

# Audubon Pennsylvania Field Notes - Spring 2017



*Waggoner's Gap, located on the Kittatinny Ridge*

Did you know that bird watching contributes more than \$70 million annually to the economies of Dauphin and Cumberland counties? This was revealed in the *Return on Environment* reports for Cumberland and Dauphin Counties commissioned by The Kittatinny Coalition, co-managed by Audubon PA and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. We also learned that natural resources are worth approximately \$1 billion for each county. Open spaces positively affect everything from tourism and property value to healthcare and stormwater management; increase revenues from recreation; and naturally improve air and water quality. Let's protect our natural resources!

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*Students in our Philadelphia program have hands-on experiences with native plants and receive a field trip to a green space in their community.*

Audubon Pennsylvania placed second in "most checklists submitted for a state in the U.S." for the **Great Backyard Bird Count** again this year, accomplishing the goal of surpassing California's count by 200 checklists, but not expecting New York to sneak into first place! More than a dozen statewide events, including a program with the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in Philadelphia, drew media attention. Congratulations to the top three Pennsylvania counties for checklists submitted: Chester (630), Montgomery (596) and Allegheny (593).



*Fifth grade students from Devers School, York, observe great egrets, a state-listed endangered bird. Kiwanis Lake, one of two locations where the great egret nests in PA, is an Important Bird Area (IBA).*



*Volunteers and staff band birds in Western PA while helping contribute to eBird counts.*



*Audubon educator at the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf for GBBC (photo Philadelphia Inquirer)*



*In April, hundreds of neighbors gathered at the site of the future Discovery Center to celebrate good things to come! Thanks to the Knight Foundation and William Penn Foundation for sponsoring Migrate to Discovery & Adventure as part of the Civic Commons initiative!*



*Middle-school life-skills students in Norristown learn about birds and habitats through hands-on projects.*

In April, Audubon Pennsylvania launched a new layer of "at home" bird conservation: **Bird-Friendly Neighborhoods**. With science-based evidence that connected diverse landscapes provide better resources to birds, this program provides the opportunity to improve large patches of habitat. Neighbors can learn from one another, engage in community events, and of course, plant natives with the goal of "closing the gap" and increasing canopy coverage long term within a housing development. See [pa.audubon.org](http://pa.audubon.org) for application and more information.



*Dr. Jan Gordon and Lucille Larkin count birds at Bartram's Garden during this January's Philadelphia Mid-Winter Bird Census. A total of 98 species and 20,400 individual birds were tallied by 91 volunteers.*



*Durham Village, Buckingham Township, Bucks County became the first Bird-Friendly Neighborhood on April 12, 2017 (photo by William Kennedy)*

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*Glen Mills students learn about their on-campus Purple Martin colony by counting chicks each spring.*