Holiday Gift Giving Guide for the Birders in Your Life

The 119th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Corralling Cats in Lanai to Save Birds
First frost. It’s late October, and abundant species are being found amidst the trees at all of the best birding spots across the City. Finding 40 species on a morning walk has been common. Governors Island’s eBird list, where regular observations go back only 10 years, recently topped 200. Our wintering birds are just beginning to arrive. New York City once again proves its geographic and historic importance in the phenomenon of migration.

There is a dark side to this thrilling story. We fielded a call one recent afternoon alerting us to a half-dozen Cedar Waxwings found dead at 48th Street and Madison Avenue, where they had collided with a building’s glass windows. Even greater numbers of warblers and other beauties were found at Columbus and Frederick Douglass circles and Foley Square, to cite a few other reports. And it’s not just buildings: bus shelters and breezeways are just as deadly. I rescued a Brown Creeper inside the Howard Beach AirTrain station, only to discover a cluster of dead birds outside the glass-encased elevator. A woman passing by remarked, “It’s horrible. It’s like this every day. Someone should do something.”

We are that someone. We who care and we who understand must act. With hundreds of thousands of birds killed by collisions with glass in the five boroughs each year, this is by far the leading cause of bird death in New York City. Neither cats nor climate change comes close as the primary threat here.

NYC Audubon is focusing its energies strategically in 2019 to confront this threat. A new advocacy and outreach manager will boost our ranks. First and foremost, the task will be to advocate for bird-safe building requirements. We must and will do a better job educating public officials, architects, developers, urban planners, building managers, residents, and commercial tenants about the destructive—and preventable—consequence of our built infrastructure. All New Yorkers need to know how our existing buildings and nighttime illumination are destroying nature’s avian creatures.

You can help. Learn about this issue and share your concerns with friends, colleagues, and neighbors. Report dead and injured birds at www.d-bird.org. Address window transparency and reflectivity and turn off lights where you have influence. Join me in supporting NYC Audubon’s annual appeal. Most of all, help us by joining me in increasing your gift this year to help underwrite the cost of our new advocacy and outreach manager. Return the giving envelope in this issue with your show of support. We will make a difference for birds!

### 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 2019. To make our board more representative of our city’s diversity, we are especially interested in candidates who are racially/ethnically diverse, Bronx residents, women, and/or with financial or NYC government policy/advocacy expertise. Please submit your suggestions to Alexander Ewing, chair of the nominating committee, at nominations@nycaudubon.org.
**In This Issue**

**NYC AUDUBON**
71 West 23rd Street
Suite 1523
New York, NY 10010
Tel: 212-691-7483
Fax: 646-606-3301
www.nycaudubon.org

Cover Photograph:
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Small Banner Photographs:
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The weather in New York City this year has been strange. Spring was wet and cold; summer was also wet and cooler than usual; and early fall was warm and dry. This abnormal weather led to some interesting behavior by our City’s waterbirds. Young Black Skimmers were still on our beaches in early October waiting to fledge, while some Great Egrets had already started their fall migration. Two of “our” tagged egrets, birds we reported on in the Summer 2018 Urban Audubon, were still here late into October. Edward, the Great Egret we had tagged with an SMS transmitter in 2015, nested on Hoffman Island this summer. He is still dividing his time between the Elders Point East marsh island in Jamaica Bay and the Kill van Kull channel in New Jersey. If he remains on the same schedule as his 2017 migration, Edward will have stayed in the harbor until heading south in mid-November. Great Egret C19, which we tagged at Jamaica Bay in 2014, was seen on October 18 at the New Jersey Meadowlands.

On a sad note: an untagged Great Egret that had been hanging out in the Financial District was fatally injured when it was hit by a car on October 17. The story is unfortunate, but there are ways to reduce the chances of similar happenings to birds like these. If you find a bird staying for prolonged periods in densely built up, unfamiliar areas like a pocket park, please do not feed it. It only encourages the bird to stay longer in that unsuitable place and increases its risk of being injured or felled due to human disturbance.

Our science and conservation team is currently planning the 14th annual Harbor Herons and Waterbirds of the Greater NY/NJ Harbor Working Group meeting. The meeting will provide a forum for scientists and practitioners in the region to share the results of their waterbird monitoring and research from the 2018 breeding season. We look forward to reporting what we learn from this meeting in the next edition of Conservation Notes.

I have been appointed NY-CT-DE regional coordinator of a new waterbird effort organized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect and conserve seabird colonies and adjacent waters in the region. We held our first meeting on September 27 in Plymouth, MA. Planning is underway for an East Coast regional survey of mixed-species colonies that will take place in 2023.

Most of our conservation work this fall was focused on Project Safe Flight, our program to make the city safer for birds, particularly migratory birds. Once again NYC Audubon staff, volunteers, and research colleagues monitored the September 11 Memorial & Museum’s Tribute in Light installation, which projects two powerful light beams more than four miles into the sky of lower Manhattan on the night of September 11 each year. A stirring remembrance of the catastrophic loss of life that occurred on that day in 2001, the tribute’s light beams can have a significant effect on birds migrating through and near New York City. The weather this year was mild with foggy skies. As in years past, our team worked closely with staff from the September 11 Memorial & Museum and Michael Ahern Production Services to ensure that birds passed safely and were

The Tribute in Light, comprised of 88 7,000-watt Xenon light bulbs that project up to four miles in the sky, can significantly affect bird migration through New York City.
Volunteer!

Make a difference for the City’s wildlife by volunteering with NYC Audubon. There are many ways to help. Unless otherwise noted, contact citizenscience@nycaudubon.org if interested in any of the projects listed below. For up-to-date information on early spring volunteer events such as beach clean-ups, visit www.nycaudubon.org/volunteer-events.

Conservation Volunteers
If you’re 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 and Tidal Connections 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 New York Harbor to help us better understand how these birds use our wetlands. Volunteer orientation dates for these projects will be published in the spring issue of The Urban Audubon.

Office Projects
Help with mailings, data entry, filing, and general office work. Computer skills and birding knowledge are helpful, but not required. Contact volunteer@nycaudubon.org if interested.

The Urban Audubon
Join the newsletter committee and contribute your writing skills to four seasonal issues. Meetings are bi-monthly in the early evening. Contact comm@nycaudubon.org if interested.
The inconvenient truth is that cats kill birds. A lot of birds in fact. A handful of studies estimate the number at 1.3 to 4 billion birds in the U.S. each year. Please don’t blame our furry friends. People abandoning cats is clearly a big part of the problem.

About a year ago, Grant Sizemore, American Bird Conservancy’s director of invasive species programs, published a fascinating article online, “Hawai’i’s Lanai Cat Sanctuary Also Helps to Protect Endangered Birds.” Sound dreamy? If you harbor an inner crazy cat lady, it certainly does. When my sister suggested a trip to the Aloha State, my arm didn’t need twisting. I needed to see the sanctuary for myself—well, see it and cuddle with about 600 cats all at once.

The visit did not disappoint. The sanctuary personnel round up and pen in the island’s strays—many descendants of cats brought aboard visiting ships over a century ago—and in doing so protect the island’s endangered ground-nesting birds while educating the people of Lanai about keeping pet cats indoors and away from nesting habitat. The cats receive impeccable care and the love of many visitors, some of whom find themselves inspired to adopt one and take home a living souvenir.

Word is spreading about the feline community, and also about the populations of Hawaiian petrels, stilts, coots, and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters that are rebounding as a result of the roundup. CBS Sunday Morning ran a segment on September 16, 2018, titled “Purr-adise: Hawai’i’s cat sanctuary.”

New York City’s stray cats in our parks and neighborhood open spaces are a real problem. Trapping, neutering, and then re-abandoning cats to unenclosed and unmanaged environments exposes them anew to a cruel life. Bird lovers and conservationists who openly (or secretly) hold a passion for cats nonetheless must not condone the unlawful behavior of those enabling such stray or feral colonies. This is not a choice. Stray and invasive animals must be removed from our parks and other natural areas to protect thousands of vulnerable resident and migrating birds.

If urban cat enthusiasts willing to support colonies could pool resources and replicate the Lanai Cat Sanctuary in each of the five boroughs, we’d have our very own creative model for managing strays while also protecting wild birds—and an opportunity to cuddle with hundreds of cats.

Left: The Wedge-tailed Shearwater nests in fragile burrows in the ground near Pu’u Pehe, also known as “Sweetheart Rock,” off the coast of Lanai, Hawaii. Right: The Lanai Cat Sanctuary provides cats with climbing structures, wide open spaces, shelters, and hiding spots to keep them happy. Just as important, the three-acre sanctuary is enclosed by escape-proof tall fences that keep the cats on the sanctuary grounds and away from birds.
One of the major attractions in winter at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge is the spectacular flight of Snow Geese flocks, adding sound and color to an otherwise bleak environment. Possibly the noisiest of all waterfowl, from a distance they can sound like a pack of baying hounds. Up closer, the flock’s compact wingbeats produce a furious rustling sound. Snow Geese are dimorphic, consisting of light-morph (white) and dark-morph (blue) birds. Until 1983, the two color morphs were considered separate species, but now are lumped as one—to the dismay of birders who keep life lists. Most of the birds seen in Jamaica Bay are the white morph. Monogamous and highly social, they mate for life and form strong family units. Goslings remain with the parents until they are ready to take mates during their second or third year.

Arriving in New York City in October and November, the geese spend much of their time flying in and out of Jamaica Bay’s East and West Ponds, where they rest between foraging forays to the marshes. Unlike Brant and Canada Geese, Snow Geese never leave the bay to feed on nearby lawns and golf course turf. They feed entirely in the bay, where they grub for stems, tubers, and roots of Spartina marsh grass. Unfortunately, this behavior leads to temporary and permanent marsh loss, which has become a problem in coastal refuges both here and in places like Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in southern New Jersey. The eastern population of Snow Goose breeds around Hudson and James Bay in northern Canada, where their increased numbers damage habitat both for the goose and for breeding shorebirds.

For much of the twentieth century, management officials restricted Snow Goose hunting in the interest of conservation, but by the 1970s they switched to worrying about keeping goose numbers under control. In the late 1990s both Canada and the United States began to permit extra hunting to reduce Snow Goose populations.

I remember going to Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Delaware in the 1980s and watching up to 70,000 Snow Geese return to the refuge ponds to roost at sunset. It was a spectacular display: the geese would wheel high above the pond, then dive down, breaking back and forth like a blizzard of snowflakes before landing. In Jamaica Bay, winter populations usually number anywhere from 500 to 1,200 birds. Much larger flocks can be seen along the Delmarva coast.

NYC Audubon’s Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

New York City Audubon believes all people have the right to a close connection to the natural world and the right to a healthy environment. Preserving our environment is only possible if we all feel that connection.

We recognize that inequities in our society are widespread and hinder access to nature. Only by embracing equity, diversity, and inclusion as values and striving for them in practice will we begin to foster a love of nature in all people and inspire them to be active stewards of the environment.

We further believe that in order to thrive as an organization and effectively advance our mission and vision, the diversity of New York City’s people must be represented in, and welcomed into, our leadership, staff, and membership. The expertise, values, and perspectives of a diverse and inclusive organization are fundamental to expanding the reach and impact of our conservation, advocacy, and educational efforts.

We commit to building an equitable, diverse, and inclusive New York City Audubon, dedicated to protecting nature for all of New York City’s people and its wild birds.
Holiday Gift Giving Guide for the Birders in Your Life

Looking to share the joy of birding? Set up your family and friends for success in the New Year with these helpful ideas to spark their curiosity and ensure good times both at home and in the field.

**FOR THE NEW BIRDER:**
*Peterson Guide to Bird Identification—in 12 Steps* ($17.95, hardcover)

It can be tempting to give a new birder a field guide that lists hundreds of birds. This approach can easily overwhelm beginners, however. Instead, consider the recently published *Peterson Guide to Bird Identification—in 12 Steps* for a comprehensive overview of how to first determine the basics: taxonomy, location, habitat, season, and sounds. This deeper insight into bird behavior and traits will serve the new birder well through time and will provide more meaningful and enjoyable birding experiences.

**FOR THE OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST:**
*ExOfficio BugsAway Lumen Hoodie* (available for men and women at online retailers from $45)

Birding and bugs go hand in hand, but don’t allow mosquitoes, ticks, or no-see-ums to ruin your serene hike. These breathable, lightweight hoodies are the extra layer of protection you need for trekking through the woods or wetlands in spring and summer. Even the most determined deer fly is thwarted by this shirt. (They may still drive you mad, but you will emerge bite-free.)

**FOR THE ART LOVER:**
Support Nicolas Holiber: *Birds on Broadway Audubon Sculpture Project* ($100 and up)

Gift a donation to support the work of artist Nicolas Holiber. His *Birds on Broadway Audubon Sculpture Project* is a companion to the hugely popular *Audubon Mural Project*, a public-art initiative spearheaded by the Harlem-based Gitler &_____ Gallery in partnership with the National Audubon Society, with the mission of drawing attention to the plight of birds threatened by climate change. Your contribution will help underwrite the production and installation of the *Birds on Broadway Audubon Sculpture Project* and its debut on the Broadway Malls in Manhattan in 2019. Visit [www.nycaudubon.org/asp](http://www.nycaudubon.org/asp) to learn more and support the project.

**FOR THE TECH-SAVVY:**
*BirdGenie* and/or *Song Sleuth* smartphone apps (BirdGenie available now on iTunes App Store, available soon on Google Play, $4; Song Sleuth available now on iTunes App Store and Google Play, $10)

Birding by ear is a skill that must be practiced. With the BirdGenie and Song Sleuth smartphone apps, you can record bird songs that you’re hearing. The apps will help narrow down the list of possible species from among the 100 most common birds in the U.S. App users can then save and share recordings, and learn about each bird with the built-in reference guides.

**FOR THE BEER ENTHUSIAST:**
*4-pack of Kings County Brewers Collective Beer* (price varies).

Support brewers who love birds! Local Bushwick brewery Kings County Brewers Collective (KCBC) has partnered with NYC Audubon for the past two years to raise awareness and funds for bird-window collision prevention with their fall seasonal brew, Safe Flight IPA. Through sales of the brew last year, KCBC donated $3,630 to support NYC Audubon’s Project Safe Flight conservation program. This year’s Safe Flight IPA has sold out, but you can support bird-friendly KCBC by gifting a pack of any of their other delicious brews, available for purchase at their Brooklyn taproom (381 Troutman Street) and stores like Whole Foods.

**FOR ANYONE:**
*NYC Audubon Membership* (from $15, free for ages 8-12)

Give the gift of membership to help protect wild birds and preserve New York City’s natural areas for generations to come. Members enjoy great benefits, including a 30% discount on most trips and classes, invitations to free members-only birding walks, early registration for most trips and classes, and a 1-year subscription to NYC Audubon’s newsletter, *The Urban Audubon*. (See page 22 for more details.)
On a 2016 fall migration walk in Central Park’s North Woods, a tall young man was attracting attention with his virtuosic ability to identify birds—among them, two Cape May Warblers—and to point out exactly where they were hiding. “Amazing,” I whispered. NYC Audubon Research Associate Tod Winston smiled in agreement.

It was Jeff Ward’s first introduction to NYC Audubon, and soon after he was tapped by the organization to train to become a guide—at 27, the youngest on the roster. “We’re always looking to grow the ranks of skilled leaders, and to see an increased diversity among active conservationists,” said Executive Director Kathryn Heintz. “Any opportunity to do both is a win-win proposition.”

Over the next months, Jeff “tagged along” with senior NYC Audubon guides, watching their interactions with birders and observing the ways they shared their in-depth knowledge. Of NYC Audubon guide Joe Giunta, Jeff said: “He’s very bird-focused. He can spend five minutes on one bird, how to look at the beak, the body, how it feeds. He’s very patient and makes sure everyone gets something out of the experience.” He also noticed that NYC Audubon guide Gabriel Willow “shares the history of a park and information about flowers and trees.”

Fast-forward to fall 2018, and Jeff is co-leading walks for kids in Central Park and Van Cortlandt Park as part of NYC Audubon’s KIDS Membership and Feathered Friends After School Bird Club programs. Leading beginning birders is a challenge Jeff is eager to meet. “There’s a sense that the audience for birding, like chamber music and opera, is aging,” he says. “I want to open the doors to include young people, New Yorkers who’ve never watched birds in the parks and along the shore.” He wants people to see these wonders in city parks, like the beautiful male Painted Bunting sighted last year in Prospect Park. Or the Kirtland’s Warbler spotted in Central Park last May. “What a rare sight!” he recalled.

Born and raised in the Bronx, Jeff’s first introduction to birds was not in the field but on the pages of books. While two of his brothers liked cats, he and his older brother Jason both liked birds. “I got a whole bunch of field guides from the library,” Jeff recalled. Fascinated with their diversity and beauty, the 10-year-old would cover the name of the bird and, looking at the illustration, call out its name: “Blue-winged Warbler.”

However, it wasn’t until 2013 that he went to Central Park to look for birds, at the suggestion of his older brother, now living in Atlanta, Georgia. In the Pinetum, Jeff looked up and, without binoculars, saw a Barred Owl. “I didn’t know New York City was such an amazing place to bird,” he said. That Christmas, his girlfriend gave him his first pair of binoculars.

Jason then turned him on to NYC Audubon, after talking with him about the Atlanta Audubon chapter. Jeff proceeded to visit NYC Audubon’s office and introduce himself, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Starting this spring, Jeff will be leading walks (see Spring 2018 Urban Audubon) for NYC Audubon in addition to continuing to co-lead Feathered Friends and KIDS Membership walks. In the meantime, when he’s not managing an organic café, Jeff has been studying the Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s advanced online course Comprehensive Bird Biology and reading up on (and listening to) birdcalls. Modest about his own ability to spot and identify birds (“It’s just natural: I look for movement in specific trees”), Jeff joked that “such attention—seeing each falling leaf” can be “a little dangerous when driving a car!”

Jeff Ward helps participants spot a bird at the Central Park Lake on a June 2018 “Let’s Go Birding Together” Pride Week Walk in partnership with National Audubon Society.

Bronx native Jeff Ward, 27, is the youngest of NYC Audubon’s trip leaders.

Bronx native Jeff Ward, 27, is the youngest of NYC Audubon’s trip leaders.
Events and Adventures

- NYC Audubon Events
- Partnership Events

Overnight Trips

- The Freshwater Ponds of Long Island’s South Shore Saturday, December 1 and Wednesday, January 16, 9am-4pm
  **指南：Tod Winston**
  参观位于七个南岸的新鲜水体，提供躲避冬季水禽——以及观鸟的绝佳机会。可能的观测包括红头潜鸭，绿翅蓝鸭，和红头潜鸭。我们将在这条路线的某一处停留，沿着终端的沙丘，以及红头潜鸭和缠腰麻鸭寻求庇护。水运通过乘载乘客的车辆！午餐自备！
  仅限12人，$94每人（66人）

- Winter Birding Along the Hudson: Wave Hill, The Bronx
  **星期天，12月9日，1月13日，2月10日，3月10日，9:30-11:30am**
  **指南：Gabriel Willow**
  会议地点：Bryant Park Visitor Center
  黄河河谷以稀有的鸟类种群，甚至在冬季也吸引着无尽的鸟类。他们可以探索美丽的花园，以及位于波文的林地，观察到那些在城市环境中度冬的鸟类。
  走路时雨或雪，年龄10以上可参加。
  观鸟附录包括www.wavehill.org的申请费用。
  如果你还是初学者，NYC Audubon的成员将获得2比1的优惠。NYC Audubon的大部分活动提供2比1的优惠。

- The Freshwater Ponds of Long Island
  **星期天，12月9日，1月13日，2月10日，3月10日，9:30-11:30am**
  **指南：Gabriel Willow**
  会议地点：Bryant Park Visitor Center
  黄河河谷以稀有的鸟类种群，甚至在冬季也吸引着无尽的鸟类。他们可以探索美丽的花园，以及位于波文的林地，观察到那些在城市环境中度冬的鸟类。
  走路时雨或雪，年龄10以上可参加。
  观鸟附录包括www.wavehill.org的申请费用。
  如果你还是初学者，NYC Audubon的成员将获得2比1的优惠。NYC Audubon的大部分活动提供2比1的优惠。

- Audubon Mural Project Tours in Northern Manhattan
  **星期天，12月24日，9am-12:15pm**
  **指南：Leigh Hallingby**
  Audubon的壁画项目是一个创造壁画的激动人心的努力，超过300个在纽约北部曼哈顿街区的壁画描绘了鸟类的形态。这些鸟不仅受到气候变化的威胁，而且项目本身在创造壁画的同时也帮助我们欣赏到鸟类的美。
  走路时雨或雪，年龄10以上可参加。
  观鸟附录包括www.wavehill.org的申请费用。
  如果你还是初学者，NYC Audubon的成员将获得2比1的优惠。NYC Audubon的大部分活动提供2比1的优惠。

- Intro to Birding: Bird Walk in Central Park
  **星期天，12月9日，8-10:30am**
  **指南：Tod Winston**
  你对“观鸟”感兴趣吗？但没有太多（或任何）经验？参观中央公园的热门景点，包括麻雀，红胸鸲，山雀，鸭子，和更多。
  仅限15人，$36每人（25人）

- Winter Waterfowl ID Workshop
  **星期三，1月3日，6-7:30pm（课程）和星期五，1月5日，10am-1pm（旅行）**
  **培训班：Gabriel Willow**
  如果它像一只鸭子，叫起来像一只鸭子，它可能只是一只鸭子……但是它是什么？或者它会像一只鸭子一样停留吗？这个课程将帮助你区分鸭子，鹅，绿头鸭，和更多的种类。
  跟我们告别，我们将使用我们新学的技能，同时探索各种混杂的鸭子，海鸭，绿头鸭，糕点，和海鸟，以在Central Park的水体中找到它们。
  仅限12人，$95每人（67人）

- Central Park Winter Walks
  **星期五，1月4日，1月18日，2月1日，2月15日，3月1日，9-11am**
  **指南：Gabriel Willow**
  有些最令人惊叹的景色是值得在冬天去欣赏的。几只鸟类，如红嘴鸥，红尾鸥，以及其他的物种，在寒冷的月份中，保持活跃。
  温暖后走完，你可以享用热巧克力。
  仅限15人，$36每人（25人）

- Winter Waterfowl
  **星期五，1月4日，9-11am**
  注册参加我们的旅行，到达Littoral Society的Winter Birds at Jamaica Bay，获得一个深入的了解。
  看看Jamaica Bay的生物——（描述上）和get to Jamaica Bay，看看如何——
  以个案为料，带些午餐。
  仅限12人，$68每人（48人）

- Winter Birds at Jamaica Bay Saturday, December 15, 10am-1pm
  **星期五，1月15日，10am-1pm**
  **指南：Don Riepe**
  与美国Littoral Society和Gateway National Recreation Area等合作伙伴举行一场关于冬季鸟类和野生动物的宣传方案，随后参观水体和花园。
  仅限12人，$68每人（48人）

- Winter Birds at Jamaica Bay Saturday, December 15, 9am-3pm
  **星期五，1月15日，9am-3pm**
  **指南：Don Riepe**
  为我们的旅行到美国Littoral Society的Winter Birds at Jamaica Bay，提供一项关于我们和Jamaica Bay的了解方式——
  以个案为料，带些午餐。
  仅限12人，$68每人（48人）

- New Year’s Day Beach Walk, Fort Tilden, Queens
  **星期五，1月1日，11am-2pm**
  **指南：Don Riepe, Mickey Cohen**
  与美国Littoral Society和Gateway National Recreation Area等合作伙伴举行一场关于冬季鸟类和野生动物的宣传方案，随后参观水体和花园。
  仅限12人，$68每人（48人）

- Winter Birding on the South Shore of Long Island
  **星期五，1月12日和3月9日，9am-6pm**
  **指南：Gabriel Willow**
  冬天在纽约举办，将改变可能性：认出Snowy Owl？有可能是Redhead？也可能不会是一只鸭子！这个课程将帮助你把鸭子和野生鸭子区分开来，以及更多的物种。
  与我们工作，寻找多样化的物种，包括Pine Siskin，Common Redpoll，以及Crossbills。
  观鸟附录包括对冷热季节的适应，以及其他物种的适应。
  温暖后走完，你可以享用热巧克力。
  仅限15人，$36每人（25人）

- Winter Birding on the South Shore of Long Island
  **星期五，1月12日和3月9日，9am-6pm**
  **指南：Gabriel Willow**
  冬天在纽约举办，将改变可能性：认出Snowy Owl？有可能是Redhead？也可能不会是一只鸭子！这个课程将帮助你把鸭子和野生鸭子区分开来，以及更多的物种。
  与我们工作，寻找多样化的物种，包括Pine Siskin，Common Redpoll，以及Crossbills。
  观鸟附录包括对冷热季节的适应，以及其他物种的适应。
  温暖后走完，你可以享用热巧克力。
  仅限15人，$36每人（25人）
Hudson, Inwood Hill Park offers where the Harlem River meets the at the northern tip of Manhattan habitats of Inwood Hill Park. Located Join Annie Barry for a winter hike Guide: Annie Barry Sunday, January 20, 8:30-10:30am HILL PARK, MANHATTAN BIRD WALK AT INWOOD

- **SNOW BIRDS OF FLOYD BENNETT FIELD AND FORT TILDEN, QUEENS**
  Sundays, January 20 and February 17, 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 Bunting and Snowy Owl, that can occasionally be found in tundra-like habitats farther south. Look for these and other winter visitors such as Horned Lark, American Tree Sparrow, and Rough-legged Hawk, as well as wintering ducks, grebes, and loons. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. $36 (25) per walk

- **EAGLE WATCH AND BIRD WALK AT INWOOD HILL PARK, MANHATTAN**
  Sunday, January 20, 8:30-10:30am
  Guide: Annie Barry
  Join Annie Barry for a winter hike through the various landscapes and 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’ll 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)

- **BIRD WALK IN CENTRAL PARK’S NORTH END**
  Wednesday, January 23, 8-11am
  Guide: Tod Winston
  Join us for a winter birding exploration of Central Park’s north end. We’ll traverse the waterways, meadows, and forest of the north end in search of wintering songbirds, waterbirds, and raptors. Limited to 15. $36 (25)

- **RANDALL’S ISLAND WINTER WALK**
  Saturday, January 26, 9-11am
  Guide: Nadir Souirgi
  Explore this lesser known spot in the East River, where recently restored freshwater wetlands and salt marsh provide habitat for many varieties of birds. We’ll look for rarities such as Common Goldeneye, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Iceland Gull. Limited to 15. $36 (25)

- **BIRDING SOUTH FLORIDA AND THE EVERGLADES**
  Sunday, February 24-Sunday, March 3
  Guide: Don Riepe
  With American Littoral Society
  Travel by van and visit many great birding and photography areas including the North and South Everglades, Sanibel Island, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Wakodahatchee and Green Cay Wetlands, Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Okeeheelee Nature Center, and several state parks. See Burrowing Owl, Purple Gallinule, Wood Stork, Painted Bunting, Limpkin, Barred Owl, herons, egrets, ibis, and many more resident and wintering birds—plus alligators of course. Trip begins and ends at Fort Lauderdale–Hollywood International Airport. Registration includes lodging, welcome dinner, breakfasts, lunch on road, van rental, and all guided walks and park fees. Airfare and other dinners not included. For more information, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. Limited to 10. $1,875 ($250 is tax deductible; $840 single supplement)

- **DOWN EAST MAINE & ACADIA: A BIRDERS PARADISE**
  Saturday, May 25-Sunday, June 2
  Guide: Gabriel Willow
  Come along with NYC Audubon to explore 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 boculic islands. Home to some of the East’s last true wilderness, Maine hosts populations of Atlantic Puffin, bears, moose, shorebirds, and dozens of warbler species. This land of forests and rocky coast has been an inspiration to artists and naturalists for generations. This year we’re offering our rugged Down East itinerary, visiting the “real Maine” from Acadia National Park up to the Canadian border. We will also participate in the 21st annual Acadian Birding Festival. For more information, including a detailed itinerary, visit www.nycaudubon.org/overnight-trips. Limited to 10. $2,100 ($380 single supplement)

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**OVERNIGHT TRIPS**

- **MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND:**
  **SEALS, SURF, AND SEABIRDS**
  Friday, January 11-Sunday, January 13
  Guide: Don Riepe
  With American Littoral Society
  Spend a weekend at the luxurious Manor House during the peak winter birding time at Montauk Point. See seals, scoters, loons, eiders, goldeneyes, and much more. 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 donriepe@gmail.com. $395 ($130 single supplement)

- **WINTER WATERFOWL WEEKEND AT MONTAUK**
  Saturday, January 26, 9am-Sunday, January 27, 7pm
  Guide: Gabriel Willow
  The gatherings of sea ducks around Montauk Point are the largest winter concentrations in New York State; the Audubon Christmas Bird Count at Montauk Point consistently tallies 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 Manor House during the peak winter birding time at Montauk Point. See seals, scoters, loons, eiders, goldeneyes, and much more. 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 donriepe@gmail.com. $395 ($130 single supplement)

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...Continued on Page 12
**EAGLES AND OWLS OF THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY, NY**

**Sunday, February 3, 9am-3pm**

**Guide: Gabriel Willow**

Join Kellye Rosenheim on a tour of Brooklyn’s most productive coastal winter waterfowl sites. We’ll visit Bush Terminal Piers, Gravesend, and Calvert Vaux parks in search of saltwater species such as Common Goldeneye, Long-tailed Duck, and Common Loon, as well as Horned and Red-necked Grebe. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. $87 (61)

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**Kingsland Wildflowers**

We’ve put the garden to bed for the winter months, but as we begin to plan programming at Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages for next season, we’d like to take time to thank everyone involved in making 2018 an amazing year for education, programming, tours, and research on the green roof:

- Jennifer Florin
- Andrew Cunn
- Avi Gitler, Gitler & Associates
- Go Green! Brooklyn
- Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund
- Greenpoint Eco-Schools Program
- Sustainability Coaches, National Wildlife Federation
- Greenpoint Innovations
- Greenpoint Tree Corps
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- Van Leeuwen Artisan Ice Cream
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- Gabriel Willow
- Marzena Wolert
- Heather Wolf
- Jeff Wong
- Bethany Yarrow & Rufus Cappadocia

*Funding for Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages provided by the Office of the New York State Attorney General and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund.*
pleasures with a walk in Central Park in search of wintering songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors. Limited to 15. $36 (25)

**BIRDING GEMS OF STATEN ISLAND: WINTER AT FRESHKILLS PARK**
Sunday, February 10, 8am-3pm
Guide: Cliff Hagen
With NYC Parks

Winter at Freshkills Park is an exciting time for birding. The grass-covered slopes offer plenty of seed and shelter to huddled flocks of Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, 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. Transport by passenger van from Staten Island St. George Terminal included. Limited to 12. $57 (40)

**WINTER BIRDS OF THE BARRIER ISLANDS, LI**
Friday, March 1, 8am-4pm
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 homes. We’ll visit Point Lookout and Jones Beach in search of Harlequin Duck, Common Eider, scoters, Horned Lark, and Snow Bunting. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. $88 (62)

**FIRST DAY OF SPRING IN CENTRAL PARK**
Wednesday, March 20, 8-11am
Guide: Tod Winston

Celebrate the first day of spring with NYC Audubon! Explore Central Park’s spectacular variety of birds that gather where land, bay, and sea meet. Search for Harlequin Duck, Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, as well as Snowy and Short-eared Owl. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. $115 (80)

**BEGINNING BIRDING**
Classes: Wednesdays, March 27, April 3, and April 10, 8-10:30am
Trips: Sunday, April 7, 8am-2:30pm (Jamaica Bay), and Sunday, April 14, 8-10:30am (Central Park)
Instructor: Tod Winston

Learn the keys to identifying the spectacular variety of birds that migrate through New York City every spring. Even if you’ve never picked up a pair of binoculars, you’ll soon be identifying warblers, thrushes, warblers, and more—both by sight and by ear. Three fun and educational in-class sessions and field trips to both Central Park and Jamaica Bay (transport to Jamaica Bay included). Limited to 12. $192 (135)

**WINTER BIRDS OF DEKORTE PARK, NJ**
Sunday, February 24, 9am-2pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow

Come explore the wilds of the New Jersey Meadowlands at DeKorte Park. We’ll be on the lookout for large flocks of Canvasback, Northern Pintail, Bufflehead, and Northern Shoveler. And we’ll scan the skies for hunting raptors including Rough-legged and Cooper’s Hawk, Northern Harrier, and perhaps even a Snowy or Short-eared Owl. We’ll warm up at the environmental center and learn about the Meadowlands’ ecology. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. $36 (25)

**WINTER BIRDS OF BARNEGAT, NJ**
Sunday, March 3, 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 Duck, Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, as well as Snowy and Short-eared Owl. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. $103 (72)

**EARLY MEMBER REGISTRATION FOR UPCOMING EVENTS**
More winter and early spring events will be posted at www.nycaudubon.org and available for registration for contributing NYC Audubon members starting on Monday, February 4, at 9am. (Registration will open to all on Monday, February 25.)

**TO REGISTER FOR ALL NYC AUDUBON EVENTS and for more information, visit www.nycaudubon.org or call Danielle Sherman at 212-691-7483 x304 unless otherwise specified.**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**
- 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.
- Classes meet at 71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1523.
- For paid trips requiring advance registration, the meeting location will be disclosed in your trip registration confirmation email.
- For coach and van trips, the meeting location is in front of 71 West 23rd Street 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.
Advocacy was a recurring theme throughout the evening of October 2 as NYC Audubon honored two major bird conservationists: Andrew Farnsworth, PhD, of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and longtime volunteer Annie Barry. Both honorees were profiled in splendid videos produced by NYC Audubon Board Member Karen Benfield of Lark Song Media and are available to view online at www.youtube.com/nycaudubon. There you can also watch her video, NYC Audubon Highlights and Achievements 2018, an inspiring celebration of the organization’s work for birds and people.

Farnsworth has been involved with NYC Audubon for over a decade as a board member, as a member of the advisory council, and through his work studying bird behavior at the Tribute in Light memorial with Director of Conservation and Science Susan Elbin, PhD. NYC Audubon recognized him for his work on two ambitious Cornell projects: BirdCast and eBird. BirdCast provides online real-time predictions of bird migrations to scientists, conservationists, and birding enthusiasts. eBird has grown into an indispensable online tool for sharing and storing millions of bird sightings from citizen scientists around the globe. Farnsworth is hopeful that data from each tool will be used to prevent the deaths of millions of migrating birds and to inform positive changes in urban planning, building design, nighttime lighting, and other human behaviors that affect bird populations.

In her profile video, Barry expresses her deep love for Governors Island and why it is worth visiting and protecting for birds. Barry, who works full-time as a Columbia University administrator when she is not on the island, says gratefully, “It’s an acknowledgement of a lot of effort that I have put into birding on Governors Island and encouraging other folks to come out and experience birding on the island.” Throughout Barry’s 10 years as a volunteer for the National Park Service, conducting bird species’ surveys (now counting over 200 different species on the island), and conserving the island’s Common Tern colony, she has shared her passion for the birds with thousands of visitors, many new to birding.
After the awards presentations and as stunning photos of Central Park birds by the late Cal Vornberger scrolled across the big screen, paddles rose in support of hiring a new, full-time advocacy and outreach manager for NYC Audubon. Why is this crucial now? As President Jeff Kimball and Executive Director Kathryn Heintz noted, “We are a city of buildings, and buildings kill a billion birds a year!” They went on to say we must demand urban models that support sustainability and bird-friendly design and emphasized the need for a strong advocate to build partnerships with lawmakers and the more than 150 environmental groups operating in New York City. The new manager will also train and activate volunteer leaders in the New York City community to build a diverse and inclusive advocacy network. More than $25,000 was raised towards this position, matching a grant from the National Audubon Society and enabling us to fill this crucial role.

In all, it was a record-breaking fundraising event for NYC Audubon, bringing in more than $210,000 in donations. The Tribeca Rooftop provided a beautiful backdrop with its open, modern loft space. Delightful BirdCast and birdhouse centerpieces, courtesy of Sviba Floral Decorators, added to the charm of the evening. New this year, the silent auction organized by Benfield went “green” through the use of mobile bidding. Dozens of items tempted attendees to vie for original artwork, birding expeditions, and gifts for wine and beer enthusiasts.

Thanks to Co-chairs Karen Benfield, Marcia T. Fowle, Catherine Schragis Heller, Tatiana Kaletsch, and Jenny Maritz for making the 2018 Fall Roost a huge success in support of NYC Audubon’s mission to protect wild birds and their habitat in the five boroughs.
FALL ROOST ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Silent Auction
501 Auctions

Marsilia A. Boyle, Tatiana Kaletsch, Jenny Maritz

Our Benefit Chairs for Their Hard Work and Dedication to the Cause

16 www.nycaudubon.org
If you’ve ever been so charmed by the colorful spring warblers passing through your area en route to their northern nesting grounds that you’ve wished you could follow along with them, this book is for you. Naturalist Bruce M. Beehler did just that in 2015, driving almost 13,000 miles from the gulf coast of Texas to the north woods of Ontario, east to the Adirondacks, and finally south to his home in Maryland.

North on the Wing is a virtual roadmap for anyone interested in the best birding spots in the central part of the country. The author’s route is traced in actual maps on the book’s endpapers, graphically displaying his 100-day odyssey. The story follows Beehler’s pattern of driving to a noteworthy site on the Mississippi Flyway, pitching his tent in woods or field, and setting forth leisurely on foot, bicycle, car, or canoe to explore the habitat and its inhabitants—human as well as avian.

In doing so he introduces readers to the many birders, ornithologists, citizen scientists, and conservationists he visits, who share their stories about the pleasures and challenges of their work. Climate change, habitat loss, and species decline are some inevitable themes, but not all the news is bad. We learn of some remarkable accomplishments of habitat restoration and returning birdlife.

In all his stopovers at sanctuaries, national and local wildlife refuges, and state parks, Beehler’s broad interests as a naturalist give us a strong feel for the lay of the land—whether field, forest, bayou, or mountain—along with fascinating details of its natural and cultural history.

And then there are the birds! He records every day’s avian encounters, especially those with his “quest birds”: the 37 warbler species that breed in eastern North America. His descriptions range from cameos of individual bird behaviors to catalogues of the flocks he observes each morning and throughout the day. The narrative is interspersed with reflections on the amazing feats of memory and endurance that migration demands of birds and the “biological GPS” they have evolved to meet those challenges.

Attractive small black-and-white bird portraits by John T. Anderton and photographs by Beehler illustrate many pages of the book. —DD

The everyday changes that technology has brought to our lives are astounding. Road maps have given way to navigation apps, we can control the heat or air-conditioning in our homes without being there, and our computers can converse with us and even anticipate the information we want before we ask for it.

Another amazing aspect of today’s cutting-edge technology is the way it enables research about birds, especially seabirds like albatrosses, shearwaters, and petrels. The miniaturization of geolocators and sensors allows us to track birds anywhere on earth, even underwater. Seabirds, perhaps most famously albatrosses, spend the majority of their lives on the ocean, coming ashore only to breed. What habitats do they choose? How long do they stay there? Where do adults go after their chicks fledge? These are the types of questions answered by biologist Michael Brooke in his book Far From Land: The Mysterious Lives of Seabirds.

Brooke has studied seabirds all over the world. When he was using traditional methods of banding and recapturing, it was difficult—if not impossible—to follow these birds’ travels or foraging behavior on the ocean. Now, for instance, when Northern Gannets plunge into the water to catch their dinner, we can tell whether they seize it on the way down or on the ascent.

The wonder the author experiences at the data made possible by new technology is understandable. The reader starts with the excitement of wanting to know more, but is left a bit disappointed. The new discoveries are buried, and it’s arduous to follow the story. But Brooke’s writing is often lovely, especially when he describes the birds studied and reports on their characteristics such as flight speeds and the awe-inspiring distances they cover. A particular gem is the description of Little Penguins as “about the weight and shape of a magnum bottle of champagne.”

While it is unfortunate that the book makes it hard to comprehend the new insights scientists are gaining about seabirds, it does offer a good introduction to these little-known birds and the possibilities new technology will provide to demystify them. —CSH

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20
Mention the Bronx and you might think of the Bronx Bombers, the Bronx Zoo, the eternally congested Cross Bronx Expressway, or—if you’re hungry—Arthur Avenue. Some folks, though, think of nature. Containing the city’s largest park, Pelham Bay, and its third largest, Van Cortlandt, the Bronx is the city’s second greenest borough. This Bronx tale is about the 1,146 acres of Van Cortlandt Park (VCP).

With two forests, a lush wetland, and the largest lake in the Bronx, VCP offers a wide variety of habitat. In its midst sits the Nature Center, where once a month the Nature Group of Van Cortlandt Park meets for a walk. In July, NYC Audubon Executive Director Kathryn Heintz and I joined their monthly outing. The regulars were all there: group founder Dennis Burton, tree expert and former forest manager of VCP; Debbi Dolan, superb guide and plant maven; Bronx native John Young, who has been birding and keeping records of his VCP species sightings on small spiral-bound notebooks since 1956; and John’s wife, Minty O’Brien, a VCP history buff who emails the group delightful nature updates, commentary, and photos from the walks.

That day, 26 of us wandered for hours through Tibbetts Brook and along the shore of Van Cortlandt Lake. Debbi pointed out lovely Marsh-mallows and Coneflowers, plants commonly used in medicines. We saw Milkweed and Buttonbush and smelled the very fragrant (and pretty) Sweet Pepperbush. Butterflies and moths flitted among the flowers to the delight of the group’s two child participants, Jasper and Jackson, who happily chased and occasionally netted them. The boys, who hadn’t met before, both want to be scientists.

Of course, we saw plenty of birds: an Osprey, a Black-crowned Night-Heron, an American Goldfinch, three Eastern Kingbirds, and a chubby baby American Robin. According to Debbi, there were also three species of swallow, and several circling Chimney Swifts—27 species in all.

As we meandered, Minty and John spoke of having a terrace overlooking the park, describing the day 25 years ago when they first saw their apartment. They walked in and immediately went to the terrace, where they stood rapt, looking at birds and imagining a lifetime of sightings. At one point, John turned to his wife and said, “You know, this terrace comes with an apartment, too.” It now also comes with John’s 14 notebooks chronicling birds he has seen from that terrace.

John also told me how his interest in birds began. When he was little, he saw a striking bird and asked his mother what it was. She didn’t know, so she bought him a Golden field guide to birds, and later, a Peterson guide. He was hooked, and began taking the A train to Jamaica Bay from the northern Bronx. That’s when his detailed lists began in the notebooks, which now fill 41 notebooks. His Van Cortlandt life list alone numbers 225 species.

The Nature Group of Van Cortlandt Park is one of many welcoming groups throughout the City’s five boroughs that participate in the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. (Learn how to participate in this year’s CBC on the next page.) For information on the Nature Group’s monthly walks, send your name and email address to thenaturegroupvcp@gmail.com. NYC Audubon offers a series of free weekly bird walks with Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy on Saturday mornings in the fall and spring. See Events & Adventures in the upcoming spring Urban Audubon for information about these walks.
The 119th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count, a tradition first proposed by ornithologist Frank M. Chapman on Christmas Day 1900, is the nation's longest-running citizen-science bird project. NYC Audubon plays its part in this annual bird population survey, which is now conducted across North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, Bermuda, and the Pacific Islands. The data collected by observers over the past century allow researchers, conservation biologists, and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America.

The 119th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count will take place nationwide and in all five boroughs of New York City this December. NYC Audubon is responsible for reporting data for the Lower Hudson Count Circle, which includes all of Manhattan and parts of New Jersey. And we host Manhattan's Central Park compilation gathering at the Central Park Arsenal each year. Visit www.nycaudubon.org/cbc for more information about the Central Park Christmas Bird Count.

Each circle's count day ends with a gathering in a warm place, where participants refuel and socialize as territory coordinators work together to compile the data for the entire circle. New participants, even those less skilled at spotting and identifying, are welcome in all boroughs. Compilers will ensure participants are directed to territories where they would be most useful. A participant can join a different count every year—or even several counts in the same year if they occur on different days within the count period. As noted in National Audubon's 2014 Birds & Climate Change Report, the CBC plays an essential role in monitoring the health of our bird populations. But it's also a lot of fun, so sign up! To get more information or sign up for any New York City counts, please contact the coordinator for each borough, below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CB COUNT CIRCLE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
<td>Saturday, 12/15</td>
<td>Roberta Manian</td>
<td><a href="mailto:roberta.manian@gmail.com">roberta.manian@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staten Island</td>
<td>Saturday, 12/15</td>
<td>Cliff Hagen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chagen72@gmail.com">chagen72@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queens</td>
<td>Sunday, 12/16</td>
<td>Corey Finger</td>
<td><a href="mailto:10000birdsbloger@gmail.com">10000birdsbloger@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ-Lower Hudson (Manhattan)</td>
<td>Sunday, 12/16</td>
<td>Kaitlyn Parkins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kparkins@nycaudubon.org">kparkins@nycaudubon.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronx and Westchester</td>
<td>Sunday, 12/23</td>
<td>Michael Bochnik</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bochnikm@cs.com">bochnikm@cs.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Great Backyard Bird Count
February 15-February 18, 2019

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) has a shorter history than the CBC, but is equally important for monitoring bird populations. Begun in 1998 as a joint effort of National Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada, the goal of the GBBC is to capture a snapshot of bird numbers in a short period of time. Citizen scientists are asked every February to spend at least 15 minutes counting birds in their backyards—or anywhere else. (New Yorkers without backyards are not excused.) Submit a separate checklist for each new day and location, or the same location if you counted at a different time of day. With eBird, it’s easier than ever to submit your data. The 22nd annual GBBC takes place from Friday, February 15 to Monday, February 18, 2019. For more information, go to gbcb.birdcount.org.
A Cast in the Woods: A Story of Fly Fishing, Fracking, and Floods in the Heart of Trout Country
By Stephen Sautner
Lyons Press, 2018

The first time I picked up a fly rod, I was 11 years old. I was immediately mesmerized by playing the brook trout on a light, delicate line. Later on, I became a Registered Maine Guide with Master level certification, taking people on fly-fishing trips in and around Maine’s remote Kennebago Lake and River, where for three fly-fishing trips in and around Maine’s remote Kennebago Lake and River, where for three generations our family has owned an 1898 cabin. Sixty years later, I’m still a dedicated fly-fisher. Therefore, it was not surprising when my daughter Hillarie (member of NYC Audubon’s Newsletter Committee) asked me if I’d be interested in reading A Cast in the Woods, a book about fly-fishing and a family’s experiences after they purchased a cabin in New York’s Catskill Mountains. The only catch (pun intended): would I review it for The Urban Audubon? I was “hooked.”

Like many people who work hard all week, author Stephen Sautner longed for the chance to own a cabin getaway near a productive trout brook. An avid fly-fisher and nature enthusiast, he spent countless weekends commuting back and forth with his wife and friends to remote locations several hours from New York City. While camping one night in a small tent during a major thunderstorm, Sautner pondered, “Maybe, just maybe, a cabin might be better than this.”

The couple spent many days searching for the right place to match their budget. They viewed outhouses, double-wide trailers, and a cinder block building that looked more like a meatpacking plant than an idyllic cabin. They eventually found the “right place,” a fixer-upper near a stream and off the beaten path. Nothing left to do but move straight in, right? Setting into the cabin was far from worry-free, or furry-free for that matter. Sautner’s wife reacting in horror after touching a mouse as she tried to turn on their bedside lamp is one of many hilarious stories shared about their early experiences living in the cabin.

As they fixed up their cabin, the surrounding area and ecosystem began to experience threats, including a 700-year-flood in 2006 that wiped away most of the vegetation surrounding their stream. Eventually, between the family’s own plantings and nature taking its course, the vegetation recovered.

However, an even greater threat to the stream and ecosystem loomed. Sautner was shocked to learn that several companies wanted to lease the sub-surface rights to nearby properties (his included) in order to mine for oil and gas as part of fracking efforts. Sautner knew how destructive the process could be, particularly to fish habitat, so he joined the opposition. “I was up there for trout, for birds, for wildlife, for frogs, for toads, for my son, for my wife, and I really felt I was a steward of that,” explains Sautner. The public outcry resulted in a ban on fracking by Governor of New York Andrew Cuomo in 2014.

A Cast in the Woods is for anyone who loves nature, environmental stewardship, fly-fishing, and spending time with family. I personally related to the adventures around his camp, repairing roofs, setting traps for mice, and the constant, yet fun, upkeep one performs for an old camp. Sautner writes of one such moment, “But right now, I’m not going to worry about any of these things. Instead, I think I’ll sit here on the porch and continue sipping this beer and look for the brookie that rises off the undercut bank. The door, the ceiling, the wall, the roof, the mice, the trees, even the fishing, can all wait. It is, after all, a cabin.” —BS

(Join us for a conversation with author Stephen Sautner at our February 26 lecture. See page 24 for more information.)

There are many ways to play a significant and lasting role in supporting New York City Audubon’s mission to protect wild birds and their habitat in the five boroughs of New York City:
- Include New York City Audubon in your will or irrevocable trust. Specify “New York City Audubon Society, 71 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010” as a beneficiary. You can change your bequest or designation at any time.
- Name “New York City Audubon” as a residual beneficiary, or co-beneficiary, in your retirement account, bank account, or insurance policy. It’s very easy! Many times it can be done online. Retirement plans include IRAs, 401(k) plans, profit-sharing plans, Keogh plans, and 403(b) plans.
- Have payments from your retirement account made directly to New York City Audubon. You must be 70½ or older. Payments made this way are not included in your gross income.

The tax benefits of these options can be very attractive, too. Be sure to speak with your financial advisor about any arrangements you make on behalf of New York City Audubon.
To learn more about ways to plan a gift to New York City Audubon, contact Director of Development Kellye Rosenheim at krosenheim@nycaudubon.org or 646-502-9611.

Bill Stevens
New York City Audubon’s conservation and outreach 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 2017 to September 2018 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.

For our funders and want to make sure you receive the recognition you deserve.

The following volunteers have given generously of their time to help New York City Audubon:

**Legend**
- **BD** = Board of Directors
- **CBC** = Christmas Bird Count
- **CON** = Conservation
- **EO** = Education and Outreach
- **HH** = Harbor Herons
- **IBT** = Injured Bird Transports
- **KA** = Kinds Island
- **OA** = Office Administration
- **PSF** = Project Safe Flight
- **TIL** = Tribute in Light
- **UA** = Urban Audubon
- **WE** = Website and eNewsletter

**EO** = Executive Officer
**JB** = Jamaica Bay
**KK** = Kingsville
**PS** = Project Safe Flight
**TIL** = Tribute in Light
**UA** = Urban Audubon
**WE** = Website and eNewsletter

**Note:** Volunteers are listed by last name, alphabetically by last name. The list includes volunteers who have participated in outreach programs such as Wildflowers (includes Volunteers), Shorebird Surveys, and Horseshoe Crab (includes Volunteers). Volunteers have campaigned for our funders and want to make sure you receive the recognition you deserve.

**Winter 2018-2019**

**21**
VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (CONTINUED)

Brian Mok JB
Daniel Molinaro CBC
Marco Montalto JB
Kathleen Mooney IBT
China Moore JB
Malcolm Morris CBC
Anne Mortimer-Maddox OA
Linda Mullaney CBC
Carolyn Murphy EO
Steve Nance UA, WE
Gunda P. Narang CBC, PSF
Christine Nealy JB
Jane Nealy JB
Becky Ballich Nelson EO
Tyler Nelson EO
Grace Newcomb EO
Elizabeth Norman IBT, JB, PSF
Annie Novak PSF, TIL

Luke O’Brien CBC
Lisa Ochs JB
Emir O’Hara HH
Emelia Oleson CBC
Jennifer Olsen-McCabe IBT
Kristen Olson JB
Nate O’Reilly CBC
Hillarie O’Toole UA
James Park KW
Harrald Parzh JB
Rachel Paseka CBC
Stefan Passlick CBC
Daisy Lane Paul JB, IBT
Peter Paul JB
Robert O. Paxton CBC
Tom Pearlman CBC
Ellen Pehek HH
Anders Peltonaa CBC EO
Adriana Pena EO
Margot Perron HH, JB

Opal Perron-Feller JB
Julia Perzely CBC
Eliza Phillips CBC
Joanna Pieggrass EO
Barry Pinchfsksy JB
Sarah Plimpton CBC
Daniel Polgardy IBT
Steve Pontillo CBC
Peter Post CBC
James Poulos CBC
Robin Poulos CBC
Teddy Poulos CBC
Ed Power JB
Jess Powers PSF
Dania Proano EO
Rachel Quiñones BD, EO
Josh Rada JB
Nick Rada JB
Rozanna Radakovich OA
Jose Ramirez-Carlofofo CON
Andrew Rampersand EO
Mala Rampersand EO
Regan Rampersand EO
Shannon Randall CBC
Elizabeth Ratner CBC, EO, JB
Mariana Regalade JB
Esther Regelson TIL
Mary Reinertsen EO
Isaac Rendon EO
Daniel Resner EO
Carla Rhodes UA
Don Riepe HH, JB, UA, WE
Maritza Rios EO
Carol Peace Robins UA
Jesse Robinson PSF
Mary Rojas HH
Courtney Ross TIL
Lew Rosenberg CBC, UA
Sheila Rosenberg CBC, UA
Kelley Rosenheim EO
Phoebe Rosenheim EO
Fivel Rothberg JB
Laure Rudzinski JB
Elizabeth Ruiz JB
Mike Ruscinco JB
Anna Ryba JB
Purbita Saha JB
Anahi Sanchez EO
Viviana Sanchez IBT
Roman Sannikov EO
Nick Santa-Donato JB
Diane Schenker CBC
Lisa Scheppke HH
Chett Schmitt JB
Susan A Schulz CBC
Esther Schwab JB
Aubrey Schwartz EO
Vicki Singleton CBC, PSF
Luke Seitz JB
Ann Seligman EO, I BT, JB, OA
Louis Serio JB
Ryan Serio JB
Devon Sharpo EO
Helen Shaskan I BT
Cathy Sheeter CBC
Sergey Shktakov CBC
John Shmilait MD
Allyson Shott EO
Michael Silber PSF
Sean Sime UA, WE
Amy Simmons CBC
Rob Singleton JB
Martha Skennematz CBC
Ray Spyker EO
Jason Smith JB
Addie Smock CBC
Cameron Sofia JB
Liliana Sofia JB
Ben Solotaire JB
Elizabeth Sorrell JB
Mike Soszynski PSF
Fredric Spar BD
David Spahn HH
Jennie Spector JB
David Speiser BD, UA, WE
Harley Spiller JB
Hiro Spiller JB
Micki Spiller JB
Jordan Spindel CBC
Lloyd Spitalnik UA, WE
Alan Steel BD
Tom Stephenson BD, EO, WE
Brandon Stinchfield JB
Virginia Stotz EO
Robinson Strauss CBC
Margaret Subhas PSF
Charlotte Sueck JB
Greg Supcoo JB
Wll Supcoo JB
Karen Susnitzky PSF
Lenore Svenson CBC
Dian Szatkowski EO
Chris Takacs CBC
Michelle Talich PSF
Michael Tannen BD
Barbara Tamoff JB
Sarah Teitler JB
Rajani Tewan CBC
John Theiroff CBC, PSF
Jill Thieroff CBC
Isaac Thomas JB
Megan Thomas CBC
Jesika Dixi TIL
Nancy Tognan HH
Michelle Trowbridge JB
Elizabeth Trowbridge JB

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 enewsletter; 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 $_____.

Gift Membership Recipient Information:

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________
Email: ___________________________________________________________

Gift Membership Contributor Information:

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________
Phone: ___________________________ 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:
NYC Audubon • 71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1523 • New York, NY 10010

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.
INVASIVE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

The spotted lanternfly, a species of insect, is a plant hopper native to China and Southeastern Asia. Discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014, the spotted lanternfly presents a threat to U.S. native trees like oak and maple, posing a real concern for the ecosystems that birds and other wildlife rely on. So far, this insect has been found in Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, Virginia, and New York, including Suffolk County on Long Island.

If you find a spotted lanternfly and/or its eggs, please do the following: take pictures of the insect, egg masses, or infestation you see; note the location (address, intersecting roads, landmarks, or GPS coordinates); email the pictures to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation at spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov, and report the information to iMapInvasives at NYiMapInvasives.org. Learn more about the information to iMapInvasives at spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov; and report and location to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation via http://dec.ny.gov/animals/113303.html.

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. Contact us to learn more.

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, or 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.

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. Contact us to learn more.

BECOME A MEMBER
Contributing members are essential to our conservation and outreach work. As a member of NYC Audubon, you will receive The Urban Audubon newsletter and The eGret email newsletter; enjoy discounts on field trips and classes; and make a difference in helping to protect the City’s wildlife and natural areas.

[ ] I would like to become a member by making a recurring donation in the amount of $_________ each month.
[ ] I would like to become a member by making a one-time donation:
[ ] American Kestrel Circle $2,500
[ ] Conservationist $250
[ ] Supporter $100
[ ] Family $250
[ ] 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 $______.
[ ] 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: ___________ Security Code: ______
Mail this form with your payment to:
NYC Audubon • 71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1523 • New York, NY 10010

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MANAGING RAT MIGRATION: ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION IMPLICATIONS OF BROWN RATS
By Matthew Combs
Tuesday, January 22, 7pm
Learn about New York City’s least favorite furry friend from Matthew Combs, whose work studying the genetics of the City’s rats recently caused quite a stir. Controlling the City’s rat populations can often have severe implications for raptors such as Red-tailed Hawks, so it can be helpful for bird lovers to learn about these common critters. Combs will explore the biology of rats, the risks they pose, and even debunk some rat myths. We will then hear how he uses genetics and ecology to understand rat populations in our city and how that might translate to management goals and priorities. Matthew Combs conducts his research as a doctoral candidate at Fordham University.

IN CONVERSATION WITH A CAST IN THE WOODS
By Stephen Sautner
Tuesday, February 26, 7pm
Join us for a discussion with author Stephen Sautner inspired by his new book, A Cast in the Woods. (See our review on page 20.) Sautner’s cabin in the Catskills provides the backdrop for this exciting new work, which explores his passion for the natural world and its stewardship, along with forays into other topics such as fishing and fracking. Stephen Sautner has contributed to various publications including The New York Times “Outdoors” column and is the director of communications for the Wildlife Conservation Society at the Bronx Zoo. He is a lover of fly-fishing, birding, and nature.

BIRDSONG: SONG LEARNING AND CULTURAL EVOLUTION
By Ofer Tchernichovski
Tuesday, March 12, 7pm
How and when does a Zebra Finch learn to sing, and what effects does hearing a song have on its brain? How does sleep affect song learning? How does the learning of birdsong compare to the learning of speech in human infants? Learn the answers to these questions and more from Ofer Tchernichovski, PhD, who studies animal behavior and the dynamics of vocal learning and sound production at the Laboratory of Vocal Learning at Hunter College. The lab aims to uncover the specific physiological and molecular brain processes that underlie song learning. Tchernichovski holds a PhD in zoology from Tel Aviv University and is a doctor of veterinary medicine.

Our lectures are held at Reidy Hall at the Unitarian Church of All Souls, located on Lexington Avenue between 79th and 80th streets in Manhattan.

www.nycaudubon.org