AUDUBON AND TOYOTA: WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREENER TOMORROW

Over the next five years, National Audubon's conservation mission will be bolstered by the largest gift ever received by the organization: $20 million from the Toyota USA Foundation. The new initiative, TogetherGreen, will fund projects intended to connect communities with their environment, produce lasting benefits, and inspire a new generation of conservation leaders. TogetherGreen is consistent with Toyota's desire to reduce its environmental footprint, according to Pat Pineda, the Group Vice President of Toyota USA Foundation and National Philanthropy—and Toyota's employees will also be volunteering their help. Locally, Prospect Park Audubon Center's Jillian Rubio became a TogetherGreen fellow in 2008, while NYC Audubon received two TogetherGreen grants, detailed below.

As part of NYC Audubon's innovation grant project, IWASH, in late April a bilingual 10th-grade class from Sheepshead Bay High School cleared trash from Jamaica Bay beaches, giving horseshoe crabs access to egg-laying sites—and ensuring sustenance for migrant shorebirds. In a plan developed by NYU graduate students, pupils first study the beach ecosystem, volunteer the next week, and then meet for a follow-up session. The day work was completed, the Sheepshead Bay students posed proudly before a towering pile of beach debris ranging from gum wrappers to a huge piece of boat hull. Many of the students, mostly recent immigrants from Latin America, also had their first encounter with our local ecosystem. Vladimir Headley, a retired park ranger, met their first Canada goose and identified a diamond-back terrapin shell, with help from NYC Audubon's John Rowden. Asked for his thoughts, Vladimir exclaimed simply, "This is great. We clean the beach and protect the animals!" Not bad for a few hours' work—and so very sincere, it did my heart good. Future IWASH events include block and dock parties to involve and educate local residents. Crab and shorebird numbers will be monitored to assess program effectiveness, and data can be viewed online.

On May 2, over 40 volunteers literally dug in on a TogetherGreen volunteer day in Van Cortlandt Park, replacing non-native Norway maple with 600 native seedlings. Students from the Bronx School of Law and Finance seemed

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Peter Rhoades Mott has stepped down after four years, two two-year terms, as president. During these past four years, Peter has led us in developing a strong strategic plan. Peter remains on the board, and I will look to him for counsel during my term as president.

NYC Audubon's first strategic goal was to “Focus our efforts on identifying and protecting habitat for resident and migratory birds,” and to “Stress the city’s importance as stopover for migratory birds and a haven for breeding and winter-resident birds.” Other goals were to become more active in all five boroughs, and to “Form strategic alliances with groups that will help us move forward on our education and advocacy goals.”

Perhaps nothing better exemplifies these goals than the recent construction of three chimney swift towers in memory of long-time member and past president Geoffrey Cobb Ryan. One each in New York State Parks in Staten Island, Brooklyn, and the Bronx, they will provide safe housing for declining populations of these amazing aerialists and insectivores. The towers, twelve feet high and about a foot-and-half on a side, are custom designed for these birds that do not perch and can only cling to vertical surfaces. Plans call for five more towers in the future.

“Strategic alliances” with the National Audubon Society, Audubon New York, and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation are making this project possible.

As Susan Elbin, NYC Audubon’s Director of Conservation, points out, chimney swifts are hard to study. To address this problem, she is teaming up with a researcher at the University of Connecticut to measure and record electronically the environment inside the towers. A device called a “data logger” will keep a running record of light, temperature, and humidity. Another instrument, outside the tower, will record conditions there. At the end of the summer the data will be downloaded and analyzed. Susan Elbin notes that a chimney shortage may not be the reason—or the only one—for the declining population of these birds.

This initiative along with Project Safe Flight, Harbor Herons, and the Breeding Bird Censuses of Central Park, Van Cortlandt Park, and Prospect Park will provide more of the scientific knowledge we need to conserve our city’s birds. The staff and all of us on the board, including five new board members, start the “new year” with commitment and enthusiasm.
NYC Audubon’s conservation efforts require close relationships with the resource agencies that oversee natural areas. Some programs, like Harbor Herons, entail working with multiple agencies, each with its unique set of permitting requirements and reporting obligations. It is a challenge we meet each year, sorting out paperwork before heading to the field with our stack of permits securely tucked away in a waterproof envelope. In today’s column, I highlight the work we are doing with the National Park Service.

This spring, NYC Audubon engaged volunteers in cleaning up beaches and monitoring those beaches for horseshoe crabs and migratory shorebirds that eat the crabs’ eggs. In this, the first year of the project, National Park Service staff and partners from the Littoral Society and Jamaica Bay EcoWatchers helped us identify beaches in Jamaica Bay that are important for horseshoe crab spawning. National Park Service beaches selected were Plum Beach, West Pond, Big Egg, and Bay Dunes. During April, May, and June, NYC Audubon volunteers and school groups cleaned beaches on all sites, and volunteer citizen scientists monitored shorebirds on a weekly basis. Other volunteers counted horseshoe crabs on Plum Beach at high tide around each full and new moon. Some horseshoe crabs were tagged and measured. The data collected will be used to support region-wide efforts by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, and Project Limulus to protect beaches where horseshoe crabs spawn.

NYC Audubon’s Harbor Herons Project takes place from mid-May through early August on twelve islands in the harbor. Nearly half of those properties are managed by the National Park Service: Hoffman Island, Swinburne Island, Canarsie Pol, Subway Island, and Elders’ Point Marsh West. The primary objectives of the surveys are to monitor the entire harbor population of wading birds (i.e., herons, egrets, and ibis) and to document nesting habitat in order to provide property owners with management advice. NYC Audubon’s Harbor Heron project has grown to include double-crested cormorants. Cormorants have negatively impacted habitat and herons in the Great Lakes. In New York City, we monitor the cormorant population not only by counting nests but also by color banding young birds. In 2008 we tagged trees on Hoffman Island so we can document cormorant distribution and nesting tree health over time. These data will be critical for the National Park Service in its management of cormorants. By joining forces with resource agencies, NYC Audubon ensures a greater conservation impact.

Volunteer!

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the following programs, call Candace at 212-691-7483 or email volunteer@nycaudubon.org. When emailing, please mention the program in which you are interested.

FUNDRAISING/EVENT VOLUNTEERS
NYC Audubon’s annual Fall Roost is rapidly approaching (see page 12). We need volunteers to help make this event a success. If you are interested in learning non-profit fundraising and event planning, then this is the opportunity for you. Volunteers must be familiar with Microsoft Office and be organized.

PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT: FALL MIGRATION
This fall, make a difference in a bird’s life by joining NYC Audubon’s Project Safe Flight. As songbirds migrate from northern nesting grounds back to southern wintering grounds many thousands will pass through our city. We are looking for individuals to rescue stunned and injured birds that have collided with glass, monitor routes around buildings with reflective glass, and more. No experience is required, and we will provide all the necessary field training.

CONSERVATION ASSISTANTS
As NYC Audubon’s programs to protect habitat and birds in New York City are growing, so is the demand on our conservation team. We need volunteers to assist the team with administrative work, data compiling, light research, and more. This is an excellent opportunity for those interested in learning more about non-profit conservation work. Volunteers must be familiar with standard computer programs and emailing and be committed to their assigned projects. We will provide any training you may need.

EDUCATION ASSISTANTS
With a larger interest in a greener New York City, more and more people are taking advantage of NYC Audubon’s many trips and classes. Our education department needs help with administrative support, outreach, and preparing materials for programs. This is a great opportunity, if you are interested in gaining experience with programmatic non-profit work. All training will be provided.

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particularly keen on the low-bush blueberry plants, while Crystal Conepción and friends from the Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center met their first earthworm and learned about its role in nourishing the park’s leafy new residents. Perhaps Misra Walker, a very well-spoken young woman from the A.C.T.I.O.N. teen leadership group, summed it up best to a friend who had just been instructed in proper hole-digging technique: “Well, now that you know how to dig a hole, you can show me,” she said matter-of-factly, a viburnum seedling in tow.

And that seems to be just about what both Audubon, and Toyota, have in mind.

For more information on TogetherGreen and upcoming volunteer events, please visit www.nycaudubon.org.

**Butterflies and Moths of NYC**

*Don Riepe*

Tired of looking at birds? Try butterflies. They fly, some migrate, and most have specific habitats and host plants. Another benefit is that they don’t get up early! New York City is host to about 75-80 species (including some regular strays from the south and west). In Jamaica Bay alone I’ve recorded 72 species (with help from the NYC Butterfly Club, a lively group of naturalists). Most are relatively easy to identify—save the skippers, the LBJ’s of the butterfly world! Perhaps the showiest are the swallowtails, especially the tiger swallowtail, and of course, the monarch, which most people know. My favorite group is the hairstreaks: although small in size, they are beautifully marked and not always easy to find. Most naturalists including myself start our life collecting butterflies, bees and other insects in jars before moving on to frogs, snakes and eventually birds. After chasing birds for several decades, many come full circle and revert to looking at butterflies again.

Moths are a different story. Most are nocturnal but some are diurnal and visit flowers alongside butterflies. How do you tell them apart? Look at the antennae: butterfly antennae are segmented and have a little knob at the end, whereas moth antennae are feather-like; designed to pick up pheromones given off by the opposite sex. Moths appear hairier (these “hairs” are actually scales) and rest with their wings extended horizontally. In species diversity, moths outnumber butterflies by an approximate 10:1 ratio.

The easiest ones to look for in daytime are the clear-winged sphinx moths, such as the hummingbird and bumble bee moths found hovering around flowers. At night many species including the increasingly rare and beautiful luna and polyphemus moths can be attracted to black lights or mercury-vapor lamps while others will come to a bait mix of beer, old fruit, and molasses (aka “mung”) painted on trees.

Ecologically, lepidoptera (butterflies & moths) are often indicator species, as many are sensitive to small changes in the environment. If you’re interested in learning more about our local species you might want to join me on a butterfly walk at Jamaica Bay on Sunday, July 19 (kids welcome). I’ll even regale you with stories about the NYC Butterfly Club. For more information check www.nycaudubon.org and go to field trips.
LYNNE HERZOG
An accomplished television news features editor and writer, Lynne’s work has earned Peabody, Emmy, Murrow, and Gracie awards. She nevertheless also found time for a number of community activities, such as founding and chairing the Classroom Assistants Program for PS 166, which grew into a $400,000 operation and now staffs an assistant in every classroom in the school. Lynne’s roots as a member of the Audubon movement go back to inspiring childhood trips to John James Audubon’s first U.S. home, Mill Grove. She was drawn into active New York City birding by NYC Audubon’s classes and trips. “I am attracted to NYC Audubon because the society allows me to connect with others who share my passion,” she says.

“By serving on the board,” Lynne continues, “I hope to continue the goals of the society—to be a strong advocate for birds through conservation and education.”

DOROTHY M. PETEET
Dorothy works at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies conducting research into the impact of climate change. Her work has taken her to Siberia, Alaska, southeastern U.S., and Easter Island as well as the Hudson River marshes, New York’s Black Rock Forest, and nearby upland lakes.

“What most attracts me to the NYC Audubon Board,” Dorothy says, “is the chance to link wetland science to preservation of bird habitat within an interactive, diverse group of people, who care deeply about wildlife, and to share and build with them. Working with the board, I’d like to make progress on goals of increasing plant diversity through restoration of wetland habitat as well as planning for increased wetland acreage because of the threat of sea level rise.”

Dorothy holds a Ph.D. in biology from New York University.

DIMITRI SEVASTOPOULO
Dimitri had always enjoyed looking at wildlife, though like many urban dwellers he had always associated that pastime with remote places. But he no longer feels the need to travel great distances to observe nature. “NYC Audubon board member Peter Joost introduced me and my Zeiss glasses to the avian wonders of Central Park, and I became hooked on birds,” Dimitri recalls.

A retired Morgan Stanley first vice president, Dimitri served as a financial advisor to private clients, a position that led him to hone his listening skills. He now looks forward to spending his time on the NYC Audubon board “listening to fellow New Yorkers whose concerns for the habitat of our feathered friends will help me tell others of the work still needed to protect and enjoy our varied and plentiful bird life here in New York City.”

STEVE NANZ
The founder of a 140-person firm that manufactures custom door hardware, Steve nevertheless has found time to lead bird walks for the Brooklyn Bird Club, Linnaean Society, and NYC Audubon. He has mounted several photo exhibits at Prospect Park’s Audubon Center, and has presented engaging slide shows for the Brooklyn Bird Club, Linnaean Society, and Queens County Bird Club.

As a board member, Steve looks forward to furthering his interest in promoting the exploration of nature in urban areas. “Living in an urban environment, most people assume that there is very little wildlife to see, so they live their lives oblivious to the wildlife that surrounds them,” he notes. “I can see why much of our population becomes so unconcerned about habitat loss. But show folks an American redstart within walking distance of their house, and suddenly their worldview begins to change.”

StarrTrips to Jamaica Bay

SATURDAYS
AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 9AM-2PM
Join guide Starr Saphir on her August Shorebird Refuge. Meet at the Visitors Center at 9am sharp. Bring a bag lunch (and water!). Be prepared for mud. All StarrTrips are non-smoking. No registration necessary! For further information call Starr at 917-306-3808 $8 per person, $4 for full-time students
EVENTS AND ADVENTURES

NYC Audubon Events
Partnership Events

SUNSET ECOCRUISES TO HARBOUR HERON ISLANDS
Sundays through August 16
South Street Seaport, Pier 17, 7-8:30pm
Fulton Ferry Landing, Brooklyn, 7:10-8:40pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow
With New York Water Taxi
Meet at South Street Seaport’s Pier 17 or Fulton Ferry Landing in Brooklyn. Experience New York Harbor at sunset and see some of the 3,000 herons nesting on islands. To register, contact New York Water Taxi at 212-742-1969 or www.nywatertaxi.com. Limited to 100. $25 for adults; $10 for children under 12

BIRIDNG AT WATER LEVEL KAYAKING & BIRDING, QUEENS
Saturday, July 11, 10am-3:30pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow
With Long Island City Community Boathouse
Meet at the Long Island City Community Boat House. See New York City’s waterbirds up close on the East River. Requires some stamina and strength for kayaking in hot weather and ability to swim. Bring binoculars, a lunch for picnic at Barretto Point Park, water, and clothes you don’t mind getting wet. Limited to 16. $45

BIKING AND BIRDING, BROOKLYN & QUEENS
Sunday, July 12, 9am-1pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow
With Transportation Alternatives
Meet at Grand Army Plaza Arch, Brooklyn. Bicycle a portion of the Brooklyn Queens Greenway, including Highland Park, Ridgewood Reservoir, and Forest Park. Discover hidden gems and great bird-watching in Queens. Limited to 15. $20

STUYVESANT STROLLS, MANHATTAN
Wednesday, July 15, 6–6:45pm
Guides: Don Riepe, Daisy Hoyt
With Solar One
Meet at the Solar One Building just south of 23rd Street at the East River and walk through Stuyvesant Cove Park to learn about native plants and their relationship to birds and other wildlife. Refreshments to follow. For registration contact Solar One at 646-576-5668 or melissa@solari.org. Limited to 20. Free

CITY OF WATER DAY ECO-CRUISE
Guide: Peter Rhoades Mott
Saturday, July 18, 12-1:30pm
With Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance
As part of City of Water Day, a celebration of the waterways and harbors of New York City, NYC Audubon is offering a special eco-cruise past Hoffman and Swinburne Islands exploring the natural history of the area. The tour leaves from Governor’s Island. Visit www.gipeccom/Visit_the_Island for information and schedule. Limited to 75. Free

BUTTERFLY IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP, JAMAICA BAY
Sunday, July 19, 10am-noon
Instructor: Don Riepe
With NYC Butterfly Club
Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center for this program on finding, identifying, and photographing butterflies, moths and other insects in NYC parks. Limited to 25. $10

MEMBERS ONLY: CENTRAL PARK IN THE DARK
Friday, July 24, 7–10pm
Speaker: Marie Winn

www.nycaudubon.org
Meet at Central Park Arsenal at 64th Street and 5th Ave. for an enchanting evening in Central Park with author Marie Winn. In celebration of the paperback release of her book, Central Park in the Dark, Winn will be providing this exclusive presentation followed by a reception and book signing. After the reception, participants will have the opportunity to experience Central Park in the dark. Limited to 100. Free for NYC Audubon members at the student/senior level or above.

Blue Dasher Dragonfly

- **NYC AUDUBON CAMERA CLUB: NESTING Terns, Plovers, and Oystercatchers of Nickerson Beach, Point Lookout, Long Island**
  - **Saturday, July 25, 6:30am-12:30pm**
  - **Instructors:** Lloyd Spitalnik, Cal Vomberger
  - Learn how to correctly approach and photograph nesting shorebirds on their breeding grounds. Look for American oystercatcher, black skimmer, common and least tern, and sanderling. You will be crawling around in the sand, so dress appropriately. Equipment: SLR and long lens. Transportation provided. Limited to 16. $140

- **JAMAICA BAY SUMMER NATURE WALK**
  - **Sunday, July 26, 10am-1pm**
  - **Guide:** Don Riepe
  - **With American Littoral Society and Gateway National Recreation Area**
  - Meet at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center for a walk around the ponds to look for shorebirds, dragonflies, butterflies, and wildflowers. Learn about the history and ecology of this 9,000-acre preserve. To reserve, call 718-318-9344. Limited to 20. Free

- **NYC AUDUBON CAMERA CLUB: WARD POUND RIDGE RESERVATION, NY**
  - **Saturday, August 1, 10am-4pm**
  - **Instructors:** Lloyd Spitalnik, Don Riepe
  - Learn basic techniques of macro-photography. Photograph flowers and insects, including butterflies, dragonflies, and damselflies. Equipment: SLR and telephoto lens, point-and-shoot. Limited to 18. Transportation provided. $140

- **BIKING AND BIRDING, THE BRONX**
  - **Sunday, August 2, 9am-1pm**
  - **Guide:** Gabriel Willow
  - **With Transportation Alternatives**
  - Meet at Columbus Circle, ride to The Bronx, and see regions of both boroughs along the way. We will take the new Westside Greenway through Manhattan, pass Inwood Park, and cross into Riverdale in the Bronx at Spuyten Duyvil. We will explore Riverdale Park, a lovely stretch of woodland alongside the Hudson, and the beautiful and historic grounds and gardens of Wave Hill. Limited to 15. $20

- **JAMAICA BAY KAYAKING**
  - **Sunday, August 2, 9am-1pm**
  - **Guides:** Don Riepe, Sebago Canoe Club Representatives
  - Meet at the Sebago Canoe Club on Paergad Basin for a beginner’s kayak tour of Jamaica Bay. An easy paddle to learn about marsh ecology and to look for foraging egrets, herons, oystercatchers, and other wildlife. The paddle will be followed by a barbecue lunch included in price. Beer and wine available for sale. Limited to 30. $30

- **NYC AUDUBON CAMERA CLUB: SHOREBIRDS OF JAMAICA BAY**
  - **Saturday, August 8, 2pm-7pm**
  - **Instructors:** Kevin Karlson, Don Riepe, Lloyd Spitalnik, Cal Vomberger, David Speiser
  - Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. As part of the Shorebird Festival, this course in nature photography will concentrate on shorebirds. Focus on approaching birds, camera technique, exposure, and composition. Equipment: waders, boots, SLR, your longest lens. Limited to 40. $55

- **THIRD ANNUAL SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL AT JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE**
  - **Sunday, August 9, 8am-5pm**
  - **With American Littoral Society and Gateway National Recreation Area**
  - An all-day event during peak fall shorebird migration in Jamaica Bay. Learn about shorebird behavior, biology, identification, and migration. Schedule includes walks around the East and West Ponds and presentations by Don Riepe, Lloyd Spitalnik, and Kevin Karlson. For information and reservations call 718-318-9344. Limited to 75. Suggested donation $10

- **SHOREBIRDS OF NEW YORK CITY, JAMAICA BAY**
  - **Wednesday, August 19, 6:30pm-8:30pm (class); Saturday, August 22, 8:30am (trip)**
  - **Instructor:** Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC
  - Jamaica Bay is a birdwatcher’s haven as it provides a great stopover for thousands of migrating shorebirds. Learn about the shorebirds that start their southerly migration in August. Limited to 15. $40

- **CAPE ANN WHALE WATCH**
  - **Thursday-Sunday, August 20-August 23**
  - **Guides:** Don Riepe, Mickey Cohen, With American Littoral Society
  - A fun-packed, nature-focused weekend in beautiful Cape Ann, Massachusetts. Includes 3 nights’ stay in historic Gloucester, a half-day whale watch boat trip, an evening Essex River Cruise, easy canoeing on continued on page 8

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EVENTS AND ADVENTURES (continued)

Ipswich River, birding at Parker River Wildlife Refuge, and guided hikes, plus a lobster dinner. For information and reservations, call 718-318-9344 or e-mail: driepe@nyc.rr.com. Transportation provided. Limited to 40. $365 (single room supplement $140)

● FALL WARBLERS
  Wednesday, September 9,
  6:30 -8:30pm (class); Sunday,
  September 13, time TBA (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

● LATE SUMMER BUTTERFLY COUNT, JAMAICA BAY
  Saturday, Sept. 12, 9am-1pm
  Guide: Don Riepe
  With Gateway National Recreation Area
  Meet at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center to participate in a yearly census at Jamaica Bay and learn about butterflies and other insects found in NYC parks. Limited to 20. Free

● BIKING AND BIRDING:
  THE CLOISTERS AND FORT TRYON PARK
  Sunday, September 13, 9am-1pm
  Guide: Gabriel Willow
  With Transportation Alternatives
  Meet at Columbus Circle.
  Biking, birds, and art: A natural combination! Have you been meaning to learn more about the environment, attend more cultural institutions, see more art, and get more exercise? Check off these resolutions with this trip. Admission to the Cloisters is included in the price. Limited to 15. $36

Marbled Godwit

● FALL MIGRATION
  BIRDWALKS IN CENTRAL PARK
  Wednesdays, September 16,
  23, 30, October 7, 14, 21, 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 Central Park during fall bird migrations. Bring binoculars. Limited to 15. $85

● BEGINNING BIRDING:
  CENTRAL PARK
  Monday, September 14,
  6:30-8:30pm (class);
  Sunday, September 20 (trip)
  Instructor: Starr Saphir
  Even if you never picked up a pair of binoculars, you’ll soon be identifying ducks, geese, thrushes, warblers, and more. Limited to 13. $40

McDonald
With Solar One
Meet at the Solar One Building just south of 23rd Street at the East River and walk through Stuyvesant Cove Park to learn about native plants and their relationship to birds and other wildlife. Refreshments to follow. For registration contact Solar One at 646-576-5668 or melissa@solar1.org. Limited to 20. Free

BEGINNING BIRDING:
CENTRAL PARK
Monday, September 21,
6:30-8:30pm (class);
Sunday, September 20 (trip)
Instructor: Starr Saphir
Even if you never picked up a pair of binoculars, you’ll soon be identifying ducks, geese, thrushes, warblers, and more. Limited to 13. $40

● WINE & BIRDING: VINEYARD TOUR, NORTH SHORE, LONG ISLAND
  Saturday, September 26, 8am-5pm
  Guide: Gabriel Willow
  NYC Audubon combines two of life’s pleasures, wine and birding, on a trip to visit 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 and a scope if you have one, lunch, and comfortable shoes. Must be 21 and over. Transportation provided. Limited to 13. $100

● EVENING AUTUMN MIGRATION BIRD WALKS,
  CENTRAL PARK
  Mondays, September 28,
  October 5, 12, 19, 26,
  5-6:30pm
  Guide: Gabriel Willow, Melissa

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, grosbeaks, vireos, and other tropical migrants in the wilds of Central Park. Bring binoculars. Limited to 15. $70

● CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY
  Friday, October 2-Sunday, October 4
  Guide: Joe Giunta
  Cape May is one of the best birding venues in the United States especially during fall migration. Visit Cape May Hawk Watch on two days, once late in the day and then early to get a good variety of hawks. Also visit birding hotspots such as Higbee Beach, Cape May Point, Jake’s Landing, and (new this year) Avalon Sea Watch, Cape May Meadows and Nummy Island. Transportation provided. Limited to 12. $475 (single room supplement $75)

To REGISTER FOR ALL NYC AUDUBON EVENTS and for more information, visit www.nycaudubon.org or call 212-691-7483, unless otherwise specified. Classes meet at 71 West 23rd St. Room 1523. NYC Audubon members at the student/senior level and above receive a 10% discount (except as noted). See membership form on page 11.

IMPORTANT information for trips where transportation is provided:
  • The meeting location is in front of 71 West 23rd St. in Manhattan unless otherwise specified.
  • We depart promptly at the stated start time.

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TAKE A TRIP

WINGS OF THE MAYAN WORLD
Saturday-Sunday, November 14-15
Guide: Gabriel Willow
Travel to the magical land of the Maya in Southern Mexico. See the great ruins of Chichen Itza, Coba, and Tulum. Explore coral reefs and white sand beaches. Hike through the jungle in search of monkeys, jaguars, pccaries, crocodiles, and other exotic creatures. See the amazing birdlife of the Yucatan region, close to 550 species of birds, of which 14 are endemic and found nowhere else. Limited to 9. $2340 ($500 single room supplement)

NYC AUDUBON CAMERA CLUB: WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY IN FLORIDA
Wednesday-Sunday, March 17-21, 2010
Instructor: David Speiser
Explore southwest Florida on a photo trip to Sanibel Island and Fort Myers Beach Area. Photograph waders and shorebirds as well as migrating passerines, with side trips for burrowing owls. Visit Corkscrew Swamp Audubon Sanctuary. Limited to 6. $1875 members; $2085 non-members (price includes dual room occupancy, transportation, some meals, and guide/instructor; does not include air fare; $300 single room supplement)

MIGRATE TO TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
Saturday-Sunday, March 20-28, 2010
Guide: Gabriel Willow
Escape the cold and follow migrant species to the world-renowned Asa Wright Nature Centre and Lodge, a 200-acre wildlife sanctuary in Trinidad's rain-forested Northern range, and at the charming Blue Waters Inn in Tobago. Travel with expert local guides to unique natural areas, including spectacular beaches, rain forests, and wetlands and see exotic tropical species, such as the rare, cave-dwelling oilbird, and the gorgeous scarlet ibis. Limited to 15. $2520 members, $2800 non-members ($390 single room supplement)

400 YEARS AND BEYOND: 2009-2010 LECTURE SERIES
This slide-illustrated talk will concentrate on the Hudson’s ancient and modern history. McCully will tell the story of the river from many perspectives—the geological, ecological, colonial, commercial, industrial, aesthetic, and environmental. Betsy McCully is author of City at the Water’s Edge: A Natural History of New York, and Associate Professor of English at Kingsborough College/CUNY.

UPCOMING LECTURES:
John Waldman
Wednesday, October 14

Tony Hiss
Wednesday, November 11

Wednesday, January 13, 2010 TBD
Wednesday, March 6, 2010 TBD
Wednesday, June 9, 2010 Annual Meeting

THE ARSENAL
CENTRAL PARK
64TH STREET AT 5TH AVENUE

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In Dyana Furmansky’s skillful recounting, the drama-filled biography of Rosalie Edge (1877-1962) has all the elements needed for a great movie: a charmed youth in Gilded-Age New York; passionate love in exotic places, followed by heartbreaking abandonment; and stubborn devotion to a worthy cause in the face of countless obstacles.

Over the years, Edge has often been called “the first conservationist.” But she didn’t become concerned about wildlife until she was 52, when she learned that the wildlife protection movement, founded in the 1880s, had of late allied itself with hunting and timber interests. In particular, the leader of the National Association of Audubon Societies (NAAS), the forerunner of today’s National Audubon Society, often acted as though wildlife refuges had been established to foster wildlife for those who wanted to shoot or trap it.

So in 1929 Edge founded her own organization, the ECC (Emergency Conservation Committee), and began the work that would consume the rest of her life. Soaking up facts and figures from her network of anonymous allies—scientists and federal employees who feared losing their jobs if they wrote over their own names—she wrote scathing pamphlets, testified in Congress in favor of conservation measures, disrupted the gentlemanly meetings of the NAAS with humorously sarcastic questions, and generally made a nuisance of herself for the conservation establishment.

Today she is best remembered for creating the country’s first bird sanctuary, on Pennsylvania’s Hawk Mountain, where hunters each fall had assembled to slaughter the river of birds of prey that passed overhead. Rosalie Edge was an authentic heroine, willing to endure ridicule and betrayal and relentless in her drive to preserve wildlife. When shortly before her death she attended the national convention of her old opponent, the National Audubon Society, she was greeted with a standing ovation. Her story reminds us that a single determined person can work wonders.

Don’t wait for the movie. Read the book and join Dyana Furmansky at Wave Hill on Sunday, October 18. See the announcement in the September-October Urban Audubon.

This June 5 marks the Brooklyn Bird Club’s 100th year. Formally started by six charter members led by its founder Edward W. Victor, the creation of the Brooklyn Bird Club occurred at Dr. Victor’s home in the Clinton Hill section of Brooklyn, at 166 St James Place. Adopting the name “The Bird-Lovers Club of Brooklyn” as its original calling, those inaugural charter members consisted of Dr. Victor, his wife Kate, Edward Fleischer (elected that day our first club president), Mrs. Charles Hartwell, Miss Peckham, and Lewis F. Bowdish.

Our origins started in Brooklyn’s most historic park, Prospect Park. There in the years leading to our 1909 founding, a small informal band of birders birding Prospect culminated with the friendly 1908 first time encounter of Dr Victor and Edward Fleischer which paved the way to that historic June 5 date.

Commemorating our centennial, the club adopted four field trip themes. “Monthly Centennial Prospect Walks”; “All Brooklyn Birding” focused on early spring trips concentrating on only Brooklyn locations; Honorary Centennial Leaders Series, honoring long time Brooklyn Bird Club trip leaders throughout the year; and last, a flourish of multiple mid-April and May Prospect Park walks titled, “Prospect Park’s tribute to the Brooklyn Bird Club’s 100th spring migration.” Our May 9 Birdathon concentrated birding within Brooklyn for the special occasion, fundraising to restore a Prospect Park habitat location with native plantings.

In addition to the festive trip schedule, an archive gallery show of the club’s 100 years was set up in the Prospect Park Audubon Center (the Boathouse). This show runs into July.

Other calendar events will be presented as well. For more information about club trips and events, go to www.brooklynbirderclub.org. On the home page, the spring celebratory birthday newsletter is conveniently linked.
News & Notes

BOARD MEMBER RECEIVES VOLUNTEER AWARD
Board member Sandra Fiebelkorn was recognized by Audubon New York for her long-term commitment to the For The Birds program. For The Birds is an innovative program that helps city kids explore science by learning about birds.

LEGEND OF PALE MALE WINS AWARD
Frederick Lillien's Legend of Pale Male, a new documentary film exploring the legendary Fifth Avenue hawk and his impact on New Yorkers, won Best of Show at the International Wildlife Film Festival in Missoula. Look for the New York premier of the film this fall.

BAYONNE FOILED
The city of Bayonne’s attempt to sell its share of Shooters Island, an important bird sanctuary in the Kill Van Kull off Staten Island, was prevented as a result of a conservation easement granted to the New York City Parks Department in the 1980s when the island was a critical heron nesting colony.

BOARD MEMBER RESIGNS
Sandra Fiebelkorn has stepped down from NYC Audubon’s board of directors, after serving on the board as an officer or director for 7 years. Sandy has been an active member of the education committee and has spearheaded efforts to solve the mystery of Pale Male and Lola’s lack of nest success in recent years. She will be replaced by Steve Nanz of Brooklyn.

Memorial & Tribute Gifts

New York City Audubon would like to recognize the following individuals for gifts made between May 2008 and May 2009:

TRIBUTE GIFTS:
In Honor of Richard Andrias—Caetlia Trangh & Andy Down
In Honor of Chuy—Rash Hernandez
In Honor of David Drake—Tammy Blake, Lyndsay Gordon
In Honor of Greg and Susan Elbin—Frederick C. Laue
In Honor of Marcia Fowle—Warrie Price
In Honor of Marian Heiskell on her 90th birthday—Michael & Anne Golden
In Honor of Harriet P. Krauss—Sylvie Le Blancq
In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Solomon—Antonia Lant

MEMORIAL GIFTS:
In Memory of Albert Bacchus—Andrew Baksh
In Memory of David Bain—Terry Bain
In Memory of John Hofmann—Susan Quinn
In Memory of Lola R. Holze—Charles & La Nita Hobbs
In Memory of Emily S. Jones—Emily Rankin
In Memory of John Olden—Karen Olden
In Memory of Catherine O’Neil-McCarthy—Susan Krausz
In Memory of Wendy Pilbeam—Ann Chase
In Memory of Thomas Ronga—Helen Thorne
In Memory of Mary A. Shea—Karl Klauer, Michelle Stracener, John & Lorraine Vickers
In Memory of Flora Speiser—Cathy & Lloyd Heller
In Memory of Barbara Steward—Diana Steward
In Memory of Eleanor Tauber—Suzanne V. Ortiz

MEMORIAL & HONOR GIFTS
Making a gift to NYC Audubon is a kind way to honor a friend or relative while also supporting our mission to protect wild birds and habitat in the five boroughs, improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers. Your memorial or honor gift will be acknowledged by name (not by amount) in The Urban Audubon and in a letter to the person or family recognized. Please fill out the form below and send it along with your tax-deductible contribution.

[ ] In memory of __________________________
[ ] In honor of __________________________
To commemorate __________________________
Donor Name __________________________
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Please send acknowledgment to:
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Mail this form with your payment to:
New York City Audubon, 71 West 23rd Street, Room 1523,
New York, NY 10010

www.nycaudubon.org
SAVE THE DATE!

The Fall Roost Benefit
Tuesday, September 29, 2009
6-9pm
Central Park Boathouse

Join us for a Cocktail & Buffet reception with Silent Auction as we honor two of NYC Audubon's most loyal supporters, Joseph Ellis and Don Riepe. All NYC Audubon members and their guests are welcome. Tickets start at $175.

A longtime member of our Advisory Council, Joe is an avid birder and philanthropist active in New York City and Cornwall, Connecticut. He is also author of the forthcoming book Birds in Wood and Paint: American Miniature Bird Carvings and Their Carvers, 1900-1970.

Don has worked on marine habitat and environmental issues in Jamaica Bay for more than 30 years, and is the current Jamaica Bay Guardian. He serves on the Board of NYC Audubon and Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, and is a longtime member of the Bird Hazard Task Force at JFK Airport.

For more information or to reserve your place, please contact Melissa Husby at 212-691-7483 or mhusby@nycaudubon.org.