



Raising our voices for the birds

This year's April's showers seemed to last for far longer than one month here in the Mid-Atlantic; it felt like we were caught in a time warp that we could never get out of. But the rain did not deter Audubon's important work on behalf of birds. In Maryland, the state's annual legislative session ended with the passage of new environmental laws supported by Audubon and our passionate members. A new nesting raft was launched mid-month that has already attracted terns, including one that had been hatched on the raft two years ago. In Pennsylvania, our ongoing habitat restoration work in Cobbs Creek Park attracted bird and nature lovers alike on Earth Day. And Philadelphia staff have been mesmerized by a pair of bald eagles who are nesting near the Discovery Center.

May's strong sun is now shining and our region teems with energy and activity. This month, we will again host our amazing Baltimore Birding weekend. And if you cannot get to Baltimore, we invite you to join us on an upcoming bird walk at the Discovery Center or John James Audubon Center. Binoculars are available for those who may not own a pair—do not let a lack of expertise stop you from joining us. Everyone is welcome!

We also invite Pennsylvania residents to raise their voices on behalf of birds and

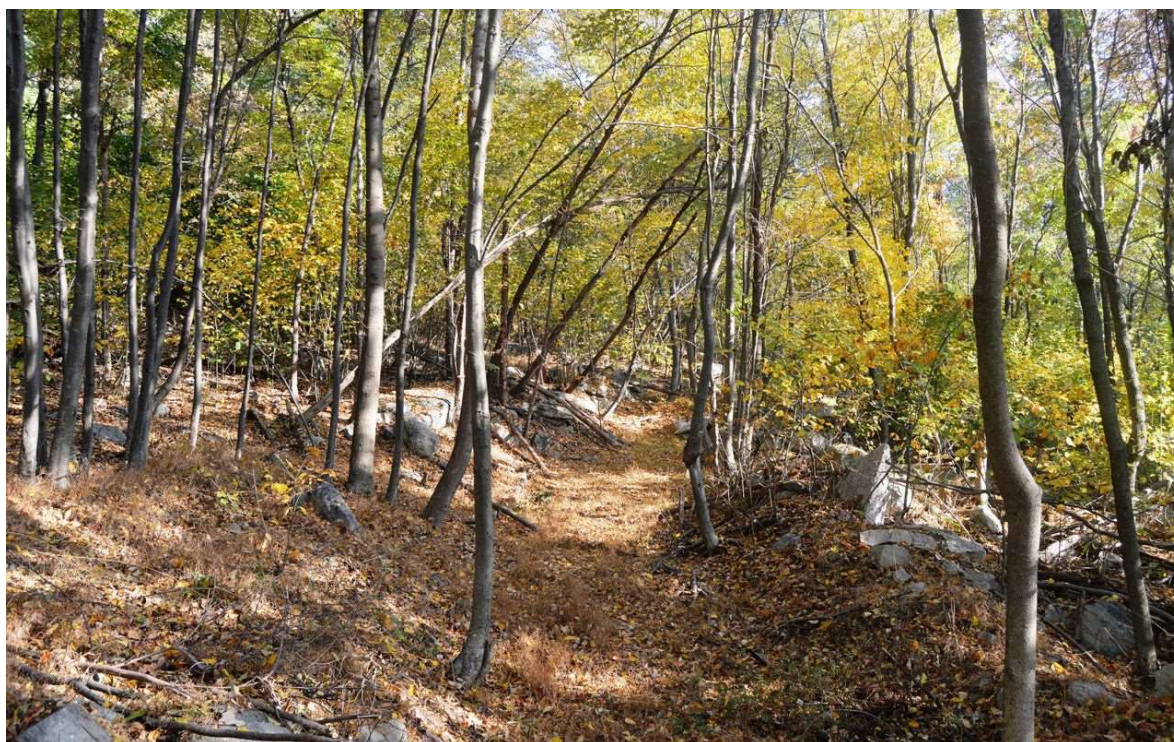
weigh in on a proposal by the Maryland Air National Guard to make flight training runs in the Pennsylvania Wilds. We will also send out Action Alerts to Pennsylvania's members as this year's Pennsylvania budget negotiations proceed.

There are many ways to show your support for birds and the places they need. Thank you for all of the ways that you help us advance our important work.

Sincerely,

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

Patricia McGuire/Audubon Photography Awards



Cove Mountain Phase II

In 2022, Audubon Mid-Atlantic teamed up with the Nature Conservancy to create a migratory stopover habitat at Cove Mountain, just outside of Harrisburg, to support birds travelling along the Kittatinny Ridge during spring and fall migration. This spring, partners have created additional stopover habitat at the site, planting 625 native tree seedlings, including Gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), Black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*),

Northern spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), and American elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*).

The Audubon Mid-Atlantic forest team is also beginning to conduct spring migration surveys, which are designed to determine the species of neotropical migrants that are utilizing the restoration area. For more information about this research, please contact our Forest Program Manager, Scott Parkhill (scott.parkhill@audubon.org).

Photo Credit: Shawn Hickey/The Nature Conservancy



Legislative Accomplishments in Spring 2023

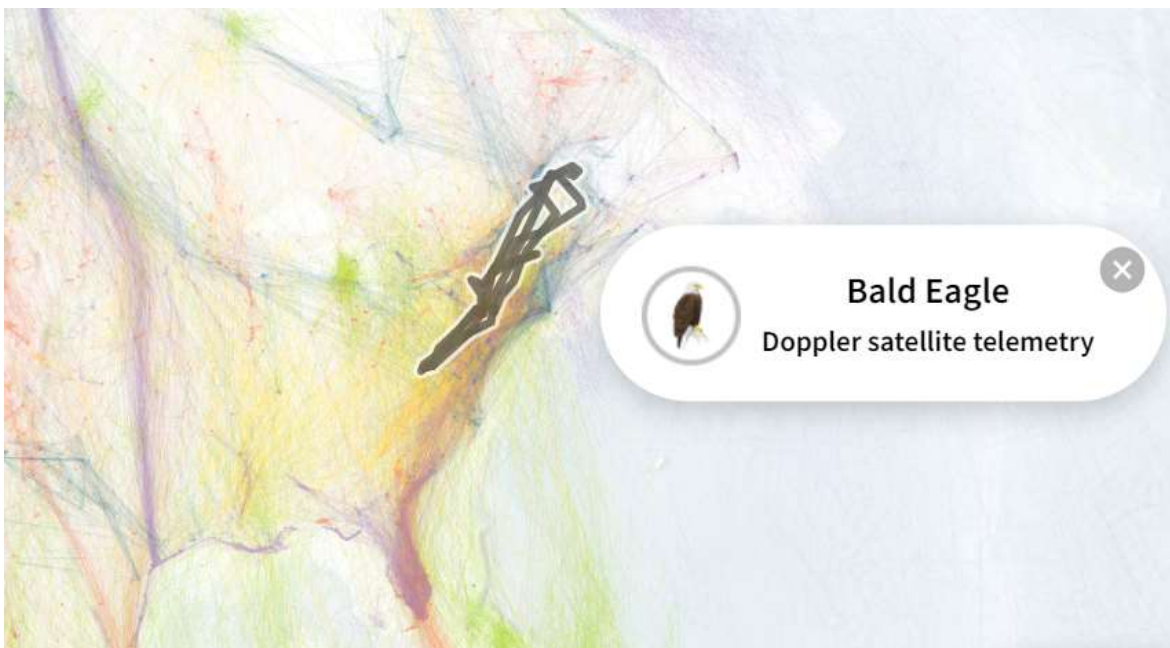
Maryland's annual legislation session ended on April 6 with a round of last-minute legislative wins that help advance Audubon's regional environmental agenda. Many thanks to the hundreds of Maryland Audubon supporters who weighed in with their legislators over the past three months. We could not have done it without you.

Highlights include:

- The Forest Conservation Act, which will update forest conservation goals and definitions to reflect new data, protect and conserve more forest land, and give local governments flexibility to pursue solutions that advance equity.
- The Power Act, which sets the goal of Maryland producing 8.5 gigawatts of off-shore wind by 2031 and updating the state's transmission grid. This is a significant step forward in climate action as increasing renewable energy production will work to mitigate climate change induced habitat loss throughout the region.
- The Maryland Sustainable Buildings requires all buildings receiving 50% public funding in Maryland to meet the LEED standards that prevent bird collisions and conserve building energy usage. [Read the press release here.](#)
- Make Community Solar Permanent, which makes permanent a community solar pilot project, with the goal of incentivizing access to renewable energy by low- and moderate-income residents.
- And the Pollinator-Friendly Powerlines Bill, which prohibits the enforcement of "weed" height ordinances some powerline corridors and allows electric utilities to create pollinator friendly habitat in those corridors rather than continual mowing.

In Pennsylvania, we remain focused on efforts to create sustained, robust funding for both the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in order to invest in statewide habitat protection and natural climate solutions. We will also continue working in the state to make sure Pennsylvania stays a member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) in order to invest RGGI proceeds into renewable energy, habitat conservation, and green infrastructure throughout the state.

Policy Director Jim Brown updates Maryland's governor on Audubon's conservation and climate priorities.
Photo credit: Governor's office.



Audubon's Bird Migration Explorer

As spring migration takes place, there's no better time to check out Audubon's new Bird Migration Explorer! The Bird Migration Explorer is your guide to the heroic journeys of over 450 species of migratory birds. [Click this link](#) to take a tour of the explorer tool and to see which species of birds might be travelling through your backyard.



Screenshot of the Bird Migration Explorer



Delaware River Basin Commission Advisory Committee on Climate Change (ACCC)

Aneca Atkinson, Director of Audubon Mid-Atlantic's Delaware River Watershed Program has been appointed to the Delaware River Basin Commission's (DRBC) Advisory Committee on Climate Change. On this committee, Aneca will aid in the development of science-based future climate resiliency scenarios for the Delaware River Basin as they relate to climate change. Join us in congratulating Aneca!

Aneca Atkinson



Whitby Meadow Restoration Spring Update

This spring, volunteers from the Cobbs Creek Trail Ambassadors, Darby Creek Valley Association and Master Watershed Stewards joined Audubon Mid-Atlantic at the Whitby Meadows restoration site to plant 200 live stakes along the banks of Cobbs Creek, plant native fruit bearing shrubs along the edge of the meadow and remove litter and debris from in the creek. The trees planted last fall are holding up well and in time will help to increase canopy coverage along the creek, casting shade and providing habitat and food for native birds and other wildlife.

On Earth Day, many community members stopped by the Cobbs Creek Trail Festival hosted by the Clean Air Council and partners, which included a great bird walk through the meadows lead by the In Color Birding Club. Audubon, Land Health Institute and the Cobbs Creek Trail Ambassadors led a volunteer planting and cleanup working with the Omega Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, who rallied around 100 volunteers to help brighten up the newly improved trailhead leading to the meadows. Afterwards many of the volunteers joined staff for a guided tour through the meadows to appreciate the returning spring birds and the efforts of all of the restoration volunteers.

Whitby Meadows Planting



Pennsylvania Wilds Fighter Pilot Training

Residents and business owners in the Pennsylvania Wilds are deeply disturbed following a proposal to fly fighter jets very close to the ground in an area known for its preserved wilderness and beauty. This training would occur as low as 500 feet over affected state park and recreation areas. The public comment period to voice opposition to these changes closes in mid-May, and comments can be directed to ngb.a4.a4a.nepa.comments.org@us.af.mil, or mailed to Kristi Kucharek, National Guard Bureau, 3501 Fetchet Avenue, Joint Base Andrews, MD 20762-5157. For more information regarding this potential action, please [read this article from the Philadelphia Inquirer](#).

Bucktail Overlook, Sarah Rafacz / Spotlight PA



Baltimore Birding Weekend

Join Audubon Mid-Atlantic next weekend for the Baltimore Birding Weekend, an event full of guided tours in and near Baltimore. We explore limited-access sites, state and city parks, and discover which birds are stopping by during migration. We welcome birders of all experience levels to hop onto one of our casual tours.

If you want to try nature photography, join a tour along the Stony Run Trail with professional photographer, Hugh Simmons. For more woods and stream exploration, check out Herring Run Park or Wyman Park, two Baltimore favorites. To discover wading birds, shore birds, and bald eagles, check out the Middle Branch/Masonville Cove trip. If you enjoy a good canoe or kayak experience, join us for the Middle Branch Paddle in the Patapsco River. Check out these tours and more on the [event website](#).

Check out Audubon Mid-Atlantic's Upcoming Events

“Stopover” to Mill Grove and sample iconic foods of the Atlantic Flyway as we pay tribute to migratory birds and their incredible journeys.

You’ll enjoy tastings from South America & the Caribbean, the Southern U.S., the Mid-Atlantic, Pennsylvania Heartland, and New England - all places these fantastic fliers are passing through and stopping by, as they travel thousands of miles between their winter habitat and their nesting and breeding grounds.

[Tickets include food, music, one free beer or wine, and unlimited](#)

[nonalcoholic drinks.](#)

Visit our Centers, explore our trails, and join us for some winter birding and other exciting activities happening across the Mid-Atlantic region!

- [Patterson Park Audubon Center Events](#)
- [Pennsylvania Events](#), including the John James Audubon Center and The Discovery Center
- [Discovery Center Events](#)

CONNECT WITH US



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