



Laying Building Blocks for Birds

During last month's inaugural Philadelphia Birding Weekend, more than 150 participants identified 94 bird species in the city! (But Baltimore Birding Weekend retains bragging rights!) The beautiful October weekend brought out many people who had never before been on a bird walk as well as more experienced birders who had never visited places like Cobbs Creek park or The Woodlands cemetery. Audubon Mid-Atlantic staff, who worked tirelessly to plan and coordinate the weekend, loved welcoming everyone into the joyous world of birds. Thank you to all who joined us and helped us raise funds to support our important work.

Even as this fun weekend unfolded, other Audubon Mid-Atlantic staff were busy with efforts designed to create and maintain supportive bird habitat (details of some of those efforts are below). Others were laying the groundwork for advancing policy agendas in Maryland and Pennsylvania, as well as weighing in on plans to limit horseshoe crab harvests so that migrating Red Knots do not starve on their approximately 18,000 mile-long spring and fall journeys.

Our new strategic plan, which we will unveil in full by year's end, describes how we

will marry these approaches—conservation, policy and public engagement—to advance our vision for the region along with specific habitat-level goals. Every element of our work will be oriented to creating a region of healthy and resilient ecosystems where birds can thrive.

Thank you for all you do to support Audubon and our work on behalf of birds.

With gratitude,

Suzanne Biemiller

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

Philadelphia Birding Weekend. Photo: Robert Mathewson



Forester Training

This fall, Audubon Mid-Atlantic's Forest team partnered with Penn State Extension to train more than 110 people in healthy forest management practices. The course focused on topics such as bird-habitat management, beneficial silvicultural techniques and carbon sequestration. The four-part webinar series was followed by an in-person field tour to the site of a recent Audubon Mid-Atlantic migratory stopover habitat management area at The Nature Conservancy's Cove Mountain preserve in Marysville, PA. With the recent hiring of Forest Program Associate Josh Rittenhouse, the team looks forward to offering more trainings in the future for both natural resource managers and landowners.



Waggoner's Gap Hawkwatch

Few wildlife experiences compare with watching a Golden Eagle cruising over a landscape painted in autumn's brilliant colors – and, right now, one of the best places to experience fall migration is the wind-swept rock outcrop at Waggoner's Gap on the Kittatinny Ridge. Waggoner's Gap provides one of the finest hawk-watching opportunities in the East, attracting approximately 3000 visitors annually during fall migration. It is also one of the oldest count sites in North America, beginning in at least 1948, and its count data have been submitted annually to the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) since the latter's inception in 1974. Annual totals average more than 20,000 raptors, including some of the highest golden eagle counts east of the Rockies. In collaboration with count volunteers, Audubon Mid-Atlantic hires an experienced hawk counter each fall to identify and count all migrating raptors and other migrants, maintain hourly and daily records, and interact with hawk watch site visitors. These important hawk counts will continue even after ownership of the land transfers from the National Audubon Society to the Pennsylvania Game Commission. And going forward, Audubon Mid-Atlantic will actively work with partners to create, protect, and enhance migratory stopover habitat along the Kittatinny Ridge.

Waggoner's Gap Hawkwatch



Audubon in Schools

With the return of cooler autumn breezes and changing leaves, Baltimore City students are back in the park for another exciting school year of conservation education and action with Patterson Park Audubon Center. Rosia Frazier, Education Manager, makes the most of this unique outdoor classroom as she engages with these budding elementary school scientists to build their connection to nature and birds' conservation needs through hands-on activities. Every elementary student from our partner schools participates in the 3-part program in fall, winter, and spring. And because the science lessons span pre-Kindergarten to fifth grades, young scientists build on concepts learned in previous years with Audubon to experience Baltimore through a bird conservation lens.



Whitby Meadows Planting

Audubon Mid-Atlantic and our partners have been creating and improving riparian buffers at Whitby Meadows in Philadelphia's Cobbs Creek Park. The site consists of two 5-acre meadows on opposite sides of Cobbs Creek, which is part of the Fairmount Park Important Bird Area and a Delaware River tributary. This fall, staff and partners led bird walks that turned up more than 45 different bird species, demonstrating how important this space is for fall migrating birds. On October 9, 25 volunteers from the Darby Creek Valley Association, Master Watershed Stewards, Cobbs Creek Trail Ambassadors and the Philadelphia Mycology Club planted 80 native trees and shrubs to enhance the wooded buffer between the creek and meadow. In time these plants will grow to provide additional food and shelter for birds and other wildlife, while also enhancing and protecting the water quality of the creek. This project has been made possible by donations from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Treevitalize and PECO.

Whitby Meadows



Red Knot Public Comments

Audubon and our supporters sprang into action to help the federally listed threatened Red Knots from detrimental loss of a vital food source in the Delaware Bay. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has proposed to lift horseshoe crab harvest restrictions and include female horseshoe crabs in future harvests. More than 1,000 people respond to our call to action by submitting comments to the commission in opposition of the move to increase the harvest, which would seriously impact the availability of horseshoe crab eggs that are the Red Knots' main source of nutrition.

Red Knot. Photo: Elizabeth Brensinger/APA



Audubon's Philly Birding Weekend

The first Audubon's Philadelphia Birding Weekend took place from October 7th through 9th, and was a resounding success. Novice and expert birders alike travelled from nearby states to the Philadelphia region to search for birds during peak fall migration. 93 species of birds were witnessed in the mix of arboretums, graveyards, nature reserves and more. We hope to see you at the next birding weekend! Be sure to save the date for Audubon's Baltimore Birding Weekend, from May 12th until May 14th.

Philly Birding Weekend. Photo: Val Peckham



Audubon | MID-ATLANTIC

An Afternoon with Falconer
Rodney Stotts

Saturday, November 12th
from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at
The Discovery Center

Join Audubon Mid-Atlantic for a film screening and book signing with author Rodney Stotts, one of the country's leading Black master falconers and committed conservationists!

Registration is free and recommended, walk-ins welcome! Visit pa.audubon.org/events for more info

Upcoming Programs and Events

An Afternoon with Rodney Stotts

Join Audubon Mid-Atlantic for an intimate conversation with author Rodney Stotts, one of the country's leading Black master falconers. The afternoon will begin with a screening of *The Falconer*, a documentary that follows master falconer Rodney Stotts on his mission to provide access to nature for his community and build a bird sanctuary. Mr. Stotts will then speak, take questions and sign his book, *Bird Brother*, copies of which will be available for purchase. This is a great event for the whole family!

Registration is free and recommended, walk-ins are welcome! To register and for more information, click [here](#).

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

CONNECT WITH US



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