

Peckham, Valerie

Mon, Jul 19, 4:48 PM

to Valerie, Suzanne, me, Connie

Dear Bird Town Leaders,

On behalf of Audubon, we would like to thank you for the valuable work that you and so many of your fellow volunteers have performed on behalf of the Bird Town Program over the past eleven years. The tabling events, community educational trainings, and demonstration pollinator gardens have inspired tremendous enthusiasm and local government support for improving bird habitat through increased use of native plants within targeted municipalities.

While we recognize the importance of local action and community engagement, some things have changed that mean Audubon Mid-Atlantic will no longer be able to provide staff time and resources to support the Bird Town Program.

The reasons for this decision are two-fold:

- National Audubon is working to catalyze individual and community action through its Plants for Birds and Bird-Friendly Buildings programs. As such, National Audubon funds once provided to the state office to support Bird Town are no longer available and have not been replaced with local dollars.
- The policy work managed by Audubon Mid-Atlantic staff is now shifting to state-level priorities where the impact of our work will be felt statewide and to the local policy priorities brought to our attention by chapters, especially those related to renewable energy.

We know that you may be disappointed by this change. Please know that it in no way reflects the sincere gratitude we have for all of you and the work that you have done on behalf of birds.

We recently communicated this decision to the Bird Town Working Group and believe that their energy and leadership will provide a solid foundation for the future. Moving forward, the Working Group will be managing the Program, and will be contacting you soon regarding next steps and plans to hold a virtual meeting in August.

If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Shiver at hhshiver2016@gmail.com.

Many thanks again for all of your work on behalf of the birds we all love.

Best,
Suzanne and Valerie

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