

What if we woke up one morning and didn't hear our favorite birds sing?

Growing up in an area surrounded by nature and birds always chirping, it's hard for me to imagine this, but the bird population has already been decreasing over the past 3 decades and is not stopping. [Audubon's "Survival by Degrees"](#) study reveals that 68% of North American birds are at risk of extinction because of human-caused climate change. My installation explores these findings, visualizing the levels of extinction vulnerability of 80+ bird species that are found in Maryland—one place I've lived—to see what birds might not be around anymore if climate change isn't addressed.

True-to-size birds, created from hand-painted, embroidered, and lasercut wood, are installed in a way that creates an immersive graph. How close the birds are to the ground represents their data on how threatened they will be with climate change; the safer birds are placed higher and the more threatened birds are placed lower. This data is further depicted by the colors on the wall they rest on, from blue being safe, to red being extremely threatened. These sunset colors symbolize how the species' day will come to an end if trends do not improve. I display a wall of homage to the passenger pigeon which was once the most abundant bird in the Americas, but became extinct due to deforestation and overhunting. Stuffed "taxidermy" are littered around to foreshadow the potential fate of all the other birds in the room.

If we act now, we can improve the conditions of 76% of birds at risk as well as many other species that are less observed than birds. If not, we will lose them and everything in our ecosystem that relies on them. We will only see the birds in a taxidermy form, and wake up to a quiet world.