

The Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife's Landowner Incentive Program and the Delaware chapter of The Nature Conservancy joined efforts for largest private reforestation project in Delaware's history.

Delaware Wildlife Action Plan

From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

Delaware's wildlife action plan identifies over 450 species of greatest conservation need - many of them rare, some declining, others still common - and focuses on protecting the forests, streams, meadows, offshore waters, and wetlands that sustain them. The plan prescribes on-the-ground management actions for both public and private lands, strategies for enhancing partnerships and increasing public awareness, and steps to enhance the state's internal capacity to coordinate implementation.

Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife

Restoring Forest on Ponders Tract

The Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife's Landowner Incentive Program and the Delaware Chapter of The Nature Conservancy joined efforts for one of the largest private reforestation projects in Delaware's history. Restoration efforts on The Nature Conservancy's Ponders Tract were concentrated near wetlands and buffer areas, improving the surrounding watershed and habitat for aquatic life.

Approximately 30 acres of pine trees were cleared in 8 different locations and replanted in 36 habitat island sites with a diverse stand of native hardwood seedlings and young trees. Volunteers and The Nature Conservancy land stewards spent 384.5 hours planting 1,368 trees and shrubs. Priority wildlife already benefitting from these efforts include ovenbirds, black-and-white warblers, red-tailed hawks, bald eagles, slender marsh pink, and southern leopard frog. These proactive efforts will conserve these wildlife and vital natural areas for future generations.



Volunteers help restore Ponders Tract/Steven Billups

Proactive Efforts that Benefit Wildlife and People

Creating Delaware's First Birding Trail

Delaware's wildlife action plan emphasizes increasing public awareness about the importance of the state's wealth of wildlife and its efforts to conserve them. Working together, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Delaware Audubon, Delmarva Ornithological Society, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have created the first-ever Delaware Birding Trail. This effort will educate and encourage birdwatchers to enjoy the rich bird and habitat diversity Delaware offers. With 27 birding spots featured throughout the state, birdwatchers can experience the world renowned shorebird migration in spring and fall, the hawk migration and snow goose spectacle in fall and winter, as well as the colorful songbird migration in spring and summer. The Delaware Birding Trail will help conserve the wildlife and natural places that bring peace and relaxation to our busy lives.

Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas

Creating Wetland Habitat with Private Landowner

Increased public and private partnerships are a key component of Delaware's wildlife action plan. Margaret Walters, a private landowner, has enrolled her farm in Delaware's Landowner Incentive Program because she believes "it's better for wildlife than agriculture." Restoration efforts include the creation of several shallow wetlands and planting grasses around them to attract grassland and ground-nesting birds. These new wetlands provide important habitat for several species of greatest conservation need including red-shouldered hawks, glossy ibis, spotted sandpipers, and Cope's gray

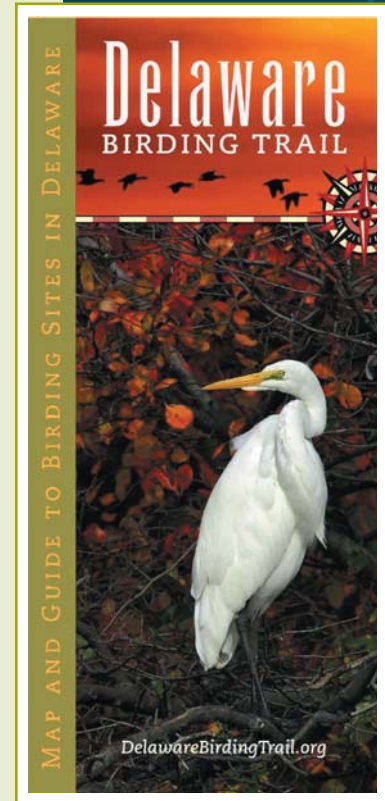
treefrogs. This proactive conservation by a private landowner will help conserve wildlife and the places they live before they become more rare and more costly to protect.

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

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Delaware Birding Trail/Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control



Wetlands created on private land/
Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife