

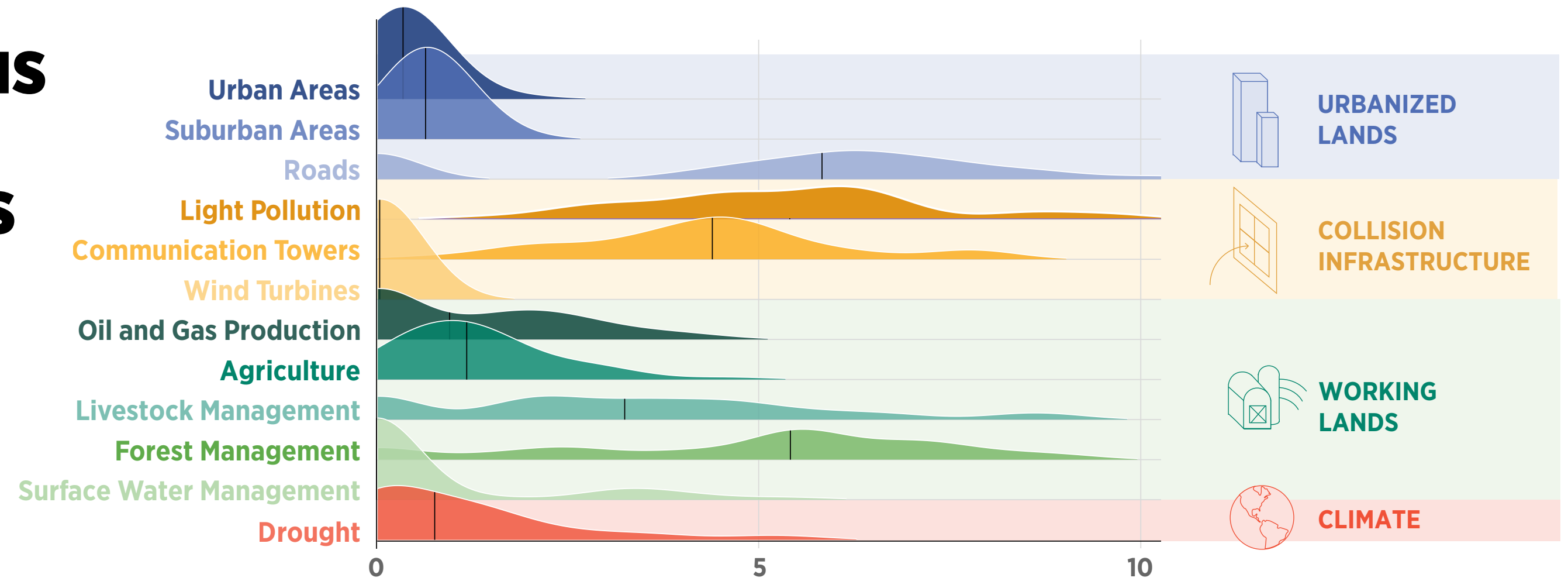
Fall migration is the most dangerous season for North America's warblers

Audubon's analysis of 43 warbler species reveals that the southbound journey after breeding season is the most dangerous time of year for these migratory songbirds. Challenges such as light pollution, developed landscapes and livestock management are the factors most highly associated with population declines of some warbler species.



Illustrations: David Allen Sibley. Graphic: Juile Rossman/Audubon. Data: This graphic represents research reported in Seavy & Smith et al. 2025, doi.org/10.1111/gcb.70121

CHALLENGES FACED BY WARBLERS DURING POST-BREEDING MIGRATION



Number of Species Exposed
The height of the distributions represents the density of exposure values across the 43 warbler species with taller peaks indicating more species with similar exposure.

Total Exposure Across Species
Total exposure to each conservation challenge across 43 warbler species during the southbound journey after breeding season. Distributions farther to the right represent conservation challenges with higher total exposure across species.

WARBLER POPULATIONS EXPOSED TO CONSERVATION CHALLENGES DURING POST-BREEDING MIGRATION

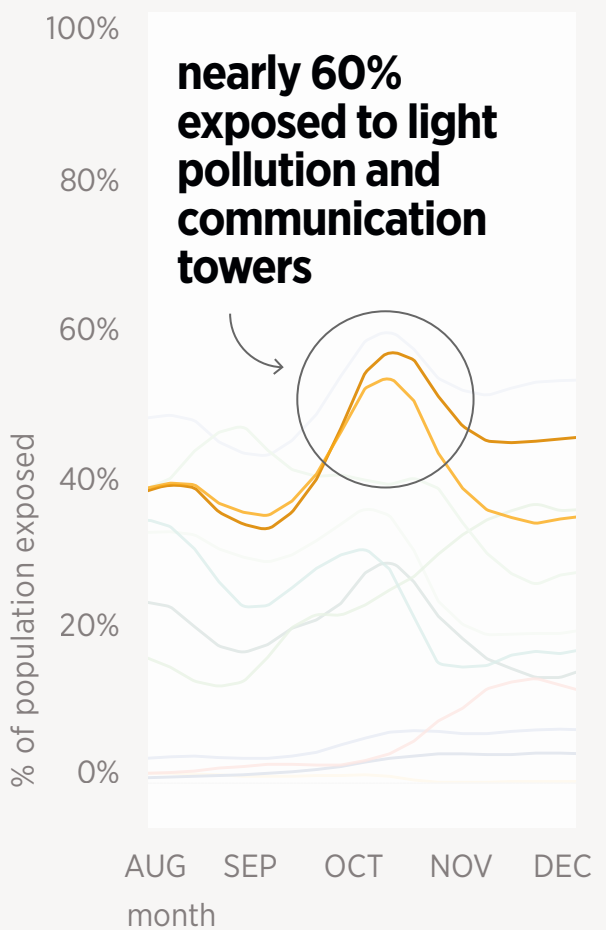
These graphs show the percent of the warbler population that is exposed to conservation challenges during post-breeding migration. The selected challenges are likely driving their population trends.

↓ SPECIES POPULATION DECLINING

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT



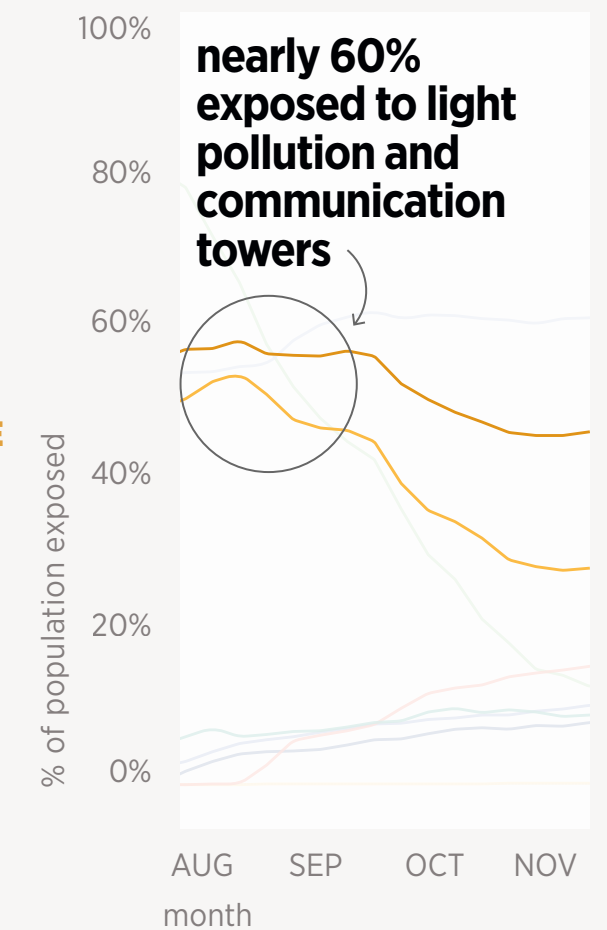
Declining Common Yellowthroat populations are particularly vulnerable to risk of collision caused by light pollution and communication towers. Turn off your lights during migration!



PRAIRIE WARBLER



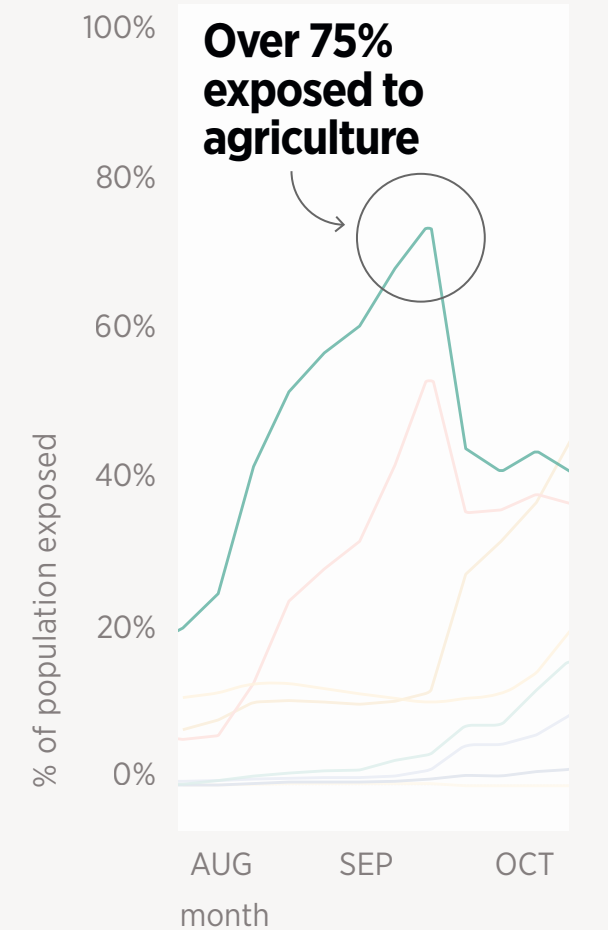
Prairie Warblers are one of the fastest **declining** warblers and are susceptible to collisions caused by light pollution and communication towers.



VIRGINIA'S WARBLER



Declining Virginia's Warbler populations frequent agricultural landscapes during post-breeding migration. Audubon's Working Lands Initiative collaborates with farmers and ranchers to make migration safer for birds.



↑ SPECIES POPULATION INCREASING

SWAINSON'S WARBLER



Swainson's Warblers have **increasing** populations and depend on well-managed forests for safe passage during fall migration.

