

NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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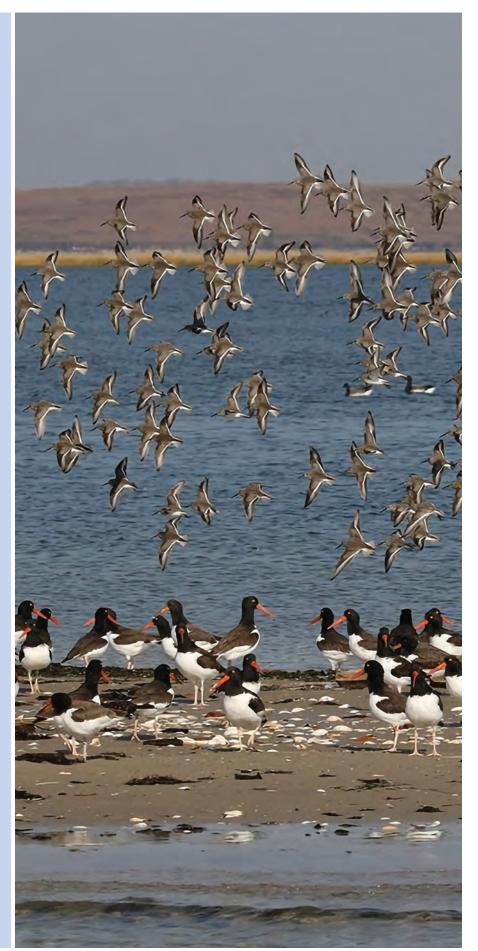
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Officers, directors, and advisory council from April 2017 to December 2018; staff April 2017 to March 2019

* Past president
F Founding director
M In memoriam
1 Elected or re-elected June 2017
2 Term ended June 2017
3 Elected or re-elected June 2018
4 Term ended June 2018
5 Elected November 2018

ANNUAL REPORT Writing, Editorial Tod Winston

Design Andrew Maas



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

hen true to its nature, New York City provides refuge. The millions of migrating birds that pass through each spring and fall, as well as those that breed and winter here, survive thanks to the shelter and sustenance they find. Our rich and recovering estuary—fed by what the Lenape people called



Muhheakantuck, "the river that flows both ways"—still supplies what birds need, despite centuries of mistreatment. And this place of refuge is, of course, not just for birds: Generation after generation of immigrants from across the globe have journeyed here to seek a better life. The City's resulting diversity is its richest asset, and the source of its continuing success. In New York City Audubon's work to protect birds, we aspire to fulfill our city's greatest promise—by safeguarding its ecological riches, and by engaging and including all the diverse communities that call New York City home.

As we enter our 40th year, NYC Audubon exemplifies how to best meet the challenges of urban bird conservation through sound science and grassroots engagement. Through Project Safe Flight, we research and offer solutions to the hazards of artificial light and glass, teach the public and the architectural profession about bird-safe practices, study the exciting potential of green roof habitat, and coordinate the NYC Green Roof Researchers Alliance. In 2018 our Harbor Herons project marked its 34th year monitoring and protecting the City's waterbirds—and we continued our tagging research on Common Terns, Great Egrets, and American Oystercatchers. Through the Tidal Connections program, we placed radio-transmitters on Semipalmated Sandpipers, continued vital horseshoe crab monitoring, and enjoined the public to "Be a Good Egg" for beach-nesting birds.

We marshalled our expertise and influence to advocate for bird-friendly building legislation, the preservation of critical bird habitat, and the responsible use of rodenticide to protect urban raptors. We led education programs in public parks in all five boroughs, at our Governors Island Environmental Center, at Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages, and in a Bronx elementary school with our Feathered Friends program. Our beach-cleaning partnership with the Hindu environmental group Sadhana continued, we began a new tradition of a spring LGBTQIA+ walk, and we forged ties with local groups Outdoor Afro NYC and Latino Outdoors.

As NYC Audubon looks ahead, we do so with the support of a strong and increasingly diverse board of directors and personnel, and a newly founded committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. From this foundation we strive to be what a 21st-century conservation organization must be—by including and learning from all New Yorkers, in all their fantastic diversity, at every level of our organization.

All this work is made possible by the passion and commitment of NYC Audubon's generous volunteers, members, and donors. With your sustaining help, we will continue to fight for New York City's birds and their habitat. Join us as we clean beaches, study the foraging habits of egrets, patrol the city streets for injured birds—and simply revel in the beauty and resilience of our birds. Visit <u>www.nycaudubon.org</u> to learn more.

With thanks,

Jeffrey Kimball President



NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON

PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND HABITAT FOR 40 YEARS

Wild birds representing more than 350 species—almost a third of all the species in North America—live in or pass through New York City each year. They flock by the millions to our city parks, Jamaica Bay, the islands of New York Harbor, and countless other pockets of greenery. New York City Audubon was founded four decades ago to protect our birds and the natural areas on which they depend. Our work continues with the passion and support of New Yorkers in all five boroughs. Learn more on the pages below. And get involved.

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WHERE WE WORK

New York City Audubon champions nature in the City's five boroughs through a combination of engaging and entertaining programs and innovative conservation campaigns. Through our efforts, we protect the countless species of birds that depend on the City's 578 miles of waterfront and 30,000 acres of wetlands, forests, and grasslands.

22

18

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PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

Helping Birds Migrate Safely through New York City

Project Safe Flight is a science-based program focused on protecting birds as they migrate through the cityscape and stop in our green spaces to feed and rest. We research and advocate for solutions to prevent bird collisions due to artificial light, glass, and structures, and for ways to expand and improve stopover habitat.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS: GREEN ROOFS

GREEN ROOF HABITAT

We surveyed green roofs at Manhattan's Jacob K. Javits Convention Center and Brooklyn's Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages for birds, bats, and insects. Our scientific monitoring of the biodiversity of green roofs investigates their value as wildlife habitat.

The State of Green Roofs in NYC

June 7, 2018 #UrbanGreenRoofs

Collaborative Green Roof Research

We facilitated the first conference of the NYC Green Roof Researchers Alliance (GRRA), a collaboration of 50 researchers in green roof science, policy, and education. "The State of Green Roofs in New York City" featured 17 presentations and was attended by 170 people including representatives of environmental organizations, academic institutions, and city and state agencies.

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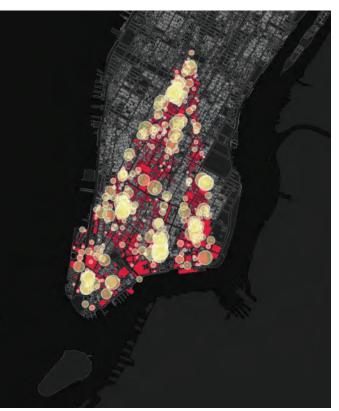
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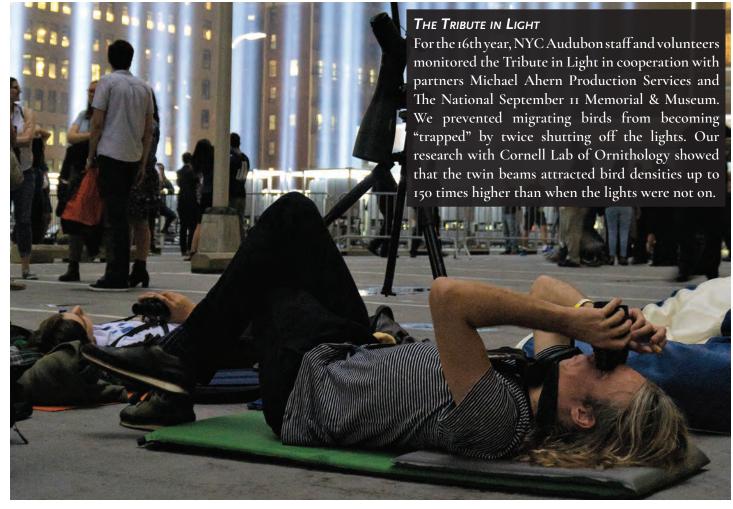
2018 HIGHLIGHTS: BIRD COLLISIONS AND ARTIFICIAL LIGHT RESEARCH



ARTIFICIAL LIGHT RESEARCH

We collaborated with New York University's Center for Urban Science and Progress to study artificial light intensity and bird density over lower Manhattan during migration. Continued collection of bird-collision reports may allow us to correlate all three data sets and quantify the effect of nighttime artificial light on bird behavior.





www.nycaudubon.org/project-safe-flight

BIRD-COLLISION MONITORING AND D-BIRD Volunteer Cynthia Guile encountered this stunned Ovenbird while patrolling her regular Project Safe Flight monitoring route during spring migration. Over the year, our volunteers monitored 16 Manhattan buildings in areas with a high incidence of bird collisions, finding a total of 257 birds of 47 different species, including 225 dead and 32 injured birds (taken to the Wild Bird Fund for rehabilitation). Our crowdsourced <u>D-Bird.org</u> database received a record additional 605 reports from the public, increasing our knowledge of problematic areas throughout the City.

BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDING LEGISLATION

NYC Audubon collaborated with Audubon New York and the Bird-Safe Building Alliance to support bird-friendly bills at both the city and state levels. The bills would include establishing a bird-friendly building council and requiring that bird-safe building criteria be taken into account in new and altered buildings in New York City.

SUPPORT FOR PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

Project Safe Flight is made possible by leadership support from the Leon Levy Foundation, and by generous support from the Dobson Foundation and the Durst Organization. Our green roof monitoring research is made possible by the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. The NYC Green Roof Researchers Alliance is supported by a generous grant from The New York Community Trust.

WATERBIRDS OF NEW YORK HARBOR

MONITORING AND PROTECTING THE CITY'S WATERBIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS

The Waterbirds of New York Harbor program consists of the Harbor Herons and Tidal Connections projects. These projects monitor the waterbirds that nest, winter, and stop over in the harbor—gathering data needed to signal problems in the ecosystem, guide conservation efforts locally and globally, and advocate for better habitat protection and stewardship. Together with community partners, we engage hundreds of New Yorkers in horseshoe crab monitoring, marsh and dune restoration, beach clean-ups, and wildlife festivals.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS: HARBOR HERONS AND OTHER COLONIAL NESTERS



COMMON TERN RESEARCH

We placed 10 geolocator tags on Common Terns nesting on Governors Island piers; data retrieved next year will show where the City's terns spend the winter and the migration route they take to return here. An interactive webcam installed in 2018 will allow observation of this state-threatened species during the nesting season.

It's YOUR TERN FESTIVAL Our annual Tern Festival on Governors Island welcomed 150 participants, connecting them with this migratory waterbird species through handson activities, bird walks, and performances.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS: TIDAL CONNECTIONS

MIGRATORY SHOREBIRD RESEARCH

Since 2016, we've tagged 34 Semipalmated Sandpipers with miniature radio transmitters and received data from 19 tagged birds as they moved around Jamaica Bay and continued their migration. This research is part of a large collaborative effort to identify major threats to at-risk shorebirds and develop strategies to reverse their decline.

BEACH-NESTING BIRDS

We conducted our seventh year of monitoring, tracking, and assessing habitat disturbance of American Oystercatchers that nest on the Rockaway peninsula (in partnership with the National Park Service), and continued collaborative research on nesting Black Skimmers, a Species of Special Concern in New York State.

BE A GOOD EGG

We hired student interns from Rockaway Waterfront Alliance's summer leadership program to speak with hundreds of beachgoers and collected pledges to "Be A Good Egg" by protecting beach-nesting species including New York State-Threatened Least and Common Terns and the Piping Plover, listed as Endangered at both state and federal levels.



SUPPORT FOR WATERBIRDS OF NEW YORK HARBOR

Waterbirds of New York Harbor projects received essential support from the The Bay and Paul Foundations, Elizabeth Woods and Charles Denholm, Investors Foundation, Patagonia, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

PROTECTING AND IMPROVING URBAN BIRD HABITAT

Through scientific research and collaboration with regional partners, we work to make all the City's natural spaces healthier for birds, identify and protect crucial and at-risk habitats, and better understand the habitat needs of at-risk and declining bird species.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

PRESERVATION OF AT-RISK HABITAT

In 2018 the nearly 30 acres of wetlands at Ridgewood Reservoir were protected under New York State's Freshwater Wetlands Act. This hard-won victory is the result of more than a decade of dedicated activism by local groups including the Highland Park-Ridgewood Reservoir Alliance, Brooklyn and Queens County Bird Clubs, Newtown Historical Society, Riverkeeper, NYC Park Advocates, NYC H₂O—and allies at Queens Community Board 5, NYC Parks, and other local and state government officials. Artist Jennifer Monson and Brooklyn conservationists Rob Jett, Heidi Steiner, Mickey Cohen, former NYC Audubon Board Member Steve Nanz, and NYC Audubon Board Vice President Rob Bate have been critical to this fight. NYC Audubon has supported this effort through advocacy and local partnerships, and we applaud this huge win for habitat in New York City.

PROTECTING URBAN RAPTORS

Our new "Rodenticides and Birds of Prey" pamphlet is aimed at private-sector rodentcontrol managers and building tenants. The pamphlet addresses the dangers of rodenticide use in urban raptor habitat and describes successful alternative pest-reduction methods. Download the pamphlet at <u>www.</u> <u>nycaudubon.org/rodenticide</u>.





Rodenticides and Birds of Prey

he methods we use to control rodents can

WWW.NYCAUDUBON.ORG/RODENTICIDE

www.nycaudubon.org

GRASSLAND **B**IRD **C**ONSERVATION

Savannah Sparrow (pictured) and Grasshopper Sparrow (a Species of Special Concern in New York State) are among the grassland bird species that have declined in recent decades in the City. Our Grassland Birds Working Group convenes researchers and local stakeholders seeking to better support these species and their habitats.

OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND ADVOCACY

ENGAGING ALL NEW YORKERS TO PROTECT THE CITY'S BIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS

We seek to serve and engage the diverse communities of all five boroughs through bird walks, lectures, tours, festivals, our Governors Island Environmental Center, and the Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages green roof. Guided by our scientific research, we advocate with industry and government officials when birds and habitat are threatened, and collaborate with partner organizations to advise federal and city park agencies on bird-friendly policies and practices.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

TRIPS AND CLASSES

We offered over 200 public events in 2018 in all five boroughs, including 162 free programs. Free bird walks included series at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx; Queens Botanical Garden; and Manhattan's Bryant Park, The Battery, and Central Park North Woods.



GOVERNORS ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

This year our Governors Island Environmental Center introduced nearly 4,000 children and adults to birds and nature through 22 free bird walks; art residencies, exhibitions, and activities by 16 different artists; a "firefly evening"; IBEX puppetry; and a Friday night Salon with music and art. We also premiered BIRDLINK, a native "plants for birds" green-wall sculpture.

KINGSLAND WILDFLOWERS AT BROADWAY STAGES The Kingsland Wildflowers green roof hosted 17 school groups, 16 public tours and education events, and 3 wildlife tours in 2018. We recently created a green roof teaching lab with science equipment and a teachers' guide.

00 GREENPOINT COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

Funding for Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages is provided by the Office of the New York State Attorney General and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

As part of our ten-year-old Jamaica Bay Environmental Education Program, a class from PS 43 in Rockaway Beach studied horseshoe crab ecology. This partnership with NYU's Wallerstein Collaborative for Urban Environmental Education has given 600 schoolchildren a first-hand understanding of their local beach and saltmarsh ecosystems.

FEATHERED FRIENDS

In this volunteer-led after-school program, 40 third-to-fifth graders at the Bronx's AmPark Neighborhood School (PS 344) birded in nearby Van Cortlandt Park, built bird houses, learned common bird songs, and conducted experiments on birds' flight velocity.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS: ADVOCACY



SUPPORT FOR OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Outreach and Education programming received essential support from Christian Cooper, Tatiana Kaletsch, and the National Park Service. Our Lecture Series was made possible by Claude and Lucienne Bloch. Our Governors Island artist residency program was supported by MaryJane Boland and other members. We thank the Kings County Brewers Collective for their partnership in Safe Flight Beer, and for inviting us to hold screenings and panel discussions in the Taproom.

VOLUNTEERS

ENGAGING New YORKERS IN ALL FIVE BOROUGHS IN THE FIGHT TO PROTECT BIRDS

Our committed volunteer network is essential to our mission: In 2018, 400 community scientists gathered data for our conservation work by tagging horseshoe crabs, monitoring city streets for injured birds, counting shorebirds, and participating in the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. An additional 160 volunteers cleaned beaches, got the public excited about birding at outreach and education events, and taught schoolchildren about birds and the joys of being outdoors. Behind the scenes, essential work was undertaken by our publications and conservation committees and by our board and advisory council.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS:



BEACH CLEANUPS

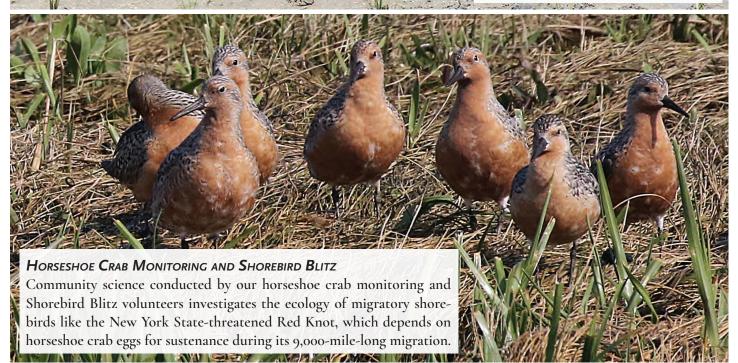
On International Coastal Cleanup Day in September 2018, we coordinated a beach cleanup at North Channel Beach with the National Park Service, American Littoral Society, and Sadhana, a Hindu-based social and environmental justice organization. Volunteers removed religious objects left at the shore, which Sadhana arranged to be transferred to an appropriate sacred site away from the beach. In April 2018, volunteers cleared 60 bags of trash from Plumb Beach, a major horseshoe crab spawning site in Jamaica Bay.



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HABITAT RESTORATION

In partnership with the American Littoral Society, we planted *Spartina alterniflora* plants as part of a long-term effort to restore the degraded saltmarshes of Jamaica Bay. The saltmarsh ecosystem is an important foraging ground for shorebirds, waders, and waterfowl, and serves as a buffer against storm surge for the communities of southern Queens.



MEMBERS

CREATING A COMMUNITY OF COMMITTED ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

Our organization depends on our 8,500 members (2,000 direct contributors and 6,500 New York City-based National Audubon members). Contributing members enjoy an array of benefits, including free walks that provide delight and camaraderie; a subscription to *The Urban Audubon* newsletter; early registration for regular trips and classes; and transportation to the annual Jamaica Bay Shorebird Festival. Members at the \$500 level and above and those in our Legacy society are also invited to a sunset cruise to see nesting waterbirds in New York Harbor. Kestrel Circle members (\$2,500 and above) enjoy additional special events and a private guided bird walk. Our free KIDS Member program for 8- to 12-year-olds offers two bird walks during migration and an *Urban Audubon* subscription.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

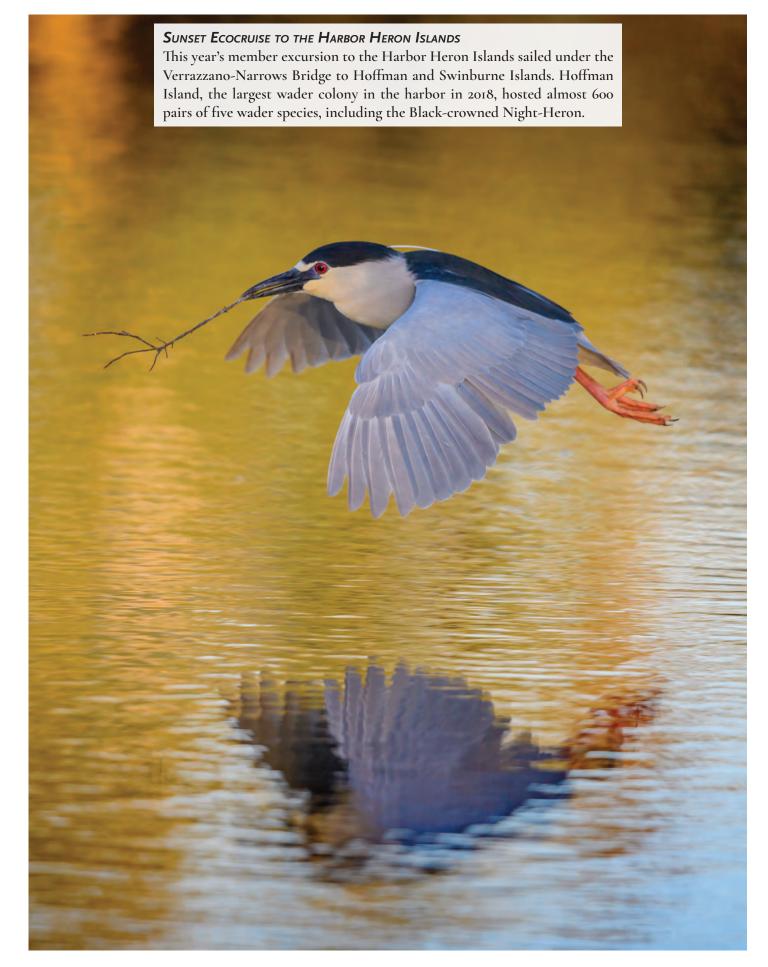
JAMAICA BAY SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL

A crowd of 250 participants ventured out to Jamaica Bay in late August for our annual Shorebird Festival. Activities included walks to the East and West Ponds and lectures by shorebird experts.

MEMBERS-ONLY EVENTS

Our members took part in 13 free walks this year, in search of the more than 300 species of birds known to frequent New York City's parks. While birding, they got the chance to meet others who care about protecting birds, including our board and staff. Join us next time!





NYC AUDUBON IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS - 2018

PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

Green Roof Habitat

Square Feet of Green Roof **329,000** Habitat Monitored

NYC Green Roof Researchers Alliance Conference Participants

Bird Collision and Artificial Light Research

Buildings Monitored
Dead or Injured Birds
Found by Monitors D-Bird Reports
D-bird Reports



170

16

257

605



VOLUNTEERS AND MEMBERS

400

11,206

3,900

22

OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND ADVOCACY

Volunteers

Community Scientist

Audubon Members

Social Media Followers

	160	Volunteers Beach Cleanup Volunteers
		Members
1	8,500	Total Members
	2,000	Direct Contributors
	6,500	NYC-based National

WATERBIRDS OF NEW YORK HARBOR

Harbor Herons

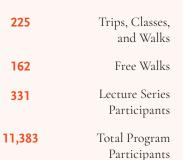
Colonies Surveyed	20
Total Nesting Pairs of Waders	1,596
Increase in Nesting Population since 2017	11%
Years of Consecutive Data	34

Tidal Connections

Children Served by Jamaica Bay Environmental Education Program	80
Semipalmated Sandpipers Tagged Since 2016	34
American Oystercatchers Banded	30
Common Terns Geolocator-Tagged	10
Horseshoe Crabs Tagged	800
Bags of Trash Collected from Jamaica Bay Beaches	115







Governors Island Environmental Center

Total Visitors

Free Bird Walks







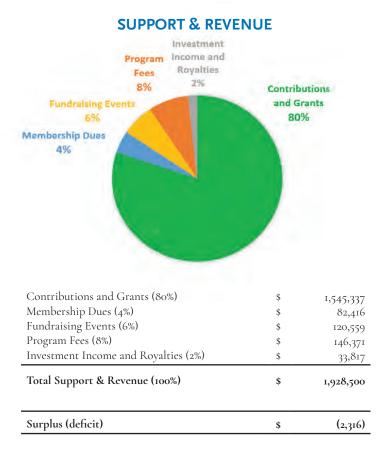
	Kingsland Wildflowers at
	Broadway Stages
2,800	Total Visitors
17	School Groups Served
13	Programs Offered

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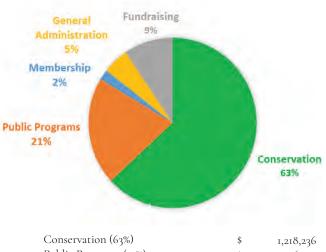
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

For fiscal year ended March 31, 2018

BALANCE SHEET



EXPENSES



Total Expense (100%)	\$ 1,930,816
Fundraising (9%)	\$ 182,140
General Administration (5%)	\$ 97,103
Membership (2%)	\$ 37,320
Public Programs (21%)	\$ 396,017
Conservation (63%)	\$ 1,218,236

\$23,015 \$37,704 \$912,380 \$10,835
\$37,704 \$912,380
\$23,015
\$423,585
\$33,698

	Deferred Revenue Total Liabilities	\$43,446 \$416,50 1
Liabilities	Accounts Payable	\$367,947

	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,441,217
	Total Net Assets	\$1,024,716
Net Assets	Unrestricted Temporarily Restricted Permanently Restricted	\$945,328 \$79,388 \$0

NYC Audubon Annual Report 2018

SUPPORT FOR NYC AUDUBON

NYC Audubon's conservation work and outreach programs are made possible by the generous contributions of members and friends. We express particular gratitude to the Leon Levy Foundation for its leadership support, to the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund for its three-year grant to build and provide programming for the Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages green roof and community space, and to all those who have supported our work over the past fiscal year. The donors listed below donated gifts received April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018.

American Kestrel Circle (\$2,500 and Above)

Tylee Abbott & Katie Ermilio Gina Argento Tony Argento Karen Benfield & John Zucker Claude & Lucienne Bloch MaryJane Boland Ronald Bourque Marsilia Boyle Art Sills & Sarah DeBlois Althea Duersten Alexander Ewing & Wynn Senning Marcia & Bruce Fowle Philip Fried & Bruce Patterson Joel Goldfarb & Elizabeth Weinshel Scott & Ellen Hand Kathryn & Vincent G. Heintz Catherine Schragis Heller & Lloyd Heller Sarah Jeffords Tatiana Kaletsch Jeff Kimball & Pamela Hogan Lauren & Ethan Klingsberg Jade Lau Deborah Laurel Pete Lengyel & Patty Woo Adrienne Lynch Jennifer & Philip Maritz Andre Meade Joyce F. Menschel Malcolm & Mary Morris Lew & Sheila Rosenberg Antonia Stolper & Bob Fertik Virginia Stowe Mary & Michael Tannen Elizabeth Woods & Charles Denholm

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New York City Audubon works to protect wild birds and their habitats in the five boroughs of New York City, improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers. Our 9,000 members, donors, and volunteers make our research, advocacy, and education work possible. NYC Audubon is affiliated with but independent from the National Audubon Society. NYC Audubon is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law. NYC Audubon meets all of the Better Business Bureau's Standards of Charity Accountability. Scott & Dhuane Stephens Leslie Sternlieb Bonnie Webber Sam Wertheimer & Pamela Rosenthal John Anthony Wright Bruce Yolton & Stephen Billick

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