

Dear Audubon Friend,

Across the Mid-Atlantic region, your support is helping Audubon advance its important work to mitigate the impact that climate change and the loss of biodiverse habitats have had on birds. The 2022 State of the Birds [report](#) described the steep losses experienced by 90 different bird species. These include birds that rely upon the Mid-Atlantic region such as the Wood Thrush, Golden Wing Warbler, and Saltmarsh Sparrow.

Over the past year, we have reshaped how Audubon Mid-Atlantic will respond to the significant threats to birds, seeking to grow our impact within the region. We used the three pillars of National Audubon Society's work--climate change, hemispheric migration, and Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (EDIB)--as our starting points. All of our work will now focus on creating a region of healthy and resilient ecosystems where birds thrive and all people have access to nature and a voice in environmental stewardship. We have established goals within each of our target areas: Coasts, the Delaware River Watershed, Forests, Urban/Suburban communities, and Climate Change. For each goal, we

considered how conservation, policy, and engagement strategies would work in a virtuous cycle to help us reach our objectives.

Even as this planning work was in-process, we began to shift how we approach our work. We hired a new regional policy director who is now working with conservation leaders to push for legislative and regulatory changes that will help us reach our goals. Our environmental center staff are designing public programs to spur environmental action and welcome new audiences to the wonder of birds.

With partners and supporters like you urging us on, I am pleased to share with you a snapshot of what Audubon Mid-Atlantic achieved this past year.

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

Forest

- Forests program staff trained 304 Pennsylvania foresters in healthy forest management practices that encourage forest age class diversity and support priority bird species like the Wood Thrush and Cerulean Warbler. All told, these foresters help manage more than 2.3 million acres of public and private land.
- 15 private landowners, representing 2,000 acres, attended a Family Forest Carbon Program enrollment presentations. This program incentivizes forest preservation to protect bird habitats.
- 82.71% of voters in Pennsylvania's Carbon County supported a \$10 million environmental bond referendum that grew out of a "Return on Environment" study developed by Audubon and our partners in the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape.
- Audubon worked with The Nature Conservancy to create stopover habitat for migratory birds like Golden Eagles and other raptors at Pennsylvania's Cove Mountain.



Wood thrush



Least tern

Coast

- Our Coastal program received more than \$1 million to develop a plan to restore 6,000 acres of saltmarsh in Maryland. These marshes support threatened birds like the Saltmarsh Sparrow and are rapidly disappearing due to sea level rise.
- Coastal staff teamed up again with partner organizations to build and launch artificial nesting rafts in Maryland's coastal bays. This year, 310 terns found the rafts and produced 181 chicks, the largest colony in the Bay and an increase from 19 chicks hatched last year. A few of the nesting birds had been banded in Argentina, evidence of their migratory journeys.

Photos, from left: Megumi Aita/Audubon Photography Awards; Kathy Cline/Audubon Photography Awards.

Urban/Suburban

- 7,325 native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants were planted in urban, suburban, and forests throughout Maryland and Pennsylvania to improve bird habitat.
- In Philadelphia, 39 commercial buildings and 69 residential buildings pledged to turn their lights off from midnight to 6 am to help prevent bird collisions during spring and fall migration. Audubon staff worked again with staff and volunteers from the Academy of Natural Sciences, Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, Wyncote Audubon Society, and Valley Forge Audubon Society to monitor bird collisions and gather evidence that Lights Out efforts help save birds' lives.
- During Baltimore Birding Weekend (May), 145 people saw 121 different bird species at parks around the city. We also launched the first ever Philadelphia Birding Weekend in October. 120 people participated and saw 93 different bird species.
- 703 children attended a summer camp at our environmental centers in Baltimore (349) and Philadelphia (354).
- 107 people paddled the Perkiomen Creek during Birding by Canoe evenings at the John James Audubon Center.
- 91,348 people visited the John James Audubon Center, including 5,462 museum admissions.
- The Discovery Center and the John James Audubon Center each hosted a summer Alliance for Watershed Education college intern and 14 high school interns in an after-school Environmental Youth Leadership program.



Eastern bluebird



Golden-winged warbler

Photos, from top: Judy Lyle/Great Backyard Birdcount; Charlie Trapani/Audubon Photography Awards.



Long-tailed duck.
Photo: Scott Keyes/Audubon Photography Awards

Delaware River Watershed

- In a 220 to 206 vote, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Delaware River Basin Conservation Reauthorization Act (DRBCA), with help from a newly-formed bipartisan Congressional caucus that Audubon helped to create.
- Riparian buffer improvement continued at Whitby Meadows, in Philadelphia's Cobbs Creek Park, where 42 bird species were observed during Philly Birding Weekend.
- Work began on the Cecil Street Garden, Kingsessing, the first Philadelphia public biodiverse space to be developed as part of the Pollinator Corridor project.
- Audubon staff managed the installation of a bird-friendly garden on the Delaware & Lehigh Trail along the Lehigh River for birds and to prevent storm runoff.

Policy and Communication

- More than 1,500 Audubon members in Pennsylvania contacted their state legislators to urge passage of the \$696 million in the Growing Greener III fund. The Philadelphia Inquirer also ran an opinion piece written by Audubon Mid-Atlantic Executive Director Suzanne Biemiller that spoke to the benefits of the legislation.
- 1,100 Audubon members wrote to the Atlantic States Fisheries Council to urge them to continue to ban the harvest of female horseshoe crabs, whose eggs are needed by the endangered Red Knot to fuel their migration. In early November, the Council voted to keep the ban in place.
- More than 80,000 supporters now follow us on social media and receive our monthly newsletter.



**We are deeply
grateful for your
support.**