



Thank you for your support in 2023!

As I write, leaders from around the world have gathered in the UAE for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (aka “COP28”). Audubon’s CEO, Dr. Elizabeth Gray, is among those in attendance, representing birds and speaking out about the need to reduce carbon emissions for them (and for us). Our planet continues to warm, and the risks and costs of extreme weather events have become impossible to ignore. Audubon’s new Flight Plan and our work in the Mid-Atlantic put efforts to address climate change—through policy, faster deployment of renewable energy systems, increased green infrastructure and other habitat creation and restoration work—front and center.

It has therefore been gratifying to see so many of you speak up this year to help us advance our climate goals. In November, more than 950 Audubon supporters sent a message to Pennsylvania’s Governor Josh Shapiro to appeal a court ruling that would have taken the Commonwealth out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). RGGI is an effort among several Northeast states to create a cap-and-invest carbon market. It is an important tool for lowering carbon emissions

generated by power plants. Thank you, Auduboners, for letting the Governor know that you want Pennsylvania to remain in RGGI.

Finally, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your steadfast support of our important work over the course of 2023. Your voices, volunteer efforts and investments have helped us make ecosystems in the Mid-Atlantic healthier for the birds we care about. You can read more about our 2023 work here: [2023 Mid-Atlantic Impact Report](#).

I wish all of you a happy holiday season.

Best,

Suzanne

Red-winged blackbird. Photo credit: Cathy Bennington

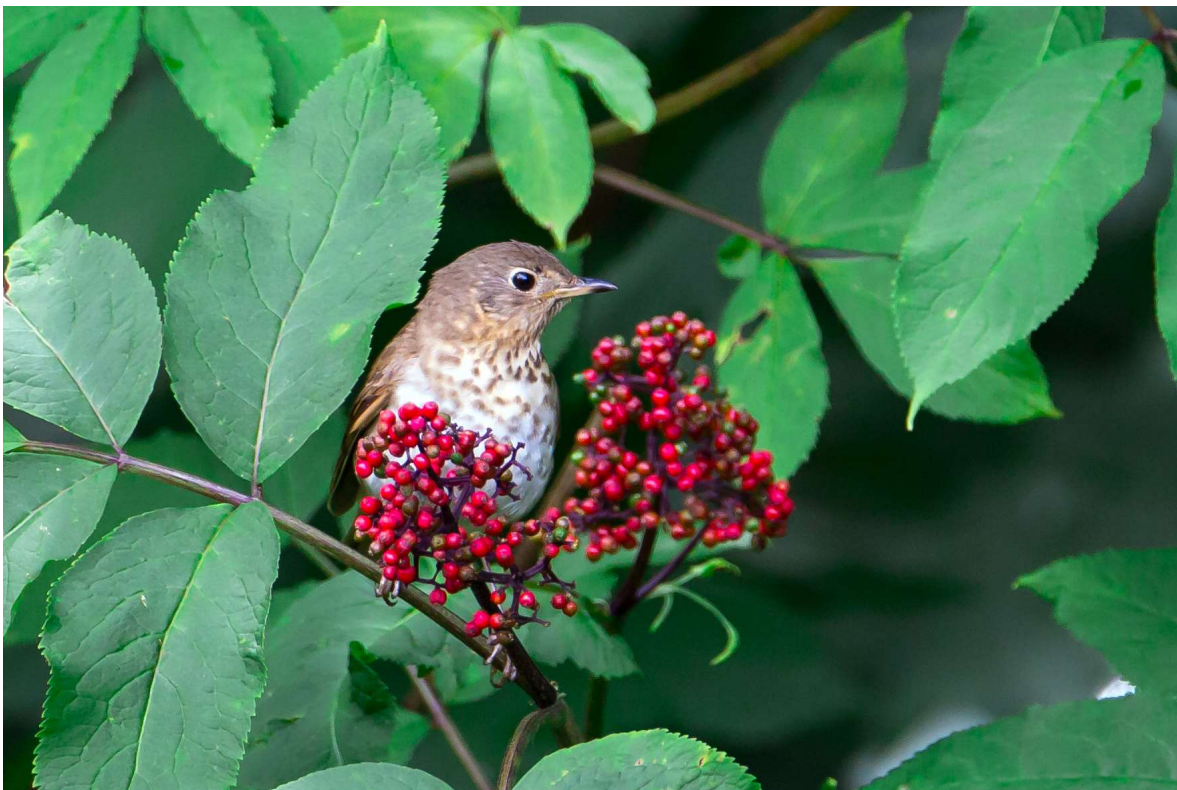


PEC Special Places Award

On November 9, 2023, at its annual dinner, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council [recognized The Discovery Center with its Special Places Award](#), which honors groups that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence and leadership in Pennsylvania.

Suzanne Biemiller, executive director of Audubon Mid-Atlantic, said “The Discovery Center provides Philadelphians with free environmental education programs focused on birds, and the habitats that they need to survive, including those found in urban neighborhoods. We are thrilled that the Pennsylvania Environmental Council recognized the important role that the Discovery Center plays in Philadelphia, especially within the Strawberry Mansion neighborhood.” A video describing the award and featuring the Discovery Center is available through the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and [can be viewed here.](#)

Tufted titmouse. Photo Credit: Jocelyn Anderson



Audubon Forester Training and Endorsement Program

We're excited to expand our Healthy Forest program to include a Forester Endorsement Program, built on a similar effort in Vermont. An Audubon endorsement means that participating foresters have completed our bird-friendly forestry training curriculum and demonstrated that they can apply the concepts we have taught them. Staff will also work to encourage forest landowners to use the foresters that have been endorsed, creating stronger demand for foresters with Audubon healthy forest management skills.

Through this forester endorsement program, we will help to create a national network of professional foresters working in partnership with the National Audubon Society to promote healthy forest ecosystems that provide high-quality habitat for priority bird species. To learn more about the trainings and program, [please visit our website](#).

Swainsons thrush. Photo credit: Mick Thompson



Cecil Street Community Garden Ribbon Cutting

On October 7th of 2023, a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Cecil Street Community Garden celebrated the opening of a new public, biodiverse habitat designed for birds, pollinators and people. Audubon Mid-Atlantic staff were invited to speak alongside many of our project partners, including Heinz Refuge, Thomas Jefferson University, National Wildlife Federation and many neighborhood leaders. The garden is already being used by neighborhood residents, and Audubon and partners look forward to continued support of Empowered CDC through environmental education activities on site. The event was attended by community members, volunteers and the Heinz Refuge Mobilize Green youth conservation crew, who were instrumental in the building of the site. As you may recall, the Philadelphia Inquirer [reported on our Cecil Street Community Garden project](#) back in July of 2023. These outdoor community centers are a place

for neighbors to connect, relax, and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature in the middle of the bustling streets of Philadelphia.

Ribbon cutting at Cecil St Community Garden



Audubon Mid-Atlantic's statement on RGGI in Pennsylvania

Audubon Mid-Atlantic applauds Governor Josh Shapiro's decision to appeal the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court's decision regarding Pennsylvania's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Pennsylvania's participation in RGGI will open up tens of millions of dollars for participating states' environmental protection and habitat restoration programs each year. Audubon Mid-Atlantic agrees with Governor Shapiro's RGGI work group that "reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Commonwealth is both necessary and inevitable." We further agree that RGGI is the right approach to reduce emissions and invest in clean, affordable renewable energy. Over 950 Pennsylvanians urged Governor Shapiro to take this necessary step to keep Pennsylvania an active

participant in RGGI, and Audubon Mid-Atlantic and the birds of Pennsylvania thank you! [Read Audubon Mid-Atlantic's statement here.](#)

Pileated Woodpecker. Photo credit: Pamela Underhill.



Audubon's Christmas Bird Count

Audubon's 124th Christmas Bird Count will be held from December 14, 2023 to January 5, 2024! [Click here for a map view](#) of the circles expected to be included in the 124th Christmas Bird Count. You can use ESRI's free mobile app to view updated public maps of all CBC circles by state! Simply install the free ESRI Explorer app for iOS or Android and then find CBC circles by searching on your state's full name + "Christmas Bird Count".

[Visit this page about the Christmas Bird Count on the National Audubon Society's website](#) to learn more and join in the fun for 2023!

Cooper's hawk on tree. Photo credit: Aimee Allain



Center Work in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's Audubon Centers, The Discovery Center in Philadelphia and the John James Audubon Center in Audubon, PA, have become true community jewels, providing a place where families, students, and nature enthusiasts can come together to connect with the natural world and each other. Expect enhanced education programs, expanded exhibitions and ambitious conservation initiatives to come in 2024.

As we look back on all that has been accomplished since the opening of the new visitor centers, we are profoundly grateful for your support, which has made all this possible. Together, we are building a legacy of environmental stewardship and conservation that will benefit generations to come.

Your contributions will enable us to achieve even greater heights in the years ahead. You can make a lasting contribution to Audubon Mid-Atlantic today.

[Click here to donate to The Discovery Center](#)

[Click here to donate to the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove](#)

The Discovery Center in Philadelphia



I Bird I Vote 2024

Audubon Mid-Atlantic invites you to join us for this year's I Bird I Vote Conservation Summit for Maryland on Saturday, February 3rd, starting at 9:00 am. The event will be held at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Annapolis, Maryland, and includes lunch, coffee, snacks, and all sessions. Scholarships are available for this event; for more information, please contact Tess Wilson at tess.wilson@audubon.org.

[Visit our website](#) for more information and to reserve tickets for I Bird I Vote!

Barn owl. Photo Credit: Deborah Smith.

Check out Audubon Mid-Atlantic's Upcoming 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



Audubon Mid-Atlantic

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