

ECOLOGICAL DISRUPTION IN MOTION

A Warning from the Birds February 2009

The long-term threats of global climate change—though widely accepted as real—continue to be mistakenly perceived as far off in both time and locale. But new analyses by Audubon scientists reveal that 40 years of shifts in avian wintering ranges add up to a very different message: Ecological disruptions caused by climate change have been happening across North America for decades and are having a measurable and visible impact on familiar bird species.

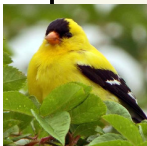
Nearly 60% of species that winter in North America have moved northward or inland, with climate playing a likely role in shifts that can exceed hundreds of miles. Changes can be seen among the birds of Florida. Though implications for individual species can appear benign, the long-term environmental disruptions they portend are serious for birds, for other wildlife, and people alike.

Visit www.audubon.org/climatebirds to learn more on findings and to join Audubon's campaign to curb global warming. Also visit www.audubonofflorida.org and sign up for our Climate Action Network. Together we can shape a better future for birds and all life on Earth. Global climate change is happening now. What happens tomorrow is up to us.

FLORIDA BIRDS SHOW THE SIGNS



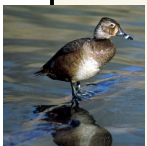
EASTERN BLUEBIRD The center of wintering distribution for Eastern Bluebirds moved north by 114.5 miles in the last 40 years. While the widespread provision of nesting boxes for bluebirds has helped reverse declines related to insufficient availability of nesting cavities, Florida is still seeing a decline in wintering bluebirds likely due to milder winter temperatures allowing the birds to stay further north.



AMERICAN GOLDFINCH The center of wintering distribution for this popular winter feeder bird moved north more than 219 miles in the last 40 years. Warmer winters and food availability at feeders has made it possible for these birds to winter further north, which may put them at increased risk from unusually cold winters or harsh storms.



SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER The center of wintering distribution for this mudflat-loving shorebird moved more than 147 miles north in the last 40 years. Challenged by coastal habitat conversion and disturbance on their wintering grounds, climate change will have significant implications for this coastal bird as sea level rise alters its habitat.



RING-NECKED DUCK The center of wintering distribution for Ring-necked Ducks moved north more than 219 miles in the last 40 years; Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Gadwall and American Black Duck all showed similar northward shifts, and declines in wintering abundance in Florida.



AMERICAN ROBIN The center of wintering distribution for American Robin moved north more than 206 miles in the last 40 years. While many in the US welcome the Robin as the harbinger of spring, it is a winter mainstay for Florida birders. Like many other birds for whom Florida is at the southern extent of their wintering range, winter Robin abundance in Florida is declining.

Help Florida Birds and Habitat in a Shifting Climate



- Support Audubon of Florida's efforts to pass meaningful state and national legislation by:

Calling on your national Members of Congress to pass strong legislation in 2009 to cap global warming pollution, and implement strong energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy programs;

Calling on your Florida legislator to support a program to achieve 20% of Florida's electricity generation through renewable sources, such as solar power, by 2020. This program is called the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and will come before the State Legislature for approval when the session begins in March 2009.

Calling on your Florida Legislator to support passage of vehicle emissions standards that will rapidly reduce global warming pollution from our cars and save us money at the gas pump. Called the California Vehicle Emissions Standards, these rules will come before the State Legislature for approval when the session begins in March 2009.

- Support conservation initiatives that protect and restore essential bird habitat and join an Audubon Chapter in your area to volunteer to get involved in your community. Visit www.audubonofflorida.org for an interactive map of Florida Audubon chapters.

Join the Fight Against Global Warming



- Join Audubon of Florida's Climate Action Network and our Conservation Network by visiting www.audubonofflorida.org. Just click on Take Action and you will have the opportunity to receive timely information and urge our policy-makers to take action to curb climate change a top priority.
- Stay informed, write letters to your leaders and voice your support for new approaches that will deliver a clean energy future through increased energy efficiency and expanded use of renewable energy. Demand aggressive and farsighted actions necessary to curb global warming.
- Streamline your own energy profile. There are many things you can do to make a difference. Visit www.audubon.org for ideas.