

THE URBAN AUDUBON

THE COLLISIONS OF SEPTEMBER 14

SAVE THE BUGS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

MEET LATINO OUTDOORS'
ANAHÍ NARANJO

AT WORK IN JAMAICA BAY

THE FALL ROOST

FAREWELL, KATHRYN



MISSION

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

VISION

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

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BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

By Kathryn Heintz



As we go to press with this winter *Urban Audubon*, the last issue of my tenure here at NYC Audubon, New York City voters have just overwhelmingly supported a 2021 ballot measure giving New Yorkers a constitutional right to clean air, clean water, and a healthful environment. New Yorkers demand these essentials of life for all of us—not just those who can afford to live in less polluted places.

Our City has been reconnecting to its green spaces, of late. Just a few days before the election, *The New York Times* reported that “N.Y.C. Is Humming With Wildlife,” wherein I had the opportunity to assert that we live in “the greenest big city on earth.” What exactly did I mean by that?

New York's story of conservation success has been many decades in the making—and the work is not close to finished. But if you can recall the fetid smog and soot of the 1970s, you know we've come a long way. It has been a heroic journey. Patience and persistence have been key. It took landmark environmental legislation and the founding of community efforts, including by NYC Audubon. The last 40-odd years of environmental advancement and the greening of our huge and dense metropolis have been the work of many heroes.

From bans and limits on leaded gasoline, DDT, phosphorus, chlorofluorocarbons, raw sewage, plastic bags and straws ... to bottle bills, green and solar roof and bird-friendly building requirements ... to native plant policies in our parks, we have reduced acid rain and storm water runoff, and made our air and harbor cleaner. In the process, we've undertaken a massive restoration of wetland and forest habitat. We've also made important commitments to green infrastructure: the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center's massive green roof and the High Line's elevated ribbon park have inspired a movement to alternative habitat; Freshkills Park on Staten Island and Shirley Chisholm State Park in Brooklyn have shown that toxic landfills can be converted into expansive grassland habitat.

We've joined with many community organizations in the work to green our city and protect and restore precious habitat—the Central Park and Battery Conservancies, Prospect Park and Bronx River Alliances, Jamaica Bay–Rockaway Parks and Natural Areas Conservancies, American Littoral Society, WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Protectors of Pine Oak Woods, Washington Square Park Eco Projects, and the new the Hart Island Project, among many others—and we embrace the equity and justice mandates of our work, so boldly expressed in the November vote.

Clean air, water, and habitat is not just for people, however. NYC Audubon is also working for the birds. And we've made real progress. Our work takes time and we are well on our way.

For me, now is the moment to turn things over to new leadership, into hands with fresh energy and drive. I look forward to the next era under a new director, and to NYC Audubon's growing role in creating the environment-embracing city we envision.

None of this can be accomplished without your support. Join me in giving generously this year to our annual appeal. Coming out of the darkness of this pandemic, we need you all in ways we haven't before. Help us keep this movement going; NYC Audubon cannot do this work without you. Thank you for the past seven and a half wonderful years. And here's to the years to come!



NYC Audubon is working to make the City safer for this fledgling flicker.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS SUGGESTIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NYC Audubon seeks new members of its board of directors for three-year terms beginning in June 2022 and June 2023. To make our board more representative of the City's population, we are especially interested in candidates who increase our board's racial and ethnic diversity; women; residents of Staten Island, Queens, and the Bronx; and/or with financial, educational, fundraising, or city government policy/advocacy expertise. Submit suggestions to Jeffrey Kimball, chair of the nominating committee, at nominations@nycaudubon.org.

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4 Collision victims found on September 14 in the World Trade Center area © Melissa Breyer



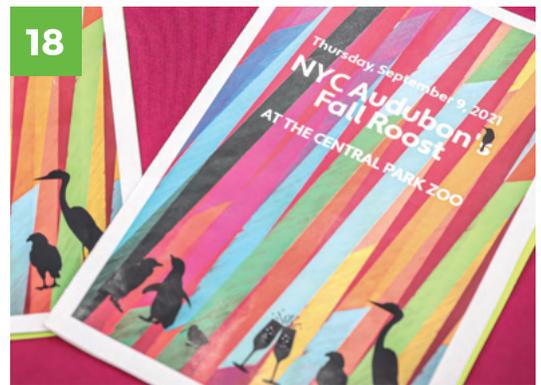
7 A spring 2021 walk co-led by former NYC Audubon Board Member Kellie Quiñones and Latino Outdoors leaders Anahí Naranjo and Sofía Sainz © Latino Outdoors NYC



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Northern Flicker killed in a window collision at the World Trade Center © Melissa Breyer

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Over the past quarter, we have been very engaged with bird collisions and light pollution issues—which are detailed below and at right. In sharp contrast, this year’s monitoring of the September 11 Memorial & Museum’s Tribute in Light was quiet, in the best way possible. We did not have to turn out the lights, since the largest number of birds our monitors observed in the beams simultaneously was around 40, with the number peaking between 11pm and midnight. According to our protocol, we ask event staff to turn off the lights temporarily when we count at least 1,000 birds in the beams at any time.

Forecasts from birdcast.info were accurate in predicting a low migration night for the City. It was very clear with a southerly breeze, which gusted at times. Right after sundown, we observed a good amount of bat activity. Though there wasn’t a tremendous amount of bird activity, we did get to watch a Peregrine Falcon catch more than 10 birds in the air around the lights throughout the night. Some observers identified a couple of Connecticut Warblers flying through the lights. We saw a few cool moth species, including two sphinx species and, sadly, a handful of Spotted Lanternflies.

We had a small crew to accommodate COVID-19 concerns, and there were not many other people on the roof with our team; often, it was just NYC Audubon staff and volunteers, including Cornell Lab of Ornithology colleagues, plus a few people from Michael Ahern Production Services (MAPS), the Tribute’s production company. The MAPS staff was very welcoming and willing to help, and even offered us coffee several times during the long night. All in all, it was a thankfully uneventful evening, but it was great to meet our volunteers and folks from the Cornell Lab and discuss our research into light pollution and bird collisions.

—Kevin R. Burgio, PhD

PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT Collision Monitoring

This fall brought another season of Project Safe Flight. Since 1997, this collision monitoring program has pinpointed the most dangerous buildings in the City for migrating songbirds, allowing us to work with buildings on mitigation solutions that reduce bird casualties. Last fall, 28 volunteers retrieved 403 injured or dead birds on their monitoring routes. (Routes are picked by scouring data in our bird mortality database, dbird.org, for collision hotspots.) This year, in September alone, our 38 volunteers found over double the number of the entirety of the 2020 fall season throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn.

This alarming mortality rate is the result of a mass collision event: hundreds of dead birds collided with buildings in a single day, September 14. One volunteer alone found over 200 dead and injured birds on her Project Safe Flight route. (See her photos on the cover and on pages 2 and 5.) The day was filled with phone calls from concerned community members in every borough to report dead birds found in front of places of employment and apartment buildings.

Since then, NYC Audubon has been ablaze with international and national media attention to the Project Safe Flight program: *The New York Times*, NPR, *Gothamist*, *WIRED*, and *Vice* all reported on the issue. This media frenzy has been beneficial for the program in several ways, including the attention it has brought to problem buildings (see below). We also trained 25 new Injured Bird Transporter recruits this season, to ensure injured birds get to a rehabilitator. We are grateful for all our volunteers, especially as we handle what looks to be a particularly dangerous season for migratory birds of all kinds.

If you are wondering how you can get involved with this important issue and contribute to our research, please consider volunteering in the spring season as a Project Safe Flight Collision Monitor or Injured Bird Transporter. See the Volunteer! section on page 13 to learn more.

—Aurora Crooks

Bird-Friendly Building and Lights Out

The mass collision mortality event that took place on September 14, while devastating, was a call to action for



Kevin Burgio, PhD, monitors the Tribute in Light.

many in New York City who want to protect birds. The collisions that took place that night and into the next day were the result of a combination of factors: heavy migration, cloudy weather, brightly lit buildings, and confusing reflective glass. With the enactment of Local Law 15 in early 2021, new buildings must be constructed using bird-friendly materials—but September 14 reminds us that many existing buildings remain a grave threat. Broad media attention provoked by the incident has helped bring needed attention to some of those sites: we are currently in talks with several buildings in lower Manhattan and in other areas of the City in order to put mitigation solutions in place.

Building operators are under no obligation to turn their lights off at night. Several buildings have participated in a voluntary Lights Out campaign, but in a city of over a million buildings, 20 or 30 buildings choosing to turn off their lights at night barely makes a difference. The next step to help save birds will be legislation that requires building managers to turn lights out from 11pm to dawn during spring and fall migration.



© Melissa Breyer



On September 14, Project Safe Flight monitor Melissa Breyer found and documented over 200 birds killed in window strikes in the World Trade Center area of lower Manhattan. The sample above of species found includes Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Veery, Common Yellowthroat, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Northern Parula. We are working with owners of some of these buildings to get mitigation measures in place. See Avian Advocate Updates and Volunteer! on page 13 to get involved and help prevent such tragic events in the future.

Since September 14, several local lawmakers have reached out to us about introducing this legislation. Restrictions on nighttime lighting may help prevent the mass nocturnal collision mortality we saw this season, and will reduce the number of birds attracted to unsafe built environments, where they are at risk of predation, collisions, or other disruptions during their stopover in the City. If you'd like to keep up to date on opportunities to support upcoming Lights Out legislative initiatives that will benefit birds, please sign up for Avian Advocates emails; learn more on page 13.
—Kaitlyn Parkins

GREEN ROOFS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The continued inequity in distribution of green space across New York City, the impacts of hurricane Floyd, and this fall's massive fallout of migrating birds have all provided a stark reminder of how underprepared the City is for the future—and these recent events have highlighted the important role that green roofs and other green infrastructure can play in building a more resilient city. As such, over the next year we will be holding a series of virtual events about green roofs in the City and the importance of green roofs for biodiversity. Visit greenroofsny.com or @GreenRoofsNYC on Instagram for event

updates and registration information. Furthermore, we are pleased to introduce a new tool, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy in New York, that can help identify if a building is within a Green Roof Tax Abatement priority district and thereby eligible for an increased tax abatement. Visit greenroofsny.com/policy to check the status of your building.

Research continued through the fall at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center green roof, where we are examining the biodiversity of the roof and novel approaches to balance the roof's thriving Herring Gull colony with other priorities. While the winter will be a time to analyze



and better understand this year's data, preliminary results are promising; species richness on the green roof continues to grow, possibly aided by the increased habitat provided by the new Javits expansion green roof, and the conservation zones set aside for the Herring Gull colony, which reduced colony growth and lessened the impact of gulls on the roof. To further share our findings with the broader scientific community, we submitted a case study to *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* examining ecological succession during the first five years of the Javits green roof and presented our Herring Gull work at The Wildlife Society's annual conference.

—Dustin Partridge, PhD

WATERBIRDS OF NEW YORK HARBOR American Oystercatchers

The 2021 American Oystercatcher nesting season finally came to an end: while breeding activity usually ends by late August or early September, this year's season extended into mid-September. It's hard to be sure of the causes of this delay, but this year in particular we noticed more "re-nests"—when the first nesting attempt fails (often because of egg predation), and the pair makes another nest. The pairs that stayed the longest were those that re-nested, and some of them started their second attempt very late in the season. This delay exposed the birds to this summer's severe weather (Hurricanes Elsa, Henri, and Ida, for example), but fortunately most of them survived it. Next year we expect to be able to install "camera traps" in our



An American Oystercatcher adult tends its chick.

birds' breeding territories, which may allow us to better understand the causes of nest loss and re-nesting attempts.

Preliminary data show that this year our American Oystercatchers had a successful season compared with previous years. The number of breeding pairs was 41, compared with 37 in 2020 and 36 in 2019. We observed 22 fledglings, compared with 11 in 2020 and 11 in 2019. We are in the process of reviewing and analyzing the data; a full report will be ready soon.

—Emilio Tobón

Harbor Herons

With our 2021 Harbor Herons Nesting Survey completed, we have been busy entering the season's data and preparing our survey report. Director of Conservation and Science Kevin Burgio, PhD, has also been convening our conservation team to discuss analysis and publication of our 35-year data set. This process will be a collaborative effort among our entire current conservation staff, including Director of Conservation and Science Emerita Susan Elbin, PhD, and our new Harbor Herons Nesting Survey coordinator

starting spring 2022, Shannon Curley, PhD. Through analysis of our data, we hope to better understand an apparent decline in the harbor's nesting population of Black-crowned Night-Herons over recent decades, and explore possible relationships between breeding colony success and variables such as island height above sea level, proximity to mainland predators, island vegetation, and contaminant levels.

After eight fascinating years serving as coordinator of the Harbor Herons Nesting Surveys, I am looking forward to my final presentation of the year's survey at the 17th annual meeting of the Harbor Herons and Waterbirds of the Greater New York/New Jersey Harbor working group, scheduled on Wednesday and Thursday, December 8 and 9. The meeting will also include presentations by Associate Director of Conservation and Science Kaitlyn Parkins and Field Biologist Emilio Tobón on our 2021 research findings on Semipalmated Sandpipers and American Oystercatchers.

—Tod Winston ■



Great and Snowy Egrets forage in Jamaica Bay, near their nesting colonies on Subway and Elders Point East and West Islands.

STATEMENT ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND ACCESSIBILITY



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

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

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

We commit to building an equitable, diverse, inclusive, and accessible New York City Audubon, dedicated to protecting nature for all of New York City's people and its wild birds. ■

MEET LATINO OUTDOORS' ANAHÍ NARANJO

By Kellye Rosenheim

NYC Audubon has been forming partnerships to spread the love of birds as widely as possible. A recent, successful collaboration has been with Latino Outdoors, a national organization with chapters across the U.S., including one here in New York City. Its mission statement reads, "We inspire, connect, and engage Latino communities in the outdoors and embrace *cultura y familia* as part of the outdoor narrative, ensuring our history, heritage, and leadership are valued and represented." Kellye Rosenheim spoke to Anahí Naranjo, outdoor activity leader for Latino Outdoors, about her organization.

Thank you so much for talking with me. Tell me, if you would, about Latino Outdoors and your involvement.

Latino Outdoors focuses on the Latinx community, but anyone and everyone is welcome. I was born in Quito, Ecuador, and have lived in New York City since I was seven years old. My favorite activities are walking, hiking, birding, and wildlife watching. Honestly, I could be happy just sitting under a tree with a book. I got involved with Latino Outdoors in 2017, soon after I graduated college and as our local chapter was getting started. I love the outdoors, and I just wanted to have my community with me. It's been incredible. My fellow leaders are just as passionate about having a good time outdoors. We have all kinds of outings: hikes of different experience levels, a kayaking trip, fishing, birding events with NYC Audubon, journaling in a garden. It's such a beautiful community.

I notice in your Twitter feed an emphasis on access to nature for all people.

We are very much concerned with the barriers to nature, especially to the BIPOC communities, which are issues that people may not be aware of. Transportation, for example: There are people who would like to see Bear Mountain or the Delaware Water Gap or even places in Westchester, but there is no public transportation.

Another big issue is the lack of representation in the outdoors. That narrative is starting to change. When I was in college, the folks I saw were often white, often male; it is intimidating. I also looked at these expensive boots and fancy gear and wondered, "Is this for me? I don't see anyone else here who looks like me." I did feel alienated. And that's what we really try to tackle. We try to be beginner-friendly; anyone and everyone is welcome, and all our events are free. The Nature Conservancy in New York has been a great partner, helping with transportation. We also rely on public transportation, and one way to make people feel more comfortable is to meet at the subway station and walk together to our event.

We also focus on giving people skills to do things on their own. For example, we have an Instagram Live that shows how to pack a backpack. We try to use everything in our toolkit to reduce those barriers. And we always make sure that the values of inclusion and equity are respected.

I would imagine the pandemic has had quite an effect on your activities.

Since we could not do any outings, we had to rely on virtual programming, and our first event was Birding 101 with you guys. We had people from all over the country joining and they learned something about New York City—that there is nature here. Virtual has allowed us to be even more inclusive.

As with everything, there have been highlights and challenges. I'm very grateful that we can have in-person outings again. We want to have food at each outing, but how do we do this safely? Our communities are struggling, and with funds from National Latino Outdoors we might hand out a sandwich or a wrap at the end of a hike. Being able to sit down and have a sandwich with someone has really helped us build communities during the pandemic.



© Anahí Naranjo

Anahí explores Mount Rainier National Park in Washington State.

Your website home page has a section called Recreate Responsibly. There's some great stuff in there.

Everyone should check out recreateresponsibly.org. It's part of a broader campaign involving different organizations and has six bullet points to follow. Latino Outdoors had a major role in its creation. It's basically how to treat the outdoors and each other with respect.

When we learned about the Christian Cooper incident in Central Park, it hit our community members hard. Here's this Black man, enjoying the outdoors and confronted by a white woman. Since we are trying to get people of color outdoors, it made us question our position. Mostly, we wanted to send a statement that we condemn such incidents and support individuals who want to experience the outdoors with us. Letting people who have always been there, be there. We renewed our purpose to bring more BIPOC people into visibility.

On an individual level, I remember the times I've been "othered" in the outdoors—when someone looked at me weird or someone made a weird comment to me while on a hike—so it was shocking, but not shocking. I felt so much for Christian and his community. He responded so gracefully, but it brings up things for communities of color, fears that it could have been much worse than it was. I have so much respect for the advocacy he's done and continues to do.

Besides NYC Audubon, do you partner with other organizations?

This list is very long. As I said, the Nature Conservancy in New York has been amazing; we've partnered with the American Littoral Society; and I've advertised events at the community center where I used to work. We want to break down the dichotomy of nature and non-nature organizations and try to appeal to everyone. And we very much want to continue the partnership with New York City Audubon—we're very excited about that.

Learn more about Latino Outdoors at latinooutdoors.org. ■

AT WORK IN JAMAICA BAY

By Rebecca Minardi

This year, NYC Audubon researchers Aurora Crooks, Emilio Tobón, Tod Winston, and Kaitlyn Parkins have been hard at work in Jamaica Bay. Thanks to support from generous funders, NYC Audubon has carried out numerous conservation and educational activities in this important estuary habitat. Jamaica Bay, covering nine thousand acres (20,000 square miles) of open water, marshlands, intertidal flats, and islands, is home to a rich diversity of birdlife and other species. This remains true despite extensive development of the bay over the years: much of its original wetlands have been filled in or dredged for fill, while sewage and urban runoff have also had negative impacts. As is true across the globe, climate change poses a profound threat to the region. Thanks to the generosity of our funders, NYC Audubon is working to protect and restore Jamaica Bay—as Aurora puts it, “the anchor of wildlife in New York City.”

In her role as NYC Audubon’s community science programs manager, Aurora is gratified that her work “bridges two things I think ought to be naturally intertwined: ecology and people.” With support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program, Aurora led community scientists on horseshoe crab surveys this spring, and with volunteers, cleaned six local beaches. She was hard-pressed to name the most fulfilling part of this work, but noted that, “Seeing a person’s eyes light up when surrounded by horseshoe crabs on a moonlit night is an experience I won’t soon forget.” This grant also helped purchase native plants for habitat restoration at the Beach 108th Street ferry landing. Aurora notes that if Jamaica Bay can thrive, it can be used as a model for how to protect the natural environment within urban areas. She hopes for the “future of Jamaica Bay to be kept wild.”



Young volunteers get ready to clean the Rockaways’ 116th Street Beach.

Emilio Tobón, NYC Audubon’s conservation field biologist, continued our 11th consecutive year of American Oystercatcher nest monitoring at Jacob Riis Park, Fort Tilden, and Breezy Point, thanks to funding provided by Manomet (a Massachusetts-based shorebird conservation organization) through an Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. For Emilio, this collection of monitoring data provides a better understanding of the dynamics of the City’s American Oystercatcher colony, which “will help us develop a better strategy for the preservation of this species and its environment.” This year Emilio monitored 41 nesting pairs. Of these, 17 broods hatched, and 13 broods fledged for a total of 22 chicks. Emilio banded 7 chicks for continued monitoring and hopes Jamaica Bay will continue to be a haven for all the species that call its habitats home.



Emilio Tobón (right) and volunteer Matthew Combs, PhD, release banded American Oystercatchers.

After a lapse last year because of the pandemic, Harbor Herons Nesting Survey Coordinator Tod Winston was excited to get back to the islands this spring. Enabled by donations from members including longtime supporters Elizabeth Woods and Charles Denholm, a team of NYC Audubon staff and volunteers from multiple New York City agencies surveyed 20 islands across the New York/New Jersey Harbor, including six islands in Jamaica Bay: Subway, Little Egg, and Elders Point East and West Islands, along with Canarsie Pol and Ruffle Bar. “Jamaica Bay represents both the principal threats to these island habitats, and the importance of maintaining multiple habitats for waterbirds,” Tod says. “These low-lying islands are vulnerable to both human disturbance and sea-level rise. By keeping them preserved for wildlife, we also provide opportunities for the birds to shift their colonies to new locations, as they have in Jamaica Bay multiple times in the past 20 years.” During this year’s study, the surveyors observed 427 nesting pairs of 7 wader species on the Jamaica Bay islands, making this cluster of islands the most diverse wader colony in the harbor.



© Don Reppas

Glossy Ibis are among the seven wader species that regularly nest on Jamaica Bay's Subway Island.

Kaitlyn Parkins, NYC Audubon's associate director of conservation and science, notes that "urban wildlife is often overlooked for conservation funding" and that the Disney Conservation Fund values supporting environmental efforts within cities. A generous grant from the Fund supported an array of projects, including all of NYC Audubon's shorebird research, horseshoe crab surveys, shorebird blitzes, two beach cleanups, and the planting of *Spartina* plants for a marsh island restoration. The Disney Conservation Fund also supported a Jamaica Bay Ecology program for middle school students. Though it was done virtually because of the pandemic, Kaitlyn hosted a "field trip" streamed live from the beach. NYC Audubon also conducted "Share the Shore" beach nesting bird outreach at Jacob Riis Park thanks to the Disney grant's funding.

For Kaitlyn, the most rewarding part of these projects was nanotagging Semipalmated Sandpipers and then following them virtually on their migration to the Arctic. She says it's incredible to see a bird she held in her hand one day show up in Canada days later, and is excited that the data she and NYC Audubon gathered will be used by a larger group to study these long-distance migrants. She reminds us that "ensuring wildlife and people can coexist is going to be critical for wildlife conservation now and in the future."

To read about another important, non-avian wildlife species in Jamaica Bay, see page 15. ■



© NYC Audubon

A Semipalmated Sandpiper is fitted with light-weight tags that will allow tracking of its movements during both migration and the breeding season.

BOOK REVIEW

By Carol Peace Robins



ETTA LEMON THE WOMAN WHO SAVED THE BIRDS

By Tessa Boase
Aurum Press, July 2021

In 1887, a young British woman sat in church observing the extravagant hats of female parishioners. She took notes on the species of birds that had been slaugh-

tered to adorn those hats: peacocks, eagles, grebes, herons, and hummingbirds. Some hats displayed feathers, some body parts (including whole owl heads), and some entire birds. Later, she wrote letters to each of the avian hat fanciers describing the horrors behind the millinery trade.

Tessa Boase has written a fascinating tale of an era and of the plain, outspoken Etta Lemon, the unsung woman who started an all-female organization to rage against the hats, their wearers, and the killers of hundreds of thousands of birds. The group evolved into The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; after fighting for decades, it managed to get the Plumage Act through Parliament in 1921.

Boase also introduces us to Lemon's contemporary Emmeline Pankhurst, a young society woman who became a committed suffragist. Pankhurst cared nothing for birds, and Lemon was adamantly *anti*-suffrage.

Boase depicts the two women and

the diversity of their campaigns: Lemon's concerns ranged from the dire poverty of women feather workers to the reality that hundreds of bird species faced extinction, while Pankhurst's movement encompassed both socialites holding elite tea parties for the women's vote and extreme suffrage activists, arrested for marching, burning, and even bombing their opponents' property. We also read about men and women who truly believed women were inferior creatures, not deserving or even capable of the vote.

NYC Audubon members will appreciate Etta Lemon's foresight. Because large numbers of migrating birds were continually dying, disoriented by the bright lights of marine lighthouses, Lemon proposed building "bird refuges" around the towers, systems of wooden perches that provided resting places and shelter to birds attracted to the lights. Hmmm... sounds like a plan worthy of Project Safe Flight. ■

SAVE THE BUGS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

By Tod Winston

Forty years ago, when I was a preteen birdwatcher growing up in the farm country-turned-suburbs of southeastern Pennsylvania, I remember repeatedly calling out “Another kestrel!” as my father drove my friend David and me on birding adventures in my family’s station wagon. We squinted to make out the diminutive “sparrow hawks” as they flashed by, perched at regular intervals on roadside fences and telephone wires. I also remember our clouded windshield after long drives, marked with the impacts of hundreds of bugs along the way. It has been many years since I’ve had either of these experiences. On a recent birding trip to south Texas, David and I drove for several hours through what seemed like excellent kestrel country, and spotted not one kestrel. And on car trips these days, I rarely have to clean my windshield of anything but dust and soot.

These two changes are not unrelated. As you may have read in the press in recent years, ecologists warn that we are in the midst of an “insect apocalypse”: A German study published in 2017 reported that insect life in protected German green spaces had plummeted 75 percent in a period of 27 years, from 1989 to 2016. A 2019 review of relevant literature published in *Biological Conservation* found that 40 percent of insect species are declining globally.

North American bird life has also been declining. Ornithologists estimate that we have lost 25 percent of our birds in the past 50 years, equating to roughly 3 billion individuals. This alarming decline



© Christopher Ciccone/Audubon Photography Awards

American Kestrels are among the 96 percent of land birds that feed insects (here, a protein-rich caterpillar) to their chicks.

is surely complex in origin. Habitat loss, window collisions, and predation by feral cats are each thought to play large roles. The decline, however, has occurred predominantly among insect-eating birds; numbers of non-insect-eaters have in fact *increased* over the same period. Certainly, simultaneous declines in insectivorous birds and their major food source cannot be unrelated.

Insect life is fundamental to most life on earth. Pollinating insects play a critical role in all terrestrial ecosystems, and all insects lie near the base of the food chain, supporting life across the planet. Bird-lovers know of course that birds, in particular, depend on insects. The warblers and vireos we marvel over each spring, as they flock by the dozen to tall oaks during migration? They’re eating bugs. The swallows, swifts, or nighthawks that we chase with our binoculars as they swoop overhead? Also eating bugs. And perhaps most critically: the Northern Cardinals, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Black-capped Chickadees, and American Kestrels that raise young each year in their respective habitats? No matter what they may eat at other times of the year, they are *feeding* bugs to their chicks. Among land birds,

96 percent feed insects to their chicks, in order to supply them with the protein they need to develop properly, according to research by entomologist Douglas Tallamy. A 2018 study published by Narango, Tallamy, and Marra showed a direct link between insect prey availability and breeding songbird populations.

What is behind the catastrophic loss of insect life that is being observed across the planet? Habitat destruction and a reduction in the proportion of native plant species (upon which native insects depend) are both thought to be important factors. And one need not look far for another primary cause: Scientists estimate that in 2020 alone, 3.5 million tons of pesticides were distributed across the Earth. This broad group of substances comprises various classes of chemicals including insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, and fungicides. All these pesticide types may have direct or indirect negative effects on insects, birds, and other wildlife. More and more studies, however, point to pervasive and increased use of insecticides as—unsurprisingly—a fundamental cause of insect decline. A 2019 study estimated that over the past 25 years, the American agricultural landscape has become 48 times more toxic to honeybees. This increase was found to



© Roger Friedman, DPM

A male Northern Cardinal collects a billful of caterpillars to feed its young.

be primarily due to an increase in one class of insecticides, called neonicotinoids, estimated to produce 92 percent of the increased toxicity found. A recent study has also shown a specific link between neonicotinoid use and bird population decline. (Learn more about neonicotinoid insecticides below.)

Concerned citizens must awaken to the danger posed by ubiquitous insecticide use before it is too late. Many of us felt grief and disgust in reading the report of confirmed extinctions published this

fall by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which included 23 kinds of wildlife including 11 bird species. The Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Bachman's Warbler, and nine unique Hawaiian bird species are gone for good. "How could people have let such things happen?" we ask ourselves. I have often asked myself that question when mourning another bird long confirmed extinct, the Passenger Pigeon. This North American species, thought to have possibly been the most numerous bird in the world in the early 1800s, once

traveled in flocks so immense they were reported to block out the sun.

Surely, today, we know better. But according to the 2019 research review mentioned above, the total mass of insects across the Earth is "falling by a precipitous 2.5 percent a year, according to the best data available, suggesting they could vanish within a century." The prospect of something as ubiquitous and commonplace as insects "vanishing" is so shocking as to seem absurd. But is it? One need only look to the Passenger Pigeon for an answer. ■

THE GROWING EVIDENCE AGAINST "NEONICS"

Over the past 30 years, neonicotinoid insecticides have rapidly become the most common insecticide class used across the Earth. Meaning literally "new nicotine-like insecticides," neonicotinoids such as imidacloprid, clothianidin, and thiamethoxam exert an effect on nerve synapses similar to that of nicotine. Relative to earlier classes of insecticides, these substances were thought to be improvements: They were found to be extremely toxic to invertebrates while exerting fewer apparent toxic effects on humans and other higher organisms. They are also water-soluble, making them a "systemic" insecticide: when applied to the ground or directly to crop seeds, they are absorbed with water by germinating plants via their root systems.

In practice, however, research has shown that the extreme toxicity, water-solubility, and persistence in the environment of neonicotinoids make them far too good at their job. Their systemic nature makes all parts of treated plants—leaves, fruit, and pollen—insecticidal. And the chemicals' potency is such that just one treated corn kernel contains enough active ingredient to kill over 80,000 honeybees. Only an estimated 2 to 3 percent of the chemical applied to each seed is absorbed into the germinating plant, however; the rest disseminates into the soil, and as it is water-soluble, contaminates both soil and water supply, concentrating after year-after-year use.

A growing body of evidence, including several worldwide research assessments by Cornell University and studies funded by the pesticide industry, links increased neonicotinoid use to massive losses in bee populations. In New York State, beekeepers have lost more than 40 percent of their honeybee colonies for the last decade, and wild native bees are thought to be similarly affected.

Studies have specifically linked neonicotinoid use to declining bird populations: a 2020 study in the U.S. found that "an increase in neonicotinoid use led to statistically significant reductions in bird biodiversity between 2008 and 2014 ... particularly for grassland and insectivorous birds, with average annual rates of reduction of 4% and 3%, respectively." Research has shown additional negative impacts on deer, fish, and other wildlife. According to the Center for Disease Control, 50 percent of the U.S. population is exposed to these same chemicals.

Bans on common neonicotinoids are already in place in Europe (though work needs to be done to close loopholes in those laws), and a number of initiatives are being pursued in the U.S. In New York State, the Birds and Bees Protection Act has been introduced by Assemblyman Steve Englebright and Senator Brad Hoylman. (Englebright and Hoylman were also sponsors of 2019's Bird-Friendly Building Council Act, which



Neonicotinoids make the leaves and pollen of plants like Common Milkweed poisonous to this European Honeybee and Monarch caterpillar.

was ultimately vetoed by Governor Cuomo). The Birds and Bees Protection Act would eliminate between 80 and 90 percent of neonicotinoid use in the state, forbidding coated seeds and non-agricultural uses. The bill draws on Cornell University research, which weighed environmental vs. economic costs and found that the neonic uses most toxic to pollinators provided little-to-no agricultural benefit and were replaceable with less toxic alternatives.

The Birds and Bees Protection Act has been passed by the New York State Senate, and will be considered for passage by the State Assembly in early 2022. To learn more and find out how to support this important legislation, see the Avian Advocate Updates section on page 13.

Information in this article was drawn from research publications listed in the online version of this piece at nycadudubon.org/save-the-bugs, as well from a [Neonicotinoid Fact Sheet](#) produced by Audubon New York and other partners, viewable at nycadudubon.org/neonics. ■

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

NYC Audubon's conservation and outreach work would not be possible without the help of hundreds of volunteers who donate thousands of hours each year. Despite limitations imposed by the pandemic this past year, our work carried on, at times in virtual format. If you volunteered during the period of January through September 2021 and your name is not on this list, please let us know. We want to make sure you receive the recognition you deserve.

LEGEND

AA = Avian Advocates
 AC = Advisory Council
 BD = Board of Directors
 CBC = Christmas Bird Count
 CON = Conservation
 EO = Education and Outreach
 FF = Feathered Friends
 FR = Fall Roost
 GI = Governors Island
 IBT = Injured Bird Transporters and Raptors NYC Group
 JB = Jamaica Bay (includes Horseshoe Crab and Shorebird Surveys)
 PA = Photography/Art
 PSF = Project Safe Flight
 TIL = Tribute in Light
 UA = *The Urban Audubon*
 WE = Website and The eCret eNewsletter
 YC = Young Conservationists Council

VOLUNTEERS

Patricia Aakre JB, PSF
 Victoria Adam IBT
 Molly Adams PA
 Tina Alleva PA
 Gigi Altarejos PA
 Divya Anantharaman JB, PSF
 Melody Andres PA
 Richard T. Andrias AC
 Marielle Anzelone PA
 Daniel Arias PA
 Sarah Grimké Aucoin AC
 Seth Ausubel BD
 Novem Auyeung HH
 Iwan Baan/FXCollaborative PA
 Erin Bailey IBT
 Annie Barry GI, WE
 Marina Barry IBT
 Robert Bate BD
 Loyal Beausoleil GI, PA, WE
 Debbie Becker PA, WE
 Danielle Begnaud PSF
 Marianne Bellorin PSF
 Karen Benfield BD, FR, PA
 Bill Benish PA
 Drienne Benner BD
 Hilary Berliner PSF
 Bea Binka PA
 Claude Bloch AC
 Shane Blodgett WE
 MaryJane Boland FR, PA
 Rachel Bondra PSF

Michelle Bonfils PSF
 Victoria Booth IBT
 Ned Boyajian UA
 Marsilia A. Boyle BD
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 Gillian Brassil JB
 Melissa Breyer PA, PSF
 Cindy Brome PSF
 Alyssa Bueno PA
 Sophie Butcher PA
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 Ben Cacace GI
 Timothy Caraballo PA
 Shawn Cargil BD
 Hugh Caroli HH
 Cliff Case AC
 Michael Cashin JB
 César A. Castillo BD, PA, WE
 Camilla Cerea PA
 Suzanne Charlé UA
 Katherine Chen PSF
 Larry Closs PA
 Angela Co BD
 Laura Cocks PSF
 Marisa Cohen PSF
 Kellie Colgan Azar PA
 Matthew Combs CBC, CON, JB
 Christian Cooper BD
 Patricia Cooper EO, JB, PSF
 Robert Coover EO, JB, PSF
 Hector Cordero PSF
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 Dennis Edge PA
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 Ganden Fung JB
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 Lizzy Ratner PA
 Carolyn Reich PSF
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 Don Riepe AC, HH, PA, UA, WE
 Carol Peace Robins UA
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 Lewis Rosenberg AC
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 Nirvana Santos-Kuilan PSF
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 Donna Schulman PA, WE
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Kathleen Scudder PSF
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 Sohel Shah PA
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 James R. Sheffield AC
 John Shemilt AC
 Jean Shum PA, WE
 Georgia Silvera-Seamans
 PA, WE
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 Sarah Simon PSF
 Ben Solotaire JB

Katherine Spack PSF
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 Micki Spiller JB
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 Douglas Tallamy PA

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 John Thieroff CBC, PSF
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Cheryl Wischhover PSF
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 Glenn Woodell PA
 Bibi Yasseen EO, PSF
 D. Bruce Yolton PA
 Ariel Yuan PSF
 Michael Yuan BD
 Terence Zahner PA, WE
 John Zucker PA
 Ryan Zucker AA, CBC, FR,
 CI, PA, TIL, YC

AVIAN ADVOCATE UPDATES

By Sohel Shah



We hope that you all are continuing to be safe and well. Below are some ways to advocate right now for New York City's birds. Make sure to sign up to be an Avian Advocate and receive timely action alert emails at nycaudubon.org/avian-advocates.

SUPPORT LIGHT POLLUTION BILLS

Three bills designed to limit light pollution harmful to migratory birds in our city—Int. 274-2018, 265-2018, and 271-2018—have been introduced in the New York City Council and need your support to get passed. NYC Audubon recently signed onto a letter with over 20 other local conservation and animal welfare organizations in support of

these bills and we urge you to contact your local City Council member to ask them to cosponsor the legislation. The amount of artificial light emitted by a building at night is a strong predictor of the number of collisions it will cause. Light pollution attracts night-migrating birds and can cause them to settle in inhospitable areas, leading to collisions with windows. Thus, it is imperative that these bills be passed by the City Council. To learn how to contact your local City Council member and to sign an online petition urging the New York City Council to pass these bills, please visit nycaudubon.org/avian-advocates.

HELP US PASS THE BIRDS AND BEES PROTECTION ACT IN NEW YORK STATE

Neonicotinoids are neurotoxic insecticides used everywhere: from lawns to gardens to farm fields across the country. This dangerous class of pesticides is responsible for killing bees and other pollinators we depend on for one out of every three bites of food we eat. Research also links “neonics” to large declines in U.S. bird



© Jesse Franck/Shutterstock

Pollinators such as this Tiger Swallowtail and bumblebee are imperiled by neonicotinoid use.

species. Eating just one neonic-treated seed is enough to kill some songbirds, and even at low doses, neonics can harm birds' immune systems, fertility, and navigation. We have partnered with Audubon New York and the Natural Resources Defense Council to push for a ban on neonics in New York State. Please send an urgent message to your New York State lawmakers urging them to pass the Birds and Bees Protection Act (A7429/S699B) by using the online form at nycaudubon.org/avian-advocates.

Learn more about the dangers of neonics and other pesticides on page 10. ■



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Night-time lighting endangers migrating birds.

VOLUNTEER!



Make a difference for the City's wildlife. There are many ways to help. Visit nycaudubon.org/take-action/volunteer to see an overview of NYC Audubon's community science programs, such as Project Safe Flight, as well as habitat improvement events, such as beach clean-ups and plantings.

To view and register for any currently scheduled orientation sessions or events, visit nycaudubon.org/volunteer-events. Sign up for the The eGret eNewsletter at nycaudubon.org/egret to get bimonthly updates on our programs. ■

EVENTS & ADVENTURES



WINTER WALKS ARE ON!

We are pleased to be able to offer a variety of bird walks and van trips this winter, all around New York City and beyond. For more information and to sign up for your favorite wintertime walks as well as free bird walks, visit nycaudubon.org/events-birding/programs-and-events. Registration for members begins Monday, December 13, at 9am. Registration for nonmembers begins Monday, December 20, at 9am.

Please note: Due to COVID-19 precautions and restrictions, those participating in van trips will be required to provide proof of vaccination. We appreciate your understanding.



© Loyd Sprank

In the winter, Snow Buntings may be found in New York City. Likely spots include the wide open spaces of southern Queens, Staten Island's south shore, and Governors Island.

AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT AND GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Don't miss these two fun wintertime opportunities to bird while contributing to important community science projects.

THE 122ND ANNUAL AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is carried out in all five boroughs in late December. See how many counts you can join! Dates and coordinator info are below. Learn more about the history of the CBC at nycaudubon.org/cbc.

- ◆ **Bronx & Westchester:** Sun., Dec. 26, Michael Bochnik, bochnikm@cs.com, hras.org/bronx-westchester-count
- ◆ **Brooklyn:** Sat., Dec. 18, Bobbi Manian, roberta.manian@gmail.com
- ◆ **NJ-Lower Hudson (including Manhattan):** Sun., Dec. 19, Kaitlyn Parkins, christmasbirdcount@nycaudubon.org, nycaudubon.org/cbc
- ◆ **Queens:** Sun., Dec. 19, Corey Finger, 10000birdsblogger@gmail.com, qcbirdclub.org (not accepting participants after Dec. 5)
- ◆ **Staten Island:** Saturday, December 18, Cliff Hagen, chagen72@gmail.com

THE 25TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Join birders all over the world from Friday, February 18 to Monday, February 21, 2022, and record all the birds you see in your yard or local parks. All you need are your binoculars and ebird.org. Visit birdcount.org to learn how to participate in this annual tradition run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon Society, and Birds Canada/Oiseaux Canada.

COME TO GOVERNORS ISLAND THIS WINTER

We're happy to announce that Governors Island is now open to the public all year round! Even better, ferry service is now 7am to 6pm, seven days a week, allowing birders to get out to the island early and often. With 225 species on eBird, this is a must-see spot for any New York City birder. Visit govisland.com for more information and to reserve a ferry ticket.

For program updates right in your inbox, make sure to sign up for The eGret eNewsletter at nycaudubon.org/egret. And follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@nycaudubon).

WINTER 2021-2022 LECTURE SERIES

RSVP is required for these virtual events, which are free and open to the public. RSVP at nycaudubon.org/lectures. This series is made possible by the support of Claude and Lucienne Bloch.

BIRDPEDIA: A BRIEF COMPENDIUM OF AVIAN LORE

Monday, December 6, 7-8pm

With Christopher W. Leahy

This engaging talk with author Christopher Leahy will showcase *Birdpedia*, an illustrated compendium featuring nearly 200 topics ranging from plumage and migration to birds in art, literature, and folklore. Leahy holds the Gerard A. Bertrand Chair of Natural History and Field Ornithology (Emeritus) at the Massachusetts Audubon Society. His books include *Birds of Mongolia* and *The Birdwatcher's Companion to North American Birdlife*.

A POCKET GUIDE TO PIGEON WATCHING: GETTING TO KNOW THE WORLD'S MOST MISUNDERSTOOD BIRD

Monday, January 24, 7-8pm

With Rosemary Mosco

Meet *Columba livia* (aka the pigeon)! With historical anecdotes, accessible science, and fun facts drawn from her new book, Rosemary Mosco will open the eyes of every town- and city-dweller (not to mention birdwatcher) to the wonders of these oft overlooked creatures. Mosco is the creator of the popular *Bird and Moon* comics, as well as the co-author of *The Atlas Obscura Explorer's Guide for the World's Most Adventurous Kid*.

THE HISTORY OF NATIVE PLANTS

Monday, February 28, 7-8pm

With Maureen Regan

We know native plants are good for birds, but how do we relate to them as people? Maureen Regan is the founder of Green Earth Urban Gardens, a Queens-based nonprofit organization focused on the importance of green spaces and gardening in urban communities. Join her for a talk on our native plants, their benefits, and their historic role.

MEIBURG AND WEIDENSAUL IN CONVERSATION

Monday, March 21, 7-8pm

With Jonathan Meiburg and Scott Weidensaul

Meet two fascinating writers of the avian world, Jonathan Meiburg and Scott Weidensaul. Meiburg's book, *A Most Remarkable Creature: The Hidden Life and Epic Journey of the World's Smartest Birds of Prey*, introduces us to the caracaras—clever, social birds that puzzled Darwin and carry secrets of our planet's deep past in their family history. Scott Weidensaul's most recent book, *New York Times* bestseller *A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds*, draws on his fieldwork to unveil the migratory miracle of nature taking place right over our heads. ■

DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN (MALACLEMYS TERRAPIN)

By Don Riepe

Named for the repeating diamond pattern on its shell, this small, beautifully marked *terrapin* (a corruption of an Algonquin word meaning “little turtle”) is a small aquatic turtle that inhabits brackish coastal estuary marshes from Cape Cod to the Florida Keys. In New York City, Diamondback Terrapins are most common in Jamaica Bay. I don’t see as many as I once did, however: in the 1980s, I would routinely count over 100 terrapin heads jutting above the shallow bay water as I walked around the West Pond of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in June and July. Today I am likely to find just a dozen, at most.

Diamondback Terrapins live most of their lives in the water, where they feed on mollusks and other invertebrates, aided by their strongly webbed feet (unlike true sea turtles, which have flippers). Females of the species come ashore once a year, at high tide in late spring and early summer, to lay eggs. They may wander a considerable distance into dunes or scrubby areas, before digging a nest—laying 12 eggs on average, according to local researcher Dr. Russel L. Burke of Hofstra University, who along with student Alexandra Kanonik and others has studied local terrapin ecology for over 20 years. The young terrapins hatch in late summer or early fall, but may overwinter in their nest before descending to the water in the spring.

Terrapins have been subjected to a number of threats over the centuries. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, terrapin “sweet meat” was a high-priced gourmet item on New York City restaurant menus—and by the 1920s, the species’ numbers had fallen sharply throughout its range as a result of decades of overharvesting. Though that particular threat to the species became less prominent over time, its population may have never fully recovered from that drop, and it has continued to suffer throughout its range from loss of salt marsh habitat.

Current threats to Diamondback Terrapins include drowning in crab traps, entanglement in discarded fishing nets, obstruction of beach nesting sites by seawalls and bulkheads, obliteration of foraging and beach nesting habitat by

development and sea level rise, and nest predation by skunks, foxes, and, in Jamaica Bay, an elevated population of raccoons. According to Dr. Burke’s research, raccoons prey on over 95 percent of nests at the West Pond area of the refuge. To counteract raccoon predation, Dr. Burke and his students place wire cages around the turtle nests and flag the sites, which can be seen on a walk around the West Pond.

For over 25 years, I have been removing illegal crab traps left unattended in Jamaica Bay. One recently found abandoned trap contained 46 dead terrapins and 2 live ones; more than half were breeding females. Fortunately, much of that crabbing activity has declined. (I believe I have outlived one egregious repeat offender.) Recently, however, there has been a spate of nocturnal poaching of clams and turtles at low tide in the bay. Thanks to the vigilance of the Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers and the American Littoral Society, this illegal activity has been mostly shut down by the U.S. Park Police and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation officers. I say mostly, as we must be constantly on the

lookout for poachers.

In the recent past at JFK Airport, built upon historical salt marsh, female terrapins have stopped plane traffic by crawling across active runways, most likely in search of nesting habitat. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has constructed “turtle barriers” along the runway edges, and wildlife biologists with the Port Authority and U.S. Department of Agriculture routinely remove and relocate individuals that still manage to make their way onto the runways.

Despite these ongoing conservation efforts, Dr. Burke’s two-decade study shows that the Jamaica Bay terrapin population is on a slow, steady decline. Turtles are long-lived; they have been known to live upwards of 40 years. Hopefully, marsh restoration and shoreline protection programs, along with raccoon control, will help populations of these wonderful reptiles rebound or at least stabilize in Jamaica Bay and elsewhere on Long Island.

May the Diamondback Terrapins live long and prosper—with a little help from their friends. ■



A Diamondback Terrapin female digs her nest (and shows off her shell pattern).

© Martin Kas/CC BY-NC 2.0

GIVE A GIFT OF BIRDS

By Rebecca Minardi

It's that time of the year again—when we start scratching our heads over what to give those we love. NYC Audubon hopes to make it a little easier for you with this bird-filled holiday gift guide. (And don't forget that a NYC Audubon membership is a gift that keeps giving—both to the recipient, and to the birds. See the back cover to learn more about gift memberships—and also find one more gift, Janet Mavec's limited-edition gold Great Horned Owl pendant.)



Kingbird Espresso
(from \$14.50 at birdsandbeanscoffee.com)
The only U.S. company that sells triple-certified coffee (bird-friendly, organic, and fair trade), Birds and Beans is where birders get their caffeine fix. This coffee is its newest roast, with notes of toffee and mandarin orange.



American Kestrel Hat
(\$28 at birdcollective.com)
Keep the sun out of your eyes in style with this fabulous washed cotton twill hat sporting an embroidered American Kestrel, the symbol of NYC Audubon. Even better: 20 percent of the profits from each sale support New York's Grassland Bird Trust. Look cool and help grassland birds at the same time.



Grande Cookie Sampler
(\$50 at larkfinefoods.com)
Burnt sugar and fennel shortbread? Yes, please! This cookie assortment has all your snack needs covered from Mexican-chocolate cha-chas to coconut butter cookies. Now, if I could just find somewhere to hide this from my family....



Barn Owl Bowl
(\$198 at laurazindel.com)
Featuring Zindel's exquisite drawings, this handmade ceramic bowl's Barn Owl looks ready to leap upon the table. Though it's perfect for holding holiday goodies, it may also be simply admired for the art it is.



Arbor Zip Pack
(\$89 at patagonia.com)
Comfortably store all your birding needs in Patagonia's 22-liter backpack. You can choose from several patterns and colors by buying it new, or you can purchase it through Worn Wear, Patagonia's hub for gently used gear and clothing. Buying used cuts an item's combined carbon, water, and waste footprint by 73 percent.

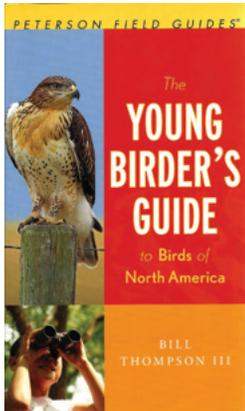


CL Companion Binoculars
(from \$1,388 at swarovskioptik.com)
With 8x30 and 10x30 options, these updated bins from Swarovski continue to provide the quality views birders have come to expect, but are much more lightweight than other binoculars. At only about 17 ounces, they might be a good choice for those weighed down by full-size binoculars. (Looking for a slightly more affordable pair of quality binoculars? We suggest the Nikon Prostaff or Monarch lines at nikonusa.com.)

BIRDY BOOKS FOR ALL AGES

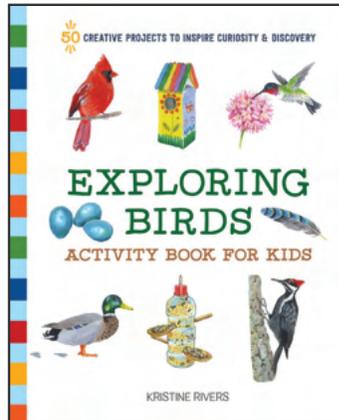
There's nothing like a good bird book for a birder—whether that birder is just starting out or has already trod many happy birding trails. Here's a selection of new books for birders of all levels and all ages.

BIRD BOOKS FOR KIDS



The Young Birder's Guide to North America (Peterson Guides)
By Bill Thompson III

This wonderful tome hits the sweet spot of engaging information that isn't dumbed down. Featuring 300 birds, the guide was written with the help of Thompson's children, and each species included has a place for the birder to note their first sighting.



Exploring Birds: Activity Book for Kids
By Kristine Rivers

With 50 project and practice ideas, including field sketching, learning how binoculars work, and birdy bingo, this new addition to kids' bird books is quite welcome. Rivers inspires children to see birds everywhere and discover the uniqueness of each species.



The Little Book of Backyard Bird Songs
The Little Book of Woodland Bird Songs
By Andrea Pinnington and Caz Buckingham

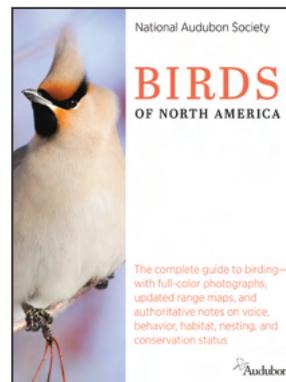
We can't forget the toddler set! Each of these books includes 12 song buttons for little ones to press when they read about some of the birds that live in their backyards. Yes, this makes noise, but who could get tired of hearing the House Wren's song?

BIRD BOOKS FOR GROWN-UPS



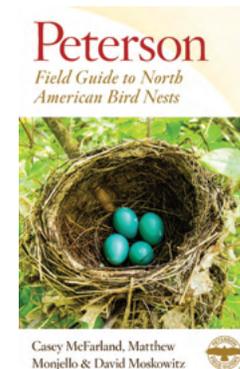
Birdpedia: A Brief Compendium of Avian Lore
By Christopher W. Leahy;
illustrations by Abby McBride

This charmingly illustrated A-to-Z guide to all things *bird* covers bird ecology ("anting," "caching," or "mobbing," anyone?), literature, folklore, art, and more. It's sure to entertain novice and long-time birders alike. (See page 14 for details on an upcoming lecture by Mr. Leahy.)



Birds of North America
By National Audubon Society

Audubon's photographic guide is out in a larger format, in its first update since 1980. The book's beautiful new photography and conservation information make it a worthwhile addition to any bird lover's library, though its size and lack of ID detail make it more of a coffee table reference than a field guide.



Peterson Field Guide to North American Bird Nests
By Casey McFarland, Matthew Monjello,
and David Moskowitz

Even experienced birders can be stumped by an unoccupied bird nest—with or without eggs. This comprehensive field guide not only provides color photos and detailed descriptions, but also a wealth of information on breeding ecology and habitat. A must for any birder-naturalist. ■

THE FALL ROOST LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

By Suzanne Charlé

At the entrance to the Central Park Zoo tropical aviary, Seraphina Cottman pointed up, calling out: “A Blue-and-Gold Macaw!” How did she recognize this South American parrot? The six-year-old proudly replied: “My mother and I have been birding for a *long time!*” Her mother, Katina Grays—a NYC Audubon member and volunteer leader for Outdoor Afro-NYC—said that when Kathryn Heintz reached out to her with an invitation to the Fall Roost, she decided to bring Seraphina as her “plus one.”

Children attending the 17th annual Fall Roost was just one of a number of firsts, in part as a result of the pandemic: Rather than a sit-down dinner, this year’s Roost was held outdoors at the zoo; hence “fledglings” were welcome guests. So, too, were members of valued partner community groups, including Outdoor Afro, Latino Outdoors, NYC Queer Birders, the Feminist Bird Club, and others who were as keen to watch the birds as Seraphina. Strolling through the Antarctica exhibit, Ryan Mandelbaum of NYC Audubon’s Young Conservationists Council smiled: “I love to watch any bird taking a bath!” Nearby, Tom Stephenson of NYC Audubon’s advisory council checked his self-created app, *BirdGenie*, which helps identify birds by their calls. (In this case, the cacophony of penguins and sea birds made it nigh on impossible.)

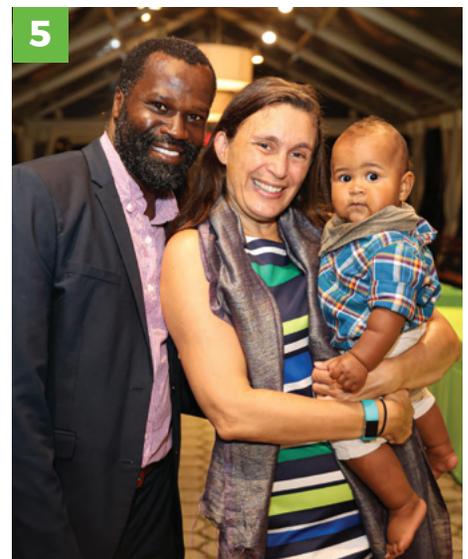
After watching sea lions leap for their dinner, guests entered a large tent to enjoy hors d’oeuvres and drinks while visiting NYC Audubon-staffed programming tables to learn about NYC Audubon’s conservation and education programs.

As they walked about to the jazzy strains of the Richard Cortez Band, attendees bid on their cell phones for silent auction items, including birding adventures and walks. One, a birding tour of Jamaica Bay in Don Riepe’s boat, the Jamaica Bay Guardian, proved so popular that a bidder—after learning that someone else had won—approached the director of the American Littoral Society’s Northeast Chapter and asked if there was a second ride she might bid on.

Particular acknowledgment was made of two important and departing figures at NYC Audubon. Board members Steven Dean

and Tatiana Kaletsch (also chair of the fundraising committee) thanked recently retired Kellye Rosenheim for all her efforts as director of development (and as co-author of *Birdwatching in New York City and on Long Island*).

Accolades were offered to Kathryn Heintz, executive director since September 2014, who is leaving her post by year’s end. Board President Karen Benfield and Immediate Past President Jeff Kimball noted that Kathryn routinely went beyond her regular job, bringing groceries to housebound members—and even driving a sick parrot to the vet. When COVID-19 hit, she worked Sundays, successfully applying for two Paycheck



Protection Program bailouts to ensure that NYC Audubon staff salaries and bills were paid.

“She is a consummate connector of people,” said Kimball, noting that thanks to her leadership, Local Law 15 of 2020—better known as the Bird-Friendly Building Law—was passed. “A superstar!”

For all this and more, Kathryn was presented with “the binoculars of your dreams ... since you’ll now have time to stop and look at the birds.” The gift seemed on target, as Kathryn spoke of her post-retirement plans: “In the near term I plan to join as many bird walks as I can,” especially in Bronx parks near her home. And once travel opens up a bit more? “Seeing all these tropical birds and penguins makes me long for an expedition—tropical and even Antarctic.” (Read more about Kathryn’s tenure at NYC Audubon on page 22.)

Still at the fore, however, Kathryn urged the 230 attendees to donate to NYC Audubon’s crowd-raising effort for free walks and

binoculars. “Bringing more people into birding is the first step in growing ranks of conservationists,” said Karen Benfield. “We are so proud of this effort.”

Mike Yuan, executive vice president of the board and chair of the audit committee, explained that NYC Audubon is aiming to offer 100 free guided walks to under-served communities in all five boroughs, and to buy 200 pairs of binoculars to introduce kids to the joys of birding. “It’s the gift that keeps on giving,” said Shawn Cargil, board member and chair of the engagement committee.

As the evening came to a close, Kathryn Heintz called out her thanks to the Roost co-chairs, to her staff of 13, and to the efforts of attending community partners: “You are the future!”

So far, this year’s Fall Roost has raised over \$230,000 for NYC Audubon’s conservation work, including \$5,150 (halfway to our goal) towards 200 pairs of new quality binoculars for our outreach and education programs and \$5,000 (a third of the way to our goal) towards 100 free bird walks across the five boroughs.

To bring more New Yorkers across the City into our flock, please contribute towards the purchase of quality binoculars and free bird walks at nycaudubon.org/roost-2021-crowdraise. ■



ROOST PHOTOGRAPHS (all guests identified left to right)

1. Outdoor Afro-NYC leader Katina Grays with daughter Seraphina Cottman (and a Blue-and-Gold Macaw); 2. Board Member Angela Co, Brooklyn CBC Co-Compiler Chris Laskowski, Executive Vice President Mike Yuan; 3. Guests from Latino Outdoors; 4. Former Director of Development Kellye Rosenheim, Board Member Steven A. Dean, Board Member and Roost Co-Chair Tatiana Kaletsch; 5. Chair of the Engagement Committee Shawn Cargil with wife Jennifer Beaugrand and son Aiden; 6. Executive Director Kathryn Heintz, President Karen Benfield, and Immediate Past President Jeff Kimball; 7. Scarlet Ibis, Scarlet Macaw, and Peafowl; 8. the Sea Lions; 9. Roost revelers including Naturalist and Guide Gabriel Willow; Feminist Bird Club members Chelsea Lawrence, Alex Tey, Jim McNamee; Young Conservationist Ryan Mandelbaum; Associate Director of Conservation and Science Kaitlyn Parkins; Feminist Bird Club member Britt Widseth; the American Museum of Natural History’s Paul Sweet; Washington Square Park Eco Projects’ Georgia Silvera-Seamans, PhD; Young Conservationist Akilah Lewis; the American Museum of Natural History’s Erin Chapman; Gotham Taxidermist Divya Anantharaman; Feminist Bird Club leader Jeana Fucello; the New York Aquarium’s Jennifer Plummer Kepler; Feminist Bird Club member Haley Scott; Environmental Educator Alyssa Bueno; Community Science Programs Manager Aurora Crooks

All Fall Roost photos © Sahrina Asch Photography

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE FALL ROOST

CO-CHAIRS

Karen Benfield
MaryJane Boland
Marcia T. Fowle
Catherine Schragis Heller
Tatiana Kaletsch

HOST COMMITTEE

Kettles of Hawks

Catherine and Lloyd Heller
Jeff Kimball and
Pamela Hogan

Parliaments of Owls

Karen Benfield and
John Zucker
Lauren and Ethan
Klingsberg
Jennifer and Philip Maritz
Alan and Cathy Steel
Mary and Michael Tannen

Bouquets of Pheasants

Marsilia Boyle
Barbara and Joseph Ellis
Marcia and Bruce Fowle
Philip Fried and
Bruce Patterson
Kathryn and Vincent G.
Heintz
Sally Jeffords
Clark Mitchell and
David Lapham
Cheryl Reich and
David Dewhurst
Robert W. Wilson
Charitable Trust
Antonia Stolper and
Bob Fertik
Virginia K. Stowe
Wood Thrush Fund

Duets of Loons

Gina Argento
Kristen Bancroft
Drienne Benner
Claude and Lucienne
Bloch
MaryJane Boland and
Daniel Picard
Broadway Stages
Alexander Ewing and
Wynn Senning
Joshua R. Ginsberg
Nancy Hager
Ellen and Scott Hand
Laura and David Harris
Steve Hogden and
Karen Tenser
Tatiana Kaletsch
Bobbie Leigh
Karen and Timothy
Macdonald
Patrick Markee and
Lizzy Ratner
Kathy Mele
Joyce F. Menschel
Genie and Donald Rice
Lew and Sheila Rosenberg
Jennifer Shotwell
Laura Whitman and
Thomas Danziger

Piping Plovers

Chris Allieri
Seth Ausubel and
Mary Normandia
Gregg and Cynthia Fisher
Kyu Lee
Phyllis and Slade Mills
John and Heather Shemilt

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Rick and Jane Andrias
Caryl Hudson Baron
Linda and Stephen Breskin
Gay Brookes
Virginia Carter
Angela Co
Gina Colelli
Christian Cooper
Rebekah Creshkoff
Angela Curmi
Andrew Darrell and
Dana Tang
Steven Dean
Marisa DeDominicis
Wolfgang Demisch
Alan Drogin
Toni Erlich
Sandy Fiebelkorn
Pietro Filippini
Kate and Andrew French
Catherine Freudenberg
Philip Fried and
Bruce Patterson
Elliot Avi Gitler
Edward and Diana Greene
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Steve Pequignot
Carlene Jadusingh and
Michelle Hyde
Jill and Ken Iscol
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Mary Jane Kaplan
Gail Karlsson and
Edward Oldfield
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Jeffrey LaHoste
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Deborah Laurel
Elizabeth Wainstock and
Suzanne Little
Heather Loebner
Tom K. Loizeaux
Irene Mallinger
Hope Matthiessen and
David Boorstin
E.J. McAdams and
Kathleen Ruen
Christopher J. McKenzie

Joseph and Deborah
McManus
Kate McMullan
Raymond and Katherine
Mendez
Judy Miller
Maura Murphy
Heidi Nitze
Elizabeth Norman and
Jane McAndrew
Gale Page and Frank
Smith
Mona Payton
Tracy and Greg Plowman
Cristina Profumo
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Jackie Tran
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Sam Wertheimer and
Pamela Rosenthal
Bonnie E. Williams
Michael Yuan and Nicky
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Academy of Medical and
Public Health Service
AmPark Neighborhood
School X344
Black Birders Week NYC
Earth Matter
Feminist Bird Club
Outdoor Afro-NYC
Latino Outdoors NYC
NYC Queer Birders
Organization of Chinese
Americans
Ramapough Lenape
Nation
Sadhana: Coalition of
Progressive Hindus
West Harlem Art Fund
Young Conservationists

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Caryl Hudson Baron
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John Zucker
Virginia Carter
Christian Cooper
Marisa DeDominicis
Marcia and Bruce Fowle
Nancy B. Hager
Catherine and Lloyd Heller
Carlene Jadusingh and
Michelle Hyde

Jane A. Kendall
Jeffrey Kimball and
Pamela Hogan
Robert Kimtis and Susan
Bynum
Deborah Laurel
E.J. McAdams and
Kathleen Ruen
Maura Murphy
Alan and Cathy Steel
Terry R. Taylor
Nancy Ann Ward
Bonnie E. Williams
Michael Yuan and
Nicky Combs

FREE WALKS AND BINOCULARS CROWD-RAISE DONORS

Divya Anantharaman
Ronald Cary Andujar
Gina J Argento
Caryl Hudson Baron
Elise Boeger
MaryJane Boland and
Daniel Picard
Gay Brookes
Liz Cecere
Jennifer Collins
Alexander Ewing and
Wynn Senning
Gregg and Cynthia Fisher
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Paul Sweet
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Laura Zindel Designs

GIFT BAG DONORS

Birds & Beans Coffee
Bird Collective
Feather Friendly
Great Performances
Janet Mavec Jewelry
Lark Fine Foods
Live Monarch Foundation
67 Wine & Spirits

SPECIAL THANKS

Linda Abbey
Karen Benfield
Elise Boeger
MaryJane Boland
Marcy Boyle
Brianna Cea
Angie Co
Steven Dean
Sandy Ewing
Marcia Fowle
Katina Grays
Cathy Heller
Tatiana Kaletsch
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Richard Cortez Band
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Something Different
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studiokat LLC
Wildlife Conservation
Society
The incredible
NYC Audubon staff

Note: If you meant to make a donation during this year's Fall Roost and do not see your name above, please contact us at development@nycaudubon.org. We will gratefully acknowledge your support in the next issue of *The Urban Audubon*. ■



A Snowy Owl rests in the dunes of the Rockaways in Queens.

REMEMBER THE BIRDS

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

A bequest can be expressed in a Will as simply as, "I bequeath [a sum of money, a percentage of my estate, or an IRA, life insurance

policy, or investment/bank account] to New York City Audubon Society, 71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1523, New York, NY 10010." Consult with your attorney to determine what is best for your particular situation.

Visit nycaudubon.org/leave-a-legacy or contact us at development@nycaudubon.org to learn more about planning a gift for NYC Audubon. ■

NEWS & NOTES

MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT PROTECTIONS RESTORED

In an eagerly awaited step, in late September the Biden-Harris administration announced a final rule to revoke changes made to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act by the Trump administration in early January 2021. The new rule will ensure that industry will be held accountable for the millions of birds killed by industrial hazards, consistent with judicial precedent and long-standing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service practice prior to 2017. Access the rule along with related information at fws.gov/regulations/mbta.

THE SUN WILL CONTINUE TO SHINE ON BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

In a victory for New York City green space and Brooklyn birders and plant aficionados alike, a zoning application for high rise development adjacent to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) was rejected in August by the City Planning Commission. The two 39-story rental towers planned for 960 Franklin Avenue, the subject of a sustained "Fight for Sunlight" campaign by BBG, had

threatened to shade important parts of the Garden, including its greenhouses and nursery.

BIRD-FRIENDLY LEGISLATION

Several important pieces of legislation involving night-time lighting and pesticide use are being considered at the local and state level. They need your support. See Avian Advocate Updates on page 13 to learn more.

BOARD AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

This October, the Audubon Council of New York State awarded NYC Audubon Board Member and Conservation Committee Chair Marsilia A. Boyle with the Norman I. Stotz Award. This annual award recognizes the Audubon New York affiliate who best demonstrates extraordinary leadership on behalf of the Audubon Society in broad-based state-wide, regional, and local contexts, and whose contributions to the environmental cause best carries forward the spirit of Norman I. Stotz. Stotz was a longtime supporter of both NYC Audubon and Audubon New York and a passionate advocate for birds and their habitat.

In January of 2000, Marcy, then a NYC Audubon member, answered an ad in *The Urban Audubon* seeking new directors; the nominating committee chaired by Geoffrey Cobb Ryan and including Norman I. Stotz brought her on board. Over the intervening 21 years, she has served continuously as a NYC Audubon director, officer, or member of the advisory council, sharing her expertise and championing the City's birds through NYC Audubon's policy and advocacy work. She also serves on the board of Audubon New York and has led the Audubon Council of New York State as its president. Congratulations, Marcy!

STAFF

We are happy to announce that Valérie Tessa Chermiset joined the NYC Audubon team in October as our new director of development. With a rich and varied background in nonprofit management, administration, and development in New York City, Tessa is certain to be a great asset to NYC Audubon. Read more about Tessa at nycaudubon.org/our-staff. ■

WE BID A GRATEFUL FAREWELL TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KATHRYN HEINTZ

By Marcia T. Fowle

Seven years ago, Kathryn Heintz took the helm of New York City Audubon, having held leadership positions at The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Wave Hill public garden in the Bronx, and the Wildlife Conservation Society. At the start, she studied our then-35-year history of connecting people to the diversity of wildlife in our city, a unique metropolitan area along a major bird migration route: 77,580 acres of green space, including over 20 uninhabited islands, 578 miles of waterfront, 400 species of birds, and an ever-increasing number of birders and nature lovers.

Kathryn immediately recognized the strength of our scientific track record—studies of herons breeding on the harbor islands, surveys of vacant lands along Jamaica Bay’s shoreline, and a running database from Project Safe Flight—and set out to grow an already robust conservation and science division. Building the conservation team to four full-time and six part-time staff, all trained in various scientific disciplines, she cemented the role of NYC Audubon as the science-based organization dedicated to the protection of New York City’s birds and their habitats.

From the start, Kathryn grasped our membership’s devotion to seasonal field trips and expanded our programming. Besides growing our dedicated staff, she engaged more trip leaders and extended the offerings into new sites across the five boroughs, such as Ridgewood Reservoir in Brooklyn and Queens, Shirley Chisholm State Park in Queens, and Freshkills Park in Staten Island. Free field trips were offered to members, as well as free bird walks for school-age children.

During the pandemic, Kathryn gathered staff, board members, and volunteers to adapt our research and programming in a rapidly changing landscape. She supported the staff in recreating Feathered Friends, our popular after-school program for elementary school kids in The Bronx, in a virtual setting.

Five years ago, Kathryn partnered with the Trust of Governors Island to

establish Nolan Park House #17, our three-season environmental center. She supported integration of our programs with resident artists; a music festival, The Rite of Summer; and a bird walk in honor of Pride Month. She also secured winter access for expert bird monitors, who have rapidly raised the Governors Island eBird hotspot total to an impressive 225 species.

Kathryn faced environmental issues with gusto. A brochure about rodenticide use in the private sector was distributed, and green roofs as wildlife habitat were advanced, starting with the green roofs at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in Manhattan and Kingsland Wildflowers in Green Point, Brooklyn. She testified before the New York City Council, advocating for increased parks and natural areas funding, against irresponsible pesticide use, and for sustainable and bird-friendly development on Governors Island.

The most important piece of legislation passed during Kathryn’s tenure is Local Law 15. She and her staff at NYC Audubon, which included a newly appointed advocacy position, brought together architects, lawyers, birders, and the American Bird Conservancy, along with the Real Estate Board of New York’s sustainability committee. The result was the passage of a bird-friendly building law of national significance, which serves as a model for other metropolitan areas intent on saving an important part of urban living, birdlife.

Kathryn brought on new development and finance team members who, with board members’ input, watched over funding and budget matters. Thanks to her experience and frugality, money was raised and budgets were balanced, despite the unexpected challenges of the last two years.

Looking forward, Kathryn guided the publication of NYC Audubon’s *Strategic Plan, 2020-2025: A Vision for the Future*, infused with an emphasis on creating a more diverse and inclusive organization at all levels. Understanding the importance of building a NYC Audubon that better reflects the diverse face of New York



Kathryn and a Eurasian Eagle-Owl get to know one another at the Jamaica Bay Raptorama! Festival.

City, she has supported creation of the organization’s Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility committee, has fostered a more diverse board of directors and staff, and has overseen the creation of new outreach partnerships with local organizations such as Outdoor Afro–NYC and Latino Outdoors.

We take great pride in the NYC Audubon that Kathryn has strengthened and secured as a leader among environmental organizations in New York City—“the greenest big city on earth,” as Kathryn recently told *The New York Times*.

With tongue in cheek, Kathryn says she is leaving to clean out her attic. It’s hard to imagine her working alone, sifting through family memorabilia under the rafters. I would like to give her a hand, as she has given us—but am certain she already has an organized plan to get it done in jig time. When that job is done, I look forward to birding together at one of her favorite spots in the Bronx, near her Mount Vernon home.

Marcia T. Fowle, longtime co-editor of The Urban Audubon, current co-chair of the advisory council, and former board member, served as NYC Audubon’s first executive director, from 1992 to 1998. ■

HELP US BUILD A SAFER CITY FOR BIRDS

New York City provides stopover, nesting, and wintering habitat for hundreds of bird species throughout the year, but still remains a perilous place for many. NYC Audubon has fought for over 40 years to make the City healthier for both birds and people. Help us continue our work—to ensure that collision-prone buildings are retrofitted to prevent the deaths of migrants like the Northern Flicker, and to enact Lights Out legislation to help night-migrating birds navigate safely along their ancient routes.

And remember: the more New Yorkers we can bring into this effort, the more powerful we will be! Share your love of birds by donating towards free walks across the five boroughs and quality binoculars for our educational programs with both children and adults.

See the many ways to give below—and visit nycaudubon.org/roost-2021-crowdraise to provide free walks and binoculars.

NEW: BECOME A YOUNG CONSERVATIONIST

Calling all young nature-lovers, ages 18-35! For \$25 per year, a Young Conservationist membership will contribute to NYC Audubon's conservation work, and get you (or a young person you know) connected to the Young Conservationists Council and all they have planned: Flappy Hours, lectures, bioblitzes, trivia nights, and more. See the membership form below at the right or donate online at nycaudubon.org/donate.

The Young Conservationists Council, formed in early 2020, is a group of young New Yorkers who are committed to sharing the wonders of the City's diverse ecosystem with the next generation of New Yorkers, and who are dedicated to protecting and conserving its natural habitats.

GIVE MONTHLY

Provide ongoing monthly support to ensure our birds are protected throughout the year. You can make a huge difference for as little as \$15 per month. See the membership form at right or visit nycaudubon.org/donate.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN KESTREL CIRCLE

Soar above the rest by making a donation of \$2,500 or more. American Kestrel Circle Patrons enjoy special access and exclusive tours (as possible given physical distancing restrictions). See the membership form at right or donate online at nycaudubon.org/donate. Contact us to learn more.

GIVE A MATCHING GIFT

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

REMEMBER THE BIRDS

Please consider remembering the birds in your estate plan: see page 21.

To learn more, contact us at (646) 502-9611 or development@nycaudubon.org.



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The beautiful Northern “yellow-shafted” Flicker, poignantly featured on this issue’s cover, is a migratory woodpecker that passes through New York City in great numbers in spring and fall. Some stay to nest in our woodlands and may linger through mild winters.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Contributing members are essential to our conservation and outreach work.

Members receive *The Urban Audubon* newsletter and The eGret eNewsletter, enjoy discounts on field trips and classes, and make a difference for the City’s wildlife.

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

I would like to become a member by making a one-time donation:

- American Kestrel Circle \$2,500 Conservationist \$500 Advocate \$250
 Supporter \$100 Family \$75 Friend \$25 Dual Friend \$50
 Young Conservationist(18-35) \$25 Student/Senior(65+) \$15 Dual Senior \$30

I'd like to ADD a gift for NYC Audubon's community outreach and education work:

- \$50 purchases a pair of quality binoculars \$150 underwrites a free bird walk

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is my check payable to NYC Audubon

Charge my credit card: VISA MC AMEX DISC

CARD #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Mail this form with your payment to:

NYC Audubon • 71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1523 • New York, NY 10010

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



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GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP



GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

Protect birds and their habitat in New York City
with a gift membership to NYC Audubon

Members receive *The Urban Audubon* newsletter and The eGret eNewsletter, enjoy discounts on field trips and classes, and make a difference for the City's wildlife.

- American Kestrel Circle \$2,500
- Conservationist \$500
- Advocate \$250
- Supporter \$100
- Family \$75
- Friend \$25
- Dual Friend \$50
- Young Conservationist(18-35) \$25
- Student/Senior(65+) \$15
- Dual Senior \$30

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 \$50 purchases a pair of quality binoculars \$150 underwrites a free bird walk

Gift Message to Recipient: _____

Gift Membership Recipient Information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Gift Membership Contributor Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- Enclosed is my check payable to NYC Audubon
- Charge my credit card: VISA MC AMEX DISC

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This holiday season, spread your love of birds along with good cheer. Consider sharing NYC Audubon with your loved ones, at left. And see page 16 for a varied selection of bird-inspired gift ideas. (Or give an owl! See below.) Happy Holidays.

**BUBO OWL PENDANT
BY JANET MAVEC**

All owls are special—but artist Janet Mavec has created this limited-edition pendant just for NYC Audubon, in honor of our 40th anniversary. Named "Bubo" for the Latin name of the Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus*, this highly versatile jewelry will please any nature lover.



Jewelry details:
18K gold-plated brass
matte antique finish
adjustable 28-30" -long chain

If you buy Bubo at janetmavec.com, Janet will donate part of the proceeds to NYC Audubon for bird conservation.