

Celebrating Earth's Wonders

One of the benefits of working at Audubon is that no one thinks twice if you choose to spend a part of your work day outside with binoculars affixed to your eyes waiting to catch a rare glimpse of a particular bird or bird action. For those of us fortunate enough to spend some of our days at Philadelphia's Discovery Center, we have become obsessed with a pair of Pied-billed Grebes that hatched in late-April and are now making their way around the reservoir under the watchful eye of their parents (more details below). What a great reminder of how Audubon staff like Keith Russell have worked over the years to maintain habitats that birds need to breed and sustain themselves on their migratory journeys – even in the middle of one of the largest cities in the United States.

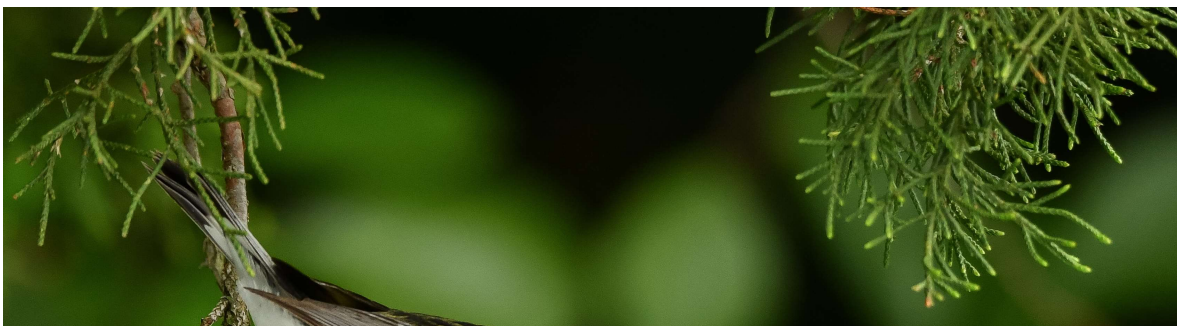
These moments spent outdoors are healing and energizing. Dare I say that we humans need wild places and green habitats just as much as birds do? This Earth Day, AMA staff helped lead programs that connected birders – new and experienced – to nature through bird walks and workshops in Philadelphia and Baltimore. We also helped people learn about the importance of native plants for birds and got people out in canoes at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove. Be sure to check out the Audubon Mid-Atlantic social channels for photos of the festivities and updates on what we're doing throughout the region: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

I hope you find your own energizing moments outside this spring, hopefully in the form of an unexpected bird sighting.

Suzanne Biemiller

Executive Director, Audubon Mid-Atlantic

Vice President, National Audubon Society [Read more](#)





Audubon Mid-Atlantic Values Statement

Audubon Mid-Atlantic has developed a Values Statement to guide our work, our team culture, and our commitment to birds and our neighbors. Tremendous gratitude and appreciation to the AMA team members who led us through an inclusive creation process: Abraham Lopez Trejo, Ashley Hans, Bria Wimberly and Scott Parkhill. We hope that you will join us in upholding these values in all of our work together.

We are united by birds. Birds center our conservation work and are the aperture through which we define, align, and focus our shared efforts and enthusiasm. While our mission and vision empower us to be purposeful and focused, our values serve as guideposts that shape our individual and collective attitudes and behaviors, and align us around a set of standards for how we engage with each other, our partners, and our internal and external-facing work.

Audubon Mid-Atlantic upholds the following core values:

- *We are driven to action because of our deep understanding of the environmental and social challenges faced by birds and people on this planet.*
- *We recognize our collective power. Therefore, we acknowledge and face the realities of our work, and we are honest and transparent in our information sharing, even when this requires us to address difficult or sensitive subject matters.*
- *We broaden our reach by intentionally making space for communities that have historically been excluded from environmental conversations,*

and we recognize the valuable voices, strengths, and leadership that these communities can and do contribute to our shared goals.

- *We listen actively with the intent of understanding different perspectives and finding common ground.*
- *We prioritize deliberate teaming and partnerships. We believe in building community and relying on others because a team can accomplish more than an individual can alone. We believe it is important to invite the communities we aim to serve into our work.*
- *We engage in intentional dialogue where we share stories with and solicit stories from our peers, partners, and allies. These exchanges support us as we amplify and demonstrate the value of environmental efforts, cultivate meaningful relationships, and deepen the effectiveness of our work.*

Magnolia warbler. Photo: Randy Richard



Growing the Delaware River Watershed Program

Audubon is thrilled to announce that Robin Irizarry is the new Delaware River Watershed Program Manager. Following his years managing the Alliance for Watershed Education Fellowship Program and working for Philadelphia's Tookany Tacony Watershed, Robin is a natural fit to help grow this program and our conservation efforts to maintain clean, quality water

for birds and people throughout the watershed. Robin is also a member of the Wyncote Audubon Society.

On the policy front, Audubon was pleased that the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program (DRBRP) received \$10.5 million in the last federal spending bill signed in March 2022. While it was below our original request of \$15 million, we are encouraged by the growing bipartisan support and interest in protecting the Delaware River Watershed. Read more about Audubon's response and hopes for the future [here](#).

Ruddy duck. Photo: Ben Knoot



A New Nesting Home for Terns and Skimmers in Maryland

The Maryland Coastal Bays nesting platform that we featured last month has successfully relaunched! Over the course of two days in mid-April, more than 31 individuals from Audubon Mid-Atlantic, partner organizations and project staff joined to set the new habitat in Maryland's Coastal Bays for

Common Terns, Royal Terns, and Black Skimmers. Within days, the team recorded a Common Tern and a pair of American Oystercatchers roosting on the platform. Stay tuned for more updates as the breeding season heats up!

Black Skimmers. Photo: Alexander Viduetsky



Healthy Forests Program Update

We are excited to announce that Scott Parkhill has been promoted to manager of our Healthy Forests program. At the beginning of April, Scott joined a webinar panel with Pennsylvania state Rep. Mary Jo Daley, and other conservation experts from Pennsylvania to discuss HR 74, which would commission a study on the state of conservation corridors in the state, and highlight the importance of these significant habitats for birds and why they must be protected. We're excited to expand the Healthy Forests Program team further as the work continues to grow throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

Black-throated Blue Warbler. Photo: Lorraine Minns



World Migratory Bird Day

Audubon is a proud sponsor of this year's [World Migratory Bird Day](#) on Saturday, May 14. The theme is "Dim the Lights for Birds at Night," focusing on the impact of light pollution on migratory birds. We're excited to take this opportunity to highlight all of the great Lights Out work being done across the network, including the incredible efforts from Lights Out Philly and [Bird-Safe Buildings](#) out of the Patterson Park Audubon Center. Check out the links above to find ways you can take local action this World Migratory Bird Day.



Swainsons Thrush. Photo: Mick Thompson



A Discovery at the Discovery Center

This April, a pair of Pied-billed Grebes hatched at The Discovery Center's 37-acre reservoir, marking the second time that this species has been known to breed at the Discovery Center in the last 15 years. The Pied-billed Grebe rarely breeds in Pennsylvania and the Discovery Center is one of only two dozen locations in the state where the species has been known to breed over the last 30 years.



Pied-billed Grebe. Photo: Robin Irizarry



Upcoming Opportunities

Baltimore Birding Weekend

The iconic Baltimore Birding Weekend with Patterson Park Audubon Center is back again this spring! Join us for another exciting weekend on May 13-15th for guided birding tours, a paddle on the Patapsco River, and bird banding in one of Baltimore's parks. Tours are also available in Spanish. Sign up [here](#) and check out the birdy update from the last birding weekend [here](#)

Friends of a Feather... Reimagined

Please join us for Friends of a Feather... Reimagined on Thursday, May 19th at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove. Gather with Audubon supporters to raise funds for programs that benefit birds and people and celebrate the McLean Family and Todd Pride for supporting conservation efforts in the Mid-Atlantic Region. The relaxed, fully outdoors event will include a birding by ear tour, owl prowl, an abundance of hors d'oeuvres and cocktails on the museum front porch, the awards program, and a live auction. Plus, there is special pricing for supporters under 25 years! For

more information and to reserve your tickets, [click here](#). Questions? Please contact wendy.christie@audubon.org.

Upcoming Programs and Events

Visit our Centers, explore our trails, and join us for some spring birding and exciting activities happening across the Mid-Atlantic region!

- [Pennsylvania Events](#), including the John James Audubon Center and The Discovery Center
- [Patterson Park Audubon Center Events](#)

Blue Jay. Photo: Deborah Felmey

CONNECT WITH US



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