

# BIRD TOWN FLYER



Audubon PENNSYLVANIA

Volume 3, Issue 1

Healthier Habitats in 2015

Dec/Jan 2015

## Bird Town Summit



On 12-13-14, Audubon held its fourth annual Bird Town Summit where the work of our committees is celebrated and new initiatives are introduced and discussed (see article below for more details on one). This year's summit also included the Bird on a Wire Awards (see sidebar for list of winners).

We were treated to a presentation by Jim Bray of Lower Makefield Township on their

Native Plant Ordinance. Leigh Altadonna talked about local Audubon chapters and how they can help Bird Town, especially in working with schools and youth. John Rogers talked about the economic benefits of conservation design and more on future trainings. We also touched on Audubon's *Bird Friendly Communities* initiative. A more detailed summary is available upon request.

Photos of Doylestown's Bird Town sign and Leigh Altadonna (right) provided by Kreg Ulery, Bird Town Salisbury.



## Bird on a Wire Awardees

Kestrel Award (Best Performing Bird Town):  
**Doylestown Township (Bucks)**

Most Healthy Yard Pledges  
**Upper Dublin (Montgomery) and Radnor tie (Delaware)**

Green Corridor  
**Schuylkill (Chester)**

Most people to a workshop  
**Springfield (Bucks County)**

Best School Project  
**Upper Perkiomen High School**—52 students planted trees at Green Lane Park (Montgomery)

Heart of the community  
**Radnor Memorial Library (Delaware)**



Bird (House Finch) on wire, by H.B. Eskin

## Bird Towns—Where Canopy will be King!



Fast forward twenty years and imagine a contiguous corridor of trees that allow for the safe travel of birds and other wildlife through suburban tracts and the Bird Towns of Pennsylvania. While we'll never return to "old growth" status, the state's canopy coverage remains stable at 59% (according to Prof. James Finely, *PSU News*, 2013).

If each township would make efforts to increase that by 10% in the next decade, the ecological and cultural benefits of native woodland tracts would be experienced in reduced stormwater costs, increased bird diversity, and a better quality of life for people. To

that end, we hope to coordinate a tree-giveaway in Bird Towns this spring. Our aim is to work with the game commission and nurseries in procuring native saplings to provide to residents in an effort to increase bird habitat. **Stay tuned!**

*“They are quiet, unassuming visitors, modest in manner and in dress; but how we should miss them from the winter landscape!” From Birds by Neltje Blanchan, published in 1917, on Juncos*



Audubon At Home  
John James Audubon Center  
at Mill Grove  
1201 Pawlings Rd.  
Audubon PA 19403

## AUDUBON RADIO Seeking Sponsors

A local radio station in the southeast region has offered us a timeslot for “The Audubon Nature Report” - a radio show about birds, backyards, and conservation. We are looking for sponsors! Each sponsor will receive ample radio time and web presence throughout the month(s).

If you have a business in **Bucks or Montgomery County** (or know of one) and are interested, please email Steve ASAP for more information.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS—2015

(clickable links can be found below newsletter)

Jan. 10, Saturday 9am –2pm First Annual Christmas Bird Count for Kids—Muhlenberg College, Allentown. Contact [Vicepresident@LVAudubon.org](mailto:Vicepresident@LVAudubon.org) for more info

Jan. 26, Thursday 6-7pm The Great Backyard Bird Count presentation, Newtown (Bucks) Bird Town. Newtown Muni Bldg. Pre-registration required: [www.newtownfun.com](http://www.newtownfun.com)

Jan. 31, Saturday— 10 am—The Great Backyard Bird Count presentation, Radnor Bird Town - Radnor Memorial Library, see [www.radnorbirdtown.org](http://www.radnorbirdtown.org) for more info.

February 2nd, Tuesday—7pm—The Backyard Conservation Design Training Certification program w/John Rogers, 10 week course. More info, contact [jrogers@keystoneconservation.com](mailto:jrogers@keystoneconservation.com)

February 13-16—The Great Backyard Bird Count—see below for info!

February 14, Saturday—1-4pm Open bird count with Bucks County Audubon [www.bcas.org](http://www.bcas.org)

March 7th, Saturday—Sapsucker Festival, John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove

March 12, Thurs—7:30 pm—Upper Dublin Bird Town Municipal bldg. See Feb for details

March 15, Thursday—Del Val College, Doylestown—The Land Ethics Symposium. See [www.bhwp.org](http://www.bhwp.org) for more info and registration.

### Upcoming

April 25, Saturday—9am—3pm Lancaster Native Plant and Wildlife Festival, Manheim Twp

April—May - The Five B's (Birds, Bees, Butterflies, Bats, Bugs—series of programs and lectures, Radnor Bird Town.) Details soon in future newsletter and [radnorbirdtown.org](http://radnorbirdtown.org)

June 3-6—Millersville Native Plant Conference [www.millersvillennativeplants.org](http://www.millersvillennativeplants.org)

Ongoing—Birdseed Shed at Honey Hollow Env. Ed Center, Bucks County Audubon BCAS.org



Will you see a Red-breasted Nuthatch this year? (photo Howard B. Eskin)

## The Great Backyard Bird Count!

Get ready! The GBBC is **Feb 13-16** and asks that 15 minutes on each of those four days is spent counting birds in your yard (or local park) You'll be asked to create a free GBBC/eBird account to log your sightings but beyond that, it's just as fun and free and it always has been. Get involved! Help make PA #1.

Great Backyard Bird Count  
[Www.birdcount.org](http://Www.birdcount.org)

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