

Letter from the Interim Director

Many of you have read the news that North America has lost nearly 3 billion birds since 1970, and that we may lose even more from devastating impacts of climate change. Audubon's recent report *Survival by Degrees: 389 Species on the Brink* describes the effects that climate change will have on birds. Here in Washington, 141 of bird species are vulnerable, including the Sagebrush Sparrow and Pigeon Guillemot.

While it is easy to get caught up in how deeply sad this is, the work we have accomplished together in the last year shows us that we can have an impact, and that what we do matters. From passing the most aggressive clean energy bill in the country, to protecting our sagelands and estuaries, and to empowering the next generation of conversation leaders, Audubon Washington is making a difference for people and birds. And we can't do this work without you.

So, let's take a moment to reflect on the victories you made possible in 2019. Each is testimony for how, together, we can build healthy communities for people, birds, and other wildlife.

Charley Wilkinson

Charley Wilkins

Leading on Clean Energy in Washington

Last April, Audubon Washington and a diverse coalition of stakeholders won a huge victory in the battle against climate change. In a historic vote, the Washington State Legislature passed the strongest clean energy bill in the nation, **committing the state to 100% renewable energy by 2045 and to affordably and reliably eliminating coal by 2025.**

"Movements need trailblazers and Washington has stepped up. The urgency to create a clean energy future has never been clearer, but it requires the leadership Washington has shown. The Evergreen State is living up to its nickname and creating a cleaner, safer future for Washington's birds and people," said David Yarnold, President and CEO of National Audubon Society.



Rufous Hummingbird. Photo: Tom Koerner/USFWS

2019

OUR YEAR IN CONSERVATION



 Audubon | WASHINGTON

Community Conservation at Seward Park

The Seward Park Audubon Center serves as our community hub for conservation in Seattle—welcoming all to explore science, steward nature, and take action to protect birds and the places they need. This year, we continued to partner with local schools, offered teen leadership training, hosted “Owl Prowl” night hikes, restored the forests in our park, and explored science with our community. We are committed to making sure the conservation movement includes all voices, because we know that, just as biodiversity strengthens natural systems, the diversity of human experience strengthens our conversation efforts for the benefit of nature and people.

60

COMMUNITY
OUTREACH
PROGRAMS

20,000+

PROGRAM
ATTENDEES

900+

STUDENTS RECEIVED
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR
SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

650+

VOLUNTEER
HOURS

1,990

NATIVE
PLANTS
SOLD



300

VOLUNTEER
SCIENTISTS

15,000

HOURS

385

SITES

“This study isn’t about endangered birds; it’s about birds we hope are common and can keep common.”

Christi Norman,
Program Director

Sagebrush Songbird Survey Completed

On the east side of the Cascade Mountains lies Washington’s majestic Sagebrush Sea, a shrub-steppe ecosystem only found in western North America. This unique and fragile landscape is home to a diverse array of threatened and endangered plant species and the birds that depend on them, including the Brewer’s Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, and Sagebrush Sparrow. **This spring, thanks to your support, we completed a six-year, \$1M+ effort to survey the songbirds of Washington’s Sagebrush Sea.**

The data from this million-acre survey is already being put to use protecting the most important places for birds in Eastern Washington. As Washington moves to 100% clean energy, your support is essential in ensuring that decision-makers use this science to promote renewable energy projects that work for birds, people, and our lands.



Protecting the Birds of Puget Sound

Puget Sound’s vast array of inlets, bays, and lagoons where salt and fresh water meet are rich in nutrients that provide sustenance and habitat for countless plants, animals, and people. That’s why we’re leading the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program Marine Bird Workgroup to elevate the needs of birds in the restoration and protection of coastal estuaries.

This summer, we published our recommendations for monitoring birds in these ecosystems. With your support, we’ll work with agencies, tribes, NGOs, community leaders, and cultural stakeholders to put these recommendations to work, ensuring a Puget Sound that supports both people and wildlife.