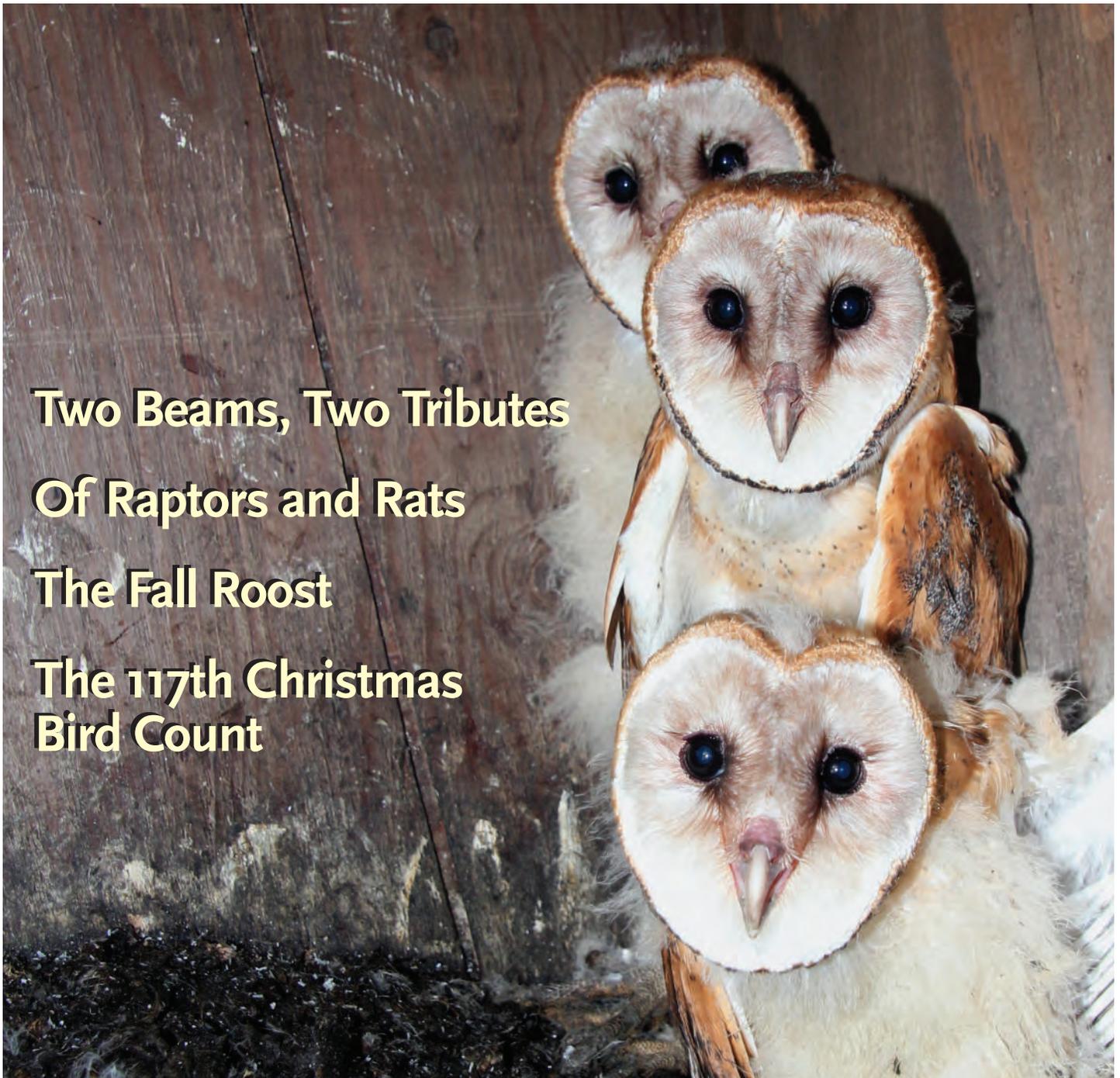




# THE URBAN AUDUBON

**Two Beams, Two Tributes  
Of Raptors and Rats  
The Fall Roost  
The 117th Christmas  
Bird Count**



## 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.

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*Kathryn Heintz*



As 2016 draws to a close and 2017 looms large on our minds, we take stock of NYC Audubon's accomplishments to best prepare us for the challenges ahead. We have achieved a great deal, yet there is so much more to do. Isn't that always the case—and as it should be?

I took a look back at the past year's activities and made a list of just some of the ways NYC Audubon's science-based approach has bolstered our commitment to protect and advocate for the over 350 species of birds that share our incredibly diverse urban landscape: conservation programs like Project Safe Flight, Lights Out New York, and D-Bird; efforts for bird-friendly building design, injured bird transport, and rodenticide reduction; habitat initiatives for green roofs, grasslands, clean water, and wildlife monitoring; and legacy surveys of wading birds, shorebirds, passerines, and horseshoe crabs. It's a lot, yet there is so much more. Blessed with a stellar system of urban parks to explore—with new additions like Freshkills Park and The Hills on Governors Island just becoming accessible to the public—and an ever-growing crop of green roofs—with the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center and now "Kingsland Wildflowers" atop Broadway Stages in Greenpoint leading the way—NYC Audubon is growing the footprint through which we offer a host of bird-centric walks, trips, classes, festivals, and community engagements that enhance our enjoyment of wild birds and connect us with the natural, avian world in our midst.

Just this October, we saw the groundbreaking for a new, bird-friendly Statue of Liberty Museum, which will offer the millions of people who visit the Statue of Liberty a teachable moment in environmentally sensitive design. October also marked a leap forward with NYC Audubon embarking on a pilot after-school program at a Bronx school near Van Cortlandt Park. And a new edition of our "Birding by Subway" brochure is set to guide us all to the City's best birding locations. In short, NYC Audubon is getting the word out, spreading the joys of birding and the importance of urban environmental conservation to all ages, all communities, and all across the City.

We could not have come so far without you. NYC Audubon's work does not happen without its dedicated and loyal members and friends. Now is your opportunity to assure success in the year ahead. Please consider renewing your support by making a year-end financial gift in the enclosed envelope, or at [www.nyc Audubon.org](http://www.nyc Audubon.org). Every gift of every size matters—but it is your participation that matters most. Make a gift in 2016 and make a difference for our beloved birds today.

Thank you. And here's to happy birding in 2017.

## REMEMBER THE BIRDS

Make sure that New York City remains a haven for the birds and wildlife you love. A bequest is a generous and straightforward way to safeguard birds and their habitat in New York City's five boroughs.

It can be expressed as, "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." To learn more, contact Director of Development Kellye Rosenheim at [krosenheim@nyc Audubon.org](mailto:krosenheim@nyc Audubon.org) or 646-502-9611.

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6

## FEATURES

- 6 **Of Raptors and Rats**  
by Hillarie O'Toole
- 7 **Two Beams, Two Tributes**  
by Carol Peace Robins
- 8 **The Fall Roost: Seeing Solutions in a New Light**  
by Ellen Azorin
- 11 **Birding Cemeteries in the Five Boroughs: Evergreens**  
by Mary Jane Kaplan
- 15 **It's About Numbers and Community: The 117th Christmas Bird Count and 20th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count**  
by Meryl Greenblatt
- 16 **Epic Maine Trip 2016**  
by Nora Benoliel
- 16 **In Memorium: Sarah McCarn Elliott**  
by Eric Reubel
- 17 **Owls of New York City**  
by Don Riepe
- 19 **Holiday Books for Children**  
by Suzanne Charlé
- 20 **Logos for the Birds: An Urban History**  
by Suzanne Charlé

## DEPARTMENTS

- |    |                                 |    |                               |
|----|---------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| 4  | Conservation Notes              | 18 | Book Reviews                  |
| 5  | Volunteer!                      | 20 | News & Notes                  |
| 11 | Winter 2016-2017 Lecture Series | 21 | Volunteer Acknowledgments     |
| 12 | Events and Adventures           | 23 | Support NYC Audubon's Mission |
|    |                                 | 24 | Holiday Gifts for the Birds   |

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8

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12

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15

# CONSERVATION NOTES

This fall our conservation efforts focused on providing safe passage through New York City for migratory land birds through **Project Safe Flight** and expanding our studies of waterbird populations through our **Harbor Herons** program. Our primary accomplishments are highlighted below:

## PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

Threats to migratory landbirds from artificial light continue to be a major focus for our conservation team. Once again on September 11, our dedicated volunteers spent the night with staff and board members to monitor the Tribute in Light memorial for migratory birds “caught” in the



*Migratory Birds Caught in the Tribute in Light Beams*

light beams. With the continued cooperation of our partners National September 11 Memorial and Museum and Michael Ahern Production Services, we were able to turn off the lights three times for brief periods between midnight and 3am to allow birds the opportunity to rest or continue their journey. (See page 7 for more detailed information.)

To advance our scientific investigations on artificial light, we are working with Dr. Greg Dobler’s scientific team from New York University. We will analyze ‘big data’ collected by cameras installed on the Durst Organization’s One Bryant Park building for the quality of light emissions over the New York City landscape. These data will be one

layer on a Geographic Information Systems analysis of bird collisions in the City. Cameras have been installed and will be collecting spring migration data.

This fall, Project Safe Flight volunteers continued to monitor several buildings of concern for birds injured or killed by collisions with glass. We are still collecting data on bird collisions from fall migration, but so far we have received many reports of blackpoll warblers, common yellowthroats, and northern parulas colliding with glass windows and buildings around the City. Also, we have been able to identify new risk sites for migratory birds from maps generated by NYC Audubon’s D-Bird, our online crowd-sourced data collection tool ([www.d-bird.org](http://www.d-bird.org)). As of this writing, D-Bird just received its 200th entry of 2016, so thank you to all who have logged in sightings of dead and injured birds this year.

Our biodiversity work on the greenroof of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center has catapulted NYC Audubon’s habitat work to new heights. Thanks to a major grant from the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund and support from our partners Broadway Stages, Newtown Creek Alliance, and Alive Structures, we have added a new greenroof to our portfolio: 520 Kingsland Avenue in Greenpoint. The first phase of roof planting by Alive Structures has been completed, providing over 10,000 square feet of new stopover habitat in the

heart of industrial Greenpoint. Phase two is scheduled to start this spring, offering an additional 10,000 square feet of green roof. Our conservation team will be surveying the roof for birds, bats, and arthropods that make use of the new habitat.

## WATERBIRDS OF THE NY HARBOR: HARBOR HERONS

Our conservation team presented two posters at the 40th Annual Waterbird Society meeting in New Bern, North Carolina. First, Field Biologist Emilio Tobón and NYC Audubon reported on the latest findings from our American oystercatcher monitoring and banding efforts at Breezy Point, Queens. We have been studying this bird of New York State conservation concern at Breezy Point for six years. Our studies show nesting pairs have ranged from 24 to 33 per season. Colony productivity has ranged from a low this year of 0.26 chicks per nest to a high of 1.33 in 2012. And although productivity was at an all-time low this year, fledging success was high at 55%.

Next, Port Authority of NY/NJ Biologist Jeff Kolodzinski and NYC Audubon presented an overview of our collaborative work with roof-nesting herring gulls around New York City. Since 2014, we have monitored rooftop colonies at Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, NYPD Tow Pound, James A. Farley Post Office Building, and Rikers Island Prison Complex to determine if rooftops are



*Visitors Enjoying the New Green Rooftop of 520 Kingsland Avenue*



important nesting habitats for gulls in the City. In addition, we have banded 103 roof-nesting herring gulls to evaluate nest site fidelity, roof substrate preference, and quality of rooftop types as nesting habitat. Resulting data will help us analyze the role of rooftops as habitat in an urban landscape. We will expand rooftop monitoring as more colonies are reported.

On September 3, NYC Audubon conducted the first-ever NYC Fall Shorebird Blitz, a new initiative organized by Conservation Biologist Debra Kriensky. During the 24-hour period, 23 volunteers from all five boroughs went out to count shorebirds at over 35 locations, providing us with a snapshot of shorebird activity throughout the City. We recorded 3,161 individual shorebirds of 17 species, with semipalmated sandpiper being the most numerous species and Jamaica Bay's East Pond having the highest concentration of birds sighted.

© Francois Pommerehne



### *Semipalmated Sandpipers*

Citizen science surveys such as these help us understand how migratory shorebird species are distributed across the City in a short window of time, what they are doing, and how urbanization is affecting them. Stay tuned for information about the second NYC Shorebird Blitz, which will take place in May 2017.

### AND ONWARD TO WINTER CONSERVATION

There is no "off season" when doing conservation work in New York City. As fall migratory bird work has started to wind down, our efforts are now focused on evaluating risks posed to birds by off-shore wind energy projects proposed for the New York Bight. We are also analyzing migration data, organizing meetings, writing grants, and preparing for the 117th Christmas Bird Count. See page 15 for information about the Christmas Bird Count and the Great Backyard Bird Count.

You can find the latest conservation project updates by visiting our blog, Syrinx, or following [@nycaudubon](#) on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

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

## VOLUNTEER!

Make a difference for New York City's wildlife by volunteering with NYC Audubon. To register for any of the projects listed below, contact the office at [volunteer@nycaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@nycaudubon.org). For up-to-date information on early spring volunteer events such as beach clean-ups and native tree plantings, please visit [www.nycaudubon.org/volunteer-events](http://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 migra-

tion through the city safer. **Jamaica Bay program** volunteers monitor migratory shorebirds and horseshoe crabs so that we may better understand if 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.

#### THE URBAN AUDUBON

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



# OF RAPTORS AND RATS

By *Hillarie O'Toole*

Some find rats revolting; others praise them for their intelligence—or even find them endearing. One thing we can all agree upon is that numerous rats in the city are potential carriers of serious disease and cause significant damage to property. Still, they play an important role within our urban ecosystem, as a readily available food source for some of our most beloved raptors that make their home in New York City, the red-tailed hawks.

© Jeff Kolb/turner



*Red-tailed Hawk Feeding Her Young*

While once believed to greatly outnumber the humans of New York City, Columbia University statistician Jonathan Auerbach estimates that the ratio is approximately one rat to every four humans. We make it very easy for rats to thrive, providing them with food and shelter: uncontained garbage, vacant lots, subway tunnels, and unsealed openings in buildings. As they thrive, so do the animals that prey upon them. Depending on the time of year, a red-tailed hawk may eat the equivalent of more than four rodents per day. And so, the odds are quite high that one of their meals will have been a contaminated rat.

One heart-breaking example occurred just this past spring when a female red-tailed hawk in lower Manhattan died after ingesting prey that had consumed rodenticide containing an anticoagulant. These types of baited poisons, which include brodifacoum and difethialone, can cause a slow and painful death brought on by internal bleeding.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April
May	June	July	Aug.
Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.

Special care should be taken to avoid using them, particularly from March through August when hawks and owls are nesting and raising their young.

New York City health

officials are attempting to curb the rat population in a number of ways, including methods that pose less risk to our local raptors. The Department of Health holds a series of tuition-free half-day “Rat Academy” training courses, encouraging best practices in rat prevention for homeowners, superintendents, business owners, and concerned tenants. Other initiatives include inserting “dry ice” into rat nests in city parks. As the product melts, it releases carbon dioxide and suffocates the rats. This method allegedly does not alter the acidity of the soil and does not harm unintended mammals. While this method works well in soil, it is not effective in porous concrete (subway tunnels, buildings).

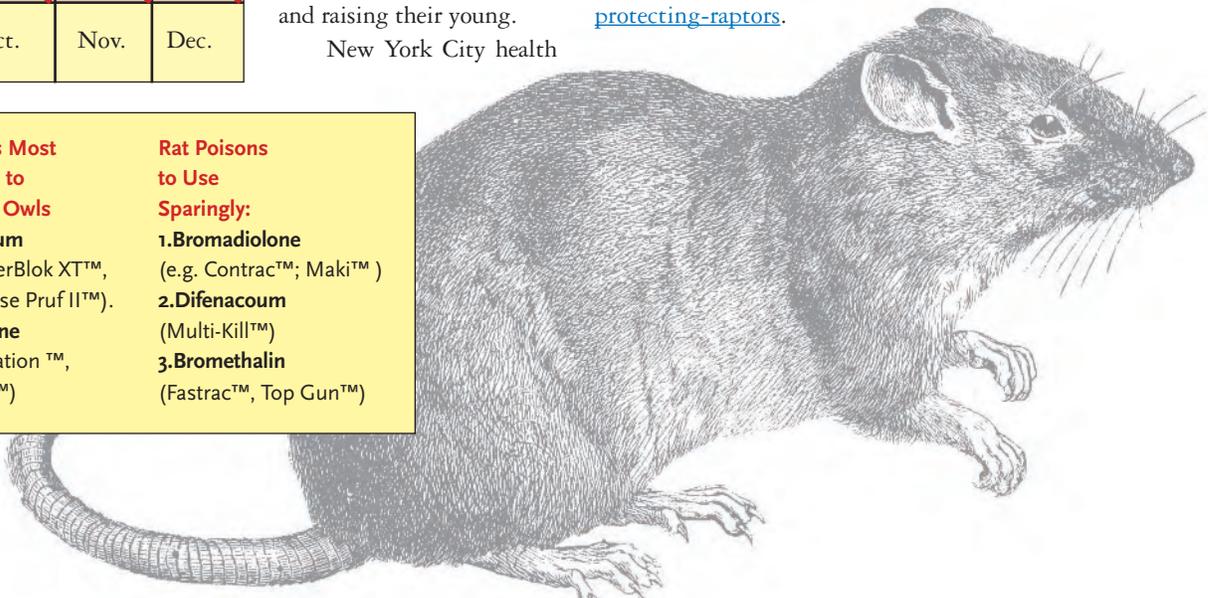
In Berkeley, CA, a non-profit organization called Raptors are the Solution (RATS) is working to educate the public about the danger to raptors from the widespread use of rat poison. Their mission is to “see all anticoagulant and other poisonous rodenticides taken off the market and no longer used by pest control companies due to their dangers to children, pets, and wildlife.” While their campaign is focused primarily in California, where they have issued a petition to ban rodenticides statewide, they have also taken to social media channels nationwide with clever videos and memes. NYC Audubon and colleagues from American Bird Conservancy continue to campaign for similar measures in New York City. NYC Audubon also advises there are some simple steps to help control the rat population, such as keeping food and garbage in tightly sealed containers and removing clutter. Learn more by downloading the NYC Audubon brochure, “Protecting Raptors,” online at [nycaudubon.org/issues-of-concern/protecting-raptors](http://nycaudubon.org/issues-of-concern/protecting-raptors).

**Rat Poisons Most Dangerous to Hawks and Owls**

- 1. Brodifacoum**  
(e.g. WeatherBlok XT™, D-Con Mouse Pruf II™).
- 2. Difethialone**  
(e.g. Generation™, First Strike™)

**Rat Poisons to Use Sparingly:**

- 1. Bromadiolone**  
(e.g. Contrac™; Maki™)
- 2. Difenacoum**  
(Multi-Kill™)
- 3. Bromethalin**  
(Fastrac™, Top Gun™)



# TWO BEAMS, TWO TRIBUTES

Carol Peace Robins

©Annie Novak

This year marked the fifteenth anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks. In the annual event known as the Tribute in Light, two skyscraping beams of light rose upward to honor the lost lives of September 11, 2001.

We all know where we were on that day. And on September 11, 2016, we also know where distinct assemblages of concerned observers spent the night together: on the roof of the seven-story Battery Park Parking Garage in respectful partnership. This space is home base for the light installation, where representatives of NYC Audubon gathered alongside Michael Ahern Production Services, creator of the Tribute; the National September 11 Memorial & Museum Foundation; Creative Time, which co-founded the installation with the Municipal Art Society; and even some of the artists who envisioned the Tribute—John Bennett, Gustavo Bonevardi, Richard Nash Gould, Julian Laverdiere, and Paul Myoda with lighting consultant Paul Marantz.

In the Tribute's early years, it became clear that the light beams (88 lights in all) were creating confusion for thousands of fall migrating birds. NYC Audubon approached founder Michael Ahern to register its concerns. They found a sympathetic ear. Ahern understood the danger involved, and agreed to the suggestion that when the number of birds caught in the beams was significantly high, the lights would be turned off for roughly 30 minutes. During those periods of darkness, the birds would disperse and continue on their migration route.

And that's been happening ever since. This year, our Director of Conservation and Science Susan Elbin, PhD; Executive Director Kathryn Heintz; Conservation Biologist Debra Kriensky; Cornell ornithologist and NYC Audubon Advisory Council member Andrew Farnsworth, PhD; and citizen science volunteers headed for the roof alongside Ahern employees. Lying in sleeping bags, binoculars trained on the light, they worked in shifts to count birds. When the numbers became dangerously high, Susan spoke to an Ahern staffer and the lights were turned off, three times in all.

Debra reports that the species seen in the 2016 event included American redstarts, Baltimore orioles, and cuckoos. "We even saw a peregrine falcon that was taking advantage of the birds caught in the lights," she notes. A bat detector helped the group detect six different species of bats.

Sadly, Michael Ahern passed away in November 2015. "He loved nature," recalls Kathryn. "He didn't want an uplifting tribute honoring the dead to result in more deaths." And so, at the 2016 Fall Roost, NYC Audubon honored Michael Ahern (see page 8 for details). We lost a close friend and partner. Up on the roof on September 11, his legacy lives on.

# THE FALL ROOST: SEEING SOLUTIONS IN A



What would you do if you learned that the beautiful, emotionally powerful 9/11 Tribute in Light memorial was causing disruption and even death for thousands of nocturnal migrating birds? Michael Ahern—one of the three honorees at this year’s Fall Roost—had the inspiration and the rare combination of people skills and technical savvy to negotiate a solution that respected the memorial and saved the birds: In 2007, Michael Ahern Production Services, which annually produces the Tribute, and NYC Audubon established a protocol for turning off the lights when high volumes of birds were observed circling the beams—allowing NYC Audubon to shut the lights off for brief periods of time so the birds can clear out of the beams and continue safely on their way. Michael’s award was accepted posthumously by his widow, Mady, who attended with the amazing crew from Michael Ahern Production Services.

Also honored was longtime Board Member and Past President Harry Maas, stepping down from that post this year with more than 25 years of conservation efforts under his still trim belt. (Could that be partly the result of his relentless activity during the efforts to restore Jamaica Bay’s West Pond following Hurricane Sandy?)

The “Volunteer of the Year” Award went to Phil Cusimano, for his weather-defying efforts and countless hours as site coordinator for NYC Audubon horseshoe crab monitoring at Plumb Beach, an initiative designed to help provide data about the role played by the crabs and Jamaica Bay itself in providing food and habitat to shorebirds.



Two new initiatives will be funded as a result of the Roost. The first is an exciting opportunity for outreach, education, and conservation via a four-month residency offered to us through the Trust for Governors Island, which has granted NYC Audubon an entire house for the summer

of 2017 in the island’s Nolan Park area. A “group raise” pledge drive was preceded by a gorgeous film (thanks to filmmaker Cathy Weiner) showing some of the more than 150 species of birds found on the island. More than \$10,000 was pledged to fund staffing and activities, including bird walks, programming designed to interest more people—adults and kids—in the magical world of birds, as well as expansion of NYC Audubon’s conservation efforts on the island.

The other initiative was “Feathered Friends,” a pilot after-school program at an elementary school near Van Cortlandt Park. More than \$2,000 was raised, and NYC Audubon hopes to be able to offer more such programs in the future, encouraging and fostering environmental conservation and stewardship in the younger generation.

Our thanks to the many people who worked hard to make the Roost the special evening it was, including Executive Director Kathryn Heintz, Director of Development Kellye Rosenheim, Co-Chairs Karen Benfield, Marcia T. Fowle, and Catherine Heller—and the many species of extraordinary people who devote their time and love to NYC Audubon. We give an extra thank you to Karen, whose work on the video presentations and silent auction were critical to making the night such a great success.





1. Michael Ahern Production Services (Page 8, top left)
2. Michael, Harry, Andrew, and Kevin Maas (Page 8, top right)
3. Phil Cusimano, Susan Elbin (Page 8, bottom left)
4. Kathryn Heintz, Jeffrey Kimball, Cathy Heller (Page 8, bottom right)

**This Page**

5. Lucienne and Claude Bloch
6. Young Birder Raffle Team: Adam Rudt, Jordan Spindel, Ryan Zucker
7. Brigitte Mooney, Doreen Guerin, Frank Neufeld
8. Nancy Hager, Janet Mishkin

9. Jared Abramson, Mady Ahern, Manuel LaTorre
10. Eric Majorelle, Pamela Hogan at Silence Auction Table
11. Mike Tannen, Mary Tannen, Chris Cooper
12. Winnie and Fred Spar
13. Janice Laneve, John Shemilt
14. Marcia T. Fowle
15. Gina Argento, Monica Holowacz, Christine Holowacz
16. Deborah Jones

All Fall Roost Photos: David Rodgers

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Carl Zeiss Sports Optics

## SPECIAL THANKS

Karen Benfield, Lark Song  
Media: video program  
Gala Productions: audiovisual  
Guastavino's: catering  
Marian Heiskell and *The New York Times: Tribute in Light* video  
Deborah Jones: storyboards  
David Rodgers: event photography  
Scott Perrin and the Event Office: silent auction  
Gareth Smit and Soo-Jeong Kang: *Tribute in Light* video  
studiokat/Kat Nemeck: graphic design  
Sviba Floral Decorators: table decorations  
Tattly Designy Tattoos  
Cathy Weiner: Governors Island video  
Wildtones: sound effects



Silent Auction Display Created by Deborah Jones

# BIRDING CEMETERIES IN THE FIVE BOROUGHS: EVERGREENS

Mary Jane Kaplan

When your goal is to see the most species possible per hour of effort, then New York City's better-known areas, like Central Park, may be your best bet. But to combine birding with a bit of adventure, try one of the cemeteries that offer beautiful, quiet, green spaces.

The Cemetery of the Evergreens, as it is officially called, was established in 1849 on a high ridge formed 15,000 years ago by the terminal glacial moraine. Straddling the Queens-Brooklyn border, it was one of the first "rural" cemeteries created in the United States to relieve severe overcrowding in urban cemeteries and provide retreats where fast-growing city populations could enjoy "nature" in the days before public parks existed. (Central Park was not opened until 1859, and Prospect Park in 1867.) Even now, Donato Daddario, Evergreens' historian, remembers the cemetery in his childhood as a place for picnics and play.

Evergreens' grounds are linked to the American Revolution by the "Rockaway Path." Running through what is now the cemetery site, it was a trail used by Native Americans to climb to the top of the moraine on their way north from Jamaica Bay to Long Island Sound. In August of 1776, it was followed by several thousand British forces on their way to Brooklyn Heights, where they helped rout George Washington's fledgling army in the Battle of Brooklyn.



Merlin

©David Spaiser

No complete bird list exists for the cemetery. Postings on [ebird.org](http://ebird.org), while rare, include a variety of warblers; both kinglets; red-bellied, hairy, and downy woodpeckers as well as yellow-bellied sapsuckers and northern flickers; and several raptors: Cooper's, red-tailed, and sharp-shinned hawks, merlins (frequent visitors), and American kestrels. Mr. Daddario has flushed American woodcocks concealed in fallen leaves; and E.J. McAdams, previously executive director of NYC Audubon, once experienced a spine-tingling, Hitchcockian moment, with "300-400 crows gathering in trees, on the ground, and perched on tombstones."

Unfortunately, the seven pre-settlement kettle ponds left behind by the glacier have been filled in, leaving Evergreens with no water feature to attract birds. However, the cemetery lies next to Highland Park, home of the Ridgewood Reservoir. And green space continues northeast through Forest Park, giving migrating birds a much larger green space to look down on than Evergreens' 225 acres.

In addition to its birding possibilities, the cemetery's mature trees, some of spectacular size, and the views that extend from Manhattan to Jamaica Bay to the Verrazano Bridge, make Evergreens an excellent candidate for exploration, perhaps on a spring walk with NYC Audubon.

## WINTER 2016-2017 LECTURE SERIES

All lectures are free and open to the public. This series has been made possible by the support of Claude and Lucienne Bloch.

### **BIRDWATCHING IN NEW YORK CITY AND ON LONG ISLAND**

By Deborah Rivel and Kellye Rosenheim

Thursday, December 8, 7pm

Deborah Rivel and Kellye Rosenheim are the authors of a new guide to birdwatching in the five boroughs and on Long Island, designed to be easy to use in the field and provide seasonal information and precise directions to the area's best birdwatching locations (see the summer 2016 issue of *The Urban Audubon* for a book excerpt). The authors will share what they learned researching and writing the book. Deborah is an avid bird photographer and award-winning independent wildlife film producer/director. Kellye leads local bird walks and is currently director of development for NYC Audubon.

### **GREEN METROPOLIS: THE EXTRAORDINARY LANDSCAPES OF NEW YORK CITY AS NATURE, HISTORY, AND DESIGN**

By Elizabeth Barlow Rogers

Wednesday, January 25, 7pm

**Note: This Lecture Was Originally Scheduled to Take Place on November 17**

In her new book *Green Metropolis*, Betsy Barlow Rogers introduces us to seven remarkable New York City green spaces and to the people who have been instrumental in their design and protection. As a founder of the Central Park Conservancy and current president of the Foundation for Landscape Studies, the author is well positioned to take us through the history—both natural and human—of how these places were created and how they have been transformed.

### **BIRDING AT THE BRIDGE: IN SEARCH OF EVERY BIRD ON THE BROOKLYN WATERFRONT**

by Heather Wolf

Tuesday, February 28, 7pm

When avid birder Heather Wolf moved from tropical Florida to an apartment near Brooklyn Bridge Park, she wondered how many species she might see there, and soon came to a surprising realization: Not only is the park filled with an astonishing variety of birds, but the challenges that come with urban birding make them even more fun—and rewarding—to find. Join us as Ms. Wolf discusses her book, *Birding at the Bridge* (see review on page 18) and talks about patch birding, its delights, and how it informs an overall picture of environmental health and conservation.

**NOTE: OUR LECTURES NOW BEGIN AT 7PM. ALSO, OUR SERIES HAS MOVED!**

**Our new venue is Reidy Hall at the Unitarian Church of All Souls, located on Lexington Avenue between 79th and 80th Streets in Manhattan**

# EVENTS AND ADVENTURES

- NYC Audubon Events
  - Partnership Events
- Overnight Trips

- WINTER BIRDS AT JAMAICA BAY

Saturday, December 3, 10am-1pm  
Guide: Don Riepe  
With American Littoral Society and Gateway National Recreation Area  
Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge for a slide program and a hike around the pond and gardens to look for late migrants and winter birds arriving. Learn how birds and other wildlife survive winter, and how to identify many species. For info and reservations, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or [donriepen@gmail.com](mailto:donriepen@gmail.com). No limit. Free

- MEMBERS-ONLY

December Walk in Central Park  
Wednesday, December 7,  
8-10am

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street for a walk with former NYC Audubon Communications Manager Tod Winston. Come brave the chilly weather as we search for some of Central Park's best wintering birds. Free for Contributing NYC Audubon members at the Student/Senior level and up  
**THIS WALK IS FULL**

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

Sundays, December 11, January 8, February 12, and March 12,  
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. Explore the beautiful gardens and woodlands of Wave Hill and observe the hardy birds that spend the winter in this urban oasis. Walks run rain or shine. Ages 10 and up welcome with an adult. See [www.wavehill.org](http://www.wavehill.org) for admission rates. NYC Audubon members enjoy two-for-one admission

- WINTER WATERFOWL ID WORKSHOP

Thursday, December 15, 6-7:30pm (class) and Saturday, December 17, 10am-1pm (trip)  
Guide: Gabriel Willow

If it walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it's probably a duck... but is it a dabbling duck or a diving duck? Or could it be a grebe? This class will help you distinguish among ducks, geese, loons, grebes, and more. Following our class, we'll put our newfound skills to work as we seek out the diverse

mix of dabbling ducks, bay ducks, sea ducks, grebes, loons, and cormorants to be found in New York Harbor from Battery Park. Limited to 12. \$65 (45)

- THE FRESHWATER PONDS OF LONG ISLAND'S SOUTH SHORE, NY

Saturday, December 17, 9am-4pm  
Guide: Tod Winston

Visit up to seven South Shore freshwater ponds that provide refuge to a surprising variety of wintering waterfowl—and great viewing opportunities to birders. Possible sightings include hooded mergansers, green-winged teal, ring-necked ducks, northern pintail, and redhead. We'll also make a short stop or two by the bay to look for loons, grebes, and sea ducks. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$93 (65)

- CENTRAL PARK WINTER WALKS

Sundays, December 18, January 15, February 19, and March 19,  
8:30-10:30am  
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 are found in Central Park in the colder months, along with "winter finches" such as pine siskins, redpolls, and crossbills. Observing the adaptations for cold-weather survival among blue jays, titmice, and other resident species is fascinating as well. Warm up after the walk with a hot chocolate by the fireplace at the Loeb Boathouse. Limited to 15. \$36 (25) per walk

- NEW YEAR'S DAY BEACH WALK, FORT TILDEN, QUEENS

Sunday, January 1, 11am-2pm  
Guides: Don Riepe, Mickey Cohen  
With American Littoral Society and Gateway National Recreation Area  
Meet at Fort Tilden in Breezy Point for a brisk hike along the beach, dunes, and woods to welcome in the New Year. Look for saw-whet

and snowy owls. Enjoy champagne, coffee, and cookies afterward at the Rockaway Artists Alliance. For more information, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or [donriepen@gmail.com](mailto:donriepen@gmail.com). No reservations necessary. No limit. Free

- WINTER BIRDING ON THE SOUTH SHORE OF LONG ISLAND

Saturday, January 7, 9am-6pm  
Guide: Gabriel Willow

Winter in New York brings the excitement of possibility: Will snowy owls appear in the dunes? Will harlequin ducks move westward from Cape Cod and Montauk, and appear in closer waters? Will irruptive northern finches and bohemian waxwings move south from Canada? All of these species and more are possible on Long Island in the winter, along with expected species such as loons, grebes, scaup, eider, northern harriers, purple sandpiper, and more. Bundle up and brave the cold for some of the best winter birding our area has to offer. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$93 (65)

- WINTER SEALS AND WATERBIRDS OF NY HARBOR

Sundays, January 8-March 12, 12-2pm (no cruise on Sunday, February 5)  
Guide: NYC Audubon

Meet at South Street Seaport's Pier 17 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](http://www.nywatertaxi.com). \$35 for adults; \$25 for children under 12; \$105 for family pack for 2 adults and 2 children



*Hooded Merganser*



©Laura Meyers



*White-throated Sparrow*

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

**Sunday, January 8, 8am-3pm**

**Guide: Cliff Hagen**

**With NYC Parks**

Meet at the Manhattan terminal of the Staten Island Ferry. Winter at Freshkills Park is an exciting time for birding. The grass-covered slopes offer birds plenty of seed and shelter to huddled flocks of horned larks, snow buntings, and sparrow species, as rough-legged hawks soar overhead. Down below the mounds are a crisscross of tidal creeks filled with a variety of waterfowl. Grebes, geese, and coots swim alongside over a dozen species of ducks including teal, mergansers, and pintails. Transport by passenger van on S.I. included. Limited to 12. \$57 (40)

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

**Saturdays, January 14 and February 11, 10:30am-4pm**

**Guide: Gabriel Willow**

Winter brings many rare birds to the City 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. Look for these and other winter visitors such as horned larks, American tree

sparrows, and rough-legged hawks, as well as wintering ducks, grebes, and loons. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$86 (60) per trip

● **EAGLE WATCH AND BIRD WALK AT INWOOD HILL PARK, MANHATTAN**

**Saturday, January 21, 8:30-10:30am**

**Guide: Annie Barry**

Meet at the western end of Dyckman Street in front of La Marina restaurant and join Annie Barry for a winter hike through the various habitats of Inwood Hill Park. Located at the northern tip of Manhattan where the Harlem River meets the Hudson, Inwood Hill Park offers shoreline vistas, mature forest, and the last natural salt marsh in Manhattan. We will begin on the Hudson shore in search of the bald eagles that have been sighted there frequently in recent winters, then move into the forest to search for wintering and year-round birds, and finally to the salt marsh to look for wintering ducks. Some hilly walking required. Limited to 15 \$36 (25)

● **WINTER EAGLES ON THE HUDSON RIVER**

**Sunday, January 22, 9am-4pm**

**Guide: Gabriel Willow**

Meet at Grand Central Terminal to travel in comfort by Metro-North to Croton Point Park, where we will look for eagles before hiking to seek out wintering short-eared and snowy

owls, snow buntings, horned larks, and others. The walk is about two miles over easy terrain. Limited to 20. Round-trip Metro-North fare (\$20.50) not included in trip price. \$53 (37)

● **WINTER WATERFOWL OF THE BROOKLYN COAST**

**Saturday, February 4, 9am-3pm**

**Guide: Kellye Rosenheim**

Join Kellye Rosenheim on a tour of Brooklyn's most productive coastal winter waterfowl sites. We'll visit Bush Terminal Piers Park, Gravesend, and Calvert Vaux in search of saltwater species such as common goldeneye, long-tailed ducks, loons, and horned and red-necked grebes. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$86 (60)

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

**Saturday, February 11, Noon-7pm**

**Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC**

You don't have to travel to Alaska to see our country's emblem, the 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 spot the secretive short-eared owl. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$93 (65)

● **WINTER BIRDS OF DEKORTE PARK, NJ**

**Saturday, February 18, 9am-2pm**

**Guide: Gabriel Willow**

Come explore the wilds of the New Jersey Meadowlands at DeKorte Park. Here, the Hackensack River meets extensive coastal marshes, creating a rich habitat for wildlife—especially wintering waterfowl and raptors. We'll be on the lookout for large flocks of canvasback, ruddy ducks, green-winged teal, northern pintail, bufflehead, and northern shoveler, along with common and

hooded mergansers. And we'll scan the skies for hunting raptors including rough-legged and Cooper's hawks, northern harriers, and perhaps even a snowy or short-eared owl. We can warm up at the environmental center and learn about the Meadowlands' ecology. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$86 (60)

● **WINTER BIRDS OF THE BARRIER ISLANDS, LI**

**Saturday, February 25, 9am-5pm**

**Guide: Tod Winston**

Several bird species that nest in the far north spend the winter at Jones Beach, in a habitat similar to their summer breeding homes. We'll visit Point Lookout and Jones Beach in search of harlequin ducks, common eider, scoters, horned larks, and snow buntings. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$93 (\$65)

● **WINTER THAW BIRD WALK AT JAMAICA BAY**

**Saturday, February 25, 10am-1pm**

**Guide: Don Riepe**

**With American Littoral Society and Gateway National Recreation Area**

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge for a hike around the ponds and gardens to look for early signs of spring as well as late winter birds. For more information and to register, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or [donriepen@gmail.com](mailto:donriepen@gmail.com). No limit. Free

● **WINTER BIRDS OF BARNEGAT, NJ**

**Saturday, 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. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$115 (80)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

# EVENTS AND ADVENTURES (CONTINUED)

©David Speliser



*White-breasted Nuthatch*

## ● WINTER BIRDS OF SANDY HOOK, NJ

**Saturday, March 11, 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 avian migrants and harbor seals that lie on the beach to warm up in the sun. Other possible sightings include loons, sea ducks, snow buntings, and horned larks. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$103 (72)

## ● INTRO TO BIRDING: BIRD WALK IN CENTRAL PARK

**Sunday, March 19, 8-10:30am**

**Guide: Tod Winston**

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street. Are you curious about "birding" but don't have much (or any) experience? Come on a relaxed walk to some of Central Park's hotspots to go over birding basics and see sparrows, finches, warblers, ducks, and more. Binoculars available. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

## ● EARLY SPRING BIRD WALK AT JAMAICA BAY

**Saturday, April 1, 10am-1pm**

**Guide: Don Riepe**

**With American Littoral Society and Gateway National Recreation Area**

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge for a slide program and walk to look for eastern phoebes, American oystercatchers, osprey, and other early migrants. For more information and to register, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or [donriepen@gmail.com](mailto:donriepen@gmail.com). No limit. Free

## OVERNIGHT TRIPS

### MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND: SEALS, SURF, AND SEABIRDS

**Friday, January 13-Sunday,**

**January 15**

**Guide: Don Riepe**

**With American Littoral Society**

Spend a weekend at the luxurious Manor House during peak winter birding time at Montauk Point. See seals, scoters, loons, eiders, goldeneye, and much more. Trip includes 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, a star watch, and free pickup at the LIRR station in Montauk. For reservations and details, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or [donriepen@gmail.com](mailto:donriepen@gmail.com). No limit. \$395 (\$180 single supplement)

### WINTER WATERFOWL WEEKEND AT MONTAUK, LI

**Saturday, January 28, 9am-**

**Sunday, January 29, 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, all three scoter species, bufflehead, common goldeneye, great cormorant, and red-breasted merganser. 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. \$295 (\$55 single supplement)

### DOWN EAST MAINE & ACADIA: A BIRDER'S PARADISE

**Friday, May 26-Saturday, June 3**

**Guide: Gabriel Willow**

Join Maine native Gabriel Willow in exploring Maine's "Country of the Pointed Firs": a land of lighthouses, quaint villages, and lobster pounds...all nestled in a setting of primeval pine forests, bogs, and bucolic islands. This landscape has been an inspiration to artists and naturalists for generations. This year's new itinerary includes the "real Maine" of Down East, from Acadia National Park up to the Canadian border, and participation in two

birding festivals. We begin our exploration in Bangor, visiting forests and a bog trail before heading to the fishing village of Lubec, the easternmost town in the U.S. We will participate in the Down East Spring Birding Festival, joining them for lectures, hikes in search of spruce grouse, boreal chickadee, gray jay, breeding warblers, and other songbirds. We will take a chartered boat to Machias Seal Island, home to the largest nesting colony of Atlantic puffins in the U.S., with over 5,000 breeding there, alongside razorbills, murrelets, and other seabirds. While on the water, we'll keep our eyes open for whales and porpoises. After thoroughly exploring this rugged Down East region, we will head down the coast to the world-famous Acadia National Park, a national treasure of forests, rocky coasts, and mountains. We will participate in the Acadia Birding Festival, with keynote speakers Pete Dunne, Laura Erickson, and Luke Seitz. Limited to 10. \$2,075 (\$380 single supplement)

### EARLY MEMBER REGISTRATION FOR SPRING EVENTS

Spring and early summer events will be posted at [www.nycaudubon.org](http://www.nycaudubon.org) and available for registration for Contributing NYC Audubon members starting on Monday, February 6. (Registration will open to all on Monday, February 20.)

● **TO REGISTER FOR ALL NYC AUDUBON EVENTS and for more information, visit [www.nycaudubon.org](http://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 23.**
- **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 23.**

## THE 117TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DECEMBER 17-26, 2016

Led by the National Audubon Society, the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is the nation's longest running citizen science bird project.

NYC Audubon is part of the New Jersey/Lower Hudson "Count Circle," one of over 2,100 across the Western Hemisphere. Director of Conservation and Science Susan Elbin leads this circle, with Conservation Biologist Debra Kriensky coordinating NYC Audubon's local efforts. "Taking part in the Central Park count circle is special," says Kriensky. "This is where ornithologist Frank Chapman led the first CBC, and we're proud to be following in his footsteps." Debra submits regional results to National Audubon's site, as well as on eBird. "Posting our lists on eBird gives people immediate access to the day's results—it's what puts the 'citizen' in citizen science."

Last year, 174 regional participants identified 96 species and more than 27,000 birds. In Central Park alone, we identified 55 species and 4,264 total birds.

I'm proud to say "we," having joined my first CBC in 2015. Curiosity and a sense of missing out on something important brought me to Kellye Rosenheim's southwest Central Park count circle last December. While our species count of 19 was modest, our total bird tally was second highest for the park at 684. Kellye's eagle eye identified a brown thrasher in a distant haystack of branches—a lifer for my list. We also spotted the day's lone black-and-white warbler. And while crossing the Ramble to get to our site, we paused to watch a great horned owl posing for a rapt audience. Others later cooed about sighting an orange-crowned warbler.

Afterward, as we gathered at the Arsenal for hot cider, snacks, and the day's tally, the sheer joy of communing with fellow birders reinforced for all the value of citizen science.

Check out the results of previous counts at [www.nycaudubon.org/christmas-bird-count](http://www.nycaudubon.org/christmas-bird-count).

CB COUNT	DATE	CONTACT	EMAIL
Brooklyn	Saturday, 12/17	Bobbi Manian	<a href="mailto:roberta.manian@gmail.com">roberta.manian@gmail.com</a>
Staten Island	Saturday, 12/17	Cliff Hagen	<a href="mailto:chagen72@gmail.com">chagen72@gmail.com</a>
Manhattan	Sunday, 12/18	Debra Kriensky	<a href="mailto:christmasbirdcount@nycaudubon.org">christmasbirdcount@nycaudubon.org</a>
Queens	Sunday, 12/18	Corey Finger	<a href="mailto:10000birdsblogger@gmail.com">10000birdsblogger@gmail.com</a>
The Bronx	Monday, 12/26	Michael Bochnik	<a href="mailto:bochnikm@cs.com">bochnikm@cs.com</a>

## THE 20TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT FEBRUARY 17-20, 2017

A count of a different feather, the GBBC is driven by individual volunteers around the world. Led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, this online citizen science avian project displays submitted data in near real-time.

It's easy to participate. Walk down the street, head to your local park, or gaze out your back window. Count the number and species of birds you see, for at least 15 minutes. Submit a separate checklist for each new day and location, or

the same location if you counted at a different time of day.

Then submit your results. With eBird, it's easier than ever. If you already have an account, just submit your results. Otherwise, register for an account beforehand at [www.gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started/](http://www.gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started/).

In 2016, New York City participants logged 166 species through 7,460 checklists. Let's bring our NYC Audubon spirit to the 2017 GBBC by contributing at least one count each.



*Tufted Titmouse*

Last May's NYC Audubon birdwatching trip to the coast of Maine was simply magical. Eight of us joined Maine native Gabriel Willow, a seasoned birdwatcher and passionate naturalist, on a week-long adventure. We had good weather and witnessed a diverse abundance of birds. Add this special NYC Audubon experience to your bucket list; it occurs every May. (See page 14 for details about the 2017 trip.)

We started in Portland, and on our first full day together, we traveled to Cape Elizabeth, where we observed various waterfowl, marsh birds, and shorebirds. On

the way, we saw two great horned owlets at Portland's Evergreen Cemetery—one ignored us by sleeping while the other eyeballed us attentively. A fried clam lunch at Two Points Park was memorable. Later we stopped by Maine Audubon's Gilsland Farm, where we saw an "off-course" little egret. These birds breed in Asia and are hardly ever seen in the United States. That evening we enjoyed the picturesque town of Camden.

The next morning, we saw singing bobolinks in a farmer's field at Clary Hill, a stunning place with its flowering blueberries, many species of sparrows, and a baby killdeer.

We also spent time admiring the view from Mount Battie and the Rockland Breakwater, where we observed common eiders near the shore scarfing down crabs.

Next we were ferried 10 miles from the mainland to idyllic Monhegan Island for a three-day stay. The apple trees were loaded with blackburnian, Tennessee, yellow, and magnolia warblers and many other birds. Seasoned birders visiting the island that week said that this spring brought an extraordinary carnival of birds, one not seen in many decades.

We visited Monhegan's Cathedral Woods and its fairy houses made of sticks, moss, bark, and mushrooms. From the cliffs we watched a humpback whale at sea and saw an American woodcock displaying by the lighthouse. On an early morning a chartered boat took us further out to sea to Eastern Egg Rock, where we saw nesting Atlantic puffins, a pair of endangered roseate terns, and many arctic terns.

Back on Monhegan we celebrated our birding successes with a feast of fresh-caught lobster and blueberry crisp à la mode.

Accommodations in Portland, Camden, and Monhegan Island were outstanding. Bird sightings of 154 different species were memorable. And scrumptious breakfasts each morning were the perfect way to start our epic birdwatching days.



©David Nunns

*Atlantic Puffins*

## In Memoriam: Sarah McCarn Elliott

Eric Reubel

Because I am a birder, life is punctuated by indelible life-bird moments, like the Eastport black-tailed godwit seen the day after I chatted up my (now) wife at the bar of the Corner Bistro. The day Sarah Elliott took me, only eleven years old, under her wing, a Kentucky warbler was briefly seen, skulking under a bench opposite a willow. Miraculously, the following spring, and for several more to follow, my grandmother would drive me up First Avenue to pick up Sarah on 34th Street and drop us off at Central Park. Anything was possible. Coaching began with: "Now, raise your glasses to find that plastic bag tangled in those branches at three o'clock," and in relatively short order I could identify a bird or two. Years later, weekends were for her groups, and I would delight her small, but regular troupe by

telling them that Sarah had taught me everything I knew about birds. Her marvelous smile was infectious to a young boy with a giant case of bird fever, as was her wit and turn of phrase to those who loved her self-illustrated newsletter, *The Elliott Newsletter: Nature Notes from Central Park*, where topics travelled the unusual intersection of Beatrix Potter and Aldo Leopold. With her death, the last whispers of the old guard—the first wave of non-academic New Yorkers who took a *Peterson Field Guide* and binoculars to hand—are gone. She, along with the those who recorded sightings in her boathouse birdlog, helped me see a world that is bigger than myself and for that I will always remember her. Sarah will be remembered fondly by the entire Central Park birding community.

© Don Riepe



## Northern Saw-whet Owl

Secretive and mysterious, with large, front-facing eyes that some say give them an appearance of having wisdom, owls are a favorite sighting of birders and the general public. Eight owl species regularly visit New York City's parks and natural areas. The most common species are barn owl, great horned owl, and eastern screech-owl; all nest within the five boroughs. Others such as snowy owl, short-eared owl, long-eared owl, barred owl, and northern saw-whet owl are primarily winter visitors. On one or two occasions a boreal owl has been recorded in Central Park.

Most owls are nocturnal and roost hidden in trees during the day. They all are well adapted for silent hunting in the dark; their wing feathers have fringed edges which muffle the sound of the owl's flight through air. Their remarkable ability to hear comes from their asymmetrically-placed ear openings and sound-catching facial disks.

However, snowy owls are diurnal. They nest in the Arctic where summer days are long. During the winter of 2013, there was a huge irruption of snowy owls and many were found in the City's open areas, dunes, and (unfortunately) at airports. That year a total of 20 were

recorded on the Christmas Bird Count. (See page 15 for details about joining this year's CBC.)

Short-eared owls are somewhat diurnal in that they may be seen around twilight or even before on cloudy days. Once fairly common on Long Island, the 2000–2005 New York State Breeding Bird Survey listed only one nesting pair. They are now on the State's endangered list. The best places to see them are in grasslands, landfills, and other open field areas where there is abundant prey, such as meadow voles and other small mammals.

The largest and most powerful owl is the great horned owl. Known as the "Tiger of the Woods," it currently nests in every borough of New York City. This owl preys on rabbits, skunks, and muskrats. Good places to look for them are in the large City parks. In 2015, one nested along a trail at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in Queens.

Perhaps the 'cutest' owls are the diminutive northern saw-whet owls and eastern screech-owls. By day, saw-whet owls roost in dense clusters of conifers such as cedar and pine trees, while screech-owls are found mostly in tree cavities at forest edges. In past years, saw-whet owls were a fairly common winter visitor to New York City, but nowadays they seem to be harder to find, due to human disturbance and the loss of many Japanese black pines, killed by bark beetle infestations.

The long-eared owl has also been declining as a winter visitor, most likely due to loss of habitat, such as grasslands and riparian woods.

Of all the owl species, the barn owl is perhaps the most beautiful with golden-brown wings flecked with gray and pure white underparts. Their nesting in NYC is primarily restricted to nest boxes placed in remote areas of Jamaica Bay and old abandoned buildings or water towers. If you're lucky you may find one roosting in a pine tree at Pelham Bay Park or other City parks where there are dense clusters of white pine.

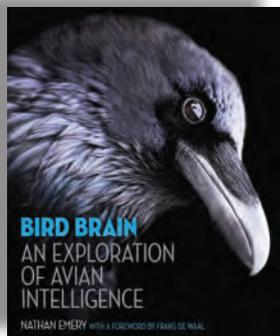
If you find an owl roost it is recommended that you are discreet in disclosing its location to protect the bird from disturbance. See pages 12-14 for listing of walks that emphasize owl sightings.

## SEEKING SUGGESTIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NYC Audubon is seeking suggestions for new members of the board of directors for three-year terms beginning in June 2017. Please submit your suggestions for consideration by the nominating committee to Alexander Ewing, chair of the nominating committee, at [nominations@nycaudubon.org](mailto:nominations@nycaudubon.org)

## *Bird Brain: An Exploration of Avian Intelligence*

By Nathan Emery, with a  
Foreword by Frans de Waal  
Ivy Press, 2016



The title of this book alludes to its dual goals. On the one hand, “Bird Brain” refers to the technical discussions and graphics that illustrate the structure of birds’ brains and the sites where the behaviors they demonstrate in cognitive research likely originate. At the same time, by describing many laboratory experiments and examining their results, the author aims to discredit the belief in avian stupidity implied by our use of “birdbrain” to portray dull-witted humans. Scientifically disinclined readers can skip the sections on comparative brain structure and evolution, however fascinating, and still enjoy the surveys of current theories (and disagreements) about what birds know and what they can do, as presented in five categories: navigation, communication, memory, tool use, social interaction, and the sense of self.

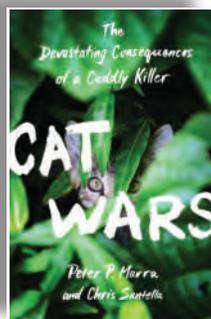
The book provides little justification for broad generalizations about bird cognition, since most studies in the laboratory as well as in the field have been species-specific. The author tells us that although pigeons are among the least intelligent of species, they have historically been the most frequent subjects of experimentation. Beginning in the 1990s, however, scientific interest focussed on corvids and parrots, generally thought to be the most intelligent avian groups. In summing up his review of recent experiments, Emery gives examples of four essentials of complex cognition—causal reasoning, flexibility, imagination, and

prosppection (planning for an expected future)—and of experiments done with rooks and scrub jays that demonstrate their strengths in each. His rather astounding assertion—“rooks, jays, and New Caledonian crows are at least as competent and, in some cases, more competent than children younger than eight years old in tasks requiring tool innovation and causal reasoning”—provides a strong argument against ever again using “birdbrain” as a derogative epithet for humans.

This is a large-format, beautifully designed book, suitable for keeping on the cocktail table and occasionally dipping into as well as reading straight through. *MJK*

## *Cat Wars: The Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer*

By Peter P. Marra and  
Chris Santella  
Princeton University Press, 2016



In their new book, *Cat Wars: The Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer*, Peter Marra, director of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, and Chris Santella, make a case for the reframing of the common housecat from one of “cuddly” to one of “killer.” It is regrettable that the authors have an obvious bias against cats and use anecdotes to marginalize animal rights advocates. No one can seriously doubt that free roaming cats pose a persistent threat to birds and other wildlife, sometimes with catastrophic results. As a result, this book is unlikely to change minds on any side of the debate.

The central story, the statistical calcula-

tions upon which *Cat Wars*’ claims are based, don’t appear until page 65, with the statement that cats, both free roaming house cats and truly feral ones, kill between 1.3 and 4 billion birds each year. This is a staggering number, but the authors do not indicate the percentage of the bird population this number represents. Marra and Santella also paint their picture with a broad brush, lumping threats to birds of truly threatened species, such as the piping plover, in with birds that could be called pests, such as European starlings, house sparrows, and pigeons.

Scarce attention is paid to real solutions beyond advocating for the use of the cat targeting poison “Curiosity” for feral cat populations, and not until the late stages of the book do the authors add any nuance or context for their call for the eradication of free roaming cats within the larger scheme of conservation efforts. *Cat Wars* is sure to be popular among much of the birding community, and it does do a good job of highlighting some of the issues surrounding the problem of cat predation on migratory bird species. Should the authors generate enough public interest around this issue, it may be possible to make headway, reducing the threat free roaming cats pose to our many endangered bird species.

For more in-depth reviews of *Cat Wars* please note:

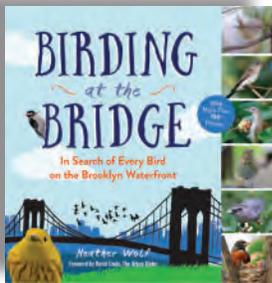
Natalie Angier, who publicized the original study in a *New York Times* article, reviewed the book for the *New York Review of Books* <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2016/09/29/killer-cats-are-winning/>

Author Colin Dickey reviewed the book for the *Los Angeles Review of Books* and is less sanguine than Angier regarding the book <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/the-case-against-cats/#!>

Jerry Coyne, evolutionary biologist, author of *Why Evolution Is True* and a cat-lover of sorts, examines both reviews on his blog, <https://whyevolutionistrue.wordpress.com/2016/09/13/two-reviews-of-a-book-on-killer-cats/> *RB*

and Meryl Greenblatt

*Birding at the Bridge:  
In Search of Every Bird on the  
Brooklyn Waterfront*  
By Heather Wolf  
Workman Publishing, 2016



“Patch birding” is a pretty self-descriptive term: find a spot that appeals to you, and start birdwatching there on a regular basis. Get to know the regular birders and greet the visitors during seasonal migrations. You can catalog your sightings meticulously, offer bird walks to share your newfound slice of heaven, and maybe take up photography to communicate your feathered discoveries on your new blog. And, if you’re really determined, you might even publish a book.

Heather Wolf has done all of the above. In four short, busy years, she has taken patch birding to the extreme, specifically in Brooklyn Bridge Park. Her new book, *Birding at the Bridge: In Search of Every Bird on the Brooklyn Waterfront*, relates stories about the 134 species she identified during this period, and is a loving tribute to the feathered residents and visitors to the Brooklyn waterfront.

According to Heather, “Two big goals for the book were to document as many species in the park as possible, and to obtain a book-worthy photo (taken in the park) of as many species as possible (102). Some days I would be out there for nine hours, determined to find a new park species. It was a true adventure in patch birding.”

On a sunny Saturday in September, about 25 people turned out for one of Heather’s walks. While most of the fall warblers eluded

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

## HOLIDAY BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

Suzanne Charlé

Adding naturalists and ornithologists will have a field day with three “books+” series, published by Downtown Bookworks (New York, NY). Filled with curious facts about birds and other creatures, these guides and accompanying tools are just the thing to lure kids away from video games to the outdoors.

### INTO THE FIELD GUIDE: A WALK IN THE WOODS, TREASURE BOX



An informative and entertaining introduction to birds, animals, trees, and flowers, across the country and throughout the year. Author Emily Laber-Warren offers tips on how to spot denizens of the forest (“Hear a musical, whistling call? There could be a cardinal right above you”), and facts that will engage and amuse children of all ages: “Owls have twice as many neck bones as people do. That means they can turn their heads all the way around to look behind their backs!” All is illustrated with sharp, colorful photos. For those heading to sunnier climes or longing for summer, *A Walk on the Beach*, by Laurie Goldman, brims with beachcombing tips and notes about everything from flotsam and jetsam to the dance of seals to warnings about mama terns: “If you get too close to a nest, look out!...They’ll dive bomb you!” Both guides come in a “treasure box” with a mesh bag and a magnifier box, to collect, observe, and store small treasures. Ages 5 and up, \$19.99

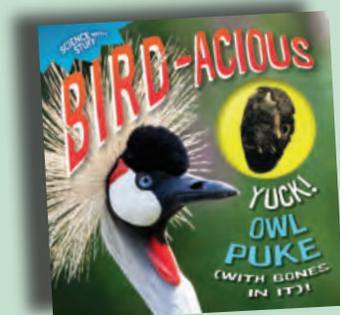
### PBS KIDS LOOK AND LEARN: BIRDS

The kit comes with binoculars, a handsome activity poster and a laminated list of common birds in North America. In the 64-page guide, Sarah Parvis gives tips for identifying birds, in the city or country, on the coast or inland. Photos accompany winsome suggestions: by zooming in on bird’s bill, you can know what the bird eats. (The house finch’s cone-shaped bill is great for cracking open seeds.) Also in the series is *Look and Learn: Insects*, with a magnifier jar. Ages 4 and up, \$19.99



### SCIENCE WITH STUFF: BIRD-ACIOUS

The cover sets the tone: “Yuck! Owl Puke with Bones in It!” Sure enough, in its own plastic case, there is a real owl pellet that kids can dissect and, following instructions, find bones from former meals. Melissa Stewart takes kids on a quick tour through the bird kingdom, starting with the archaeopteryx (“ancient wing”) in Chapter 1: Birdasaurus, through Biggest Birds, alive (8-foot, 300 pound ostrich) and extinct (10 foot, 600 pound elephant bird), to the tricks of “Brainy Birds.” Ages 6 and up, \$11.99



us, many of the locals were on display, including laughing and herring gulls, double-crested cormorants, Canada geese, rock pigeons, house sparrows, and European starlings. A group of American robins occupied the Harbor View Lawn, and we were treated to a palm warbler among them. Warbler sightings on other walks included American redstart, magnolia, blackpoll, northern parula, common yellowthroat, black-and-white, and ovenbird.

Heather's enthusiasm is infectious—by the end of the walk those who attended were inspired by the experience.

While her count has risen to 138 with a few new gull species (black-headed, Iceland, and Bonaparte's) and a lesser scaup, Heather's time is also taken up serving as a web developer for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Check out her latest posts at [brooklynbridgebirds.com](http://brooklynbridgebirds.com). Join us on February 28 to hear Heather's lecture about her book. See page 11 for details. MG

## NEWS & NOTES

### VHF RADIO TOWER INSTALLED IN JAMAICA BAY

The U.S Fish & Wildlife Service recently installed a VHF radio tower at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, joining towers previously installed at Coney Island's New York Aquarium and at Sandy Hook, NJ, to provide a more complete picture of bird migration through New York City. NYC Audubon is one of several organizations starting to use nanotag technology on birds. Each nanotag emits a unique signal (frequency) that can be picked up by any installed VHF tower up to 15 kilometers away. As part of a pilot program this fall and summer, we attached nanotags to three common terns and five semipalmated sandpipers. Now with three towers installed, we will be able to know when any of these birds—as well as other birds nanotagged by organizations around the world—migrate through the City, helping us to understand shorebird migration better and to evaluate New York City's shorebird habitat.

### NYC AUDUBON STAFF NEWS

Many thanks to Tod Winston for his outstanding contributions to NYC Audubon as our communications manager. In 2007, Tod started out with our organization as a member of *The Urban Audubon* Newsletter Committee. Later he joined the staff and served as the "voice" of NYC Audubon in all of its communications. Tod's presence will be missed around the office, but he will continue with us as a birding guide (see pages 12-14 for tours he is leading this winter) and conservation research assistant. We wish him the best in his new role as program associate at National Audubon for their new Plants for Birds program.

## LOGOS FOR THE BIRDS: AN URBAN HISTORY

*Suzanne Charlé*



In its first incarnation in 1979, NYC Audubon's *The Urban Audubon* was in sepia offset, according to Advisory Council Member Lewis Rosenberg, its inaugural editor. To lend it a bit of class, he said, his co-editor, "Sallye Ellyson thought we should have a mascot." The house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) was chosen "as epitomizing an adaptation to urban life—and for its ubiquitous, cheerful presence in all five boroughs."

The house finch was popular and frequently mentioned in the pages of *The New York Times*, when, for instance, one decided to take up residence in the Central Park tennis center and/or made a point of protecting bluebirds. (Reporters often noted house finches were originally from the western United States. Readers—many of whom weren't native New Yorkers either—shrugged.)

In 2002, NYC Audubon Board Member Ned Boyajian sent out a request for "a stronger, more dynamic, more inspirational emblem." The American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), with its blue crown and hooked beak, was chosen for all the right reasons: "an urban raptor, an elusive nester on buildings" wrote then Executive Director E.J. McAdams. Roger Whitehouse was tapped to create the logo. The award-winning designer, whose environmental graphic designs graced everything from The Metropolitan Museum to Times Square subway entrances, was particularly well suited to the project. He knew the bird intimately: A pair had nested outside one of his office windows. Whitehouse also generously offered to work *pro bono*.

Like other New York City denizens, the kestrel can be found just about everywhere: On TV antennas (where one pair was seen mating), hunting in the Floyd Bennett Field grasslands (observing them there is a NYC Audubon project), sitting six abreast on the fence outside the New York Police Department's runway, or hanging out on the Javits Center green roof. Kestrels also favor city parks—over 125 were sighted one September day in Central Park. Now, noted *The Urban Audubon* editor Marcia Fowle, "with our expanded offices, and windows facing north, south, and west, we can see them flying around building tops."

"I love the kestrel," said Rosenberg, though the feeling has not always been returned. He recalled the first time he observed a kestrel, when he was camping in the Back Cove of Portland, Maine. He was trying to sight a female kestrel across the marsh. "Suddenly, I feel a sharp thunderbolt on the side of my head. Zeus! That dive—very aerodynamic!"



# VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

New York City Audubon's conservation and education work would not be possible without the help of hundreds of volunteers who donate thousands of hours each year. If you volunteered during the period from October 2015 to September 2016 and your name is not on this list, please let us know. We strive to keep accurate records for our funders and want to make sure you receive the recognition you deserve.

## LEGEND

BC = Birders Coalition for Gateway  
 CBC = Christmas Bird Count  
 CON = Conservation  
 EO = Education and Outreach  
 FR = 2015 Fall Roost  
 HH = Harbor Herons  
 IBT = Injured Bird Transporters and Raptors NYC Group  
 JB = Jamaica Bay (includes Horseshoe Crab and Shorebird Surveys)  
 KW = Kingsland Wildflowers Project  
 OA = Office Administration  
 MP = McGolrick Park  
 PSF = Project Safe Flight  
 TIL = Tribute in Light  
 UA = *The Urban Audubon*  
 WE = Website and *The eGret* eNewsletter  
 \* = Flickr Account

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 Jacob Nanz UA, WE  
 Katie Naplatarski MP  
 Gunda Narang CBC, PSF  
 Eugene Nardelli OA  
 Rohan Narine WE  
 Christine Nealy JB  
 Virginia Newman CBC  
 Nigella WE  
 Annie Novak TIL  
 Jeff Nulle BC  
 Nick Nyhan EO  
 Luke T. O'Brien CBC, MP  
 James O'Brien IBT  
 Lisa Ochs EO, JB  
 Jonathan Ogbomo JB  
 Tosa Ogbomo JB  
 Victoria Olmstead HH  
 Gail Orr CBC  
 Edwin Ortiz IBT

Joseph O'Sullivan EO  
 Hillarie O'Toole UA  
 Steven "Otto" Ottogalli PSF,  
 TIL  
 Kenny P.\* WE  
 Taimi Paadre TIL  
 Sara Pace IBT  
 Adriana Palmer OA  
 Dan Pancamo UA  
 Woo Sung Park CBC  
 Harald Parzer JB  
 Daisy Paul JB  
 Peter Paul JB  
 Paul\* UA, WE  
 Cheryl Payer CON  
 Ellen Pehek HH  
 Jose Luis Pelaez JB  
 Karen Pelaez JB  
 Nathaniel Pelaez JB  
 Anders Peltomaa CBC, WE  
 Mara Pendergrass CBC  
 Chang Peng WE  
 Christina Pennoyer JB  
 Tracy Pennoyer JB  
 Tom Perlman CBC  
 Zena Pesta JB  
 Dorothy Peteet OA  
 Jean Pettibone CBC  
 Angela Phillips CBC  
 Sharon Phillips IBT  
 Alyxandra Pikus JB  
 Jane Pirone IBT  
 Steve Pontillo CBC  
 Sarah Porter EO, JB  
 François Portmann IBT, UA,  
 WE  
 Melissa Posen FR  
 Peter Post BC  
 Chrystal Prather HH  
 Alixandra Prybyla PSF  
 Rachel Quiñones CBC, EO,  
 JB, OA  
 Nesa Rampersad IBT  
 Shannon Randall CBC  
 Anita Randolfi CBC  
 Jennifer Rauch UA  
 Ricki Ravitts JB  
 Ginger Ray EO  
 Heath Redenbach JB  
 Karl Redenbach JB  
 Stephanie Redenbach JB  
 Thomas Redenbach JB  
 Zara Redenbach JB  
 Andrew A. Reding WE  
 Esther Regelson TIL  
 Alexandra Reitzes IBT  
 Declan Rexer CBC  
 Stuart Richel EO, JB  
 Peter Richter IBT  
 Hailey Riechelson PSF  
 Don Riepe BC, FR, HH, JB, OA,  
 UA, WE  
 Deborah Rivel FR, IBT, UA  
 Carol Peace Robins UA  
 Carrie Roble JB  
 Steve Roffman JB  
 Geneva Rojas JB  
 Lewis Rosenberg CBC, OA  
 Jeff Rosenheim FR  
 Kellye Rosenheim EO, FR  
 Phoebe Rosenheim EO, FR, OA  
 Jack Rothman JB  
 Marguerite Royo EO  
 Linda Rozowicz CBC

Andrew Rubenfeld BC  
 Christina Rubin EO, OA, WE  
 Corey Rubin JB  
 Laurel Rubin JB  
 Marat Rubin JB  
 Adam Rudt FR  
 Caitlin Ruggero EO  
 Elizabeth Ruiz JB  
 Mabel Runyon CBC  
 Neil Runyon CBC  
 Kelli S. CBC  
 Sarah Safford MP  
 Tatiana Samoylova CBC  
 Ursula Sanders EO  
 Jed Sandoval IBT  
 Diane SanRoman JB  
 Stephanie Sardelis JB  
 Barbara Saunders CON, IBT,  
 WE  
 Robert Schmunk IBT  
 Aaron Schock JB  
 Elias Schock JB  
 Alison Schuettinger MP  
 Kimberly Scottaline IBT, JB, PSF  
 Vicki Seabrook CBC, IBT  
 Ann Seligman EO, IBT, JB, MP,  
 OA, UA  
 Nancy Shamban PSF  
 Lavina Shamdasani JB  
 Shiv Shamdasani JB  
 Susan Shapiro TIL  
 Geri Shatz CBC  
 James Sheffield OA  
 John Shemilt FR, OA  
 Dominic Sherony WE  
 Jennifer Shieh JB  
 Kaitlyn Shim EO  
 Isaiah Sigman CBC  
 Elaine Silber CBC, OA  
 Richard Simon IBT  
 Shay Singh JB  
 Jason Smith JB  
 Olivia Snarski JB  
 Samantha Snowden PSF, TIL  
 Ben Solotaire JB  
 Fredric Spar OA  
 Jennie Spector EO, JB  
 David Speiser BC, OA, UA, WE  
 Jordan Spindel CBC, FR  
 Lloyd Spitalnik BC, UA, WE  
 Cathy St. Pierre IBT  
 Jagger Stachtariis JB  
 Theodore Stachtariis JB  
 George Stanley CON  
 Susan Stanley CON, HH  
 Alan Steel OA  
 Alec Steele JB  
 Michael Steele JB  
 Martha Steinmetz CBC  
 Tom Stephenson EO, FR, OA  
 Caroline Stern PSF  
 Margaret Stevens EO  
 Mari Stoner JB  
 Virginia Stotz TIL  
 Walter Strachowsky JB  
 Louise Stracke PSF  
 Alva Strand EO  
 Robinson Strauss CBC  
 T.M. Stuart WE  
 Alex Summers HH  
 Debbie Swanback CBC  
 Lauren Swank PSF  
 Alicia Tait JB  
 Michael Tannen OA

## GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Show that you care by giving a gift that makes a difference.

Help protect wild birds and habitat in New York City with a gift membership to NYC Audubon. Members receive *The Urban Audubon* newsletter and *The eGret* newsletter; enjoy discounts on field trips and classes; and make a difference in the City's wildlife and natural areas.

[ ] American Kestrel Circle \$2,500 [ ] Conservationist \$250 [ ] Supporter \$100  
 [ ] Family \$75 [ ] Dual \$50 [ ] Friend \$25 [ ] Student/Senior(65+) \$15  
 [ ] Dual/Senior (65+) \$30 [ ] New [ ] Renewal

Additionally, I would like to make a donation to NYC Audubon in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: H: \_\_\_\_\_ C: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Enclosed is my check payable to NYC Audubon  
 [ ] Charge my credit card: [ ] VISA [ ] MC [ ] AMEX [ ] DSC

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with your payment to:

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Membership in NYC Audubon does not include National Audubon membership or *Audubon Magazine*. Donations to NYC Audubon are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. NYC Audubon is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

# SUPPORT NYC AUDUBON'S MISSION

Jeanne Tao PSF, TIL  
Denise Taylor TIL  
John Thieroff PSF  
Maggie Tiwarie EO  
Nancy Tognan HH  
Celeste Torello CBC  
Hannah Torok JB  
Nora Torok JB  
Ronald Torok JB  
Dzung Tran WE  
Clare Trapsaso EO  
Barbara Trees CBC  
Helaine Trock MP  
Phyllis Tseng CBC  
Andrew Turk HH  
Jeffrey Twumasi PSF  
Jennifer Twumasi PSF  
Natalie Tze EO  
Kevin Uehlinger JB  
Lola Uehlinger JB  
Yuko Ulrich JB  
Lisa Uomoleale JB  
Gretchen Van Matre EO  
Sara Varon MP  
Montana Vasquez-Grinnell PSF  
Dick Veit JB  
Yael Visser PSF  
Victoria Voytek JB  
Tina Walsh JB  
Steve Walter WE  
Nancy Ward EO, FR, OA  
Mark Watson UA  
Martynka Wawrzyniak KW  
Deborah M. Waxenberg EO  
Derek Wayne JB  
Sally Weiner CBC  
Dottie Werkmeister JB  
Penny White TIL  
Angell Williams WE  
Alicia Williams CBC  
Luke Willoughby EO  
Gabriel Willow EO, FR, UA, WE  
Simon Wills JB  
Tod Winston EO, FR, UA  
John Wittenberg CBC  
Louise Woehrlé JB  
Heather Wolf KW  
Ava Wong JB  
Ethan Wong JB  
James Wong JB  
Xiao-Xiao Wong JB  
Julia Wood JB  
Amy Yee IBT  
Sergey Yeliseev WE  
Bruce Yolton CBC, IBT, WE  
Chee Wok Yong WE  
Linda Yuen EO, PSF  
Chris Zavelo OA  
Julia Zeh PSF  
Lisa Zheng EO  
Clare Zierhut JB  
John Zucker CBC  
Ryan Zucker CBC, FR  
Divya Anantharaman  
Zweigart HH, JB

## VOLUNTEERING ORGANIZATIONS

Alive Structures KW  
American Littoral Society CON, EO  
ArcheWild KW  
Audubon New York KW  
Broadway Stages KW  
Bryant Park Corporation EO  
Central Park Conservancy EO  
Con Edison EO  
Conservation Technology KW  
Eagle Street Rooftop Farm KW  
Earth Matter EO  
National Park Service EO  
National Wildlife Federation KW  
New York Water Taxi EO  
Newtown Creek Alliance KW  
NYC Department of Environmental Protection KW  
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation EO  
NYC Department of Sanitation KW  
NYC Soil & Water Conservation District KW  
Open Space Alliance KW  
Peace Corps EO  
Queens Botanical Garden KW  
Randall's Island Park Alliance EO  
Riverkeeper KW  
Sadhana CON, EO  
The Fortune Society KW  
The Friends of Governors Island EO  
The Trust for Governors Island EO  
The Voelker Orth Museum EO  
The Wild Bird Fund EO, PSF  
Urban Park Rangers EO  
Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy EO  
Waterfront Alliance EO  
Wave Hill EO

## THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO PROTECT NEW YORK CITY'S WILD BIRDS

In addition to becoming a member or making a one-time donation, there are several ways to play a larger role in supporting NYC Audubon's mission to protect wild birds and their habitat in the five boroughs of New York City:

### GIVE MONTHLY

Provide ongoing monthly support to ensure our birds are protected throughout the year. You can make a huge difference for as little as \$5 per month. See the membership form below or donate online at [www.nycaudubon.org/donate](http://www.nycaudubon.org/donate).

### BECOME A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN KESTREL CIRCLE

Soar above the rest by making a donation of \$2,500 or more. American Kestrel Circle Patrons enjoy special access and exclusive tours. See the membership form below or donate online at [www.nycaudubon.org/donate](http://www.nycaudubon.org/donate). Contact us to learn more.

### GIVE A MATCHING GIFT

Supporters can double or triple the value of donations through their employers' matching gift programs. Contact your company's personnel office to learn how. Be sure to specify New York City Audubon as the designee.

### LEAVE A LEGACY

When you designate New York City Audubon as a beneficiary in your will, IRA, life insurance policy, or investment/bank account, your gift will support the conservation of the birds you love for many years to come. Visit [www.nycaudubon.org/leave-a-legacy](http://www.nycaudubon.org/leave-a-legacy), or contact us to learn more. For more information on a bequest, see the **REMEMBER THE BIRDS** box on page 2.

To learn more about any of the above, contact Director of Development Kellye Rosenheim at [krosenheim@nycaudubon.org](mailto:krosenheim@nycaudubon.org) or 646-502-9611. Save paper, time, and money by making your contribution online 24/7 at [www.nycaudubon.org/support-us](http://www.nycaudubon.org/support-us).

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE** Contributing members are essential to our education and conservation work. Help protect birds and habitat in the five boroughs by joining our flock. As a member of NYC Audubon you will receive *The Urban Audubon* newsletter and *The eGret* newsletter; enjoy discounts on field trips and classes; and make a difference in the City's wildlife and natural areas.

[ ] American Kestrel Circle \$2,500 [ ] Conservationist \$250 [ ] Supporter \$100  
[ ] Family \$75 [ ] Dual \$50 [ ] Friend \$25 [ ] Student/Senior(65+) \$15  
[ ] Dual Senior (65+) \$30 [ ] New [ ] Renewal

[ ] I would like to become a member by making a **recurring** donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ **each month**.

Additionally, I would like to make a donation to NYC Audubon in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I'm already a member but would like to make a **gift** in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: H: \_\_\_\_\_ C: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Enclosed is my check payable to NYC Audubon

[ ] Charge my credit card: [ ] VISA [ ] MC [ ] AMEX [ ] DSC

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Sec.Code \_\_\_\_\_

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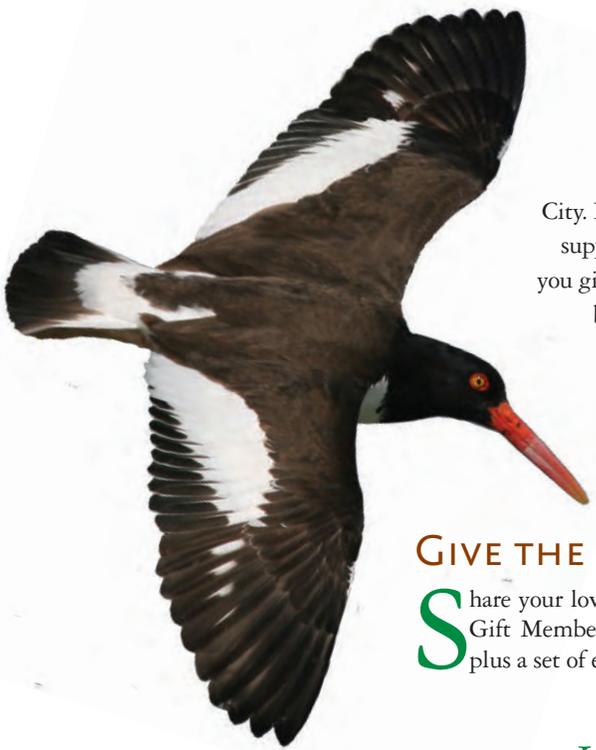


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# HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR THE BIRDS



## GIVE A GIFT THAT TRAVELS THE HEMISPHERE

**T**his 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. Gifts may be ordered at [www.nycaudubon.org/support-us](http://www.nycaudubon.org/support-us) or by calling the NYC Audubon office at 212-691-7483.

## GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

**S**hare 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 22 for details.



*Happy Holidays!*