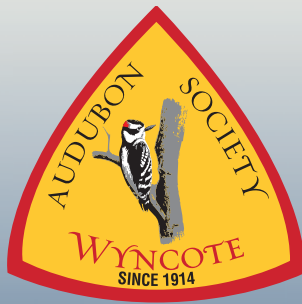




# Naturally

*The Newsletter of the Wyncote Audubon Society*

Wyncote Audubon Society  
1212 Edge Hill Road  
Abington, PA 19001  
[wyncoteaudubon.org](http://wyncoteaudubon.org)  
[wyncoteaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:wyncoteaudubonsociety@gmail.com)

The Wyncote Audubon Society was founded as the "Wyncote Bird Club" in April 1914. Wyncote Audubon continues a long tradition of programs, field trips, events and activities that promote the protection of birds and their habitats. The Wyncote Audubon Society is the local chapter of the National Audubon Society that serves members throughout Philadelphia and major portions of Montgomery County.

## Welcome New Philadelphia Members! The Wyncote Audubon Society Now Serves Members in Virtually All Neighborhoods Throughout the City!

A welcome to all National Audubon Society Philadelphia members formerly "assigned" to the Valley Forge Audubon Society. Audubon members in Center City, West Philadelphia, and South Philadelphia are now part of the Wyncote Audubon Society. You now join other Philadelphia members of Wyncote Audubon from Northeast, Northwest, and North Philadelphia. With this change the Wyncote Audubon Society is now the Audubon chapter that serves as the "Philadelphia" chapter. Wyncote Audubon also continues to serve National Audubon members in major portions of Montgomery County.

The National Audubon Society assigns its members to local Audubon chapters based on the zip codes in which they reside. These zip codes define the "chapter territory." All of the Philadelphia "zip codes" are now assigned to the Wyncote Audubon Society with the exception of two areas. Valley Forge Audubon Society will retain service to members in the Philadelphia zip codes 19142 and 19153. These are proximate to the Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. Much of the Heinz refuge is located in Delaware County, already part of Valley Forge Audubon's chapter territory.

Both Valley Forge Audubon Society and the Wyncote Audubon Society serve all National Audubon members in their respective chapter territories. If you are a member of the National Audubon Society in these territories, then you are "automatically" a member of the chapter to which your zip code is assigned. Note that members of the National Audubon Society can request that they be assigned to a different chapter by contacting the membership department of National Audubon. Please note that neither Valley Forge nor Wyncote maintains a separate, local, category of membership.

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## Keep in Touch With Wyncote Audubon!

Check our Website and Facebook Pages!

Sign Up to Receive our Monthly Wyncote Audubon "UPDATES"

[http: wyncoteaudubon.org](http://wyncoteaudubon.org)

## Wyncote Audubon Welcomes Its New Philadelphia Members!



These membership changes are the result of several factors. Last year both Valley Forge Audubon and Wyncote Audubon engaged in discussions about their respective chapter territories. These discussions were precipitated by two main factors. Valley Forge Audubon became responsible for serving National Audubon members in all of Chester County. This was a dramatic expansion of their chapter territory. In addition, the two National Audubon Centers in Pennsylvania, the Discovery Center and the John James Audubon Center, were both located in the Valley Forge Audubon Society's chapter territory. Valley Forge Audubon proposed that the members in major portions of Philadelphia be assigned to Wyncote Audubon Society.

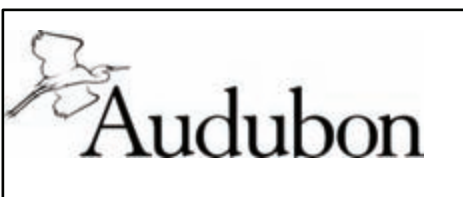
It would also shift the Discovery Center, one of the two National Audubon Centers, from Valley Forge's chapter territory to Wyncote Audubon's chapter territory. Both chapter boards agreed with the proposal. Earlier this year the National Audubon Society approved and authorized the change in zip code assignments. Wyncote Audubon welcomes all the former members of Valley Forge Audubon. You will receive special mailings of our annual newsletter and are invited to sign up for our digital Wyncote Audubon monthly newsletter, UPDATES, and our occasional ADVOCATE newsletter.

*The Philadelphia map reflects all of the zip codes in the city. Those zip codes in the yellow shaded areas of the city have been part of the Wyncote Audubon Society chapter territory for decades. The zip code areas that are shaded pink or blue have similarly been part of the Valley Forge Audubon Society for many decades as well. The Valley Forge Audubon Society retains areas that are shaded blue. National Audubon members in these two zip codes will continue to be assigned to Valley Forge. The National Audubon members in the areas that are shaded in pink have been transferred from the Valley Forge Audubon Society to the Wyncote Audubon Society. Both chapters will continue to serve National Audubon members in the suburban zip codes as these changes apply exclusively to Philadelphia.*

## “AUDUBON:” What’s in a Name?

There has been significant controversy over the course of this last year associated with “John James Audubon” and the use of the “Audubon” name by the National Audubon Society and local Audubon chapters. The controversy has garnered significant attention in public media outlets and internally within the Audubon network. Concerns were raised with regard to John James Audubon’s personal history that documented that he was a slave owner who bought and sold slaves and advocated racist positions in some of his writings. Other attributions to John James Audubon surfaced that seriously detracted from his heritage as the author of the “Birds of America.”

The National Audubon Society engaged in a considered review of the continued use of the “Audubon” name for their organization. Earlier this year they announced its Board’s controversial vote to retain the “Audubon” name. They invited individual Audubon chapters to make their own independent decisions with regard to the name. Virtually every urban chapter is undertaking a review. Many, if not most, urban chapters have made the decision to drop the “Audubon” name. This includes chapters that serve New York City, Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, and Buffalo to name a few. It is noteworthy that in each of these cases the chapter will continue as a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Most that decided to drop the “Audubon” name continue to a process to determine a new name for their chapter.

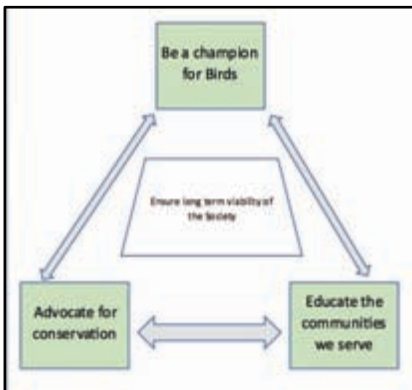


Other urban chapters are in the process of a review and Wyncote Audubon is no exception. The Wyncote Audubon Board has appointed a committee to study the “name issue” and is charged to make a recommendation to the full Board later in this fiscal year! Wyncote has reaffirmed its commitment to remain a chapter of the National Audubon Society regardless of any decision on the continued use of the “Audubon” name for the chapter.

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: Wyncote Audubon's New Strategic Plan

Over the course of the past fourteen months, the Wyncote Audubon Society has engaged in an in-depth strategic planning process. It has resulted in a framework to guide the work of our Board and Committees for the next three to five years. The planning process required the full engagement of our Board members in multiple meetings. We also had participation from representatives from many of our conservation partners in the region who provided important perspectives and input. Phil Witmer, past president of the DVOC and current vice president of Bird Town Pennsylvania, facilitated the planning process. Niles Shah, Wyncote Audubon vice president, provided the internal administrative support to keep the planning process moving forward. The planning process will continue in the coming fiscal year at the committee level. This work will be guided by the vision, principals and priorities developed over the course of this past year.

**OUR VISION** is to be a pre-eminent chapter of the National Audubon Society that will be a champion for birds by advocating for their conservation and through education and outreach to the diverse communities we serve.



**OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES** are to engage the community by communicating with our stakeholders, understanding communal needs and the cultivation of local leadership. We seek to be inclusive and an effective partner with other organizations with shared mission and goals.

**OUR PRIORITIES** are to be a champion for birds, and advocate for their conservation, and through the education of the communities we serve in a sustainable approach that ensures effective results.

**OUR STRATEGIES** will be used to enact our vision, principals and priorities through the work of our committees and the activities and programs that they promulgate. We will be **Champions for Birds** through our **Community Science** programs including the **Christmas Bird Count**, the **Great Backyard Bird Count**, **Climate Watch**, the **Militia Hill Hawk Watch**, and the third **Pennsylvania Bird Atlas Project**. We will **Advocate for Bird Conservation** at the municipal level through **Bird Town Pennsylvania**; at the state level through the **Pennsylvania Audubon Council**; and at the Federal level through the **National Audubon Society Policy Office** and other key conservation partners.

We will **Educate the Communities we Serve** through monthly programs, field trips, and bird walks. We will use **Bird Safe Philly**, **Bird Town** and **Audubon Adventures** as key pillars for education and outreach. We will continue our decades long commitment to provide **Griscom Scholarships** to educators and youth to the Hog Island Audubon Camp. **We will ensure the long-term viability of the Society** by maintaining good governance practices and continuing effective communication with our members and friends through social media, our newsletters, and other effective means. We will continue to be good stewards of our financial resources through responsible management of our endowment, disciplined management of our annual budget, and growing our revenue through our Annual Appeal, Birdathon and pursuit of grants.

### Wyncote Audubon Society Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs

**President/Advocacy/Bird Town**  
\*Leigh Altadonna

**Vice-President & Climate Watch**  
\*Niles Shah

**Secretary and Membership**  
\*Wendy Twining Clymer

**Treasurer and Finance**  
\*Constance Sanchez

**Audubon Adventures/Education**  
\*Katherine Falso/\*Olivia Cochran

**Bird Safe Philly**  
Stephanie Egger/Victoria Sindlinger

**Greater Philadelphia Birdathon**  
\*Margaret Rohde

**Christmas Bird Count**  
Kristy Morley

**Community Outreach**  
\*Sherry Krider

**Crosswicks**  
Jennifer Sherwood

**Finance**  
\*Kuenhi Tsai

**Field Trips**  
\*Troy Bynum

**Griscom Scholarships**  
Peter Burns

**Hospitality & Annual Luncheon**  
\*Marlene Morano

**Militia Hill Hawk Watch**  
\*Rich Conroy

**Pennsylvania Audubon Council**  
\*Leigh Altadonna

**Programs**  
\*Kevin Roth

**Website and Social Media**  
Marsha Pearson

**Philadelphia/Urban Programs**  
Robin Irizarry

**Youth Representative**  
\*Ava Cleary

**At Large Board Members**  
Sean Bradley/Jason Porter/  
\*Rebecca Reicherter

*\*Denotes Member of the Board of Directors*

## COMMUNITY SCIENCE PROGRAMS: A CORNERSTONE OF WYNCOTE AUDUBON'S WORK!

*The Wyncote Audubon Society and its members engage in a number of activities that are important "Community Science" programs. The programs are intended to collect data that becomes useful to Audubon scientists and others interested in research of population trends with specific bird species, shifts in the ranges in which specific birds are located, relative numbers and population trends of specific species, and much more. We welcome volunteers to join us in our community science work! Contact us at: [wyncoteaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:wyncoteaudubonsociety@gmail.com).*

### MILITIA HILL HAWK WATCH

The Militia Hill Hawk Watch has been in place at Fort Washington State Park every fall for thirty-eight years. It is among the string of hawk watch sites associated with the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA). Volunteers are scheduled each day from September 1st to November 15<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers search the skies and compile a record of the number of each raptor species that passes overhead. Wyncote Audubon has been proud to support the MHHW! **Rich Conroy**, coordinator of MHHW, serves on the Wyncote Board and Chairs the HMANA Board of Directors



### CLIMATE WATCH

Climate Watch is an Audubon Community Science Program that began in 2014. It was developed as a tool to serve to ground truth Audubon's predictions of the range shifts of bird species due to changes in climate. Wyncote Audubon was one of the first chapters that participated in the program. Our volunteers cover ten Climate Squares in Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties. There are twelve point counts conducted in each of the ten Climate Squares. All of the birds seen or heard within 200 meters of the point are counted and reported via eBird. We have Climate Watch Teams that are assigned Climate Squares from Green Lane to South Philly. Climate Watch is conducted two times each year. There is a Winter Cycle from January 15<sup>th</sup> to February 15<sup>th</sup> and a Spring Cycle scheduled from May 15<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup> each year. We have had over 30 volunteers who have helped us conduct point counts each cycle. **Nilesh Shaw** is Wyncote Audubon's Climate Watch Coordinator. Nilesh works with the captains of each Climate Square in advance of each Climate Watch cycle to confirm that coverage of each of the point counts are assigned and that the point count data is collected and sent to Audubon.

### AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (CBC)

The Wyncote Audubon Society conducts one of the oldest CBCs in the country! We cover selected areas within a 7.5-mile radius of the Griscom Observatory at the Briar Bush Nature Center. Wyncote traditionally schedules its count on the first Saturday of the CBC "window." **This year our CBC is scheduled for Saturday, December 16, 2023. Kristy Morely** serves as Wyncote's CBC Coordinator and provides details and coverage assignments to participants in advance of the count day.

### GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT (GBBC)

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Bird Studies Canada, and the National Audubon Society created the Great Backyard Bird Count over twenty-five years ago. It is one of the most broadly participated Community Science events that encourage participation by backyard birders and experts alike. This four day event takes place each February over the "Presidents' Weekend." The GBBC is promoted through Wyncote's "Audubon Adventures" Program with the schools and Audubon Adventures clubs in our participating schools. Wyncote's corps of Audubon Adventures volunteers provide lessons to students on winter bird identification. We teach about common feeder birds and lead schoolyard bird walks in preparation for the GBBC. We have conducted programs for our Audubon Adventures students with their families to encourage bird feeding and participation in the GBBC. We also schedule some group GBBC events at places like Briar Bush, Tacony Creek Park, and the Militia Hill Hawk Watch "bird feeding station."

### THE THIRD PENNSYLVANIA BIRD ATLAS

We are gearing up to participate in this third Pennsylvania Bird Atlas Project. This is a five-year project that will begin in January 2024 through 2029. Amber Wiewel, the PBA3 Coordinator, provided an overview of the project at our September Monthly Meeting. Her presentation is available on our Wyncote YouTube channel. Unlike previous atlas projects, PBA3 will provide opportunities for participation for backyard birders, eBird, and iNaturalist enthusiasts!



## BIRD SAFE PHILLY!

### Wyncote Audubon's Support for Bird Safe Philly Continues!



After the successful “launch” in the 2021 spring migration, **Bird Safe Philly** and “**Lights Out**” continues for third year. Active monitoring programs in Center City and Independence Historical Park are underway. Bird Safe Philly formed in response to the catastrophic bird mortality event that occurred on October 2, 2020. Wyncote Audubon was among the founding entities to establish **Bird Safe Philly**. Learn more at <https://www.birdsafephilly.org>

Wyncote Audubon continues to raise funds to support its work with Bird Safe Philly through the Greater Philadelphia Birdathon. Wyncote Audubon's members and friends have made it possible to provide financial support for various needs. We provide support for the monitoring corps. We are underwriting the cost of supplies required to “bag and tag” the dead birds collected each morning. These bird casualties are added to the freezers at the Academy of Natural Sciences. Paper bags are also supplied for injured birds and are transported to the **Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education Wildlife Rehabilitation**

**Clinic.** The staff and volunteers at the clinic are committed to treat the injured birds that survive collisions with buildings during migration. They have an extensive protocol to save as many birds as possible for subsequent release. A dedicated corps of “injured bird transport volunteers” is on alert each day to bring birds from center city to the Schuylkill Center.

Our Bird Safe Philly efforts have now included initiatives to have windows treated with Feather Friendly. This product places “dots” in a 2”x2” pattern on the outside surface of windows to reduce bird strikes. Wyncote Audubon was the primary source of funds to underwrite the **Sister Cities Café** Project on Logan Circle led by **Stephanie Egger**, our Bird Safe Philly Committee Co-Chair. Monitors frequently found multiple species of birds that were casualties of collisions with the windows. This one story “all glass” café was covered with Feather Friendly in late September. There have been virtually no bird casualties found since the installation was completed. We are now moving to encourage installation of collision mitigation at area nature centers. We have supported efforts at Briar Bush, Fox Chase Farm, and Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust. We also hope to create a **Bird Safe Schools** initiative and coordinate with our Audubon Adventures program.

## BIRD TOWN PENNSYLVANIA!

### Our Partnership for Municipal Education and Action

Wyncote Audubon has been a keen supporter of the Bird Town Pennsylvania program. We have been instrumental in the establishment of several of the Bird Towns within our chapter territory. These include Abington, Cheltenham, Hatfield, Lower Fredrick, Lower Gwynedd, Marlborough, Springfield, Upper Dublin, Upper Moreland, and Upper Salford Townships. The Boroughs of Jenkintown and Red Hill are also within Wyncote's chapter territory. There are more municipalities that are working on applications to become part of the Bird Town Pennsylvania program. Go to: [https:// www.birdtownpa.org](https://www.birdtownpa.org).

Wyncote Audubon has been instrumental in working with “our” Bird Towns as a means to foster our strategic initiatives in concert with the mission and interests of the Bird Towns. We helped to establish regular schedules of “Bird Town Bird Walks” in several Bird Towns. Our Community Outreach efforts are on display at various community events, native plant sales, festivals, workshops and other Bird Town events. We have supported efforts to save open space, secure grants, and fulfill other requests we field from Bird Towns. We are looking ahead to explore other ways Wyncote Audubon and the network of Bird Towns in our chapter territory can collaborate on projects of mutual interest and benefit for our members and friends who reside in our Bird Towns.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH!

### Helping to Educate the Communities We Serve!

Wyncote Audubon has an increasing presence at various events throughout the region. We work with our conservation partners and Pennsylvania Bird Towns to provide information and displays staffed by our volunteers. We have been especially focused on working with our sister organizations that conduct **native plant sales** like Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust in Huntingdon Valley. We also support the **Pennsylvania Bird Towns** in our region with special events that foster conservation outreach to the communities they are located. We have often supported Bird Towns in Abington, Cheltenham, Upper Dublin, and Upper Moreland. We are also a regular presence at **community festivals** and celebrations. We are “regulars” at the Upper Perkiomen Park Bird and Wildlife Festival each fall alongside the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society display. Cheltenham’s “Arts in the Park” held each year at High School Park in Elkins Park is also on our annual schedule to participate. Springfield Township (MONTCO) Community Day at Cisco Park is another of the regular events on our calendar. Wyncote Audubon looks at all of these events as part of our Community Outreach efforts. We display and offer materials and information on the benefits of native plants, protecting windows from bird collision and information about our chapter programs and activities. We typically recruit “new” members and often get individuals with bird friendly properties signed up for Audubon’s Bird Habitat Recognition Program. **Sherry Krider**, Wyncote Audubon’s Community Outreach Chair, coordinates all of our activities. We need and value volunteers who can dedicate a few hours at our events. Contact [wyncoteaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:wyncoteaudubonsociety@gmail.com) to learn more about how you can help!



## AUDUBON ADVENTURES AND OUR YOUTH INITIATIVES!

### Engaging Our Next Generation of Conservationists!



After a near three-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, Wyncote Audubon aims to rebuild and expand our connections to Audubon Adventures students, their teachers, schools and families. We use the National Audubon Society’s Audubon Adventures program as the backbone of this effort to reach out to our next generation of bird and conservation enthusiasts. Wyncote Audubon provides the materials, lesson and resources for our Audubon Adventures clubs and schools at no cost. One of the hallmarks of Wyncote Audubon’s efforts has been our Audubon Adventures corps of volunteers. They meet with the afterschool clubs to introduce them to our common winter birds. Volunteers use resources, like the Cornell guide to “feeder birds” and the live “feeder cams” to introduce the students to birds they may encounter in the schoolyard and at home. We get the children outdoors with binoculars for schoolyard bird walks. We also

introduce the students to bird feeding with help from our friends at Wild Birds Unlimited. The program goal is to build our birding skills to get ready for the Great Backyard Bird Count! Program topics will include the basics of bird identification, an introduction to binoculars, how to attract birds, and more!

A goal this year will be to work with our Bird Safe Philly Committee and look to establish a Bird Safe Schools program. It will be devoted to the concerns about bird collisions with glass and steps to prevent bird deaths by addressing the windows at home and school. We need volunteers who will be trained and scheduled as part of a team to work with our schools and students. Volunteers do not need to be birding experts – we need folks enthusiastic about helping young people connect with nature! Contact [wyncoteaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:wyncoteaudubonsociety@gmail.com) to learn more about our Audubon Adventures program and how you can help! **Katherine Falso** and **Olivia Cochran** are the chairs of the Wyncote Audubon Education Committee.



## WYNCOTE AUDUBON's 2023 ANNUAL LUNCHEON:

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**

**Check in: 1:00 PM, Lunch served 1:30 PM, 2:30 PM Program and Award Presentations!**

**North Hills Country Club, 99 Station Avenue, North Hills, PA 19038**

*The Wyncote Audubon Society Annual Luncheon is a wonderful opportunity for members and friends to come together in a social setting, enjoy an outstanding program and celebrate the work of individuals who have made meaningful contributions to conservation. We look forward to returning to the large banquet hall at the North Hills Country Club for this annual event. This will be an opportunity for our members and friends to gather and celebrate our work and accomplishments. JOIN US!*

### Keynote Program

#### Caribbean Bird Conservation: Successes and Challenges!



Dr. Joseph M. Wunderle will bring his experience from decades of his ornithological research across the Caribbean in his keynote presentation. His talk will be enhanced by his decades of leadership with BirdsCaribbean. Birds Caribbean is committed to conserving birds and their habitats in the insular Caribbean including Bermuda, the Bahamas and all islands within the Caribbean basin. While the islands of the Caribbean are home to numerous endemic species, they also provide critical habitat for many of the migrant songbirds, shorebirds and other species that winter or stopover on the many islands throughout the Caribbean. Dr. Wunderle has conducted extensive research on the wintering grounds of the Kirtland's Warbler and has the impact of hurricanes on birds. An underlying theme of his research is disturbance ecology, an understanding of which has facilitated his efforts to identify conservation prescriptions for bird populations threatened by disturbance from hurricanes, droughts, agriculture, and selective logging. **Dr. Wunderle's** work and leadership has supported **BirdsCaribbean** and their mission to raise awareness, promote sound science, and empower local partners to build a region where people appreciate, conserve and benefit from thriving bird populations and ecosystems. We will learn much from Dr. Wunderle about the conservation challenges for birds in the Caribbean!

#### John Dornan Conservation Award:

**Dr. Joseph M. Wunderle** will be honored with the presentation of the John Dornan Conservation Award. This award recognizes individuals or organizations that have made a major contribution to conservation. **Dr. John Kricher**, a former recipient of the John Dornan Conservation Award, will make the presentation of this year's award to Dr. Wunderle. It is noteworthy that Dr. Kricher and Dr. Wunderle have known each other since their teen years. Both were Glenside residents and their early interests in birds brought them to the Wyncote Bird Club where they sparked each other's interests. Both went on to receive advanced degrees and distinguished careers in the fields of ecology and ornithology. Both acknowledge the people and support from their earliest associations with the Wyncote Bird Club

### Make Your Reservation NOW!!

**@wyncoteaudubon.org**

**Registration: \$45.00 per person**

**For additional information contact**

**Marlene Morano at 215-840-2352 or via email: [ikemorano@gmail.com](mailto:ikemorano@gmail.com)**



## Wyncote Audubon Society

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Fall Newsletter

November 2023

# Get Connected With Wyncote Audubon!

- Visit our website at [wyncoteaudubon.org](http://wyncoteaudubon.org) to learn more about our work, our schedule of programs, bird walks, and other events.
- Provide your email to receive our digital communications that include the monthly edition of the **UPDATES** and other special communications. Know that our email contact list is maintained exclusively for Wyncote Audubon purposes and is not shared with other organizations. Help us save the cost of printing and postage!
- Follow us on Facebook if you are a social media user to see posts of our activities.
- Become involved with our many activities:
  - Support **Bird Safe Philly** and check on ways to volunteer. Go to [birdsafephilly.org](http://birdsafephilly.org).
  - Connect with your municipality through **Bird Town Pennsylvania!** See [birdtownpa.org](http://birdtownpa.org).
  - Volunteer with our **Audubon Adventures** and **Community Outreach** programs.
- Participate in our monthly programs in person at the Upper Dublin Public Library or via zoom!
- Become a **Wyncote Audubon ADVOCATE** and help to support initiatives to protect birds at the local, state, and Federal levels.

## Help Wyncote Audubon to be a Champion for Birds!