

Bird Town Pennsylvania

Creating Livable
Communities
Through the Lives
of Birds



BIRD TOWN
PENNSYLVANIA[®]



Mission

Bird Town Pennsylvania works in partnership with local municipalities and like-minded organizations to promote community-based conservation actions to create a healthier, more sustainable environment for birds, wildlife and people.



Bird Town Pennsylvania has been actively engaging municipalities in the state for more than 14 years with 72 programs across 13 counties.

They are the premier program under the **Pennsylvania Audubon Council** and partner with various conservation groups, including **WeConservePA, Audubon Chapters, and the Bird City Network.**

Why focus on Birds?

- **Birds keep our ecosystems running smoothly**
 - Birds eat 400-500 tons of insects per year
 - Birds like crows and vultures scavenge carcasses reducing diseases such as rabies, distemper and plague
 - Birds disperse seeds and provide pollination services
 - Birds like hawks and owls help keep mice and rat populations in check
- **Birds bring us joy and beauty!**
- **Birds help us know if the environment is healthy**
 - Birds are sensitive to toxins and pollutants and can serve as an early warning system that something is wrong in the environment.
- **Birds are everywhere**
 - 45 million birdwatchers in US, spending \$41 Billion
- **Birds need our help!**
 - Breeding bird surveys show population declines ranging from 30 to 77 percent since 1970 — and the numbers are still falling!



Major Threats to Bird Populations

- **Loss of Habitat**
 - > 40 million acres of lawns in US with 2 million in PA
- **Cats** (feral and outdoor)
 - > 2.4 billion birds killed per year
- **Window Collisions**
 - > 1 billion birds die per year
- **Pesticides**
 - >1 billion pounds applied in US
- **Climate Change**
 - > Migration out of sync with food sources
- **Invasive Species**
 - > replace native plantings needed for food, shelter and nesting
- **Plastics**
 - > 4,900 million metric tons in our environment worldwide;
400 years to degrade; 91% not recycled



**Bird Town
Pennsylvania
Addresses
these Issues
through**

Engagement

Education

Encouragement

Support

Inspiration

Promoting
Awareness

Examples of Bird Town chapter initiatives



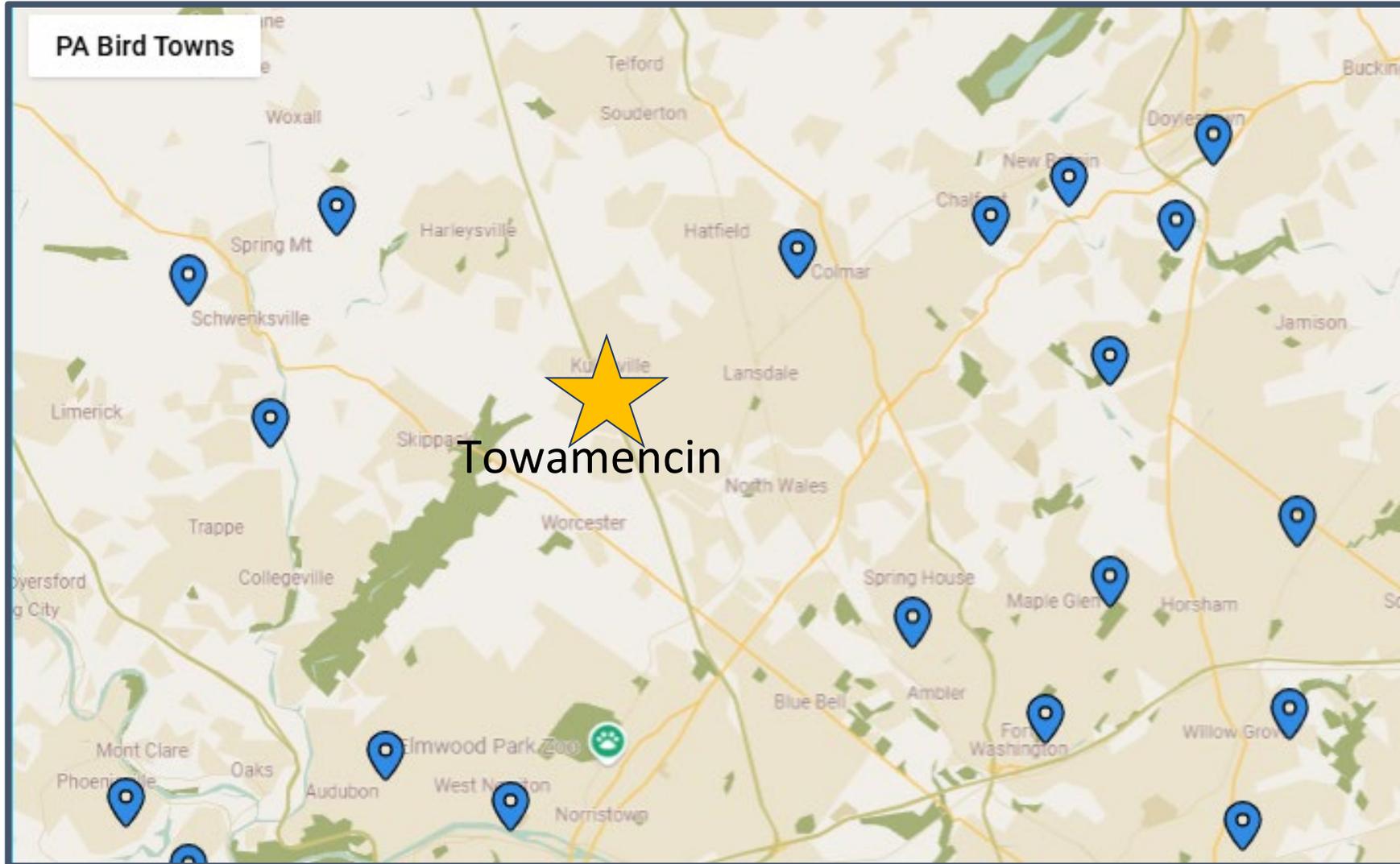
- holding native plant pop-up gardens, sales and swaps
- installing demonstration native plant, pollinator and rain gardens
- developing proclamations, resolutions and ordinances to address invasives, native plants, pesticides, clean water, etc. to support healthier ecosystems
- supporting and running citizen science programs
- educating about invasive plants and running workshops for their removal
- reducing bird window strikes and pesticide use
- planting trees and shrubs to create green corridors and reduce runoff and build up riparian buffer zones
- working with schools to engage and educate about these issues
- educating about storm water management with rain barrel workshops and giveaways

Bird Town Pennsylvania provides for our municipality:

- a state-wide structured program with congruous goals.
- concrete resources and achievable actions.
- a framework for community networking with other Bird Towns and Conservation Partners that includes avenues of communication, events, volunteer opportunities, community science projects and more.
- training and workshops for our Bird Town leaders and
- more opportunities and success in obtaining funding.



Local Bird Towns



- Hatfield
- Lower Gwynedd
- Upper Dublin
- Upper Salford
- Perkiomen
- Lower Frederick
- Chalfont
- Horsham
- Doylestown

Benefits of Bird Town for Towamencin

- Demonstrate our township's commitment to environmental conservation
- Provide additional opportunities for community engagement
- Increase environmental education within the community
- Support birding activities within our parks, such as bird walks

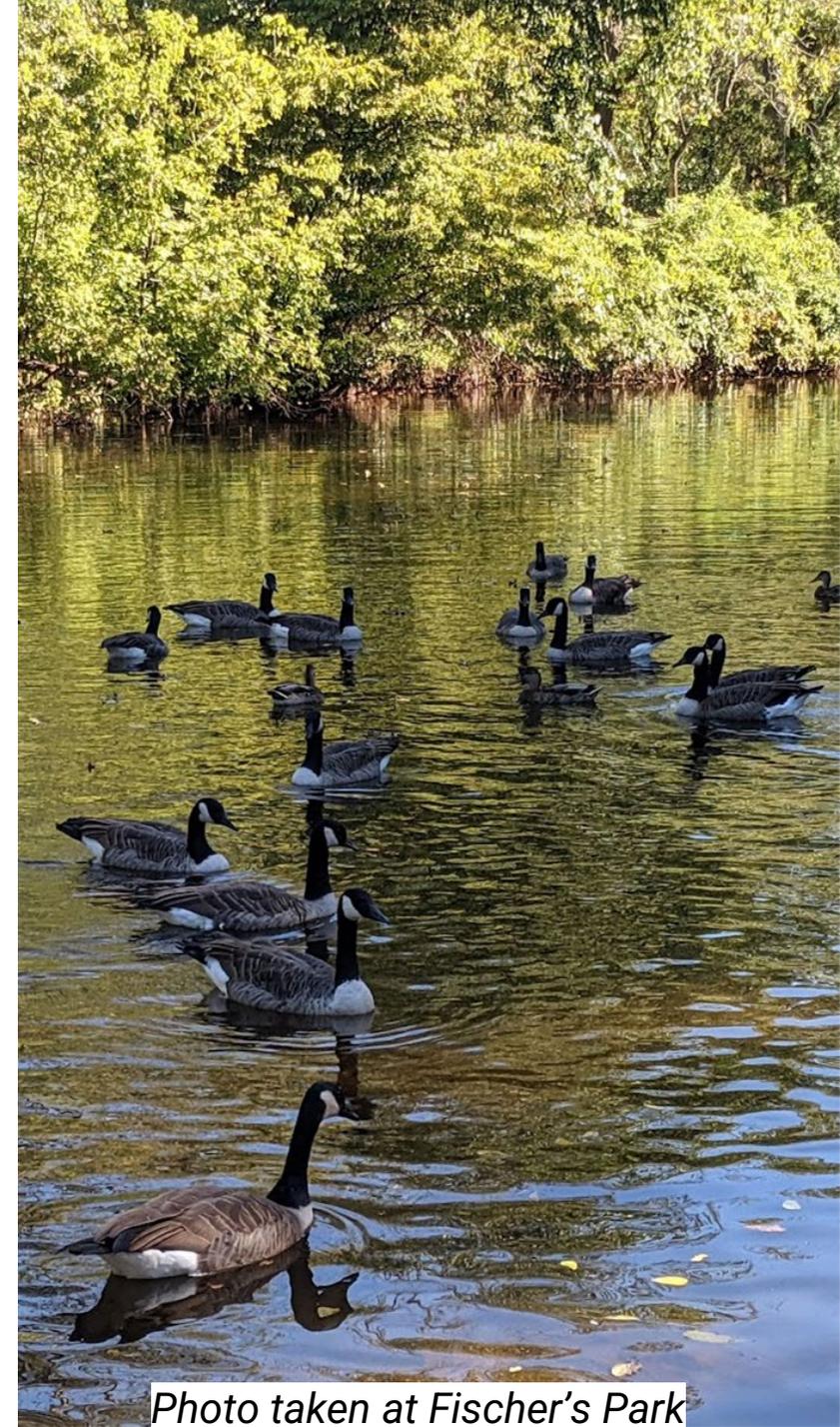


Photo taken at Fischer's Park

Birding in Fischer's Park



- Fischer's Park, at 77 acres, is the largest park in Towamencin Township
 - Its diverse habitat (woods, meadows, and creek) attracts numerous bird species
 - Per eBird, 147 species reported
 - Three miles of maintained trails, available parking, and restroom facilities make it a repeated destination for the Valley Forge Audubon Society and other bird lovers



Valley Forge Audubon Society at Fischer's Park		
Date	Participants	Duration
*20 APR 24	19	2:00
*28 SEP 24	11	2:25
*30 SEP 23	15	2:30
*15 JUL 23	27	1:52
17 NOV 22	9	1:30
*10 SEP 22	35	2:51
*16 JUL 22	25	2:20
14 NOV 21	22	2:05
06 OCT 21	10	2:00

* = led by Towamencin residents Andrew & Eddie Dolan



Bird Town Municipal Application Process

COMPLETE

- Set a meeting to review the process and the Bird Town Municipal Application Toolkit
- Form a township Bird Town Committee, organized under the EAC
- Prepare an application
- Bird Town initiatives included in 2025 EAC budget

BOARD ACTION REQUIRED



- Pass a Municipal Resolution to support Bird Town

PLANNED / IN PROGRESS

- Pay a one-time \$100 application fee (already accounted for in EAC budget)
- Submit Final Application for review by Bird Town PA

Four-Tiered Program Certification Level Requirements

- **Green:** Entry Level Only
- **Bronze:** Complete goals in 3 of the 5 strategies and achieve 6-15 points
- **Silver :** Complete goals in 4 of the 5 strategies and achieve 16-24 points
- **Gold:** Complete goals in all 5 strategies and achieve 25 or more points



Bird Town's Five Strategy Areas

Strategy area	Examples of goals to complete
Municipal actions	Habitat protection, Encouraging native plantings, Explore bird boxes and bird viewing areas in local parks
School district / school related	Partnership with NPSD
Community & individual engagement	Towamencin Day table, Invasive species removals, Community workshops, Stream cleanups
Organization, collaboration & partnerships	Bird walks with the Audubon Society (upcoming on June 14th), Partnerships with other Bird Towns, Working with scouts
Advocacy	Towamencin newsletter and e-news



**The EAC recommends
the Board of Supervisors
pass a resolution in
support of Towamencin
Township being
recognized as
a Bird Town.**

Thank You

EAC Bird Town Subcommittee:

Andrew Dolan

Bruce Bailey

Donna Hegge

Kelly Bonsignore

Vanessa Gaynor