



NYC AUDUBON

TRIENNIAL REPORT 2019-2021

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Note: these listings include officers, directors, advisory council, committee advisors, and staff who served from April 2018 through December 2021.

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F Founding member

M In memoriam

E Emerita as of January 2020

1 Elected June 2018

2 Term ended June 2018

3 Elected November 2018

4 Elected June 2019

5 Term ended June 2019

6 Elected June 2020

7 Term ended June 2020

8 Term concluded May 2021

9 Elected June 2021

10 Term ended June 2021

TRIENNIAL REPORT

Writing, Editorial, and Design

Tod Winston



*The Common Yellowthroat,
a nesting bird in all five
boroughs of New York City,
is a frequent window
collision victim during spring
and fall migration.*



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.

Dear Friends of New York City Audubon,

The Common Yellowthroat is aptly named: one of our most abundant warblers, its merry song of “witchity- witchity” is heard in all five boroughs of New York City in spring and summer. This tiny bundle of energy with a bright yellow breast was also, as it happens, the first casualty of a window collision discovered by the founder of NYC Audubon’s Project Safe Flight, Rebekah Creshkoff, almost 25 years ago. She recalls: “Something the color of a New York City taxicab caught my eye, so bright that the throng of office workers pouring out of the subway station parted slightly to avoid treading on it. I picked it up and stood there, marveling at it, as the crowd continued flowing down William Street in lower Manhattan. It weighed less than a mouse. I stroked its soft breast and was amazed by the luxuriant density of its feathers. The tiny body was still warm. Apart from canaries, I had never seen such a yellow bird and had no idea they even existed in New York City. How had it come to be dead on a sidewalk at the bottom of this concrete canyon?”

Rebekah’s discovery led her to launch Project Safe Flight, now one of NYC Audubon’s signature programs. Over the ensuing two and a half decades, passionate volunteers and staff have continued to bring attention to the 230,000 birds estimated to die in collisions every year in New York City. NYC Audubon has become a leader in the field, sharing our expertise, and our innovative crowd-sourcing tool, dBird, across the country. And over the past three years, we’ve achieved several great victories: the passage of landmark bird-safe building legislation in New York City, Local Law 15 of 2020; and just as this report goes to press, the passage of significant Lights Out legislation by the New York City Council.

The fighting spirit of our early volunteers lives on, as well. Last spring, Project Safe Flight volunteers monitoring the World Trade Center’s Liberty Park came across a shocking number of dead songbirds—including, once more, a Common Yellowthroat. Their urgent call for action on social media, followed by collaboration among NYC Audubon, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and bird-safe solutions pioneer Feather Friendly Technologies, led to a rapid bird-friendly retrofit of the park’s glass railings that will save many birds’ lives.

The Common Yellowthroat male with his black mask has also served as an unofficial mascot during the pandemic, as we have continued our conservation work remotely. We found it in ourselves to be frugal and careful, and thanks to the generous support of our members and donors, have maintained full staffing. We shifted to virtual programming including our new online after-school Feathered Friends birding club, as well as online festivals, lectures, and classes. Though our 2020 field season was sharply curtailed by the pandemic, we continued our advocacy work, helping to promote new green roofs in the City via passage of Local Laws 92 and 94. In 2021 we carried out our 37th annual Harbor Herons Nesting Survey, along with waterbird and horseshoe-crab tagging and advocacy for beach-nesting birds. And during the country’s ongoing reckoning with racism, we’ve strengthened our focus on creating a more diverse, inclusive, equitable, and accessible NYC Audubon, partnering on both virtual and in-person events with organizations such as Latino Outdoors and Outdoor Afro-NYC, celebrating Black Birders Week, and continuing to diversify our board and staff.

Over the past three years, NYC Audubon’s conservation leadership has undergone several important changes. We said farewell to longtime Director of Conservation and Science Susan Elbin, PhD, who retired after 12 years of exceptional service. We are grateful to Dr. Elbin for her stewardship of our conservation science work. Her legacy continues in our *Strategic Plan 2020–2025–A Vision for the Future*, published in 2019. (Read the plan at nycaudubon.org/sp.)

Executive Director Kathryn Heintz, having led and strengthened NYC Audubon over the past seven years, retired in December 2021. We thank Kathryn for her inspired leadership and unflagging efforts on behalf of the City’s birds. And we are happy to announce that Jessica Wilson, former chief development officer at the Friends of Governors Island and vice president for development and marketing at the Prospect Park Alliance, joins us as our new executive director in January 2022. Jessica, a lifelong birder with a long-standing commitment to environmental work, brings a wealth of experience in fundraising and community engagement.

Jessica joins a strong and growing NYC Audubon. We are expanding our public offerings to greet the surge of interest in birds that occurred during the pandemic, and to welcome the many communities of New York City into our conservation work, and into our organization. There is much work to be done. With your help, we will continue to make New York City a bird-friendly example to follow across the nation. Visit nycaudubon.org to learn more.

Karen Benfield
Board President, 2020–present

Jeffrey Kimball
Board President, 2016–2020

NYC AUDUBON

PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND HABITAT FOR 40 YEARS

Wild birds representing over 350 species—more than a third of all the species in North America north of Mexico—live in or pass through New York City each year. They flock by the millions to our city parks, to Jamaica Bay, to the islands of New York Harbor, and to countless other pockets of greenery. New York City Audubon was founded over 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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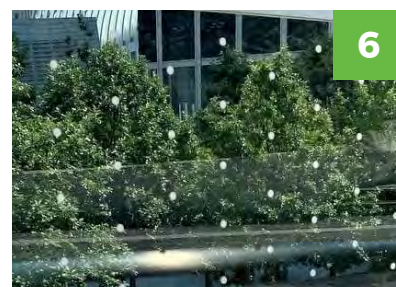
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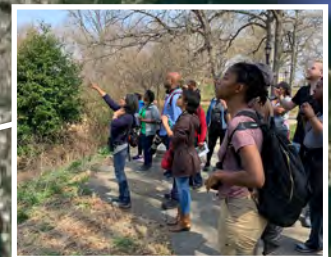
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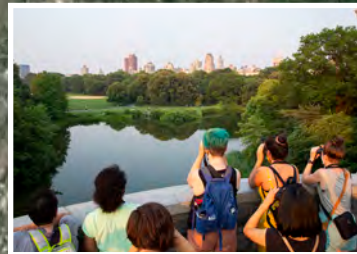
New York City Audubon champions nature in the City's five boroughs through a combination of engaging and entertaining programs and innovative conservation campaigns. Through our efforts, we protect the countless species of birds that depend on the City's 578 miles of waterfront and 30,000 acres of wetlands, forests, and grasslands.



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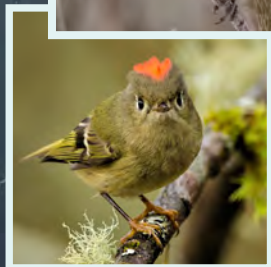
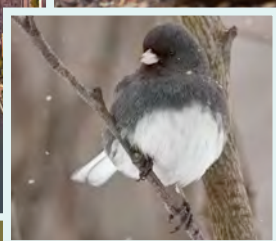
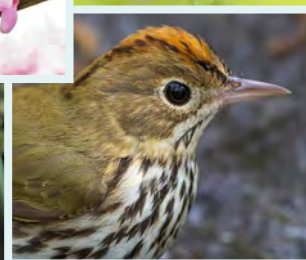
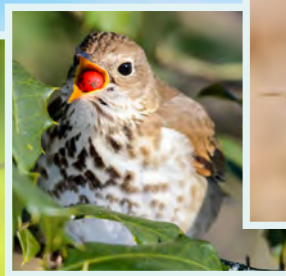
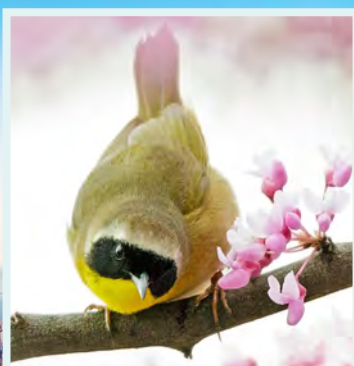
PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

HELPING BIRDS MIGRATE SAFELY THROUGH THE CITY

Project Safe Flight, a science-based program launched in 1997, is 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.

BIRD-SAFE DESIGN LEGISLATION

In a huge victory for migrating birds, New York City's landmark bird-safe design legislation, Local Law 15 of 2020, passed and went into effect over the past three years. The most comprehensive legislation of its kind in the U.S., Local Law 15 requires that all new construction and significantly altered buildings use bird-friendly materials as of January 20, 2021. NYC Audubon played a central role in achieving passage and practical implementation of the law, in partnership with American Bird Conservancy and the Bird Safe Buildings Alliance, and in close collaboration with the New York City Department of Buildings. (To learn more about our advocacy work for this legislation, see page 14.)

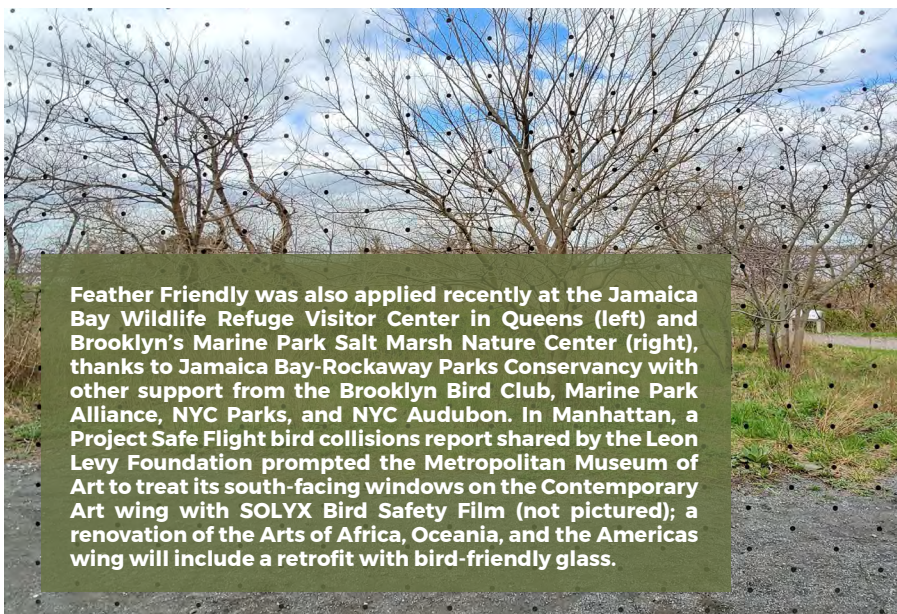
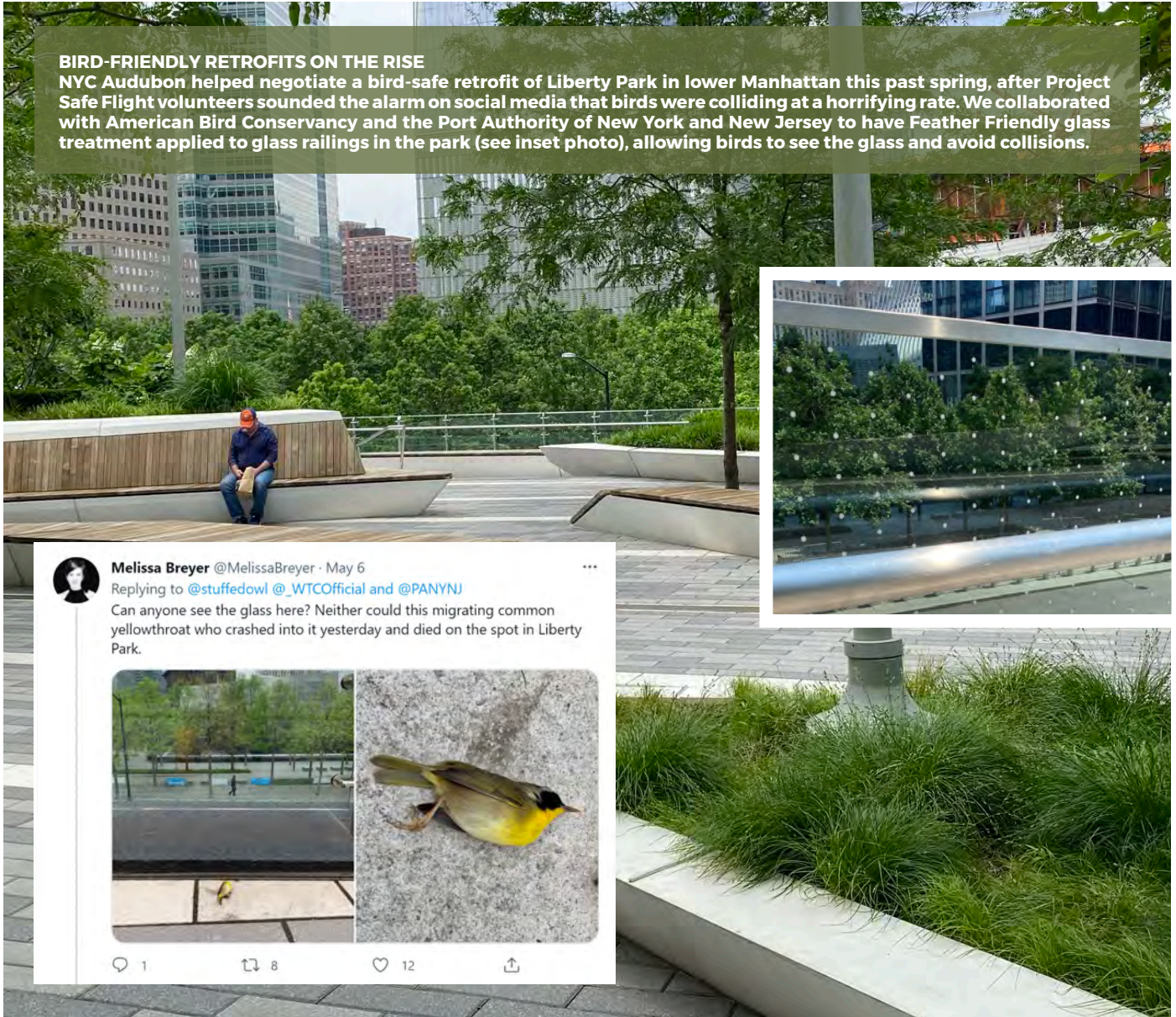


THE BIRDS WE SAVE

The bird species above are among the most frequent collision victims in New York City, where we estimate that between 90,000 and 230,000 birds die from collisions with building glass each year. From top right, these species include White-throated Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, Black-and-white Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Ovenbird, American Woodcock, Dark-eyed Junco, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Learn more about these species at nyc.audubon.org/project-safe-flight.

BIRD-FRIENDLY RETROFITS ON THE RISE

NYC Audubon helped negotiate a bird-safe retrofit of Liberty Park in lower Manhattan this past spring, after Project Safe Flight volunteers sounded the alarm on social media that birds were colliding at a horrifying rate. We collaborated with American Bird Conservancy and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to have Feather Friendly glass treatment applied to glass railings in the park (see inset photo), allowing birds to see the glass and avoid collisions.



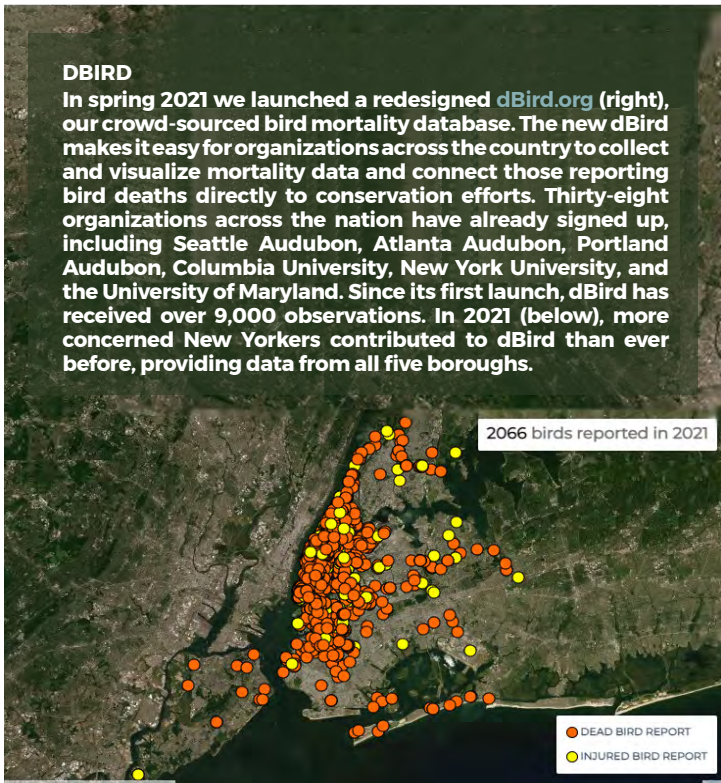
COLLISION MONITORING

Project Safe Flight volunteers (including collision monitor Divya Anantharaman, below) collected data on bird collisions over the past three years, with a pause in the spring of 2020. Conservation Associate Aurora Crooks, who joined our staff in 2019 through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, has expanded our monitoring capacity: we now monitor seven routes across Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens, a record number of routes in the program's history. Our data was critical to the passage of the City's new bird-friendly design law, and is being marshaled to convince high-collision buildings to adopt bird-safe solutions.



DBIRD

In spring 2021 we launched a redesigned [dBird.org](#) (right), our crowd-sourced bird mortality database. The new dBird makes it easy for organizations across the country to collect and visualize mortality data and connect those reporting bird deaths directly to conservation efforts. Thirty-eight organizations across the nation have already signed up, including Seattle Audubon, Atlanta Audubon, Portland Audubon, Columbia University, New York University, and the University of Maryland. Since its first launch, dBird has received over 9,000 observations. In 2021 (below), more concerned New Yorkers contributed to dBird than ever before, providing data from all five boroughs.



1. Select location

Where did you find the bird? *

2. About the bird

Do you know the bird's species?

Species *

Sex *

Age *

3. Details

When did you find the bird? *

Bird status *

Do you know the cause of death/injury?

Cause of death/injury *

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

As this report was being finalized in mid-December 2021, the New York City Council passed two bills that will significantly reduce artificial nighttime lighting during peak migration in buildings owned and leased by the City. This victory inspires us to work towards needed legislation limiting nighttime lighting at privately owned buildings.

In order to understand the most effective ways to mitigate the peril of artificial nighttime light, we continue to partner with Cornell Lab of Ornithology and University of Delaware on studies of light pollution and its effect on migration patterns. We are also planning a collaboration with the International Dark Skies Foundation and forming partnerships with organizations concerned about light pollution and its disproportionate impact on communities of color.



MONITORING THE TRIBUTE IN LIGHT

NYC Audubon staff and volunteers have continued to monitor the annual Tribute in Light in cooperation with partners the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Michael Ahern Production Services, and The National September 11 Memorial & Museum. In each of the past three years, we have been able to shut down the lights briefly on several occasions in order to allow thousands of birds “trapped” in the tribute beams to disperse and continue on their migration journeys.

In 2020 and 2021, NYC Audubon also provided resources and advice to organizations and individuals monitoring two other light-based September 11 tributes, in Shanksville, PA, and Washington, DC. Because the three sites are unique in terms of location, migration density, and environmental variables, collecting data at all three offered valuable opportunities to learn more about the effect of artificial nighttime light on bird behavior under different conditions.

SUPPORT FOR PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

Project Safe Flight has been made possible by leadership support from the Leon Levy Foundation; grants from the Robert F. Schumann Foundation and the New York City Environmental Fund/National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; a grant for dBird from Jim and Birte Falconer through Seattle Audubon; and a competitive grant awarded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program, with support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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 also engage hundreds of New Yorkers in horseshoe crab monitoring, marsh and dune restoration, beach clean-ups, and wildlife festivals.

HARBOR HERONS

2021 marked the 37th year of NYC Audubon's annual survey of the Harbor Heron islands. A total of 1,195 nesting wading bird pairs in 2021 indicates that overall populations have been stable over the past three years, but a long-term decline is apparent in our most abundant species, Black-crowned Night-Heron (pictured below). NYC Audubon supplied data to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in support of increasing protections for this species, which is declining regionally. Our long-term data has been essential to the habitat protection goals set by the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program, and upcoming data analysis may allow us to better understand the causes of colony declines. Learn more about the wading birds we protect at nycaudubon.org/get-to-know-the-harbor-herons.



TIDAL CONNECTIONS: MIGRATORY SHOREBIRD RESEARCH

Since 2016, we've tagged 52 Semipalmated Sandpipers with miniature radio transmitters and received data from 43 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. Learn more about the migratory shorebirds we study at nycaudubon.org/migratory-shorebirds.



TIDAL CONNECTIONS: BEACH-NESTING BIRDS

In 2021 we conducted our 11th year of monitoring, tracking, and assessing habitat disturbance of American Oystercatchers nesting on the Rockaway peninsula in Queens. (Below, Associate Director of Conservation and Science Kaitlyn Parkins, Senior Development Associate Leo Wexler-Mann, and volunteer Matthew Combs, PhD, hold three fledglings ready to be banded.) Next year, we plan to install "camera traps" at our nests to better understand the causes of oystercatcher nest and brood loss. We also continued collaborative research on nesting Black Skimmers and Common Terns, in the Rockaways and on Governors Island. Learn more about the beach-nesting birds we study at nycaudubon.org/beach-nesting-birds.



SUPPORT FOR WATERBIRDS OF NEW YORK HARBOR

Waterbirds of New York Harbor projects received essential support from the Disney Conservation Fund, Elizabeth Woods and Charles Denholm, the Investors Foundation, Manomet (through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative Program), the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Patagonia, the Regina Bauer Frankenberg Foundation, and a competitive grant awarded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program with support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

CREATING 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, to identify and protect crucial and at-risk habitats, to foster the creation of new urban green spaces, and to better understand the habitat needs of at-risk and declining bird species.

COLLABORATIVE GREEN ROOF RESEARCH

NYC Audubon is at the forefront of the movement to create a network of green roofs across New York City, in order to expand wildlife habitat, foster urban sustainability, and promote environmental equity. We facilitate the Green Roof Researchers Alliance (GRRRA), made up of over 80 educational, nonprofit, and governmental professionals from over 24 institutions. In just a few years, the GRRRA has spurred innovative research collaborations, created a database of green roofs in New York City, launched an annual conference and online information hub, and established working relationships with government policy-makers. The GRRRA Grant Program recently awarded three grants of \$1,500 each to projects we expect to have a large impact on green roof science. The projects funded will research native plant establishment patterns, create a short film explaining green roofs and live-streamed environmental monitoring equipment, and examine the three-dimensional impact of green roofs on heat mitigation.



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY AND ADVOCACY

The Green Roof Researchers Alliance helped write and pass state legislation that authorized an improved green roof tax abatement in New York City, providing a greater incentive for building owners to install green roofs in the most environmentally vulnerable parts of the City. Green roofs like Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages, created with the support of NYC Audubon and pictured here, provide needed public green space to communities lacking in traditional parks. In 2019 the GRRRA also helped pass NYC Local Laws 92 and 94, which require new buildings to install green roofs and/or solar panels. The GRRRA has become an essential source of advice, data collection, and science-based information for the City as it rolls out these laws.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE WILDLIFE MONITORING

We continued to conduct surveys of arthropods, birds, and bats on the green roofs of Manhattan’s Jacob K. Javits Convention Center and Brooklyn’s Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages, as well as at a bioswale on Justice Avenue in Elmhurst, Queens, in order to better understand the value of these sites as wildlife habitat. During the breeding season, we worked to balance the Herring Gull colony on the Javits Center green roof with conservation goals. (Below, a Herring Gull chick is measured and banded by Field Technician Myles Davis.) To allow roof maintenance and maintain the Herring Gull colony, we established two specific gull “conservation zones” away from sensitive equipment and drains. These zones have succeeded in hosting three-fold greater concentrations of nesting bird than other areas.



SUPPORT FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE MONITORING AND RESEARCH

Our green roof wildlife monitoring is made possible by the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. A series of grants from The New York Community Trust launched and provide support for the Green Roof Researchers Alliance. Funding for the development of Kingsland Wildflowers’ green roofs was 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, with matching support from building owner Broadway Stages. Monitoring of the Justice Avenue bioswale was funded by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

ADVOCACY, OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION

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

Guided by our scientific research, we advocate with industry and government officials when birds and their habitats are threatened, and collaborate with partner organizations to advise federal and city park agencies on bird-friendly policies and practices. We seek to share the joy and wonder of birds with the diverse communities of the City's five boroughs through virtual and in-person lectures and festivals, bird walks, and our seasonal environmental center on Governors Island.

BIRD-SAFE DESIGN ADVOCACY

Over the past three years, NYC Audubon achieved a long-sought bird conservation goal—the passage and implementation of New York City's Local Law 15, requiring that all new buildings and major renovations meet bird-friendly standards. This success was thanks to our strategy of creating consensus among stakeholders, working with legislators to craft effective but realistic legislation, and mobilizing a network of grassroots volunteers to support the final bill, which now also serves as a model for cities around the country. Outreach and Advocacy Manager Molly Adams built a 1,300-member Avian Advocates email network to support the bill's passage, organized in-person testimony of 40 people at a City Council hearing (including several children, below), and succeeded in having 500 volunteers write postcards to Council Members. (The Statue of Liberty Museum, designed by FXCollaborative and shown here, is an example of excellent bird-friendly design in New York City.)





SHARE THE SHORE OUTREACH

During the pandemic, in collaboration with partners including the Rockaway Beach Civic Association and NYC Parks, NYC Audubon staff and volunteers wrote chalk messages about the importance of protecting beach-nesting birds on the Rockaway Beach, Queens, boardwalk in English, Russian, and Spanish. This past summer, we produced Share the Shore cards in English and Spanish that were distributed by the NYC Plover Project. We also collaborated with Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy, NYC Parks, and the Surfrider Foundation's New York City chapter to post signs on the boardwalk featuring artwork created by fourth and fifth graders from three local schools.

Sobre las aves que anidan en la playa:

Cada verano, las aves vuelven a las playas de New York para anidar. Estas especies ponen sus huevos en la arena directamente y crían a sus polluelos allí en la playa. Los huevos y los polluelos de estas aves son vulnerables a las perturbaciones humanas, los depredadores, y el tiempo. Muchas aves que anidan en la playa se consideran en peligro de extinción debido a varias amenazas. "Compartamos la playa" alienta a la gente que comparta la playa con aves que anidan allí, para que las aves puedan anidar con éxito y que puedan criar a sus hijos.

Las amenazas a las aves que anidan en la playa:

- La pérdida del hábitat por desarrollo humano
- Las perturbaciones de recreación
- Los perros en la playa (especialmente sin una correa)
- Los gatos ferales o los gatos que andan afuera
- Los depredadores introducidos o nativos
- La basura que se ha dejado en la playa
- Los vehículos por todo terreno

Lo que se puede hacer para ayudar:

- Tome el Share the Shore Pledge
- No entre a zonas marcadas donde hay aves anidadas
- Obedezca las señales de "se prohíben perros" y las leyes de correa
- Mantenga a su gato dentro de la casa
- Mantenga una playa limpia al usar recipientes de basura
- Respete el corte de carril por los vehículos por todo terreno
- Haga trabajo voluntario

¡Prometa compartir la playa!

Visite a nycaudubon.org/conservation/share-love-sharetheshore para aprender más y para prometer a compartir la playa con las aves anidadas!



nycaudubon.org/take-action/make-ny-bird-friendly/share-the-shore



nycploverproject.org



nycaudubon.org/conservation/share-love-sharetheshore



Disney Conservation Fund brinda apoyo para la campaña Share the Shore a través de una subvención a NYC Audubon.



FEATHERED FRIENDS VIRTUAL AFTER-SCHOOL BIRDING CLUB

Held in person in 2018 AND 2019 and canceled in 2020 because of the pandemic, the Feathered Friends after-school birding club at the Bronx's AmPark Neighborhood School (PS 344) went virtual in spring 2021. Thanks to generous donations at our 2020 Fall Roost gala, a team of staff and volunteers designed a new online program focused on interactivity, engagement, and fun. Whether in person or online, each session has served up to 30 enthusiastic third to fifth graders eager to learn about birds. Topics have included anatomy, bird behavior, and "best birdwatching practices."



GOVERNORS ISLAND SEASONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Over the past three years, our Governors Island center at Nolan Park #17 welcomed 6,564 visitors and offered 44 free bird walks. Visitors enjoyed a wide variety of programming including an artist-in-residence series, photography exhibits, evening concerts, and our annual "It's Your Tern Festival," celebrating the island's Common Tern colony. The island has also quickly become known as a New York City birding hotspot: to date, our volunteers have recorded 225 species.



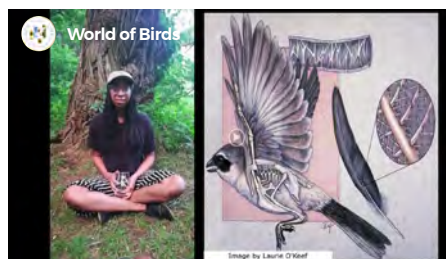


RAPTORAMA! FESTIVAL AT JAMAICA BAY

Close encounters with owls, eagles, and hawks were to be had at the popular Raptorama! Festival at Jamaica Bay. Over the past three years, 500 in-person and virtual Raptorama! attendees have learned about the City's diverse birds of prey and what we can all do to protect them.

NYC AUDUBON GOES VIRTUAL

We continued to hold festivals, classes, and lectures to engage New Yorkers in our conservation work through the pandemic—shifting to virtual format in spring 2020. A total of 36 online events have included Beginning Birding classes, author lectures, specialized birding seminars, and our annual It's Your Tern!, Shorebird, Monarch, Horseshoe Crab, and Raptorama! festivals.



SUPPORT FOR ADVOCACY, OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION

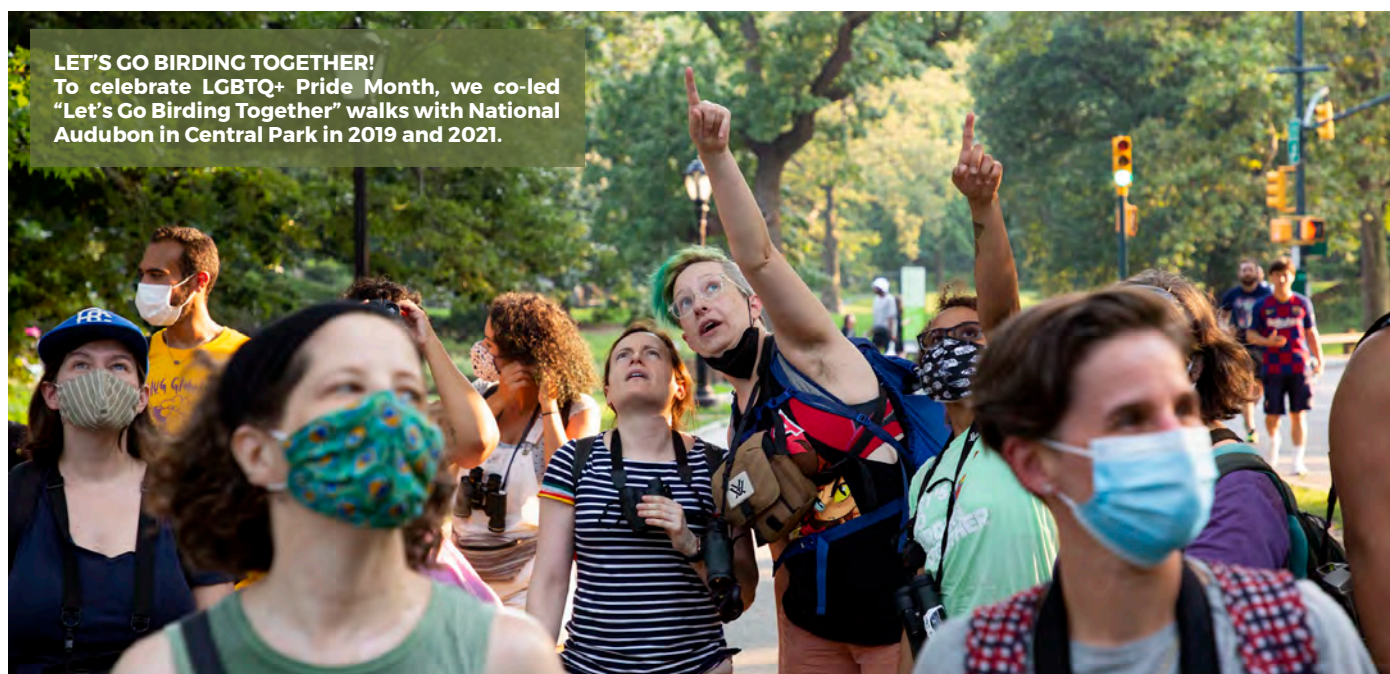
Outreach and Education programming received essential support from Christian Cooper, Tatiana Kaletsch, Con Edison, the National Park Service, the New York City Council, and Van Cortlandt Park Alliance through the NYC Green Relief and Recovery Fund. Our Lecture Series was made possible by Claude and Lucienne Bloch. Our Governors Island artist residency program was supported by MaryJane Boland and other members. Patagonia and the National Audubon Society provided crucial support for our grassroots advocacy and outreach. 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.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND ACCESSIBILITY

WELCOMING AND CHAMPIONING THE DIVERSE COMMUNITIES OF NEW YORK CITY

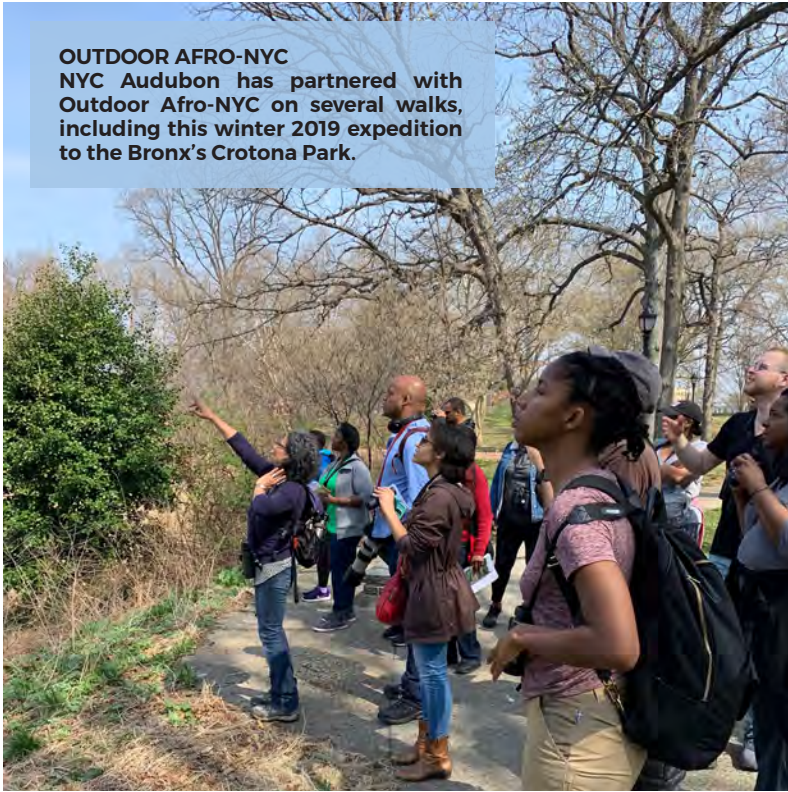
In the midst of our nation's recent and ongoing racial reckoning, NYC Audubon has striven to be a clear voice for antiracism and inclusion in our birding community and beyond. Our regular outreach and education programming is being actively expanded to serve diverse communities across the five boroughs, in addition to events and materials created to welcome and engage specific under-served groups. We champion and participate in annual events such as Black Birders Week and LGBTQ+ Pride Month, and have formed partnerships with local groups including Outdoor Afro-NYC, Latino Outdoors, the Feminist Bird Club, and Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus.

In an ongoing effort, NYC Audubon has continued to diversify its board of directors and staff over the last three years, as we seek to better reflect and represent the New York City community we serve.



OUTDOOR AFRO-NYC

NYC Audubon has partnered with Outdoor Afro-NYC on several walks, including this winter 2019 expedition to the Bronx's Crotona Park.



¡VÁMONOS JUNTOS A OBSERVAR PÁJAROS!

In June 2019, we co-led a Spanish-language "Let's Go Birding Together" walk on Governors Island with National Audubon, in celebration of LGBTQ+ Pride Month.



LATINO OUTDOORS

We have collaborated with Latino Outdoors NYC on several events in recent years: bird walks in winter 2019 and spring 2021 (pictured here, in Central Park), and an Intro to Birding webinar in late winter 2021.



NYC AUDUBON 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.

MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

ENGAGING A COMMUNITY OF COMMITTED ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

Our organization depends on our 9,546 members (2,271 direct contributors and 7,275 New York City-based National Audubon members). Contributing members enjoy an array of benefits, including free walks that provide camaraderie and connection to nature; a subscription to *The Urban Audubon* newsletter; early registration for regular trips and classes; and transportation to the annual Jamaica Bay Shorebird Festival. American Kestrel Circle members (\$2,500 and above) enjoy access to 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.

Our committed volunteer network is essential to our mission: Over the past three years, 648 community scientists gathered data for our conservation work by monitoring the city streets for injured birds, tagging horseshoe crabs, participating in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, and surveying shorebirds, Harbor Herons, and the City's breeding birds. An additional 514 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, by the many photographers who donate their work, by our board and advisory council, and by the new Young Conservationists Council, launched in 2020.

JAMAICA BAY SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL

Over 360 participants ventured out to Jamaica Bay in late August for our 2018 and 2019 Shorebird Festivals, while over 250 participants attended virtual talks by birders and scientists at our online 2020 event. Other live and virtual festivals have included our "It's Your Tern!" Festival on Governors Island and the Jamaica Bay Horseshoe Crab, Pollinator, and Raptorama! Festivals.



YOUNG CONSERVATIONISTS

In early 2020 we launched the Young Conservationists Council, a group of young New Yorkers committed to sharing the wonders of the City's diverse ecosystem with the next generation of New Yorkers (18-35), and dedicated to protecting and conserving its natural habitats. So far, the council has conducted both in-person and virtual events including "Flappy Hours" (see virtual event screenshot at right), "bioblitzes" (day-long volunteer surveys of the City's wildlife), trivia nights, and interpretive walks. The group has much more planned to encourage young people to convert from attendees to stewards, and from participants to advocates.



NYC Audubon Young Conservationists Council Presents

Flappy Hour

Friday, April 16
5pm-6pm



MEET AN OWL!





CHAT WITH ORNITHOLOGIST DR. SHANNON CURLEY!



CHANCE TO WIN BIRD COLLECTIVE SWAG!



To join the Zoom trivia game for the end of the show, go to kahoot.it and enter the PIN 7592554

Enter your full name as your nickname, so you have a chance to win fabulous prizes!

Trivia will begin after the presentations.

ATLANTIC HORSESHOE CRAB MONITORING

Over the past three years, horseshoe crab monitoring took place on 12 nights in May and June, as horseshoe crabs came ashore to lay their eggs on four Jamaica Bay beaches. Despite a pause in this research in 2020, 238 volunteers counted and measured and tagged 2,101 crabs, the eggs of which are critical stop-over food for shorebirds such as the threatened *Rufa Red Knot*.



BEACH CLEANUPS

NYC Audubon coordinated or participated in six beach cleanups across the City over the past three years—clearing debris from Jamaica Bay, Queens; Plumb Beach and Calvert Vaux Park in Brooklyn; and Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx. The young volunteers below helped clean North Channel Beach in Jamaica Bay at a partner event with National Park Service and the American Littoral Society. Co-sponsored by Sadhana, a Hindu-based social and environmental justice organization, this cleanup included removal of religious objects left at the shoreline; Sadhana arranged for these items to be transferred to an appropriate sacred site away from the beach.



NYC AUDUBON BY THE NUMBERS, 2019-2021

PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

Buildings Monitored	30
Dead or Injured Birds Found by Monitors	880
dBird Reports (to Date)	9,292
Organizations Using dBird since 2021 Relaunch	38

WATERBIRDS OF NEW YORK HARBOR

Harbor Herons

Islands Surveyed	20
Nesting Wading Bird Pairs (2021 Survey)	1,195
Years of Conservation Data (to Date)	37

Tidal Connections

Semipalmated Sandpipers Tagged (since 2016)	52
American Oystercatcher Pairs Monitored	156
Horseshoe Crabs Tagged	2,101
Pounds of Trash Cleaned from Jamaica Bay	12,550

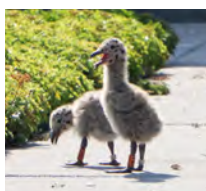
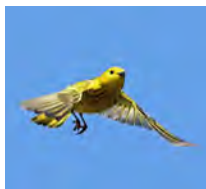
Share the Shore

Spanish/English Cards Distributed (to Date)	450
Be a Good Egg Pledges	401

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Sq. Ft. of Green Infrastructure Monitored	324,004
Arthropods Identified during Monitoring	15,000
Bird Species Identified during Monitoring	64
Growth in Green Roof Researchers Alliance	395%
Scientific Reports Produced	9
Architectural and Landscape Firms Advised on Improving Built Habitat	17

Note: included metrics represent the fiscal period of April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2021, unless otherwise specified.



ADVOCACY, OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION

Bird-Safe Design Law Advocacy

Avian Advocate Volunteers	1,300
Postcard-Writing Volunteers	500

Feathered Friends

In-Person Sessions (2018-2019)	24
Virtual Sessions (Spring 2021 Season)	14

Governors Island Environmental Center

Total Center Visitors and Festival Attendees	6,564
Special Events and Exhibits	40

Trips, Classes, and Festivals

In-Person Walks, Lectures, and Festivals	310
In-Person Program Participants	9,200
Virtual Events and Original Video Programs	36
Virtual Event Participants	1,950
Web Views of Video Programs	14,383

Communications Reach

Website Page Views	778,442
Social Media Followers Gained	10,140
eGret eNewsletter Subscribers Added	1,200
Urban Audubon Newsletters Distributed	43,000

VOLUNTEERS AND MEMBERS

Project Safe Flight Monitors	72
Horseshoe Crab Monitors	238
Injured Bird Transporters	94
Total Community Science Volunteers	648
Total Volunteers	1,402
Direct Donors and Members (to Date)	2,271

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, Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, New York Community Trust, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for their leadership support, and to all those who have supported our work over the past three fiscal years. The donors listed below donated gifts received from April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2021, and are listed at their highest level of annual giving during this period. We also thank the 3,960 members and donors whose collective gifts under \$250 contributed \$399,049 to NYC Audubon's mission over the three fiscal years of this report.

We are grateful to all that contributed to NYC Audubon's 40th Anniversary Campaign. Thanks to your generosity, we exceeded our goal of \$1,040,000, raising a total of \$1,106,000 in anniversary gifts to support our conservation work.

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Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
Equitable Foundation Inc.
Ford Foundation
Gap Foundation
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Goldman Sachs
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The Walt Disney Company Foundation

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Barbara A. Millar Revocable Trust
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Estate of Michael O. Willson

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Mrs. Doris Ali
Oakes Ames
Amy, Robert, Ezra, Isaiah
Richard Andrias
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Emily Baskin
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Barskaya Bella
Karen Benfield
Annette Berger
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Chris Cooper
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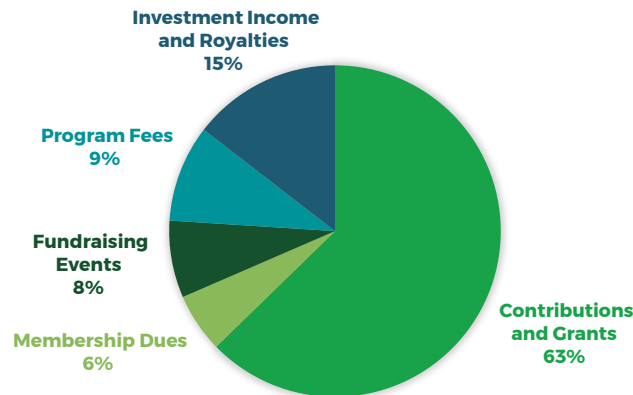
Kama Adair
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Rio Composto
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This list reflects our best efforts at identifying all donors at these levels. We apologize for any oversights. If you notice an error, please let us know.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2019

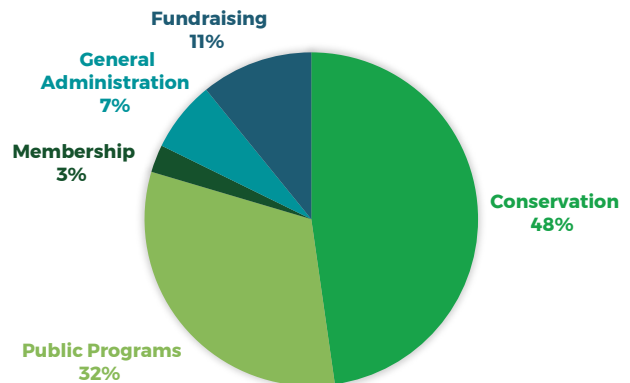
SUPPORT & REVENUE



Contributions and Grants	\$ 1,102,625	63%
Membership Dues	\$ 101,601	6%
Fundraising Events	\$ 132,219	8%
Program Fees	\$ 166,220	9%
Investment Income and Royalties	\$ 255,434	15%

Total Support & Revenue	\$1,758,099	100%
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 25,361	

EXPENSES



Conservation	\$ 827,181	48%
Public Programs	\$ 551,777	32%
Membership	\$ 46,413	3%
General Administration	\$ 119,246	7%
Fundraising	\$ 188,121	11%

Total Expenses	\$ 1,732,738	100%
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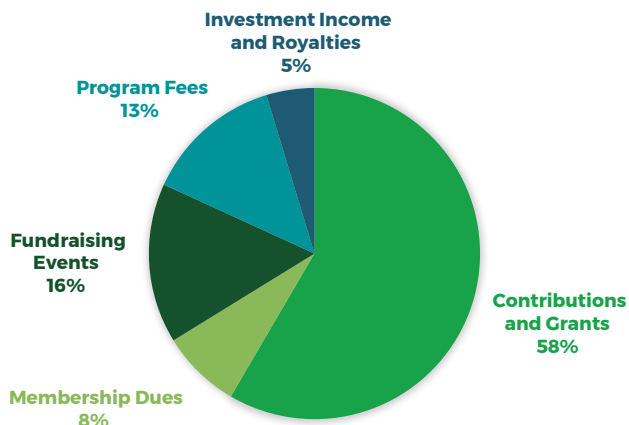
BALANCE SHEET

Assets	Cash	\$ 52,496
	Pledges and Receivables	\$ 19,250
	Prepaid Expenses	\$ 28,439
	Fixed Assets	\$ 41,209
	Investments	\$ 859,526
	Other Assets	\$ 9,335
	Total Assets	\$ 1,010,255
Liabilities	Accounts Payable	\$ 100,611
	Deferred Revenue	\$ 52,068
	Other Liabilities	\$ 6,859
	Total Liabilities	\$ 159,538
Net Assets	Unrestricted	\$ 808,433
	Temporarily Restricted	\$ 42,284
	Permanently Restricted	\$ 0
	Total Net Assets	\$ 850,717
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		\$ 1,010,255

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2020

SUPPORT & REVENUE

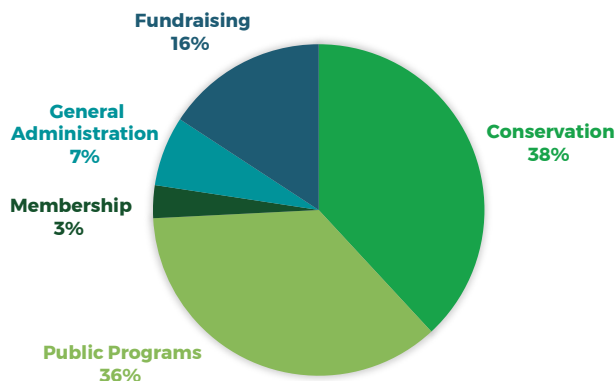


Contributions and Grants	\$ 915,167	58%
Membership Dues	\$ 122,001	8%
Fundraising Events	\$ 244,556	16%
Program Fees	\$ 211,237	13%
Investment Income and Royalties	\$ 73,381	5%

Total Support & Revenue	\$ 1,566,342	100%
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Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (160,833)
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EXPENSES



Conservation	\$ 658,160	38%
Public Programs	\$ 623,499	36%
Membership	\$ 55,216	3%
General Administration	\$ 117,652	7%
Fundraising	\$ 272,647	16%

Total Expenses	\$ 1,727,175	100%
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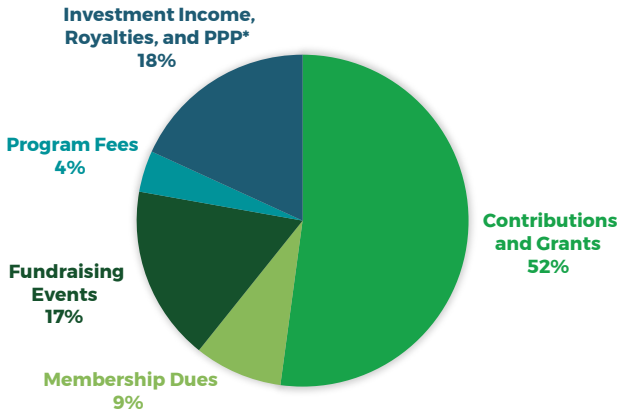
BALANCE SHEET

Assets	Cash	\$ 53,476
	Pledges and Receivables	\$ 150,356
	Prepaid Expenses	\$ 23,433
	Fixed Assets	\$ 54,098
	Investments	\$ 591,159
	Other Assets	\$ 9,335
	Total Assets	\$ 881,857
Liabilities	Accounts Payable	\$ 173,409
	Deferred Revenue	\$ 65,396
	Other Liabilities	\$ 5,958
	Total Liabilities	\$ 244,763
Net Assets	Unrestricted	\$ 545,958
	Temporarily Restricted	\$ 91,136
	Permanently Restricted	\$ 0
	Total Net Assets	\$ 637,094
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		\$ 881,857

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021

SUPPORT & REVENUE

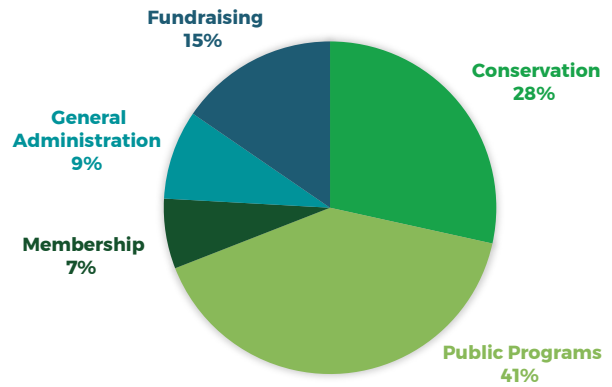


Contributions and Grants	\$ 717,281	52%
Membership Dues	\$ 118,285	9%
Fundraising Events	\$ 234,781	17%
Program Fees	\$ 55,462	4%
Investment Income, Royalties, and PPP*	\$ 249,932	18%

Total Support & Revenue	\$1,375,741	100%
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Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 83,072
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EXPENSES



Conservation	\$ 367,798	28%
Public Programs	\$ 525,076	41%
Membership	\$ 87,972	7%
General Administration	\$ 112,351	9%
Fundraising	\$ 199,472	15%

Total Expenses	\$1,292,669	100%
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BALANCE SHEET

Assets	Cash	\$ 223,271
	Pledges and Receivables	\$ 56,045
	Prepaid Expenses	\$ 3,831
	Fixed Assets	\$ 65,722
	Investments	\$ 731,356
	Other Assets	\$ 9,335
	Total Assets	\$1,089,560
Liabilities	Accounts Payable	\$ 37,956
	Deferred Revenue	\$ 3,793
	Loans (PPP*)	\$ 184,292
	Other Liabilities	\$ 5,958
	Total Liabilities	\$ 232,007
Net Assets	Unrestricted	\$ 828,934
	Temporarily Restricted	\$ 28,618
	Permanently Restricted	\$ 0
	Total Net Assets	\$ 857,552
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		\$1,089,560

* PPP = Paycheck Protection Program.

"If we can teach people about wildlife, they will be touched. Share my wildlife with me. Because humans want to save things that they love."
—Steve Irwin



The Common Yellowthroat will have a safer journey through New York City in the future, thanks to the generosity of NYC Audubon's volunteers, members, donors, and friends.



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