Celebrating 40 Years of New York City Audubon
THE URBAN AUDUBON
40TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Editors: Lauren Klingsberg & Marcia T. Fowle
Chief Editor and Art Director: Tod Winston
Designer: Andrew Maas
Newsletter Committee: Seth Ausubel; Lucienne Bloch; Ned Boyajian; Suzanne Charle; Rebekah Creshkoff; Diane Darrow; Catherine Schragis Heller; Mary Jane Kaplan; Abby McBride; Hillarie O’Toole; Don Riepe; Carol Peace Robinsons; Lewis Rosenberg
Publisher: NYC Audubon

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
President: Jeffrey Kimball
Executive Vice President: Robert Bate
Vice President: Karen Benfield
Vice President: Richard H. Fried, VMD
Vice President: Catherine Schragis Heller
Vice President: Sarah Jeffords
Vice President: Lawrence Levine
Vice President: Rachel Quinones
Treasurer: Driianne Benner
Secretary: Alexander Ewing
Immediate Past President: Harrison D. Maas
Directors: Seth Ausubel; Marsilia A. Boyle; Shawn Cargil; César A. Castillo; Christian Cooper; Tatiana Kalentsch; Deborah Laurel; Jenny Maritz; Alan Steel; Michael Tannen; Richard Veit, PhD; Michael Yuan

ADVISORY COUNCIL
Co-Chair: Marcia T. Fowle
Co-Chair: James R. Sheffield
Richard T. Andrrias; Sarah Grimke Auscoin; Claude Bloch, MD; David Burg; Albert K. Butzel; Cliff Case; Rebekah Creshkoff; Andrew Darrell; Joseph H. Ellis; Andrew Farnsworth, PhD; Lynne Hertzog; Mary Jane Kaplan; Robert J. Kimtis; Lauren Klingsberg; Kimberly Kriger; Janice Laneve; Pamela Manice; Peter Rhoades Mott; Dorothy M. Peteet, PhD; Don Riepe; Lewis Rosenberg; John Shemilt; David Speiser; Tom Stephenson
Past President: Marcia T. Fowle

STAFF
Executive Director: Kathryn Heintz
Director of Conservation & Science: Susan Elbin, PhD
Conservation Biologist: Kaitlyn Parks
Field Biologist: Emilio Tobon
Programs Manager: Danielle Sherman
Advocacy & Outreach Manager: Molly Adams
Volunteer Coordinator: Aurora Crooks
Director of Development: Kelliee Rosenheim
Institutional Giving Manager: Anne Schwartz
Development Associate: Leo Wexler-Mann
Communications Manager: Andrew Maas
Communications Content Manager: Molly Adams
Special Projects: Tod Winston
Controller: David Cavill

A BIRD’S-EYE VIEW FROM THE PRESIDENT’S PERCH

As this 40th anniversary issue of The Urban Audubon goes to press (October 2019), the journal Science has reported a staggering loss of North American birds. A decline of 29 percent, or almost 3 billion individual birds since 1970, is thought to be due in large part to habitat loss and degradation, pesticide use, predation by domestic cats, and window collisions. Particularly sharp declines were observed in grassland birds (53 percent), shorebirds (37 percent), and warblers (37 percent). Over the last decade, the mass of migrating birds, as detected by radar, has itself dropped by 14 percent—and the greatest decline was observed in birds migrating through the eastern US.

This loss hits home, and deeply. The findings are even more disturbing in light of the great and uncertain threat posed to our birds by climate change. Looking back on our organization’s accomplishments, we are struck by the foresight of early NYC Audubon activists in addressing threats to the City’s birds and their habitat. And as we seek to be as effective as we must be in the next 40 years, we must return to our activist roots—and pledge to engage the vast and diverse population of New York City in our struggle.

The challenges are enormous—but NYC Audubon’s conservation work gives us hope. Warblers and other migratory songbirds are among the most common victims of bird-window collisions—and this year we successfully advocated for the introduction of bird-friendly building design legislation in the New York City Council. We support and monitor green roofs and capped-landfill parks that host native plants and grassland areas. Staten Island’s Freshkills Park and Brooklyn’s Shirley Chisholm State Park are examples of such new urban spaces that provide habitat for Grasshopper Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks, and Bobolinks. These grassland areas build upon NYC Audubon’s early successes, such as the 1985 preservation of Floyd Bennett Field.

We maintain our long-time commitment to protecting waterbirds and the rich habitat provided by our city’s 578 miles of coastline. We survey both nesting and migrant shorebirds to better understand their habitat needs, and continue our 35-year monitoring of the Harbor Herons. Many waterbird species depend upon the wetland and island habitats preserved by NYC Audubon’s early advocacy work, as detailed in this issue. Our long-term scientific data can be marshalled to defend these birds and prevent further habitat loss.

NYC Audubon began as a grassroots organization run by far-sighted volunteers. We owe them an enormous debt—a debt we can repay by moving their work forward. Four decades on, we are a larger organization with a professional staff. Our goals remain the same, however, and we walk in our founders’ footsteps by using sound science and advocacy to protect birds and their habitat in New York City. As you read the history of NYC Audubon in this issue, we hope you will be inspired to take a step for our birds.

Where will that step lead you?

To learn about NYC Audubon’s plan for the future, visit www.nycaudubon.org/strategicplan2020-2025.
In This Issue

FEATU RES

5 Bird’s-Eye View
by Marcia T. Fowle

6 The Beginning
by Lew Rosenberg

8 NYC Audubon Timeline

11 Conservation Notes through the Years
by Susan Elbin, PhD

12 Preserving Habitat for Four Decades
by Don Riepe

13 Building a Greener Future
by Kaitlyn Parkins

14 The Origins of Project Safe Flight
by Rebekah Creshkoff

16 Harbor Herons Looks to the Past—and the Future
by Tod Winston

18 NYC Audubon Takes a Stand
by Molly Adams

22 40 Years of Art and Photography

26 The Evolution of a Logo

27 In Memoriam

28 NYC Audubon Awards

32 Crowded House, South Brother Island
by Alan Messer

DEPARTMENTS

19 Volunteer!

20 Lectures

21 Book Reviews and Reader Submissions

24 Events and Adventures
by Mary Jane Kaplan

30 Acknowledgments over 40 Years

31 Support NYC Audubon’s Mission
The Urban Audubon

BOARD PRESIDENTS
(CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)
Barbara Abel; Arlene Adler; Joan Allen; Oakes Ames; Allan Andrade; Sean Andrews; Richard T. Andrias; Deborah Appel; Albert F. Appleton*; Seth Ausubel; Dennis Bader; Caryl Baron; Brenda Torres-Barreto; Robert Bate; Karen Benfield; Drianne Benner; Kim Berman; Lorraine Besher*; Daniel A. Biederman; Ronald Bourque; Ned Boyajian; Mariisilia A. Boyle; Bette Brookshire-McGrath*; Blanche Brown*; David Burg; Shawn Cargill; Clifford Case; Lynne Cashman; César A. Castillo; Deborah Chomniew; Kirsten Christophe; Barbara Cohen; Sam Coleman*; Christian Cooper; Judy Craig; Suzanne Crospy; Jennifer Danis; Michael Delle Cese*; Madeline Dennis; Linda Dunn; Stephen Eims*; Sharon Elliott; Sally Ellyson*; Aline Euler; Christina Evans; Echo Evetts*; Alexander Ewing; Andrew Farnsworth, PhD; Sandra Siebelkorn; William Fleming*; Marcia T. Fowle; Lee Frankel; Asher Fried*; Richard H. Fried, VMD; John Ganzi; Richard Garretson; Richard Gershon; Steven Gibbard; Judy Goodstein; Diana Greene; Gelan Guengerich; Elizabeth Halak; Tarrant Hancock; Ellen Hartig; Milton Heiberg; Catherine Schragis Heller; Lynne Hertzog; Cullen Howe; Wesley Howell; Noel D. Humphreys; Mark Izenman; Gail Jankus; Sarah Jeffords; Frank B. Jewett; Emily Jones*; Peter Joost; Tatiana Kaletsch; Peggy Kane; Ed Kaplan; Mary Jane Kaplan; Ari Kavano; Diane Keating; Jared Keyes; Jeffrey Kimball; Robert J. Kimits; Lauren Klingsberg; Elizabeth Krahmer; Gloria Kuhn; Deborah Laurel; Karen Lavine; Andrew Lehman; Janice Laneve; Alan M. Levine; Lawrence Levine; Anne Litke; Robert Loeb; Domenic Lofaso; Laura Luciano; Harrison D. Maas; Pamela Manice; Lee Marcott; Jenny Marré; Lynette Matthews; E. J. McAdams; Cheryl Miller; Peter Rhodes Mott; Juliette Muscatt; Scott Nanz; Eugene Nardelli; Michael Nelson; Jayne Nozil; Alfred Ott; Linda Pasquale*; Dorothy M. Pettee, PhD; Danielle Ponsolle; Dorothy Poole; Peter Post; Rachel Quijones; Joan Rechen; Irene Rich; Don Riepe; Ed Roberts*; Lynn Rollins; Lewis Rosenberg*; Sheila Rosenburg; Gillian Rosenfield; Geoffrey Cobb Ryan*; Jorge Santiago; Starr Saphir; Ina Schwartz; Dimitri Sevastopoulo; Harriet Shalat; Anna Shapiro; Harriet Shapiro; Leslie Sharpe; James R. Shusfield; John Shemilt; Peter Shen; Deidre Silberstein; Howard Snyder; Fredric Spar; Beverly Sparling; David Speiser; Mairead Stack; Alan Steel; Tom Stephenson; Norman Stotz; Kristen Strom; John Sugis; John Tanacredi; Michael Tannen; David Tiemann; Herbert Trossman; Richard Veit, PhD; Scott Walter; Chris Ward; Sally Weiss; Sarah Young; Michael Yuan; Ted Zinn

BOARD DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS (ALPHABETICAL ORDER)
Barbara Abel; Arlene Adler; Joan Allen; Oakes Ames; Allan Andrade; Sean Andrews; Richard T. Andrias; Deborah Appel; Albert F. Appleton; Seth Ausubel; Dennis Bader; Caryl Baron; Brenda Torres-Barreto; Robert Bate; Karen Benfield; Drianne Benner; Kim Berman; Lorraine Besher; Daniel A. Biederman; Ronald Bourque; Ned Boyajian; Mariisilia A. Boyle; Bette Brookshire-McGrath*; Blanche Brown*; David Burg; Shawn Cargill; Clifford Case; Lynne Cashman; César A. Castillo; Deborah Chomniew; Kirsten Christophe; Barbara Cohen; Sam Coleman; Christian Cooper; Judy Craig; Suzanne Crospy; Jennifer Danis; Michael Delle Cese; Madeline Dennis; Linda Dunn; Stephen Eims; Sharon Elliott; Sally Ellyson; Aline Euler; Christina Evans; Echo Evetts; Alexander Ewing; Andrew Farnsworth, PhD; Sandra Siebelkorn; William Fleming; Marcia T. Fowle; Lee Frankel; Asher Fried; Richard H. Fried, VMD; John Ganzi; Richard Garretson; Richard Gershon; Steven Gibbard; Judy Goodstein; Diana Greene; Gelan Guengerich; Elizabeth Halak; Tarrant Hancock; Ellen Hartig; Milton Heiberg; Catherine Schragis Heller; Lynne Hertzog; Cullen Howe; Wesley Howell; Noel D. Humphreys; Mark Izenman; Gail Jankus; Sarah Jeffords; Frank B. Jewett; Emily Jones; Peter Joost; Tatiana Kaletsch; Peggy Kane; Ed Kaplan; Mary Jane Kaplan; Ari Kavano; Diane Keating; Jared Keyes; Jeffrey Kimball; Robert J. Kimits; Lauren Klingsberg; Elizabeth Krahmer; Gloria Kuhn; Deborah Laurel; Karen Lavine; Andrew Lehman; Janice Laneve; Alan M. Levine; Lawrence Levine; Anne Litke; Robert Loeb; Domenic Lofaso; Laura Luciano; Harrison D. Maas; Pamela Manice; Lee Marcott; Jenny Marré; Lynette Matthews; E. J. McAdams; Cheryl Miller; Peter Rhodes Mott; Juliette Muscatt; Scott Nanz; Eugene Nardelli; Michael Nelson; Jayne Nozil; Alfred Ott; Linda Pasquale; Dorothy M. Pettee, PhD; Danielle Ponsolle; Dorothy Poole; Peter Post; Rachel Quijones; Joan Rechen; Irene Rich; Don Riepe; Ed Roberts; Lynn Rollins; Lewis Rosenberg; Sheila Rosenburg; Gillian Rosenfield; Geoffrey Cobb Ryan; Jorge Santiago; Starr Saphir; Ina Schwartz; Dimitri Sevastopoulo; Harriet Shalat; Anna Shapiro; Harriet Shapiro; Leslie Sharpe; James R. Shusfield; John Shemilt; Peter Shen; Deidre Silberstein; Howard Snyder; Fredric Spar; Beverly Sparling; David Speiser; Mairead Stack; Alan Steel; Tom Stephenson; Norman Stotz; Kristen Strom; John Sugis; John Tanacredi; Michael Tannen; David Tiemann; Herbert Trossman; Richard Veit, PhD; Scott Walter; Chris Ward; Sally Weiss; Sarah Young; Michael Yuan; Ted Zinn

URBAN AUDUBON EDITORS
(CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)
Marcia T. Fowle; Sean Andrews; Todd Fiorentino; Peter Rhodes Mott; E. J. McAdams; Glenn Phillips; Kathryn Heintz

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
(CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)
Marcia T. Fowle; Sean Andrews; Todd Fiorentino; Peter Rhodes Mott; E. J. McAdams; Glenn Phillips; Kathryn Heintz

URBAN AUDUBON EDITORS
(CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)
Lewis Rosenberg*; Sally Ellyson*; Lynne Matusow; Danielle Ponsolle; Bette Brookshire-McGrath*; Harriet Shapiro; John Helak; Lynn Kelly (copy editor); Barbara Hastings (assistant editor); Carol Newman (graphics editor); Domenic Lofaso; Liz Farrell; Susan Walsh; Marcia T. Fowle; Lauren Klingsberg; Susan Bates (art editor); Tod Winston (managing editor); Andrew Maas (managing editor)

ADVISORY COUNCIL (ALPHABETICAL ORDER)
Louise K. Ames; Oakes Ames; Richard T. Andrias; Carol Ash; Sarah Grimké Aucou; Drianne Benner; Peter A. A. Berle; Peter P. Blanchard III; Claude Bloch, MD; Mariisilia A. Boyle; Bernard P. Brennan, PhD; David Burg; Albert K. Butzel; Clifford Case; Rebekah Creshkoff; Andrew Darrell; Joseph H. Ellis; Andrew Farnsworth, PhD; Sandra Siebelkorn; Barbara J. Fife; Marcia T. Fowle (co-chair); Meyer S. Frucher; Richard Gershon; Rev. Galen Guengerich; Lynn Hertzog; Mary Jane Kaplan; DeWitte T. Kersh; Robert J. Kimits; Lauren Klingsberg; Kimberly Kriger; Janice Laneve; Melanie Lyons; Harrison D. Maas; Pamela Manice; E. J. McAdams; Mary Tyler Moore; Peter Rhodes Mott; Stephanie T. Mott; George J. Mullen, Jr.; Philip Palmer; Alexander Papachristou; Wendy Paulson; Dorothy M. Pettee, PhD; Hector P. Prud’homme; Rebecca Randall; Don Riepe; Adam Robinson; Lynne Rollins; Lewis Rosenberg; James R. Shefllefield (co-chair); Kathy S. Simmons; Stephanie M. Simmons; David Speiser; Lloyd Spitalnik; Tom Stephenson; Alison Strong; A. Richard Turner; Cal Vornberger

*Founding board member, elected December 12, 1979.

NYC AUDUBON’S VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF
Since its inception in 1979, New York City Audubon's conservation work has been accomplished by hundreds upon hundreds of people, both volunteers and staff, dedicated to protecting the City’s birds. Volunteers founded this organization—and our board and advisory council, acknowledged on this page, are indeed themselves volunteers. Volunteers have been this organization's lifeblood: They've spoken out against unwise development, worked diligently to protect and enhance vulnerable habitat, answered phones and stuffed envelopes in the office, led bird walks across the City, pounded the pavement to document dead and injured birds, tagged spawning horseshoe crabs in the dark, and surveyed and monitored the City's birdlife. They've donated countless photographs and art pieces. They've created The Urban Audubon, the Look Around New York City children’s newsletter, and our website. As NYC Audubon has grown, some of this work have been assumed by our staff—a staff, like our volunteer corps, that has carried out a labor of love. NYC Audubon's 40 years of volunteers and staff are too numerous to acknowledge here by name. We would be nothing, however, without all those who have given their time, energy, and passion on behalf of New York City's birds. Thank you.
Marcia T. Fowle, NYC Audubon’s first executive director, later served as board president and is currently co-chair of the advisory council. She has been co-editor of The Urban Audubon since 1998, and co-authored The New York City Audubon Guide to Finding Birds in the Metropolitan Area.

In 1992, the all-volunteer NYC Audubon was seeking its first executive director—and I completed a Master of Science degree at Hunter College’s Graduate School of Urban Affairs and Planning. I interviewed with the board of directors and landed the job, with no inkling of how life-changing it would be.

I was not a “birder” in 1992, but had always been a conservationist and an outdoor enthusiast—a hiker, biker, and, when my children were young, a catcher of snakes and toads. My coursework at Hunter covered environmental law, so I felt prepared to tackle this new challenge. I found a NYC Audubon already well versed in environmental controversy, however: the intrepid young chapter had successfully opposed the Westway Project along the Hudson River, a Con Edison plan to use high-sulfur oil and coal in Queens and Staten Island, and a New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks) plan to spray pesticides to control gypsy moths.

During the six years I served as executive director; numerous experienced volunteers helped with the day-to-day operation. Norman Stotz, the soul of the organization and the fount of all things Audubon, was with me most days. He manned the telephone, answering all sorts of birdy questions with authority and humor. Calls were beginning to come in about dead birds at the base of glassy buildings; Rebekah Creshkoff and her Project Safe Flight team soon revealed the enormity of this issue in the City.

After I’d been on the job for a bit, Board Member Peter Mott (later board president) and I enticed two potential funders out to see nesting herons on Shooters and Prall’s Islands, off Staten Island’s northwest shore. We set out on the “Nautubon,” a temperamental 12-foot powerboat—and in the middle of the Arthur Kill, it conked out, a microscopic vessel among huge container ships. With a single oar and as Snowy and Great Egrets flew overhead, Peter paddled us to Staten Island’s marshy shore. The funders and I got back to Manhattan, hours later, quite exhilarated. And NYC Audubon garnered two foundation grants, perhaps by scaring the funders out of their wits.

In 1994 Board Member (also later president) David Burg and I launched the Jamaica Bay Coastal Habitat Restoration Project. For two years experts surveyed breeding, migratory, and wintering birds; marine invertebrates; and dragonflies and butterflies. This scientific research led to restoration and management strategies including a diverse assemblage of Girl Scouts, City Volunteers, and the neighboring Rockaway community.

With the aim of diversifying our audience and membership, in 1994 we offered free family bird walks at Central Park’s Dana Discovery Center, at the edge of Harlem. These walks were not well attended, unfortunately—and we discontinued them, vowing we’d try again. Sure enough, NYC Audubon now leads popular free walks throughout the City, and continues to expand programming in underrepresented communities.

As I wound down my years as executive director, 50 volunteers completed an official Breeding Bird Census of Central Park. We confirmed 31 nesting species; American Robins topped the list at 207 pairs. Also included were Pale Male and Blue, his mate at that time.

My years with New York City Audubon have been an inspirational ride. I’ve discovered that birdlife in the City awakens a special appreciation of nature, in all its complexity and unpredictability. I’ve worked with an extraordinary group of peers: compassionate, smart, witty, and determined. And whether perilously adrift in the Arthur Kill, disappointed at the Dana Discovery Center, or eaten alive by mosquitoes in the Rockaways, I have treasured my work with this rare organization. I cheer on NYC Audubon, now in its 40th year, for its innovative, informed, and courageous support of New York City’s wildlife.
Lew Rosenberg is a founding member of NYC Audubon and original co-editor of The Urban Audubon (with Sally Ellyson). He later served as vice president and is a longtime member of the advisory council.

As reported in the very first issue of The Urban Audubon, published in September 1979 (see original cover on page 7), thirty fellow birders and I met in May 1978 to explore the possibility of forming a New York City chapter of the National Audubon Society. While the Linnaean Society of New York at the American Museum of Natural History filled the niche for bird study, many of us saw an unmet need for a local, broad-based environmental organization that could advocate for habitat in City parks and other natural areas. At the time, the City was just emerging from the financial crisis of the early 1970s, when funds for parks were scarce and maintenance was in decline.

Even before NYC Audubon was formally established, future members emerged as a force to be reckoned with, giving birders a new identity as environmental activists. Several early successes involved Central Park: In 1977 the City closed the Central Park Boathouse during the winter months, denying access to its heated snack bar and logbook of bird sightings (conceived by notable birder Sarah Elliott, long before the advent of eBird). A successful petition to reopen the Boathouse enlisted birders, joggers, and cyclists—as well as then City Councilman (and later NYC Parks Commissioner) Henry Stern. Similar tactics had earlier effected the return to the Central Park Police Precinct of “birdwatching cop” Dennis Foley, after he had been involuntarily transferred out of the park. A New Yorker article reported on a party at the Boathouse celebrating his return—and focused on my wife and fellow birder Sheila, who also served on NYC Audubon’s early board of directors.

From 1978 to 1982, a cadre of regular Central Park bird watchers successfully opposed a Central Park Conservancy plan to “restore” the Ramble through changes such as tree removal. Having formed a committee and met with the task force and landscaper overseeing the work, Sheila and other bird-watchers spent hundreds of hours preparing the 40-page Report of Birding Areas in the Ramble. Based upon this assessment that implementation of the conservancy’s plan would diminish bird habitat, NYC Audubon appeared before relevant community boards in opposition to the plan—and in the end, the plan was altered to be more bird-friendly. The chapter’s actions were prominently covered in The New York Times. NYC Audubon then participated in forming the Central Park Woodlands Advisory Board, which continues to provide naturalist input on park planning.

At the first general meeting in October 1979, Emily Jones, later elected as NYC Audubon’s first president, was introduced as chairperson. Formation of the first committees was announced—headed by Betty Brookshire, Geoffrey Cobb Ryan, Sally Ellyson, and myself—along with a calendar of upcoming events. (See the original text below.) The speaker for the December meeting was Robert Arbib, then editor of American Birds and the coordinator for the annual Christmas Bird Count. Coincidently, Sheila and I were the compilers of the Central Park Christmas Count the following year, after which the dozen participants gathered to compare notes over a cup of coffee at the Central Park Boathouse.


All reproductions from historical issues of The Urban Audubon are labeled with their issue date. (The reproduction above is from the November 1979 issue.)
reporter who accompanied us, wrote up his experience in an article entitled "A Holiday That Counts." The Central Park Christmas Bird Count, now presided over by the chapter, has grown to involve many participants who gather at the Arsenal for a festive celebration and an elaborate digital compilation.

The first election of NYC Audubon officers was held at the December 1979 meeting, where the proposed Westway project, planning a broad highway along the Hudson River on Manhattan’s West Side, was hotly discussed. Westway was later ruled unlawful by the federal court as environmentally unsound, in a groundbreaking ruling, after a suit brought by the Sierra Club. Early board meetings were held at my law firm’s conference room, until we rented an office in Masonic Hall, where the office is today. That first office was occupied exclusively by volunteers led by Norman Stotz, until the scope of activity and the budget justified full-time staff.

In the years that have followed, I’ve watched NYC Audubon blossom beyond my wildest imagination to a position of preeminence in the birding and environmental arena. The chapter’s volunteers and staff continue to foster the values that we who formed it hoped would be adopted, but never could envision so fully actualized. Those values have never been more needed: my wildest imagination could also not have foreseen the challenges we now face in the undermining of fundamental environmental regulations, including the Endangered Species Act, undertaken by the present administration in Washington. We must redouble our efforts to preserve not only birds, but the planet itself, through continued education and advocacy.
1979
First issue of *The Urban Audubon* (Sept.)
First general meeting (Oct. 17)
First board of directors elected (Dec. 12)

1981
Christo installation in Central Park successfully opposed

1983
First birding course, by Emily Jones, is “oversubscribed”

1984
Look Around New York City first created by Naola Gersten-Woolf
First NYC Audubon Birdathon
NYC Audubon “adopts” Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

1985
Prall’s Island Urban Audubon Wildlife Refuge established (Feb. 21, 1985)
First annual chapter awards
First consecutive Harbor Herons survey (of 35)

1986
Floyd Bennett Field grasslands restoration project begun
Harbor Herons boat, the “Nautubon,” acquired

1987
Jamaica Bay’s Mott Basin Wetland preserved
*Buffer the Bay* published
Staten Island’s Goethals Bridge Pond purchased by NY State

1988
Jamaica Bay’s Dubos Point Wildlife Sanctuary and Bayswater Point State Park established (Oct. 6, 1988)
Based in part on a previous record compiled by past Board President and Secretary Geoffrey Cobb Ryan

1989
Campaigns to preserve Long Island Sound and Sterling Forest, NY

1990
Exxon oil spill in the Arthur Kill
Pale Male hatches
Butterfly gardens created at Jamaica Bay NWR, Floyd Bennett Field, Fort Tilden

1991
*Birding without a Car* pamphlet published

1992
*Buffer the Bay Revisited* published
Opposition to garbage incineration by New York City

1993
Marcia T. Fowle hired as first executive director
Volunteer Service Award for “valuable ecological research” received from Mayor David Dinkins
Advocacy for NY State Adirondack Bill and Environmental Bond Act

1994
Family birding walks at Dana Discovery Center
NYC Audubon library created by Jessie Kitching
Earth Defender Award received from National Audubon

1995
Earth Day events held in all five boroughs
NYC Audubon advisory council formed

1996
Advocacy for NY State Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act

1997
Project Safe Flight founded
Songbird migration study on islands west of Staten Island
Support for creation of Hudson River Park

1998
Breeding Bird Census of Central Park
Opposition to Alley Pond Park bike trail

1999
Claude and Lucienne Bloch lecture series founded

2000
Toxic pesticide Avitrol banned in NYC
Direct NYC Audubon membership program instituted
Bird Sanctuary in Riverside Park created

2001
*The New York City Audubon Guide to Finding Birds in the Metropolitan Area* published
*An Islanded Nature* published with the Trust for Public Land

2002
*Pale Male* documentary screenings hosted
E. J. McAdams hired as executive director
First Tribute in Light monitoring

2003
American Kestrel logo adopted
Audubon Urban Chapter Network (AUCN) founded
Advocacy for bird-friendly design at World Trade Center site

2004
Pale Male and Lola nest removed from 927 Fifth Avenue (December 7)
Tribute in Light memorial monitors observe thousands of migrants in light beams

2005
New nest platform for Pale Male erected
Lights Out New York program introduced
Bird-Safe Building Guidelines published

2006
First Annual Shorebird Festival at Jamaica Bay with American Littoral Society
Task force created to facilitate transfer of wetlands to NYC Parks

2007
South Brother Island transferred to New York City Parks

(Continues on page 10)
NYC Audubon Timeline (continued)

2008
Pale Male nest platform studied and altered by Sandy Fiebelkorn
Opposition to development of Highland Park/Ridgewood Reservoir
Director of Conservation and Science Susan Elbin, PhD hired

2009
Horseshoe crab monitoring and beach cleanups, funded by Toyota TogetherGreen
Chimney Swift nesting towers erected as a memorial to founder Geoffrey Cobb Ryan
Breeding Bird Census of Prospect Park

2010
Harbor Herons Conservation Plan published
Opposition to development of Pouch Camp in Staten Island Greenbelt

2011
Development of Four Sparrow Marsh opposed
Webcam featuring NYU red-tailed hawks “Bobby, Violet, and Pip,” in partnership with The New York Times
Shorebird monitoring with Rocking the Boat students in the Bronx
American Oystercatcher banding on Jamaica Bay beaches begun

2013
Plan proposed for restoration of Jamaica Bay West Pond

2014
D-Bird.org data tool launched
Program with the Port Authority to trap, band, and relocate Snowy Owls from airports
Bird-friendly glass testing begun at Bronx Zoo flight tunnel

2016
Brooklyn’s Kingsland Wildflowers green roof created in partnership with Broadway Stages

2010
Harbor Herons Conservation Plan published
Opposition to development of Pouch Camp in Staten Island Greenbelt

2011
Development of Four Sparrow Marsh opposed
Webcam featuring NYU red-tailed hawks “Bobby, Violet, and Pip,” in partnership with The New York Times
Shorebird monitoring with Rocking the Boat students in the Bronx
American Oystercatcher banding on Jamaica Bay beaches begun

2012
Be a Good Egg program launched
Advocacy for birds and habitat in the General Management Plan for Gateway NRA

2015
Bird-friendly Building Design updated

2018
Board committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion created
Bird-friendly building legislation proposed
Ridgewood Reservoir protected in collective victory of multiple partners

2019
“Rodenticides and Birds of Prey” pamphlet published
35th consecutive year of Harbor Herons Nesting Surveys
Bird-friendly building design legislation introduced in New York City Council
After four decades, NYC Audubon’s conservation work is still very much grounded in the efforts of our organization’s founders. These environmental pioneers were volunteers who collected data themselves, and hired scientific consultants as necessary, to identify and protect critical wetland, grassland, and upland bird habitat. As we’ve grown as a professional organization, we’ve brought conservation and science “in house”: in 2008 NYC Audubon created a Director of Conservation position, expanding that department in 2014 to include Science and Conservation. Looking forward to the next 40 years, our expanded staff is well-positioned to employ its scientific expertise. We will continue to protect wild bird habitat in the City from development or degradation—while providing safe passage to migratory birds through bird-friendly building design and green roof habitat.

In preserving habitat and providing safe passage, NYC Audubon protects two principal groups of birds: waterbirds and migratory songbirds. Waterbirds use our harbor for nesting and stopover habitat. As top-level predators in the harbor estuary ecosystem, they help recycle nutrients in the harbor—and their success here is an indicator of clean water, secure nesting sites, and a plentiful food supply. Our 35-year-old Harbor Herons nesting survey continues to collect vital data on the health of breeding waterbirds, while our migratory shorebird research provides insight into these vulnerable species’ movements and use of our harbor’s ecological resources.

Migratory songbirds pass through our City in spring and fall by the tens of millions, mostly at night, often landing in the City’s rich natural areas to refuel. And as our early Project Safe Flight volunteers discovered, many die in collisions with windows. Armed with scientific data provided over many years by our monitoring volunteers, through continuing collaborative research, and our crowdsourced D-Bird.org database, NYC Audubon is committed to making the City safer for our visiting migrants. We will do so by demanding bird-safe building design, by reducing light pollution, and by creating and enhancing habitat, including green roofs, as safe havens for birds.

In the following pages, you’ll read both past and current accounts of our conservation programs. We applaud those who’ve brought us this far—and hope that reading about their efforts will inspire you to get more deeply involved yourself. All of our programs began in the same way: a simple desire to make a difference for the 350 species of birds that breed, winter over, and migrate through New York City.
Preserving Habitat for Four Decades

Don Riepe is a past NYC Audubon vice president and secretary, a current member of the advisory council, and a longtime birding guide and research partner. Following a career in the National Park Service, Don became northeast chapter director and Jamaica Bay Guardian for the American Littoral Society.

Since its inception in 1979, NYC Audubon has been deeply involved in preserving habitat for birds throughout New York City. In the 1980s the society initiated the “Buffer the Bay” program, whereby vacant lands in Queens and Brooklyn surrounding Jamaica Bay were surveyed and prioritized according to ecological values. Most of these lands were being held by New York City agencies such as Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Economic Development Corporation (EDC). NYC Audubon worked with the Trust for Public Land and the American Littoral Society to have these lands transferred to NYC Parks. Fortunately, Henry Stern, then the NYC Parks Commissioner, was greatly in favor of accepting these lands as preserves. The first successful transfer was a 25-acre parcel in Far Rockaway named Dubos Point Wetlands Preserve. This site name was coined by a local activist named Bernie Blum in memory of Dr. René Dubos, who wrote about people interacting with nature using Jamaica Bay as a prime example.

Following that success came Brant Point (named for the little Brant goose) and Four Sparrow Marsh (named by past Board President and Secretary Ron Bourqe and his wife Jean). The latter site borders Flatbush Avenue and the Belt Parkway. My favorite site is Vernam-Barbadoes Terrapeninsula, a 20-acre Forever Wild* preserve bordered by Vernam and Barbadoes basins in Arverne, Queens. The local community board wanted to allow a developer to build a truck-body-customizing plant there. After a two-year letter writing campaign to have this lovely peninsula transferred from the EDC to NYC Parks, persistence prevailed. The site was given to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) whose commissioner at the time was Al Appleton, a former NYC Audubon president. Appleton then turned it over to NYC Parks. On the day of dedication, Henry Stern arrived at the site in a small motor boat. He was dressed in battle fatigues (including helmet) and planted the NYC Parks’ green maple leaf flag on the shore, stating, “I claim this land as part of New York City’s Emerald Empire.” Additional Buffer the Bay site successes included a wooded shoreline at Fresh Creek, Brooklyn, also transferred to NYC Parks.

Another early habitat victory was persuading the National Park Service to set aside over 140 acres of open area next to runways at Floyd Bennett Field as grassland habitat for the Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Upland Sandpiper, American Kestrel, and other open-field-dependent species. Ron and Jean Bourqe, along with NYC Audubon volunteers, cleared the site of woody vegetation so it could be mown yearly by the National Park Service. Along with the Bourques, past Board President, Vice President, and current Advisory Council Member David Burg, a longtime advocate for grassland birds and their habitat, was instrumental in this restoration effort.

Over the years NYC Audubon has been involved in many other projects and programs that protected and enhanced habitat...
Building a Greener Future

Kaitlyn Parkins, NYC Audubon’s conservation biologist, has a special research interest in animal migration and movement, as well as in innovative approaches to creating habitat in urban spaces.

Historically, NYC Audubon has advocated for the conservation of natural areas with two primary goals in mind: the preservation of habitat for birds, and the safeguarding of ecological services that protect our city. Projects such as Buffer the Bay (1987), Buffer the Bay Revisited (1992), and Jamaica Bay Coastal Habitat Restoration Project (1994-1996) aimed to protect land surrounding Jamaica Bay as bird habitat, and as a buffer from storms and flooding. In recent years, as the need to protect the city has become ever more imperative in the face of climate change, city planners have begun to design built infrastructure to mimic the ecosystem services provided by natural areas. Such projects include bioswales, permeable pavement, and green roofs.

These green infrastructure projects are usually designed with stormwater capture and management as a main priority, but they provide countless other benefits to our urban ecosystem, including lowered temperatures, improved air quality, reduced noise pollution, increased recreational space, and habitat for wildlife. Thus far NYC Audubon has been involved in the creation of three green infrastructure installations, at which we have also conducted biodiversity monitoring focused on birds, bats, and insects: the Libra Triangle bioswale in Queens, the Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages green roof in Brooklyn, and the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center green roof in Manhattan. The seven-acre green roof atop the Javits Center, designed by architects FXCollaborative, can absorb up to seven million gallons of stormwater runoff each year.

Most recently, NYC Audubon has facilitated creation of the Green Roof Researchers Alliance, a group of over 50 researchers in green roof science, policy, and education. Collaborative partnerships will be of critical importance as we continue to support green infrastructure in New York City. Such projects demonstrate how our urban environment can provide solutions to habitat loss, enabling birds to survive and even thrive here.

* The Forever Wild Program is a NYC Parks initiative to protect and preserve the most ecologically valuable lands within the five boroughs.
The Origins of Project Safe Flight: From Lone Lunatic to Popular Program

Rebekah Creshkoff founded Project Safe Flight during her long career in corporate communications and now sells artisanal bread at a farmers market, studies voice, and improves habitat for pollinators on her five-acre property in Callicoon, NY.

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?

Years later, Sarah Elliott, the grande dame of Central Park birding, wrote in The Urban Audubon about night-migrating birds being disoriented by light and flying into skyscrapers. She urged armchair activists to call on captains of industry to dim building lights during migration. I exhorted the American Bird Conservancy policy council to address the issue. In response, they faxed me an article from their newsletter about Toronto’s Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP). As I read it, my jaw dropped. I called FLAP’s founder, Michael Mesure, and told him I wanted to get building managers to turn off lights at night. “You’re going to need to show them data first,” he told me.

So reluctantly, in April 1997, I started going downtown early in the morning. Did I actually get there at 5:45 am? I circled 10 buildings at the World Financial and World Trade Centers, looking for birds at the base of the mammoth structures. I recorded each day’s findings on a hand-drawn map in order to identify particularly hazardous facades. Despite getting up early, I could scarcely sleep at night, so worried was I about all the birds migrating over the City at that very moment. That first year, working alone, I found 413 casualties at those 10 buildings—296 dead and 117 injured—and 49 at other locations. I wrote about my findings for The Urban Audubon. And, having felt like a lone lunatic on my peculiar quest, I urged others to join me.

Past Board Member Ned Boyajian, current Board Member Kellie Quiñones, and Allison Sloan were among the first who responded to the call. We divvied up the days of the week and found other problematic sites. We approached building managers and had some successes: at the World Trade Center and 26 Federal Plaza, they put up netting to prevent birds from striking the most dangerous windows. We educated architects about the issue (thank you, Bruce Fowle!). And E. J. McAdams, then the executive director of NYC Audubon, persuaded the huge USPS mail-processing facility in midtown to black out its reflective glass panels (they weren’t even functional windows!) along its southwest wall, which reflected mature trees.

We called our effort Project Safe Flight. It has been gratifying beyond belief to see the collisions issue gradually become ever more mainstream as NYC Audubon has professionalized and expanded the work.

Note: in March 2019, The New York City Council under the leadership of Speaker Corey Johnson, and with input from NYC Audubon, introduced legislation that would require all new and significantly altered buildings to use bird-safe glass and design.
NYC Audubon staff and volunteers have monitored the Tribute in Light memorial since 2002 to ensure that night-migrating songbirds, which in some years are attracted in huge numbers to the Tribute’s powerful light beams, are not exhausted and injured during the all-night event. In 2004, a great number of birds became trapped in the lights: according to Rebekah Creshkoff, who had monitored the first two tribute years, “this one was very different from the others. With no moon to guide them, thousands of nocturnally migrating birds became trapped in the columns of light. The beams were visibly filled with chaotically swirling birds for their entire height.” This phenomenon repeated itself most dramatically in 2010 and again in 2015, when the lights were shut down a record eight times. Tribute in Light Producer Michael Ahern, who passed away in 2015, was an important partner in this endeavor. NYC Audubon continues to work closely with the National September 11 Memorial & Museum and Michael Ahern Production Services to minimize any harm to migrating birds during this powerful tribute. -Ted Winston
Harbor Herons Looks to the Past

How the Harbor Herons Project Came To Be

Peter Rhoades Mott

You could start the history of Harbor Herons with the history of the Audubon Society. In New York City, toward the end of the nineteenth century, a movement began to stop the slaughter of egrets, herons, and other birds in prime breeding plumage to get feathers for ladies’ hats. This carnage had reduced some bird populations to dangerously low levels. (It’s hard to know how badly decimated bird populations were, but one example came from a regular observer in Massachusetts. He went three years at the end of the nineteenth century without seeing a herring gull!) The final result of this early conservation campaign was the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1914. The treaty among the United States, Canada and Mexico gives protection to migratory birds.

Under protection, the bird populations came back. Through the 1930s and 1940s it was still unusual to see egrets in the New York area. By the 1950s they were seen regularly and by the 1960s the egrets had moved their breeding range north as the population grew. I remember finding snowy egrets nesting in the Isles of Shoals off the coast of New Hampshire in the early 1960s.

As the new heron population moved north, it went right by New York City. Imagine the excitement of Scotty Jenkins and friends when they found egrets nesting on islands around Staten Island in the early 1980s. It seems that under the 1972 Clean Water Act water quality in the waters of the city had improved enough to allow egret food to prosper in the shallows of the Arthur Kill and in the Meadowlands.

Scotty and the other Staten Islanders notified New York City Audubon of the nesters, and the protection efforts and annual censuses began. The city asked NYC Audubon to study and co-manage Frall’s Island with its colony of great, cattle, and snowy egrets, night-herons and glossy ibises, creating the Harbor Herons Project.

Mayor Edward I. Koch signs a management agreement for Prall’s Island with NYC Parks/NYC Audubon on Thursday, February 21, 1985. Pictured (left to right): past Board Member Peggy Kane, past Board President and Vice President Albert F. Appleton, NYC Parks Commissioner Henry Stern, past Board President and Vice President Bette Brookshire-McGrath, Mayor Edward Koch, and Wally Popolizio.

(Article and caption, June-July 2003)

SHOOTERS ISLAND

Whereas, Shooters Island is an important and unique heron rookery and wildlife habitat; and whereas, the island is a prime example of how nature, left alone, will over time heal an area of its destructive human impacts; and whereas, Congress has authorized the Army Corps of Engineers to destroy Shooters Island; and whereas, the proposed destruction would provide no economic or social benefit that would in any way justify the loss of the ecological and wildlife resources on Shooters Island;

NOW THEREFORE, the New York City Audubon Society resolves that permanent protection should be provided for the island in its existing state; and authorizes and directs the Conservation Committee to explore what form of protection would be most appropriate and to take such steps as are required to obtain it and to do so in consultation with the local Audubon chapters in Union and Hudson counties, New Jersey.

(Article and caption, November-December 2000)
In 2019, NYC Audubon’s Harbor Herons project marked its 35th year of consecutive surveys of New York Harbor’s breeding population of egrets, herons, ibis, and other waterbirds. In the early years of its history, NYC Audubon helped win protection for nesting islands such as the Isle of Meadows and Prall’s Island in the Arthur Kill, Shooters Island in the Kill Van Kull/Newark Bay, and South Brother Island in the Bronx. Relevant NYC Audubon publications have included *An Islanded Nature* (2001), co-produced with the Trust for Public Land, and the *Harbor Herons Conservation Plan* (2010). We hold a leadership role in the Harbor Herons Subcommittee of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program, created by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to protect, conserve, and restore our estuary.

Over the past three and a half decades, the “mirror pole”—the tool used to carefully count egret eggs and nestlings, high up in trees and shrubs—has changed hands several times. Katharine Parsons was the first official survey leader, from 1986 to 1995, followed by Paul Kerlinger (1996–2004), Andy Bernick (2004–2007), Liz Craig (2008–2013), and myself. Our data collection methods have remained consistent, however, creating a rare and valuable long-term data set that can provide insight into the conservation needs of our birds—and a critical benchmark for future research into the effects of climate change and environmental contaminants.

Over time, the pattern of wader nesting in the harbor has shown great variability. Since the early 1980s, breeding activity has shifted completely from the “pioneer” rookeries west and north of Staten Island; the most populous colonies are now found on South Brother Island, Hoffman Island in the lower bay, and Subway Island in Jamaica Bay. In recent years, several previously productive islands—Goose and Huckleberry Islands, in Long Island Sound, and Elders Point East Island, in Jamaica Bay, have been abandoned. Encroachment by predators and people are possible suspects in all three recent cases, while frequent flooding may also be a culprit in Jamaica Bay—an unsettling foreshadowing of what awaits our coastal areas in coming decades. Though the harbor’s wading bird population has remained fairly stable over the decades, recent years have indicated a possible decline. NYC Audubon is currently working to increase signage on the largest colonies to discourage visitation during nesting season, and will continue to be vigilant in protecting these charismatic and vulnerable species from harm.
Molly Adams joined NYC Audubon in 2019 in the newly created position of advocacy and outreach manager. Molly is the founder of the Feminist Bird Club, a growing organization that now sports chapters across the US and around the globe.

Since our founding as an activist, grassroots organization, NYC Audubon has been at the forefront of advocacy successes for birds and their habitat in all five boroughs of New York City.

### CITYWIDE ADVOCACY

**Pesticide Use (1982-present)** In 1982, NYC Audubon successfully opposed a NYC Parks plan to spray pesticides to control gypsy moths. In 2000, following intensive NYC Audubon advocacy, Governor Pataki signed into law a New York City ban of Avitrol, a pesticide used for pigeon control but toxic to other bird species. In 2019, we published a new *Rodenticides and Birds of Prey* brochure aimed at private-sector rodent control managers and building tenants.

**Bird-Safe Buildings (1997–present)** Armed with bird-collision data collected for Project Safe Flight, founded in 1997, NYC Audubon gave testimony supporting the use of bird-friendly design in all new buildings at the World Trade Center site (2001), published *Bird-Safe Building Guidelines* (2005), and formed the Bird-Safe Glass Working Group (2007). Currently, we are leading the local campaign to pass a New York City Council bill requiring all new and significantly altered buildings to use bird-safe glass and design.

**New Green Spaces (2000s-present)** We advocate for new built habitats, including green roofs and capped-landfill parks that host native grasslands, such as Staten Island’s Freshkills Park and Brooklyn’s Shirley Chisholm State Park.

**Central Park (1981-present)** NYC Parks rejected a proposal by the artist Christo to adorn all of Central Park, including the Ramble, with 14,000 nylon panels during bird migration—and in doing so, acknowledged the legal brief submitted by NYC Audubon as influential in its decision. (In 2005, a more bird-friendly proposal by Christo went unopposed by NYC Audubon.) In 1982 we successfully opposed destruction of bird-friendly habitat in the Ramble—and continue to provide input on changes in the Park as part of the Woodlands Advisory Board.

**Hudson River (1980)** We joined a group of environmental organizations in opposing the Westway Project, a proposed interstate highway along the Hudson River that was ultimately defeated.

**Con Edison (1980)** Early NYC Audubon activists and other environmental groups succeeded in defeating Con Edison’s plan to use high-sulfur oil and coal in its power plants in Staten Island and Queens.

**Floyd Bennett Field (1979-present)** Building on early work to preserve and restore the 140 acres of grasslands at this former airport, NYC Audubon continues to oppose plans that would encroach on these areas and advocate for appropriate habitat maintenance.

**Staten Island Habitat (1979-present)** Throughout our history, we’ve advocated for preservation of bird habitat including the Staten Island Greenbelt, Isle of Meadows and Prall’s and Shooters Islands, Arlington Cove Marsh, and the Goethals Pond Complex.

**Van Cortlandt Park (1980s-1990s)** NYC Audubon has long advocated for the protection of both the City’s natural habitat and its upstate water supply. When a federally required water filtration plant was constructed under Van Cortlandt Park, we were part of a coalition that successfully advocated for over $300 million in mitigation funds to improve Bronx parks.

**South Brother Island (1980s)** For years, we advocated for the preservation of South Brother Island, the site of the second largest of the Harbor Heron colonies, which NYC Audubon has surveyed since 1982. South Brother Island was purchased by New York State in 1988 and transferred to NYC Parks as a wildlife sanctuary in 2007.

**Ridgewood Reservoir (2008-2018)** In 2008 we joined a coalition of local stakeholders advocating for the preservation of Ridgewood Reservoir, on the Brooklyn-Queens border. (In 2018, nearly 30 acres of the property were protected under New York State’s Freshwater Wetlands Act.)

**Four Sparrow Marsh (2011-2012)** We advocated against development adjacent to Four Sparrow Marsh, an important habitat for Seaside and Saltmarsh Sparrows.

**Jamaica Bay Conservation (1979-present)** Building on years of advocacy, including successful opposition to a planned bike path into the Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, NYC Audubon was instrumental in the creation of Dubos Point Wildlife Sanctuary and Bayswater Point State Park, established in 1988. *Buffer the Bay and Buffer the Bay Revisited*, roadmaps for conserving the Jamaica Bay ecosystem, were jointly published by NYC Audubon and the Trust for Public Land in 1987 and 1992. In more recent years, we advocated for a bird-friendly Gateway General Management Plan, encompassing habitat in both Queens and Staten Island—and following Hurricane Sandy led a coalition of local groups in publishing a restoration plan for the wildlife refuge. This coalition ultimately achieved repair of the refuge’s West Pond loop by the National Park Service in 2017.

www.nycaudubon.org
NYC Audubon's work has been accomplished in large part by countless dedicated volunteers. Here we share a small sampling of historical pieces. Please see page 4 for an acknowledgment of the volunteers who have carried out NYC Audubon's mission to protect birds and their habitat.

Faster, Easier, More Powerful than Ever! Armchair Activist Harnesses the Power of the Internet
Susan Michajlo

The Armchair Activist program of New York City Audubon Society (NYCAS) is a powerful way for members to make a difference without leaving the comfort of their home. In December, I will have been the Armchair Activist Coordinator for four years, and I'm proud to say that over 200 members of NYCAS are on the activist roster.

Now, we're ready for the next step—delivered you information and updates rapidly via email! Not only will this make Armchair Activist more timely, it will provide savings for the chapter since we can cut out the costs of developing and posting paper mailings.

Starting in January, each month a sample letter and background information will be emailed to participants. It's still a good idea for participants to mail paper letters and cards to targeted individuals—studies show these carry more weight than emails. But, when possible, the targets' email also will be included.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL TODAY!

Whether you're already an active member, or would like to join now, please send your email address to the office <nycas@verizon.net> to be put on the Armchair Activist distribution list. If you don't currently have an email account, your local librarian will have information on free e-mail services.

Thank you and happy letter writing!
Sincerely,
Susan Michajlo, Armchair Activist Coordinator

Roughneck Committee Seeks Volunteers

Dubos Point: Saturday, September 21 – meet at 9:45 AM at Jamaica Bay Refuge Rangers' Station. Call Fran Lauer (212) 935-7515. Daytimes/evenings until 9:30 PM. Saturday, October 19. Same as above.

Butterfly Meadow: Saturday, October 5 – meet at 9:45 AM at corner of Prospect Park Southwest and 16th Street entrance to the Park. Call Joan Allen (212) 423-1155 daytime (9 AM–5 PM)

Organizational Meetings: Wednesdays, September 18 and October 16 at 6:30 PM at the office—feel free to bring a brown bag snack and relax.

Mark these dates down on your calendar. We will be announcing more outings in the near future on the monthly "short list" and at the monthly meetings. We look forward to hearing from you. A closing note—when I asked the crew members about their best experience with this site restoration work, I got answers ranging from "saw good birds" and "needed the exercise" to "learned about plants" and "got me out of my apartment." But my favorite answer was "I met some nice people." The sense of camaraderie which developed during these outings was very real. Hope to see you at one of our meetings, or better yet, out in the field!

Getting Reacquainted With Nature
On Saturday, April 22, NYCAS hosted a celebration of Earth Day's 25th anniversary at Dubos Point Wetlands Sanctuary in Arverne, Queens, with students from P.S. 42 and the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (above and left). Joanne Dittersdorf, former NYCAS Jamaica Bay Coastal Restoration Project Coordinator is shown in the second photo at the far right.

The following week, the Girl Scouts from South West Queens II Service Unit assisted NYCAS in spreading wood chip and planting red cedar seedlings at Bayswater State Park (see top photo). The event was organized by Naola Gersten-Woolf, a Girl Scout and NYCAS volunteer, Joanne Dittersdorf, and Mickey and Barbara Cohen, NYCAS Bayswater State Park managers.
Over the past four decades, NYC Audubon has offered free lectures by hundreds of scientists, field experts, activists, authors, and artists who specialize in birds and other wildlife. Speakers have included Joanna Burger, Kevin Karlson, Elizabeth Kolbert, Peter Matthiessen, Roger Tory Peterson, Jonathan Rosen, Carl Safina, Erik Sanderson, David Allen Sibley, Bridget Stutchbury, Robert Sullivan, Scott Weidensaul, and Marie Winn. Since 1999, our lecture series has been made possible by the generous support of Claude and Lucienne Bloch.

NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON CALENDAR

November 27 (Tuesday), 7:30 P.M., Student Union, Pace University
Russell W. Peterson, NAS President and a member of the President’s Commission to Investigate the Accident at Three Mile Island, will speak on Energy Futures. Please note change in meeting place from Schimmel Auditorium to Student Union. Open to the public.

2005-2006 LECTURE SERIES IN HONOR OF DR. CLAUDE BLOCH

Iceland: Land of Puffins, Glaciers & Waterfalls®
By Don Riepe
Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Return to Wild America: A Yearlong Search for the Continent’s Soul
by Scott Weidensaul
Wednesday, January 11, 2006

Why Birds Sing
by David Rothenberg
Wednesday, March 8, 2006

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Wednesday (not Thursday), October 9, 2002 at 6 P.M.
Pale Male: A documentary by Frederic Lilien and discussion with Marie Winn

The red-tailed hawk Pale Male was first sighted in Central Park in the winter of 1991. His every movement has been watched and recorded by thousands of birders for eleven years. To date, he and his four successive mates—First Love (who later became Mom I), Mom I, Blue, and Lola—have raised 21 chicks on Fifth Avenue, 18 of which have successfully fledged. Frederic Lilien’s new award-winning documentary narrated by Joanne Woodward tells much of the story. John Tierney of the New York Times writes “it is a beautifully made documentary about a hawk paterfamilias and the community of humans following him.” Marie Winn, one of Pale Male’s biggest fans and author of the highly acclaimed Red-Tails in Love, will add her anecdotes and insights to a discussion following the film presentation.

Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the program.

Monthly Programs are held at 6 P.M. at the Lighthouse (Ames) Auditorium, 111 East 59th Street, between Lexington and Park Avenues, near the subway station at 59th Street and Lexington Avenue. All programs are open to the public free of charge.

(October 2002)
BOOK REVIEWS & READER SUBMISSIONS

Letters to the Editor
“Think this is a great idea! Pleased to have an opportunity for a more active interest in local Audubon—urban that is!”
Henrietta J. Barnes
New York, New York
“I would like to see more balance. Speak out against Westway, if you wish, but also present opposing views. For that, contact AAA.”
Alex Siodmak
Jackson Heights, N.Y.
“It fills a great need for a source of information concerning local issues and matters of interest.”
Lorna Winto Hollander
Brooklyn, New York

(November 1979)

To the editor:
Congratulations to you and the rest of the staff on the newly professional tone of The Urban Audubon. I applaud especially the breadth of subjects covered, a span that compares well with the parent Audubon and with Sierra Club and YOS publications.
To be sure, I have strong reservations about the praise of gray squirrels which are a major pest of trees in the city since they are not kept in check by predators or starvation in years when corn crops fail. Each year, the groups I work with have to spend large sums on repairing the cavities in trees hollowed by squirrels.

M. M. Graff
Brooklyn

(May 1980)

The Bathers
Hank Heitmann
Three sparrows, city dwellers
Sharing a sunny summer morning
Bathing in the steady drip
From a worn out hydrant,
Oblivious to the squalor and the garbage
Fluttering in the glittering spray
Dipping in the raging curbside flow
The scene charmed by a rainbow.

(October 2003)

The New York City Audubon Society Guide to Finding Birds in the Metropolitan Area is Here!
Laurel Peru
Following in the tradition of Susan Drennan’s Where to Find Birds in New York State (published in 1981) and Robert Arbib’s Enjoining Birds Around New York City (published in 1966), but with up-to-date and even more detailed information, The New York City Audubon Guide to Finding Birds in New York City thoroughly covers every nook and cranny in the metropolitan area and beyond. This book embodies what former president of the Wildlife Conservation Society William Conway says makes a guide to finding birds good: it “offers specific, immediate detail about bird locality plus a world of background information putting it in context.” It is, according to Conway, “the best one yet.... This book widens our options, expands and enriches our experience with unique insights, and makes finding our way around much easier with the support of clear maps.”

(December 1988)

Josh’s Story as Told to Susan Antenen in the Wave Hill Woods
If you had asked me what I thought about bird watching six months ago, I would have said, “Aw, that’s for sissies.” But now... It all started back in the winter. On a whim I went in $2.00 and a coupon from the back of a cereal box for a bird feeder. I’d forgotten about it by the time it arrived six to eight weeks later. I hung it at the edge of my terrace on the 10th floor of a high-rise along the parkway. Birds came right away! Little purple birds and birds with black on their heads. I didn’t know what they were so I bought a bird book. I found out I had house finches and chickadees. It wasn’t very long before I was stopped by the super. The people below me didn’t like the mess of sunflower seeds. I moved the feeder to a hedge away from the building. From my apartment I began to see more kinds and bigger birds... blue and red and black colored. But I couldn’t see them very well. So I bought a pair of binoculars.

Spring was in the air. I figured there must be birds everywhere. In the early mornings when I had just learned to recognize white-throated sparrows, song sparrows, mockingbirds and grackles. Great place to look for birds. But I got kicked out by the guard. Guess the neighbors didn’t like a stranger wandering around with binoculars. That’s when I discovered Wave Hill. I’ve found an oasis neat and am starting to recognize some of the warblers. And now you say that the land along the river is Riverdale Park and is open to the public! I’m trying to get my parents interested in bird watching. So far, no luck. But I’m hooked.

Susan D. Antenen

(June-July 1988)

Typewriter Needed
The typewriter in the New York City Audubon office has expired from terminal overaction, and a replacement is eagerly sought. If you, or someone you know, have a usable IBM Selectric or comparable model typewriter to donate to NYCAS, it would be most appreciated.

(April-May 1985)

40th Anniversary  21
Dozens of artists and photographers, generous both in spirit and talent, have donated their work to The Urban Audubon over the years. Here is a sampling of their work.

Merlin by Judy Katz (March 1980)

Raven by Richard Krieger (March 2000)

Long-eared Owl by Alan Messer (March-April 2004)

Common Yellowthroat by David Speiser (Fall 2013)

Least Bittern by Jamie Felton (Summer 2014)

Flowering Dogwood by Ted Zinn (May 1991)

NYC Water System by Betty Hamilton (August-September 1984)
Gull Chicks by Milton Heiberg (January-February 1995)

Owls in Winter by James McGaw (Illustration Awards, January-February 1983)

Northern Harrier Landscape by Abby McBride (Summer 2014)

Hooded Warbler by Steve Nanz (Summer 2013)

American Kestrel by David Taft (April-May 1986)

Hooded Mergansers by Lloyd Spitalnik (Fall 2012)

Archaeopteryx by Carol Newman (October-November 1987)

Tree Swallows by Laura Meyers (Summer 2016)

Jamaica Bay by François Portmann (Winter 2012)
EVENTS AND ADVENTURES

Mary Jane Kaplan

**October 12 (Sun.) • 8:30 am • Central Park Bird Walk.** Led by Linnaean Society member, Sarah Elliott, who has given many walks through the park. Timed for late migrants.

(September 1980)

**July 27 (Saturday) • Shinnecock and Mecox Bays (Hampton Bays, NY)** All-day birding trip to see early migrating shorebirds and nesting summer residents. Be prepared to get your feet wet. Car pool. Bring lunch. Leader: Harry Maas.

(June-July 1985)

**NYC Audubon’s Sunset Ecotours to Heron Islands**

(October 1994)

**Beginning Birding**

Classes: Thursdays, May 9 and 16, 6:30-8:30pm

Trips: Saturdays, May 11 and 18

Instructor: Tod Winston

Learn to identify the spectacular variety of birds that migrate through New York City. Even if you’ve never picked up a pair of binoculars, you’ll soon be identifying warblers, thrushes, waterbirds, and more—both by sight and by ear.

(Spring 2013)

**Spring Warbler Class**

Experienced birder Joe Giunta, bird guide for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, will lead a class on the warblers of Central Park. This two-part session (one class and one field trip) is for the advanced beginner birder who wants to master these beautiful, but hard to identify spring migrants.

Wednesday, May 4 at 6:30-8:30pm 
NYC Audubon Office

Sunday, May 8 at 7:30-9:30am 
Central Park

Meet at the Loeb Boathouse

(March-April 2005)

**Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Program April 9**

Donald Riepe, a most dedicated and knowledgeable naturalist employed by Jamaica Bay, will deliver a slide presentation at our regular meeting on April 9 highlighting the refuge’s features of habitat, plant and bird life. He will also discuss some of the features resulting from management by the parks service including the newly constructed bird blind and nest boxes erected on some of the remote islands. Those of us who have seen Mr. Riepe’s presentation eagerly look forward to another interesting and informative session.

(September 1979)

**Mosquito Safari in the Rockaways**

(December 1994)

**BEGINNING BIRDING**

Classes: Thursdays, May 9 and 16, 6:30-8:30pm

Trips: Saturdays, May 11 and 18

Instructor: Tod Winston

Learn to identify the spectacular variety of birds that migrate through New York City. Even if you’ve never picked up a pair of binoculars, you’ll soon be identifying warblers, thrushes, waterbirds, and more—both by sight and by ear.

(October 1990)

**We’re Sorry**

We goofed. In the last issue, one of our field trips suggested collecting mushrooms within a sanctuary. NYCAS bans all collecting from any refuge or sanctuary. The plants and wildlife are there for us to observe and enjoy, not to take home. Our apologies to the Westmoreland Sanctuary in Mt. Kisco.

(July-August 2005)

**Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge**

Program April 9

Donald Riepe, a most dedicated and knowledgeable naturalist employed by Jamaica Bay, will deliver a slide presentation at our regular meeting on April 9 highlighting the refuge’s features of habitat, plant and bird life. He will also discuss some of the features resulting from management by the parks service including the newly constructed bird blind and nest boxes erected on some of the remote islands. Those of us who have seen Mr. Riepe’s presentation eagerly look forward to another interesting and informative session.

(August-September 1999)

**June 5 (Sunday) • Staten Island Greenbelt (Staten Island, NY)** Bird walk through some of the borough’s beautiful natural areas for migrating species and breeding locals. Leader: Howie Fisher. Car pool. Bring lunch.

(June-July 1988)

**BEGINNING BIRDING**

Classes: Thursdays, May 9 and 16, 6:30-8:30pm

Trips: Saturdays, May 11 and 18

Instructor: Tod Winston

Learn to identify the spectacular variety of birds that migrate through New York City. Even if you’ve never picked up a pair of binoculars, you’ll soon be identifying warblers, thrushes, waterbirds, and more—both by sight and by ear.

(March-April 1981)

**BEGINNING BIRDING**

Classes: Thursdays, May 9 and 16, 6:30-8:30pm

Trips: Saturdays, May 11 and 18

Instructor: Tod Winston

Learn to identify the spectacular variety of birds that migrate through New York City. Even if you’ve never picked up a pair of binoculars, you’ll soon be identifying warblers, thrushes, waterbirds, and more—both by sight and by ear.

(October 1990)
Mary Jane Kaplan, a longtime supporter of NYC Audubon and frequent contributor to The Urban Audubon, is a past board treasurer and current member of both the advisory council and the publications committee.

**WALKS ON GOVERNORS ISLAND**
Fridays, October 6 and October 20, 8:30-10:30am
Meet at the Governors Island Ferry for a short ride to the island and a morning of birding under the guidance of expert Annie Barry.

**THE BIRDS OF INWOOD HILL PARK, MANHATTAN**
Saturday, May 23, 2-5pm
Guide: Nadir Souirgi
Meet at the Muscota Marsh viewing area. Nestled on the northern tip of Manhattan, the largely undeveloped oak and tulip forest of Inwood Hill Park transports you to another time and place. Glacial “pot holes,” towering trees, and stunning river views create an unrivaled backdrop from which to observe migratory and breeding birds.

**AFTERNOON BIRD WALK IN CENTRAL PARK**
Saturday, April 20, 2-3:30pm
Guide: Jeff Ward
Search for spring migrants on a leisurely afternoon walk through Central Park’s best birding spots with Jeff Ward, NYC Audubon’s newest trip leader.

**Pale Male Family Days**
Saturday, April 26
Sunday, April 27
11 A.M. and 2 P.M.
The Arsenal Gallery, The Arsenal, Central Park
(64th Street and 5th Avenue)
Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews to NYC Audubon’s Pale Male Family Days in Central Park on Saturday, April 26, and Sunday, April 27.
NYC Audubon will present Frederic Lilien’s Pale Male, an award-winning film about a big city hawk and the New Yorkers who love him. After each showing, NYC Audubon volunteers will lead a tour to view Pale Male’s nest on Fifth Avenue.
Pale Male is a wonderful introduction to nature. City kids will thrill to Pale Male’s aerial acrobatics, and laugh at the little hawklings’ antics, which are sure to capture every child’s imagination.
Come out and create the next generation of hawk watchers!
In January 1980, The Urban Audubon first posed the question, “What Bird for New York?” And after a spirited debate, the House Finch was elected. Originally native to the western US and Mexico, this colorful songbird was illegally marketed and sold here in the early 1900s as the “Hollywood Finch.” A number of birds were released around 1940; they quickly naturalized (and spread across the US). This “immigration success story” thus seemed a perfect choice for our city of immigrants. In 2002, however, the decision was made to find a symbol more specifically representative of New York City’s Audubon chapter...and in 2003 our American Kestrel logo took flight. That journey continues: NYC Audubon will launch a new logo in the near future. Visit www.nycaudubon.org/ournewlogo to learn more.
IN MEMORIAM

Over the past 40 years, the following individuals have been honored with a special mention in *The Urban Audubon*, in recognition of their service to New York City Audubon. Many of these individuals were also honored with memorial gifts.

Michael Ahern  Sylvia Cohen  Jessie Kitching  Geoffrey Cobb Ryan
Oakes Ames  Thomas H. Davis  Diane LeAve  Starr Saphir
Peter A. A. Berle  Sarah McCurn Elliott  Julia Loomis  Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff
Bernard P. Brennan  Richard Garretson  Helen Mattin  Fredric Spar
Jean Bourque  Richard Gershon  Mary Tyler Moore  Norman Stotz
Irving Cantor  Ralph Ginzburg  George J. Mullen, Jr.  Ted Zinn
Kirsten Christophe  Emily Jones  Alfred Ott
Clara Clayman  Charles Kennedy  Lambert Pohner

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Over the past 40 years, gifts to New York City Audubon have been made in memory of those listed below.

Doris Ali  Carol Kramer  Wendy Pilbeam  Ringo Tucker-Drob-Goldberg
Shahin Alirkan  Mark Krotter  Yves Provencher  Sam Vella
John Alsano  Charles Kuralt  Maria Quiñones Gonzalez  Michael Waskovich
Albert Bacchus  Lillian L. Langsan  Harold Robbins  Soloman Weinstock
David Bain  Manny Levine  Thomas Songo  Ellen Wendy Weisss
Charles E. Barber  Barbara Maaas  Erma Rosen  Suzanne Wexler-Shafer
Mary Birchard  Jack Mailman  Madlyn Jane Rowe  Eve Winer
Dorothy Blaser  Frank and Kathleen Marano  Anne Ruane  David Woolf
Abe Bloom  Stefan A. Mayer  Eva Kinne Saffran  Mariska Zelazinsky
Joan Bonagura  Helen Mazzitelli  Marcello Scaccalossi  David
James Brown  Sean McBride  Elizabeth M. Schill  Fluffy
Betty Brummett  Lee Metcalf  Sid Schwager  Hannah the Cat
Jewell Bukantz  Jean Mills  Max and Annemarie  Josephine
William I. Campbell  Mr. and Mrs. H.G. Moy  Schweizer
Ria Charisse  Geoffrey Cobb Ryan  Harvey Lewis Seldman
Baukje Cohen  Carol Kramer  Mary A. Shea  Leo
Anna Conte  Mark Krotter  Flora Speiser  Lilly
June Corona  Charles Kuralt  James Stevenson  Lola
Christine M.  Lillian L. Langsan  Barbara Steward  Milly
Crichton Mannella  Margaret Lee  Paul Julien Sude  The Passenger Pigeon
Catherine A. Cullen  Manny Levine  M. Scott Sullivan  Rocko
Anna Lee Culp  Barbara Maaas  Suzanne  Sugar
Ruth Dalmus  Jack Mailman  Suzanne Wexler-Shafer  Suzanne
John E. Daniel  Frank and Kathleen Marano  Josephine
Rik Davis  Stefan A. Mayer  Ludwig von Schwickart  Timothy and Milly
Gerard DeFrancesco  Helen Mazzitelli  Martha Pohner  Wily
Throughout its history, NYC Audubon has honored distinguished service to the environment. Chapter Awards were bestowed annually from 1985 to 2005. The Fall Roost benefit, first held in 2004, continues to celebrate those most dedicated to protecting New York City’s birds and their habitats.

1985
Marcy Benstock
Thomas Davis
George Goode
Peggy Kane
Udall’s Cove Preservation Committee
Farida Wiley

1986
Jean and Ronald Bourque
David Krauss
John Oakes
Protectors of Pine Oak Woods
Arlene Thomas

1987
Albert Appleton
Boy and Cub Scouts of Pack and Troop 196 of the Greater New York Rainbow District
Bertel Bruun
Clara Clayman
John Yrizarry

1988
Emily Jones
Norman Stotz

1989
Tom Fox
Lynne Matusow
Francisco Mendes
Prospect Park Environmental Center
Don Riepe

1990
Green Guerillas
Hudson River Sloop-Clearwater, Inc.
Drew Lehman
Starr Saphir

1991
Blanche Brown
Paul Ehrlich
Milton Heiberg
The Village Voice

1992
City Limits
Barbara and Mickey Cohen
Geoffrey Cobb Ryan
The Ecology Club

1993
Dona Lakin Tracy
Marc Matsil
Danielle Ponsolle
Norman Stotz
Marie Winn

1994
Albert Appleton
Alwyn Gentry
Naola Gersten-Woolf
New York Newsday
Theodore Parker
Don Riepe

1995
Peter A. A. Berle
Eugenia Flatow
Ralph Ginzburg
Jessie Kitching
SoundWatch Inc.

1996
Alley Pond Environmental Center
Katharine Parsons
Dorothy Poole
Henry Stern

1997
Richard Garretson
Harry Jenkins
Natural Resources Defense Council
Ellen O’Flaherty Pratt

1998
Brooklyn Bird Club
Helen Hayes
Alan Hevesi
Patricia Soteropoulos
Herbert Trossman
Gregory Xikes

1999
Sarah Elliott
Marcia T. Fowle
Hudson River Park Alliance
Howard Snyder
Guy Tudor

2000
Durst Organization, Fox & Fowle Architects, and Tishman Construction Corporation
Merrill Higgins
Mary Kelly
Bette Midler and the New York Restoration Project

2001
David Burg
Thomas Burke
Jorge Santiago
Norman Stotz

2002
Karen Asakawa
Peter P. Blanchard III
Rebekah Creshkoff
Gail and Jonathan Jankus
Nellie Larsen
Geoffrey Nulle
Allison Ott

2003
Ben Cacace
Miriam Gross
Patrick Harty
Peter Rhoades Mott
Allison Sloane
Paul Teddy

* Individuals are noted as "honorees" regardless of the year in which they received an award.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OVER 40 YEARS:
LEADERSHIP CUMULATIVE GIFTS, BEQUESTS

NYC Audubon’s conservation science and public programs are made possible by philanthropic contributions from members, friends, corporations, foundations, and government agencies.

Throughout our 40 years, these organizations have provided multi-year leadership support enabling our work and saving countless birds:
- Leon Levy Foundation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

We are also grateful to the thousands who have sustained our efforts since our founding, and in particular, to the people and organizations named here for their cumulative gifts of more than $10,000.

INDIVIDUALS
- Barbara Abel
- Tylee Abbott and Katie Ermilio
- John and Emily Alexander
- Oakes and Louise Arnés
- Gina Argento
- Tony Argento
- Rob Bate and Tracy Meade
- Barbara Belknap
- Karen Benfield and John Zucker
- Drianeen Benner
- Claude and Lucienne Bloch
- MaryJane Boland
- Ronald Bourque
- Marsilia Boyle
- Virginia Carter
- Clifford Case
- Jim Chervenak
- John and Judy Craig
- Rebekah Creshkoff
- Art Sills and Sarah DeBlois
- Titia de Lange
- Strachan and Vivian Donnelley
- Joe and Barbara Ellis
- Gale Epstein
- Margot Ernst
- Aline Euler and Henry Euler
- Alexander Ewing and Wynn Senning
- Andrew Farnsworth and Patricia Ryan
- Alfred C. Finger
- Mary and Joseph Fiore
- Marcia and Bruce Fowlie
- Philip Fried and Bruce Patterson
- Rich Fried and Stella Kim
- Beatrice Goellet Manice
- Edward and Diana Greene
- Nancy Hager
- Betty Hamilton and Geoffrey Cobb Ryan
- Scott and Ellen Hand
- Kathleen Heenan and Clary Olmstead
- Kathryn and Vince G. Heintz
- Cathy and Lloyd Heller
- Sally Jeffords
- Dawn and Tommy Lee Jones
- Peter Joost
- Tatiana Kaletsch
- Mary Jane Kaplan
- Kevin and Karen Kennedy
- Songmei and Jared Keyes
- Jeff Kimball and Pamela Hogan
- Robert Kimitis and Susan Bynum
- Lauren and Ethan Klingsberg
- Carol and Robert D. Krinsky
- Janice Laneve
- Jade Lau
- Adrienne Lynch
- Pamy Manice
- Jenny and Flip Maritz
- Edith McBean
- Andre Meade
- Joyce Menschel
- Clark Mitchell
- Malcolm and Mary Morris
- Lenore and Peter Rhoades Mott
- George and Rachel Mullen
- Paul Newman
- Heidi Nitze
- Jane Orans
- Hank and Wendy Paulson
- Mona Payton
- Terry and Bill Pelsner
- Cheryl Reich and David Dewhurst

CORPORATIONS, FOUNDATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
- The Achelis & Bodman Foundation
- American Bird Conservancy
- ARNOLD GLAS
- Aviator Sports & Events
- The Bay and Paul Foundations
- The Bobolink Foundation
- Broadway Stages Ltd.
- Brooklyn Community Foundation
- The Chervenak-Nunnallee Foundation
- Con Edison
- ConocoPhillips
- Davis Polk & Wardwell
- Disney Worldwide Services
- Dobson Foundation, Inc.
- The Durst Organization
- The Educational Foundation of America
- Environmental Protection Agency
- The Eppeley Foundation
- for Research
- The Ferriday Fund
- Fiduciary Trust International
- First Cornerstone Foundation
- FXCollaborative
- General Contractors Association of New York
- Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
- Hudson River Foundation
- Investors Bank Foundation
- Ittleston Foundation
- Jacob K. Javits Convention Center
- Donald and Genie Rice
- Luanne Rice
- Lew and Sheila Rosenberg
- Margritt Rosenthal
- John and Heather Shemilt
- Mr. and Mrs. C. Sidamon-Eristoff
- Fredric and Winnie Spar
- David Speiser and Kimberly Kriger
- Heidi Steiner & Steve Nanz
- Antonio Stolper and Bob Fertik
- Virginia Stowe
- Mary and Michael Tannen
- Susan and Rodney Wagner
- Sam Wertheimer and Pamela Rosenthal
- Elizabeth Woods and Charles Denholm
- Winnie Yeung
- D. Bruce Yolton and Stephen Billick

Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
- JP Morgan Chase Foundation
- Kickstarter
- Kimball Foundation
- Leaves of Grass Fund
- Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc.
- The Liz Claiborne Foundation
- Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences
- The Marta Heflin Foundation
- National Audubon Society
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Park Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission
- New York City Department of Environmental Protection
- The New York Community Trust
- Norcross Wildlife Foundation
- Patagonia
- Peak View Foundation
- The Port Authority of NY & NJ
- Robert and Joyce Menschel Family Foundation
- Robert F. Schumann Foundation
- Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Inc.
- Schaffer, Schonholz & Drossman, LLP
- Sims Metal Management
- SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry
- Taconic Foundation
- Toyota Together Green
- Trust for Public Land
- The Walt Disney Company Foundation
- Williams
- The Wood Thrush Fund

BEQUESTS AND ESTATES
- Anne Howat
- Barbara Jean Junge
- Charles F. Kehoe III
- Kathryn R. Lewis
- Frank Maira
- Helen Mattin
- Esther Morse
- Evelyn Nethercott
- Christina J. Norton
- Fred Rosenstiel
- Everett S. Steinmetz
- Norman Stotz
Have you read that there are three billion fewer birds in the US today than there were in 1970, according to a September 2019 study published in *Science*? You can make sure that birds have a future in New York City. Nearly 350 species nest, breed, or migrate through here. We protect them. Celebrate our Big Year by contributing to our 40th Anniversary Campaign. Your support is essential.

**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 $5 per month. See the membership form below or donate online at [www.nycaudubon.org/donate](http://www.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. See the membership form below or donate online at [www.nycaudubon.org/donate](http://www.nycaudubon.org/donate). Contact us to learn more.

To learn more about how you can help NYC Audubon philanthropically or to underwrite a strategic initiative, contact Director of Development Kellye Rosenheim at krosenheim@nycaudubon.org or 646-502-9611.