



Transitioning to Renewable Energy to Save Birds

August is not typically a month where my thoughts turn to electric transmission networks. And yet, the new National Audubon Society report certainly grabbed my attention when it was released on August 1. At the conclusion of the hottest month ever in our nation's history, I know that the United States must accelerate its shift to electricity (for cars, for heating, for cooling, for lights) that is generated from renewable energy sources. But doing so will require us to face hard decisions about the environmental trade-offs that come with such projects and with the transmission networks that will connect these new sources to end users and the existing electric grid.

Audubon's mission is to protect birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. Audubon's Survival by Degrees report provided data to demonstrate that climate change makes two-thirds of bird species in North America vulnerable to extinction. We therefore strongly support the transition to renewable energy

sources and have weighed in favorably on a number of wind and solar projects.

Yet we also work to promote bird-friendly design, siting and operation of these new energy sources and with the associated new transmission lines. As the new report states, “many potential options...can be implemented to reduce the risk to birds.”

The report identifies the mid-Atlantic as a high priority region for getting this delicate balance right. We have no choice but to do so.

Thank you for your ongoing support,
Suzanne

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

Eastern Bluebirds. Photo: Michael Thomas/Audubon Photography Awards



National Audubon Society Transmission Report

The National Audubon Society released a report on August 1st that details the balancing act that will be required in order to expand electric transmission networks to meet our national renewable energy goals while also protecting wildlife habitat. The report, [Birds and Transmission: Building the Grid Birds Need](#), outlines the urgent need for additional transmission

capacity, as well as the current scientific understanding of solutions to minimize risks to birds. The report identifies the mid-Atlantic as an especially important area for responsible transmission siting. [You can read the full report and latest blog post from the National Audubon Society here.](#)



A Surprise Visitor to the Common Tern Raft

If you've been following our monthly newsletters, you've read about the great success the artificial nesting raft has had this year—record numbers of

Common Terns have nested there this summer. Recently, a one-year-old Common Tern came to visit the nest, which is pretty unusual. Generally, birds do not reach breeding age until they are two- to three-years old and they will not make their northern migratory journey until then. We are also happy to announce that project organizers installed a ramp to assist chicks attempting to return to the raft from the water, since their muscles aren't fully developed for flight from the water.

This project has not only attracted attention from Common Terns, but from national media as well. In July, a reporting team from Scripps News spent a few days learning about the project—visiting the raft and interviewing key players in its success, including Audubon's David Curson. To watch the news report, which will air on local news broadcasts around the country, [click here](#).

Common tern and chick. Photo: Kim Abplanalp



News Alert: Delaware River Watershed Project

Audubon Mid-Atlantic's Delaware River Watershed Project was recently featured in a Philadelphia Inquirer article that described our efforts to create public green spaces for birds and people in southwest Philadelphia ([click here for link](#)). These projects help to alleviate the heat island effect in densely populated areas and also absorb stormwater, reducing the amount

of polluted water that reaches public water sources. They also provide necessary spaces for people and birds to find respite and strength. The Inquirer interviewed Audubon Mid-Atlantic staff members Aneca Atkinson, Director of Delaware River Watershed Programs, Robin Irizarry, manager for the Delaware River Watershed program, and Skye Glover, Delaware River Watershed Program Coordinator, along with several of our community partners.

Audubon Mid-Atlantic's Delaware River Watershed Team and Partners. Photo: Alejandro A. Alvarez/The Philadelphia Inquirer



Audubon's Philly Birding Weekend

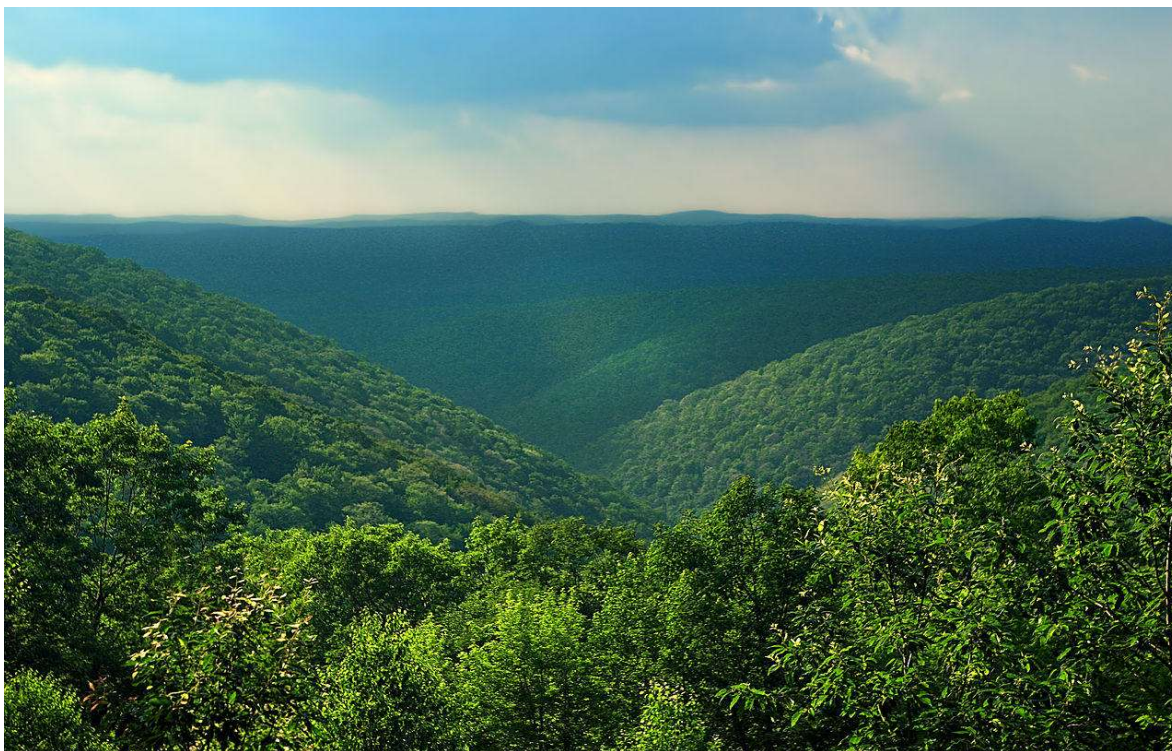
The 2nd annual Philly Birding Weekend will be hosted Oct. 13 - 15, 2023!

We are bringing back some favorite field trips from last year, such as The Woodlands and John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. We are also adding new field trips, including excursions to the Navy Yard and Belmont Plateau. We hope that you'll consider joining us for another fun weekend of birding in Philadelphia.

Registration for Audubon Mid-Atlantic's 2nd annual Philly Birding Weekend

will open on Monday, August 21. The registration link will go live at www.phillybirding.com.

Participants at last year's Philly Birding Weekend



Forest Management Webinar on July 27th

More than 180 people registered for a webinar focused on bird-friendly forest management in the Mid-Atlantic region featuring Josh Rittenhouse, Audubon Mid-Atlantic's Forest Program Associate. The webinar explored Audubon's forest conservation efforts, best practices for landowners, and the many ways active forest management can benefit birds and people. To view a tape of this program, [click here](#).



Day Camps at the John James Audubon Center

Come explore the world of nature in these themed one-day summer camps! Have your child spend the day learning about animals and their habitats in a fun, creative and interesting way. Each of the days has a different theme, so you can sign up for more than one! The camps are geared for 6-10 year olds, and last from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Remaining summer day camps include **Nature Detectives on August 11th** and **Animal Architects on August 22nd**.

[Click here for more information and registration](#) for the single day camps, or you can email jjac_education@audubon.org.



The Discovery Center Now Hiring

The Discovery Center, a public space in Philadelphia operated by the Philadelphia Outward Bound School (POBS) and Audubon Mid-Atlantic, is now hiring for a Facility Operations Manager. The Operations Manager will report to the Executive Directors of POBS and Audubon Mid-Atlantic, and is responsible for keeping the building and grounds safe, clean and welcoming. They will supervise staff who work the front desk, administer and provide coverage for facility rentals, and fulfill landscaping duties. Responsibilities also include event scheduling and providing payroll data, and ensuring accounting and administrative functions are fulfilled.

To read more about the new listing or to submit an application, [please visit The Discovery Center's website.](#)

Check out Audubon Mid-Atlantic's Upcoming Events

Join Damien Ruffner as he guides you through your journey into the night sky. He will be showing you the Persids Meteor Shower (peaking on August 12th), an annual phenomenon that has interested astronomers for centuries. Guests are welcome and encouraged to bring any stargazing equipment such as telescopes, star maps, or binoculars. All ages are

welcome (If the little ones can stay up that late!). This event is taking place on Friday, August 11th from 8-10pm at the Discovery Center. [More info on the website here.](#)

Join Audubon Mid-Atlantic on Saturday, August 26th from 10am until 12pm as we conduct our annual butterfly count. With beautiful native flowers in full bloom, we'll be looking for the butterflies that call The Discovery Center home, such as Monarchs, Swallow-tails, and Painted Ladies. We'll take the morning to survey and find as many species as we can, all while having an important talk about native plants. Learn how to bring these beautiful creatures into your own yard! [More details and registration available here.](#)

DISCOVERY CENTER EVENTS

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](#)

CONNECT WITH US



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