



## Sounds of Summer

I was lucky enough to spend part of the July 4th weekend on a lake in northern New Hampshire where the calls of loons echoed each night across the water. How I love those trills and flourishes! To me, there is no sound more thrilling.

Sadly, I cannot help but wonder whether loons will continue to live in states like New Hampshire in fifty years' time as lake and air temperatures rise. And my worries accelerated this weekend in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling in *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency* that put new limits on the agency's ability to regulate carbon pollution.

For those of us who love birds and love clean air and water, this ruling is devastating. [Audubon science shows that two-thirds of bird species face the threat of extinction](#) if nothing is done to reduce carbon pollution. Federal agencies must be able to regulate and enforce guidelines to conserve our natural resources and ensure that we all have clean water to drink and fresh air to breathe.

Audubon Mid-Atlantic will work with our national policy team to push our elected members of Congress to pass comprehensive federal climate legislation and to grant the EPA the authority it needs to regulate carbon pollution from power

plants. We will also work in Pennsylvania and Maryland to advance measures to reduce carbon and increase the percentage of electricity and heat generated by renewable sources.

Birds like the loon tell us that we must act now.

With gratitude,

**Suzanne Biemiller**

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

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Common Loon. Photo: Kelly Marquardt



## Governor Hogan visits the Maryland Coastal Bays artificial nesting islands

On June 13, Audubon Mid-Atlantic staff and employees from Maryland Coastal Bays and Maryland Department of Natural Resources hosted Maryland's Governor Larry Hogan on a boat tour of Chincoteague Bay's artificial nesting island. Now in its second year, the island has provided critical nesting habitat for local colonial nesting waterbirds by mimicking a natural sand island. Nearly 100 pairs of common terns have begun to nest on the artificial island this year, making it the second largest nesting colony in Maryland this season. Audubon's David Curson and Jim Brown described to the Governor and his staff the impact that rising sea levels have had on



Maryland's coasts and waterbirds and proposed that a small percentage of sand dredged for state beaches be used to create new barrier islands for migrating and nesting birds. At the tour's conclusion, Governor Hogan expressed his commitment to working with all partners and coastal communities to protect these vulnerable habitats on Maryland's coast.



## Audubon Awarded \$600,000 Grant for Saltmarsh Plan

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has awarded a \$600,000 grant to Audubon Mid-Atlantic to work with Delmarva Restoration and Conservation Network partners on a plan to restore 6,000 acres of saltmarsh habitat in Maryland. This grant will allow Audubon to add more Coastal program staff who will work to identify and assess priority marshes, easing the way to their ultimate rehabilitation. These tidal marshes are being lost to climate-driven sea level rise, which could cause full loss of today's marshes by 2100. Restoration work will support two birds at risk of extinction—the Saltmarsh Sparrow and the eastern Black Rail.

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Saltmarsh sparrow. Photo: Frank Lehman



## Seeding the future with the Philadelphia Pollinator Project

We are excited to announce the kickoff of our Philadelphia Pollinator Project, in collaboration with the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, the National Wildlife Federation and Thomas Jefferson University, that will establish a corridor of native plant pollinator gardens in Southwest Philadelphia. The project is the result of a recently awarded \$400,000+ NFWF Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund grant to Audubon Mid-Atlantic. The Pollinator Project builds on the momentum made by program partners and community groups who have been working to create biodiverse habitats in neighborhoods that lack access to green space. Audubon's participation helps ensure that the public green spaces will benefit native and migratory insects and birds by introducing native plants that serve as food sources, shelter and nesting structures. Natives such as Blazing Star, Wild Bergamot, Threadleaf Coreopsis, and Butterfly Weed will be incorporated into the plantings.

Gardens are to be installed in open spaces stretching from the Heinz refuge up towards The Discovery Center in Strawberry Mansion. One of the first projects lined up is the Cecil Street Community Garden. Working with Empowered CDC, our team will develop a biodiverse community gathering space at Cecil Street and Kingsessing Avenue. Our team is currently working to connect with additional community groups and identify other potential

garden sites. If you live in the Philly neighborhood of Eastwick, Kingsessing, Southwest, Elmwood, Mantua, Parkside, or Strawberry Mansion and have a recommendation for a garden site, please reach out to [robin.irizarry@audubon.org](mailto:robin.irizarry@audubon.org).



## Audubon Mid-Atlantic Policy Update

*PENNSYLVANIA:* AUDUBON MID-ATLANTIC has been working with our Pennsylvania conservation partners to encourage the state legislature to include Growing Greener 3 funding in this fiscal year's budget (as of July 5, the legislature had not yet adopted a new budget despite a mandated June 30 deadline). Growing Greener 3 would dedicate \$500 million of federal American Recovery Funds towards conservation projects designed to increase climate resilience, restore habitat, and improve the public's access to parks. Specific efforts include planting riparian buffers, restoring wetlands & meadows, and increasing the state's tree canopy coverage through healthy forest management. Growing Greener 3 also includes funding to create new parks, trails and habitat throughout the state. Read our Executive Director Suzanne Biemiller's [op-ed in the Philadelphia Inquirer](#) to learn why Audubon supports Growing Greener 3. Thank you to everyone who has contacted their elected officials to support this legislation and budget!

*FEDERAL:* Julie Dunlap of the Audubon Society of Central Maryland recently



penned a [letter to the editor](#) in the Baltimore Sun thanking Senator Cardin (MD) for his efforts to enhance the Neotropical Migratory Bird Act in the U.S. Senate. AUDUBON MID-ATLANTIC is working with Audubon's federal policy team to advance this legislation through Congress. Senator Cardin's leadership and bipartisan support have been crucial throughout this process.

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Wood Thrush. Photo: Megumi Aita



## Conversation Café at the John James Audubon Center

Last month, the John James Audubon Center kicked off its inaugural “Conservation Cafés,” a special event series where interested guests and subject matter experts come together for good food and good conversation. A beautiful sunset and an assortment of native plants favored by bees and butterflies provided the perfect backdrop for Kelly Gill, Senior Pollinator Conservation Specialist from the [Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](#), and Robin Irizarry, Audubon's Delaware River Watershed Program Manager, to chat with dinner guests about all things pollinators.

Participants enjoyed lively conversation about the role of pollinators in maintaining healthy ecosystems over a delicious farm-to-table meal, sparking connections between guests and Audubon Mid-Atlantic's work to create pollinator corridors in the Delaware River Watershed.

Keep an eye on the [Audubon Mid-Atlantic Calendar of Events](#) and follow us on social media to join upcoming Conservation Cafes on topics like bird migration and clean water.

## New Hires on the Audubon Mid-Atlantic team

Our flock is growing as we continue to add staff members to our team. We are delighted to announce the hiring of a full-time Communications Manager for Audubon Mid-Atlantic! Bernard Devlin, who previously oversaw communications and community outreach work for Waterkeepers Chesapeake, started on July 5.

Marcy Engelman has joined us as Senior Education Manager at the John James Audubon Center where she will work with Valerie Peckham on group education and youth intern programs. Marcy comes to us after a long tenure at Philadelphia's Mutter Museum as Senior Museum Educator.

Ivana "Eve" Quinones will step into the role of Alliance for Watershed Education Fellowship Coordinator. Previously Eve worked for the Camden County Parks system; in her new role at Audubon, Eve will oversee the work of watershed fellows at dozens of environmental centers throughout the Delaware watershed.



## Upcoming Opportunities

### Upcoming Programs and Events

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

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Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Photo: David Held

CONNECT WITH US





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