



Audubon | TEXAS

# Building the Audubon of the 2020s: Partnerships in Conservation & Sustainability

Lisa Gonzalez | Vice President & Executive Director

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'The ability of the birds to show us the consequences of our own actions is among their most important and least appreciated attributes. Despite the free advice of the birds, we do not pay attention'

*Marjory Stoneman Douglas, 1947*

# Mission & Programs

The mission of the National Audubon Society is to protect birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. Audubon works throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation.



**Coasts**



**Climate**



**Working Lands**



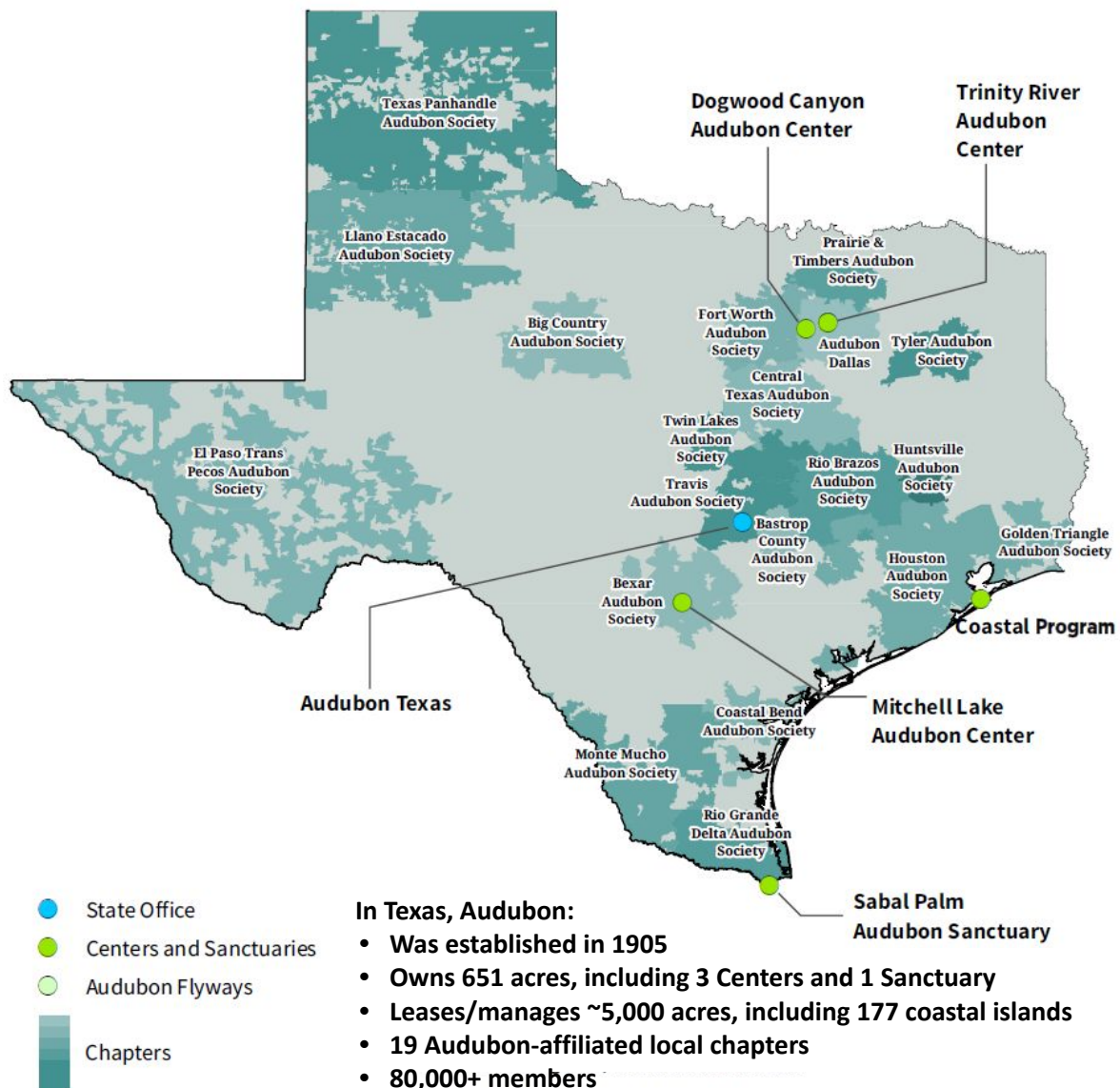
**Water**



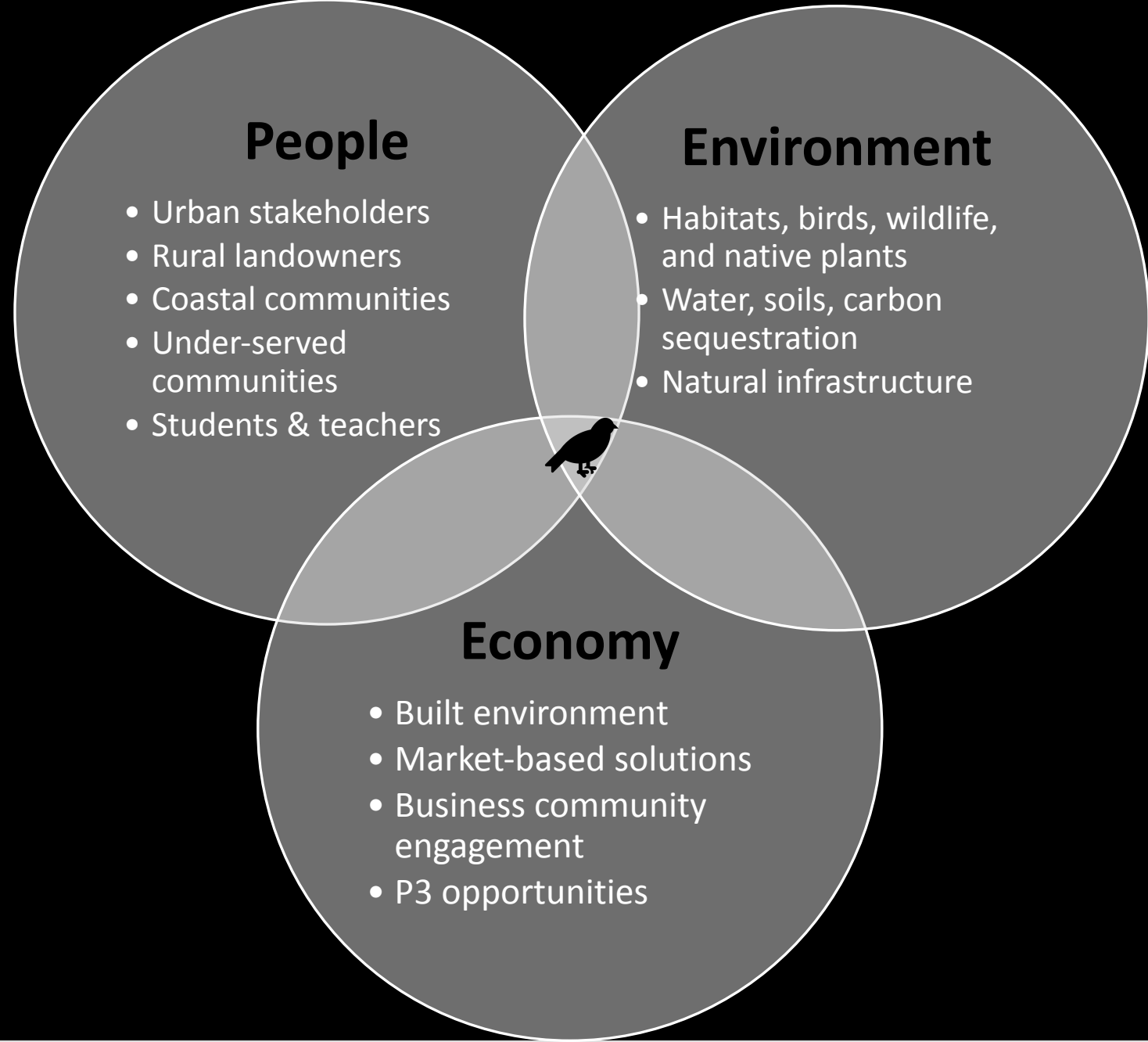
**Bird Friendly  
Communities**



# The Audubon Network



# Audubon & Sustainability







# Coastal Conservation Program





# Island Stewardship Program

**100** YEARS  
1923 - 2023

Audubon Texas works with strategic partners to manage 177 islands along the Texas coast.

Coastal Warden Program in Galveston Bay, Matagorda Bay and the Lower Laguna Madre stewarding and patrolling bird nesting islands.



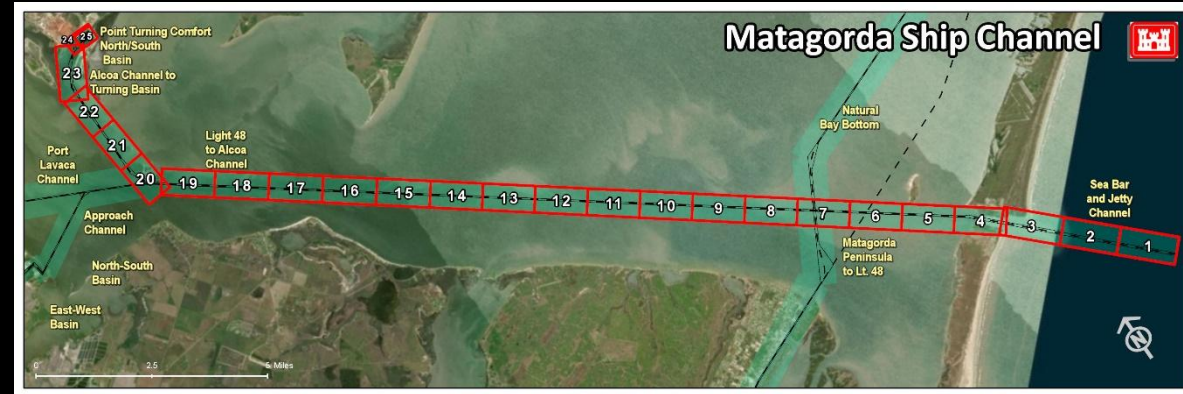
*Green Island, Lower Laguna  
Madre*







# 2021 Conservation Wrangler Matagorda Bay / Chester Island



*Chester Island, a rookery island in Matagorda Bay*

- Maintain and restore existing bird habitats
- Creating new critical breeding habitat for birds

## Project Impact:

- Support ecotourism, ecosystem services, and recreational opportunities for **164,833 area residents**
- **2.2 million bird watchers** in Texas, a major driver in the **\$1.8 billion economic impact** from Texas wildlife viewing.
- **3,000+ acres of managed habitat** for coastal bird populations on the Texas Mid-coast.
- Habitat for **more than 400 bird species**. Audubon's 2020 annual waterbird count at Chester Island alone recorded **18 species all nesting on a single 73-acre site**.

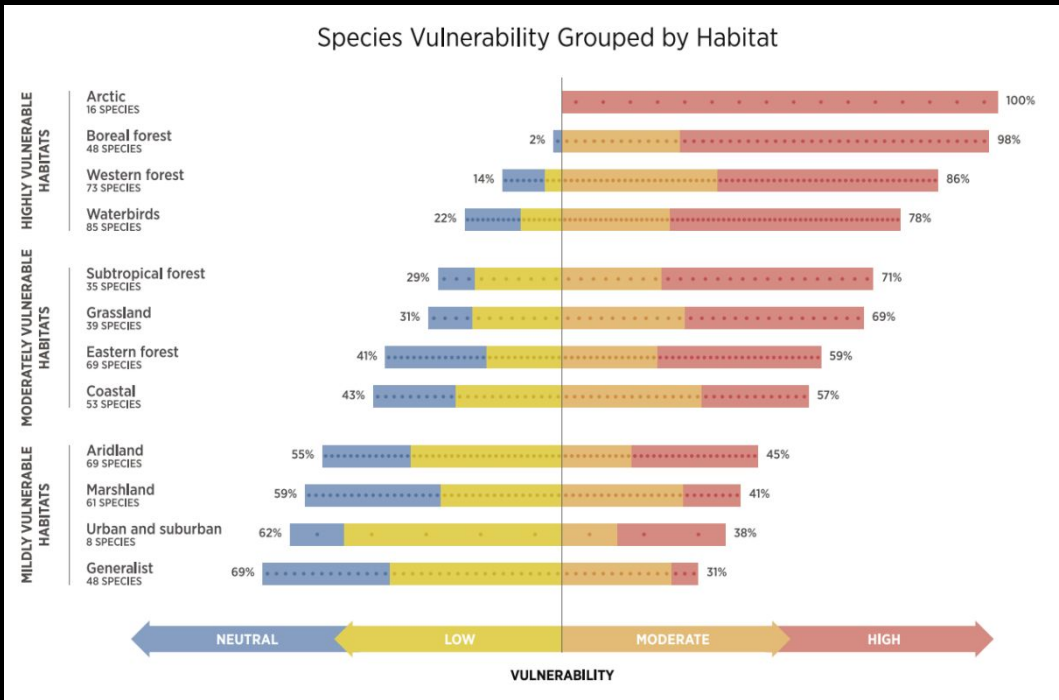
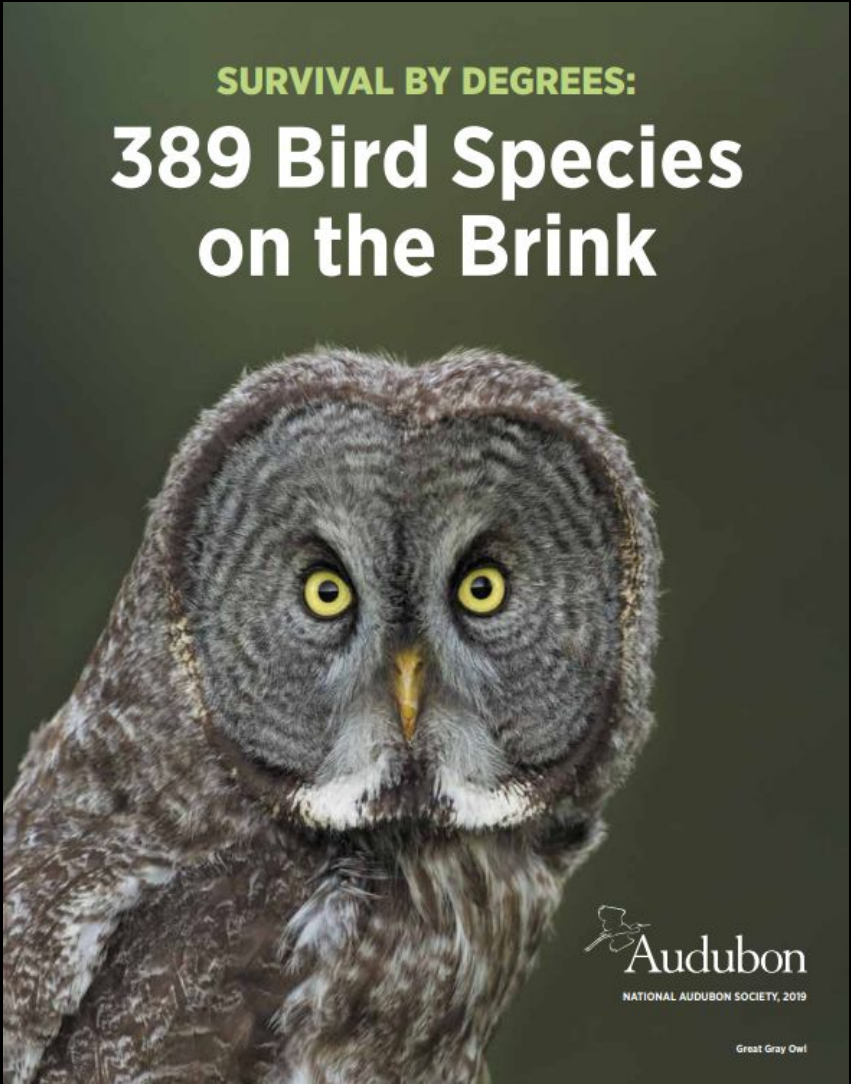


# Climate Program





Two-thirds of North American birds are at increasing risk of extinction (64% or 389 out of 604 North American bird species)



## Vulnerable Birds in Texas

Highly and moderately vulnerable birds may lose more than half of their current range—the geographic area where they live—as they are forced to search for suitable habitat and climate conditions elsewhere.

Warming scenario:

+1.5 °C +2.0 °C +3.0 °C

Why these temperatures?

Season:

Winter

What is a season?

High Vulnerability Species

2

Moderate Vulnerability Species

24

Low Vulnerability Species

90

Stable Species

217

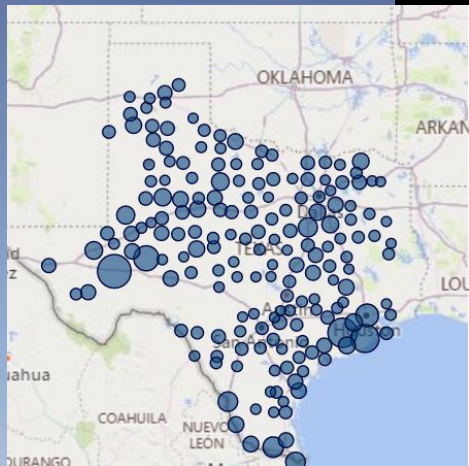



Red-crowned Parrot



Black-throated Green Warbler





Cumulative Projects 				
153 Gas	701 Solar	391 Wind	331 Other	1576 Total
47,672 MW	132,672 MW	78,613 MW	46,236 MW	305,193 MW





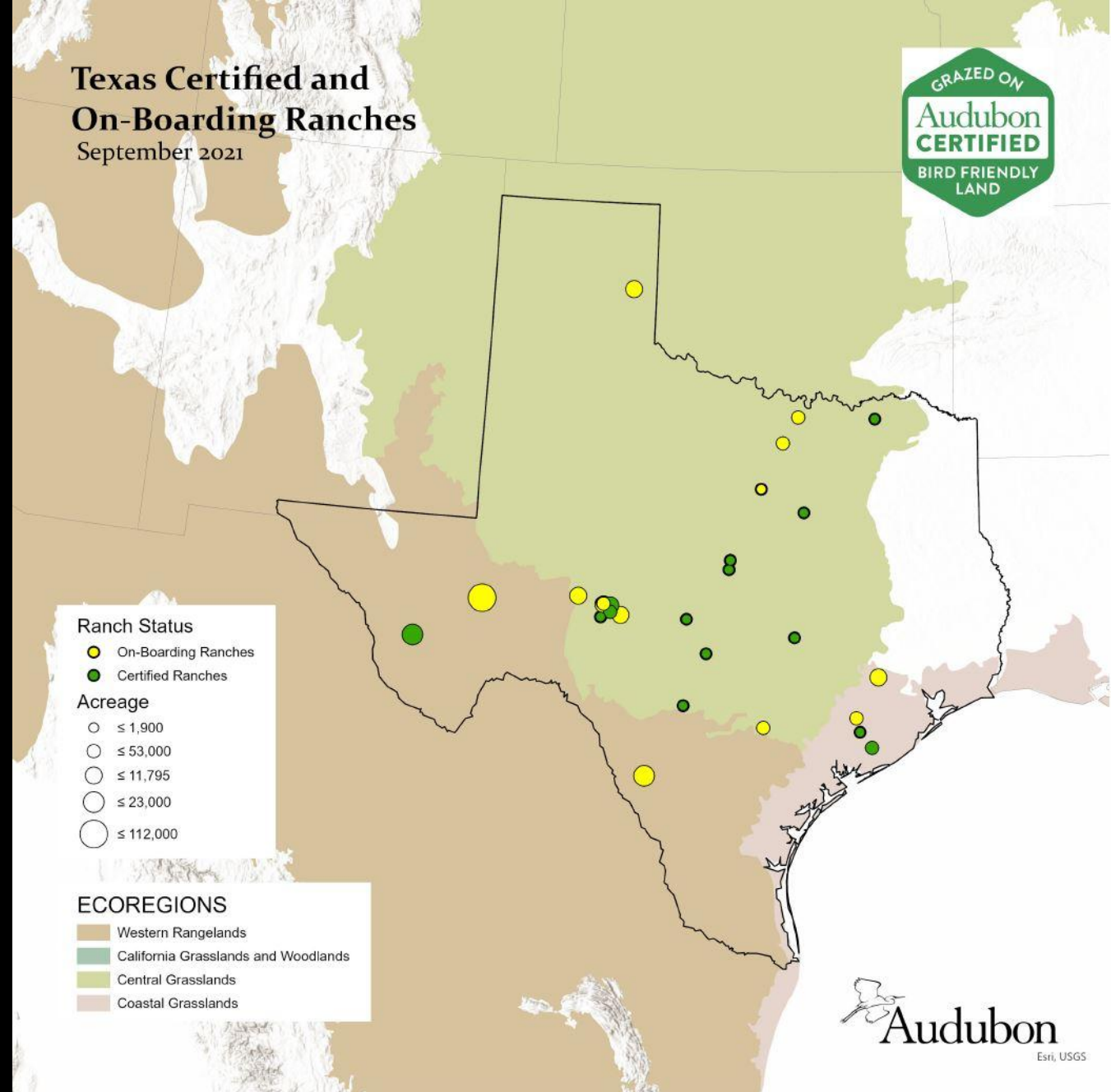


# Working Lands Program



# Audubon Conservation Ranching

- Response to grassland bird species decline
- Market-based conservation approach
- Grassland stewardship through a certification label on beef products
- Consumers contribute to grassland conservation efforts by purchasing beef from Audubon-certified farms and ranches
- Enhances demand by consumers that want options for beef that is sustainably raised and benefits wildlife habitat







# Water Conservation Program

- Water scarcity and water pollution
- Advance balanced water-management decisions that benefit birds, habitat, and people
- On-the-ground restoration actions
- Market-based mechanisms to provide flexibility in water-management
- International partnerships to address water issues





# Texas Water Market Makers Program

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- Restoration and conservation of degraded and vulnerable landscapes
- On-the-ground science-based stewardship and engagement
- Pursue and execute water deals to keep water instream
- Leverage Conservation Ranching to create value for landowners and wildlife in Matagorda Bay and in the Pecos River Basin







# Bird-Friendly Communities Program

- Addresses urbanization, habitat fragmentation, bird collisions, toxics, invasive species, and domestic predators.
- Strives to provide food, shelter, safe passage, and places for birds to raise their young, through our Plants for Birds and Bird-friendly Buildings programs
- Endeavors for a human-dominated landscape with functioning ecosystems and healthy places

*What's good for the birds is good for people too!*





# Plants for Birds

- Audubon's native plants database by zip code, generates list with tips
- Connects to local chapter or Center with plant sales







**BIRD  
CITY**  
TEXAS

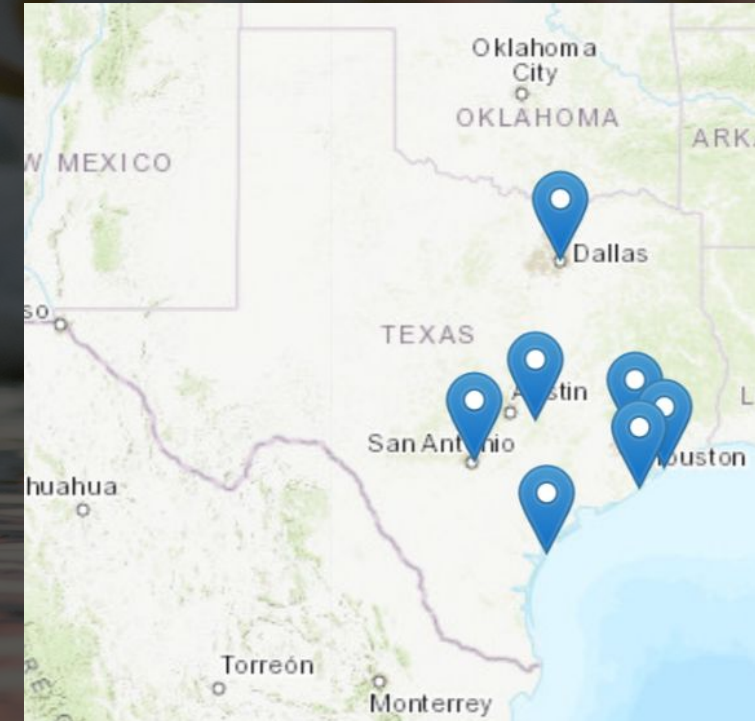
Community-focused certification program created to help people protect birds and their habitats where we live, work, and recreate.

Audubon Texas and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department certified first 4 communities in 2020:

- Bastrop
- Dallas
- Houston
- Port Aransas

Three new communities certified in 2021:

- Galveston
- San Antonio
- Surfside Beach





# Lights Out, Texas!

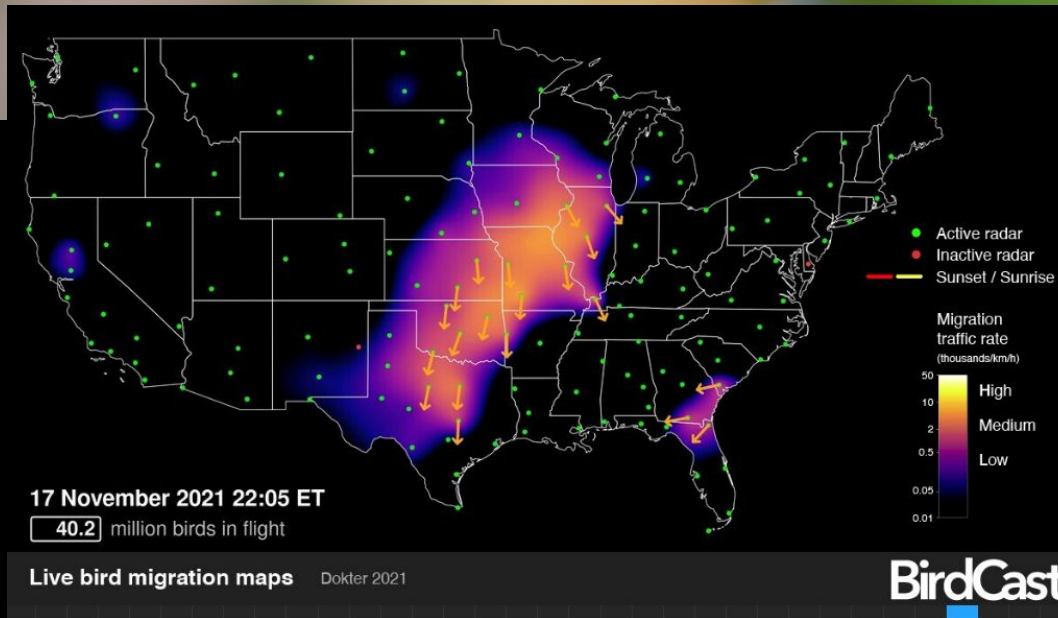
Every spring and fall, a third to a quarter of all birds migrating through the US at night, travel through Texas.

TEXAN  NATURE™



TheCornellLab 

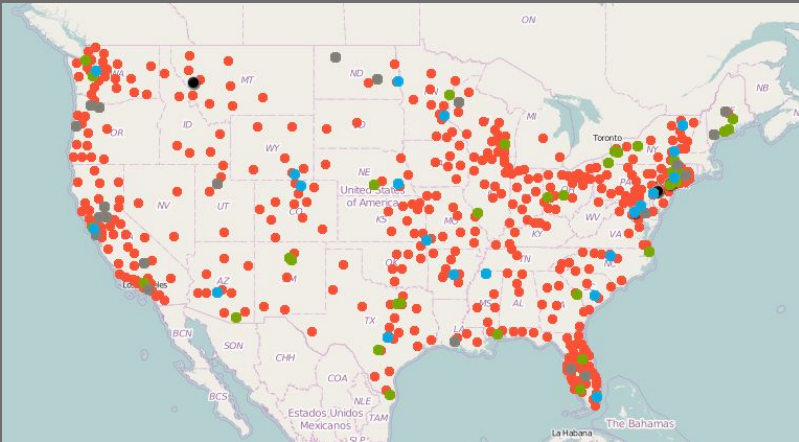
Indigo Bunting





# Audubon Centers

- 41 Audubon Centers in US
- 3 in Texas with 1 sanctuary



Map showing 22 state programs, 41 centers, events, and 450+ local chapters. Photo: Esri/Audubon.



Trinity River Audubon Center | Dallas



Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center | Cedar Hill





# Audubon Centers

## Where people...

- Take a school class or Scout groups for an educational program
- Attend a seminar or workshop
- Volunteer to participate in activities like community science and habitat work
- Connect with like-minded people who care about birds, nature, and conservation



Mitchell Lake Audubon Center | San Antonio



Sabal Palm Sanctuary | Brownsville







# Policy Priorities

Achieving bipartisan conservation ***solutions*** that address the biggest threats to birds and the places they need.

- Conserve and restore coastal habitat squeezed between rising seas and coastal development
- Promote solutions for water conservation and instream flows protections
- Protect and restore grasslands affected by agricultural conversion, in partnership with landowners
- Encourage environmentally responsible energy development and infrastructure projects
- Advocate for equitable climate solutions and nature-based infrastructure
- Support federal, state, and local conservation policies and initiatives



# Next Steps



## 2021-2022 Audubon Texas Strategic Planning Process







# Audubon | TEXAS

Lisa.C Gonzalez@Audubon.org  
@AudubonTX

