



# THE URBAN AUDUBON



**Fall Migration Fall-Off**

**Monarch Butterfly Migration**

**A Nest Grows in  
Staten Island**

**NYC AUDUBON  
MISSION & VISION**

**Mission:** NYC Audubon is a grassroots community that works for the protection of wild birds and habitat in the five boroughs, improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers.

**Vision:** NYC Audubon envisions a day when birds and people in the five boroughs enjoy a healthy, livable habitat.

**THE URBAN AUDUBON**

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As this fall issue of *The Urban Audubon* goes to press in early August, fall migration has already begun in New York City: Shorebird migration is well under way as yellowlegs, dowitchers, and “peeps” stop at our beaches to rest and refuel along their long southward flights. Early songbirds have also begun trickling in—black-and-white warblers have been spotted in Prospect Park and good numbers of yellow warblers have been stopping in Central Park, while northern waterthrushes feed at Jamaica Bay. By the time you read this, hundreds of thousands of migratory birds will be descending upon the City.

New York City is a renowned migration hotspot due to its position along the Atlantic Flyway and its extensive green spaces, which attract concentrated numbers of migrants seeking food and shelter. Our parks provide opportunities to see a remarkable diversity of birds, and we hope you will get out this fall and enjoy the beauty so close at hand. In this issue's lead article, longtime birders from all five boroughs reflect on their personal experiences with autumn birding and on the changes in fall migration they've noted over recent decades. These local observers provide anecdotal reports of dwindling numbers, a unanimous impression all the more sobering in light of the data-based predictions of Audubon's groundbreaking *Birds and Climate Change Report*, published last year. The challenges faced by our birds are numerous and daunting. But there is plenty you can do to help.

NYC Audubon's Project Safe Flight volunteers will be out in force this fall, monitoring buildings that pose a threat to our migrants. Anyone can contribute to Project Safe Flight by reporting a dead or injured bird on our data collection site, [d-bird.org](http://d-bird.org). On page 5 you will find other ways you can participate: Monitor the Tribute in Light memorial or volunteer as an injured bird transporter. You can also help this fall as we continue our advocacy work on such issues as threats to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Trap-Neuter-Return policies, and needed restoration at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. We thank those of you who made your voices heard this summer, spurring the National Park Service to make temporary repairs to the drainage system for Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge's East Pond. The repairs allowed the formation of mudflats that provide an important refueling stop for thousands of shorebirds.

We could not accomplish any of the work we do on behalf of our birds without your support. One way to give is by joining us at this year's Fall Roost, our annual gala dinner benefit and silent auction. It's always a lively, congenial event, and we'd love to see you there. Whether as a dedicated volunteer or financial contributor, you are doing your part to make the City safer and healthier for its birdlife. New York City is world famous for the migratory birds that can be seen here. Now grab your binoculars and head out to your local park.

**REMEMBER NYC AUDUBON**

New York City is forever changing, and with time the need to protect our urban wildlife and habitat becomes more and more critical. A bequest is a generous and straightforward way to safeguard birds and their habitat in the City's five boroughs. It can be expressed “I bequeath [a sum of money or a percentage of my estate] to New York City Audubon Society, Inc. a not-for-profit organization with offices at 71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1523, New York, NY 10010, for its general purposes.” To learn more, please give Director of Development Kellye Rosenheim a call at 646-502-9611.

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6

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7

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8

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13

## FEATURES

- 6 **Fall Migration Fall-Off: The Civilization Effect**  
by Ellen Azorin
- 7 **Monarch Butterfly Migration in Peril**  
by Don Riepe
- 12 **NYC Audubon Welcomes New Board Members**  
by Cathy Heller
- 13 **A Nest Grows in Staten Island (for Bald Eagles)**  
by Jennifer Rauch
- 14 **Deborah Jones Perfects “The Art of Volunteering”**  
by Lee Frankel
- 16 **The Fall Roost**

## DEPARTMENTS

- 4 Conservation Notes
- 5 Volunteer!
- 8 Events and Adventures
- 10 NYC Audubon Members-Only Events
- 13 Fall 2015 Lecture Series
- 14 News & Notes
- 15 Summer Staff and Interns
- 15 Acknowledgments

# CONSERVATION NOTES

Time flies at NYC Audubon. Sometimes the field season seems like one very long and exciting day, starting with migration in March, through breeding and fledging by August, and ending with fall migration in October. Our NYC Audubon conservation team has been hard at work. Here are some of the highlights from the summer field season:

## PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT: MAKING THE CITY SAFER FOR MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS

### Improve Stopover Habitat Quality

The NYC Audubon Urban Oasis at McGolrick Park, Brooklyn, is in its second year of growth. With funding from the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund, Garden Guardian Ann Seligman worked with enthusiastic volunteers to plant over 200 plants early this spring, and an additional 400 by the end of the summer. NYC Audubon Conservation Biologist Debra Kriensky has been conducting bird surveys in the park and is looking forward to documenting increased biodiversity as the native garden matures.

NYC Audubon's conservation team is partnering with the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on a new project this year: habitat restoration in Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge's North and South Gardens. TNC will be replacing invasive plant species with native plants, and Debra Kriensky and NYC Audubon Communications Manager and Research Assistant Tod Winston have begun using point count methodology to measure avian response to the altered habitat. Will the diversity and abundance of birds increase after the new plants take hold?

The roof of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center might seem an unexpected site for biodiversity in New York City. During the past two years, NYC Audubon has partnered with the Javits Center and Fordham University to monitor the nearly seven-acre green roof. Fordham PhD candidate Dustin Partridge and Kaitlyn Parkins, MS, are leading our biodiversity surveys for invertebrates and bats with assistance from undergraduate Robert Ciardullo. We are still sorting bugs, but we

predict that they will be different from last year's samples. The roof is one year older, and the community has undoubtedly changed. We shall see as the samples get analyzed. NYC Audubon staff are also conducting bird surveys and banding the herring gulls that nest on the the roof's sedum plantings. This year there are 11 nests; last year there were 6.

### Reduce Threats to Birds from Buildings, Light, and Glass

Field Technician Anikó Tótha has been working closely with Dr. Christine Sheppard of the American Bird Conservancy on standardizing the glass-testing apparatus (flight tunnel) housed at the Bronx Zoo. This spring Anikó spent 25 days in the field, netting migratory landbirds. She tested 204 birds in the tunnel on two similar glass patterns, one with horizontal and one with vertical lines. The vertical pattern proved more effective in deterring bird strikes than the horizontal pattern. (During testing, fine netting placed in front of the glass samples protects the birds from injuries.)

We continue to seek solutions to issues facing migrating birds by monitoring collisions with buildings and glass, and by increasing the scientific understanding of migration. NYC Audubon's citizen scientists completed Project Safe Flight spring monitoring on June 1. The Metropolitan Museum of Art was once again the top-ranking building for collisions. We are in discussion with the Met about how to avoid this problem as it redesigns its modern and contemporary art wing.

In addition to our regular monitoring, NYC Audubon launched an interactive website, [www.dbird.org](http://www.dbird.org), which allows anyone to report a dead bird sighting. We are part of a select group (including National Audubon, the American Bird Conservancy, the Smithsonian, and Canada's Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP)) that is working to design a universal application to launch across the country.

A new initiative has been started by South Shore Audubon and NYC Audubon with a grant from the Moore Foundation and National Audubon to create criteria for

evaluating the merit of off-shore wind energy projects. The results of the study will be published and shared with our members.

## WATERBIRDS OF THE NEW YORK HARBOR

### Protect Sites Critical to Waterbirds

We continue our work with Shiloh Schulte of the Manomet Center for Conservation Research (Manomet, MA) to monitor and protect American oystercatchers on Breezy Point, islands in Jamaica Bay, and Arverne Beach in the Rockaways. This summer Hein Sihm, an undergraduate student at Columbia University, worked with NYC Audubon Biologist Emilio Tobón and Dr. Susan Elbin in examining interactions between nesting piping plovers and American oystercatchers. Points of study include nest density, productivity, and species distribution on the beach.

NYC Audubon Project Leader Alison Koczek, PhD student at SUNY Syracuse, continues to conduct research on Staten Island, studying the ecology of one of NYC Audubon's focal species: saltmarsh sparrows. The continued breeding of this species on Staten Island is an indicator of habitat resilience in the face of sea level rise.

### Expand Opportunities for Citizen Science in Jamaica Bay

Debra Kriensky led our shorebird program as it reached its seventh year. During the spring 2015 season, more than 90 citizen scientists joined us to monitor horseshoe crab spawning activity at Big Egg Marsh, Plumb Beach, Dead Horse Bay, and West Plumb Beach.

NYC Audubon Site Coordinators Phil Cusimano, Dennis Galcik, Christine Nealy, Ann Seligman, and Dottie Werkmeister led the survey effort. The spawning activity this year was unusual. Plumb Beach typically supports the highest number of crabs, but this year the prize went to Big Egg. Spawning typically peaks in late May, but the water temperature was colder than usual. Crabs started using Plumb Beach only as the monitoring season was drawing to a close in mid-June.



### Monitor Waterbirds as Bioindicators of Habitat

Colonially nesting waterbirds prove to be excellent indicators of habitat health. If nesting birds can't find good quality food or nest sites, the colony will abandon its site. One of the goals of our annual Harbor Herons Nesting Survey is to monitor population trends in the New York Harbor, to determine whether colonies are thriving. Tod Winston led the 31st annual nest survey of long-legged wading birds. He and his team surveyed 10 islands in the Harbor. The number of species observed (7) remained the same as in 2014, but the number of individuals was slightly lower (1,557 pairs in 2014; 1,351 pairs in 2015, a decline of 13%). A large part of this reduction consisted of drops in the surveyed populations of both black-crowned night-herons (down 16%) and glossy ibis (down 55%). The islands' snowy egret population, in contrast, rose 16% since 2014. To what can we attribute the population declines? Continued monitoring is crucial to our ability to understand these changes and pinpoint what actions might be taken to support our nesting waders and better protect their nesting habitats. The Harbor Herons

©fraserkolodinsky



### Banded Herring Gull

Foraging Study, coordinated again this year by NYC Audubon Development Assistant Joe O'Sullivan, is an additional tool to help us understand what habitats are most important to our waders.

We are also monitoring short-legged

waterbirds, including double-crested cormorants, herring gulls, great black-backed gulls, and common terns. Cormorant numbers increased in the harbor, from 1,679 pairs in 2014 to 1,742 pairs in 2015. This total is still below the all-time high count in 1995 of 1,806 pairs. Gulls nest in small numbers on the islands, but they are also exploiting rooftops in the city. We have begun monitoring them on the Javits Center roof, as well as on the Farley Post Office building and on Rikers Island. Research Associate Liz Craig continues to monitor and band common terns nesting on the abandoned piers of Governors Island. She has found high nest-site fidelity. Adult birds tend to return to the same pier each year.

Monitoring black skimmers is another new project for us this year. We were involved in helping draft New York State's Black Skimmer Conservation Plan and will be banding chicks in August with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Biologist Jason Smith.

If you would like to get involved with our citizen science efforts, contact [volunteer@nycaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@nycaudubon.org).

## VOLUNTEER!



Work in NYC Audubon's friendly office or in the field and make a difference for the City's wildlife. There are many ways to help. **If interested in any of the projects listed below, contact us at [volunteer@nycaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@nycaudubon.org) or 212-691-7483 x304.**

### OFFICE PROJECTS

Help with mailings, filing, and general office work. Computer skills and birding knowledge are helpful but not required.

### BIRD TRANSPORTERS

We often receive calls from concerned individuals who have

found injured birds but are unable to transport them to a rehabilitator. We need caring volunteers to transport these birds to licensed wildlife rehabilitators in the area. A training session will be held Tuesday, September 8, 6-7pm at the Wild Bird Fund.

### TRIBUTE IN LIGHT MONITORING

**Friday, September 11, begins at 8pm**  
**With the Municipal Art Society**

Each year a tireless group of volunteers monitors the Tribute in Light to ensure that migrating birds do not become entrapped in the

light beams. A training session will be held Wednesday, September 2, 6-7pm.

### INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP

**Saturday, September 19, 10am-2pm**  
**With Sadhana, American Littoral Society, and National Park Service**

Join us at North Channel Bridge to take part in a multi-state effort to improve coastline habitat. The North Channel Bridge area, used by species like the American oystercatcher, is also a stone's throw away from the

Harbor Heron Islands, the newly restored Elders Point Marsh, and the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Help us clear the beach and raise awareness of the importance of coastal areas to birdlife. Equipment, refreshments, and bus transportation from Manhattan are provided (bus limited to 40).

### THE URBAN AUDUBON

Join the newsletter committee and contribute your writing skills to four seasonal issues. Meetings are bi-monthly in the early evening.

# FALL MIGRATION FALL-OFF: THE CIVILIZATION EFFECT

**A**s winter approaches, we look to the skies expecting to see the usual flocks of birds heading across the city to warmer climates. How have recent changes in climate and habitat affected fall migrations in recent years?

We asked some of our longtime birders from each borough to share their thoughts.



*American Redstart*

From Brooklyn, particularly in Prospect Park, Peter Dorosh observes that it's less and less likely to spot one of the eagerly sought rare species, particularly golden-winged and cerulean warblers. He compares it to two or three decades ago, when numerous warblers were observed, and a good day also yielded higher numbers of American redstarts, common yellowthroats, and northern parulas. "My theory is changing weather patterns, warmer climate, and the overall detrimental effect of human-made causes, particularly habitat loss from increased development." He also cites the effect of cell phone towers, wind turbines, and the severe impact of glass buildings. On a happier note, there are aberrations, varying from year to year. In 2014 in Prospect Park, as one example, rusty blackbirds were numerous reported.

From Queens, Don Riepe recalls back in the 1970s, "seeing 13 species of warbler in one shadbush tree." But by the 1990s, fields along the Rockaway peninsula were developed and much of the understory vegetation at Jacob

©David Spenser



*Peregrine Falcon*

Riis Park was removed by the National Park Service. Far fewer birds were seen migrating along the coast. This is sad news from a birder who tells how one day in September (c.1980), he helped band 100 American kestrels (the logo of NYC Audubon) at Fort Tilden. Still, he's excited about ospreys and peregrine falcons, which were nonexistent in New York City 40 years ago. "We've been putting up [osprey] platforms in the bay since 1990, and this year we have 20 nesting pairs!" And he tells us that Fort Tilden can be excellent for hawk migration in September and October.

From Manhattan, Pat Pollock is sad to note that "the very things that have made Central Park more attractive to people have made it less desirable for birds." Mud flats have been paved over, earth replaced by concrete, and many trees have been cut down

©Lloyd Spatnik



*Rusty Blackbird*

both for safety and for a more "manicured" design. Machines start their roar in the early morning hours, and dogs (we love them, but . . .) run loose, although prohibited, barking and chasing the birds. Lenore Swenson echoed accounts of diminishing numbers of migrants given by birders from the City's other boroughs, reporting that while in past years, a good day would yield "dozens of redstarts," today "you're lucky if you see a handful." On a happier note, the Ramble has been managed well as a wildlife habitat in recent years and is rich in native plants. And though less frequented by

©Fritz Meyer



*Northern Flicker*

birders than the Ramble, the North Woods is also still a fine place for birding, especially during fall migration.

From Staten Island, Howie Fischer reports that as the borough has lost open space to development, natural areas for birding have become more limited. Still, this borough, given its fortuitous location in Raritan Bay, is "a super birding area," and he's particularly enthusiastic about Conference House Park in the southernmost section, where in fall, with strong west or northwest winds, birds can funnel into the hackberry and oak forest, and raptors and blue jays in the thousands can often be observed. He describes Clove Lakes Park as "a gem" for birds with its large ponds and surrounding woodland, which host a diversity of warblers

©Lan Burnitt



### Savannah Sparrow

and woodpeckers. And with the ongoing restoration of the Greenbelt, one of the last remnants of mixed, mature oak/deciduous forest in the City will eventually be part of a 2,000-acre tract of protected space, including

expanses of open grasslands that are sparrow havens during fall migration.

From the Bronx, naturalist David Burg explains that changes in migration are difficult to pinpoint because they vary from year to year, affected by weather as well as by the most obvious culprit, civilization. Hawk watches in the Bronx noted that in years when winds were strong from the northwest, birds were pushed down from Connecticut to the Bronx. Waterfowl also have shown mixed patterns. “In the mid-1980s, I remember seeing rafts of two thousand canvasbacks in Eastchester Bay and the Long Island Sound sections of the Bronx. The past two winters there were none.” He says it’s unclear whether this is due to a real diminishing of the species or a shift in

range—that is, if conditions are unfavorable in one location, migratory birds can simply take different routes. Still, he notes, while we can’t control the weather, we can work to control deforestation, patterns of suburban sprawl, and many pesticides still in use.

Hearing these devoted birders talk about their observations, we’re reminded that there’s still an abundance of pleasure to be had. By protecting the habitats that these feathered travelers need—both during migration and all year round—we also preserve our own joy in feeling part of the natural world around us.

To learn about opportunities to get out and bird in all five boroughs during this fall’s migration, see pages 8-11.

## MONARCH BUTTERFLY MIGRATION IN PERIL

Don Riepe

One of the best known—and best loved—insects in the U.S. is the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). It was once proposed as our National Insect but failed to pass Congress; however, seven states have designated it as their official state insect.

The fall migration of eastern populations of the monarch butterfly is an extraordinary natural phenomenon; millions head south to Oklahoma, Texas, and Mexico starting in late August and continuing through October. In New York City peak numbers usually occur from mid-September to mid-October when, like birds, the fragile insects migrate during cold fronts with northwest winds. The best place to see monarchs is right along the coast, but one can also see them flying along busy streets and highways and in any city park with wildflowers. In late afternoon, look for monarchs congregating in clusters on the leeward side of trees and shrubs for the night.

In recent years monarch populations have crashed, and many biologists are concerned that this natural phenomenon is seriously threatened. Some researchers estimate that monarch populations have declined by up to 80% in just the past decade.

What has caused the downturn? Many factors, including habitat loss at the wintering grounds and severe weather events, may have contributed. But most significant is the eradication of

native milkweed (*Asclepias*) species, essential host plant to the monarch butterfly, through continued building development, conversion of conservation lands into cash crops for biofuels, and use of herbicides along migratory paths and summer breeding areas.



©Don Riepe

There is some hope, however. The U.S. government has recently put out a press release urging people to conserve habitat and plant milkweed for monarchs. National organizations such as Monarch Watch provide public programs and free milkweed plants for restoration projects ([www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)). The North American Butterfly Association ([www.naba.org](http://www.naba.org)) conducts annual July counts in every state in order to track the status of the monarch, as well as other butterfly populations. NABA also promotes the development of butterfly gardens and public education programs. Locally, the NYC Butterfly Club meets monthly in Manhattan to discuss City issues, and members present programs on butterflies. Let’s hope that all these efforts will help monarch populations and their extraordinary migration thrive.

# EVENTS AND ADVENTURES

- NYC Audubon Events
- Partnership Events

## Overnight Trips

- **BIRDING BASICS FOR FAMILIES IN CENTRAL PARK**  
Sundays, September 27–October 25, 10-11am  
Guides: NYC Audubon, Conservancy Discovery Guides  
Offered by the Central Park Conservancy

Meet at the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center (inside the Park at 110th Street between Fifth and Lenox Avenues). Experience Central Park's fall bird migration with Conservancy Discovery Guides and NYC Audubon. See firsthand how the Conservancy's work has made the Park a sanctuary for birds. Binoculars can be borrowed from the Dana Center. Pre-registration recommended. For pre-registration and weather cancellation information, call 212-772-0288. Limited to 20. Age 5 and up. Free

- **FALL BIRDING AT WAVE HILL, THE BRONX**  
Sundays, September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13, 9:30-11:30am  
Guide: Gabriel Willow  
With Wave Hill

Meet at the Perkins Visitor Center. Naturalist Gabriel Willow contributes his extensive knowledge of bird species and their behaviors on these captivating walks. Wave Hill's garden setting overlooking the Hudson River flyway provides the perfect habitat for resident and migrating birds. Advance registration is recommended, either online at [www.wavehill.org](http://www.wavehill.org), at the Perkins Visitor Center, or by calling 718-549-3200 x251. (Walks run rain or shine; in case of severe weather call the number above for updates.) Ages 10 and up welcome with an adult. Limited to 20. NYC Audubon members enjoy two-for-one admission (see [www.wavehill.org](http://www.wavehill.org) for more information)



*Great Horned Owl*

- **VAN CORTLANDT BIRD WALKS, THE BRONX**  
Saturdays, September 5–November 28, 8-9:30am  
Guides: NYC Audubon, Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy  
With the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy

Meet at Van Cortlandt Nature Center. The history of birding and Van Cortlandt Park are inseparable. Influential birders such as Roger Tory Peterson and Allan D. Cruickshank got their starts on Van Cortlandt's ecologically diverse grounds. These walks celebrate the tradition set forth by these great ornithologists. Participants will look for various species of residents and migrants and discuss a wide range of avian topics. For more information, call 212-691-7483. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

- **MORNING FALL MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK**  
Wednesdays, September 9–October 21, 7:30-10:30am  
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

**THE WEDNESDAY SERIES IS SOLD OUT.** Please see the listing for Morning Fall Migration Walks II, starting Thursday, September 17

- **FALL WARBLERS**  
Thursday, September 10, 6:30-8:30pm (class)  
Sunday, September 13, 8-11am (trip)  
Instructor: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Identifying "confusing fall warblers" can be tricky, even for the experts. Come study some of the most puzzling species that stop through our area during fall migration with expert Joe Giunta, and then enjoy a second session in the "classroom" of Central Park. Limited to 12. \$65 (45)

- **BIRDING TOURS OF BRYANT PARK**

Mondays, September 14–October 19, 8-9am  
Thursdays, September 17–October 22, 5-6pm  
Guide: Gabriel Willow  
With Bryant Park Corporation

Meet at the Birding Tour sign at the 42nd Street and Sixth Avenue entrance to the park. Discover the surprising variety of birds that stop in Bryant Park during migration. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

- **EVENING FALL MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK**  
Monday Series: September 14–Monday, October 12, 5-6:30pm  
Tuesday Series: September 15–Tuesday, October 13, 5-6:30pm  
Wednesday Series: September 16–Wednesday, October 14, 5-6:30pm  
Guide: Gabriel Willow

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street. Witness the spectacle of autumn migration as songbirds follow the Atlantic Flyway to their tropical wintering grounds. Look for tanagers, warblers, and other neotropical migrants in the wilds of Central Park. Limited to 15. \$125 (87)

- **MORNING FALL MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK II**  
Thursdays, September 17–October 29, 7:30-10:30am  
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street. Birders of all levels can enjoy this fun and educational series of seven walks, observing the diverse and ever-changing waves of migrants that stop over in Central Park during fall migration. Limited to 15. \$158 (110)

- **HOOK MOUNTAIN HAWK WATCH, NY**  
Sunday, September 20, 9am-4pm  
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Part of the Palisades Interstate Park system, Hook Mountain has commanding views of all nearby mountains ridges and the Hudson River. From this inland hawk watch spot we expect to see many species of migrating raptors, including broad-winged and red-shouldered hawks, bald eagles, accipiters, and falcons. Note: This trip requires a 35-minute hike up and down the mountainside. Bring a bag lunch to enjoy atop the mountain watching the hawks fly overhead. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$99 (69)

- **CAPE MAY FALL MIGRATION WEEKEND**  
Saturday, September 26, 9am–Sunday, September 27, 7pm  
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC  
**THIS TRIP IS SOLD OUT.**

- **JAMAICA BAY SUNSET ECOLOGY CRUISE**  
Saturday, September 26, 4-7pm  
Guides: Don Riepe and Mickey Cohen  
With the American Littoral Society and Gateway National Recreation Area

Meet at 3:30pm at Pier 4 (Emmons Avenue and Bedford Avenue,





Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn). By subway, stop at the Sheepshead Bay station on the Q train. By car, get off the Belt Parkway at exit 9 or 9a. Enjoy a special three-hour narrated tour of Jamaica Bay aboard the “Golden Sunshine.” Learn about the history and ecology of the bay and see migrating hawks, falcons, osprey, herons, egrets, ibis, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Includes wine and refreshments. To reserve online, go to [www.jbsunsetecology.eventbrite.com](http://www.jbsunsetecology.eventbrite.com). Contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or [donriepe@gmail.com](mailto:donriepe@gmail.com) to learn more. Limited to 140. \$55 (\$25 for children under 16)

● **FALL MIGRANTS OF WOODLAWN CEMETERY, THE BRONX**

**Sunday, September 27, 8-10am**  
**Guides: Tod Winston, Joseph McManus, Woodlawn Conservancy Docent**  
**With Woodlawn Conservancy**  
 Meet at the Jerome Avenue entrance of Woodlawn Cemetery. Join us for a morning bird walk and tour of beautiful Woodlawn Cemetery: Tod Winston and

Joseph McManus will look for fall migrants and year-round residents on the expansive, wooded cemetery grounds, while a Woodlawn Conservancy docent shares fascinating stories about Woodlawn’s history and the interesting individuals interred there. Limited to 15. \$35 (24)

● **MIGRATION ALONG THE BARRIER ISLANDS, LI**

**Friday, October 2, 8am-4pm**  
**Guides: Peter Mott, Tod Winston**  
 Look for migrating raptors and songbirds as they stop and rest along Long Island’s barrier islands. We’ll visit some of the best spots in the vicinity of Jones Beach and Robert Moses State Park, to find what surprises the north winds have brought us. Past years have brought scores of merlins, shorebirds, unusual songbirds, and monarch butterflies. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$122 (85)

● **RAPTOR TRUST AND GREAT SWAMP, NJ**

**Saturday, October 3, 9:30am-6pm**  
**Guides: Don Riepe, Tod Winston**

Enjoy a private tour of the Raptor Trust rehabilitation center and see many owls and hawks up close. Afterwards, we’ll hike the boardwalk trails of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to look for raptors, waterfowl, reptiles, and amphibians. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 11. \$115 (80)

● **CAPE MAY FALL MIGRATION WEEKEND**

**Saturday, October 3, 9am–Sunday, October 4, 7pm**  
**Guide: Gabriel Willow**  
**THIS TRIP IS SOLD OUT**

● **CAMERA CLUB**

**Wednesday, October 7, and Wednesday, December 2, 6:30-8:30pm**  
**Instructors: David Speiser, Lloyd Spitalnik**  
 Meet at the National Audubon office at 225 Varick Street in Manhattan. Whether you’re a beginner or more advanced photographer, our photography club is the place to discuss diverse photography-related topics, hone your skills, and learn about the great photography

opportunities available in the New York City area. Professional bird and nature photographers David Speiser and Lloyd Spitalnik will share their expertise and help you improve your work. Registration required. No limit. \$14.50 (\$10) per meeting

● **SPARROW ID WORKSHOP**

**Thursday, October 8, 7-8:30pm (class); Saturday, October 10, 9am-Noon (trip)**  
**Instructor: Gabriel Willow**  
 Sparrows are one of the most challenging groups of birds to identify, yet beautiful and fascinating once they can be distinguished. Learn to identify those LBJs (little brown jobs) by studying behavior, field marks, and songs. Sparrow species seen in prior years include field, swamp, savannah, white-crowned, and Lincoln’s. Limited to 12. \$65 (45)

● **HAWK WATCH AT FORT TILDEN**

**Saturday, October 10, 10am-1pm**  
**Guide: Don Riepe**  
**With American Littoral Society**  
 Meet at Building 1 in Fort Tilden for a hike to the hawk watch platform to view falcons, hawks, ospreys, and other migrating raptors. We’ll also hike along the beach and dunes to look for songbirds and shorebirds. For more information, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or [donriepe@gmail.com](mailto:donriepe@gmail.com). No limit. Free

● **BIRDING GEMS OF STATEN ISLAND: FRESHKILLS PARK**

**Sunday, October 11, 10am-5pm**  
**Guide: Cliff Hagen**  
 Meet at the Manhattan terminal of the Staten Island Ferry. This is a special opportunity to see Freshkills Park in transition from what was once the world’s largest

*continued on page 10*



©François Perrin

*Jamaica Bay*

## EVENTS AND ADVENTURES (CONTINUED)

landfill into an expansive park. Currently closed to the general public, the park is home to rolling grasslands, tidal marshes, successional woodlands, and a freshwater pond system. Each autumn, migrant species abound as they travel along the North Atlantic Flyway. Sparrows, osprey, a collection of waterfowl, and lingering warblers seek refuge in the park. Overhead, raptors soar along the terminal moraine. Late-blooming flowers attract an assortment of butterflies and dragonflies as they, too, fly south

for the winter. Transport by passenger van on Staten Island included. Limited to 12. \$57 (40)

- **RAPTOR ID WORKSHOP**  
**Thursday, October 15, 7-8:30pm**  
**Guide: Gabriel Willow**

If you've ever been to a hawk watch (such as the one we'll visit on our upcoming trip to Hawk Mountain, PA), you've probably been amazed at the ability of the hawk-watchers to call out IDs of soaring raptors so distant that they look like specks on the horizon. This class will help you distinguish between accipiters,

buteos, vultures, eagles, and more. Learn how their shapes reflect their behavior and ecology, and how subtle differences in form and pattern will allow you to identify raptors with newfound confidence. Limited to 12. \$39 (27)

- **NYC AUDUBON DAY AT HAWK MOUNTAIN, PA**  
**Saturday, October 17, 8am-8pm**  
**Guides: Gabriel Willow, Hawk Mountain Education Specialist**  
Mid-October is the perfect time to visit Hawk Mountain, one of the



© Lloyd Spradnik  
*Winter Wren*

## NYC AUDUBON MEMBERS-ONLY EVENTS

Join us for a free NYC Audubon member event this fall. Please note: Member events are free for Contributing NYC Audubon members as detailed below. As these events are popular and fill quickly, please limit your registration to one free member event per month.

- **SEPTEMBER MEMBER WALK IN THE NORTH WOODS OF CENTRAL PARK**

**Thursday, September 10, 7:30-9am**

Meet at Central Park West and 100th Street. Explore the North Woods of Central Park with NYC Audubon President Harry Maas and enjoy the beginning of fall migration along paths less traveled. Contact Kellye Rosenheim at 212 691-7483 x 306 or [krosenheim@nycaudubon.org](mailto:krosenheim@nycaudubon.org) to register. Limited to 20. Free for Contributing NYC Audubon members at the Student/Senior level and up

- **SEPTEMBER MEMBER WALK IN PROSPECT PARK**

**Friday, September 18, 7:30-9am**

Meet at the entrance to Prospect Park across from Grand Army Plaza, and join NYC Audubon Board Member and the author of *The Warbler Guide* Tom Stephenson for a fall migration walk in Prospect Park. Contact Kellye Rosenheim at 212 691-7483 x 306 or [krosenheim@nycaudubon.org](mailto:krosenheim@nycaudubon.org) to register. Limited to 20. Free for Contributing NYC Audubon members at the Student/Senior level and up

- **KIDS MEMBER WALK IN CENTRAL PARK**

**Sunday, September 20, 3-4pm**

Meet at 72nd Street and Central Park West, and explore Central Park's best birding hotspots with Tod Winston and Kellye Rosenheim. Only registered KIDS Members ages 8-12 years old and accompanied by a parent or guardian may participate. To register, parents should email

[KIDS@nycaudubon.org](mailto:KIDS@nycaudubon.org). Visit [www.nycaudubon.org/kids-membership](http://www.nycaudubon.org/kids-membership) for more information about our KIDS Members program



© Betsy McCullery  
*Inwood Hill Park*

- **SEPTEMBER MEMBER WALK IN INWOOD HILL PARK**

**Tuesday, September 29, 3:30-5:30pm**

Meet Kellye Rosenheim at Inwood Hill Park's entrance at 218th Street to look for migrating fall songbirds in Inwood's mature

urban forest. We're meeting at low tide on the Spuyten Duyvil in the hopes of also getting interesting shorebirds on the mudflats. Contact Kellye Rosenheim at 212 691-7483 x 306 or [krosenheim@nycaudubon.org](mailto:krosenheim@nycaudubon.org) to register. Limited to 20. Free for Contributing NYC Audubon members at the Student/Senior level and up

- **DECEMBER MEMBER WALK IN CENTRAL PARK**

**Wednesday, December 9, 8-10am**

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street for a members-only walk with NYC Audubon Communications Manager Tod Winston. Come brave the chilly weather and spot some of Central Park's best wintering birds. Contact Kellye Rosenheim at 212 691-7483 x 306 or [krosenheim@nycaudubon.org](mailto:krosenheim@nycaudubon.org) to register. Limited to 20. Free for Contributing NYC Audubon members at the Student/Senior level and up

premier hawk-watching spots in the East. Gabriel Willow and a Hawk Mountain education specialist will introduce us to the variety of raptors that may be seen, including golden eagles, buteos, and falcons. The path to the hawk watch site is a 1-mile hike through mountainous woodland. Bring lunch. Group program, trail admission, and transportation by van included. Limited to 12. \$139 (97)

● **BEGINNING BIRDING**

**Classes: Thursdays, October 22, October 29, and November 5, 6:30-8:30pm**

**Trips: Saturdays, October 31, 8-11am, and November 7, 9am-3pm**

**Instructor: Tod Winston**

Learn the keys to identifying the spectacular variety of birds that migrate southwards through New York City every fall. Even if you've never picked up a pair of binoculars, you'll soon be identifying warblers, thrushes, waterbirds, and more—both by sight and by ear. Two fun and educational in-class sessions and field trips to Central Park and Jamaica Bay (transport to Jamaica Bay included). Limited to 12. \$179 (125)

● **FALL FOLIAGE HIKE IN THE GREENBELT, STATEN ISLAND**

**Saturday, October 24, 9:15am-4pm**

**Guide: Gabriel Willow**  
**With NYC Parks and the Greenbelt Conservancy**

Meet at the Manhattan terminal of the Staten Island Ferry and join us as we journey to Moses Mountain, which provides a panoramic view of Staten Island and points beyond. We'll look for migrating hawks, warblers, and other songbirds—with crimson sumac and other autumn foliage as a backdrop. Bring lunch. Transportation on Staten Island provided. Limited to 18. \$42 (29)

● **FALL MIGRATION ON RANDALL'S ISLAND**  
**Saturday, October 31, 9am-1pm**  
**Guides: Gabriel Willow, Christopher Girgenti of Randall's Island**  
**With Randall's Island Park Alliance, Inc.**

Meet on the northwest corner of 102nd Street and FDR Drive. We'll walk across the foot bridge to Randall's Island, an under-explored location in the East River that hosts restored freshwater wetlands and salt marsh. We'll look for fall migrants as we explore the results of recent restoration efforts. Two miles of walking and some modest climbs. Limited to 20. \$40 (28)

● **DUCKS, RAPTORS, AND MORE AT PELHAM BAY PARK, THE BRONX**

**Saturday, November 7, 9am-3pm**

**Guide: Gabriel Willow**  
Explore the lovely coves and rocky outcroppings of Pelham Bay Park, looking for wintering ducks, migrating raptors, and more. Pelham Bay Park's combination of open water, salt marsh, rocky shore, rare coastal tall grass meadows, and patches of dry and wet oak savanna are unique not just within the City but also on this continent. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$102 (71)

● **SNOW GEESE AND TUNDRA SWANS OF BRIGANTINE, NJ**  
**Sunday, November 8, 9:30am-7pm**  
**Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC**

Brigantine, part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, is one of the East Coast's premier sites for waterbirds, offering a diversity of species and panoramic views. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$125 (87)

● **WINTER WATERFOWL WORKSHOP AT JAMAICA BAY**  
**Saturday, November 14, 10am-1pm**  
**Guides: Don Riepe, Tod Winston**  
**With American Littoral Society**

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Refuge Visitor Center for a slide presentation and walk along the trails and ponds to look for waterfowl and other birds. Learn about the many species of ducks and geese that spend the winter in New York City and how to identify them. For more information and to register, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or [donriepe@gmail.com](mailto:donriepe@gmail.com). Limited to 25. Free

● **CHINCOTEAGUE REFUGE/ASSATEAGUE ISLAND: BIRDS AND PONIES**

**Thursday, November 19, 9am–**  
**Sunday, November 22, 6pm**

**Guide: Don Riepe**  
**With American Littoral Society**  
A great natural-history weekend on the Virginia coast. See wild ponies, snow geese, bald eagles, migrating hawks, waterfowl, shorebirds, and lots more. Includes three nights' lodging at the luxurious Refuge Inn (heated pool, jacuzzi, sauna, exercise room, observation deck), breakfast, a safari bus tour of the back dunes area, five guided hikes, evening programs, and an all-you-can-eat oyster and seafood dinner. Contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or [donriepe@gmail.com](mailto:donriepe@gmail.com) to learn more. Limited to 30. \$395 (\$180 single room supplement).

**EARLY MEMBER REGISTRATION FOR WINTER EVENTS**

Winter and early spring events will be posted at [www.nyc Audubon.org](http://www.nyc Audubon.org) and available for registration for Contributing NYC Audubon members starting on Monday, November 9. (Registration will open to all on Monday, November 23.)

● **TO REGISTER FOR ALL NYC AUDUBON EVENTS and for more information, visit [www.nyc Audubon.org](http://www.nyc Audubon.org) or call Darren Klein at 212-691-7483 x304 unless otherwise specified.**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- Classes meet at 71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1523.
- Contributing Members (Student/Senior level and up) receive a 30% discount on most local trips and classes (on discounted events, the discounted price appears in parentheses after the nonmember price). See membership form on page 19.
- For all coach and van trips, the meeting location is in front of 71 West 23rd Street in Manhattan unless otherwise specified.
- We depart promptly at the stated start time.
- For all overnight trips, membership in NYC Audubon at the Student/Senior level and up is required. See membership form on page 15.



©Don Riepe

*Chincoteague Refuge*

# NYC AUDUBON WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

*Cathy Heller*

**N**YC Audubon is happy to welcome three new members to our board of directors. They bring diverse knowledge and skill sets drawn from their varied career backgrounds, but share a love of birds and a deep commitment to the cause of conservation.



## **KAREN BENFIELD**

Often, birders acquire their interest through a parent—a mother who kept a bird feeder or a father who had a good ear for birdsong. Karen Benfield’s mother kept a bird feeder and took the family to Point Pelee in Ontario, renowned as the best location in inland North America to observe songbird migration. But Karen’s deeper interest in birding was

ignited by her 12-year-old son Ryan, whose life list currently stands at 1,147.

Five years ago on a trip to Costa Rica, Ryan roused his family’s passion for birding. Since then, he and his 16 year-old-brother Matthew have accompanied their parents on numerous international birding trips. Still, home base in New York City remains their focal point. As Karen pointed out, New York City is known as a center for commerce, art, theatre, finance, and fashion, but its location on a major flyway and its extensive shoreline make it a natural and important center for birds and birders.

Karen has been a producer at CBS, and she has written and produced several segments for Smithsonian Fantastic Journey, a science and nature documentary. She has also worked with NBC Peacock Productions and currently has her own production company, which produces online videos for corporate websites.

A member since 2010, Karen is aware of the important role NYC Audubon plays in preserving habitat for resident and migratory birds. She anticipates taking an active role as a member of the board of directors.



## **DRIANNE BENNER**

Drienne Benner comes to the NYC Audubon board with an impressive background in finance. She spent over 25 years in large global financial entities such as U.S. Trust and Cadogan Management, and for the past five years has been managing director at Appomattox Advisory. This 10-year-old firm has a special commitment to women and minorities, as well as sustainable investing. The company is

woman-owned, a rarity in financial management services. Its emphasis

is on eco-friendly backing, and it has advised several large corporations on divesting themselves of environmentally dangerous investments, such as coal.

The daughter of an army chaplain, Drienne grew up all over the United States—North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Virginia—and also lived for a time in Belgium. A stint in the Youth Conservation Corps while she was a high school student in Pennsylvania heightened her involvement in the outdoors and her interest in preserving wild habitats.

The North Fork of Long Island, where she and her “outdoorsy” family—husband Kevin Perry and sons Jason and David—have a home, has benefitted from her conservation work. Drienne serves on the board of Peconic Green Growth, which preserves and restores open space and water quality for the health of Peconic Bay, and on the Philanthropy Committee of the Peconic Land Trust. She is also on the board of the New York Society of Security Analysts. She has long had a particular interest in birds. She has been a member of NYC Audubon’s Advisory Committee since 2010 and is now pleased to join its board of directors.



## **RICHARD FRIED**

Richard Fried became a birder because of his daughter Lila. From the time she was a youngster, Richard chauffeured Lila (who has just graduated from Oberlin College) and her boyfriend Jacob Drucker to numerous birding spots. Richard himself soon became equally inspired and dedicated to birding.

Without too much forethought, Richard undertook a New York State “Big Year” in 2011. The inspiration for it came in 2010, when he saw 269 species without, as he says, “really working at it.” He set his goal for the next year at 300 and reached it on July 30, with a full five months left. By the end of the year, he had reached a total of 352 species, just topping the 2008 record of 350. He gives credit to an informed complement of birders in the metropolitan area who supported him, and to his family—his wife Stella, as well as daughters Lila and Sylvie. Traveling the whole state for his Big Year taught him that increased public awareness, scientific research, public education, and environmental legislation are important to conserving bird populations.

Richard, a native New Yorker from Queens, is a veterinarian who founded his own busy practice on the west side of Manhattan. He is a member of Veterinarians for Animal Rights and on the council of the Linnaean Society of New York. Aware of the prodigious amount of birdlife in the five boroughs and a member since 2009, he understands NYC Audubon’s goal of protecting wild birds and habitat in an urban setting and looks forward to becoming a member of the board of directors.

# A NEST GROWS IN STATEN ISLAND (FOR BALD EAGLES)

Jennifer Rauch

Hopes were high in New York City and beyond this summer, as people awaited good news from Vito and Linda, the first pair of bald eagles to nest in our city in over 200 years. NYC Audubon reported in April that the pair was incubating eggs—a milestone in the recovery of this formerly endangered species. Would young versions of our national icon actually hatch in Staten Island?

This year, unfortunately, the answer seems to be “no.” The nest is high above the ground, making it difficult to see if chicks are present—but based on the birds’ behavior, experts think the pair has abandoned the nest. It is common for first-year nests to fail, however—and chances are good that the pair will try again next spring. Bald eagle aeries are often re-used, and can grow to more than six feet across and eight feet deep, weighing hundreds of pounds. The birds mate for life, sometimes 30 years or more.

Vito and Linda are now a part of life for many Staten Islanders. People who live near the nesting site (which is undisclosed to prevent disturbance) admire these magnificent birds of prey and feel protective of them, said Cliff Hagen, who guided an NYC Audubon walk in the nest’s vicinity in August. According to Hagen, people often see the eagles soaring along the shore or perching on dead trees in nearby swamps.

The male eagle was dubbed “Vito” by a local birder who photographed him near the Church of St. Joacham and St. Anne. You might know this building from the baptism scene in *The Godfather*. (Yes, the first male bald eagle nesting in New York City in more than *cent’anni* is named after Vito Corleone.) Hearing of the male bird’s name, former Staten Island resident Vito Cardinale asked if the female eagle might be named after his wife Linda, who passed away several years ago from multiple sclerosis. Staten Islanders closely involved with monitoring the eagles kindly agreed. (You can read more about this touching story at [www.silive.com/](http://www.silive.com/)

© Larry Pignatelli



## *New Staten Island Residents Vito and Linda*

[entertainment/recreation/index.ssf/2015/04/with\\_nod\\_to\\_love\\_and\\_devotion.html](http://entertainment/recreation/index.ssf/2015/04/with_nod_to_love_and_devotion.html).)

Many natural areas critical to the well-being of Staten Island’s new bald eagle pair were preserved through efforts of NYC Audubon and Staten Island’s Protectors of Pine Oak Woods, which Hagen leads. Despite notable victories, bald eagle populations are still threatened by environmental contaminants, as well as habitat destruction—which can contribute to reproductive failure and nest abandonment.

There are a number of things you can do to help eagles and other birds in New York City: Continue to support legislation that protects habitat, as well as organizations that are active in conservation. Join NYC Audubon in speaking out against any legislation that will weaken both the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. And if you see someone harassing an eagle, notice destruction of eagle habitat, or find an injured or dead eagle, report it to the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Wildlife Diversity Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233.

For information about upcoming bird walks in Staten Island and other places, see pages 8-11.

## FALL 2015 LECTURE SERIES—NEW LOCATION!

OUR LECTURE SERIES HAS MOVED to the Central Park Zoo 4-D theater, just north of the Arsenal building at Fifth Avenue and 65th street. Descend the usual flight of steps into the park in front of the Arsenal and walk right around the north side of the building to reach the theater entrance. All lectures are free and open to the public. This series has been made possible by the support of Claude and Lucienne Bloch.

### HATCHING eBIRD: INSIGHTS FROM CONCEPT TO CONSERVATION FROM THE WORLD’S LARGEST CITIZEN SCIENCE DATABASE

By Andrew Farnsworth, PhD

Tuesday, November 17, 6:30pm

eBird is a real-time, online checklist program that has revolutionized the way the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. Since its launch in 2002, this citizen science project from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology has become an indispensable tool for researchers and birders alike, featured in numerous peer-reviewed and popular media. The eBird database recently marked its 250-millionth observation and is quickly becoming a major enterprise encompassing ornithological, ecological, sociological, and statistical research and application. Learn about its history, design, utility, and future from Andrew Farnsworth, a research associate at the Lab of Ornithology and a member of the NYC Audubon board.

### BEYOND WORDS: WHAT ANIMALS THINK AND FEEL

By Carl Safina, PhD

Tuesday, December 15, 6:30pm

Renowned author Carl Safina will deliver a lecture based on his latest book, *Beyond Words*. We will go inside animals’ lives and minds, witnessing their profound capacity for perception, thought, and emotion, showing why the word “it” is often inappropriate as we discover “who” they really are. Dr. Safina is the founder of the Safina Center at Stony Brook University and host of PBS’s *Saving the Ocean*. His books include *Song for the Blue Ocean*, *Eye of the Albatross*, *Voyage of the Turtle*, *Nina Delmar: The Great Whale Rescue*, *The View From Lazy Point: A Natural Year in an Unnatural World*, and *A Sea in Flames: The Deepwater Horizon Oil Blowout*.

# DEBORAH JONES PERFECTS “THE ART OF VOLUNTEERING”

*Lee Frankel*



For several years now, artist Deborah Jones has volunteered her time and talents to NYC Audubon, helping out in the office and creating finely finished artwork for science projects and the annual Fall Roost benefit. If you've attended the Fall Roost, you're familiar with the beauty and originality of Deborah's work; 2015 will be her fourth year creating designs for the NYC Audubon gala.

Deborah has been an artist for as long as she can remember, and has perfected her techniques in many media: oils, watercolor, hand-cut paper, collage, and even makeup for photo shoots. Her light-handed watercolor paintings of birds require close examination to appreciate the exceptional detail in her work.

A hallmark of Deborah's artistic process is her ability to bring themes to life by creating finely wrought, layered representations. In creating her three-dimensional pieces for the Fall Roost silent auction, Deborah brings together many components such as paper, moss, string, sand, rocks, toy animals, and painted and hand-cut paper.

When Dr. Susan Elbin, NYC Audubon's director of conservation and science, needed decoys of common terns and house sparrows for her studies, Deborah again happily obliged. Working from specimens, she made wire armatures, built and painted them, and produced lifelike models in realistic poses.

A multifaceted individual, Debra is also a musician. Her musical talents incline toward Brazilian music; she composes, writes lyrics, and sings. But Deborah's love and knowledge of birds are the wellsprings of all the work she has created for NYC Audubon, for which she has our deepest thanks. Now we can begin speculating on the new wonders she will create for this year's Fall Roost. (See page 16 for Fall Roost details.)

## News & Notes

### ADVOCACY ALERT: WEST POND, TNR, AND MBTA

Several matters important to New York City's birds have recently been under consideration; check our website for updates on these critical issues:

The National Park Service is expected to open public comment on its preferred alternative for restoration of Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge's West Pond by early September.

Legislation to fund Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs for feral cats in New York State passed the Senate in June, without hoped-for provisions excluding return to critical wild bird habitat. At press time the legislation was awaiting consideration by Governor Cuomo; we have been working to voice our concerns with his administration.

A proposed rider (the Duncan Amendment) to appropriations bill H.R. 2578, which would have prevented full enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), was removed in July. Efforts to weaken this landmark federal legislation are expected to continue.

### SPREADING THE WORD: BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDINGS

At National Audubon Society's 2015 Convention this past July, NYC Audubon Director of Conservation and Science Susan Elbin co-led a workshop entitled "The Art and Science of Bird-Friendly Buildings—How to Start a Program in Your Community." The workshop provided participants with an in-depth look at the problem of bird-window collisions, discussed how Audubon and its partners are working together on solutions, and provided guidance on starting local programs.

### BOARD, ADVISORS, AND STAFF

NYC Audubon Board Member Alexander Ewing has been elected as recording secretary; Marcy Boyle will continue her service as corresponding secretary. We welcome three new members to the NYC Audubon board: Karen Benfield, Richard Fried, and Drienne Benner (see page 13). The terms of several board members have ended: We are grateful to Judy Craig for her years of service; Clifford Case and Lynne Hertzog will continue as members of the NYC Audubon advisory council. We thank Clifford and Lynne for their continued contributions to NYC Audubon.

Finance Director Barbara Lysenko retired on August 14. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Barbara for over six years of dedicated service to NYC Audubon. We will miss Barbara and wish her a happy retirement.

# THANK YOU TO SUMMER STAFF AND INTERNS

This spring and summer, NYC Audubon's field work was accomplished with the help of a talented and enthusiastic team:

**JENNIFER BOMBARDIER** and **EMILY MILLER**, both MA students at New York University, taught middle school students near Jamaica Bay about the connections between birds, beaches, and people via our Be A Good Egg curriculum. **ROBERT CIARDULLO**, an undergraduate student at Fordham University, assisted Dustin Partridge for the second year in identifying arthropods from the green roof of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center.

**ELIZABETH CRAIG, PhD**, helped with our Harbor Herons nesting surveys, and also helped band cormorants and terns in New York Harbor. **PHIL CUSIMANO, DENNIS GALCIK, CHRISTINE NEALY**, and **DOTTIE WERKMEISTER** worked as horseshoe crab site coordinators, managing our volunteers in Jamaica Bay in collecting crab spawning data. **ALISON KOCEK**, a PhD student in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Biology and Management at SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry, conducted saltmarsh sparrow field research on Staten Island. **JOSEPH O'SULLIVAN** managed our wading bird citizen science project in the role of Harbor Herons Foraging Survey project coordinator. **KAITLYN PARKINS**, a recent MS graduate from Fordham University, conducted arthropod and bat surveys on the green roof of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center and helped analyze data. **DUSTIN PARTRIDGE**, a PhD student at Fordham University, conducted arthropod surveys on the green roof of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center and helped analyze data. **HEIN SIHN**, an undergraduate student at Columbia University, studied American oystercatcher and piping plover interactions and nesting patterns. **ANN SELIGMAN** was the "garden guardian" at the Urban Oasis in McGolrick Park, managing the native plant garden and volunteers. She also assisted with horseshoe crab surveys at Jamaica Bay. **EMILIO TOBÓN**, a recent PhD student at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and an experienced field technician, conducted NYC Audubon's American oystercatcher surveys, which he has done since 2010, and helped with the tunnel experiment at the Bronx Zoo. **ANIKÓ TÓTHA**, experienced field technician, continued to run the tunnel experiment at the Bronx Zoo, banding birds and testing bird-safe glass alternatives.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

NYC Audubon's conservation work and public outreach programs are made possible by generous contributions from members, friends, corporations, foundations, and government agencies. We'd like to express our gratitude to all those who have sustained us in our work this past season.

## AMERICAN KESTREL CIRCLE

Claude and Lucienne Bloch  
Ronald Bourque  
Joseph and Barbara Ellis  
Marcia and Bruce Fowle  
Philip Fried and Bruce Patterson  
Cathy and Lloyd Heller  
Jeffrey Kimball  
Pamela Manice  
Edith McBean  
John and Heather Shemilt  
Fredric and Winnie Spar  
Alan Steel  
Virginia K. Stowe  
Elizabeth Woods and Charles Denholm

## CORPORATIONS, FOUNDATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

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## IN-KIND DONATIONS

Laure Moutet Manheimer and  
Stephen Manheimer  
Beverly Perkey  
Sheila and Lewis Rosenberg  
Lloyd Spitalnik

## TRIBUTE GIFTS

*In honor of...*  
Kathryn Heintz  
Kellye Rosenheim  
Tod Winston  
Elizabeth Woods and Charles  
Denholm

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

*In memory of...*  
Ruth Dalmus  
Jennifer Kao  
Stefan A. Mayer  
Judith Patchell  
Joseph Tobin

## BEQUESTS

Estate of Helen Ann Mattin  
Estate of Evelyn Nethercott

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New  Renewal

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Fall Roost Artwork Courtesy of Kristen Bannister

## THE FALL ROOST

Protecting Birds in New York City for over 30 Years

Tuesday, October 13, 2015  
 at Guastavino's, 409 East 59th Street

Silent Auction and Reception 6:30-7:30pm  
 Dinner and Program 7:30-9:30pm

**HONORING**  
 Marsilia Boyle  
 ARNOLD GLAS  
 Deborah Jones

**CO-CHAIRS**  
 Marcia T. Fowle  
 Catherine Heller  
 Karen Benfield  
 Sarah Jeffords



**P**lease join us for our eleventh annual Fall Roost on Tuesday, October 13 at Guastavino's. This year we are thrilled to honor **Marsilia Boyle, ARNOLD GLAS, and Deborah Jones.**

A longtime director and officer of NYC Audubon, **Marcy Boyle** champions our efforts around the City, chairs the Audubon Council of New York State, and serves on the board of Audubon New York. Marcy was also a longtime member of Brooklyn's Community Board 1 and a founding member of the McGolrick Park Neighborhood Alliance, where she has been instrumental in extending Audubon's presence in Brooklyn. She is senior vice president for development and special projects at the LeFrak Organization.

German glass manufacturer **ARNOLD GLAS**, and especially company co-owner **Hans-Joachim Arnold**, is the creator of Ornilux, a bird-friendly architectural glass that is saving countless birds worldwide. Ornilux harnesses birds' natural avoidance of spider webs by adding a crisscross-patterned, UV-reflective coating that makes the glass visible to birds while remaining virtually transparent to the human eye.

This year we are also happy to honor our first Volunteer of the Year, **Deborah Jones**, who has once again lent her considerable talents to creating fabulous silent auction displays and decorations for the Roost (see page 14). Deborah is a multifaceted freelance artist who has worked in many mediums, including make-up for television, storyboarding for fashion, painting, and drawing. She is also an accomplished vocalist and composer of Brazilian jazz, who has long loved birds and the inspiration that they bring.

For those of you who are familiar with our party from years past, this year we are migrating to Guastavino's, the exciting landmarked space under the 59th Street Bridge. The evening starts at 6:30 with cocktails and a silent auction, followed by a seated dinner. Proceeds from the Fall Roost support NYC Audubon's work protecting birds through education, conservation, and advocacy. Tickets start at \$375. For tickets or more information, contact Kellye Rosenheim at 646-502-9611 or [krosenheim@nycaudubon.org](mailto:krosenheim@nycaudubon.org).