



Adapting to a changing region

In an essay that appeared in The New York Times late last month, Margaret Renkl wrote:

“The climate crisis and the biodiversity crisis are twinned and intertwined. The earth is a magnificent, breathing organism, and every species contributes to its survival. We might not always know exactly how they do that, but we know they exist as part of a balance that is slipping away.... When we work to preserve frogs and salamanders — when we work to preserve any species — we are working to preserve life on earth as we know it.”

At Audubon Mid-Atlantic, we know that we must focus our work on the entwined crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, which have become very real threats to birds’ survival. We must make regional habitats more climate resilient and

biologically diverse and use natural infrastructure to sequester more carbon. We must hasten our region's conversion to renewable energy sources.

I am therefore pleased to share with all of you a copy of Audubon Mid-Atlantic's new strategic plan, which will guide our work going forward. The plan, which we have already begun to follow, recognizes that our conservation, policy and engagement efforts must complement each other in order to achieve our vision of a "region of healthy and resilient ecosystems where birds thrive and where all people have access to nature and a voice in environmental stewardship." To read our new strategic plan, [please visit our website](#).

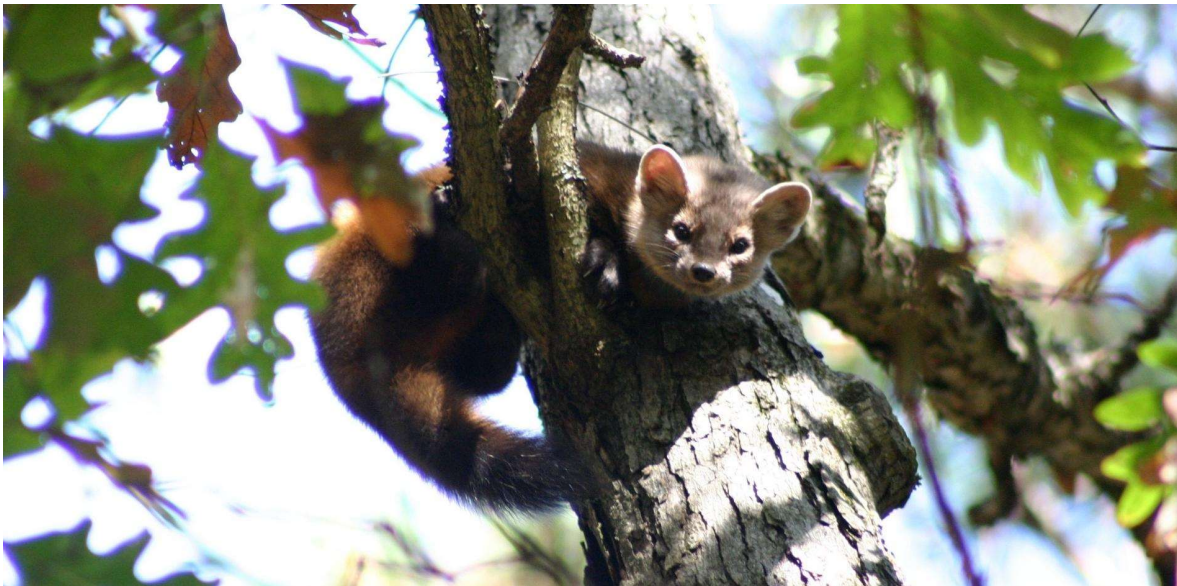
As always, thank you for your support of our important work.

Sincerely,

Suzanne

Suzanne Biemiller
Executive Director, Audubon Mid-Atlantic
Vice President, National Audubon Society

Green Heron taking flight. Photo Credit: Tamara Gabrielli/Audubon Photography Awards



Bringing back the American marten

Audubon Mid-Atlantic is teaming up with the Pennsylvania Game Commission to plan for the reintroduction of the American marten in the commonwealth. This work will reflect lessons learned from successful past efforts in Pennsylvania that brought back the bald eagle, wild turkey and peregrine falcons from the brink of extirpation.

The American marten was once a common native within the forested areas of Pennsylvania and has been gone for over 120 years. Now being considered for reintroduction, the American marten is a small omnivore that prefers structurally diverse forests throughout northern latitudes in North America. This species has a diverse diet, but primarily eats rodents, plants, and insects. Because of their ability to act as an umbrella species for healthy forests, the marten has the potential to influence important habitat management that would benefit ruffed grouse, goshawks, and other priority forest birds.

American marten reintroduction is an exciting part of restoring Pennsylvania's forest landscape and an opportunity for healthy forest management to protect and conserve all the wildlife that occupy forests in Pennsylvania. To learn more about the marten reintroduction project including videos, webinars, the feasibility assessment, and what this process looks like into the future, visit the [American Marten StoryMap](#).

Photo Credit: Robert Sanders/PA Game Commission

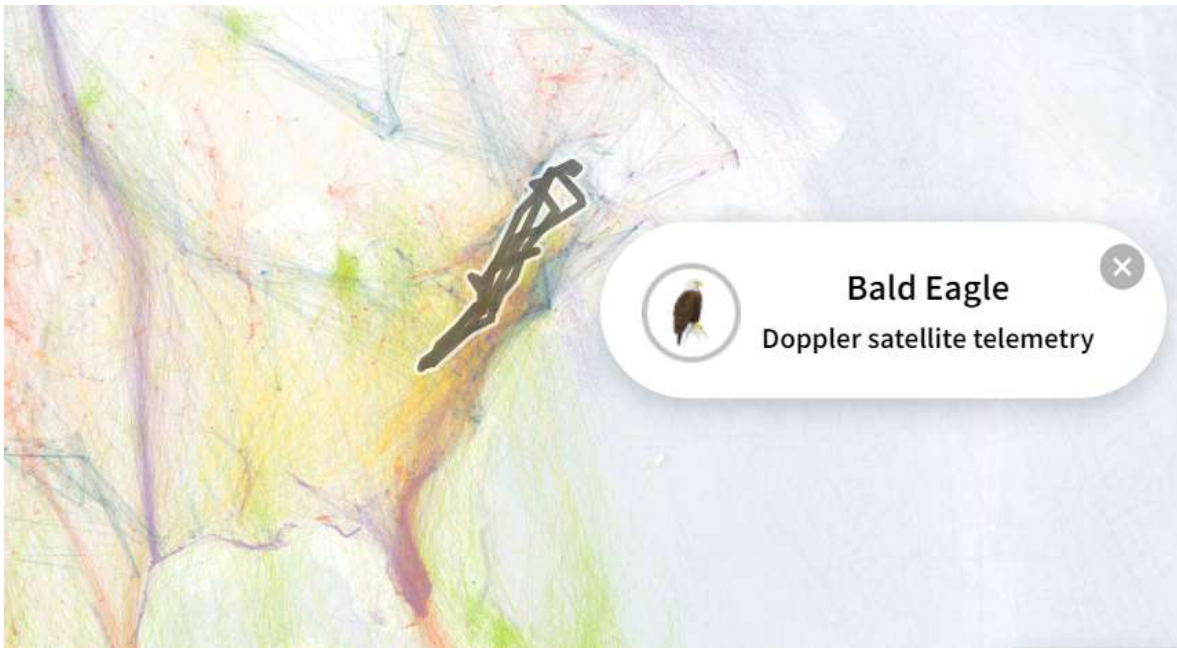


Federal Policy Actions in March

In early March, Audubon Mid-Atlantic's Aneca Atkinson and Jim Brown met with U.S. Rep Brian Fitzpatrick (R. PA) to thank him for his continued leadership of bipartisan efforts to restore habitat and protect ecosystems within the Delaware River Watershed. They also met with U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D. MD) to thank him for his ongoing leadership of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, and to update him on the opportunities for federal collaboration with Audubon Mid-Atlantic's coastal marsh restoration within the Chesapeake Bay.

During their time in Washington, Aneca and Jim met with additional Congressional staff to discuss how climate change and the loss of habitat are impacting birds. These conversations also touched upon the importance of using natural climate solutions to protect drinking water and sequester carbon, increasing America's renewable energy portfolio, and protecting birds throughout the hemisphere. We spoke about how the upcoming reauthorization of the Farm Bill and the Recovering America's Wildlife Act could help stabilize bird populations and reduce the impact of climate change in the Mid-Atlantic.

Audubon employees and legislators meet on Capitol Hill



Audubon's Bird Migration Explorer

With spring migration upon us, there's no better time to check out Audubon's new Bird Migration Explorer! The Bird Migration Explorer is your guide to the heroic journeys of over 450 species of migratory birds. [Click this](#)

[link](#) to take a tour of the explorer tool, and to see which species of birds might be travelling through your backyard.

Screenshot of the Bird Migration Explorer



Philadelphia Green Living Plan

In March, a group of Philadelphia-based organizations released the [Philadelphia Green Living Plan](#), which was developed with input from environmental and community-based organizations including Audubon Mid-Atlantic. The Philadelphia Green Living Plan sets forth a long-term environmental agenda centered around five environmental priority areas that impact neighborhood health, equity, and quality of life. Audubon strongly supports the plan, which aligns closely with its work to use natural infrastructure in urban areas to help clean the Delaware River watershed, lower urban heat and create more biodiverse habitat in Philadelphia. On March 29th, the coalition held a forum with Philadelphia's mayoral candidates to discuss the plan and gain their insights into how they would lead a more sustainable city. A [recording is available](#) on the Green Living Plan's YouTube channel.

Carolina chickadee on fence. Photo Credit: Mallory Gerstacker



Lights Out for Spring Migration

Philadelphia is one of more than 40 cities nationwide participating in a Lights Out initiative, where residents and business owners are encouraged to turn their lights off between midnight and 6am, to ensure safe passage and minimum light pollution for migratory species of birds. This initiative started in Philadelphia after a mass collision event in Center City killed an estimated 1,000 birds in a single day in 2020. To learn more about Lights Out Philly, [visit their website here](#). Lights Out Philly was also featured in the National Audubon Society's magazine last spring. [Read that feature here!](#)

There are Audubon chapters promoting Lights Out campaigns in other parts of Pennsylvania as well. If you're in the Harrisburg area, [consider signing up to participate in Lights Out Harrisburg](#) as a resident or business!

Osprey catching fish. Photo Credit: Charles Wait/Audubon Photography Awards



Harriet Tubman Tour with Audubon Mid-Atlantic

On Saturday, March 25th, Patterson Park Audubon Center joined with Delmarva Birding Weekends and Harriet Tubman Tours to explore Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge as well as points in and around Cambridge, MD, where Harriet Tubman and other freedom seekers were enslaved and sought freedom from their enslavers. The group wove its way through places and the stories of people, who used their knowledge of the land and bird calls to create their strategies for communication and escape. Be sure to follow our social media channels and our [events calendar](#) to keep up to date with our upcoming events!

Group in front of Harriet Tubman mural. Photo Credit: Susie Creamer

Check out Audubon Mid-Atlantic's Upcoming Events

Join us for Audubon's Baltimore Birding Weekend, May 12th through May 14th, 2023! Our award-winning birding weekend returns this year with an exciting itinerary of bird watching field trips in and around Baltimore, Maryland. These excursions include guided hikes and paddles through city

parks, unique natural areas, and spaces with limited public access. [Read more about Baltimore Birding Weekend and sign up today!](#)

Visit our Centers, explore our trails, and join us for some winter birding and other 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](#)

• [Patterson Park Audubon Center Events](#)

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