



PENNSYLVANIA AUDUBON COUNCIL

Directions for Chapters to Review and Prioritize Conservation Issues of Concern

INTRODUCTION:

This package is intended as a tool for our Pennsylvania Audubon Chapters to prioritize the conservation issues of greatest concern. We need the perspective of each of the twenty-one Pennsylvania Audubon chapters to determine which issues are of greatest common concern to our chapters. The results will be used to guide the education and advocacy agenda of our Pennsylvania Audubon Council as part of our collective mission to protect birds and other wildlife. This effort is the result of several Council meetings that have taken place during 2021.

- Our March Council Meeting featured a panel of Council leaders from Colorado, New York and Ohio. The panel also included National Audubon Board Members from New York and Ohio. This meeting profiled the influence and effectiveness that Audubon chapters, working through their respective state Audubon Councils, can collectively exercise to promote and influence conservation and environmental issues.
- The June Council Meeting provided an opportunity for the thirty plus chapter representatives to generate a list of conservation issues of greatest concern to our chapters. Six small group breakout rooms, where contributions from every participant were welcomed, facilitated the brainstorming session. The list generated for that meeting was circulated to all chapters for review and the opportunity to add issues to the list.
- The September Council Meeting, made challenging by the remnants of Hurricane Ida sweeping Pennsylvania during our meeting, explored the best options for designing a procedure for each Pennsylvania Audubon chapter to review, assess and prioritize the conservation issues of greatest concern for our chapters and Council.

The Pennsylvania Audubon Council Executive Board has created this “prioritization package” for each of our chapters to use as a tool to share the chapter’s perspective of their conservation issues of greatest concern. We ask that each chapter submit one response that reflects the position of your chapter. The direction for completing this process follows:

PRIORITIZATION PACKAGE CONTENTS:

There are two main components in the prioritization package.

1. The **PENNSYLVANIA AUDUBON COUNCIL CONSERVATION ISSUES OF CONCERN** is the first document. It is a document in outline format. It is a consolidation of the issues list that was generated last June, reviewed and added to by chapters over the summer. It is provided in a summary format. Each issue is delineated and identified by the section of the outline in which it appears. Each issue can now be delineated as IIa or IVb, etc.
2. The **PRIORITIZATION SCALE** is in a Likert Scale format and can be found in the **CHAPTER PRIORITIZATION RESPONSE FORM**. It provides a description or interpretation of each of the six points on the Likert Scale that is to be used in this survey.

The **CHAPTER PRIORITIZATION RESPONSE FORM** includes the survey response in which we ask each chapter to review and assess each issue on a six-point scale from 0 to 5, with 5 being the highest rating. We ask each chapter to share the process they utilize to formulate your chapter’s response.

[ACCESS THE SURVEY HERE](#)



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RECOMMENDED DIRECTION TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY

PREVIEW ALL OF THE FORMS IN THE PRIORITIZATION PACKAGE

We are asking each chapter to determine the best way to conduct a review of the issues that are profiled in the **PENNSYLVANIA AUDUBON COUNCIL CONSERVATION ISSUES OF CONCERN**. We recommend that it be used in conjunction with the **CHAPTER PRIORITIZATION RESPONSE FORM**. The two documents are correlated and will make it easier to rate each issues using the **PRIORITIZATION SCALE** as a reference.

CONSIDER WHO YOU WANT TO CONDUCT THE REVIEW

Each chapter will need to determine how best to conduct the prioritization process. You have the option to engage your officers or executive committee or consider conducting the process with your full board. You may consider using the members of your chapter's conservation or advocacy committee in your review process. The final section of the **CHAPTER PRIORITIZATION RESPONSE FORM** is where you are asked to check or describe the process your chapter employed to complete the prioritization process. We suggest that you consider distribution of the various forms in advance to the individuals your chapter decides to engage in the prioritization process.

SCHEDULING YOUR CHAPTER'S PRIORITIZATION SESSION

The prioritization process can be expected to take some time to complete. Convening a special meeting of the group(s) your chapter selects for this task is recommended. It is also recommended that the various documents in the Prioritization Package be distributed in advance of your special meeting. Each chapter can decide if they would like individuals to make their own determinations independently and then arrive at a consensus at the special meeting with an item- by-item review. There hopefully is convergence around the rating of most of the individual issues. There may not be convergence on a few items and a discussion to determine the chapter's position will be required.

SUBMITTING THE CHAPTER RESPONSE

Please make provisions to return the **CHAPTER PRIORITIZATION RESPONSE FORM** so that only a single response is received from each chapter. Submission by the chapter president or their designee is preferred. This will be accepted as the "official" position of your chapter for these issues.

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OR HELP WITH THE PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

Do not hesitate to request help or support for your chapter process. We can provide advice in advance or have a "virtual" presence and respond to questions during whatever meeting your chapter schedules to conduct the prioritization process.

A SPECIAL COUNSEL MEETING

A Pennsylvania Audubon Council Meeting is scheduled for **7:00 PM on Monday, November 8, 2021**. This meeting will be a "walk through" the documents and the prioritization process. The aim is to provide and overview of the package and answer any questions you may have about the prioritization process.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

We request that chapters complete the process and submit their **CHAPTER PRIORITIZATION RESPONSE FORM** on or before **Friday, December 10, 2021**. The collected responses will be consolidated by the Council with a report of the results early in the New Year – January 2022!

[ACCESS THE SURVEY HERE](#)