In the waters that divide New York City’s five boroughs—hemmed in by development and crisscrossed by bridges, ferries, and tunnels—lies an overlooked, scattered wilderness: the islands of the Harbor Herons. Relatively inaccessible to predators, the islands must have provided safe nesting grounds long before modern hunting, development, and pollution decimated local wading bird populations in the early twentieth century. The birds began returning following an amendment to the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act and passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, however, and for several decades NYC Audubon has been working to protect the islands’ rookeries. The annual nesting survey is key to this effort, and recently I was thrilled to participate in a survey of Hoffman Island, a man-made island just south of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge off Staten Island’s eastern shore.

The first lesson you learn on Hoffman is to watch your step: Well-camouflaged gull nests abound, and I froze in place as I realized that vulnerable eggs and chicks littered the shoreline. My terror of clumsily doing the unspeakable...
N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 0

THE URBAN AUDUBON
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Small Photographs Susan Elbin, Steve Nanz, and Don Riepe

NYC Audubon wishes to thank Ben Whitehouse and Whitehouse & Company for donating the design of the special 30th Anniversary edition of our logo, which premieres with this issue of The Urban Audubon. This version features photographs by David Speiser. Look for other versions featuring different photographers in future publications and at www.nycaudubon.org.
A skyline of tall buildings is emblematic of New York City. But this cityscape, ranging from historic to ultra-modern architecture, presents threats to migratory birds. Reflected images of sky and trees in buildings’ glazing during the day and sources of light that overwhelm navigational cues from the moon and stars at night impede the navigation of migratory birds.

NYC Audubon’s Project Safe Flight (PSF) seeks to identify, describe, and solve issues of the migration challenge through the metropolis. This year PSF coordinator Leslie Chase is leading the project and developing a dynamic awareness campaign to promote the messages of NYC Audubon’s “Lights Out NYC” program, started three years ago. This spring, Leslie and fourteen volunteers monitored ten buildings in Manhattan, finding 34 dead birds representing 10 different species, a smaller number than usual because of decreased migration through the city.

Glass is reflective and deadly to birds, and energy-efficient glass is increasingly used in new construction. The challenge has been to develop a glass product that birds see as a solid obstacle and is energy efficient. To an engineer at an innovative glass manufacturing company in Germany, Arnold Glas (www.arnold-glas.de/), inspiration came in the form of spider webs. Species of orb-weaving spiders incorporate within their webs woven patterns of an ultraviolet-reflecting silk called stabilimentum. It is known that birds see ultraviolet (UV) rays; humans do not. And research has shown that stabilimentum results in significantly fewer webs being destroyed by birds flying through them.

Arnold Glas first produced its bird-friendly product Ornilux© by combining UV-reflecting and absorbing materials in a striped pattern within the glass. The second generation of the product aims to scatter the UV materials throughout the glass and thereby be less visible to humans while being more visible to birds. NYC Audubon eagerly awaits the results from in situ testing of the new product, Ornilux Mikado ©.

**Breeding Bird Census Updates**

Jean Loscalzo and Eric Miller conducted a breeding bird census for Cunningham Park in Queens, a NYC Parks and Recreation park containing a 240-acre Forever Wild Preserve. Preliminary analysis shows gray catbirds, Baltimore and orchard orioles, American robins, and warbling vireos nesting in the park.

Liz Craig and a team of volunteers conducted the Harbor Heron survey for 2010. Early results show 2,041 pairs of long-legged wading birds breeding on islands in the New York Harbor, a 10 percent increase over the last full survey conducted in 2007. Look for a detailed report in the November-December Urban Audubon.
NYC Audubon is holding a series of volunteer events this year throughout the city that are supported by TogetherGreen, an alliance between Audubon and Toyota. All volunteers will be provided with lunch, work gear, and a special token of our appreciation. Please wear clothing and shoes appropriate for working outdoors. For more information or to sign up for an event, please contact Jeff Friedrich at 212-691-7483 or jfriedrich@nycaudubon.org.

BRIGHTEN BRIGHTON BEACH
Saturday, September 25, 10 am-2 pm
With American Littoral Society
The 25th Annual International Coastal Cleanup will take place Saturday, September 25. NYC Audubon is partnering with the American Littoral Society in this vital effort to clean beaches and document shoreline debris, so we can increase public awareness and appreciation of the coastal environment and help devise strategies to combat pollution. In 2009, 10,425 volunteers cleaned and documented 144,837 pounds of debris along 326 miles of New York State’s shoreline. With your help, we can do even more this year.

PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT/LIGHTS OUT NEW YORK
Contact Leslie Chase at lchase@nycaudubon.org to volunteer for this project. See Conservation Notes on page 3 for more information.


Birds? Yes, there are birds in Bryant Park. And not just those common house sparrows nibbling on your bagel crumbs.

There are actual migrating birds in Bryant Park. And here’s the best way to see them. During spring and fall migration, naturalist Gabriel Willow leads free tours for NYC Audubon in the morning and evening, just before and just after work, befitting the midtown office location of the park.

This spring I joined Gabriel once in the morning and once at night. Each time there were eight or so others with varying degrees of birding experience. Gabriel told us many of the birds migrate at night to avoid predation and then descend to dark patches in the midst of our lit-up city to find refuge and food in preparation for the next leg of their journey. Bryant Park is a nine-acre green respite amid densely packed skyscrapers on 42nd Street behind the New York Public Library.

On our walk we saw house sparrows nibbling on crumbs; they’re year-round residents. (The house—originally English—sparrow is an introduced species; the entire North American population is descended from birds released in the U.S. during the nineteenth century.) But we also saw white-throated sparrows, chipping sparrows, and song sparrows. An ovenbird—a warbler so-called because its nest resembles a Dutch oven—was easily spotted by its behavior of running swiftly along the ground. Other sightings included a gray catbird and a hermit thrush.

Some of the more observant eyes among us saw other warblers: a male yellow-throat, a blackpoll, and a black-and-white.

Gabriel reported that earlier in the week a migrating American woodcock was spotted, a game bird that ordinarily prefers wet woods or swamps. Overall in Bryant Park, an astounding 35 species have been identified. You’ll probably never see that many in one visit, but hey, eight or ten’s not bad. Join NYC Audubon on one of these walks (for Bryant Park walks in the fall, see page 6); it’s a great way to start or end the work day—with or without the bagel.
ebbed as I carefully assisted in a quick gull count, before getting to the heart of the matter: herons, egrets, and ibises. Once used as a quarantine station, Hoffman’s buildings were razed in 1961. Since then, a nearly impenetrable jungle of trees and vines has crept over the island—a habitat happily adopted for nesting by great and snowy egrets, glossy ibises, little blue herons, and black- and yellow-crowned night-herons. Beautiful adult birds soared over our heads as we forged into the tangle, using long, angled mirrors to count their nests, eggs, and young. Moving quickly so as not to leave their chicks exposed any longer than necessary, I learned to distinguish the rather sloppy, big-sticked nest of the black-crowned night-heron from the more delicate construction of the snowy egret, often built right beneath the canopy. Great egret nests were the hardest to spot, sitting as they do right on top, in full sunlight. And...the chicks! Spiky-feathered, gangly great egrets, recognizable by the eerie greenish hue of their skin; dark, downy ibises hatched out of deep blue eggs; and furious night-herons—in my imagination a hybrid of young dinosaurs and Oscar the Grouch as they hissed under heavy eyebrows and menaced with gaping, wide-open mouths.

The work was sweaty, and I threw out the torn, muddy clothes I’d worn that day, but the breeding data obtained by NYC Audubon’s scientists is essential. Data collected on nesting populations provides a greater understanding of what habitats are most valuable and how unused sites may be improved, which helps target future conservation efforts. Radio-telemetry banding and foraging surveys done this past spring will give further insight into the needs of our Harbor Herons, so as to ensure their continued breeding here—unknown to most—smack dab in the middle of New York Harbor.

Though access to the heron colonies is restricted to minimize disturbance to the birds, anyone can get up-close and personal via NYC Audubon’s HeronCam (www.nycaudubon.org/projects/harborherons/WebCam) or by taking part in a guided harbor Sunset Eco-cruise. But you’ll have to wait until next spring, when the wading birds return.
EVENTS AND ADVENTURES

- NYC Audubon Events
- Partnership Events

- VAN CORTLANDT BIRD CLUB
  Saturdays, September 4-November 27, 9am
  Guide: Andrew Baksh or Urban Park Rangers (first Saturday of the month)
With Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy and NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, Urban Park Rangers
Meet at Van Cortland Nature Center. The history of birding and Van Cortlandt Park are inseparable. Influential birders such as Roger Tory Peterson and Allan D. Cruickshank got their starts on Van Cortlandt’s ecologically diverse grounds. These walks celebrate the tradition set forth by these great ornithologists. Participants will look for various species of migrants and discuss a wide range of avian topics. For more information, please call 718-548-0912. No registration necessary. No limit. Free.

- BIKING AND BIRDING:
  JAMAICA BAY
Sunday, September 5, 9am-1pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow
With Transportation Alternatives
Birding and biking, a natural combination! Join us in an eco-friendly excursion. Meet at Grand Army Plaza Arch at Prospect Park for a 13-mile ride to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, where we will dismount and explore the trails in search of migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. Group can return by subway or bike. Limited to 15. Bring lunch, water and binoculars. $36 (includes a 1-year membership in Transportation Alternatives)

- FALL WARBLERS
  Tuesday, September 7, 6:30-8:30pm (class); Sunday, September 12, 8-11am (trip)
  Instructor: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC
Learn to identify the 30-plus species of warblers that visit Central Park during fall migration. Limited to 15. $40

- FALL MIGRATION BIRDWALKS IN CENTRAL PARK
  Wednesdays, September 15, 22, 29, October 6, 13, 20, 7:30-10:30am
  Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC
Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street. Join us in observing varying waves of migrants that stop over in Central Park during fall bird migrations. Limited to 15. $110

- EXPLORE THE BRONX RIVER BY ROWBOAT
  Saturday, September 18, 2-4pm
  Guide: Chrissy Word
  With Rocking the Boat
Meet at Hunts Point Riverside Park, located at the intersection of Lafayette Avenue and Edgewater Road in the Bronx. Explore the Bronx River aboard a hand-built wooden boat led by experienced rowers. The Bronx River is the only true river within New York City’s borders and harbors an abundant of wildlife, including such birds as herons, egrets, ospreys, and belted kingfishers. Tours will visit current and future restoration sites and participants will learn about the Bronx River’s unique eco-systems and discuss the social and cultural histories of the area. Participants will be given time to view wildlife with binoculars and take photos and field notes. Limited to 20. $35 for adults, $25 for ages 18 and under.

- WINE TASTING AND BIRDING: VINEYARD TOUR ON THE NORTH SHORE, LI
  Saturday, September 18, 9am-5pm
  Guide: Gabriel Willow
We combine two of life’s pleasures, wine and birding, on a trip to Shinn Estate Vineyards on Long Island’s North Fork. Learn how organic farming can benefit birds and taste some wine. Continue to Orient Point State Park in search of migratory shorebirds. Bring binoculars, lunch, and comfortable shoes. Must be 21 and over. Transportation provided. Limited to 13. $110

- EVENING AUTUMN MIGRATION WALKS
  Tuesdays, September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 19; 5-6:30pm
  Guide: Gabriel Willow
Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street. Witness the spectacle of autumn migration as songbirds follow the Atlantic flyway to their tropical wintering grounds. Look for tanagers, warblers, and other tropical migrants in the wilds of Central Park. Limited to 15. $70

- JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISE
  Saturday, September 25, 4-7pm
  Guides: Don Riepe, Mickey Cohen
With American Littoral Society
Join us for a 3-hour narrated cruise along the backwater marshes of Jamaica Bay aboard the 2-deck boat the Golden Sunshine out of Pier 2, Sheepshead Bay. Cost: $45 includes guides, wine & cheese, fruit, drink, snacks. For more information or to register, contact Don Riepe at 718-318-9344 or driepe@nyc.rr.com.

- HOOK MOUNTAIN HAWK WATCH
  Sunday, September 26, 9am-4pm
  Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC
Hook Mountain is part of the Palisades Interstate Park system. It has commanding views of all the mountains ridges in the area. It also has fantastic views of the Hudson River. From this inland hawk watch spot we can expect to see many species of migrating raptors. On a good flight day we should see broad-winged hawks, red-shouldered hawks, bald eagles, accipiters, and falcons. Note: this trip requires a 35-minute walk up and down the hill. Limited to 35. $83

6 www.nycaudubon.org
WAVE HILL RAPTOR DAY
Sunday, September 26, 9:30am-4pm
With Wave Hill
Discover birds of prey at this day-long event, which features live raptor shows, bird walks, fascinating talks, discovery tables, birding equipment demonstrations, and more! Overlooking the Hudson River, Wave Hill is the perfect place to spot hawks, eagles, kites, ospreys, and falcons. A great way to spend a family day. For more information, visit www.wavehill.org.

BIRDING TOURS OF BRYANT PARK
Wednesdays, September 29-October 27, 8am-9am
Guide: Gabriel Willow
With Bryant Park Corporation
Meet at the Birding Tour Sign at the 42nd Street & 6th Ave entrance to the park. Discover the variety of birds that call Bryant Park home. Registration not necessary. No Limit. Free

FALL MIGRATION AT RANDALL’S ISLAND
Sunday, October 3, 9am-12pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow
Meet at 104th and FDR Drive and walk across the foot bridge to Randall’s Island. Randall’s Island is a prime spot for viewing birds during fall migration because of its location in the East River. Explore the results of recent restoration efforts on the island. This trip will feature two miles of walking and some modest climbs. Limited to 20. $20

SPARROW IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP
Wednesday, October 20, 6:30-8pm (class); Sunday, October 24, 9am-2pm (trip)
Guide: Gabriel Willow
Sparrows are one of the most challenging groups of birds to identify. They are beautiful and fascinating, especially once they can be distinguished. Learn to identify those LBJs (little brown jobs) by learning behavior, field marks, and songs. Limited to 15. $45

ASSATEAUGUE NATIONAL SEASHORE AND CHINCOTEAGUE WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEKEND
Thursday, November 4-8
Saturday, November 7
Guide: Donnie Riepe
With American Littoral Society
Explore marshes, woods, and beaches of Assateague island and Chincoteague Wildlife refuge. See wild ponies, bald eagle, migrating hawks, falcons, waterfowl, shorebirds and lots of wintering snow geese. Mammals include river otter and the endangered Delmarva fox squirrel. On the way home we will visit a cypress swamp and the Bombay Hook Refuge. Includes double-occupancy lodging, five guided hikes, two evening programs, star watch, safari bus tour and seafood dinner. Limited to 25. $575 ($180 single room supplement)

BEGINNING BIRDING
Mondays, November 8 and 15, 6:30-8:30pm (class); Saturdays, November 13 and 20 (trips)
Instructor: Starr Saphir
Even if you never picked up a pair of binoculars, you’ll soon be identifying thrushes, warblers, and more. This class will include field trips to Central Park and Jamaica Bay, two of New York City’s best birding destinations. Limited to 13. $40

SNOW GEESE AND TUNDRA SWANS OF BRIGANTINE, NJ
Sunday, November 14, 9:30am-4:30pm
Guide: Joe Giunta
Brigantine, part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, is one of the east coast’s premier sites for waterbirds, offering a diversity of species and panoramic views. Limited to 20. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. $80

WINGS OF THE MAYAN WORLD & THE 9TH ANNUAL TOH BIRD FESTIVAL
Saturday, November 13-Sunday, November 21
Guide: Gabriel Willow
Travel for a week to the magical land of the Maya in Southern Mexico. Explore ancient Mayan ruins, coral reefs, and white sand beaches. Hike through the jungle in search of monkeys, jaguars, and other exotic creatures. And of course, see the incredibly diverse birdlife of the region: there are close to 550 species of birds in the Yucatan, of which 14 are endemic, as well as familiar wintering Neotropical migrants. Visit the well-regarded 9th Annual Festival del Toh with top local guides and great workshops. The trip includes double-occupancy lodging, transportation within Mexico, transfers, some meals, and natural and cultural explorations. Limited to 9. $2,640 (single supplement TBD)

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

IMPORTANT information for all local trips and classes:
• Classes meet at 71 West 23rd St. room 1523.
• Members at the Student/ Senior level and up receive a 10% discount on most local trips and classes. See membership form on page 11.
• For all bus and van trips, the meeting location is in front of 71 West 23rd St. in Manhattan unless otherwise specified.
• We depart promptly at the stated start time.

IMPORTANT information for all national/international trips:
• Membership in NYC Audubon at the Student/Senior level and up is required. See membership form on page 11.
The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State
edited by Kevin J. McGowan and Kimberly Corwin
(Cornell University Press, 2008)

The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State is a monumental work—an important resource for ornithologists and of interest to recreational birders. It follows and updates the impressive Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State, which was published in 1988.

Simply put, the methodology to create the Atlases was to divide the state into many thousands of geographic “blocks” and to observe the species present in each block over a set period of time. For the most part, the number of blocks that a species occupies tends to correlate with the species’ population. The First Atlas reports on findings of surveys conducted between 1980 and 1985; The Second Atlas reports on findings from the period of 2000 to 2005 and shows changes that have occurred since the first Atlas.

“The Second Atlas is a very valuable tool for getting snapshots of trends among the state’s breeding bird species,” says Susan Elbin, Director of Conservation for New York City Audubon. “We use it along with a number of other tools. The Second Atlas is great way to get a fast read on a species.”

Susan keeps a copy of the The Second Atlas near her desk for quick reference. Recently, for example, a colleague had questions about whether a number of species breed on Staten Island. A quick flip through The Second Atlas revealed the answers.

“Identifying trends among breeding birds is also a consideration in helping us understand where and how allocate conservation resources and efforts,” she says.

Susan also praises the Atlas of Breeding Birds project for combining citizen science (scores of volunteers conducted the surveys published in both Atlases) with professional science (ornithologists reviewed the reports). “The Second Atlas is beautifully written and illustrated,” she adds, “which makes it enjoyable as well as useful.”

StarrTrips
MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND SATURDAY MORNINGS IN CENTRAL PARK—MONDAY, AUGUST 23-SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

Mondays and Wednesdays: Meet at 7:30am sharp at 81st & Central Park West (SE corner)
Tuesdays: Meet at 9am sharp at 103rd & Central Park West (parkside)
Saturdays: Meet at 7:30am sharp at 103rd & Central Park West (parkside)

Join guide Starr Saphir on fall bird walks through Central Park. All StarrTrips are non-smoking. Cost: $8 per person ($4 for full-time students). No registration necessary! For further information, call Starr at 917-306-3808.
In 2002 Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society launched a revolutionary, real-time, online checklist program for the birding community, recreational and professional alike, in the United States. This program is revolutionizing the way that birders report and access information about birds, providing rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution in a variety of spatial and temporal scales, quickly amassing one of the largest and fastest growing biodiversity data resources in existence. The observations of each participant join those of others in an international network of users, including educators, land managers, ornithologists, and conservation biologists. In time these data will become the foundation for a better understanding of bird distribution across the western hemisphere and beyond.

This program is eBird, and you can use it right here in the five boroughs. Through checklist data, it documents the presence or absence of species, as well as bird abundance. It manages your daily, monthly, yearly and life lists. It allows you to share your records with your partners in ornithological adventures. It even allows you to do all of these things around the world! A simple and intuitive web-interface engages tens of thousands of participants to submit their observations or view results via interactive queries into the eBird database. It provides Internet tools that maintain your personal bird records and enables you to visualize data with interactive maps, graphs, and bar charts. All these features are available in English, Spanish, and French. You simply enter when, where, and how you went birding, and you fill out a checklist of all the birds seen and heard during the outing. eBird provides various options for data gathering, including point counts, transects, and area searches. eBird even has automated data quality filters developed by regional bird experts, a means to review all submissions before they enter the database. Local experts (myself included) review unusual records that are flagged by the filters.

eBird data are stored in a secure facility and archived daily, and are accessible to anyone via the eBird web site and other applications developed by the global biodiversity information community. For example, eBird data are part of the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN), which integrates observational data on bird populations across the western hemisphere. In turn, the AKN feeds eBird data to international biodiversity data systems, such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). In this way any contribution made to eBird increases our understanding of the distribution, richness, and uniqueness of the avian biodiversity of our planet.

Go online and checkout eBird for yourself at www.ebird.org

A week had passed since I’d heard the improbable news: Common ravens nesting in Queens! So as we pulled up to the nest site, I fretted that I’d waited too long. Might the birds have fledged? The raucous “RAAH! RAAH!” of the hungry fledglings (much more of a yell than a chirp) quickly put my fears at ease. As I watched the young predators—still slightly downy—play tug-of-war over a battered, furry morsel, local birder Jean Loscalzo explained that the same pair had been found nesting here in 2009. Their success is the first confirmed record for New York City, and represents an astounding recovery in raven populations statewide.

Though ravens are believed to have bred across New York State prior to European colonization, by 1900 land cultivation and hunting had reduced their numbers to only a few pairs in the Adirondacks. Thanks in part to recovering woodlands, however, in recent decades the species has rebounded dramatically, as reported in The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State. While in 1985 ravens bred in only a few scattered areas outside the Adirondacks, by 2005 they had repopulated much of the state, showing a 710 percent increase in confirmed breeding blocks. Our resident Queens pair fledged two young in 2009, and three more this year. Let’s hope our ravens will continue to nest here, “evermore.”
The classic Birdathon, as carried out by birding organizations throughout the country, presents the challenge of finding as many bird species as possible in the course of a single spring day. It's a fundraiser, a consciousness-raiser, and a skill-tester all rolled up in one event, with teams and individuals taking part.

For the last two years, NYC Audubon has tried a new approach modeled by some western Audubon chapters, by letting participants choose their own Birdathon day any time in May. The goal is to include more people than ever before by making the Birdathon more flexible.

A chance to take part in a Birdathon was offered on numerous spring trips. There were three Beginning Birdathon trips to Central Park, Prospect Park, and the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, with an emphasis on learning how to identify what you might be looking at. And there were two half-day Birdathon events, one at Jamaica Bay and another that ranged all over Queens. Highlights included a fledgling great horned owl, a black-billed cuckoo, and an always show-stopping pair, the scarlet tanager and rose-breasted grosbeak.

The office staff helped set a high standard on its own Birdathon, covering four boroughs and tallying 95 species. Two upper-East Side schools tried their hand as well—the Spence School and St. Bernard's School. A total of more than 50 students took part in the school events, abetted by an array of parents, friends, and siblings. The St. Bernard's team showed great pluck by spending nearly two hours in the rain, and still coming up with a respectable number of birds, including ten warbler species.

Overall, the 2010 Birdathon included a spirited series of events, with 75 participants, 125 contributors, and 115 species seen. Special congratulations to Terri Roth for amassing the greatest number of sponsors for her Beginning Birdathon at Jamaica Bay, spreading the word about the abundance of birds in the city each spring.

Pale Male may be the most famous bird ever. Even the Maltese Falcon had only one film to his name. Pale Male has two.

The world met the avian star in 2002 when *Pale Male*, a documentary produced and directed by Frederic Lilien, aired. But in 1991, a special group of New Yorkers discovered him first: Central Park birders who stood watch as Pale Male courted his first love on a railing outside Woody Allen's Fifth Avenue building. Among them was Lilien, a young Belgian who'd come to New York to find himself. Instead he found a beguiling red-tailed hawk taking up residence in this city. In deciding to film him, Lilien found himself immersed in a project lasting eighteen years.

*The Legend of Pale Male*, which Lilien also directed and charmingly narrates, is the years-long tale not only of a remarkable hawk but of a passionate filmmaker and a captivating array of New Yorkers: birders who offered Lilien their friendship and giant lenses, the doctor who lent Lilien his Fifth Avenue terrace for filming Pale Male’s penthouse home, and ever-increasing numbers of enthralled New Yorkers, from toddlers to celebrities. You’ll watch the people watch the hawks as they carefully build their nests, and join the vigil as baby chicks almost, not quite, maybe later, now! take wing. And you’ll witness the great drama of The Co-op Board, which in December 2004 removed Pale Male’s nest, claiming residents were tired of him and the throngs of hawk gawkers.

What followed was international outrage and throngs of vociferous protesters. NYC Audubon entered negotiations with the Co-op Board. Building resident Mary Tyler Moore sided with protesters. And then? See the film. You’ll be glad you’re human and proud to be a New Yorker.
**News & Notes**

**BIRD-SAFE GLASS TO BE RELEASED IN THE US**
In a meeting with architects and conservationists including NYC Audubon, Arnold Glas announced that it would begin distributing its bird-friendly glass, Ornilux Mikado®, in the United States. Representatives from the German company also discussed possible locations for testing the glass in the United States, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

**HELP PROTECT RIDGEWOOD RESERVOIR**
While imminent danger of the former Ridgewood Reservoir being developed into ball fields has subsided, there is now opportunity to secure permanent protection. Please visit www.nycaudubon.org for sample letters to urge the Department of Environmental Conservation to designate the former reservoir as protected freshwater wetlands.

**GEESE CULLING CONTINUES**
The City of New York continues efforts to reduce Canada goose populations through lethal control, despite efforts by NYC Audubon and others to persuade Mayor Bloomberg that the science does not support current policy. The risk of damage to non-target species has postponed a proposed round-up at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, though culling occurred this year in Prospect Park and at the Pennsylvania and Fountain Avenue Landfill sites. Recent studies suggest that resident Canada geese don’t move as widely as has been suspected, with most birds in a recent New York City study staying within 3 km of where they were collared.

**STAFF CHANGES AT NYC AUDUBON**
Melissa Husby, Membership Director, has left NYC Audubon for a new position at the Museum of the City of New York. NYC Audubon would like to thank Melissa for her creativity, hard work, and dedication in expanding our membership program and annual fundraising events. Melissa has also joined the newsletter committee, so look for her byline in future issues!

**JOIN NYC AUDUBON**
Members are essential to our education and conservation work. Help protect birds and habitats in the five boroughs by joining our flock. Mail this form with your payment to:

NYC Audubon, 71 West 23rd Street, Room 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.

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Join your fellow members as we celebrate New York City Audubon’s 30th anniversary at the sixth annual Fall Roost on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at The Boathouse in Central Park. This year we honor three of New York City’s most dedicated conservationists: Henry Christensen III, Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, and Beryl Thurman.

Christensen is the founding Board Chairman of the Prospect Park Alliance and a champion of the restoration of Prospect Park’s natural areas. Rogers is an expert on the preservation of living landscapes and the founding president of the Central Park Conservancy. From 1980 to 1996, she built a new model for public-private partnerships in conservation, and fostered a strong base of citizen support for the restoration of Central Park. Thurman is the founder and president of the North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of Staten Island. She has worked to transform Staten Island’s northern waterfront so that it is clean, safe, and environmentally friendly.

Proceeds from the Fall Roost support NYC Audubon’s work in environmental education, conservation and advocacy. The evening will begin with a cocktail reception and silent auction, followed by a seated dinner. Tickets start at $350. For tickets or more information, please contact Aileen Ruddy at 212-717-9423 or aruddy@nycaudubon.org.