



Making Moves in the Mid-Atlantic

Can I admit to being a bit obsessed about Audubon's new [Migratory Bird Explorer](#)? I have been spending much of my downtime (and maybe even during work hours) looking at the journeys that my favorite birds take each year while also learning what species might be moving through the Mid-Atlantic this month. It has been a fun and educational diversion—the best kind, I think.

This new tool adds much to our understanding of the remarkable journeys that so many birds take each year and demonstrates why Audubon focuses much of its work on supporting birds during their travels through the Mid-Atlantic. For example, you'll read below about our continued efforts to support Lights Out Philly, which has convinced commercial building owners to turn off their lights during spring and fall migration months. In Baltimore, our staff is also working to educate home owners to reduce their outside lighting during migration. And there is an update about our floating island project in Maryland that led to 155 nesting terns, including two who were banded in Argentina (talk about a heroic migratory journey!).

Migration helped guide our regional planning work, which is now in its final stages. Many of our articulated objectives and strategies focus on ways to increase habitat for and decrease threats to migratory birds. Ultimately, our work will seek to slow down and reverse the impact of climate change and habitat loss on the wide range of bird species that depend on the Mid-Atlantic region. We want to help create a Mid-Atlantic region of healthy and resilient ecosystems where birds thrive and where all people have access to nature and a voice in environmental stewardship. We will continue to be guided by science and data and will link together our on-the-ground conservation, policy and education work in support of our habitat-level goals.

I hope you will enjoy this fall's migration—in your backyard, out on a hike, on an Audubon-led bird walk (a few spots are still available for this weekend's [Philly Birding Weekend](#)) or on-line. Audubon's important work will help make sure that the millions of birds that pass through our region make it safely to their winter homes.

With gratitude,

Suzanne Biemiller

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

Canada Geese. Photo: Christian Hannig/APA



A Safer Fall Migration with Lights Out Philly

This fall, as millions of birds are migrating to their wintering grounds, [Lights Out Philly](#) will help make their passage through the Mid-Atlantic region safer. Lights Out programs help protect birds when they are migrating at night by extinguishing nocturnal lights that can cause them to be attracted to and collide with buildings and other human structures. Under the umbrella of [Bird Safe Philly](#), Lights Out Philly is a collaborative effort led by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, Audubon Mid-Atlantic, Valley Forge Audubon Society and Wyncote Audubon Society. In addition to the City of Philadelphia's Office of Sustainability, the Bird Safe Philly initiative is endorsed by the Building Owners and Managers Association Philadelphia, the Building Industry Association of Philadelphia, and PECO.



Philadelphia skyline. Photo: Luke Franke

Building a Safer Philadelphia for Birds

A new high-rise building being planned for Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) has been designed to be safe for birds that travel along the Schuylkill River migratory path. The architects at Cannon Design purposefully selected darker building materials and lighting to reduce reflectivity and decrease bird strikes. In an article that appeared in the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, project engineer John Roach said, "we've taken a lot of time and effort to try and address the fact that many of the high rises along the Schuylkill River migratory bird path are magnets for migrating birds." To learn more about this cutting-edge project, you can read more here: <https://www.inquirer.com/real-estate/commercial/chop-childrens-hospital-new-development-lab-space-20220913.html>



Nesting Platform for Terns in Maryland was a Huge Success in 2022!

The partnership of Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Audubon Mid-Atlantic, and Maryland Coastal Bays Program innovative conservation project to preserve three of Maryland's state listed endangered colonial nesting waterbirds: the Common Tern, Royal Tern, and Black Skimmer, produced a highly successful Common Tern colony this summer. The platform was used for nesting by 155 pairs of Common Terns, an increase of 132 pairs over the initial year, and making it the largest breeding colony of this species in the Coastal Bays in 2022. Read more in [this recent article from TheBayNet!](#)

Tern. Photo: Kim Abplanalp



Waggoner's Gap Ownership Transfers to the Pennsylvania Game Commission

In late September, the Pennsylvania Game Commission approved the proposed transfer of National Audubon Society's 138-acre property in Landisburg, Pennsylvania.

Known as Waggoner's Gap, the site is situated within the Kittatinny Ridge just north of Carlisle and is known for its breathtaking views of the Cumberland Valley and for the vast numbers of Coopers and Red-Tailed hawks as well as Bald and Golden Eagles that pass through each fall. Since the 1950s, volunteers have conducted [annual migratory bird counts](#) that have contributed to our understanding of how climate change is impacting raptor migration patterns.

Under the terms of the transfer, Waggoner's Gap will remain accessible to the public and the Game Commission will maintain the site's annual raptor count. The Game Commission will also host public educational programming and will address recurring graffiti and vandalism on the property.

Audubon Mid-Atlantic's commitment to protecting habitat for birds along the Kittatinny Ridge will continue. Jeanne Ortiz will continue to manage DCNR's Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape coalition and we will be

expanding our healthy forest and carbon sequestration programs to Central Pennsylvania. At the same time, we are embarking on new Kittatinny Ridge-focused strategies that will create more stopover sites for migratory birds, using our recent work at Cove Mountain as the model.

Waggoner's Gap



Planning for the Future in the Mid-Atlantic

For the past year, Audubon Mid-Atlantic staff has been engaged in a planning process to think strategically about our vision, core approaches, and goals as we work collectively within the region. This has included reviewing data to identify threatened birds as well as interviewing and surveying stakeholders so we can align our work around our regional priorities of Coasts, the Delaware River Watershed, Forests, Climate and Renewable Energy, and Urban/Suburban habitats. This roadmap is in its final stages of production so keep an eye out for its release by the end of the year!

Great Blue Heron. Photo: Robert Hurt/APA



Call to Action on the Kittatinny Ridge

The fall edition of the Land Trust Alliance’s Saving Land magazine focuses on the “return to environment” work that Jeanne Ortiz has been leading on the Kittatinny Ridge. To learn more about the importance of this migratory corridor and our efforts to preserve this spectacular landscape, you can read the article here:

<https://landtrustalliance.org/resources/learn/explore/saving-land-fall-2022>



Kittatinny Ridge



Upcoming Programs and Events

Philly Birding Weekend

There is still time to [register today](#) for Audubon's Philly Birding Weekend, which will be held on October 7-9, 2022! Audubon Mid-Atlantic invites people from across the Philadelphia region to join us as we explore some of the city's iconic green spaces and look for birds on their fall migration. Each tour will be guided by bird experts. Planned excursions will include walks in local watersheds and parks, a paddle on the Strawberry Mansion Reservoir, Saturday night celebratory Tally Rally and so much more! We encourage to register for our many excursions and join us for the Tally Rally at the Discover Center (even if you haven't been on a walk). If you have any questions, please reach out to us at phillybirding@gmail.com.

Conservation Cafes

"Conservation Cafés" is an Audubon event series where like-minded people and subject experts come together for good food and good conversation about topics that affect birds and people. Our October 11th event focuses on the critical need to pass and uphold environmental legislation that can help birds and people. Jim Brown, Director of Policy for Audubon Mid-Atlantic, will join us for dinner and share his thoughts on Audubon's commitment to

advocate for policy to protect the natural resources that we all need.

Tickets cost \$40 per person, and space is very limited. To register and for more information, click [here](#).

A Panel Discussion on Pennsylvania's Environment and Voter Opinion

Please join us on October 13th for a panel discussion at the Discovery Center with co-hosts PennFuture and PennEnvironment to discuss how Pennsylvania's voters view important environmental issues of our time, and how the state's candidates for office, and elected leaders respond to that public opinion. The panel will include Pennsylvania environmental policy experts as well as nationally known non-partisan pollsters, political pundits, and Audubon Mid-Atlantic staff. Taking place at the one-month mark prior to Election Day, this is sure to be a lively discussion moderated by Stephen Caruso of Spotlight PA and Audubon Mid-Atlantic staff.

Panelists include:

Chris Borick - Nationally recognized pollster and Director of Public Opinion Institute at Muhlenberg College

Larry Ceisler - Founder and CEO of Ceisler Media and Issue Advocacy

David Masur - Executive Director of PennEnvironment

Ezra P. Thrush – Director of Public Affairs for PennFuture

Aneca Atkinson – Audubon Mid-Atlantic Delaware River Watershed Director

To register and for more information, click [here](#).

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 and committed conservationists. The afternoon begins with a screening of "The Falconer", a moving documentary that "...follows master falconer Rodney Stotts on his mission to build a bird sanctuary and provide access to nature for his stressed community". The film will be followed by an interview with Mr. Stotts as well as an opportunity for him to sign his autobiographical book, "Bird Brother".

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](#)

American goldfinch. Photo: Sharron Crocker

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