



# Delaware Audubon

[www.delawareaudubon.org](http://www.delawareaudubon.org)

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## Annual Social to be Held on Wednesday, December 9

*Join us as we celebrate the victory of Newark Residents Against the Power Plant at our "Happy Heron Hours"*

Register now for Delaware Audubon's annual "Happy Heron Hours" to be held on Wednesday, December 9th, from 6 - 9 pm. The social will be held on the second floor of Timothy's Restaurant, at 100 Creek View Road in Newark.

Admission is \$30 per person, or \$50 for couples. Reservations are required, with a registration deadline of December 2nd. This will be a fun night out, and a great opportunity to meet and mingle with Audubon members, environmentalists, and nature lovers.

If you plan to attend, please reserve your spot using our web site:

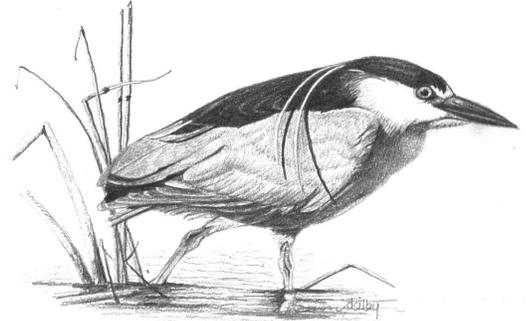
[www.delawareaudubon.org/social](http://www.delawareaudubon.org/social)

Admission will include assorted appetizer platters, a buffet dinner, and desserts. There will be a cash bar for drinks; tea and coffee will be served with desserts. Our annual silent auction and a 50/50 raffle will be held before and during the social. The silent auction always offers a variety of exciting items.

Delaware Audubon's annual Conservation Award will be presented to Newark Residents Against the Power Plant (NRAPP), which led a successful battle against a proposed power plant and data center on the University of Delaware's STAR campus.

The data center threatened to bring a massive 279 mw natural gas power plant to a campus and residential area of Newark. In 2014, a fight against the power plant began with a groundswell of grassroots support from local residents, along with university faculty, staff, and students. The university ultimately canceled the project. The outstanding leadership and grassroots organizing of NRAPP was a major contributing factor to the power plant's defeat.

The Delaware Audubon Conservation Award is presented annually to individuals who have made significant contributions to improving the environment in Delaware. ■



Black-crowned Night Heron illustration by Daniel S. Kilby

### *Keep cats indoors!*

Cats who live outdoors tend to have shorter lives, and suffer from parasites and disease.

Domestic cats are not native to Delaware. Cats are exceptional and prolific hunters of small mammals, birds, small reptiles, large amphibians, and large insects. Delaware's importance as a nesting and stop-over area for migratory birds (including endangered species) makes outdoor cats within our state's Important Bird Areas especially harmful to wildlife.

Scientific research shows that outdoor cats can have a significant, negative impact on bird populations.

The Delaware Audubon Society promotes the Cats Indoors program, created by the American Bird Conservancy, to encourage responsible pet ownership, and also advocates for habitat protection for Delaware's resident and migratory birds.

Learn more at:

[abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/](http://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/) ■

# From the President



I am delighted to see signs of the changing seasons, and fall migration getting underway. My local bluebirds have left, yet a much larger group has arrived. I expect to see the warblers soon, followed by the morning and evening flight of geese over my farm.

Delaware Audubon is also going through changes. I am pleased to serve as your new president, and Amy Roe has joined us as our conservation chair.

We are working to expand our strong advocacy efforts. We're revamping our "Audubon Adventures" education program, keeping in mind the impact of the new Common Core Standards on environmental education.

We also plan to increase our outings and events so we can collectively enjoy birds and their habitat. Future events may include talks on environmental issues of interest, hands-on land stewardship activities, "birding for beginners" field trips, and advocacy training.

We are firmly committed to continuing our advocacy for the protection of our Coastal Zone, birds, and their habitats. Delaware Audubon is working tirelessly to fight ongoing attempts to weaken the Coastal Zone Act. We're demanding a reduction in fish kills at the Delaware City Refinery and Salem Nuclear Power Plant, and we're holding DNREC accountable to the State's Land Protection Act.

Thanks to a recent grant award, we will soon hire two student interns to help develop and implement our climate change advocacy efforts. Groundbreaking science from National Audubon last year documents that global warming is the primary threat to birds, with 314 species of North American birds at risk. Global warming has already shifted the habitat range of many species, and some will be forced into areas that don't have the habitat they need. We must take action now.

We are also looking ahead to the winter, with our annual fund-raising Bird Seed Sale. This is an opportunity for you to stock up on bird seed to help your birds through the tough winter months – while supporting our educational programs.

Please check our website, [delawareaudubon.org](http://delawareaudubon.org), and our Facebook page, for information about our outings, advocacy work, and stewardship projects.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for Delaware Audubon, please contact me at [davidcarter@delawareaudubon.org](mailto:davidcarter@delawareaudubon.org) or call the office at 302-292-3970.

I hope you can get out and enjoy the birds as the fall migration gets underway, and I hope our paths cross in the field or at a Delaware Audubon event.

All the best,

David Carter, Delaware Audubon President ■

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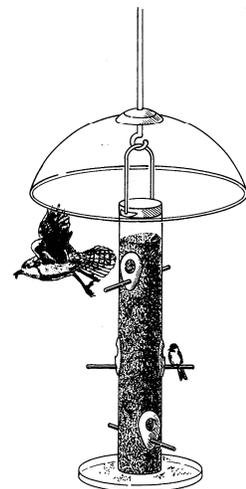
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Check in regularly for updates. Please "Like" us, and feel free to post comments and photos.

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## Delaware Audubon Reaches Legal Settlement with State for Land Preservation Act

Requires the development and adoption of standards and criteria for state-funded land protection

Delaware Audubon Society has reached a legal settlement with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and the Delaware Open Space Council (OSC) for legal action on the Land Protection Act.

On February 16, 2015, Audubon initiated a Writ of Mandamus in Delaware Superior Court to compel DNREC and OSC to take actions needed for them to comply with the Land Protection Act.

Enacted in 1990, the Land Protection Act established the Open Space Council to oversee the protection of State Resource Areas (SRA) according to a set of standards and criteria for land protection in Delaware. State Resource Area maps were to be updated to guide future land purchases using state Open Space funds.

Audubon took legal action in response to our concern over DNREC's continued disregard of the requirements under the Land Protection Act. Despite the clear statutory requirement for the State Resource Area maps to be updated every five years, the state has operated under an outdated 1990s plan that does not reflect the current land protection needs of our state. These needs involve clean air, clean water, freshwater wetland habitats, protection of forest habitats, and the leveraging of private landowner stewardship. Most importantly, we need to protect current and future strongholds for birds in the face of our changing climate.

"This settlement represents a significant step forward for the Delaware Land Protection Act by creating binding obligations on DNREC and the Open Space Council to generate the criteria and State Resource Areas mandated by the Act," said Kenneth Kristl, an Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic at Widener University. "As lead counsel for Delaware Audubon in the litigation that culminated in this important settlement, I was happy to facilitate the development of the process embodied in this settlement so that Delaware can move towards achieving the worthy land preservation goals the General Assembly envisioned at the time of the Act's passage."

Delaware Audubon President David Carter said, "We are pleased that DNREC and the Open Space Council have agreed to take the necessary actions to update Delaware's land protection program within the proposed timeline.

Delaware will be able to address our state's current needs to protect water quality, wetlands, forests, and air quality. Because of this settlement, the state will be able to leverage landowner stewardship through land protection incentives."

"The settlement provides a needed opportunity to protect our birds from the impacts of climate change, by allowing the targeted protection of key habitats known to be threatened," said Dr. Amy Roe, Delaware Audubon's conservation chair. "In 2014, National Audubon released its groundbreaking study on the serious threat climate change poses for birds, with 314 species threatened by global warming. Through analysis of long term data, it documents how birds are already being impacted and will be more seriously impacted in the future unless we take action now."

Key to the success of this effort is public involvement. Standards and criteria have been developed and have been shared with the public through workshops in all three counties. A public hearing will be announced by DNREC at least 21 days in advance of the hearing as required by the settlement. This settlement provides a critical opportunity for Audubon members and the public to get involved in the Open Space land protection process through public hearings. We encourage all of our members to attend these meetings and speak up for the protection of our open spaces and the birds that depend upon them. ■

### *Upcoming Lecture*

#### Learn about Audubon's Citizen Science programs

Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> • 7:00 pm  
Brandywine Hundred Library  
1300 Foulk Rd, Wilmington, DE 19803

In preparation for Brandywine's second annual Christmas Bird Count, hear David Carter, president of Delaware Audubon, speak on the importance of the bird count and Citizen Science.

Anyone can contribute data, helping scientists on topics ranging from global warming to water quality and conservation. Please join us, and learn how you can help scientists while having fun. ■



Delaware Audubon

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## Download the Audubon Bird Guide App for your smartphone

It's free and easy-to-use!

The Audubon Bird Guide is the must-have app for anyone interested in birds. This award-winning app instantly turns your mobile device into the most trusted field guide in North America.

- 821 in-depth species profiles
- More than 3,200 bird photos
- Quick bird IDs with filters for shape, region, and color
- Thousands of bird calls, differentiated by region and season
- Seasonal and migratory range maps
- Recent local bird sightings through eBird
- Sightings posted by Audubon NatureShare friends and followers

### What birds are in your area?

Traditional field guides can help you find birds based on habitat, but the Audubon Bird Guide finds them through real-time reports from thousands of people. Simply select your location in the "Find Birds with eBird" section. The most recent species observations in your area will be at your fingertips.

### How can I figure out what that bird is?

Under "Explore Birds," the Advanced Search option is the best way to identify a completely unknown bird. And it sure beats flipping through every page of a paper field guide. Select your location and month, then fill in whatever other details you have on size, shape, color, habitat, etc. The app will present you with a list of the most likely birds matching your description.

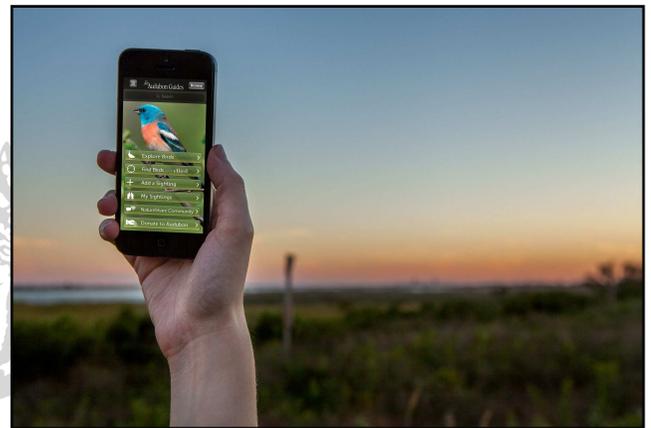


Photo: Camilla Cerea/Audubon

### What's that sound?

Bird songs and calls vary regionally and the Audubon Bird Guide provides recordings to show you the regional and individual variations of bird vocalizations. With thousands to listen to, you can become an expert in the nuanced bird calls all around you.

### Who else spotted that amazing bird?

Audubon's NatureShare feature allows you to share your wildlife observations with others straight from the Audubon Bird Guide. Select a location, upload a photo, and add your comments to share with your friends. Also browse their posts to enjoy the natural world from the comfort of your home, or to get ideas where to explore next.

So what are you waiting for? Download the Audubon Bird Guide and get birding!

To download the free Audubon Bird Guide app, go to:  
[www.audubon.org/apps](http://www.audubon.org/apps)

It's available on the Apple store, Google Play, and Amazon. ■