

Spring Forward

Winter certainly didn't want to loosen its grip on the Mid-Atlantic region this year. Yet signs of seasonal transition are everywhere and every day, more birds appear in the sky (and my backyard). Yes, the thrill of spring migration is upon us! Like so many of you, I love thinking about the hemispheric journeys that birds make, imagining what their winter and summer homes look like, hoping to see those places in person some day and feeling awestruck by the miles birds traverse.

Much of Audubon's work seeks to protect and sustain birds on their heroic flights. Our conservation work makes sure that nurturing habitats exist for birds to find food, breeding and nesting grounds, and shelter as they make their way north each spring. This conservation work also extends to protecting birds from built environments—especially tall office buildings, the lights of which can confuse the millions of birds that fly at night and cause countless unnecessary collisions and bird deaths. Our policy work seeks to reverse the environmental degradation and the impact of climate change on critical bird habitats through legislative and regulatory changes. And our education and community-based work shares the thrill of seasonal migrations with the public, asking all to take steps that will support birds.

What makes Audubon a special organization is that it's not just staff that do this important work—all of you play a vital role. You'll read below how your participation in 90 years of Christmas Bird Counts has led to a groundbreaking study focused on the impact that climate change and habitat loss has had on birds. You'll also learn about how the work of one of our chapters led to a significant change in Harrisburg.

We are grateful for all of you. Thank you.

Suzanne Biemiller

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





Earth Day 2022

As Audubon supporters, our passion for birds calls us to honor and protect natural habitats and their wild residents every day. On Earth Day, we get to celebrate our work as well as the efforts of billions of other people across the world who are doing their part to help heal the planet! This year, all of our Mid-Atlantic centers will join in on global Earth Day festivities. In Pennsylvania, on Saturday, April 23, the Discovery Center will offer two Earth Day Bird Walks with AMA team member, Keith Russell. In Baltimore that day, you can join Audubon on birdwatching tours in Druid Hill Park. On Sunday, April 24, the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove is hosting native plant activities and canoeing; admission to the Visitor Center is free that day. At the Discovery Center on Sunday, Audubon staff will present three “Intro to Birding” workshops. Our state website calendars have all of the details. We hope you’ll join our celebrations!

Red-bellied woodpecker. Photo: Simon Tan



Christmas Bird Count Study & Climate Action

A recent Audubon study uses 90 years of Christmas Bird Count data to show how birds have declined and adapted to a century of major environmental changes in numerous habitats. Prior to its publication, very few studies analyzed how climate change and habitat suitability impacted bird populations over decades of time. But Audubon's Christmas Bird Count longitudinal data set allowed Audubon researchers to explore these connections, with important implications for future wildlife conservation efforts. Researchers interpreted Christmas Bird Count observations from 119 different count circles in the eastern United States, including here in the Mid-Atlantic. Learn more about the study and how all of your community science efforts for the Christmas Bird Count contributed to it [here](#).

White-breasted Nuthatch. Photo: Laura Perrotta



Lights Out Efforts in Harrisburg & Baltimore

The Appalachian Audubon Society chapter recently led an effort in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to launch a new Lights Out Harrisburg initiative. On March 28, chapter leaders joined Cindy Dunn, the secretary of Pennsylvania’s Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and former Audubon Pennsylvania leader, and Harrisburg mayor Wanda Williams to announce that the city will be turning off lights at fifteen key buildings during peak migration season (April 1 to May 15), including the spotlights on the State Capitol Dome and lights in the state’s Keystone Building atrium. Learn more about the latest addition to the Lights Out initiative to protect migrating birds from light and window collisions [here](#).

In Baltimore, Audubon Mid-Atlantic staff are asking commercial building and homeowners to “Take the Pledge” to turn off or dim exterior, flood and interior lighting during spring and fall bird migration seasons. Learn more about Bird-Safe Buildings & Lights Out Baltimore [here](#) and click [here](#) to make your own personal pledge.

Black-throated Blue Warbler. Photo: Lorraine Minns



Nesting Platform Launch in Maryland

This month, Audubon Mid-Atlantic Coastal Conservation leaders and partners at the Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program will relaunch a floating platform in the state's Coastal Bays to provide nesting habitat for Common Terns, Royal Terns, and Black Skimmers. Following last year's success, which produced the largest colony of terns in the Coastal Bays, the team has built an even bigger platform. With a bigger nesting area and a spring launch, the team hopes to attract sea birds that breed earlier in the season and provide space for larger colonies. Read Audubon magazine's article on the project [here](#) and check out the project website [here](#).



Royal Tern. Photo: Donald Quintana



Baltimore Birding Weekend

The iconic Baltimore Birding Weekend with Patterson Park Audubon Center is back again this spring! Join us for another exciting weekend May 13 – 15, 2022 for guided birding tours, a paddle on the Patapsco River, and bird banding in one of Baltimore’s parks. Tours are also available in Spanish. Sign up [here](#) and check out the birdy update from the last birding weekend [here](#).

Birding Banding at the Baltimore Birding Weekend. Photo: Luke Franke



Policy Action to Protect Wildlife Corridors

On Tuesday, March 29, the Pennsylvania House Transportation Committee passed [HR 74](#), a Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study and issue a report on the current status, management, and benefits of conservation corridors in Pennsylvania. This report will lay the groundwork for identifying important wildlife corridors and flyways in the state in order to prioritize the protection and enhancement of these important habitats for resident and migrating birds in the state.

Audubon Mid-Atlantic's Scott Parkhill has been invited to participate in a webinar panel discussion on Tuesday, April 5, at 6:00 pm ET with HR 74's sponsor, Rep. Mary Jo Daley, and other conservation experts from Pennsylvania. Scott will talk about the importance of these significant habitat corridors for birds and why they must be protected in Pennsylvania. RSVP for the webinar [here](#).

American Goldfinch. Photo: Will Stuart



Upcoming Opportunities

Friends of a Feather... Reimagined

Please join us for Friends of a Feather... reimagined on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove. Gather with Audubon supporters to raise funds for programs that benefit birds and people and celebrate the McLean Family and Todd Pride for supporting conservation efforts in the Mid-Atlantic Region. The relaxed, fully outdoors event will include a birding by ear tour, owl prowl, an abundance of hors d'oeuvres and cocktails on the museum front porch, the awards program, and a live auction. Plus, special pricing for supporters under 25 years! For more information, pricing, and to reserve your tickets, [click here](#). Questions? Please contact wendy.christie@audubon.org.

Upcoming Programs and Events

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

Eastern Screech Owl. Photo: Michael O'Shea

In the News

Outlet: The Washington Post

Headline: [Taking a Mid-Atlantic road trip? Stop at these native plant gardens along the way.](#)

Excerpt: The National Audubon Society has become a major advocate for native plant gardening. In Baltimore, the local center uses the 155 acres of Patterson Park — which includes two native gardens, a lake and playing fields — as an outdoor classroom. More than 200 bird species have been spotted in the park. “It’s really the insects that are the critical link between plants and birds and the rest of the food web,” says Erin Reed Miller, the center’s senior coordinator for bird-friendly communities. “And native plants are the only way we’re going to have insects.” The center offers both in-person and online courses on native gardening to support birds, along with monthly birding tours in Patterson Park and Druid Hill Park, which is home to the Maryland Zoo.

Outlet: The Washington Post

Headline: [Beyond Assateague: The wonders of Maryland’s lesser-known state parks](#)

Excerpt: Last summer, after months of searching for another way, I got lucky: The Patterson Park Audubon Center announced a Hart-Miller trip for late September as part of its Baltimore Birding Weekend. It was, in the words of birding weekend co-organizer Jim Rapp, an “insanely beautiful” morning — cool and clear — when our group met at a dock in Essex. As we donned our neon-yellow safety vests and boarded the boat, I learned my fellow birders were equally excited, because the Hart-Miller trip had been canceled for two years in a row, first because of weather, then the pandemic.

Check out these articles below on Audubon.org:

Headline: [Women In Flight](#)

Excerpt: Shawn teaches his falcons to “wait on” high above him, circling upward of a thousand feet as they watch for him to flush game such as grouse and waterfowl. Success builds on itself, and as he flies his falcons day after day, always striving to flush prey at the perfect instant, he gets to know his birds’ abilities thoroughly—and his birds get to know how good he is at providing hunting opportunities. It’s one of the most amazing relationships between a wild animal and a person that I can think of. To say Shawn is a remarkable person would be an understatement. An internationally

renowned expert on falconry, Shawn, 59, presents talks to groups all over the world—Japan, Europe, Africa, the Middle East—sharing the training techniques he’s developed and polished in his decades as a falconer. In many ways, he has become a global ambassador for falconry. This piece was co-authored Dr. Elizabeth Gray, Audubon CEO, and Patricia Zurita, CEO BirdLife International.

Headline: [The Inspiring Ascent of Master Falconer Shawn Hayes](#)

Excerpt: Women scientists, activists, and conservationists have long been at the forefront of the movement to protect birds and nature. Eliza Philips and Emily Williamson co-founded the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in the UK, while Minna B. Hall and Harriet Hemenway co-founded Massachusetts Audubon Society. And the list goes on: Rosalie Edge created Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Rachel Carson sounded the alarm around DDT and birds in Silent Spring, and Mamie Parker helped uphold the integrity of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act during a trailblazing career in public service. Women’s History Month is an opportunity to reflect on our past, our present and the hope we have for the future. Today, we are honored to continue the tradition of protecting birds and the world we all share. Though women have long been at the center of this work around the world—often in the face of immense challenges—it is rare for them to lead organizations with a mission to protect birds and the planet.

CONNECT WITH US



Audubon Mid-Atlantic

3401 Reservoir Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19121
(610) 990-3431 | audubon.org

© 2023 National Audubon Society, Inc.

[Update your email address or unsubscribe](#)

{{Return Path Client Monitor Pixel::AnJpmknHEeqhzAAVXQOx6A2}}