
Janes Alexander  
James Greenwood  
Helena García  
Dimitri Zaninovich  
Francisco Piedrahita  
Mirei Endara Heras  
Eric Newman

### Audubon Executive Team

Elizabeth Gray  
PRESIDENT AND CEO  
Marshall Johnson  
CHIEF CONSERVATION OFFICER  
Maxine Griffin  
Somerville  
CHIEF PEOPLE AND CULTURE OFFICER  
Ingrid Milne  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
Lisette Martinez -  
CHIEF EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING OFFICER

Allison Vogt  
CHIEF OF STAFF  
Betty Su  
CHIEF MARKETING & COMMUNICATION OFFICER  
Charlotte Young  
VP & GENERAL COUNSEL  
Suzanne Dixon  
SENIOR VP, FLYWAYS  
Amy Sobel  
SENIOR VP, FLYWAYS  
Justin Stokes  
DEPUTY CHIEF CONSERVATION OFFICE  
Marco Carbone  
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER  
Mary Ann Owsley  
SENIOR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

### Audubon Americas Core Team

Aurelio Ramos  
SENIOR VP AUDUBON AMERICAS  
Jeff Wells  
VP BOREAL CONSERVATION  
Adriana Moreno  
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR - PANAMA  
Alex Miller  
MANAGER, FINANCE AND OPERATIONS  
Andrea Pinilla  
FINANCE ASSISTANT  
Camilo Cardozo  
COLOMBIA COUNTRY DIRECTOR  
Carrie Gray  
BOREAL CONSERVATION SPECIALIST  
Catalina Casas  
COLOMBIA BIRD-BASED TOURISM COORDINATOR  
Daniela Linero  
GIS AND DATA ANALYSIS SPECIALIST  
Erica Sosa  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE VICE PRESIDENT  
Gloria Lentijo  
WORKING LANDS STRATEGY DIRECTOR

Ines Fernandes  
AUDUBON AMERICAS PROGRAM ASSOCIATE  
Javiera Ferreyra  
CHILE COUNTRY DIRECTOR  
Jorge Velásquez  
SCIENCE DIRECTOR FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
Juliana Londoño Mejía  
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR  
Julio Montes de Oca  
COASTAL RESILIENCE STRATEGY DIRECTOR  
Karla Noboa  
INSTITUTIONAL GIVING - MANAGER  
Kohl Barrault  
INDIGENOUS COLLABORATION COORDINATOR  
Lorena Jurado  
NATIONAL BIRD CONSERVATION STRATEGY - ASSISTANT FOR COLOMBIA  
Loretto Arriagada  
CHILE LOCAL PROGRAMS COORDINATOR  
Marsha Díaz  
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER - PANAMA  
Noemi Moreno  
National Bird  
CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR COLOMBIA - COORDINATOR  
Poly Martínez  
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR  
Rebecca Sentner  
SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, BOREAL CONSERVATION  
River Gates  
PACIFIC SHOREBIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE COORDINATOR  
Santiago Aparicio  
AMERICAS FLYWAYS INITIATIVE - MANAGER  
Sarah Sobey  
SENIOR DIRECTOR, INSTITUTIONAL GIVING  
Sebastian Herzog  
PROTECTED AREAS DIRECTOR  
Tomás Altamirano  
NATIONAL BIRD CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR CHILE -

#### COORDINATOR

### Partners

Arroz Blanquita  
ARROCERA LA ESMERALDA  
Asocaña  
SECTOR AGROINDUSTRIAL DE LA CAÑA  
Asociación Calidris  
Asoguabas  
ASOCIACIÓN DE USUARIOS DE AGUAS DEL RÍO GUABAS  
Bahamas National Trust  
BAMSI  
BAHAMAS AGRICULTURE AND MARINE SCIENCE INSTITUTE  
Belize Audubon Society  
Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo BID  
Birdlife International  
Bloodvein First Nation  
CAF  
BANCO DE DESARROLLO DE AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)  
CHIC  
CENTRO INTERNACIONAL CABO DE HORNO PARA ESTUDIOS DE CAMBIO GLOBAL Y CONSERVACIÓN BIOCULTURAL  
CIPAV  
CENTRO PARA LA INVESTIGACIÓN EN SISTEMAS SOSTENIBLES DE PRODUCCIÓN AGROPECUARIA  
Deline Renewable Resources Council  
Dena Kayeh Institute  
Eeyou Marine Wildlife Board  
FIAES

#### FONDO DE INVERSIÓN AMBIENTAL DE EL SALVADOR

#### FIAS FONDO DE INVERSIÓN AMBIENTAL SOSTENIBLE

Fondo Acción  
Fundación Bandada  
Fundación Cosmos  
Fundación Natura Panamá  
Ingenio Providencia  
Instituto de Investigación de Recursos Biológicos. Alexander von Humboldt  
Lutsel K'e  
Miawpukek First Nation  
Panama Audubon Society  
Poplar River First Nation  
Profonampe  
ProNatura Sur  
RedLac  
RED DE FONDOS AMBIENTALES DE LATINOAMÉRICA Y EL CARIBE  
RNOA  
RED NACIONAL DE OBSERVADORES DE AVES DE COLOMBIA  
ROC  
CORPORACIÓN RED DE OBSERVADORES DE AVES DE CHILE  
Seal River Watershed Alliance  
Universidad ICESI  
Wetlands International

#### CONTACT US:

Audubon Americas  
international@audubon.org