

# INSPIRING YOUNG BIRDERS IN BALTIMORE CITY



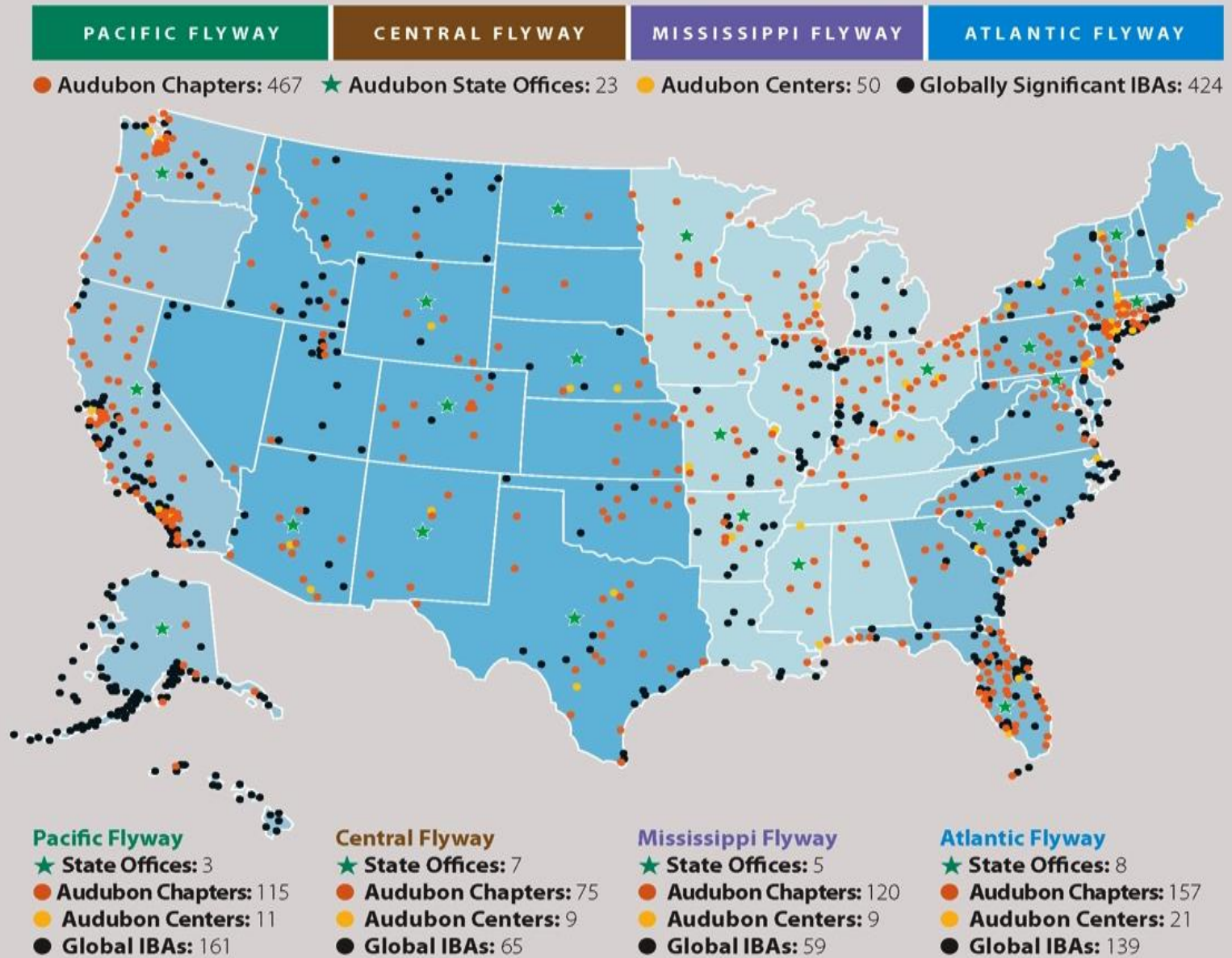
Erin Reed

Education Manager · Patterson Park Audubon Center

[ereed@audubon.org](mailto:ereed@audubon.org)

*Young voices are the best ones to lead and inspire this movement.  
A school-based vs. service learning approach.*

*speaker notes in italics*



*Using the breadth of the Audubon network to achieve bird conservation at scale.*



PATTERSON PARK **Audubon**  
CENTER



- *40+ Audubon Centers across US – 2 in Maryland*
- *Patterson Park Audubon Center, Patterson Park, Baltimore, Maryland*
- *Elementary programs, PreK-3, high school program*
- *Public programs – bird walks, tiny tots, native gardens – entirely volunteer maintained*



PATTERSON PARK **Audubon**  
CENTER



*Audubon Watershed Experience (AWE) program, funded by Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT)*

- *Maryland Environmental Literacy graduation requirement*
- *Partnership between Patterson Park Audubon Center and individual high school science teachers (biology, environmental science)*
- *Multi-part experience: classroom introduction to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, field trip to North Point State Park, stewardship project in their school community*
- *Audubon's goal to reach a diverse audience, connect young people to nature in their community, introduce young people to birding, provide resources for local environmental stewardship*

PATTERSON PARK **Audubon**  
CENTER



# Do you participate in outdoor activities in your free time?

	Yes	No	Not Sure
Pre-Survey	68.2%	25.8%	6.0%
Post-Survey	69.9%	26.7%	4.3%
Change	+0.7%	+0.9%	-1.7%

# Do you enjoy watching birds?

	Yes	No	Never Experienced
Pre-Survey	46.5%	40.5%	13.0%
Post-Survey	51.0%	40.4%	8.6%
Change	+4.5%	+0.1%	-4.4%

*~800 student participants between 2012-2016*



# My everyday actions affect the Chesapeake Bay.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Pre-Survey	17.12%	29.61%	33.96%	14.51%	5.25%
Post-Survey	31.77%	32.76%	24.65%	8.59%	2.24%
Change	14.65%	3.15%	-9.31%	-5.92%	-3.01%

*~800 student participants between 2012-2016*

PATTERSON PARK  Audubon  
CENTER



*Start "birding" with toilet paper roll binoculars in Kindergarten*

PATTERSON PARK **Audubon**  
CENTER



*Learn to use real binoculars in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.*

*In Winter – create their own class field guide where each student is responsible for researching one bird species common to Patterson Park, practice using binoculars by playing Bird on Your Back game*

*In Spring – use binoculars outside to conduct a bird survey of Patterson Park, teachers use their data to submit an eBird checklist for the class as part of an extension lesson*

  
PATTERSON PARK **Audubon**  
CENTER



## *Bird Explorers Service Learning*

*Beginning in the middle grades, City Schools students earn "service learning hours" by engaging in projects and activities that combine meaningful service to the community with curriculum-based learning. In Maryland, every student must participate in 75 hours of service learning in order to graduate from high school.*

*Service learning is different from working as a volunteer or participating in a community service project: It combines service to the community with academic learning, and shows students how what they're learning in school connects to and is valued in the "real world."*

- *Partner with Living Classrooms Foundation*
- *Schedule on no school days*
- *Start at 9:00 AM, free breakfast and lunch*
- *Led by youth expert!*
- *Social media*



*Tips:*

- *Do not fear technology*
- *Celebrate common species*
- *Have food*
- *For Kids, By Kids*

**Corners Limited**  
is the proud sponsor of the  
**2018 ASAG Workshops**



Avian Scientific Advisory Group