

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON

WINTER 2014-2015 / VOLUME XXXV NO. 4



THE URBAN AUDUBON



**Audubon's Climate Change Report
A Call to Citizen Scientists**

**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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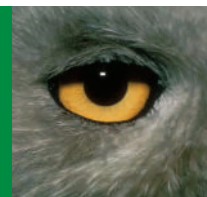
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kathryn Heintz



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Kathryn Heintz



Midway through an otherwise quiet summer, the board of directors of New York City Audubon invited me to become its next executive director. I am honored. As this dedicated and accomplished organization embarks upon its 35th year, I am thrilled to join its wonderful staff, to meet its devoted members, and to help craft its promising future.

In just a few weeks, I have seen places I thought I knew: Jamaica Bay, Orchard Beach, Greenpoint, the coastline in Staten Island, and even a garage roof in the Battery. But now that I am looking at them with a bird's-eye view, I am filled with wonder. Dr. Susan Elbin took me to the Battery to keep an eye out for night-migrating birds during the annual Tribute in Light memorial. She offered a tour of the Jamaica Bay shoreline, pointing out the research projects underway. Then she showed me an amazing seven-acre sedum field atop the Javits Center followed by an up-close examination of its new exterior fritted glass—Project Safe Flight in action. I have also been moved by the enthusiasm of our dedicated volunteers and the passion of fellow bird-watchers enthralled by Gabriel Willow as we took in the nesting herons on their private islands beyond the Verrazano Bridge on a sunset cruise.

Looking ahead, there is much to do. It is a critically important time for wild birds and their habitats. I urge you to read National Audubon's *Birds and Climate Change Report*, which is highlighted in this issue. Also in these pages you will read about our work locally: Recent achievements at the Ridgewood Reservoir on the Brooklyn-Queens border and the native plant garden in McGolrick Park in Brooklyn are just two we highlight for you this season. You will also find the roster of activities and trips we are offering this winter. Sign up for the 115th Christmas Bird Count in Central Park and the Great Backyard Bird Count. Join our corps of volunteers, whom we gratefully acknowledge on pages 18 and 19, whose efforts make all of our work possible. Partake of birding walks, lectures, classes, and adventures among friends. Your continuing participation in our programs is essential to their success.

This is the kind of personal engagement we need to protect wild birds and their habitats in our urban environment. We need you. As the end of the calendar year approaches, we ask you for your renewed financial support. Please consider what NYC Audubon means to you and renew your support with a year-end donation in the enclosed envelope, or at www.nycaudubon.org. I hope you will choose to give as generously as your means allow. Every gift of every size matters to every one of us. Your participation matters most.

Thank you all for a warm welcome to NYC Audubon. It is surely a harbinger of great things to come!

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 Development Manager Angela Januzzi a call at 212-691-7483 x306.

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Susan Elbin, Steve Nanz, and Don Riepe

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CONSERVATION NOTES

Debra Kriensky



Most of our work this fall has focused on providing safe passage through New York City for migratory land birds. Our primary accomplishments are highlighted below:

On September 11, our staff including new executive director Kathryn Heintz, volunteers, and board members once again monitored the Tribute in Light memorial, in partnership with the Municipal Arts Society. Migration forecasts shortly before the Tribute indicated that a heavy migration night was likely, causing concern; but the vast majority of birds ended up passing over just to the west of New York City, missing the lights almost completely. The handful of birds spotted flying through the light beams did not linger, and the Tribute was not dimmed as it has been in past years, remaining bright throughout the night. (A tourist helicopter hovered in the beams during the early hours of the evening... until we called the FAA.)

This fall, Project Safe Flight volunteers continued to monitor several areas and buildings of concern for birds injured or killed by collisions with glass. Our citizen scientists patrolled the Metropolitan Museum of Art almost every day of the week, and found that its large glass windows continue to be problematic for migrating birds like common yellowthroats, white-throated sparrows, and even ruby-throated hummingbirds. Other sites, such as Bryant Park and Washington Square Park, also continue to be collision hotspots, with victims including blackpoll warblers, rose-breasted grosbeaks, and northern flickers. For the last few weeks of fall, we also enlisted several new volunteers at Columbia University to start monitoring buildings on campus that have had bird collisions.

We helped create stopover habitat for land birds at McGolrick Park, Greenpoint, Brooklyn. The garden is sleeping now, but in

the spring we will replace plants that didn't survive. (See page 14 to learn more about this project.)

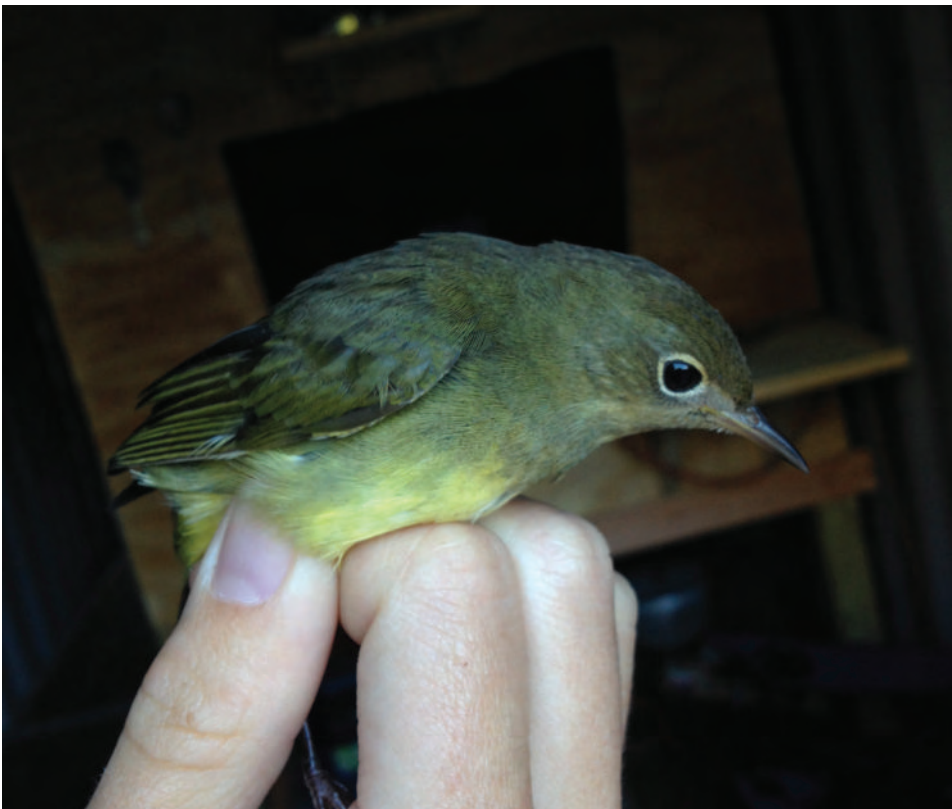
Our new "D-Bird" data collection tool is fully up and running on our website, and many people from all over the City have reported sightings of dead and injured birds. As we continue to receive more reports, this tool will allow us to determine if there are any buildings or areas of particular concern for collisions beyond those we monitor on a regular basis. It will also help us determine which species are at highest risk for injury. So far, we have gotten reports of a variety of species, but a noticeable number of northern parulas, ruby-throated hummingbirds, and red-eyed vireos. (Learn more about D-Bird on page 16 of this issue.)

In addition to our work on the streets of New York City, our joint research (with American Bird Conservancy, New Jersey Audubon, Fordham University, Ennead Architects, and the Bronx Zoo) on bird-safe glass continued this fall in the Bronx. The flight tunnel is now in the testing phase, and after banding and measuring each bird, NYC Audubon Research Technician Anikó Totha and Field Assistant Emilio Tobon release it into the tunnel to see if it can differentiate between regular glass and glass designed to be bird-friendly. Gray catbirds are a frequent flyer in the tunnel, but we have tested many species including rose-breasted grosbeaks, palm warblers, and even a Connecticut warbler. (Note: No birds are harmed during this experiment due to a net that catches the birds before they reach the glass.)

In the next *Urban Audubon*, we will highlight our waterbirds program. But for now, we hope to see you at the 115th Christmas Bird Count! (See page 13.)

If you would like to get involved with our citizen science efforts, please contact us at volunteer@nycaudubon.org.

You can find the latest conservation project updates on our blog, *Syrinx*, at www.nycaudubon.org/syrinx.



A Connecticut Warbler Visited the Tunnel this Fall

AUDUBON'S GROUNDBREAKING CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT: 314 BIRDS ON THE BRINK

Carol Peace Robins



That alarmingly high total—314 bird species at risk—is the conclusion of a headline-making report released this September by Audubon scientists. In Audubon's *Birds and Climate Change Report*, the group led by chief scientist Dr. Gary Langham points out that climate change-induced shrinking and shifting of birds' ranges could threaten the survival of an astonishing one third of North American bird species within this century.

This seven-year study of 588 bird species is largely based on Audubon's Christmas Bird Count data (See page 13 for details of this year's count). For 114 years, volunteers have been collecting this valuable information. But never in its history has the survey served such an important—and dire—purpose. The Count, along with Audubon's North American Breeding Bird Survey and United Nations estimates of the effects of climate change in 2050 and 2080, is the basis for the report's alarming predictions.

For us in the New York metropolitan area, the report forecasts that by 2080 there will be no more purple finches or white-breasted nuthatches visiting our feeders. No more double-crested cormorants breeding on New York City's Harbor Heron islands. The piping plover may never again scamper along our beaches. And not too far from here could be a Baltimore without a single Baltimore oriole, or a Maine lake where the cry of the common loon is just a memory.

But for the birds themselves, things are far worse. If their habitats change, if areas get hotter or dryer or are otherwise altered, they'll probably have to move. But then what? Suppose the food a bird



normally depends on isn't available in its new home? Suppose it's used to living in a forest, and its new place is mostly grassland? And will the species that already live there now have to relocate, too? Could the time come when there's nowhere suitable to move to?

"When you realize that only nine bird species have gone extinct in continental North America in modern times, and then you see that we're looking at 314 North American bird species at risk by the end of this century—it just takes your breath away," laments Langham.

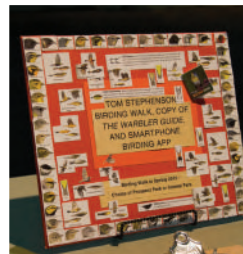
What's to be done? Erin Crotty, Audubon New York's executive director, says actions must include protecting habitats, supporting and generating solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and building demand for improved climate policies at all levels. In short, making a very large noise.

If ever there were a call to action, it's now—because what's true for birds is equally true for other animals, plants, and of course, the humans who started it all.

THE FALL ROOST: CELEBRATING THE JAVITS CENTER'S

A soaring success! That's the best way to describe NYC Audubon's tenth annual Fall Roost, celebrated on October 16 at the refurbished and newly green Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. The Javits Center had been one of the City's most problematic buildings for bird collisions, but a new design and improvements created by the architectural team of FXFOWLE Epstein have cut bird fatalities by 90%, and also made the building more energy efficient. Highly reflective glass was replaced with a combination of stainless steel panels and low-reflecting, high-performance patterned glass. Only when you peer closely at the panes is the tiny dot pattern visible. In addition, a new 6.75-acre green roof has been installed, the second largest in the United States, which is carpeted with sedum plants. This year, this new urban habitat attracted bird species including nesting herring gulls and foraging American kestrels—as well as five species of bats.

The 2014 Fall Roost honored the team behind this successful renovation: the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, Convention Center Development Corporation, and FXFOWLE Epstein Architects. Accepting the award on the honorees' behalf were Alan E. Steel, president and CEO of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center; Barbara



BIRD-FRIENDLY RENOVATION TEAM

Catherine Schragis Heller



Lampen, president of the Convention Center Development Corporation; Bruce Fowle, founding partner of FXFOWLE; and Larry Dalziel, vice president of Epstein Architecture and Engineering.

One hundred eighty guests attended the evening, generously contributing nearly \$190,000 in support of NYC Audubon's conservation work—more than a 25% increase over last year's donations. In addition to the Roost's traditional silent auction, a quick and entertaining live auction was run by Kathleen Guzman, appraiser for the popular PBS program, *Antiques Roadshow*. Offerings included a birding get-away to Costa Rica, an opportunity to name an American kestrel nesting box to be set up on the green roof next spring, as well as a small replica of the sedum roof planting.

Perhaps the biggest star of the evening was the Javits Center itself: The gala was held in the Center's River Pavilion, a towering space with an 81-foot high ceiling, a skylight, and surround of glass walls overlooking the Hudson River. On October 16, a dismal and rainy morning became a crisp and clear afternoon and evening, and a former hazard to birds was recognized as a haven for wildlife.

1. Bruce Fowle, Susan Elbin, Larry Dalziel, Barbara Lampen, Alan E. Steel, Harry Maas
2. Steve Margulis, Sherida Paulsen, Kathryn Heintz
3. Susan Elbin, Bruce Fowle, Marcia Fowle
4. Priscilla Bijur, Cathy Schragis Heller
5. Jeff Kimball, Harry Maas, Tom Stephenson
6. Robert Lavalva, Helena Durst, Mark Domino
7. Mary Jane Kaplan, Clary Olmstead, Rob Bate
8. Cristyne Nicholas, Alan E. Steel

All Convention Photos: David Rodgers

FALL ROOST ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to the Jacob K. Javits
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for their energy and time
coordinating the evening.
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Live Auction: Kathleen Guzman
and Heritage Auctions
Silent Auction Artwork: Deborah
Jones
Silent and Live Auctions: Scott
Perrin and The Event Office

Note: Donation list as of Friday,
October 31, 2014

NYC AUDUBON'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KATHRYN HEINTZ

Raised in suburban Washington, DC, NYC Audubon's new executive director, Kathryn Heintz, developed a substantial career in cultural and conservation nonprofits, all at New York institutions. She studied literature as an undergraduate at SUNY's Purchase College, and performing arts administration as a graduate at NYU's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. She served for the past two years as director, principal gifts with the Wildlife Conservation Society, the zoological and global conservation organization headquartered at the Bronx Zoo. From 2001 to 2012 she was director of development at Wave Hill, the public garden and cultural center along the Hudson River in the northwestern Bronx, following seven years in a similar capacity with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Kathryn learned to love wild birds at the Audubon Naturalist Society's Woodend Nature Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Now at the helm of NYC Audubon and understanding that a healthy environment for wild birds is a healthy environment for all New Yorkers, Kathryn is eager to advance NYC Audubon's scientific research, to build its educational work and public programs, and to support its advocacy activities throughout the five boroughs—all efforts that share a common goal of preserving critical natural areas that provide wild birds with welcoming, safe, and healthy habitats.



VOLUNTEER!

Make a difference for New York City's wildlife by volunteering with NYC Audubon. Learn about the many ways to help at our general orientation on Wednesday, March 11, from 6:30 to 7:30pm. To register for the orientation or for any of the specific projects listed below, contact the office at volunteer@nycaudubon.org or 212-691-7483 x304. For up-to-date information on early spring volunteer events such as beach clean-ups and native tree plantings, please visit us at www.nycaudubon.org/volunteer-events.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS Help answer inquiries about wildlife and about our field trips, classes, events, and conservation work. Also help with mailings, research, data entry, photocopying, and filing. Word-processing skills and knowledge of birds are helpful, but not required. This is a great opportunity to learn the ins and outs of a small nonprofit.

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS If you are interested in contributing to NYC Audubon's conservation and science work, there are a variety of projects to choose from. **Project Safe Flight** volunteers monitor buildings in the city to help us learn what effect they

have on migratory birds; data collected support our work to make migration through the city safer. **Jamaica Bay** program volunteers monitor migratory shorebirds and horseshoe crabs so that we may better understand how populations of these species are changing and how we can work to conserve them. **Harbor Herons Great Egret Foraging Study** volunteers collect data on foraging long-legged waders around the New York Harbor to help us better understand how these birds use our wetlands. All of these programs can use your help in the spring, summer, and fall.

BIRD TRANSPORTERS We often receive phone calls from concerned citizens who have found injured birds, but are unable to transport them to medical facilities. We need caring and compassionate volunteers to transport injured birds to licensed wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians.

PRESS AND PROMOTION Do you have a background in event promotion or advertising, and want to support bird conservation? We are looking for someone familiar with the ins and outs of press releases and event promotion who can help spread the word about our trips, classes, and other events.



EVENTS AND ADVENTURES

● NYC Audubon Events ● Partnership Events

● CAMERA CLUB

Wednesday, December 3 and
Wednesday, February 4; 6:30-
8:30pm

Instructors: David Speiser,
Lloyd Spitalnik

Meet at the National Audubon office, 225 Varick St. Whether you're a beginner or more advanced photographer, our friendly 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

● WINTER WATERFOWL WORKSHOP AT JAMAICA BAY

Saturday, December 6, 10am-1pm
With Gateway National
Recreation Area

Guides: Don Riepe, Tod Winston
Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center for a slide ID program and walk to look for wintering waterfowl. Learn about their behavior and biology and how to identify them in the field. To register, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. Limited to 25. Free

● VAN TRIP TO THE WINTER WATERFOWL WORKSHOP AT JAMAICA BAY

Saturday, December 6, 9am-3pm
Register for our van trip to the Winter Waterfowl Workshop and get to Jamaica Bay the easy way. Transport by passenger van. Bring lunch and water. Limited to 12. \$28.50 (20)

● MEMBERS-ONLY

December Member Walk in
Central Park
Wednesday, December 10,
7:30-9am

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street for a members-only walk. Come brave the chilly weather and spot some of Central Park's best wintering birds with NYC Audubon Communications Manager Tod Winston. Please call Angela Januzzi at 212-691-7483 x306 to register. Limited to 20. Free for Contributing NYC Audubon members at the Student/Senior level and up

● CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, ALL BOROUGHES

Put the Christmas Bird Count on your calendars! Please see page 13 for dates and contact information.

● WINTER BIRDING ALONG THE HUDSON: WAVE HILL, THE BRONX

Sundays December 14, January 11,
February 8, and March 8; 9:30-
11:30am
Guide: Gabriel Willow
With Wave Hill

Meet at the Perkins Visitor Center. The Hudson River valley hosts an impressive diversity of bird species, even during the winter months. Come explore the beautiful gardens and woodlands of Wave Hill and observe the hardy birds that spend the winter in this urban oasis. Advanced registration is recommended, either online, 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. NYC Audubon members enjoy two-for-one admission

● NEW YEAR'S DAY BEACH WALK, FORT TILDEN, QUEENS
Thursday, January 1, 11am-1pm
Guide: Don Riepe
With American Littoral Society and Gateway National Recreation Area
Meet at 11am at Bldg.1 in Fort Tilden for a brisk hike along the beach. Visit the hawk watch platform for great views of beach and bay and enjoy champagne, coffee, and cake afterwards at the Rockaway Artists Alliance. To register, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. No Limit. Free

● WINTER SEALS AND WATERBIRDS OF NY HARBOR
Sundays, January 11 - March 8, 12-2pm (Note: no cruise on February 1)
With New York Water Taxi
Guide: NYC Audubon
Meet at South Street Seaport's Pier 16 and come aboard NY Water Taxi's eco-friendly vessel for a winter adventure in New York Harbor! Look for harbor seals on the rocky shores of Governors Island and the more remote Hoffman and Swinburne Islands. Learn about the surprisingly diverse winter birds of New York City, including ducks,

geese, loons, and sandpipers, many of which migrate south from the Arctic. See the Statue of Liberty and pass under the Verrazano Bridge. Dress warmly! Limited to 90. To register, contact New York Water Taxi at 212-742-1969 or www.nywatertaxi.com. \$35 for adults; \$25 for children under 12; \$105 for family pack for 2 adults and 2 children

● WINTER EAGLES ON THE HUDSON, NY

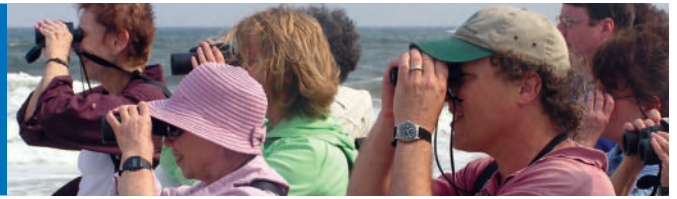
Saturday January 24, 8:45am-4pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow

Meet at the clock in Grand Central Station and join NYC Audubon for one of the most incredible avian spectacles in NY: bald eagles wintering along the frozen Hudson River, where they gather to feed and rest in great numbers. We will travel in comfort, taking Metro North to Croton Point Park, where we will seek out eagles as well as wintering short-eared owls, snowy owls, snow buntings, horned larks, and other cold-weather specialties. The walk is about two miles over easy terrain. Limited to 20. Round-trip Metro North fare (\$19.50) not included in trip price. \$53 (37)

©François Portmann



Northern Pintail



©David Spenser



Bald Eagle

● SNOW BIRDS OF FLOYD BENNETT FIELD AND FORT TILDEN, QUEENS

Saturdays, January 31 and February 28; 10:30am-4pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow

Winter brings many rare birds to NYC that can't be found here at any other time! Perhaps most exciting are the "snow birds" of the Arctic tundra, such as snow buntings and snowy owls, that can occasionally be found in tundra-like habitats further south. We will travel to Floyd Bennett Field in search of these and other winter visitors such as horned larks, American tree sparrows, and rough-legged hawks. We'll then head to Fort Tilden and Breezy Point to look for wintering ducks, grebes, and loons. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$97 (67.50) per trip

● WINTER SURVIVAL WILDLIFE WALK AT JAMAICA BAY

Saturday, February 7, 10am-1pm
Guide: Don Riepe
With Gateway National Recreation Area

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge for a slide presentation and walk to look for overwintering birds and other wildlife. See many species of ducks, geese and winter finches. To register, contact Don Riepe at (718) 474-0896 or donriep@gmail.com. Free

● SOARING RAPTORS: EAGLES AND OWLS OF THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY, NY

Sunday, February 8, Noon-7pm
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

You don't have to travel to Alaska to see our country's emblem, the American bald eagle. Thanks to one of the most successful reintroduction programs on record, many eagles now soar over the nearby Hudson Valley. Travel with us to see this spectacular raptor, as well as possibly spot the secretive short-eared owl. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. Transport by passenger van is included. Limited to 12. \$100 (70)

● WINTER AT JONES BEACH, LI

Thursday, February 19, 8am-4pm

Guides: Peter Mott, Tod Winston
 Several bird species that nest in the far north spend the winter at Jones Beach, where they prosper in a habitat similar to their summer homes. We will start at Point Lookout and work eastward as far as Robert Moses State Park in search of sea ducks, horned larks, snow buntings, and more. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 11. \$80 (56)

● CENTRAL PARK WINTER WALKS

Saturdays, February 14 and March 7; 10am-1pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street. Some of the best sightings

await hardy nature-lovers willing to venture out in winter! Several species of owls can often be seen in Central Park, as well as winter finches such as pine siskins, redpolls, and crossbills. Warm up after the walk with a hot chocolate by the fireplace at the Loeb Boathouse. Limited to 15. \$36 (25) per trip

● CONSERVING OUR CITY OF NATURE: THE ARTWORK OF ALAN MESSER

Presented by NYC Audubon
Opening Reception: Wednesday, March 4, 6-8pm
The Arsenal, Central Park, Fifth Avenue at 64th Street, Third-Floor Gallery

Join us for the opening reception of this exhibition of the beautiful artwork of Alan Messer. Alan's exquisite paintings and drawings of wild birds have been selected and organized to depict NYC Audubon's conservation mission in New York City—and the precious birds we strive to protect. Exhibition runs from Thursday, March 5 to Thursday, April 23. Gallery hours Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. Free

● WINTER BIRDS OF BARNEGAT, NJ

Wednesday, March 4, 9am-4pm
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Explore Barnegat Inlet's expansive beach to view the winter birds that gather where land, bay, and sea meet. Search for harlequin ducks, horned larks, Lapland longspurs, snow buntings, and snowy and short-eared owls. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$115 (80)

● WINTER BIRDS OF SANDY HOOK, NJ

Saturday, March 7, 10am-5pm
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Sandy Hook, a spectacular barrier island at the northernmost point of the NJ coast, hosts a variety of

species including Arctic-bound migrants and harbor seals that lie on the beach to warm up in the sun. Other possible sightings: loons, sea ducks, snow buntings, and horned larks. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$96 (67)

● EARLY SPRING BIRD WALK

Saturday, March 28, 10am-1pm

Guide: Don Riepe

With American Littoral Society

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge for a hike around the ponds and gardens to look for egrets, ibis, osprey and other early returning species. To register, contact Don Riepe at (718) 474-0896 or donriep@gmail.com. Free

● TO REGISTER FOR ALL NYC AUDUBON EVENTS and for more information, visit www.nycaudubon.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 19.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL TRIPS



Black Scoters

MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND WITH DON RIEPE, LONG ISLAND, NY

Friday, January 9 - Sunday, January 11

Guide: Don Riepe

Spend a quiet weekend at Montauk during peak winter birding time. Visit the seal haul-out site and see many species of seabirds including loons, scoters, and goldeneye. For reservations and details, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriep@gmail.com

WINTER WATERFOWL WEEKEND AT MONTAUK WITH GABRIEL WILLOW, LONG ISLAND, NY

Saturday, February 21, 9am - Sunday, February 22, 7pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

The gatherings of sea ducks around Montauk Point are the largest winter concentrations in New York State; the Christmas bird count on Montauk Point consistently tallies from 125 to

135 species, one of the best totals in the Northeast. Species that come to feed on the Point's rich kelp and mussel beds include common and red-throated loon, common eider, common goldeneye, great cormorant, and all three scoter species. Harlequin duck and king eider also occur here regularly during the winter. Accommodations at Daunt's Albatross in Montauk. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$300 (\$25 single supplement)

FLORIDA EVERGLADES Sunday, April 12-Sunday, April 19

Guide: Don Riepe

Enjoy up-close viewing of many species of birds and other wildlife. Visit the north and south units of Everglades National Park, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Sanibel Island (J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge), Green Cay and Wakodahatchee

boardwalks, and other state and county parks. New birders and photographers welcome. For reservations and details, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriep@gmail.com



Reddish Egret

THE BIRDERS COALITION FOR GATEWAY

Rob Bate



To strengthen the response to the National Park Service's proposed General Management Plan for Gateway National Recreation Area, an area that includes Jamaica Bay and its surroundings, a coalition was formed in 2013 by New York City area birding organizations and other local environmental organizations. This group, which calls itself the Birders Coalition for Gateway, includes the New York State Ornithological Association, Brooklyn Bird Club, the Queens County Bird Club, the Linnaean Society, the American Littoral Society (Northeast Chapter), Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers, Protectors of Pine Oak Woods, as well as Audubon chapters from Great South Bay, Huntington-Oyster Bay, and South Shore, with NYC Audubon taking the lead. Additionally, a few unaffiliated but committed birders joined the effort, most actively Andrew Baksh and Douglas Futuyma.

The Birders Coalition for Gateway is closely involved in the implementation of the adopted version of the General Management Plan, as each part goes through a vetting process. Along with this effort, the coalition continues to advocate for habitat restoration of Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge's West Pond, originally a freshwater pond that was breached by the Bay's salt water during Hurricane Sandy in 2012. The full recommendations for the West Pond restoration, prepared by NYC Audubon in cooperation with the Birders Coalition, can be found at www.nycaudubon.org/jamaica-bay-west-pond-restoration.

The 115th annual Christmas Bird Count

will soon be under way in all five boroughs of New York City—as well as across the Hudson in the rest of the country—starting December 14 and running through January 5.

The importance of this annual survey—the oldest and largest citizen-science program in the world, with over 2,300 separate bird counts and tens of thousands of participants—extends well beyond the parks, prairies, and wetlands where it occurs. Thanks to the data gathered over the decades, conservationists are able to chart changes in the range and population size of birds throughout the United States.

National Audubon researchers used accumulated data from Christmas Bird Counts, along with data from other studies, to formulate ominous predictions in its *Birds and Climate Change Report*. The news: 314 species are imperiled, with 126 projected to lose more than 50 percent of their current range by 2050. (See page 5 for more details.)

Harry Maas, president of the NYC Audubon’s board, says that while Central Park is too unique a site to indicate much in the way of climate change, over the decades a number of southern birds have come to live year round in the park: the northern cardinal, the Carolina wren, and the red-bellied woodpecker. “Seventy-five years ago they wouldn’t have been found.” With less snow, robins are staying longer. On the other hand, owls—which used to spend the winter here—have mostly disappeared.

“The study is vital for conservationists,” says Director of Conservation and Science Susan Elbin, who helps organize the Central Park Christmas Bird Count and compiles all the data for the New Jersey/Lower Hudson count circle. She explains that the Count’s long-term data set, collected from 115 annual surveys conducted during the same 23-day period every year, enables ornithologists to analyze trends and patterns and evaluate the long-term health and status of bird populations.

Anyone can take part in the count tradition, founded over a century ago as an alternative to the sport of shooting game birds at Christmas time. In addition to the scientific contribution you’ll be making while counting birds, a good learning opportunity is in the offing: Beginners are paired with experts. There’s also the possibility of seeing a bird never before seen in these parts. Maas recalls the 2004 count when a boreal owl was sighted, roosting near Tavern on the Green—the first time in City history.

At the count’s end, everyone gathers inside to thaw out, tally the numbers, and enjoy food and drink—also part of the tradition.

The Christmas Bird Count is free and open to birders at all levels. To volunteer with a local count, find the contact below for your preferred borough:

Count	Date	Contact	eMail
Manhattan	Sunday, 12/14	Susan Elbin	christmasbirdcount@nycaudubon.org
Queens	Sunday, 12/14	Corey Finger	here471@yahoo.com
Brooklyn	Saturday, 12/20	Mary Eyster	maryjoeyster@gmail.com
Staten Island	Saturday, 12/20	Seth Wollney	seth@sethwollney.com
The Bronx	Sunday, 12/28	Michael Bochnik	bochnikm@cs.com

The Great Backyard Bird Count

Another excellent citizen science opportunity, a joint project of Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada, takes place February 13-16: The 18th annual Great Backyard Bird Count. Everyone is welcome to spend as much or as little time wherever they are, counting birds and creating a real-time snapshot of where the birds are.

To learn more, to sign up, and to see results of previous counts, visit gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started.

GOING NATIVE: RESTORING MCGOLRICK PARK

Ellen Gerber

You wouldn't think it would take such tremendous effort, so much work, by so many people, for so many months, to transform a quarter-acre section of compacted soil and exotic plant species into a more natural habitat. But it did. And the results are amazing.

McGolrick Park in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, which opened in 1891, was designated a New York City landmark in 1966 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Periodically falling into disrepair and periodically being restored, it was last rehabilitated in 1985.

The current restoration effort is notably different from past efforts. A \$25,000 grant from the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund supported the project, which was facilitated by NYC Audubon Board Member and Greenpoint resident Marcy Boyle. With extraordinary help from NYC Audubon, New York City Parks & Recreation, and the Lutheran Church of the Messiah (which borders the park), an urban oasis was created over this past growing season for the neighborhood and for both migratory and resident birds.

"I didn't realize how much work goes into a project like this," said Kaitlyn Parkins, former research assistant at NYC Audubon. "Volunteers needed to be recruited, trained, and organized into a group that has not only worked to install the garden, but will continue to maintain it." Additionally, biodiversity surveys need to be conducted regularly in order to evaluate the success of the plantings, increasing the need for committed workers. As of early July, about 40 individuals have signed up.



©Chris Keussling

Conservation Field Ecologist Alexander Summers offered invaluable advice as the acting consultant for the garden. To ensure that the plants were well positioned, he shared his preliminary findings with NYC Audubon staff: a map of the canopy cover, pH readings of the soil, and an analysis of sand, salt, clay, and drainage conditions. Of course, he explained, "in the end, plants will move themselves to where they need to be."

The native plants chosen provide "habitat and food, in the form of berries, seeds, and insects they attract," explained Parkins. Rain barrels will collect water. The plantings may take one to two years to be established, and native moths, butterflies, bees, and birds are sure to follow. Eventually, the park will be turned over to the McGolrick Park Neighborhood Alliance.

The project has already been a success. The community has enthusiastically embraced it, people have learned invaluable lessons about the environment, and, as community resident Tom Milligan sees it, "McGolrick Park represents a future for our children."

THE NORTHERN GANNET (*MORUS BASSANUS*)

Don Riepe



©Don Riepe

The largest of our pelagic (oceanic) birds, with a wingspan of six feet, the northern gannet comes ashore only once a year to nest on offshore cliffs and islands along the coast of the Maritime Provinces. During that time, one of the best

places to see large numbers is on Bonaventure Island just off the tip of the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec. After a short boat ride and a half-mile hike across the island, you'll come in close contact with what is perhaps the largest colony of nesting gannets in the world, estimated at 58,000 pairs in 2014. Standing behind a thin rope barrier, you can

be within arms' reach of them, and they seem to be totally unperturbed by your presence. It is truly an amazing, noisy spectacle. While one parent bird is sitting on the nest, the other is out hunting for fish, such as herring and mackerel, which the agile birds catch by diving into the water from heights of 40 feet or more to average depths of 20 to 30 feet below the surface. Strong flyers, they may venture up to 200 miles or more from their colony in search of food and often can be seen hunting in association with whales. There is some concern about the northern gannet's future, as warming and acidifying oceans may reduce the numbers of their prey fish or drive the fish to deeper waters farther offshore.

Although strictly pelagic, gannets can be seen flying or diving just offshore in winter and early spring. In New York City, a good place to observe them is from the Rockaway and Breezy Point beaches as well as shorelines in Brooklyn and Staten Island. Sometimes they fly a little inland; I have seen them on two occasions from my Broad Channel dock in Jamaica Bay.

PROGRESS IS SEEN ON PRESERVATION OF RIDGEWOOD RESERVOIR

Lee Frankel

The collaborative effort to save Ridgeway Reservoir as a freshwater wetlands habitat took a step closer to its goal on September 2, 2014. Over the past seven years, various damaging schemes have targeted the 50-acre, three-basin reservoir, which is no longer in use and is located within Highland Park on the Queens-Brooklyn border. NYC Audubon has been active among those pressing for the decommissioned reservoir's preservation as a natural area.

The latest threat resulted from the classification of the retaining walls of the reservoir from a "class C" or "high hazard" dam under New York State regulations. This designation would require the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation to dig culverts through the basin walls, connecting the reservoir's three basins—a six-million-dollar project involving a new road through the wetlands inside the basins, truck traffic, and the felling of many trees. Preservationists, led by former NYC Audubon Board Member Steve Nanz and his wife Heidi Steiner, who founded the Highland Park/Ridgewood Reservoir Alliance, have strongly protested this unnecessary waste of tax money that would severely damage the beauty and treasured status of one of the few freshwater wetlands left in New York City.

Now, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has agreed that a downgrade of "low hazard" to the flood-risk classification for the dam "may be justified," pending

review of further information from New York City Parks. This decision came in response to a letter to Governor Cuomo from eight City and State elected representatives, requesting the downgrade and advocating preservation by stating that "We are deeply concerned these changes will significantly harm the natural and largely undisturbed habitats of the animals that currently live there."

Since its decommissioning in 1989, the reservoir has transformed itself through natural processes to its wild state and now hosts a rare, small birch forest, more than 100 native plant species, and more than 150 migratory and resident bird species, according to Rob Jett, founder of the Save the Ridgewood Reservoir blog. Both the flora and fauna include species listed by New York State as Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, including such bird species as short-eared owl, pied-billed grebe, and red-shouldered hawk.

This fall the DEC is scheduling an update of the mapping and delineation of the wetlands in the reservoir's basins. The preservationist community looks forward to receiving the schedule and to news of the reservoir's official downgrade to "low hazard."

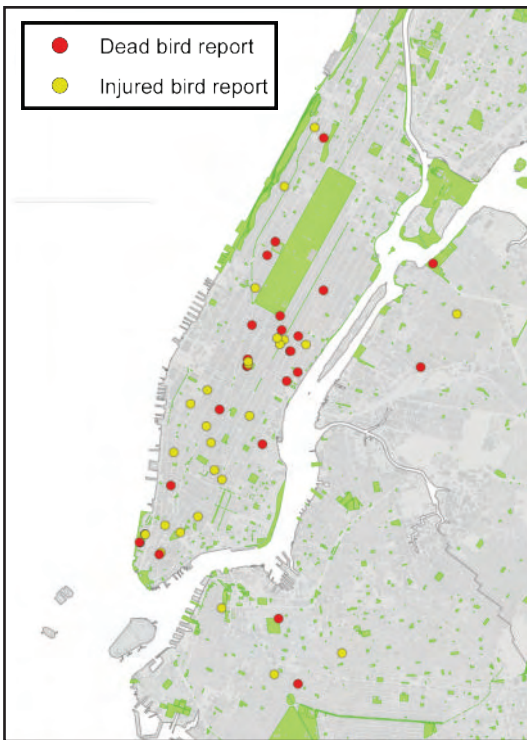
A history of the Ridgewood Reservoir, updates on preservation, and photographs are posted at www.nycaudubon.org/issues-of-concern/keeping-ridgewood-reservoir-green, ridgewoodreservoir.blogspot.com, and www.nycgovparks.org.



An Aerial View of Ridgewood Reservoir

D-BIRD: “THE CROWD” LENDS A HAND TO PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

Darren Klein



Since 1997, NYC Audubon has been studying building-related bird mortality in New York City as part of an effort known as Project Safe Flight; current Project Safe Flight research suggests that more than 90,000 birds are killed each year by collisions with buildings in the City. To complement Project Safe Flight research, NYC Audubon has launched a tool for collecting crowdsourced data called D-Bird; D-Bird went live on the NYC Audubon website in September.

Crowdsourced data are becoming an important component of scientific research. Crowdsourcing is the use of large amounts of data that have been contributed by the general public. Many birders are familiar with eBird, a crowdsourced data collection tool operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology; birders log in to eBird and report their observations, and these data are used by Cornell researchers. Another Cornell Lab data collection device is used as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count. (See page 13 for details on this year's count.)

D-Bird is intended to be used in a similar fashion, but specifically to collect information on dead and injured birds. When you find a dead or injured bird, you can visit the NYC Audubon home page and follow the link to D-Bird. Once there, you can provide information about where the bird was found by either clicking on a map or entering an address. Other information fields collect data about when the bird was found, what species it was, and other details. NYC Audubon researchers will analyze these reports and integrate the results into the existing body of Project Safe Flight data, giving us a better idea about which buildings in what parts of the City are most dangerous for birds. This information will help us better determine characteristics of buildings that put birds at risk, and help us identify areas in need of bird-friendly solutions. In short, D-Bird is a way for NYC Audubon to get a lot of eyes on a big problem.

If you find a dead or injured bird, you can contribute to Project Safe Flight by reporting it at nycaudubon.neocities.org/D-Bird.htm.

WINTER/SPRING 2015 LECTURE SERIES

All lectures are free and open to the public and are held at The Arsenal, Central Park, 5th Avenue at 64th Street, 3rd Floor. This series has been made possible by the support of Claude and Lucienne Bloch.

MYSTERIES OF MIGRATION

By Giff Beaton

Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 6pm

Join naturalist and author Giff Beaton for an in-depth look at the feats of endurance and navigation many bird species perform twice a year. With lavish images and maps, this talk will bring insight into a complex and fascinating subject and will leave attendees with an enhanced appreciation for the hazards and impressive physical performance migrating birds surmount each spring and fall.

URBAN GREENING FOR URBAN BIRDS

By Paige Warren

Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 6pm

What are the needs of an urban bird? What can be done to enhance the diversity of birds living in the city? The highly managed nature of a city landscape provides biologists with some unique opportunities to understand both the role of humans in altering patterns of biological diversity and the role of behavior in limiting animal distributions.

Paige Warren, research assistant professor of natural resources conservation at University of Massachusetts-Amherst, will speak about her research to understand processes generating and maintaining biological diversity in an urban world.

ORIGINS: READING THE EARLIEST DESCRIPTIONS OF AMERICA'S BIRDS

By Rick Wright

Tuesday, March 31, 2015, 6pm

IMAGINING NEW YORK CITY FOR BIRDS AND OTHER BEASTS: THE WELIKIA PROJECT

By Eric Sanderson

Tuesday, April 21, 2015, 6pm

CONSERVATION PROGRAM UPDATE AND ANNUAL MEETING

By Susan Elbin and Conservation Staff

Wednesday, June 10, 2015, 6pm



*The Thing With Feathers:
The Surprising Lives of Birds and
What They Reveal About
Being Human*
By Noah Strycker
Riverhead Books, 2014

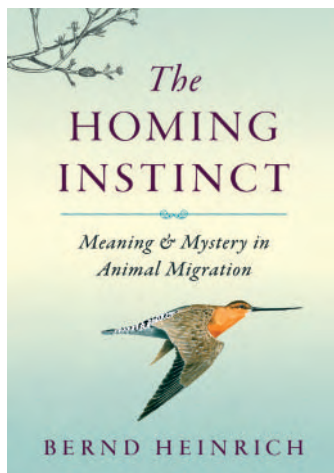
This book's title is partly misleading, since the material about "being human" is either speculative or

derived from the results of experiments on human cognition and behavior that may also be applicable to birds, rather than the reverse. Its main theme is the surprising behaviors of thirteen bird species and the recent research on them, some of it drawn from the author's own fieldwork. The behaviors range from hummingbirds' aggressiveness to chickens' enforcement of social status to turkey vultures' finding faraway roadkill. Readers may be familiar with many of these characteristics, but Mr. Strycker's detailed illustrations enhance our sense of amazement. After discussing scientific experiments targeting the reasons for these behaviors, he draws parallels between the birds' behavior and that of humans.

These parallels are often very imaginative. After his dramatic portrayal of the stressfulness of hummingbirds' lives, the author cites studies showing that people have recently begun walking faster and suggests that our fast-paced lives may expose us to the same vulnerabilities as hummingbirds. The chapter on the irruptions of snowy owls into the lower 48 states uses data from satellite-tracking

studies to show that the owls travel immense distances even in non-irruptive years, and proposes that this pattern is mirrored by that of nomadic humans like Bedouins or Australian aborigines.

The last section of the book is labeled "Spirit." Included here are chapters on mental capacities rarely if ever found in non-humans, but which arguably may exist in certain bird species: self-awareness (magpies' self-recognition in mirrors); aesthetic decision-making (bowerbirds' nest-building); altruism (fairy-wrens' cooperative nesting); and romantic love (albatrosses' life-long mating). In each case, after engaging descriptions of the behaviors and of experiments to learn their origins, Mr. Strycker proposes human equivalents and ends the book by conjecturing that love between couples may have evolved for the same reasons in albatrosses as in humans. Whether or not you find this plausible, you will be charmed by his story of an albatross pair's long, solitary travels and their uncanny ability to find each other when it's time to breed again. —MJK



*The Homing Instinct:
Meaning and Mystery in
Animal Migration*
By Bernd Heinrich
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt,
2014

How do they do it? What guides godwits from Alaska to Australia across the featureless Pacific in nine days—without feeding, drinking, or sleeping? How is it that a Vermont naturalist can band a Bicknell's thrush and discover the very same Bicknell's thrush while visiting the Dominican Republic? Bernd Heinrich's *The Homing Instinct* (which he also illustrated) doesn't provide definitive answers; there's still some mystery left in our world. But it does offer some fascinating examples and attempts to figure it all out.

Heinrich's family emigrated from Germany when he was a boy, settling in Maine. One of his book's objectives is to examine the similarities between humans and animals when it comes to home—he has returned to the very same spot in Maine year after year.

To begin, Heinrich introduces Millie and Joe, a sandhill crane couple who spend most of the year in Texas or Mexico, but have flown north for at least fifteen years to

the same small bog near Fairbanks, Alaska. He revels in their joy at being home again, as they call in unison to mark their territory, then mate, nest, and lay their eggs.

The author patiently watches tent caterpillars as they weave their home and forage for food. He feeds flies and bees to Charlotte, his very own spider, to learn how she traps and weaves and dines. He explains why termites build their version of air-conditioned skyscrapers. And he points out the difference between birds that migrate by learning from others (swans and geese) and those that do so by solar or star navigation, landmarks, genetic programming, or some still secret means.

Most entertaining is Heinrich's portrayal of the extremes to which scientists go to test various hypotheses. Contact lenses on pigeons! Glasses on migrating green turtles! Unfortunately, he doesn't elaborate on the latter. —CPR

News & Notes

FUTURE OF FIRE ISLAND PIPING PLOVER HABITAT UNCERTAIN

The proposed Fire Island Inlet to Moriches Inlet Stabilization Project (FIMI Project), part of a longer-term strategy of coastal storm management along Long Island's South Shore, is expected to damage critical habitat for endangered piping plovers. Unfortunately, efforts this fall to modify or halt the project have failed. Erin Crotty, Audubon New York's executive director, issued the following statement after the state chapter's legal efforts were unsuccessful: "Audubon New York is very disappointed in the District Court's decision denying our motion for a preliminary injunction. While we remain steadfast in our science-based concerns about the project's impacts on critical piping plover habitat and the species, we will not be appealing the decision to the Second Circuit. Audubon calls on elected officials and government agencies to ensure the mitigation proposed to offset critical habitat and piping plover loss is funded, carried out, and successful. Audubon will continue to actively monitor the implementation of this precedent-setting coastal recovery project and future projects on Long Island. Storms like Hurricane Sandy are our new reality, and we must develop smarter, sustainable solutions to protect our communities and natural resources."

NYC AUDUBON STAFF NEWS

This past October, Director of Conservation and Science Susan Elbin was an invited panelist at the Symposium on Urban River Restoration, "Reclaiming a River," hosted by the Wildlife Conservation Society, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and other partners. Susan participated in the session entitled, "Restoration of Fish & Wildlife Populations: The River & Estuary."

Research Assistant Debra Kriensky gave a lecture in early November to students at Brooklyn Generation School, presenting the dangers birds face in our urban environment—with a particular focus on nearby Jamaica Bay. Debra also provided college and career guidance to students interested in science.

VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Colin Ackers JB
Susanne Acosta CON
Tiffany Adams CBC
Barbara Alpert EO
Stephanie Ameres CON
Oakes Ames OA
Sam Anderson EO
Tessa Andrew EO
Richard T. Andrias OA
Nathan Aragon CON
Jason Argila CON
Jason Argila, Jr. CON
Zachary Argila CON
Garrett Arnold JB
Karen Asakawa FR
Ardythe Ashley CON
Abigail Atkins HH
Sarah Grimké Aucoin OA
Seth Ausubel BC
Dina Avishi MP
Mike Baird WE
Adam Baker WE
Andrew Baksh BC
Brandon Ballengée PSF
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Connie Barr WE
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UA, WE
Alexander Barton TIL
Kimberly Basic JB
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Patrick Baylee CBC
Andrea Bearbower JB
Ryan Bearbower JB
Matt Beck PSF
Stephan Beffre HH
Briana Belbeck CON
Gordon Bell JB
Drienne Benner OA
Matthieu Benoit CBC
Arla Berman JB
Olivia Bernard CBC
Jane Bernstein OA
James Blewitt CBC
Dr. Claude Bloch OA
Lucienne Bloch UA
Marian Block PSF
Noel Boccia MP
Elise Boeger CBC
Jane Bognacci MP
Krystal Boley JB
Avi Bonime TIL
Victoria Booth PSF, JB, HH
Mark Botton JB
Ron Bourque CON, UA
Ned Boyajian UA
Kay Boyes CON
J. Andrew Boyle UA
Marsilia A. Boyle CON,
MP, OA
Rebecca Bratburd CBC
Robert Brauman UA
John Breen MP
Fabio Bretto WE
Pearl Broder CBC
Pamela Broderick JB
Emma Bromley CON
Donegal Browne CON
Claudia Brumbaugh EO, JB
David Buchbinder MP
Becky Burcham TIL
David Burg CON
Kim Burgas JB
Louise Burns JB
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Wendy Byrne CBC
Joanna Caban JB
Maria Caban JB
Nadya Caban JB
Yolanda Caban JB
Perl Cadawan TIL
John Cairns CBC
Claire Cammarata TIL
Carole Campbell PSF
Mark Canavera JB
Irving Cantor CBC
Judy Capel EO
Cesar Carvajal CON
Clifford Case OA
Steve Casey CON
Andrew Casey-Tomasi JB
Liam Casey-Tomasi JB
Noeleen Casey-Tomasi JB
John Castalhs CON
Joseph Castalhs CON
Ilan Cernat-Toroff JB
Elaine Chachkin PSF
Debra Chan CON
Suzanne Charlé UA
Esmeralda Connors
Chauca TIL
Franci Chauca MP, TIL
Alina Chen CON
Ching-Lynn Chen CBC
Michael Chen CON
Wendi Cheng CON
Roselyn Chernesky CBC
Sally Chin MP
Michael Christopher JB
Miranda Chu PSF
Robert Ciardullo PSF
Richard Cino PSF
Caitlin Clark JB
Robin Clugston CBC
Jane Coakley OA
Alan Cohen JB
Alice Cohen MP
Chloe Cohen JB
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 H350 (Hunter High School environmental club) CON
 Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas) CON
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LEGEND
 BC = Birders Coalition for Gateway
 CBC = Christmas Bird Count
 CON = Conservation
 EO = Education and Outreach
 FR = Fall Roost
 HH = Harbor Herons
 JB = Jamaica Bay (includes Horseshoe Crab and Shorebird Surveys)
 OA = Office Administration
 LA = Look Around New York City
 MP = McGolrick Park
 PSF = Project Safe Flight
 TIL = Tribute in Light
 UA = The Urban Audubon
 WE = Website and The eGret eNewsletter

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HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS FROM NYC AUDUBON

GIVE A GIFT THAT TRAVELS THE HEMISPHERE



This holiday, give the gift of a banded bird or tagged horseshoe crab! Threatened American oystercatchers and common terns have headed south for the winter, but they'll be returning soon to nest in New York City. NYC Audubon can track these and other birds throughout the year thanks to generous support of our bird-banding research, conducted each spring during nesting season. When you give the gift of an adopted tern, oystercatcher, egret, snowy owl, or horseshoe crab, you'll be helping to fund valuable ongoing research—and the "adoptive parent" will receive a beautiful photo of his or her adopted animal, a field update, and the tracking number of the actual banded bird or horseshoe crab sponsored. Price varies according to animal selected.

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Share your love of New York City's birds with a NYC Audubon Gift Membership. Includes all regular membership benefits plus a set of eight holiday gift cards. See page 19 for details.



LOOK SHARP WITH THE NEW NYC AUDUBON CAP

As you scan wintry fields seeking the bright eyes of a snowy owl, or gaze at the tree tops searching out that elusive blackpoll warbler, keep the sun out of your eyes with our new NYC Audubon cap. Smart and simple in dark blue, emblazoned with the NYC Audubon logo. \$20

THE WARBLER GUIDE By Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle Princeton University Press, 2013

The cold winter months are the perfect time for you or the birders you love to study up on the finer points of warbler identification, to be ready when our spring migrants return. *The Warbler Guide*, created by NYC Audubon Board Member Tom Stephenson and photographer Scott Whittle, features

more than 1,000 stunning color photos, extensive species accounts, and an innovative new system for learning bird song—and has quickly become a staple of the serious birder's library since its publication last year. \$25.95 Available mid-December: The new *Warbler Guide* App for your smart phone! Learn more at press.princeton.edu/titles/10416.html.

Gifts may be ordered through our online store at www.nycaudubon.org/support-us or by calling the office at 212-691-7483.

Happy Holidays!

