

Soaring toward Success

This summer, a juvenile eagle has been using Philadelphia's Discovery Center as a fish-catching training ground. And staff and visitors have been awestruck as this youngster glides around the reservoir with its eyes focused on the water before diving in after catching sight of a fish. Its win-loss record seems to be improving with each passing day.

The eagle's presence is a good reminder that cities like Philadelphia – as well as Baltimore and others within the region – are important habitats for birds. Audubon's conservation and environmental policy work should therefore not be reserved for remote, wild lands far from people. It must extend to densely populated places.

This majestic bird also has brought a bit of joy and wonder into our workaday lives. For a few minutes, she removes us from our routines, reminding us that beauty is all around us and that we need to keep trying until we get it right.

Happy August to you all.

With gratitude,

Suzanne Biemiller

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





Terns flock to artificial nesting island in Maryland Coastal Bays

In May, Audubon helped to launch an artificial nesting island in the Maryland Coastal Bays, which is home to a breeding population of Common Terns. At this point last year, we had around 12 nests on the island. We're very excited to report that as of this week, the island is supporting 155 nests!

This extremely successful project was put in place by Audubon Mid-Atlantic, Maryland Coastal Bays Program, and Maryland Department of Natural Resources. We hope to continue to increase the breeding population of this endangered bird, as well as Royal Terns and Skimmers, by expanding the acreage of natural sand islands over time through deployment of dredged ocean sand and creating more natural nesting habitat in addition to deploying artificial floating islands. Be sure to keep an eye on Audubon Mid-Atlantic's social media channels for future updates on this special project.

Common tern. Photo: Kim Abplanalp



Conserving healthy forests across the Kittatinny Ridge

In this video on our Kittatinny Ridge project, Audubon Mid-Atlantic's Forest Program Manager Scott Parkhill says: "Active forest management is really important, especially in the state of Pennsylvania. When we take a hands-off approach, you can have issues like invasive species come in, or other forest pests or diseases that can dramatically change the forest structure." Watch the video to learn more about this exciting project in Pennsylvania.



Audubon Mid-Atlantic Policy Update

In early July, Governor Wolf signed a Pennsylvania budget that includes more than \$696 million in Growing Greener funding, including over \$150 million to the commonwealth's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The inclusion of these dollars in the budget shows clear, bi-partisan commitment to the commonwealth's beloved wild places. The

funds will be used to implement natural solutions that mitigate the impact of climate change, increase access to public parks for everyone, and protect critical bird habitat throughout the commonwealth. More than 1500 Audubon members reached out to legislators this spring to urge them to support this appropriations. Thank you!

Audubon Mid-Atlantic policy director, Jim Brown, represented Audubon's members in work to create a shared vision for Pennsylvania's environmental and conservation agenda. More than 30 organizations came together to create a comprehensive document to catalyze action on climate change and environmental justice in the state. Read more about the effort [here](#).

Don't forget that Lights Out Philly is kicking off the fall migration season on August 15th. You can help by turning off unnecessary interior lights by midnight or draw your curtains and blinds to protect bird. You can check out the [website](#) to learn more.



Explore the city during our Philly Birding Weekend

Save the date for Audubon Mid-Atlantic's inaugural Philly Birding Weekend over the weekend of October 7-9, 2022! Join us as we explore some of the city's iconic green spaces and look for birds on their fall migration journeys. Each tour will be guided by bird experts, and planned excursions include touring local watersheds and parks, paddling on the Strawberry Mansion Reservoir, celebrating at a Tally Rally at the Discovery Center on Saturday evening, and so much more.

Registration will be open soon so keep an eye on our social media channels as well as upcoming emails with more information, including early bird registration rates. To learn more about the weekend, you can click [here](#).



Upcoming Programs and Events

Discovery Night – The Night Sky

Has the night sky always intrigued you, but you never knew how to see the stars up close or how to take photos of the moon? Join Audubon Mid-Atlantic, [Latino Outdoors](#), and [Unique Photo](#) for a fun night of photography and stargazing. Start your evening with learning the basics of long exposure photography and the best camera settings and accessories to see the nighttime in a whole new way. After you've learned to take amazing photos, join our Programs Manager Damien Ruffner as he introduces you to exploring the night sky. Click [here](#) to register and learn more about the event.

Visit our Centers, explore our trails, and join us for some summer 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](#)

Cedar Waxwings. Photo: Marlin Greene/Audubon Photography Awards

CONNECT WITH US



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