

Springing into Action

What a month the Audubon Mid-Atlantic flock has had! All of our winter preparations have yielded much progress on a number of priorities. We have finished the creation of a demonstration stopover site for migratory raptors on Cove Mountain, which is located in central Pennsylvania's Kittatinny Ridge and owned by The Nature Conservancy. The floating island in Maryland's Coastal Bay has already attracted dozens of nesting terns. Baltimore schoolchildren planted native gardens in Patterson Park. Nearly 800 Pennsylvania Audubon members reached out to state legislators in support of natural infrastructure investments that will help improve habitats for birds. Fun (and informative) adult and family programs at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove ("JJAC") and the Discovery Center are happening weekly—birding by canoe at JJAC as twilight falls is just one highlight! And on May 19, more than 100 people gathered at JJAC to celebrate Audubon's mission, the steadfast support of the McLean family and the work of local nonprofit leader Todd Pride. Yes, May was busy!

In the midst of this activity, however, we paused to remember and give thanks for the life of Walter Pomeroy, who left this world in late May. Walt was an Audubon's Mid-Atlantic regional vice president for 17 years beginning in the 1980s and served on both the Audubon Pennsylvania advisory board and the advisory board of the John James Audubon Center. He also supported Audubon's Hog Island (Maine) work. Walt leaves behind many enduring legacies, having devoted his life to environmental conservation, to Audubon and to his loving family and friends.

With gratitude,

Suzanne Biemiller

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





Big Happenings on Cove Mountain

In early June, The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) will unveil the Hamer Woodlands on Central Pennsylvania's Cove Mountain. Audubon Mid-Atlantic worked with TNC to create a migratory stopover habitat on the site, designing and facilitating the planting of native fruit-bearing shrubs and trees on this ridgetop property near Harrisburg, PA. This demonstration site will provide important feeding and nesting habitat for migrating birds – particularly raptors – on their spring and fall journeys through the Kittatinny Ridge. Cove Mountain is accessible to hikers who will encounter an Audubon-created interpretive sign that educates people about the migratory significance of the Kittatinny Ridge. Our thanks to the Hamer Foundation, PPL, and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for their generous support of this project.



Celebrating Baltimore Birding Weekend

“Are we in Baltimore city or are we in a national park?” and “Orioles are everywhere!” were just some of the quotes from enthusiastic birders during Audubon Mid-Atlantic’s 2022 Baltimore Birding Weekend. Participants were treated to guided walks in iconic and little-known parts of Baltimore and saw a total of 123 species from May 13–15, an exciting indication of the importance of the city’s green spaces for birds’ rest and food during spring migration.

We would like to thank our participants and our sponsors for supporting Audubon’s community conservation efforts in Baltimore. Many thanks also to our birding guides, who shared their passion and expertise with all of us.

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Friends Flock Together at John James Audubon Center

The Audubon Mid-Atlantic's May 19 Friends of a Feather event was all that we had hoped for after a two-year delay! We are deeply grateful to the honorees, guests, and sponsors for their efforts to protect birds and the places they need. On a glorious spring evening, 100 guests gathered on the front porch of the John James Audubon Center to mingle and enjoy exceptional food and drink. We were thrilled to honor the McLean Family for their dedication to supporting Audubon and conservation throughout the Philadelphia region as well as Todd Pride for his work introducing the joys of nature through recreation and conservation to 15,000 youth in the Mid-Atlantic region. Guests were captivated by unique birding experiences led by our own Keith Russell and Dan Sullivan; they also enthusiastically bid on tours at the Discovery Center and the John James Audubon Center and a Screech Owl Feathers drawing by Alice Sharp.

Photo: Luke Franke



Audubon Mid-Atlantic Policy Update

In Pennsylvania, Audubon Mid-Atlantic continues to advocate for the Growing Greener III initiative ([SB 525 /HB 2020](#)) to be included in the State budget currently winding its way through Harrisburg. This bipartisan legislation would allocate more than \$500 million of federal recovery funds for the protection of wildlife habitat, installation of riparian forest buffers, and wetland restoration. The proposal would also create new parks, trails and accessible protected lands for people to enjoy the natural wonder of Pennsylvania and the birds that depend on these places for survival. Thank you to our nearly 800 supporters who contacted their legislators to urge them to support this budget package. If you live in Pennsylvania and have not yet weighed in, [click here to let your elected officials know you want them to support funding for bird habitat protection and green infrastructure solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change.](#)

Also in the Mid-Atlantic region, we were thrilled to work with Sen. Ben Cardin (D- MD) and his team to introduce new legislation in Congress enhancing the [Neotropical Migratory Bird Act](#). This bipartisan legislation will more than triple the amount of funding to support habitat protection along migratory flyways from wintering grounds in South America to breeding zones and migratory rest stops in the Mid-Atlantic's Chesapeake Bay and Appalachian Mountains. Click [here to view Audubon's press release](#) and learn more!

Wood Thrush. Photo: Will Stuart



Healthy Forests Branching Out

With spring migration in full swing, the forests of the Mid-Atlantic are green once again and our Healthy Forest Program staff are getting ready to ramp up the Family Forest Carbon Program (FFCP), created by the American Forest Foundation and The Nature Conservancy to help private forest owners manage their land in a way that reduces carbon. This year, Audubon will pilot a new approach to our ongoing FFCP work: meeting with already-enrolled landowners to provide tailored guidance for how to manage forests for mature forest bird habitat within FFCP guidelines. We will also continue to recruit new landowners to the program.

We are also growing the Healthy Forest team with the hiring of Josh Rittenhouse as the Senior Forest Program Associate. Among many things, Josh will focus on our budding partnership with DOMTAR to engage private industry in landscape conservation, bolster our forester training program, and create a land trust network to provide our region's land trusts with bird-friendly forest management training and guidelines.

Ruffed Grouse. Photo: James Stafford



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](#)

American Goldfinch. Photo: Victoria Ambrosey

CONNECT WITH US



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