



Audubon | WASHINGTON

COMMUNITY REPORT 2018

Protecting Birds

*and the places they
need in Washington*



American Avocet. Photo: Kirk Benson

From the Director's Perch

One of the things I love about writing our annual report is that it forces us to be reflective, to look back at the past year and think about how our work has made a difference. Did we do enough? Focus on the right things? Make progress? It lets us relive our victories on behalf of birds, like when the Department of Ecology denied a permit to spray harmful pesticides in our coastal estuaries. Science won the day after three long years, and we helped move our state away from a 50+ year dependence on toxic substances.

It also lets us celebrate the expanse of our Audubon network, starting with the thousands of folks who get up at dawn to count birds, restore forests and wetlands, and who show up at hearings across our state to speak on behalf of birds. Scale that up to the hundreds of dedicated people who step up to lead our 25 chapters, and we're able to build diverse communities of people who care about birds, and provide powerful, authentic perspectives on conservation issues throughout our state.

Most importantly, this report puts a stake in the ground to mark what we've done and sets our course for the future. Will 2019 be the year we score a win for climate in the legislature? Will we complete our study of sagebrush songbirds so we can begin using the data to influence critical land use decisions? Will we continue building the next generation of thoughtful conservation leaders at Seward Park?

With your continued help and support, the answer to all of those questions is a resounding yes!

Gail Gatten



PROTECTING BIRDS AND THE PLACES THEY NEED IN WASHINGTON

For more than a century, love for birds has driven our legacy of conservation. This shared value of our 1.2 million Audubon members — and the 47 million bird lovers across the country — is what enables us to bring people together for a common purpose.



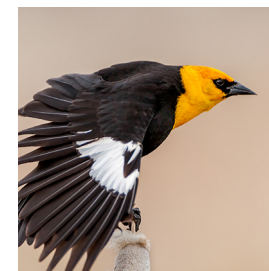
60
Letters
Delivered to
News Editors
Demanding
Climate Action



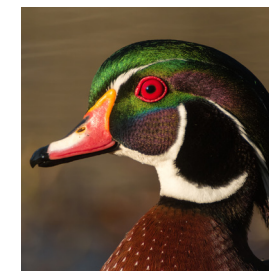
25
Grassroots
Audubon
Chapters



189
Bird Species
in Washington
Threatened
by Climate
Change



35,000
Audubon
Members



47
Million
Bird-Watchers
in the U.S.

Clockwise from top left: Sandhill Cranes. Photo: Scott Hellfrich; Photo: Grant Hindsley; Photo: Margaret Nicosia; Yellow-headed Blackbird. Photo: Richard Pick; Wood Duck. Photo: Tara Tanaka

EVERY VOICE COUNTS**100 Percent for Climate**

Imagine, for a moment, the evocative call of the Common Loon. Or the warbling of a Mountain Bluebird or song of the Hermit Thrush. These are just a few of the iconic birds we may no longer see in Washington over the next 30 years if carbon emissions continue at their current pace. Despite concentrated efforts to do so in the past year, it's now been a decade since our elected officials have taken action to reduce overall global warming emissions.

Backed by strong support in the electorate, Audubon Washington led a campaign during the 2018 legislative session to pass policy that would set an ambitious target for 100 percent clean energy for our state, and held the largest lobby day in our history, meeting with legislators from 44 of 49 districts statewide. Sadly, the legislature failed to act.

As we see it, transitioning to 100 percent clean electricity is no longer just a good idea, but a necessity to protect birds and people from the growing threat of climate change. Building on the momentum of the past legislative session and interim work on ballot initiative 1631, Audubon is poised to keep climate in the forefront during the 2019 legislature and advocate for innovative solutions required to reduce carbon emissions.

**Cultivating Support for Native Fish and Wildlife**

When over 260,000 fish escaped into the Salish Sea from Cooke Aquaculture's Atlantic salmon farm at Cypress Island in August 2017, concerns about the safety of net-pen farming became front page news. In response, leaders at the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society spurred the Audubon Washington chapter network into action. The chapter secured statewide support for a resolution to support legislation that would phase out all non-native fish farming in our state by 2022 and ban new Atlantic Salmon net pen operations.

The outpouring of support from people across the state that followed was groundbreaking. In fact, Audubon members responded to action alerts on this bill at the highest rates we've ever seen. When asked to contact your legislators about this issue, over 70% of you took action!

Thanks to the overwhelming support from Audubon activists and partners, extensive lobbying, and expert testimony from Audubon leaders, we were able to pass the bipartisan legislation necessary to safeguard our marine environment from future catastrophes like this. This was a huge win for Washington's native fish and birds that will decrease pollution and disease risks, and enable our agencies to focus on conservation of our native species.



We're working on our legislative priorities for 2019 — learn more and get involved today!

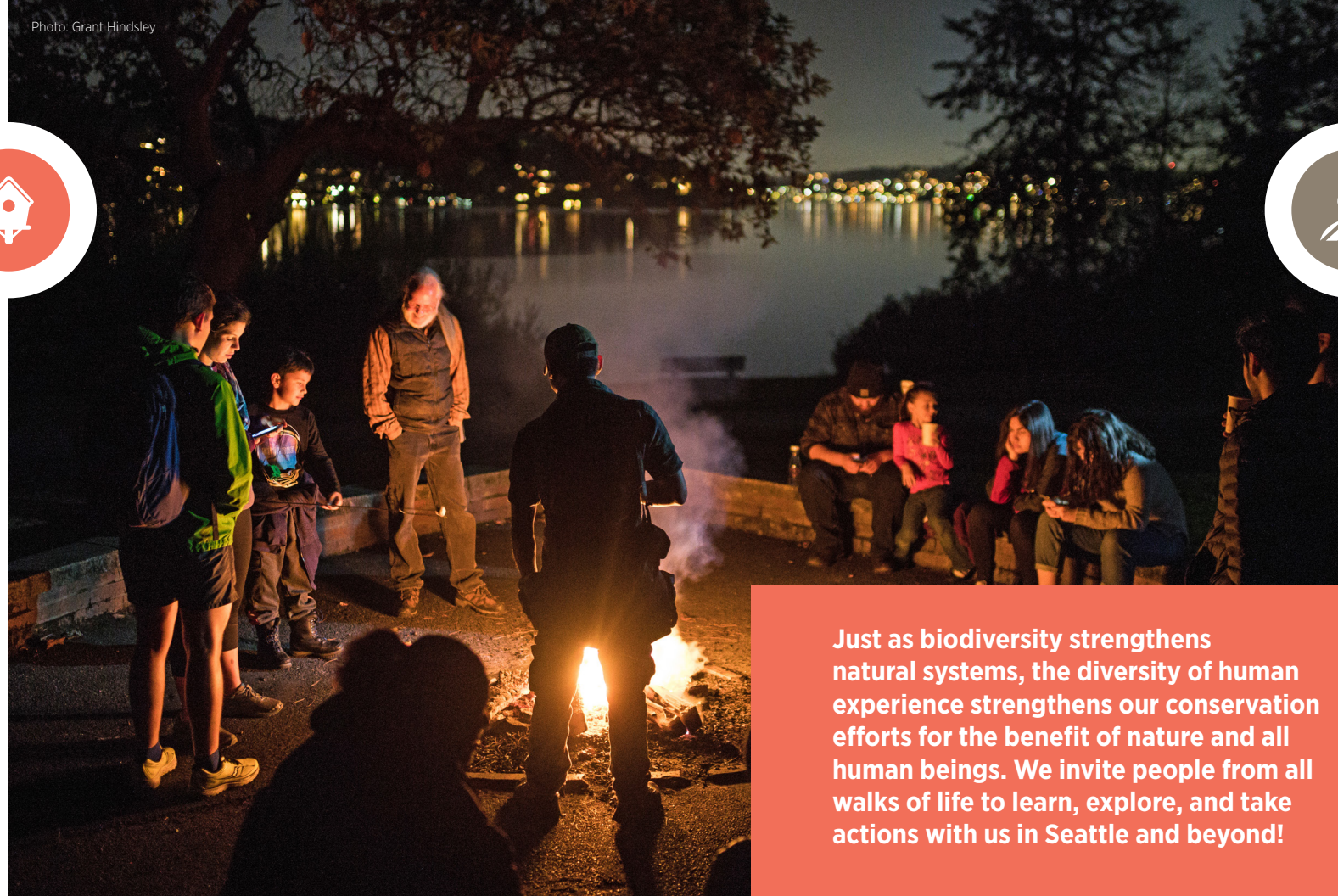
wa.audubon.org/advocacy

BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER FOR BIRDS AND PEOPLE

Making Space to Celebrate

What can a donut do? Or pan dulce perhaps? At the Seward Park Audubon Center, sometimes these treats bring people together and inspire conservation. If you've joined our naturalists for new outings like our Let's Go Birding Together (LGBT) walk, or our Owl Prowl celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, you know how powerful the promise of bird sightings and delicious treats can be in bringing our community together.

As a leader in the Audubon network, the Seward Park Audubon Center's mission is to connect our community to the places birds and people rely on. By intentionally partnering with groups like Latino Outdoors and providing casual, safe explorations in the park, we're promoting a more diverse and more equitable Audubon community. And, whether it takes a special treat or adaptive curriculum, we're committed to making space in our programs and in the conservation movement for all.



Just as biodiversity strengthens natural systems, the diversity of human experience strengthens our conservation efforts for the benefit of nature and all human beings. We invite people from all walks of life to learn, explore, and take actions with us in Seattle and beyond!

An Inclusive Approach to Landscape Conservation

To protect birds throughout their lifecycle in all parts of our state, Audubon works to address the greatest threats facing our many unique landscapes. The Sagebrush Sea of eastern Washington is one such landscape—an incredibly beautiful, arid ecosystem that hosts majestic wildlife like the Greater Sage Grouse.

Much of Washington's historic sagebrush steppe lands have been lost to development, conversion to agriculture, and increasingly, wildfire. To protect those that remain, Audubon Washington has convened a group of stakeholders who live and work on our sage lands to drive consensus conservation and fire response planning across eastern Washington. We hosted a community forum where we heard from the ranchers and landowners about the obstacles they face in managing their land. The threat of fire and lack of adequate response emerged as a key shared concern, which led us to support legislation in 2018 that would allow Rangeland Fire Protection Associations in Washington.

Though unsuccessful, this policy effort created a new table around which agency partners, local fire chiefs, landowners, and nonprofit partners have gathered to seek solutions that will protect the land, livelihoods, and birds of our Sagebrush Sea.



DRIVING COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

Volunteers from West to East

Now entering its 6th year, our Sagebrush Songbird Survey continues to provide Audubon and wildlife agencies with critical information about our sageland birds and their habitat. This multi-year, million-acre survey is the capstone of our community science efforts in Washington, and relies on the efforts of hundreds of volunteers and local leaders who have committed over 12,300 hours to the project since its inception.

That has never been truer than in 2018, when the survey sites were further afield and often required complex directions and permission to access. These remote areas are the critical remaining gaps that we need to assess to complete the picture of songbird distributions in our Sagebrush Sea. This year we were grateful for a new cadre of surveyors from west of the Cascades, who put in long drives and early mornings to reach dots on a map far from paved roads. Together with our eastern Washington chapters, this west-side team's efforts bring us closer to identifying the most critical areas to protect for birds such as the Sage Thrasher and Brewer's Sparrow.



Greening Seward Park

Sword ferns, salal, mulch, and bitters—all part of the recipe for healthy forest habitat at Seward Park. For the past 10 years, Audubon has been leading reforestation efforts in the park, and with the help of hundreds of annual volunteers, has made substantial progress towards restoring native forest habitat critical for birds.

This year's volunteers included corporate partners like Microsoft, teen leaders from Franklin High School, and the Green Seattle Partnership. Volunteers from Audubon's Young Professional Group even rewarded themselves for their hard work with a native plant cocktail hour that celebrated the summer bounty of PNW native species.

Birds have shaped their entire life cycles, including migrations and feeding habits, around plant communities and the seasonal fruits and insects they serve up. As part of Audubon's Plants for Birds Initiative, we offer native plant sales, guided native plant walks, and community restoration events that connect our neighbors with the plants and habitat that birds need in Seattle. This past year, these efforts resulted in 2,793 more native plants in our community, and 1,102 of our neighbors better understanding our native plant species.



Be a part of these and other Audubon community science programs in your area like Climate Watch or the Christmas Bird Count!

wa.audubon.org/communityscience

PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

A Week for the Birds

At Audubon, we celebrate birds year-round—but for the first time in 2018, we hosted a week-long, city-wide party to share the fun with all of Seattle! Bird Week 2018 was awash with new partnerships, fun events, artistic endeavors, and, of course, birds. With help from our key partners, we reached thousands of Seattleites through a dozen bird walks, innovative programming, and even a live taping of our favorite radio program, BirdNote!

Highlights of the week spanned everything from birdy doughnuts at Top Pot, a bird drawing class at the Seattle Public Library, and a tap dance performance at Camp Second Chance, a homeless encampment providing emergency shelter for south Seattle's homeless.

As fun as this week was, our focus continues to be on how we inspire our community to join us in protecting birds and the places they need. By leveraging the new friends and partners Bird Week brought us, we can increase efforts to promote climate actions like Initiative 1631, invite comments on statewide conservation policy, and engage our community in the most pressing threats to urban birds and the people who share their habitat.



Making History for Our Future

Twice in the past two years, Audubon Washington has been part of historic efforts to put a price on carbon emissions and set new standards for climate legislation in our country—delivering 60 letters to news editors, calling over 2,500 constituents, and mobilizing hundreds of volunteers who contributed more than 1,000 hours safeguarding Washington's energy future. Many states are already seeing the devastating effects of our warming world. There will be no silver bullet to mitigate these threats, and to protect our future, we need a suite of bi-partisan policies that move us towards a clean energy economy. Building on the momentum of recent climate campaigns in our state, we're cultivating demand to transition our electric grid to clean energy with legislation in 2019.

For Audubon, that means working in coalition with broad interests to identify and advocate for solutions that meet the needs of people, business, and birds. As we step into the 2019 legislative session, we bring our lessons learned from past ballot and legislative campaigns, and invite our partners, elected officials, and grassroots champions to join us in realizing our vision for a fossil-free future in the Pacific Northwest.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING AUDUBON WASHINGTON

Your dollars make a difference. Every gift from individuals, foundations, and businesses strengthens Audubon's mission right here in Washington State. Thank you for investing in this critical work.

Gifts Received July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

\$20,000+

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Willapa Hills Audubon Society
Yakima Valley Audubon Society

\$500+

Admiralty Audubon Society
Anonymous
Thomas Bancroft
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Birdnote Radio Series
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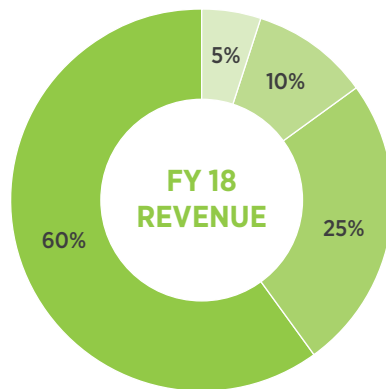
FY18 Financial Summary

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

We are especially thankful for the support of our Cardinal Club Members, whose monthly gifts sustain our work year-round!

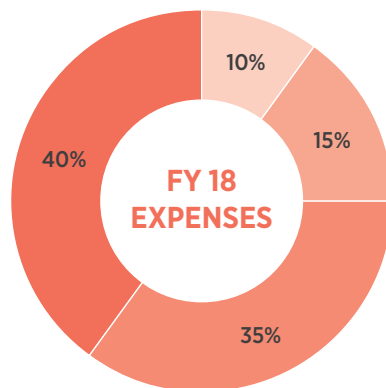
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wa.audubon.org/sustainers



- Government Grants & Corporate Funding
- Earned Income
- Reserves & Other
- Individuals, Foundations & Chapters

TOTAL = \$981,975



- Fundraising
- Management & Leadership
- Conservation Programs
- Education Programs

We could not accomplish all that we do without the help of our dedicated board of directors, chapter members, interns, partners, and volunteers — THANK YOU!

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Protect the Birds and
We Protect the Earth

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