



Nature Heals

The phrase “natural climate solutions” plays a prominent role in Audubon’s new Flight Plan. But what does it actually mean? And why do Audubon and other environmental conservation organizations view this concept so favorably?

Put simply, “natural climate solutions” are conservation, restoration and land management efforts that increase carbon storage and decrease emissions. The concept is to use nature itself to help the world reach its greenhouse gas emissions goals and help places, people and animals withstand the impact of climate change now.

For example, in the mid-Atlantic region, our Healthy Forests work is providing foresters with techniques to manage biodiverse forests so that their ability to sequester carbon increases. Our Delaware River Watershed initiative is planting trees, restoring riparian buffers and helping to create new public green spaces in

neighborhoods prone to flooding. This work also reduces air temperatures and filters rainwater before it reaches local streams and rivers. Instead of investing in sea walls to block coastal storm surges in Maryland's coastal bays, our Coastal work seeks to restore thousands of acres salt marsh which will store carbon and act as a natural sponge to let water ebb and flow with less severity. We are also raising awareness of the benefits to these "green" investments with an eye toward directing more public investments to them.

There is mounting evidence that birds are returning to lands and waters where ecosystems have been restored using natural climate investments. The movie "Wings over Water" (story below) depicts what has happened in Great Plains states when farmers change their land management approaches. In Pennsylvania, warbler populations have increased at Cove Mountain where Audubon has created a healthier forest. In Maryland, Audubon's efforts to recreate sand island habitat (albeit on a floating raft...) led to a significant increase in nesting terns.

Audubon will continue to work alongside other environmental organizations to advance this promising answer to the global climate crisis. Thank you for your support as we use nature to help birds and our planet.

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

Blue Jay and Red-headed Woodpecker. Ella Clem/Audubon Photography Awards



Join us at the 2023 Audubon's Philadelphia Birding Weekend!

Audubon will host its 2nd annual Philly Birding Weekend on October 13 – 15, 2023. Please join us as we explore some of the city's iconic green spaces and look for birds on their fall migration. The event provides guided, unique experiences that connect people to natural, local spaces critical for supporting wildlife diversity. This year's excursions include walks in local watersheds and parks like FDR, Houston Meadow, and the Pennypack as well as a paddle on the Strawberry Mansion Reservoir, home of the Discovery Center. Over 130 species of birds have been seen at the reservoir and on this tour, we will use canoes to find out exactly what draws them to this special place. The Discovery Center will also host Saturday night's celebratory Tally Rally.

The purpose of Audubon's Philly Birding Weekend is to showcase the city as a critical habitat for birds, particularly during migration, and to share the joy of birds. This is also a fundraiser that supports our free year-round environmental programming in Philadelphia. More information and registration can be found at www.phillybirding.com

Check out [this article that was just included in the Philadelphia Inquirer](#) about the birding weekend!

Group of birders on a tour



Maryland Climate Plan Action Alert

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is developing a climate action plan to set Maryland's pathway to a renewable energy future. You have until October 14th to let MDE know what actions should be taken to make this climate plan strong for Maryland's birds and the habitats they use. Contributing your feedback to Maryland's Climate Pathway is an important step in achieving 100% clean energy, and will inform policy to protect bird habitat by implementing more robust efforts to apply for federal funding through the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. The Maryland Climate Pathway report is a critical step in MDE's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan that will be submitted to Governor Moore in December.

MDE has provided a [Google form to collect public comments](#).

Black skimmer on the water/ Peter Cavanagh/Audubon Photography Awards



Wings over Water Film Screenings

More than 200 people joined us for our September in-person screenings of "Wings Over Water," a visually stunning film that shares the epic journey of three migratory birds and their connections to wetlands and other crucial waterways as they traverse thousands of miles to reach their nesting and breeding grounds. The film also features Marshall Johnson, Audubon's Chief Conservation Officer. Following the screening, a panel of local Delaware River Watershed experts discussed the annual phenomenon of migration and the role of birds as indicators of environmental health. Panelists also spoke to the importance of water quality, riparian habitat, and pollinators in maintaining healthy landscapes within the Delaware River Watershed, and how Audubon Mid-Atlantic is making a difference for birds and people.

Wings Over Water Promotional Poster



Discovery Center turns 5!

On September 30, Audubon Mid-Atlantic celebrated the fifth anniversary of the opening of Philadelphia's Discovery Center. The ribbon cutting in 2018 was the culmination of years of hard work by Audubon, the Philadelphia Outward Bound School and leaders from Philadelphia's Strawberry Mansion neighborhood to save and sustain the Strawberry Mansion reservoir, which is a unique wildlife sanctuary and an important stopover location for birds migrating along the Atlantic Flyway. Last year, more than 9,000 people visited the property for programs that included weekend bird tours, Intro to Birding classes, environmental education programs, and field trips for schools and summer camps. The Discovery Center staff provide environmental science lessons at nine schools located in North Philadelphia. The Center is free and open 6 days a week; You can read more about us at discoveryphila.org.

The Discovery Center



Perkiomen Creek Planting Event

Last week, Audubon Mid-Atlantic hosted a community tree planting event along the Perkiomen Creek, just down the street from the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove. More than 60 volunteers, including 40 Villanova University students, planted 300 trees, live stakes and shrubs. This planting is part of an effort to restore the vulnerable shoreline of Perkiomen Creek that was decimated by Hurricane Ida in 2021. The trees will help prevent stream bank erosion, slow down the rate at which storm water enters the creek, and keep this important part of the Delaware River tributary cleaner. Keep an eye out for future volunteer planting events on our [website](#). Thank you to all who helped make this day a great success!

Audubon's Suzanne Biemiller and Amy Sobel plant live stakes on the Perkiomen

Check out Audubon Mid-Atlantic's Upcoming Events

“Rare Air” author event at The Discovery Center!

Join Audubon Mid-Atlantic and Sarah Kaizar on Saturday, November 4th from 1:00pm until 3:00pm for a presentation of *Rare Air*, the culmination of Kaizar’s dedication to illustrating endangered fauna, which features 66 endangered species. Books will be available for purchase at the event. [More information on our website here.](#)

DISCOVERY CENTER EVENTS

Visit our Centers, explore our trails, and join us for some winter 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



Audubon Mid-Atlantic

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

© 2023 National Audubon Society, Inc.

(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews)