



SOUTH CAROLINA HABITATS AT RISK

With more than 180 documented breeding bird species, South Carolina hosts some of the highest diversity of breeding birds in the continental United States. This diversity of birds is attracted to South Carolina because of the variety of habitats found in the state, from the cove forests of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the barrier islands on the coast.

However, SC's critical bird habitats face a number of threats. Forest habitat is being degraded by deforestation, fragmentation and parcelization. The Woolly Adelgid, a non-native insect from Japan, is beginning to decimate the Eastern Hemlock trees. Birds like the Northern Bobwhite and Eastern Meadowlark that rely to some degree on small-scale agricultural or early successional habitats, are declining rapidly with the disappearance of these habitats.

As wetlands (*including isolated wetlands*) disappear and water quality is degraded, birds like the Little Blue Heron and Red-winged Blackbird face greater threats.



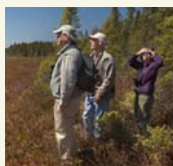
WHAT AUDUBON SOUTH CAROLINA IS DOING

South Carolinians care deeply about birds and their habitats. Audubon South Carolina is working with individuals across the state to monitor bird populations and promote sound stewardship on the ground.

With much of South Carolina land in private ownership, Audubon SC is also hard at work providing landowners with advice and assistance on how to manage their lands in bird-friendly ways.

Through Citizen Science, we are surveying birds at risk, and are partnering with other organizations to preserve critical habitat.

Our **Important Bird Areas** program has identified more than **1,000,000 acres** of critical bird habitat in the state and is working directly with our chapters in these sites to promote the conservation of these areas.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

South Carolinians can help keep common birds common in a variety of ways:

- Forest landowners can work with Audubon South Carolina to implement bird-friendly forest management on their lands. Landowners with open fields can delay mowing fields until August each year.
- Where possible, landowners should maintain old fields and forest edges in early-successional habitat.
- Cat-owners can keep their pets indoors, or only under their supervision when outdoors. The National Research Council reports that domestic cats are responsible for the demise of hundreds of millions of songbirds each and every year in the United States.

- Volunteers can play a critical role in helping us determine bird population trends by taking part in bird monitoring projects. Participating in the Christmas Bird Count and the Great Backyard Bird Count and entering bird observations through the website www.ebird.com are all important ways to help ornithologists track bird populations.

