Dear Audubon Members and Friends,

Our birding world has been rocked by two frightening reports in recent months, which quantified the threat to our and all the world’s birds. Audubon’s report, “Survival by Degrees: 399 Bird Species on the Brink” is another clear bell echoing the Cornell Ornithology Lab’s earthshaking 2019 research published in the peer-reviewed journal “Science” reporting and detailing the loss of 2.9 billion (@30%) breeding birds since 1970. These two reports are, as Dr. Ken Rosenberg from the Cornell Lab says, “...a strong signal that our human-altered landscapes are losing their ability to support birdlife....And that is an indicator of a coming collapse of the overall environment.” The time to act is now.

Francis M. Weston Audubon Society (FMWAS), Cornell Lab, and National Audubon are in unanimous agreement: the single largest threat to birds is loss of habitat. In Escambia and Santa Rosa County every resident is painfully aware of the fields, woods and wetlands lost; bird and wildlife habitats that have become “...human-altered landscapes...” unable to support our native and migratory birds. What can you do? And what is your Audubon chapter, FMWAS doing to help mitigate such dark forecasts?

Recently, FMWAS reached out to Santa Rosa County Commissioners strongly suggesting research-based protections for the FWC “Threatened” nesting birds at Navarre Beach Marine Park. We have earnestly urged the Commissioners to petition FWC to designate the Marine Park as a Bird Sanctuary. Recently, FMWAS won a modest FMWAS-led grant funded by the Gulf Power Foundation for a project in partnership with Longleaf Pine Chapter/Florida Native Plant Society, the City of Pensacola and UWF to establish three demonstration groves of native trees...Live Oak, Bald Cypress and Mulberry trees and their typical native plant-tiered under-stories at Bruce Beach in Pensacola. This demonstration is our “toe-hold” on the 11-acre Bruce Beach site with an eye on preserving, protecting and exclusively planting native trees and plants site-wide eventually creating an 11-acre native and migratory Gulf Coastal Lowlands bird sanctuary in downtown Pensacola! Finally, last spring we contributed $10,000 of our resources to help secure in perpetuity, private acreage in one of our region’s premier spring and fall migrant stop-overs.

To continue our never ending fight for birds and their habitats...“and the overall environment,” we need your fulsome support, participation and generosity. FMWAS only seeks donations twice a year: one for our educational program “Audubon Adventures,” which deploys qualified avian and climate educational curricula...at no cost to teachers or student families...for Grades 3 to 5 in Escambia and Santa Rosa County classrooms and at the Roy Hyatt Environmental Center. The other is this single Annual Solicitation
for operational funds and projects like "Native Plants For Native and Migratory Birds at Bruce Beach." Since everybody at FMWAS is a volunteer; rightfully, only the birds benefit from your generosity! But, today, every single donation...great or modest...matters to saving Gulf Coastal Lowland and Upland bird and wildlife habitats.

Your generous charity is sought to continue our focused local and regional efforts to act for all birds. This year, donors of $1,000 or more can elect to be recognized as either a "Live Oak Grove," "Native Mulberry Grove," or "Bald Cypress" sponsor and be recognized, as such, on the interpretative signage at the specific Bruce Beach grove. Donors of $500-$1,000 will be recognized as "Milkweed Meadow" sponsors on our "Milkweed Meadow, Birds and Monarchs" interpretative signage. Our $250-$500 donors will be recognized as "American Beautyberry" sponsors at the site. You may also be recognized appropriate to your donation as an "Anonymous Sponsor" too!

Thank you for your vital support for habitat, for all the birds and for Francis M. Weston Audubon Society, your Pensacola, Escambia and Santa Rosa County, Florida, Audubon Society.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Brower
President, Francis M. Weston Audubon Society

---Please Cut Off and Include with Your Check---

Name, Address, Cell Phone Number: ________________________________

Do you Want To Be Acknowledged on Signage? (YES) (NO) (ANONYMOUS)

Your Email (for faster donation acknowledgment and a personal thank you- Please Print Clearly):

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