



THE URBAN AUDUBON

Bird-Friendly Retrofit of the Javits Center
Breeding Birds in the Five Boroughs
The Fall Roost



**NYC AUDUBON
MISSION & VISION**

Mission: NYC Audubon is a grassroots community that works for the protection of wild birds and habitat in the five boroughs, improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers.

Vision: NYC Audubon envisions a day when birds and people in the five boroughs enjoy a healthy, livable habitat.

THE URBAN AUDUBON

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BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Glenn Phillips



Last spring, both The New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden unveiled new native plant gardens. While each garden took a different approach, both show a new awareness of local conservation issues and of the importance of native plants in preserving wildlife diversity. Native plants serve as hosts to a huge diversity of insects, which in turn are a vital food source for migratory and resident birds—and NYC Audubon has joined our local botanical gardens in promoting their use.

In the Bronx, the native plant garden features both wild types and selected cultivars in a contemporary design setting, making it a great place for home gardeners to get ideas about how to incorporate more natives into their own gardens. In Brooklyn, the expanded garden painstakingly recreates plant communities from around the region, with every specimen of known provenance. This garden serves as a living library, helping to preserve the genetic heritage of our local plants.

Douglas Tallamy, professor and chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, is an entomologist with a fondness for birds. Studying butterflies and moths, he wondered what roles our gardens play in providing the caterpillars that most migrant birds depend on as a food source. His studies have shown that native plants play host to more species and more numbers of caterpillars than non-native species, while generally showing fewer signs of the damage these critters do to plants.

Tallamy's work has inspired our own project to create a bird-friendly, storm-water collecting, green street park in Queens. We will use his techniques to monitor caterpillars feeding on the native plants in that garden, and will report on our results in a future issue.

If you haven't yet visited Brooklyn and the Bronx's new native plant gardens—or even if you have—September is a great time to get out to see them. The gardens are at their peak now, and migrant birds have returned to feast on the insects, fruit, and seeds that are abundant on our native plants at this time of year, a particularly pleasant time in any New York garden. See for yourself the value of native plants for our birds.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER STAFF AND INTERNS

NYC Audubon's conservation work is reinforced by our summer staff and interns. Read below about the work of this year's summer team.

Jarad Astin, Anita Cabrera, and Donald Kass, all longtime volunteers, worked as horseshoe crab site coordinators.

Elizabeth Craig, a Ph.D. candidate at Cornell University, led the waterbird nesting survey for the fifth consecutive year and helped with banding cormorants, egrets, and common terns in the harbor.

Jennifer Dilone, a student at the University of Vermont and a TogetherGreen fellow, assisted with volunteer and outreach programs.

Liz Johnson, past manager of the Biodiversity Program at the American Museum of Natural History, helped design classroom and field trip curricula for our Be a Good Egg program.

Darren Klein, a graduate student at the New School, assisted on various field work programs, researched the Jamaica Bay

Wildlife Refuge, and wrote letters on behalf of NYC Audubon.

Debra Kriensky, a graduate student at Columbia University, collected and analyzed horseshoe crab and shorebird data.

Kaitlyn Parkins, a graduate student at Fordham University, analyzed recent Project Safe Flight data for collisions and light emissions, and coordinated NYC Audubon's efforts for the 2013 Central Park BioBlitz.

Emilio Tobon, a Ph.D. student at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, monitored nesting success of American oystercatchers and helped with banding efforts.

Ann Seligman, a past horseshoe crab site coordinator, served to coordinate the citizen science volunteer staffing for all horseshoe crab beaches and led our Lights Out NY campaign.

Leigh Hope Wood, a graduate student at NYU, helped design classroom and field trip curricula for our Be a Good Egg program.

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Susan Elbin, Steve Nanz, and Don Riepe



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CONSERVATION NOTES

Susan Elbin



NYC Audubon's conservation program focuses on priority habitats and Important Bird Areas that support New York City's bird species of greatest conservation need. I'd like to share with you the highlights from this year's field season as well as some new projects from each of these priority areas.

IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS AND PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

This program aims to make the City safer for migratory landbirds by reducing threats to birds from collisions with glass and from distracting bright lights at night; by increasing the value of stopover habitat through habitat protection and use of native plants; and by finding solutions to these problems through scientific research.

Collision monitoring is the cornerstone of Project Safe Flight. During the past year, Adriana Palmer has mentored our team of monitors. This spring and last fall we focused on Bryant Park, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Javits Center. On the edge of brightly lit Times Square, Bryant Park is a key spot for migratory birds such as hermit thrushes, ovenbirds, and eastern towhees. It will be a focal area for future studies.

Among the solutions for collision prevention is the use of glass that birds can see. We are researching glass types with Chris Sheppard (American Bird Conservancy), Alan Clark (Fordham University), and others with a newly designed tunnel apparatus (see article on p.5 of the summer 2013 *Urban Audubon*). In past years, the Javits Center has been one of the top collision sites monitored by NYC Audubon. Recent renovation at the center included replacement of reflective glass with fritted glass and stainless steel, and preliminary results showed a significant reduction in collisions. You can read more about the Javits Center retrofit on p.5.

JAMAICA BAY

Our migratory shorebird and horseshoe crab project (led by John Rowden until his

departure this spring to National Audubon's Together Green program) continued for the fifth year with our talented summer staff and interns (see page 2). Plumb Beach, one of the most important sites for horseshoe crabs in New York, was expanded last year through a beach replenishment process. And despite some concern about whether crabs would use the replenished beach, numbers were up: The crabs arrived a bit behind schedule, but close to 1,800 crabs were counted over twelve nights as compared to 1,300 in the spring of 2012. After the crabs had spawned, NYC Audubon, partners at Fordham University, and the National Park Service worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which was doing post-Sandy reconstruction on Plumb Beach, to minimize any disturbance to this healthy horseshoe crab breeding ground.

The shorebird program received a new name this year as we partnered with Audubon New York and New Jersey Audubon to become "Be a Good Egg." The program now includes beach-nesting birds such as piping plovers and outreach to school groups and beachgoers. You can do your part by making an online pledge to protect beach-nesting birds: Visit www.goodeggnjny.org to learn more.

WESTERN LONG ISLAND SOUND AND THE NARROWS

This program includes our Harbor Herons wading bird surveys, wading bird foraging surveys, and a new project to examine the contaminant landscape of the harbor. Liz Craig, assisted by Tod Winston, led our nest survey team this spring. They found the total number of wading birds in the harbor (1,457 pairs) was about the same as last year. Hurricane Sandy does not seem to have had a negative impact on the birds. Cormorant numbers increased slightly (1,586 pairs, a 13% increase). However, the number of birds using specific islands did change. For example, there was a 30% decrease in black-crowned night-herons on South Brother Island (East River) this year and a 70% decrease in glossy

ibis on Hoffman Island (outer harbor). There was apparent tree and shrub damage from the salt water storm surges during Sandy, so birds that prefer nesting in dense, leafy vegetation found themselves in suboptimal habitat. We're also happy to report a new species for our survey, a ground-nester: common terns, a state threatened species, are nesting on the piers on Governors Island!

A new project, Waterbirds as Bioindicators of Harbor Health, is another way of looking at habitat quality. Using herring gulls as landscape detectives, we analyzed eggs from gulls on five islands across the harbor: South Brother and Mill Rock (East River); Little Egg Island (Jamaica Bay); and Hoffman and Swinburne (outer harbor). Preliminary results of analyses of mercury and organic contaminants show highest contaminant levels in the East River, lowest in the outer harbor, and moderate levels in Jamaica Bay. We are planning on looking at petroleum-based contaminants in eggs collected post-Sandy as compared to eggs collected the year before.

STATEN ISLAND

The centerpiece of our Staten Island work is the restoration of Prall's Island for waterbirds. This joint project with New York City Parks has the long-term goal of reestablishing vegetation on Prall's that will once again support a nesting colony of long-legged waterbirds (egrets, herons, and ibis). In the meantime, while the trees are growing, Prall's provides good stopover habitat for migrating landbirds. We have been using mist-netting to identify migrants (including yellow-rumped warblers and white-throated sparrows in the spring; and catbirds and goldfinches in the fall). Our camera trapping and tracking have also revealed the presence of skunks and raccoons on the island, both predators of birds.

You can find the latest conservation project updates on our blog, *Syrinx*, at www.nycaudubon.org/?Itemid=224.

BIRD-FRIENDLY RETROFIT OF THE JAVITS CENTER

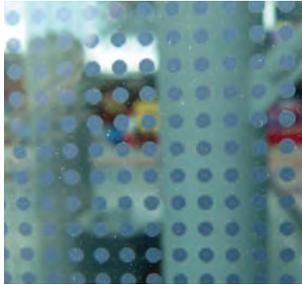
Catherine Heller

Since its completion in 1986, the Jacob K. Javits Center has been the site of many bird/building collisions—and a major concern of NYC Audubon's Project Safe Flight (see box below), which has monitored the site for the past nine years.

In a happy resolution to this longstanding threat to migrating birds, the center has nearly completed a renovation that will make the building both more energy efficient and more bird-friendly.

The Javits Center, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect I. M. Pei as a modern crystal palace, is a vast system of skylights, windows, and glass walls. Such large expanses of glass are a major threat to birds; it's been estimated that close to a billion birds are killed in the U.S. every year by collisions with glass. The

Javits Center has been a significant bird-collision site perhaps because the original dark glass was highly reflective. Birds do not see glass as a solid barrier and when trees or greenery are reflected, they swoop into the panes looking for a safe perch and are wounded or killed.



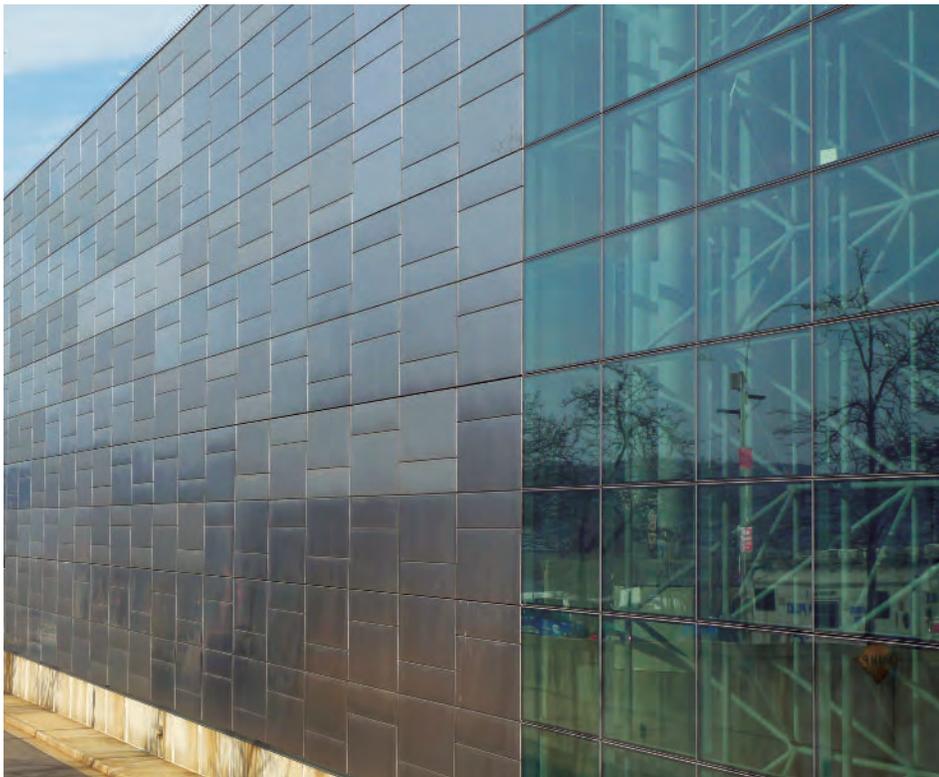
Fritted Glass Makes Windows Visible to Birds

For the very first time, a major New York City building has been retrofitted with bird-friendly glass. The architectural firms FXFowle and Epstein are handling the renovation, and it should be completed by the end of 2013. Nearly one-third of the glass panes have been replaced with stainless steel, so bird collisions there are

eliminated. The replacement glass panes are made by manufacturer Viracon, and are less than half as reflective as the old glass (15% versus 35%). They incorporate a frit-dot pattern within the panes, a design of

tiny ceramic dots that the birds are less likely to fly into. Reflected images are not crisp, and interior solar glare is eliminated. The new material is also an energy saver, making the building easier to heat and cool, reducing energy needs by over 25% from the pre-renovated building. Most heartening for NYC Audubon is that the new panes have cut down the number of bird collisions; there were only four in the spring of 2013, a significant reduction from previous years.

Since 1997, Project Safe Flight has been one of NYC Audubon's most important bird conservation programs. During spring and fall migrations, volunteers are assigned to monitor buildings with windows that are known to injure and kill birds. Volunteers record dead and injured birds, and injured birds are taken to a rehabilitation center with the hope that they will eventually be released to the wild. NYC Audubon approaches owners of problem buildings and suggests retrofit options to reduce bird deaths, and also collaborates with architects to specify non-reflecting glazing products that are coming on the market. At the Javits Center, The Empire State Development Corporation, which owns the site, and architect Bruce S. Fowle were sensitive to the bird-kill issue throughout the renovation process. To volunteer with Project Safe Flight, email volunteer@nycaudubon.org or call 212-691-7483.



Stainless Steel Plates and Low-Reflection Glass Reduce Bird Collisions

The Jacob Javits Center is now green and revitalized, more practical and beautiful than it's ever been. (Additional green elements include a seven-acre green roof; a pair of herring gulls nested there this spring (photo on p.3).) The integrity of the center's original design, which was never fully implemented, has been fulfilled. It's good for New York City, and because of the owner and architects' concern and cooperation, great for the birds.

TRIP LEADER PROFILE: TOD WINSTON

Melissa Husby

In many ways, Tod Winston is the “voice” of NYC Audubon: as communications manager, he coordinates *The Urban Audubon* and *The eGret* e-newsletter, and maintains the website. Now Tod is becoming a familiar face to NYC Audubon members as well, co-leading popular trips to Jamaica Bay with Don Riepe, Jones Beach with Peter Mott, and Woodlawn Cemetery with Joseph

McManus.

Tod’s first solo adventure was the spring 2013 session of Beginning Birding, which he will teach again this fall (see page 11 for details). His workshops and field trips for novices emphasize the importance of birdsong, which he likens to learning a new language. “Knowing

the calls of birds has always brought me a lot of joy,” Tod says. “It’s a beautiful thing to be in the woods and recognize the ‘friends’ nearby.”

Tod learned to bird while growing up on a small farm in Pennsylvania, but the sense of wonder that new birders feel in New York City remains fresh in his mind. As an adult, he birded while traveling and visiting family, but despite living here for 20 years, he did not take his binoculars to Central Park during migration season until several years ago. “It was like a dream,” he recalls, “going out to find the trees just dripping with spectacular birds.”

In January, Tod will guide NYC Audubon’s trip to Jamaica (see page 10 for details), where participants will visit the Blue Mountains as well as coastal habitat to see endemic species like the magnificent red-billed streamertail. Next summer, he will coordinate the Harbor Herons Nesting Survey. An aspiring artist, Tod is also developing a career illustrating and writing nature- and biology-inspired children’s books. This eclectic mix of activities reflects his enthusiasm not just for birding but for learning about ecosystems as a whole—a passion Tod excels at passing on to others.



FAMILY BIRDING

Carol Peace Robins

“A female American robin! A female American robin!” exclaimed an excited high-pitched voice. He’d been taught well, this 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ -year-old birder. Everybody knows a robin, but how many know it’s an American robin? Much less a female! David’s mom said his pre-K teacher loved birds and often took the kids to Central Park to learn about them.

We were just a few steps away from the Dana Discovery Center at the Harlem Meer, where the Central Park Conservancy’s family birding event begins at 10am every Sunday, spring and summer, with guides from NYC Audubon. Guide David Perry is frequently birder-in-charge of these fun, free outings, binoculars and instructions included.

Our group also included young David’s school friend Daniel and his parents; Elias and Hazel, 13 and 11, with their parents; and several unaccompanied adults.

We headed for the North Woods, but stopped almost immediately to watch what looked like two mallards and some unfamiliar ducks on the pond. Leader David explained that they were a male and female mallard, but the others—two white, one largely black—were actually hybrid mallards, escapees from a culinary scheme to breed a more delectable duckling.

A step or two later, David pointed out another surprise: a solitary sandpiper, with no ocean in sight. Next, he noted the call of a Baltimore oriole, long before spotting him. The orange beauty was a real crowd pleaser, inspiring young David to change his tune to “Baltimore oriole, Baltimore oriole!” Although he was holding tight to binoculars, he said proudly, “I saw him with my eyes, not my binoculars.”

Eventually, we entered the woods where things got trickier—meaning smaller, quicker, and more hidden. Some of us saw

(not all of us were good at this): a ruby-crowned kinglet, flicker, catbird, redstart, yellowthroat, kingbird, and as young David announced periodically, “female American robin!” Elias spotted our second Baltimore oriole. But perhaps the most exciting sighting of all was the raccoon climbing a tree. Easy to find. With or without binoculars. And very, very slow.



A Young Birder at Work

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

Matthew Rymkiewicz

My birding career has been notable for the stolen pleasures of “birding on the clock.” That is, grabbing any available spare moment to run out of the office during the working day and bird. Early on, I had an experience that provided a powerful dose of positive reinforcement for this inclination. I was at a work-related conference in Charleston, South Carolina, for...something...and while I was there I grabbed every opportunity to bird at an Audubon preserve which, luckily for me, was situated right next to the convention center.

One afternoon, as I scurried out between training sessions with binoculars in hand, I heard a ruckus coming from the edge of the preserve. It didn't take long to find the culprit atop a snag: a medium-sized hawk with burnt-orange coloring on its head, throat, and chest, screaming up a storm. Instantly, I thought

©Abby McBride



“life bird!” It was too small and brightly colored to be a red-tail, and too short-tailed yet larger and bulkier than either of those at-that-time-too-difficult-for-me-to-tell-apart sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks. A frenzied consultation of my Sibley's revealed the spitting image of an adult red-shouldered

hawk perched thirty feet above me. Then it flew off—the bird, not the Sibley's guide, though that would also one day float off into the wild blue yonder—revealing what I have since come to know as this raptor's tell-tale field mark: pale crescents bordered by dark primary feathers forming a pair of wing-edge parentheses around the bird.

And so this stolen moment became one of those thrilling experiences that added immensely to my birding knowledge. Here I was being exposed to the finer points of raptor identification just by taking a spare moment to run out into the field. Remarkably easy to identify in flight or perched, the red-shouldered hawk is my “just right” raptor. It fits perfectly in that slot between the more common accipiters and red-tails in terms of size and shape. And maybe it's just me, but it's much more enjoyable to look at than my co-workers or my computer screen.

VOLUNTEER!



Work in our friendly office or in the field and make a difference for New York City's wildlife.

To take part in any of the volunteer events listed below, please contact Adriana Palmer at volunteer@nycaudubon.org or 212-691-7483 x304.

TRIBUTE IN LIGHT MONITORING

Wednesday, September 11:

Each year a tireless group of volunteers monitors September 11's Tribute in Light to ensure that migrating birds do not become entrapped in the light beams. A training will be held Tuesday, September 3 from 6-7pm. Please contact us to register.

BIRD TRANSPORTERS

We need caring volunteers to transport injured birds to licensed wildlife

rehabilitators in the City. A training will be held Monday, September 9, from 6-7pm. Please contact us to register.

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP

Saturday, September 21, 10am-2pm

With American Littoral Society and National Park Service

Join us at North Channel Bridge this fall to take part in a multi-state effort to improve coastline habitat. The North Channel Bridge area, used by species like the American oystercatcher, is also a stone's throw away from the Harbor Heron Islands, the newly restored Elder Marsh, and the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Help us clear the beach and raise awareness of the importance of coastal areas to birdlife. Equipment, refreshments, and transportation from Manhattan are provided.

Hummingbird by Vik Muntz. Courtesy of the artist and Silekema Jenkins & Co.



TWEET

SEPTEMBER 26, 2013-JANUARY 26, 2014
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF THE ARTS,
103 CHARLTON STREET, NYC 10014

NYC Audubon is pleased to be partnering this fall with Children's Museum of the Arts, as they present their new exhibition of children's bird artwork, “Tweet.” Bird call workshops will be offered during the exhibition to complement this sample of local children's perspectives on our birds. Check cmany.org/tweet for dates and times.

EVENTS AND ADVENTURES

- NYC Audubon Events
- Partnership Events

- **BIRDING FOR FAMILIES**

Sundays, September 1 – November 24, 10-11am
Guides: NYC Audubon
Offered by the Central Park Conservancy
Meet at the Dana Discovery Center (inside the Park at 110th Street between Lenox and Fifth Avenues). Bring the kids and visit one of New York City's richest bird habitats. As a family, learn how to spot and identify our feathered neighbors in their natural surroundings. Binoculars can be borrowed from the Visitor Center. For weather cancellation information, call 212-860-1370. Limited to 20. Age 5 and up. Free

- **FALL WARBLERS**

Friday, September 6, 6:30-8:30pm (class); Sunday, September 8, 8-11am (trip)
Instructor: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC
Identifying "confusing fall warblers" can be tricky, even for the experts. Study some of the most puzzling species that stop through our area during fall migration with expert Joe Giunta, and then enjoy a second session in the "classroom" of Central Park. Limited to 12. \$50



Cedar Waxwing

- **VAN CORTLANDT BIRD WALKS**

Saturdays, September 7 - November 30, 8-9:30am
Guide: NYC Audubon or Urban Park Rangers (first Saturdays)
With the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy and NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
Meet at Van Cortlandt Nature Center. Influential birders such as Roger Tory Peterson and Allan D. Cruickshank learned their craft on Van Cortlandt Park's ecologically diverse grounds, and these walks celebrate the tradition set by them. Participants will look for resident and migrant species and discuss a wide range of avian topics. For more information, please call 718-548-0912. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

- **FALL BIRDING AT WAVE HILL, THE BRONX**
Sundays, September 8; October 13; November 10; 9:30-11:30am
Guide: Gabriel Willow
With Wave Hill
Meet at the Perkins Visitor Center. Naturalist Gabriel Willow contributes his extensive knowledge of bird species and their behaviors on these captivating walks. Wave Hill's garden setting overlooking the Hudson River flyway provides the perfect habitat for resident and migrating birds. Ages 10 and up welcome with an adult. Reservations recommended, online at www.wavehill.org, by calling 718-549-3200 x305 or at the Perkins Visitor Center. Severe weather cancels; for updates call 718-549-3200 x245 by 8am the day of the walk. NYC Audubon members enjoy two-for-one admission

MEMBERS-ONLY
Birds & Botany Walk in Central Park

Tuesday, September 10, 7:30-9am
Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street, parkside. Join NYC Audubon Executive Director Glenn Phillips, and co-leader NYC Audubon Board President Harry Maas, for an eye-opening exploration of fall migrants and the plant life that supports them in the rich habitat of Central Park. Limited to 20. Free for Contributing NYC Audubon Members at the Student/Senior level and up. Please call Angela Januzzi at 212-691-7483 x306 to register

- **PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB**
Wednesdays, September 11, October 2, November 6
6:30-8:30pm
Instructors: David Speiser, Lloyd Spitalnik
Meet at the National Audubon Office, 225 Varick St. Whether you're a beginner or more advanced photographer, our friendly photography club is the place to discuss diverse photography-related topics, hone your skills, and learn about the great photography opportunities available in the New York City area. Professional bird and nature photographers David Speiser and Lloyd Spitalnik will share their expertise and help you improve your work. Registration required. No limit. \$8 per meeting or \$55 for the year (\$45 members)

- **MORNING FALL MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK**
Wednesdays, September 11, 18, 25; October 2, 9, 16, 7:30-10:30am
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street. Birders of all levels can enjoy this fun and educational series of six walks, observing the diverse and ever-changing waves of migrants that stop over Central Park during fall migration. Limited to 15. \$110

- **EXPLORE THE BRONX RIVER BY ROWBOAT**

Saturday, September 14, 3-5pm
Guide: Chrissy Word
With Rocking the Boat
Launch from Hunts Point Riverside Park and explore the Bronx River aboard a hand-built wooden boat, led by experienced rowers. The Bronx River is the city's only true river and hosts an abundance of wildlife, including herons and egrets, ospreys, and belted kingfishers. Visit restoration sites and learn about the Bronx River ecosystem, as well as its social and cultural history. Rowing optional. Limited to 20. \$35 for adults, \$25 for ages 18 and under



Cooper's Hawk



© Francois Portmann



Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon

● **EVENING FALL MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK**

Monday Series: September 16, 23, 30; October 7, 14; 5-6:30pm

Tuesday Series: September 17, 24; October 1, 8, 15; 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 neotropical migrants in the wilds of Central Park. Choose either our Monday or Tuesday evening series. Limited to 15. \$95

● **FALL MIGRANTS OF WOODLAWN CEMETERY, THE BRONX**

Saturday, September 21, 8-9:30am

Guides: Tod Winston, Joseph McManus

With Woodlawn Conservancy

Meet at the Jerome Avenue Entrance of Woodlawn Cemetery. Join us for a morning bird walk with NYC Audubon's Tod Winston and Woodlawn Conservancy's Joseph McManus. Attendees will learn about the fall migrants and year-round residents that can be found on the cemetery's wooded grounds. Woodlawn boasts a remarkable collection of urban trees, claiming five of the the New York Tree Trust's "Great Trees" of New York." Bring water. Limited to 15. \$20

● **PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP: FALL MIGRATION IN CENTRAL PARK**

Saturday, September 21, 8-10:30am

Instructor: Lloyd Spitalnik

Meet at Belvedere Castle. Join Lloyd Spitalnik in Central Park to look for migrating warblers, vireos, and thrushes, as well as year-round residents. We will focus on camera basics, exposure, composition, and technique. Recommended equipment: DSLR, 300mm+ lens, and flash if you have one. Limited to 9. Note: if interest allows we will add a second section, to be co-led by David Speiser. \$60

● **HOOK MOUNTAIN HAWK WATCH, NY**

Sunday, September 22, 9am-4pm

Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Part of the Palisades Interstate Park system, Hook Mountain has commanding views of all nearby mountain ridges and the Hudson River. From this inland hawk watch spot we expect to see many species of migrating raptors, including broad-winged and red-shouldered hawks, bald eagles, accipiters, and falcons. Note: this trip requires a 35-minute hike up and down the mountainside. Bring water and a bag lunch to enjoy atop the mountain. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$70

● **BIRDING TOURS OF BRYANT PARK, MANHATTAN**

Thursdays, September 26-October 24, 8-9am

Guide: Gabriel Willow

With Bryant Park Corporation

Meet at the Birding Tour Sign at the 42nd Street & 6th Avenue entrance to the park. Discover the surprising variety of birds that stop in Bryant Park during migration. No registration necessary. No Limit. Free

● **TWEET**

Thursday, September 26, 2013 -

Sunday, January 26, 2014

With Children's Museum of the Arts

Please see p.7 to learn about this exhibition of children's artwork, including birdsong workshops.

● **JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISE**

Saturday, September 28,

3:30-6:30pm

Guides: Don Riepe, Mickey Cohen

With American Littoral Society

Meet at Pier 2 in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. Enjoy a three-hour narrated cruise aboard the 100-foot boat "Golden Sunshine." Visit backwater marshes near JFK Airport, and learn about the 13,000-acre Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. See nesting peregrine falcons, ospreys, egrets, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Includes refreshments. To register, contact Don Riepe at 917-371-8577 or donriep@gmail.com. Limited to 140. \$55

● **FESTIVAL OF LITTLE NECK BAY**

Saturday, September 28, 11am-3pm

With NYC Audubon, Bayside

Historical Society, NYC Department

of Parks & Recreation, Queens Botanical Garden

Meet at Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Boulevard, Douglaston, NY. Come celebrate National Estuaries Day at Little Neck Bay. Festival activities will include canoeing, boat rides, NYC Audubon-led nature walks, games, music, and more. For more information, please call 718-229-4000. No limit. Free

● **EXPLORE THE BIRDING GEMS OF STATEN ISLAND**

Saturday, September 28,

8:30am-3:30pm

Guides: Cliff Hagen, Tod Winston

Come visit some of the beautiful, bird-rich spots on Staten Island-- which can be hard for car-less New Yorkers to get to. We'll start in the pristine marsh and beach habitat of Great Kills Park, looking for shorebirds and wading birds, and then move on to Mount Loretto Unique Area to look for migrant flycatchers, warblers, and more. Bring lunch and water. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$65

● **MIGRATION ALONG THE BARRIER ISLANDS, QUEENS**

Tuesday, October 1, 8am-4pm

Guides: Peter Mott, Tod Winston

Look for migrating raptors and songbirds as they stop and rest along Long Island's barrier islands. We'll visit some of the best spots in the vicinity of Jones Beach, to find what surprises the north winds have brought us. Past years have brought scores of merlins, shorebirds, songbirds, and monarch butterflies. Bring lunch and water. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$40

● **PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB**

Wednesday, October 2, 6:30-8:30pm

See the September 11 listing for details.

...continued on page 11

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

CAPE MAY FALL MIGRATION WEEKEND, NJ

Saturday, October 5, 9am - Sunday, October 6, 7pm

Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC.

Cape May is one of the best birding venues in the United States, especially during fall migration. Visit the Cape May Hawk Watch on two days, once late in the day and then early the next morning to get a good variety of hawks. Also visit birding hotspots such as Higbee Beach, Cape May Point, Jake's Landing, Cape May Meadows, and Nummy Island. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 10. \$275 (\$50 single supplement)

ASSATEAGUE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE / CHINCOTEAGUE WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEKEND

Thursday, October 31, 9am -

Sunday, November 3, 6pm

Guide: Don Riepe

With American Littoral Society

A great wildlife weekend along the Virginia Coast. Includes three nights at the Refuge Inn, guided hikes, a bus tour of backwater flats, plus an "all-you-can-eat" seafood buffet. See wild ponies, sika deer, bald eagles and many other species of wildlife. To register, contact Don Riepe at 917-371-8577 or donriep@gmail.com. Limited to 30. \$385 (\$150 single supplement)

BIRDING THE ANDEAN SLOPES: NORTHWEST ECUADOR

Saturday, December 7-

Sunday, December 15

Guides: John Rowden, Edwin Perez

Join us for a trip to one of South America's most celebrated (and spectacularly scenic) birding areas, led by one of Ecuador's finest bird guides. Starting from Quito, we'll cover east and west slope Andean birds, from high páramo to low foothills. Target species include the coveted Andean cock-of-the-rock, long-wattled umbrellabird, Andean condor, and sword-billed hummingbird, as well as manakins,

© Laura Meyers



Chestnut-Mandibled Toucan

tanagers, and many rarities. Includes two pre-trip workshops, lodging, local transportation, most meals, and all park fees. Limited to 12. \$2,695 (\$150 single supplement)

JAMAICA: THE BLUE MOUNTAINS, COCKPIT COUNTRY, AND CARIBBEAN COAST

Thursday, January 9-Wednesday, January 15

Guides: Tod Winston, Lyndon Johnson, Wendy Lee

Enjoy a tropical island get-away on the isle of Jamaica—and explore one of the best island birding destinations. We'll visit the stunning Blue Mountains, the pristine Cockpit Country, and the beautiful north coast to look for endemic species such as Jamaican todies, orioles and vireos; yellow- and black-billed parrots; and the rare quail dove. We'll end at the renowned Rocklands Bird Sanctuary, where the spectacular red-billed streamertail feeds from the hand. Includes one pre-trip workshop, lodging, local transportation, most meals, and all park fees. Limited to 12. \$2,695 (\$470 single supplement)

MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND: SEALS, SEA BIRDS AND SANDY BEACHES, LONG ISLAND, NY

Friday, January 10 -Sunday, January 12, 2014

Guides: Mike Bottini, Mickey

Cohen, Don Riepe

With American Littoral Society

Visit the vast dunes, beaches, and woods of Montauk during peak sea bird season and hike the beautiful "Walking Dunes," Hither Woods, Oyster Pond, and the "Seal Haul-out" site. Includes double-occupancy lodging at the luxurious Manor House, most meals, guided hikes, evening programs, a star watch, and free pickup at the LIRR station in Montauk. To register, contact Don Riepe at 917-371-8577 or donriep@gmail.com. Limited to 60. \$385 (\$125 single supplement)

YUCATÁN, MEXICO

February 2014

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Visit the magical land of the Maya: the Yucatan Peninsula of Southern Mexico. Explore ancient Mayan ruins, swim in the Caribbean and explore coral reefs, and see the

amazing bird life of the region: from parrots and toucans to flamingos and trogons, along with many of our wintering neotropical migrants. Includes two pre-trip workshops, lodging, local transportation, most meals, and all park fees. Limited to 12. Price TBA

TANZANIA

March 2014

Guides: Susan Elbin,

Bjørn Figenschou

Experience the incredibly diverse wildlife of Tanzania. Visit the vast plains of the Serengeti and the wildlife-rich Ngorongoro crater and Tarangire National Park. Includes two pre-trip workshops, lodging, local transportation, most meals, and all park fees. Limited to 12. Price TBA

COSTA RICA: MONTEVERDE AND CAÑO NEGRO

Saturday, March 8-Saturday, March 15, 2014

Guides: Glenn Phillips, Richard Garrigues

Our 2014 Costa Rica expedition will visit its most famous birding destination: Monteverde, home to resplendent quetzals, black guans, emerald toucanets, and much more. Other highlights include the Celeste Mountain Lodge, known for its fine French cuisine as well as for rarities such as tody motmot and yellow-eared toucanet; and Caño Negro, where Nicaraguan grackles, lesser yellow-headed vultures, and even jabiru are possible. Includes two pre-trip workshops, lodging, local transportation, most meals, and all park fees. Limited to 12. \$1,995 (\$300 single supplement)

EVENTS AND ADVENTURES (CONTINUED)

● PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES: ADOBE LIGHTROOM AND PHOTOSHOP

Thursdays, October 3, 17, 31;
6:30-8pm

Instructors: David Speiser,
Lloyd Spitalnik

Join professional photographers Lloyd Spitalnik and David Speiser for this series of three classroom workshops focusing on image post-processing, for all skill levels from beginner to advanced. The classes progress from the basics of Adobe Lightroom and managing your raw photos to processing your images with Adobe Photoshop to the programs' more advanced features. Take advantage of this small-group setting to answer all your questions. Limited to 12. \$200 for the package of 3 workshops; \$85 per workshop

● BIRD AND NATURE ILLUSTRATION

Class: Friday, October 4, 6:30-8:30pm

Trips: Sundays, October 6 and 13,
10am-Noon

Instructor: Alan Messer

Learn the basics of drawing birds, plants, and landscapes for field notes, nature journals, and personal expression. Alan is a well-known wildlife artist and illustrator whose work appears in magazines, books, and field guides. Includes a class session and two field trips to Central Park or another NYC site, depending on class interest. Drawing materials and supplies will be provided. Limited to 10. \$125

● BIRDING BY CANOE IN CONSTITUTION MARSH

Saturday, October 5, 8am-3:30pm
Guides: Gabriel Willow, Constitution Marsh Guide

Join two expert naturalists, our own Gabriel Willow and Constitution Marsh's Eric Lind, to explore Constitution Marsh Audubon Sanctuary—a spectacular 271-acre tidal marsh just outside of Cold Spring, NY. Observe marsh birds up close as you paddle through this pristine fresh water habitat by canoe;

possible sightings include Virginia rails, spotted sandpipers, and bald eagles. Then look for warblers and other fall migrants on the sanctuary's trails. Bring lunch and water. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$90

● HAWK WATCH AT FORT TILDEN, QUEENS

Sunday, October 6, 10am-1pm

Guide: Don Riepe
With American Littoral Society

Meet at 10am at Bldg. 1 in Fort Tilden for a hike to the hawk watch platform to view falcons, hawks, ospreys and other migrating raptors. We'll also hike along the beach and dunes to look for songbirds and shorebirds. For more information, contact Don Riepe at 917-371-8577 or donriep@gmail.com. No limit. Free

● SPARROW ID WORKSHOP

Thursday, October 10, 6:30-8pm (class); Sunday, October 13, 2-5pm (trip)

Instructor: Gabriel Willow

Sparrows are one of the most challenging groups of birds to identify, yet beautiful and fascinating once they can be distinguished. Learn to identify those LBJs (little brown jobs) by studying behavior, field marks, and songs. Sparrow species seen in prior years include field, swamp, savannah, white-crowned, and Lincoln's. Limited to 12. \$45

● FALL MIGRATION ON RANDALL'S ISLAND

Saturday, October 12, 9am-noon
Guides: Gabriel Willow, Christopher Girenti of Randall's Island With Randall's Island Park Alliance, Inc.

Meet on the N.W. corner of 102nd Street and the FDR Drive. We'll walk across the foot bridge to Randall's Island, an under-explored location in the East River that hosts restored freshwater wetlands and salt marsh. We'll look for fall migrants as we explore the results of recent restoration efforts. Two miles of walking and some modest climbs. Limited to 20. \$25

● RAPTOR TRUST AND GREAT SWAMP, NJ

Sunday, October 13, 9:30am-6pm

Guides: Don Riepe, Tod Winston

Enjoy a private tour of the Raptor Trust rehabilitation center and see many owls and hawks up close. Afterwards, we'll hike the boardwalk trails of the beautiful Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to look for raptors, waterfowl, reptiles, and amphibians. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 11. \$75



Chestnut-Sided Warbler

● WAVE HILL RAPTOR DAY, THE BRONX

Monday, October 14, 9am-4pm

Guides: Gabriel Willow and Others With Wave Hill

Wave Hill takes flight as we celebrate birds of prey. This day-long event features live raptor shows, bird walks, discovery tables, owl pellet dissections, and more. Overlooking the Hudson River, Wave Hill is the perfect place to spot hawks, eagles, ospreys, and falcons. See the full schedule of events at www.wavehill.org. No limit. NYC Audubon members enjoy two-for-one admission

MEMBERS-ONLY

October Member Walk in Central Park

Friday, October 18, 7:30-9am

Meet at Central Park West and 106th Street. Experience fall migration with NYC Audubon Board President Harry Maas as he leads you through Central Park's picturesque North Woods. Limited to 20. Free for Contributing NYC Audubon Members at the Student/Senior level and up. Please call Angela Januzzi at 212-691-7483 x306 to register

● NYC AUDUBON DAY AT HAWK MOUNTAIN, PA

Saturday, October 19, 8am-6pm

Guides: Hawk Mountain raptor educator, Gabriel Willow

Mid-October is the perfect time to visit Hawk Mountain, one of the premier hawk-watching spots in the East. A Hawk Mountain guide will introduce us to the variety of raptors that may be seen, including golden eagles, hawks, and falcons—and we will join Gabriel Willow who will help us with raptor ID. The path to the hawk watch site is a 3/4-mile hike through mountainous woodland. Bring lunch. Group program, trail admission, and transportation by coach or van included. Participants may also arrange their own transportation. Transportation option limited to 30. \$85 with transport / \$20 without transport

● BEGINNING BIRDING

Tuesdays, October 22, October 29, and November 5, 6:30-8:30pm (classes); and Saturdays, November 2 and 9 (trips)

Instructor: Tod Winston

Even if you've never picked up a pair of binoculars, you'll soon be identifying warblers, sparrows, waterfowl, and more—both by sight and by ear. Classes are adaptive to the needs and interests of students.

...continued on page 12

EVENTS AND ADVENTURES (CONTINUED)

Field trips to Central Park and Jamaica Bay (transport to Jamaica Bay included). Limited to 12. \$125

● **BIRDS AND PLANTS: THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN IN AUTUMN, THE BRONX**
Friday, October 25, 9am-Noon
Guides: Gabriel Willow, NYBG Docent
With The New York Botanical Garden

Enter through the Mosholu gate and meet at the Mosholu ticketing booths. The NY Botanical Garden is home to a large tract of East Coast old-growth forest. Come enjoy the woods and gardens in autumn, and learn about the fall migrants that use this rich habitat to fuel their journey south. Limited to 15. \$30

● **PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP: RAPTORS AT STATE LINE LOOKOUT, NJ**
Saturday, October 26, 9am-noon
Instructor: David Speiser

Meet in the State Line Lookout parking lot. Join professional photographer David Speiser as we look for raptors as they soar by the New Jersey palisades, often at eye level. We'll shoot against the beautiful backdrop of colorful autumn leaves; possibilities include turkey vultures, red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks, peregrine falcons, both accipiter species, and golden eagles. Recommended equipment: DSLR, 300mm+ lens. Limited to 6. \$70

● **HIKE TO THE GREENBELT'S MOSES MOUNTAIN, STATEN ISLAND**
Sunday, October 27, 9:15am-4pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow
With NYC Parks and the Greenbelt Conservancy

Meet at the Manhattan terminal of the S.I. Ferry and join us as we journey to Moses Mountain, which provides a panoramic view of Staten Island and points beyond. We'll look for migrating hawks, warblers, and other songbirds—with crimson sumac and other autumn foliage



Golden-Crowned Kinglet

as a backdrop. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. Transportation on Staten Island provided. Limited to 18. \$30

● **NEW YORK BIRDERS CONFERENCE, LI**
November 1-3

Come one, come all to the New York Birders Conference and 66th annual meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association! Please see p.15 to learn more about this fun weekend for local birders, or visit nybirdersconference.org. See below for transportation to the conference.

MEMBERS-ONLY FREE TRANSPORTATION TO THE NEW YORK BIRDERS CONFERENCE IN UNIONDALE, LI

Friday, November 1:
Depart 23rd Street at 11:15am;
depart LI at 8:45pm
Saturday, November 2:
Depart 23rd Street at 1pm;
depart LI at 9:30pm

Transportation to and from the New York Birders Conference. Limited to 25. Free for Contributing NYC Audubon Members at the Student/Senior level and up. Please call Angela Januzzi at 212-691-7483 x306 to register

● **PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB**
Wednesday, November 6,
6:30-8:30pm
See the September 11 listing for details.

● **SNOW GEESE AND TUNDRA SWANS OF BRIGANTINE, NJ**
Sunday, November 10, 9:30am-7pm
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

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. Bring lunch and water. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$85

● **WINTER WATERFOWL WORKSHOP**
Sat, November 16, 10am-1pm
With Gateway National Recreation Area

Guide: Don Riepe, Tod Winston
 Meet at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center for a slide ID program and walk to look for wintering waterfowl. Learn about their behavior and biology and how to identify them in the field. To register, contact Don Riepe at 917-371-8577 or donriep@gmail.com. Limited to 25. Free.

● **VAN TRIP TO THE WINTER WATERFOWL WORKSHOP AT JAMAICA BAY**

Saturday, November 16, 9am-3pm
 Register for our van trip to the Winter Waterfowl Workshop, and get to Jamaica Bay the easy way. Transport by passenger van. Bring lunch, water, your binoculars, and a spotting scope if you have one. Limited to 12. \$20

● **DUCKS, RAPTORS AND MORE AT PELHAM BAY PARK, THE BRONX**
Saturday, November 23, 9am-3pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow

Come explore the lovely coves and rocky outcroppings of Pelham Bay Park, looking for wintering ducks, migrating raptors, and more. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$70

● **WINTER BIRDS & SURVIVAL**
Saturday, December 21, 10am-1pm
Guide: Don Riepe
With Gateway National Recreation Area

Meet at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center for an easy hike around the West Pond, gardens and upland woods. Learn how plants and animals adapt to winter, and look for waterfowl, owls, and wintering birds. To register, contact Don Riepe at 917-371-8577 or donriep@gmail.com. Limited to 25. Free

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, ALL BOROUGHES
Save the date for the Christmas Bird Count! See dates below; more information will be included in the winter Urban Audubon.

The Bronx: Sunday, December 22
 Manhattan: Sunday, December 15
 Queens: Sunday, December 15
 Staten Island:

Saturday, December 14

Brooklyn: Saturday, December 14

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

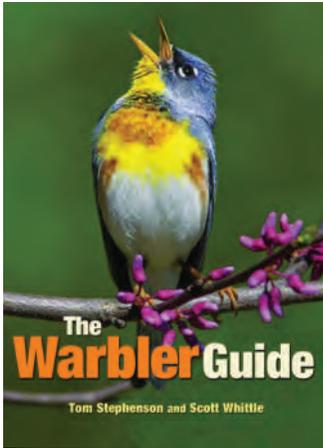
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Classes meet at 71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1523.**
- **Contributing Members (Student/Senior level and up) receive a 10% discount on most local trips and classes. See membership form on page 19.**
- **For all coach and van trips, the meeting location is in front of 71 West 23rd Street in Manhattan unless otherwise specified.**
- **We depart promptly at the stated start time.**
- **For all overnight trips, membership in NYC Audubon at the Student/Senior level and up is required. See membership form on page 19.**

The Warbler Guide

By Tom Stephenson and
Scott Whittle

Princeton University Press,
2013



I own more field guides than I care to admit. And yet, despite being deeply familiar with the genre, it's rare that I see anything truly new and innovative. Most field guides are a variation on the venerable Peterson ID system: birds in profile, with arrows pointing at field marks. This system has served us well for over 80 years.

Enter *The Warbler Guide*, a truly groundbreaking book. I had heard rumors of this book (full disclosure: Tom Stephenson is on the NYC Audubon board and Scott Whittle participates in an annual Christmas Bird Count with this reviewer), so I was excited to get my hands on a copy.

And what a book it is! This guide accomplishes a real feat in that it is simultaneously exhaustive (but never exhausting) in scope as well as user-friendly and intuitive. It covers all 56 members of the family Parulidae (wood warblers) found in the U.S. and Canada.

A number of things set this guide apart. My favorite is a clever, simple set of icons that tell you much you need to

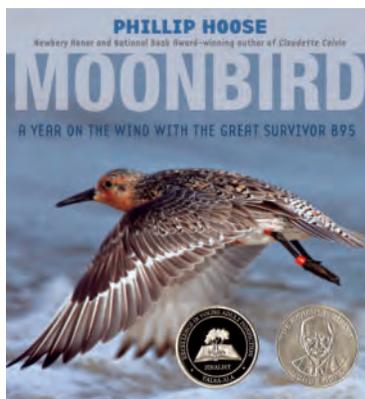
know about the bird at a glance: its shape and posture; its overall color-scheme; its under-tail pattern; its range; and what habitat it's generally seen in (more specifically, how high in a tree).

The species are arranged alphabetically, and scores of photos show each one from every angle, including below (which is often the only view you get of a warbler). The guide compares similar species, and even includes sonograms for all of their songs, contrasting songs of similar species.

The Warbler Guide contains a wealth of information. I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to improve warbler ID skills or just become a better all-around birder. Now I'll be waiting for the authors to apply their innovative format to a field guide to all of the birds of North America. That will be yet another guide to add to my collection! *GW*

Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95

By Phillip Hoose
Farrar, Straus and Giroux,
2012



Moonbird takes its title from the nickname given to a red knot by a researcher who calculated that over the bird's implausibly long

life—at least 18 years—the round-trip migration flights it had taken between Tierra del Fuego and the Arctic tundra exceeded the distance from the earth to the moon and halfway back: 350,000 miles.

The red knot (*Calidris canutus*) is a medium-sized member of the sandpiper group. The *rufa* subspecies that migrates along the East Coast of the United States has been a topic of concern since about 2000, when biologists realized that its numbers had declined drastically—up to 80 percent over the previous twenty years. This reduction has been linked to falling horseshoe crab populations, particularly in Delaware Bay, where multitudes of red knots fatten up on horseshoe crab eggs during spring migration.

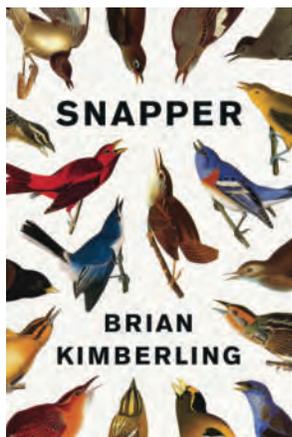
The author structures his account of the red knot's life history around a year in the life of Moonbird—more prosaically known as B95 for his leg-band code. The truly amazing nature of this bird's longevity becomes clear as we read about the environmental challenges, natural and human-caused, that confront both red knots and horseshoe crabs. For the researchers along Moonbird's migration route who anxiously watch for its return each year, the bird has become a symbol of hope for the species it represents.

Moonbird appears under the imprint of the publisher's "Books for Young Readers," but anyone who delights in the wonders of bird migration will be captivated by the story. If it also inspires a young person to pursue a career in conservation biology, so much the better. *MJK*

...continued on page 14

BOOK REVIEWS (CONTINUED)

Snapper
By Brian Kimberling
Pantheon, 2013



Nathan Lochmueller, unlike the songbirds he's so poorly paid to count, doesn't migrate

purposefully from Point A to Point B in telling his story. Instead, he detours from place to place and time to time so often, it's initially distracting. But Nathan, the narrator in Brian Kimberling's first novel *Snapper*, is such good company and prone to such delightful Holden Caulfield-esque observations that you'll probably soon forgive him.

Nathan is a professional birder fresh out of college, researching the decline of songbirds for Indiana University. An Indiana native who harbors a robust love-hate relationship with his state, he also has an unqualified love for wood thrushes—and for a girl named Lola.

His job has him stalking woodland nests at 5am, sometimes with his boss Gerald, who after sitting on a log, eyes closed for ten minutes, “would quietly announce that the Carolina chickadee

I hadn't heard probably nested in the hickory stump I hadn't noticed on the way in....”

Nathan's mind, however, has him wandering far afield: to the incident of the pugnacious snapping turtle and his clueless boyhood pals; to Uncle Dart and Aunt Loretta who “didn't just come from Texas, they brought it with them”; and to Maude, whose diner in a town called Santa Claus is a place where hungry strangers become Santa's helpers. You'll learn that trigonometry is indispensable to a songbird counter and what it's like being miles from anywhere with a tornado aimed at you. Throughout it all flits the free-spirited Lola, but also the certainty that Nathan is a true lover of nature: its vulnerable birds and trees, its oddball humans, and yes, even its snapping turtles. *CPR*

2013-2014 LECTURE SERIES

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

EPIC JOURNEYS: SHOREBIRD MIGRATION

By Shawn Carey

Wednesday, September 25, 6pm

Each year millions of shorebirds make an amazing round-trip journey between the northern and southern hemispheres. Join filmmaker and photographer Shawn Carey of Migration Production, and learn about their newest video, “Epic Journeys,” which looks at three shorebird species—red knot, piping plover and semipalmated sandpiper—and the challenges these species face during each of their monumental annual treks.

THE WARBLER GUIDE: SECRETS TO WARBLER IDENTIFICATION IN THE FIELD

By Tom Stephenson

Wednesday, November 13, 6pm

Every avid birder knows how tricky it is to identify warblers in the field. *The Warbler Guide*, by NYC Audubon board member Tom Stephenson, is a book that brings revolutionary new features to the field guide format, including a new system of understanding vocalizations, comprehensive visual and song/call finders, and a

complete guide to aging and sexing warblers. Join Tom and NYC Audubon to learn these methods and much more... and add to your warbler ID toolkit. (Learn more about *The Warbler Guide* in Gabriel Willow's review on p.13.)

CONSERVING GRASSLAND BIRDS ON MILITARY LANDS

By Nellie Tsipoura

Wednesday, January 8, 2014, 6pm

HORSESHOE CRABS OF THE NEW YORK HARBOR

By Mark Botton

Tuesday, February 18, 2014, 6pm

MARCH LECTURE TBA

Date TBA

CONSERVATION PROGRAM UPDATE AND ANNUAL MEETING

By Susan Elbin

Wednesday, June 18, 2014, 6pm

THE NEW GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Gateway National Recreation Area, the National Park Service unit that stretches from New Jersey's Sandy Hook to Jamaica Bay, released its draft General Management Plan in early August. National Recreation Areas like Gateway are intended to have a mix of uses, including protecting natural and historic resources, active recreation, and visitor concessions. The General Management Plan provides the outline for which kinds of uses will be permitted and sets priorities for each location. This revision to the management plan is the first since the park was created in 1972.

Although the General Management Plan was not released in time to provide a detailed analysis here, it is important that comments be submitted by everyone concerned with the preservation of this vital habitat for birds in New York City. Details about the plan, and notes to help you submit your own comments, are available at www.nyc Audubon.org/gateway-gmp. If you would like us to mail you sample letters, please call us at 212-691-7483 x301.

Please act now to learn more about the General Management Plan and help ensure that the plan's final version will have

conservation of this vital habitat as its principal priority. Comments must be submitted by September 30, 2013. New York City's birds are counting on you!



Jamaica Bay, Part of Gateway National Recreation Area, Is a Vital Habitat for Wildlife

THIS NOVEMBER IN WESTERN LONG ISLAND: THE NEW YORK BIRDERS CONFERENCE



This fall, NYC Audubon will be a sponsor of the New York Birders Conference and 66th annual meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association. The Queens County Bird Club is hosting the event, which will take place the weekend of **November 1-3, 2013**, at the Long Island Marriott in Uniondale, NY.

The first event of its kind in the New York Metropolitan area, the conference is an opportunity for birders throughout the region to meet, exchange ideas, learn about new research, socialize, bird together, and celebrate our wonderful shared pastime. The weekend will include paper sessions, bird identification workshops, presentations on important conservation issues, and a banquet dinner, featuring James Currie of Birding Adventures TV. And, yes, great field trips! Please visit nybirdersconference.org for more information. To learn about free transportation to the conference available to NYC Audubon contributing members, please see p.12.

REMEMBER NYC AUDUBON

A bequest is a thoughtful and straightforward way to protect birds and bird habitat in the five boroughs. It can be expressed "I bequeath [a sum of money or a percentage of my estate] to New York City Audubon Society, Inc., a not-for-profit organization with offices at 71 West 23rd Street – Suite 1523, New York, NY 10010, for its general purposes."

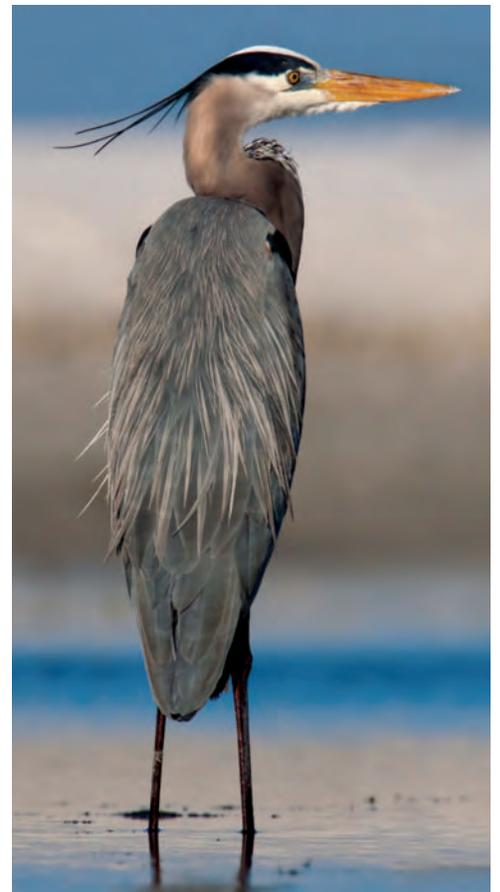
Consult your attorney and give Executive Director Glenn Phillips a call at 212-691-7483, x303.

A SAMPLING OF BREEDING BIRDS IN THE CITY'S FIVE BOROUGHS



Green Heron

These wading birds rival living statue street performers in Times Square for their motionless abilities to stalk the water's edge on the lookout for frogs and other amphibians. Records show they've nested recently in Prospect Park, Brooklyn; Manhattan's Central Park; Little Egg Marsh in Jamaica Bay, Queens; and Staten Island's Blue Heron Park Reserve, High Rock Park, and Buck's Hollow.



Great Blue Heron

One pair of great blue herons nested this year in Clove Lakes Park near the Staten Island Zoo, a first for Staten Island. The nesting and care of four chicks by the parents became a "Central Park Pale Male" sensation for Staten Islanders. These large waders have also nested recently on tiny Goose Island, in Western Long Island Sound.

Snowy Egret

A beautiful wading bird known for its white plumage and "golden slippers," the snowy egret was recorded this year as nesting in Elder's East Marsh and Subway Island in Jamaica Bay, Queens, and in great numbers off the shores of Staten Island on Swinburne and Hoffman islands, as well as on Mill Rock, South Brother Islands, and other islands in Western Long Island Sound. Their breeding success has been tracked by NYC Audubon since 1980 as part of the Harbor Herons nesting survey.





Black Skimmer

The black skimmer is a priority species of National Audubon, a bird of concern because of its declining numbers. As they have done for years, skimmers nested this year on Breezy Point in the Rockaways, Queens, where Hurricane Sandy took its toll, but did not destroy their breeding grounds.

Marsh Wren

The secretive marsh wren finds its ideal wetland nesting habitat throughout the outer boroughs. The marsh wren's high, reedy song may be heard in the Bronx's Pelham Bay and Van Cortlandt Parks, and in Queen's Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and Alley Pond Park. On Staten Island, the birds are found in restored saltmarsh on the western shore, in William T. Davis Wildlife Refuge, and in Great Kills Park.



Baltimore Oriole

This species has adapted well to a variety of tall tree habitats in the City. The Bronx's Bronx Park, Pelham Bay Park, and Van Cortlandt Park all have had nesting pairs recently, as has Brooklyn's Prospect Park. In Manhattan, orioles nest in Central Park and Riverside Park, while in Queens the birds are to be found in Alley Pond and Forest Parks. On Staten Island the birds are ubiquitous, nesting on the campus of Wagner College as well as in Clove Lakes Park, Conference House Park, W. T. Davis Wildlife Refuge, Mount Loretto State Preserve, Great Kills Park, Wolfe's Pond Park, and various parts of Staten Island's Greenbelt.

...continued on page 18

BREEDING BIRDS IN THE CITY'S FIVE BOROUGHS (CONTINUED)

Osprey

Jamaica Bay, Queens, is prime nesting habitat for osprey. This year there were 17 nesting pairs, including one pair on a pole next to busy Cross Bay Boulevard. Osprey also nest in Queens' Alley Pond Park, in the Bronx's Pelham Bay Park, and at the Saltmarsh Nature Center at Marine Park, Brooklyn. Several pairs nest on Staten Island.



Piping Plover

Also a priority bird of National Audubon because of declining numbers, the piping plover nested once again this year on Breezy Point and Arverne in the Rockaways, Queens. The upheaval caused by Hurricane Sandy did not destroy—and may have expanded—this species' nesting habitat.



Common Yellowthroat

The common yellowthroat nests in many areas of the outer boroughs where there is open space and brushy, second-growth vegetation. To name a few places, this warbler nests at Jamaica Bay, Queens, in the Bronx's Pelham Bay and Van Cortlandt Parks, and at Staten Island's Mount Loretto State Preserve, Teleport property, and Fresh Kills Park (formerly the landfill).

News & Notes

COOPERATIVE STEWARDSHIP OF PALE MALE AND FAMILY

The Management of 927 Fifth Avenue, the building on which Pale Male and his mates have maintained their nest, cooperated this spring to ensure that the red-tailed hawks' nesting was successful. Having consulted with NYC Audubon, management delayed work on the building's façade until the three chicks had fully fledged. We'd like to thank 927 Fifth Avenue for being caring stewards of Pale Male, his mates, and their progeny.

LINDA CANZANELLI RETIRES

Linda Canzanelli, superintendent of Gateway National Recreation Area, retired at the end of June. A 35-year National Park Service Veteran, Linda returned to Gateway as superintendent in 2010, having served there as chief of interpretation and visitor services in the 1980s. Linda's past posts also included work in Cape Cod National Seashore; National Park Service Headquarters in Washington, D.C.; and Florida's Biscayne National Park.

NYC AUDUBON WELCOMES NEW STAFF

We are happy to welcome several new staff members. In July, Angela Januzzi joined us as our new development manager. In June, Andrew Maas took on a new part-time role as special assistant to the executive director, while Yoryi De La Rosa, a long-time volunteer, joined us as a part-time development assistant.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

NYC Audubon's conservation work and education programs are made possible by generous contributions from members, friends, corporations, foundations, and agencies. We'd like to express our gratitude to all those who have sustained us in our work this past season. In particular, we'd like to thank the Leon Levy Foundation for its leadership support of science and conservation.

AMERICAN KESTREL CIRCLE

Oakes and Louise Ames
 Claude and Lucienne Bloch
 Ronald and Jean Bourque
 Clifford Case and Karen B. Dubno
 Joseph and Barbara Ellis
 Bruce and Marcia Fowle
 Philip Fried
 Richard Fried and Stella Kim
 Cathy and Lloyd Heller
 Sarah Jeffords
 Dawn and Tommy Lee Jones
 Jared and Songmei Keyes
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MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of Starr Saphir
 Steve Metzger
 Julia Scully

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DATED MATERIAL: FALL 2013 NEWSLETTER

SAVE THE DATE! THE FALL ROOST

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2013
6-9PM
THE CENTRAL PARK BOATHOUSE



Join NYC Audubon as we celebrate our ninth annual Fall Roost on Wednesday, October 16, 2013 at The Boathouse in Central Park. This year we honor five of New York City's most dedicated conservationists: **Oakes Ames, Dr. Claude Bloch, Karen Heidgerd, Ritamary McMahon, and Starr Saphir.**

Oakes Ames, the immediate past board president of NYC Audubon, has served on the boards of many environmental organizations, including the National Audubon Society and Audubon New York. An experimental nuclear physicist, he was president of Connecticut College from 1974-1988.

Dr. Claude Bloch is a member of NYC Audubon's advisory council and a sponsor of our monthly lecture series. He is also a member of many other organizations, including several local Audubon chapters and the New York State Ornithological Association. A radiologist and published researcher, Dr. Bloch continues teaching at Mount Sinai Hospital since retiring from his long-time private practice.

Rita McMahon and **Karen Heidgerd** co-founded the Wild Bird Fund in 2005; in 2012, they opened the Wild Bird Fund Center, the

first wildlife rehabilitation center in New York City. Ms. Heidgerd is the practice administrator at Animal General veterinary hospital; Ms. McMahon recently retired as a market research consultant for broadcast and cable television. Through a network of veterinarians, rehabbers, foster-caregivers, sanctuaries, and volunteers, the Wild Bird Fund Center now provides x-rays, testing, surgery, and other care to approximately 1,500 animals a year.

Starr Saphir, known by many as "the Matriarch of Central Park," shared her knowledge and love of the Park's avian life for nearly 40 years through morning walks and classes. An institution among New York City birders, Starr died this past February after a long battle with cancer.

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 Angela Januzzi at 646-502-9611 or ajanuzzi@nycaudubon.org.