

# Legislative

Second Session of the  
129th Maine Legislature

# PREVIEW

Dear Maine Audubon members and supporters,

It's 2020: Maine's bicentennial, the 100th anniversary of Percival Baxter's ascent of Katahdin, and the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. There's a lot to celebrate. Here at Maine Audubon, we're still celebrating last year's big wins for Maine's environment: Laws that have ushered in a new era of clean energy and climate leadership, including tremendous investments in solar, a doubling of the amount of renewable energy to be sold in the state by 2030, and a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

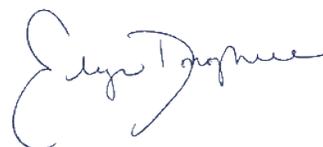
This year's "short session" promises more opportunity for Maine people to invest in and support Maine's environment. There's some unfinished business: We were not able to secure new funding for Land for Maine's Future, Maine's preeminent land conservation program, last session. Maine Audubon will work with our allies to right that wrong, as well as support bills that would empower local climate action, reform municipal recycling, and support aquatic wildlife habitats.

We're also laser-focused on updating the Maine Climate Council's Climate Action Plan for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience that meets the state's obligation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. Maine Audubon staff are proud to serve on the Council's working groups, bringing our science-based, wildlife and habitat focused perspective to this essential work.

As always, we'll need your help to achieve these legislative and extra-legislative goals. Be sure you're a part of our Action Network to stay up to date on advocacy opportunities in and out of Augusta. Together, we can continue this streak of wildlife-positive wins.



Yours in conservation,



Eliza Donoghue, Esq.

Director of Advocacy & Staff Attorney  
[edonoghue@maineaudubon.org](mailto:edonoghue@maineaudubon.org)



## Product Stewardship

### Municipal Recycling Reform

Recycling is in crisis due to rising costs; Maine has yet to reach its goal, set way back in 1989, of recycling 50% of the state's waste. Proposed policy, supported by Maine Audubon, will shift this burden from municipalities to companies, so producers have greater responsibility for funding recycling and disposal of waste materials. Reaching Maine's 50% recycling goal is the carbon equivalent of taking 166,000 cars off the road—20% of Maine's passenger fleet—meaning this policy keeps "trash" out of our atmosphere and out of wildlife habitat.



Photo: Matt Petrengill/FLICKR

## Land and Water

### Revitalize Land for Maine's Future

Land for Maine's Future is a 30-year success story, catalyzing the conservation of more than 600,000 acres of working forests, farms, and waterfronts. Today, the program is nearly out of funding. This legislative session, Maine Audubon will work to secure a \$60 million bond for LMF and Maine's state parks. New projects will help conserve habitat for wildlife to flourish throughout their life cycle and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, while generating millions in revenue from our outdoor and natural resource economies.

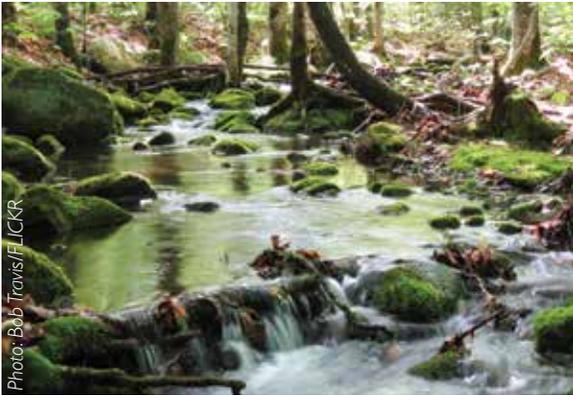


Photo: Bob Travis/FLICKR

## Habitat Connectivity

### Compensate for Environmental Impacts

Under Maine law, when wetlands over a certain size are filled or otherwise developed, the developer must conserve a comparable wetland near the development or contribute to a program that funds wetlands restoration, enhancement, or preservation. Proposed legislation, supported by Maine Audubon, would add rivers, streams, and brooks to the list of areas that may be restored or preserved, expanding opportunities to improve in-stream habitat for brook trout and aquatic habitat connectivity for aquatic and semi-aquatic species.



## Community Conservation

### Empower Local Climate Action

Maine's 75+ municipal conservation commissions have always played a vital role in educating, advising, and acting on conservation issues. This session, Maine Audubon is supporting legislation that would broaden commissions' role in developing open space plans and advising planning boards in their deliberations as they relate to natural resource impacts, thus strengthening their ability to take action on climate adaptation and municipal land use planning and conservation.

# Advocacy Spotlight

## Maine Climate Council

Scientists say that we only have a ten-year window before carbon pollution dramatically changes our way of life and hurts our communities. Extreme heat, more intense and frequent storms, and increased risk of floods put people and wildlife at risk unless we make significant changes now.

The Maine Climate Council brings together scientists, policy-makers, businesses, and advocates to develop a Climate Action Plan for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience that meets the state's obligation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030 and 80% by 2050.

As a member of the Climate Council's Natural and Working Lands working group, Maine Audubon is in a unique position to influence how Maine's Climate Action Plan will support animals and plants as they adapt to the changing climate. We'll be advocating for policies that keep Maine's eleven million acres of largely unbroken forestland—the largest temperate forest in North America and perhaps the world—healthy and intact. That means supporting a thriving forest products industry; encouraging management for older, multi-storied forests; and identifying and preserving areas of significant ecological importance.

Input from Maine people is essential to creating a Climate Action Plan that works for the unique character of the state. Stay in touch with Maine Audubon to learn more about opportunities to engage with and comment on the Council's important work. Meaningful change that responds to the needs of all Maine people and wildlife will require us all to step up, speak out, and act.

[maineaudubon.org/advocacy](https://maineaudubon.org/advocacy)

### CLIMATE COUNCIL MEETING

January 29, 9 am  
Augusta Civic Center

The Council's next meeting, open to the public, will feature presentations on how changing temperatures, climate, hydrology, and sea level rise are affecting our marine, coastal, forest and agricultural lands and economies, and the struggles both people and wildlife face as the climate and landscape changes.

## Working Together for Wildlife

Maine Audubon members  
took action 3,029 times last year,  
leading to one of our most successful  
legislative sessions to date! Add your  
voice by signing up for Action Alerts at  
[maineaudubon.org/advocacy](http://maineaudubon.org/advocacy)

# MAINE AUDUBON



Photo: Pat Clayton

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