

Talking Birds and Climate with Elected Officials

Necessary Preparation

Ask the staff how much time you will have for the meeting and plan accordingly.

If meeting as a group, gather ahead of time to identify top points and decide who will say what. Give everyone a chance to speak and tell his/her story.

Create a takeaway package that includes:

- *Audubon* climate issue pull-out or other climate and local birds fact sheets.
- A printed page with each of your names and contact details.

Keep In Mind

You want to emphasize the connection between global warming and local birds. But you are also creating and nurturing a relationship with the officials and their staff, so don't worry if you don't say everything or don't agree on every point.

You don't have to be an expert. It's okay to say *"I don't know, but I'll find out."* Point officials to www.audubon.org/climate site for more information.

Tie everything – the science, the birds, global warming impacts – to your community. Making it local and personal resonates more than just facts and figures.

Talking Points

New Audubon science shows that global warming threatens nearly half of North America's birds, including INSERT EXAMPLES IN YOUR AREA. If we don't act, many could suffer extinction.

These birds are an important part of our community. They are also important signals to the health of our environment more broadly.

Although the news is grim, we know what we need to do: protect the places on the ground birds need now and move along efforts to limit the greenhouse gases driving global warming at the local, state and federal level.

As an elected official, it's important to your constituents that you recognize this threat and work to protect birds and help them transition to a warmer world.

Getting Through

Reach out

You can find contact information on your Member of Congress at www.house.gov and www.senate.gov. You can also call lawmakers through the U.S. Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121.

In-person meeting

Call the district office and request a meeting for the next time your Member is at home. Many Members are in district Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, and longer when Congress is in recess.

Keep it focused

The appointment secretary will want to know what the meeting is about and who will attend. Limit your group to 3-5 people and focus the agenda on "global warming and its effect on local birds."

Public meeting

If you attend a public discussion or town hall with your Member, take a larger group of people with you, be visible, and be prepared to ask direct questions of your Member related to "global warming and its effect on local birds."

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Questions to Ask

What policies do you currently support that would protect wildlife from the effects of global warming?

Can we count on your support to protect birds in our local area?

What can we do to help you support this cause?

Is there any additional information we can provide to you about this issue and the birds affected?

Would you be interested in visiting our local IBA and see the impacts first-hand?

Want More Help?

Reach out to Audubon staff at:
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