



THE URBAN AUDUBON

**The Art of Mentorship:
Nurturing a Young Birder**

**The Audubon Urban
Collaborative Network**

**2018: Year of
the Bird**



NYC AUDUBON

MISSION & STATEMENT

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

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

THE URBAN AUDUBON

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As we make our way through a punishing winter, everyone is eager to welcome the spring. For many of us nature-lovers, this season is an especially glorious time of year. The snow fades away, blossoms emerge, and, of course, migrating birds return. As the most conspicuous of wild animals, birds are often our gateway into nature. The majority of mammals are nocturnal and secretive, while most birds are diurnally active, and being so colorful and noisy they command our attention, inviting us to appreciate the totality of the natural world.

In this, the Year of the Bird—so named as it marks the 100th anniversary of Congress's passing the Migratory Bird Treaty Act—it serves us to reflect on the unique place birds occupy in our world. As Jonathan Franzen points out in his excellent “Why Birds Matter” cover story for the January issue of *National Geographic*, birds inhabit every corner of the planet, more widespread than any lifeform beyond the microscopic. Yet for all their remarkably diverse behavior and adaptability, they cannot master their environment. As Franzen puts it, they “can’t protect wetlands” or “manage a fishery.” And, he adds “our cats and our windows and our pesticides kill billions of them every year.”

Only we can protect their habitat, eliminate lethal pesticides, and advocate for keeping cats indoors and for bird-friendly window treatments. NYC Audubon, which was born from awareness and concern about our urban birds, has a vital role to play. Formed almost 40 years ago to protect the birds of our city, we have made a difference thanks to financial support and volunteering efforts of fellow bird conservationists.

Audubon chapters all over the country embrace the influence we wield in educating the public about the wonders and benefits of birds. In short, being a birder means caring about the environment. Just going out to see birds and being seen watching birds by passersby can inspire others to be aware—and perhaps be more appreciative—of the natural world that surrounds us. On any given day in spring, hundreds of people eating lunch in Bryant Park share that urban space with groups of binocular-clad observers. Right in the midst of Midtown, surrounded by tall buildings and concrete, there's something wild to ooh and aah about. Somebody is noticing, and somebody is walking back to an office desk thinking about birds.

Birding offers many ways to get involved in bird conservation. Just entering your findings into eBird contributes to the overall data set of bird distribution and numbers. And make use of NYC Audubon's own D-bird database, where you can enter data right through your phone about a dead bird found on a sidewalk. The Christmas Bird Count, which began in 1900 in Central Park (and about two dozen locations throughout the continent), has been collecting useful data for well over a century. The Great Backyard Bird Count, the joint project between the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon that is held every February throughout the country, or NYC Audubon's Spring Shorebird Blitz in May, are opportunities for engagement in citizen science. Other NYC Audubon volunteer opportunities, such as horseshoe crab monitoring or surveying the herons of New York harbor, are all ways that birders can do what they love—look at birds—while also making a contribution to bird conservation. Here's to spring!

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CONSERVATION NOTES

RAPTORS AND RODENTICIDE

This winter has seen an irruption of Snowy Owls across the United States. Within our region Snowy Owls have been seen at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Liberty State Park, Governors Island, Breezy Point Tip, and Jones Beach. The influx of these charismatic raptors is a reminder of the threat Snowy Owls and other birds of prey face in our city—namely, secondary poisoning from rodenticide. The second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides that are so commonly used to manage rat infestations are dangerous to wildlife, especially birds of prey. These rodenticides take several days to work, during which time the poison builds up in the rat's body, making it lethargic and an easy catch for a hungry raptor. Large doses of the poison will kill the feeding raptor, but even small doses can have negative effects on the bird's health.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Wildlife Health Unit and the New York City Department of Health have been consulting with NYC Audubon on recommendations for improved rodent control methods. Keep an eye out for a rodenticide update about alternatives to anticoagulants and integrated pest management in the summer issue of *The Urban Audubon*.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Final results from the 118th Christmas Bird Count are in. NYC Audubon's count, the New Jersey Lower Hudson (NJLH) count circle, which includes Manhattan, parts of Queens, and Hudson and Bergen counties in New Jersey, took place on Sunday, December 17. Across NJLH, 130 participants put in more than 675 hours of counting time and found 32,273 birds of 104 species. Highlights included Clay-colored Sparrow and Greater Yellowlegs in New Jersey, Killdeer in East River Park, Boat-tailed Grackle and Ovenbird in Central Park, and Black-and-white Warbler in Inwood Hill Park. Count-week (December 14-20) birds included Dunlin, Pine Siskin, 4 www.nyc Audubon.org

© David Speiser



Snowy Owl

and Rusty Blackbird in New Jersey, Eastern Screech-Owl at Inwood Hill Park, and European Goldfinch on Governors Island. You can find results from all Christmas Bird Counts at netapp.audubon.org/cbcobservation.

PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

Since Project Safe Flight's inception in 1997, over 6,800 dead and injured birds have been collected by volunteers monitoring building sites throughout New York City. It is a staggering number, and we wondered how many more collision victims might actually be at these sites during monitoring season, only to disappear—either carried away by predators or swept up by building maintenance staff—before our volunteers could find them on their morning routes. To get a better idea, we conducted a study where we placed decoy bird carcasses at select monitoring sites before sunrise (before our volunteers walked their routes). We found that only 28% of the decoys remained at the sites long enough to be found by volunteers. The remaining 72% were removed by cleaning staff or predators before our volunteers could recover them. These data will be important as we develop our estimates of bird mortality at these sites.

We were pleased to learn this November that New York State Assemblymember Deborah Glick introduced a bill in support of bird-friendly building legislation for New York City. NYC Audubon and colleagues

from the Bird-Safe Glass Foundation, American Bird Conservancy, American Institute of Architecture, Green Build, Fordham University, and others will be meeting to help craft specific language to improve the likelihood of the bill's success.

GREEN HABITAT

NYC Audubon is assisting with a soil remediation and native planting project by the Department of Environmental Protection that will restore Libra Triangle Park, a small park (35 x 76 x 76 m) located in an urban intersection on Justice Avenue in Queens. As part of the project, we are monitoring the invertebrate and bird populations within the park before and after restoration. Pre-restoration surveys completed in 2017 indicate that the park is used by common urban-dwelling birds such as House Sparrows and at least 16 taxa of invertebrates. The pre-restoration invertebrates found included springtails, snails and slugs, pavement ants, sap beetles, and wood louse. We look forward to reporting on changes in the park following the completion of this restoration.

Thanks to the support of the New York Community Trust and Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund, our green roof work has greatly expanded over the past year. We will soon be starting the fifth consecutive year of monitoring wildlife on the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center green roof, where we have already recorded 26 bird species and collected over 120,000 invertebrates. We will also begin the second year of monitoring the Kingsland Wildflowers green roof in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Built in a heavily industrial area with minimal green space, Kingsland Wildflowers already hosts a diversity of arthropods and is visited by at least eight bird species. We anticipate increased diversity as the wildlife and native plant communities on Kingsland Wildflowers become more established.

The Green Roof Researchers Alliance



(GRRRA), a team of scientists, attorneys, and educators addressing different aspects of green roof science, is led by NYC Audubon's Green Roof Program Manager and Ecologist Dustin Partridge. We are building a database of New York City green roofs that will catalog their locations, the types of green roofs being constructed, and projects that are being conducted on them. The members of GRRRA are also creating a handbook of best practices for biological monitoring, identifying existing environmental monitoring projects, building educational programming, mapping existing green roofs, and analyzing the efficacy of New York City's green roof policies. This spring we will hold a green roof conference where local researchers will share their work and present potential improvements to policy. We expect our findings will advance the science of green roofs as well as encourage col-

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Dustin Partridge Collecting Invertebrate Samples Using a Bowl Trap on the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center Green Roof

laboration between research institutions, the public, and the green roof industry.

HARBOR HERONS

NYC Audubon once again convened the 13th Annual Meeting of the Harbor Herons and Waterbirds of the Greater New York/

New Jersey Harbor Working Group. This year's two-day meeting in December brought together over 70 professional scientists and managers from governmental agencies, non-profits, and academia working in the region to conserve and protect waterbirds and their habitats. The centerpiece of the meeting was the presentation of the 2017 Harbor Herons Survey by NYC Audubon Research Assistant Tod Winston. In addition, Field Biologist Emilio Tobón presented an analysis of population trends spanning the 30+ years of surveys, showing no significant loss in number of individuals even as Cattle Egrets and Black-crowned Night-Herons declined.

Planning for the 2018 field season is underway: Project Safe Flight, Waterbirds of the NY Harbor (Harbor Herons, horseshoe crabs, and shorebirds), green roofs, and advocacy efforts.

VOLUNTEER!

Work in NYC Audubon's friendly office or in the field and make a difference for New York City's wildlife. There are many ways you can help. Unless otherwise noted, contact citizenscience@nycaudubon.org if interested in any of the projects listed below. For information on spring volunteer events such as beach clean-ups and tree plantings, visit us at www.nycaudubon.org/volunteer-events.

THE URBAN AUDUBON

Join the newsletter committee and contribute your writing skills to four seasonal issues. Meetings are bi-monthly in the early evening.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Become a citizen scientist and help conduct conservation research; read below about the various ways to get involved.

All orientations are held at our office unless otherwise noted and require registration in advance.

Bird Transporters: We often receive calls from individuals who have found injured birds but cannot transport them to a rehabilitation center. Our Injured Bird Transport volunteers step in to save the day by transporting these birds to receive the medical care they need. This opportunity is best for individuals with flexible schedules. An orientation will be held at the Wild Bird Fund on Wednesday, March 7, 6-7pm.

Project Safe Flight: Light and glass pose major threats to migratory birds as they move through New York City. Help NYC Audubon biologists collect data on building collisions during migration by monitoring designated buildings

for collisions. This opportunity requires a time commitment of about one hour one morning a week from April through early June. Orientations will be held Monday, March 12, and Friday, March 16, 6-7pm.

Horseshoe Crab Monitoring:

Horseshoe crab eggs are an important food source for migratory shorebirds. Collect data on horseshoe crab spawning by helping count horseshoe crabs in Jamaica Bay. We count on 12 nights in May and June, but you don't need to be able to make every count to sign up. Orientations will be held Tuesday, April 17, and Thursday, April 19, 6-7pm.

Harbor Herons Foraging Study:

Help NYC Audubon's science team learn more about the long-legged wading birds that live in

the New York Harbor by observing herons and egrets as they forage in NYC waterways. An orientation will be held Tuesday, June 5, 6-7pm.

PLUMB BEACH CLEANUP Saturday, April 28, 10am-1pm

Each winter, debris winds up in our waters and washes on our shores. It's unsightly and polluting, and it prevents urban wildlife like migratory birds and horseshoe crabs from feeding and nesting on the beaches. Come out on a spring day and get our beaches ready for them. All equipment is supplied, as well as snacks and water. Transportation via bus from Manhattan is available for a limited number of volunteers. Advance registration is required. Learn more and register at www.nycaudubon.org/plumb-beach.



THE ART OF MENTORSHIP: NURTURING A YOUNG BIRDER

With every spark of curiosity, there is possibility. But how does curiosity grow into something richer? A passion, a lifelong hobby, a career? Whether an initial interest will blossom into something more relies heavily upon important relationships that can inspire a young person to find one's own voice and to forge one's own path. In this two-part article, we explore mentorship from the perspectives of young birders and those who recognized their talents and helped guide them along their journey.

For Part One of this article, I had the pleasure of interviewing a young birder, Ryan Zucker, and his mother, Karen Benfield, about the importance of early experiences and finding community. At the age of 14, Zucker serves as the secretary of the New York State Young Birders Club, and his writing was recently featured in *New York Birders*, a publication of the New York State Ornithological Association. Benfield serves on the board of directors for NYC Audubon.

Do you recall the earliest experience that piqued your interest in nature?

Ryan Zucker: I've been interested in nature for as long as I can remember. Although they're not birders, my parents certainly knew the names of birds beyond simply "chickadee" and "cardinal"—and they pointed out and correctly identified birds like Buffleheads and Red-tailed Hawks on walks in Central Park. Despite these experiences, the spark of my birding career didn't take hold until a family vacation to Costa Rica when I was seven years old. While sitting in the hummingbird garden of the Monteverde Cloud Forest Lodge, I became fascinated with all the beautiful winged jewels visiting the hummingbird feeders in front of me, and that's what did it. Seven years and so many



Ryan Zucker and Karen Benfield Birding in Central Park

new experiences and friends later, birds are a major aspect of my life.

How did you seek opportunities to support and challenge Ryan's growth?

Karen Benfield: The first thing we did was go birding with him—to Central Park. During these weekly outings and then on his own, Ryan would meet other birders who welcomed him into their friendly and supportive community. These days, Ryan does his own research to find out ways to further his abilities. Once in a while we will take a road trip to see a special bird, like the Ross's Gull at Tupper Lake—an unsuccessful chase—or the Corn Crake on Long Island—a thrill to see. On family trips, we always try to find a day for Ryan to bird locally. Even on a trip to a city, we will explore the urban attractions as a family, but also split off to give Ryan time for a day or two of concentrated birding—often with a local guide.

When did you first become affiliated with

the New York State Young Birders Club? How has being a part of that community supported your learning and growth?

RZ: I first joined the New York State Young Birders Club in the spring of 2015. Through the club, I've been able to go on many fantastic trips and meet dozens of people my age who share my interest. Opportunities like these can form friendships that can last for ages, and this is one of my favorite aspects of birding. I've also been lucky to meet and spend lots of time with birders more experienced and seasoned, and older than I am. I owe so much of my birding skill to them. I also follow many birders through their blogs, including, during his global Big Year, Noah Strycker. (See our review of Strycker's recently released book *Birding Without Borders* on page 20.)

What role do you expect your interests will play in your future?

RZ: I certainly don't see my passion for

Hillarie O'Toole

birds and birding fading any time soon, and I definitely hope that my birding interests will serve as a gateway into a career in ornithology, conservation, or biology.

What advice would you share with other parents (or mentor figures) who may notice a budding interest in birding or nature among the young people they know?

KB: First, get that young birder an excellent guidebook to the birds in your region and perhaps a helpful bird identification phone app like Sibley or Tom Stephenson's Warbler Guide. I'd also recommend a good pair of binoculars. Before he could manage adult-sized binoculars, Ryan used a pair of Nikon Travelites that were his mainstay for years. Next, find guided bird walks in your area that can help your young birder expand his or her knowledge, hone skills, and build a birding community. Your local Audubon chapter is a tremendous resource and a great place to start. As your child's interest grows, help him or her set up and maintain a "Life List" of the birds they've seen. You can use prepared checklists, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird.org, a notebook, or, as we did, simply an Excel spreadsheet for listing species seen and the date and place where they were observed. This can help build your young birder's excitement in finding new species—and will avoid the situation faced by birders who try to establish a list after some years of birding and have to recreate their Life List from memory. Ryan's been tracking his sightings for seven years and has over 1,600 species recorded.

Up Next:

In the summer issue, we interview record-setting birder and author Noah Strycker about how his mentors have helped him on his path towards seeing more than half of the world's bird species.

THE CASE FOR SWITCHING TO TITLE CASE FOR BIRD NAMES

Andrew Maas

As you read this issue of *The Urban Audubon*, you will notice we are now using title case (that is, capitalizing the first letter of each word) for common bird names. The argument of whether to use sentence case or title case with common names of birds is quite contentious. Just Google "case for bird names" and you'll find dozens of articles and posts taking impassioned stances on the issue. We have traditionally used sentence case for common bird names, but have decided to use title case across all of our communications in print and online going forward.

The decision was motivated by three factors: cohesion, consistency, and clarity. While sentence case for common bird names still has some support in the media industry, most individuals and organizations we work with have adopted title case. National Audubon switched to title case in 2014. Joining other organizations in embracing title case creates more consistency as we increasingly collaborate with others to share messaging. (And will hopefully create less headaches for all copy editors involved.)

We also believe using title case will provide more clarity for our readers. Bird names typically contain descriptive adjectives. Words such as common, little, and lesser, plus an assortment of colors (blue, black, brown, white, etc.) are regularly used in common names. This can easily lead to confusion. For example, when we write yellow warbler, it could mean we are either referring to the Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) or simply a warbler that is the color yellow. Adopting title case for common bird names removes this ambiguity.

We are adopting title case across all of our communications, including this newsletter, our email newsletter *The eGret*, our website www.nycaudubon.org, and social media @nycaudubon.

2018: YEAR OF THE BIRD



NYC Audubon is proud to be a participating organization in making 2018 the "Year of the Bird." Bird lovers from around the world are joining forces to celebrate 100 years of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act—the most powerful and important bird protection law ever passed—and commit to protecting birds today and for the next hundred years. Participate in the Year of the Bird by signing the pledge and resolving to take at least one bird-friendly action each month. Every month there will be a different theme and call to action, a simple but effective way that we can all play a part in bird conservation.

Bird of the Year organizers National Geographic Society, National Audubon, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and BirdLife International have combined their resources to create a "Year of the Bird" website and will be providing digital content to help engage the public throughout the year. Learn how you can help build a better world for birds and sign the pledge to "Bird Your World" at www.birdyourworld.org.

RESTORING JAMAICA BAY'S WEST POND

Andrew Maas

In October 2012, the storm surge from hurricane Sandy breached both Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge's East and West Ponds, transforming them from freshwater ponds to brackish lagoons. By May 2013, the East Pond had been repaired back to its pre-Sandy condition by the Transit Authority as part of its efforts to restore train service to the Rockaways. Plans to repair the West Pond breach (1), however, were left uncertain. And that concerned many in the birding community, for the availability of both salt and fresh water at Jamaica Bay had been an important factor in the refuge's extraordinary avian richness.

NYC Audubon, working with other non-profit bird conservation groups and universities in New York City as part of the Birders Coalition for Gateway, pressed for West Pond's restoration. After years of grassroots advocacy efforts, a plan was enacted by National Park Service and Gateway National Recreation Area to repair the breach of the West Pond and its surrounding trail, with construction beginning in December 2016 (2). The breach was successfully filled in February 2017, preventing the backflow of salt water into the pond (3).

With the breach closed, National Park Service began construction to fortify it and re-install the damaged West Pond trail (4) in spring 2017. Gravel was distributed to fill in the breach. Additionally, sand and rock were placed on both sides to keep the fill from eroding. The sandy sides were then planted with American beachgrass. The trail officially re-opened (5) to the public in June 2017. The planted fauna had grown to cover the area surrounding the trail by October 2017 (6).

Thank you to all who gave their support to the Jamaica Bay West Pond restoration effort. Your concern about the pond helped to make sure it was returned to its freshwater state, preserving the wildlife found at Jamaica Bay and the habitats they use. View the restored West Pond for yourself while at the Horseshoe Crab Festival at Jamaica Bay on May 19. (See information on the festival on page 9.)

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BIRDING WITH HEARING AIDS

Ned Boyajian

My father, lifelong birder Ned Boyajian Sr., 86, realized a few years ago that he was losing his ability to hear birds' songs and calls. And that was a problem.

Depending on circumstances, it's not uncommon for 60 percent—maybe higher—of bird identifications to be made by ear. Many longtime birders, like Boyajian Sr., have found their counts, and pleasure, reduced by their loss of hearing.

Hearing loss has many causes. One common cause is "age-related" hearing loss, presbycusis. This condition typically sets in around age 50, but can start sooner. It progresses with age and is irreversible. It affects a third of all people by age 65, half by age 75. The effects often are most acute at high frequencies. Warblers, kinglets,

and others with high-pitched vocalizations are usually the first to disappear from the sufferer's sonic landscape. Potentially affected persons should consult with their physicians about having regular hearing tests and, if problems are detected, investigate standard hearing aids.

However, most standard hearing aids are designed to amplify only lower-frequency sounds, making them of limited use for birding by ear. Several digital hearing aids, typically used in conjunction with a standard hearing aid, are available to help wearers hear bird calls. Two such products are The SongFinder or Walker's Digital Game Ear.

Boyajian Sr. uses The SongFinder and reports good results. However, he notes several considerations to keep in mind. "The device detects vocalizations and shifts them

to lower frequencies so I can hear them," he explains. "But what I hear often doesn't sound like the songs I've learned over the years. So, I need to relearn many birds' songs."

Additionally, if hearing deteriorates differently in each ear, one's ability to determine the direction a sound is coming from can be impaired. "You may be able to hear an oriole, but not tell where it is," Boyajian Sr. says.

Nevertheless, Boyajian Sr. is pleased overall with his renewed ability to bird by ear. "I'm able to detect many birds that would be too far away for me to hear without the aids," he says. "And it's nice to hear Golden-crowned Kinglets and Cedar Waxwings again, even if their songs sound a bit different from the ones I once learned."

SECOND ANNUAL HORSESHOE CRAB FESTIVAL AT JAMAICA BAY

**With American Littoral Society and Gateway National Recreation Area
Saturday, May 19, 10am-2pm**

Join us for a day of celebrating the annual arrival of horseshoe crabs to our local shores. During the full and new moons of May and June, these prehistoric animals, which date back approximately 400 million years, come ashore to mate. The females lay billions of eggs at the high tide line each season. At the same time, thousands of migrating shorebirds arrive in the northeast bays to feed on the eggs, regaining the body weight they lost during their long journey north. At the festival you'll see and hold live horseshoe crabs and learn about their important ecological and medicinal values.

For more information on the festival, contact American Littoral Society at 718-474-0896 or email Don Riepe at donriepenyc@gmail.com. The program is free, but suggested donations of \$20 for adults and \$10 for children to NYC Audubon are suggested to offset festival costs.



Participant Holding Horseshoe Crab at 2016 Horseshoe Crab Festival at Jamaica Bay

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. To inquire about van transportation from Manhattan, call NYC Audubon at 212-691-7483 x304.

EVENTS AND ADVENTURES

- NYC Audubon Events
 - Partnership Events
- Overnight Trips

- **WINTER BIRDS OF BARNEGAT, NJ**
Sunday, March 11, 9am-4pm
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Explore Barnegat Inlet's expansive beach to view the winter birds that gather where land, bay, and sea meet. Search for Harlequin Ducks, Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, and Snow Buntings, as well as Snowy and Short-eared Owls. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$115 (80)

- **SPRING BIRDING AT WAVE HILL, THE BRONX**
Sundays, March 11, April 8, May 13, and June 10, 9:30-11:30am
Guide: Gabriel Willow
With Wave Hill

Meet at the Perkins Visitor Center. Naturalist Gabriel Willow contributes his extensive knowledge of bird species and their behaviors on these captivating walks. Wave Hill's garden setting overlooking the Hudson River flyway provides the perfect habitat for resident and migrating birds. Ages 10 and up welcome with an adult. NYC Audubon members enjoy two-for-one admission (see www.wavehill.org for more information)

- **AUDUBON'S BIRDS OF AMERICA GALLERY**
New-York Historical Society
Experience John James Audubon's spectacular watercolor models for the 435 plates of *The Birds of America* and their corresponding hand-colored plates. The newly opened gallery features a different bird and related works by Audubon that rotate every month:
March: Canada Warbler
April: Wild Turkey
May: Common Grackle
For more information, visit www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions.

- **EARLY SPRING BIRD WALK AT JAMAICA BAY**

Saturday, March 24, 10am-1pm
Guide: Don Riepe
With American Littoral Society, Gateway National Recreation Area
Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge for a slide program and walk to look for Eastern Phoebes, American Oystercatchers, Osprey, and other early migrants. For more information and reservations, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. No limit. Free

- **WINTER BIRDS OF SANDY HOOK, NJ**
Saturday, March 24, 10am-5pm
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Sandy Hook, a spectacular barrier island at the northernmost point of the New Jersey coast, hosts a variety of species including Arctic-bound migrants and harbor seals that lie on the beach to warm up in the sun. Other possible sightings include Common Loons, Snow Buntings, and Horned Larks. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$103 (72)

- **THE SKY-DANCE OF THE WOODCOCK, FLOYD BENNETT, QUEENS**
Saturdays, March 24 and 31, 5-9:30pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow

The American Woodcock is a remarkable bird. It is in the sandpiper family but lives in woodlands, often far from beaches. The male performs a crepuscular aerial display and song early in the spring, soon after the snow melts in the northern U.S. We'll look for it (and bats, owls, and other critters) at Floyd Bennett Field. Bring a headlamp or flashlight and a snack. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$92 (64) per trip

- **FEATHERS: FASHION AND THE FIGHT FOR WILDLIFE**
Exhibit at the New-York Historical Society
On View April 6-July 15

This ground-breaking exhibition commemorates the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. It explores the history of the seminal law and the circumstances that inspired early environmental activists—many of them women and New Yorkers—to champion the protection of endangered birds. Discover evocative paintings, period clothing and accessories,



books, ephemera, photographs, and original watercolor models for *The Birds of America* by John James Audubon. For more information, visit www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions.

- **BIRDING BY EAR IN CENTRAL PARK**
Mondays, April 9-May 7, 7-9:30am
Guide: Tod Winston

Join Tod Winston for a five-week exploration of all the chips, tweets, trills, and warbles we hear as we wander Central Park's best migrant spots. Though we certainly won't pass up any non-singing birds, this series is intended specifically for those who'd like to identify birds by sound alone. We'll discuss the meanings of different songs and calls as we get to know them. All experience levels welcome. Limited to 12. \$127 (89)

- **BEGINNING BIRDING**
Classes: Wednesdays, April 4, 11, and 18, 6:30-8:30pm
Trips: Saturday, April 14, 8am-2:30pm (Jamaica Bay) and Saturday, April 21, 8-10:30am (Central Park)
Instructor: Tod Winston

Learn the keys to identifying the spectacular variety of birds that migrate through New York City every spring. 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. Three fun and educational in-class sessions and field trips to both Central Park and Jamaica Bay (transport to Jamaica Bay included). Limited to 12. \$179 (125)

- **SPRING MIGRATION IN PELHAM BAY PARK, THE BRONX**
Saturday, April 7, 9am-4pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow

Explore the lovely coves and rocky outcroppings of the City's largest park, Pelham Bay Park, seeking out migrating songbirds, late wintering birds, ducks, and a breeding pair of Great Horned Owls. The rich and diverse habitat makes this park an urban gem and a great home for wildlife. Past rarities include a Northern Goshawk and a Purple Sandpiper. Bring lunch and water. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$90 (63)

- **NATURE SKETCHING FOR BETTER BIRDING**
Monday, April 16 (class); Wednesday, April 18, and Friday, April 20 (trips), 5:30-7pm
Instructor: Nadir Souirgi

Learn to use the art of nature sketching to improve your birding skills with bird guide and art instructor Nadir Souirgi. In this workshop you'll explore the world of birds in a whole new way, focusing on making drawings and taking notes on structure, proportion, patterning, and color. Nadir will share the joy and satisfaction that comes when accurate bird drawing leads to seeing birds accurately as well. One class session and two field sessions allow for intensive work, with



personalized attention from the instructor. Intended for those with intermediate drawing experience. Limited to 10. \$92 (64)

● **EVENING SPRING MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK**
Mondays, April 16-May 21, 5:30-7pm
Tuesdays, April 17-May 22, 5:30-7pm
Wednesdays, April 18-May 23, 5:30-7pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow

Witness the spectacle of spring migration on this six-week series of walks as songbirds follow the Atlantic Flyway northwards. Look for orioles, tanagers, warblers, vireos, and other migrants in the wilds of Central Park, and learn about the finer points of their identification and ecology. Limited to 15. \$145 (102) per series.

● **EXPLORE, LEARN, AND PROTECT: JUNIOR RANGER DAY AT JAMAICA BAY**
Guide: National Park Ranger
Saturday, April 21, 10am-2pm
With American Littoral Society and Gateway National Recreation Area

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge to celebrate New York City's national park. Join Gateway National Recreation Area staff in special activities to help children and families connect with parks and engage in exploring, learning, and practicing stewardship. For more information and reservations, call 718-318-4340. No limit. Free

● **PROSPECT PARK BIRD WALKS**
Sunday, April 22 and Saturday, May 12, 8-11am
Guide: Heather Wolf

Join Heather Wolf for a leisurely walk to see spring migrants and breeding bird residents of "Brooklyn's Backyard." Beautiful Prospect Park's wide variety of habitats attract a large number of migrants and breeding bird species—significantly more than

Central Park, in fact. We will explore the Park's meadows, forests, and waterways in search of waterfowl, warblers, tanagers, and more. Limited to 15. \$36 (25) per walk

● **BIRDS AND PLANTS: NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN IN SPRING, THE BRONX**
Sundays, April 22 and June 17, 10am-1pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow

The New York Botanical Garden is home to a large tract of East Coast old-growth forest. During the peak of spring migration, the beautiful gardens come alive with migrating songbirds. Limited to 15. Entrance fee to NYBG not included. \$39 (27) per walk

● **THE BIRDS OF WOODLAWN CEMETERY, THE BRONX**
Sunday, April 22, 8-10:30am
Guides: Tod Winston, Joseph McManus, Susan Olsen
With the Woodlawn Conservancy
 Join us for a morning bird walk and tour of this beautiful cemetery: Tod

Winston and Joseph McManus will look for spring migrants and year-round residents on the expansive grounds, while Woodlawn Cemetery Director of Historical Services Susan Olsen will share fascinating stories about the cemetery's history and the interesting mixture of individuals interred there. Limited to 15. \$35 (24)

● **BIRDING TOURS OF BRYANT PARK, MANHATTAN**
Mondays, April 23-June 4, 8-9am
Thursdays, April 26-June 7, 5-6pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow
With Bryant Park Corporation

Meet at the Birding Tour sign at the 42nd Street and Sixth Avenue entrance to the Park. Discover the surprising variety of birds that stop in Bryant Park during migration. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

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NYC AUDUBON MEMBERS-ONLY EVENTS

Join us for a free NYC Audubon member event this spring. Please note: Member events are free for Contributing NYC Audubon members at the Student/Senior level and up. Except for the KIDS walk, all member walks are limited to 20 people. As these events are popular and fill quickly, please limit your registration to one free member event per month. Contact Kellye Rosenheim at krosenheim@nycaudubon.org or call 212-691-7483 x306 to register.

SONGS OF CENTRAL PARK
Wednesday, April 25, 7:30-9:30am

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street to seek out early spring migrants with Tom Stephenson, author of *The Warbler Guide* and creator of the BirdGenie smartphone app.

EXPLORING GOVERNORS ISLAND

Friday, April 27, and Monday, May 7, 8:30-10:30am
 Take a look around one of the final frontiers in New York City birding. Meet at the Governors Island Ferry (Battery Maritime Terminal near the Staten Island Ferry) for a short ride to the island and a morning of

birding under the guidance of expert Annie Barry.

SPRING WALK IN THE CENTRAL PARK RAMBLE
Tuesday, May 1, 7:30-9:30am

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street. Explore the Ramble with NYC Audubon Immediate Past President Harry Maas and marvel at spring migration.

SPRING MIGRATION WITH JEFF KIMBALL
Thursday, May 3, 7:30-9:30am

Enjoy a spring walk through the Ramble with Jeff Kimball, filmmaker of *Birders: The Central Park Effect* and president of NYC

Audubon. Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street.

KIDS SPRING MIGRATION KIDS MEMBER WALK IN CENTRAL PARK
Sunday, April 29, 3-4:30pm

Meet at 72nd Street and Central Park West and explore the park's best birding hotspots with Nancy Ward, Kellye Rosenheim, and Jeff Ward. Walk is only for pre-registered KIDS Members 8-12 years old. All KIDS Members must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please let us know if you need a pair of binoculars. To register, parents should email KIDS@nycaudubon.org.

CENTRAL PARK'S NORTH WOODS
Tuesday, May 8, 7:30-9:30am

Join Director of Development Kellye Rosenheim at Central Park West and 100th Street to see what the North Woods has to offer at the peak of migration.

SPRING MIGRATION IN ASTORIA PARK, QUEENS
Sunday, May 13, 9-10:30am

Meet NYC Audubon Board Member Kellie Quiñones at the entrance to Astoria Park at 19th Street and Hoyt Avenue North for a Mother's Day walk seeking out migrating birds (and possibly resident monk parakeets).

EVENTS AND ADVENTURES (CONTINUED)

- **BIRDING TOURS OF THE NORTH WOODS, CENTRAL PARK**
Mondays, April 23-May 21,
Wednesdays, April 25-May 23, and
Fridays, April 27-May 25,
5:30pm-7pm

Guide: **Nadir Souirgi**

Meet at the 103rd Street and Central Park West entrance to the park. Discover birding in the more serene northern part of Central Park during the height of songbird migration. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

- **BIRD WALKS AT THE BATTERY, SOUTHERN TIP OF MANHATTAN**
Tuesdays, April 24, May 1, 8,
and 15, 8-9am

Guide: **Gabriel Willow**

With **The Battery Conservancy**

Meet at the Netherlands Memorial Flagpole located at the entrance to Battery Park on the corner of Broadway, Battery Place, and State Street. Join Gabriel Willow and The Battery Conservancy to explore the diversity of migrating birds that find food and habitat in The Battery. RSVP preferred; visit tbcevents.eventbrite.com for more info. No limit. Free

- **MORNING SPRING MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK**

Wednesdays, April 25-May 23,
7:30-10:30am

Thursdays, April 26-May 24,
7:30-10:30am

Guide: **Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC**

This five-week series of walks will observe the waves of birds passing through Central Park during spring migration. Limited to 15. \$143 (100) per series

- **SPRING MIGRATION MORNING WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK**

Fridays, April 27, May 4, 11,
and 18, 8-10am

Guide: **Gabriel Willow**

Join Gabriel Willow for a spring morning walk in Central Park to

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

- **CAPE MAY SPRING MIGRATION WEEKEND, NJ**
Saturday, April 28, 9am-Sunday,
April 29, 7pm

Guide: **Gabriel Willow**

Welcome the spring in lovely Cape May, NJ, the East's capital of birding. On good spring migration days, the area's forests and marshes are swarming with warblers in breeding plumage. We'll visit Cape May Point, Higbee Beach, Cape May Meadows, and more in search of returning songbirds, shorebirds, wading birds, and terns—as well as lingering winter visitors such as sea ducks and gannets. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 10. \$340 (\$50 single supplement)

- **ASSATEAGUE/CHINCOTEAGUE WEEKEND**
Thursday, May 10-Sunday, May 13

Guide: **Don Riepe**

With **American Littoral Society**

A great natural-history weekend on the Virginia coast. See wild ponies, nesting Osprey and Bald Eagles, dolphins, sika deer, migrating warblers, shorebirds, raptors, and waders. Includes three nights' lodging at Refuge Inn, breakfasts, a boat tour of marshes, a safari bus tour of backwater dunes, guided hikes along beaches, woods, and marshes, plus two evening programs. For info and reservations, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. \$395 (\$150 single supplement, approximately \$95 for van transport)

- **PUFFINS, WARBLERS, AND LOBSTER BOATS: THE ENCHANTING COAST OF MAINE**
Saturday, May 26-Saturday, June 2

Guide: **Gabriel Willow**

Explore Maine's "Country of the Pointed Firs": land of lighthouses, quaint villages, and lobster pounds—all nestled in a setting of primeval pine forests, bogs, and bucolic islands. Home to some of the East's last true wilderness, Maine hosts populations of puffin, bear, moose, shorebirds, and dozens of warbler species. Our exploration begins with three days on the mainline coast, visiting the saltmarshes and beaches to the south before heading to the beautiful fishing village of Camden. From there we will explore nearby hills, meadows, and marshes in search of elusive rails, Upland Sandpiper, and Nelson's and Vesper Sparrow. The next four days we'll stay at the Monhegan House Inn on enchanting Monhegan Island, where seeing over 30 warbler species in one day is not uncommon. Last but not least, we'll travel to a puffin nesting colony. \$1,950 (\$595 single supplement)

- **MONTAUK SPRING WEEKEND**
Friday, June 1-Sunday, June 3

Guides: **Mike Bottini, Mickey Cohen, Don Riepe**

With **American Littoral Society**

Join us at the luxurious Montauk Manor and enjoy indoor/outdoor heated pools, Jacuzzi, and spacious suites. Registration price includes five meals, five guided field trips, two evening slide programs, an evening star watch and free pickup at the LIRR station in Montauk. For information and reservations, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. \$395 (\$140 single supplement)

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Atlantic Puffin

- **BASHAKILL, SHAWANGUNK NWR, AND DOODLETOWN, NY**
Saturday, June 9, 8am-Sunday,
June 10, 6pm

Guide: **Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC**

Look for breeding Eastern Meadowlarks, American Bitterns, Cerulean Warblers, and more at these three great birding areas. An overnight stay will facilitate being in the right spot at the right time. Bring lunch for the first day, binoculars, and a spotting scope (if you have one). Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 10. \$325 (\$75 single supplement)

- **BASHAKILL, NEVERSINK, AND STERLING FOREST, NY**
Saturday, June 16, 8am-Sunday,
June 17, 6pm

Guide: **Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC**

Look for breeding American Bitterns, Cerulean, Hooded, and Golden-winged Warblers, and more at these three great birding areas. An overnight stay will facilitate being in the right spot at the right time. Bring lunch for the first day, binoculars, and a spotting scope (if you have one). Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 10. \$325 (\$75 single supplement)

welcome the arrival of warblers, vireos, tanagers, cuckoos, and other species stopping off in the Park for a rest and a snack on their way north. We will explore the Ramble and surrounding areas, as well as stop for a rest and enjoy a snack ourselves at the Boathouse. Limited to 15. \$36 (25) per walk

• **SPRING MIGRATION AT JAMAICA BAY**

Saturday, April 28, 10am-1pm

Guide: Don Riepe

With American Littoral Society, Gateway National Recreation Area

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge during peak spring migration for a slide program and hike around the reserve to look for many species of migratory birds. For reservations, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. No limit. Free

• **QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN BIRD WALKS**

Saturdays, April 28, May 19, and June 9, and Sundays, May 6 and 27, 9:30-10:30am

Guide: NYC Audubon

With Queens Botanical Garden

Explore Queens Botanical Garden in search of migrant songbirds and learn about the valuable resources the Garden offers birds and other wildlife. Binoculars available.

Register for one date or the whole series of five walks (walk-ins welcome). To register, email info@queensbotanical.org or visit www.queensbotanical.org/calendar. Each walk limited to 25. Free with Garden admission

• **VAN CORTLANDT BIRD WALKS, THE BRONX**

Saturdays, April 28-July 21, 9-10:30am

Guide: NYC Audubon

With the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy

Meet at Van Cortlandt Nature Center. The history of birding and

Van Cortlandt Park are inseparable. Influential birders such as Roger Tory Peterson and Allan D. Cruickshank got their starts on Van Cortlandt's ecologically diverse grounds.

These walks celebrate the tradition set by these great ornithologists. Participants will look for various species of residents and migrants and discuss a wide range of avian topics. For more information, call 212-691-7483. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

• **AFTERNOON SPRING WALK AT INWOOD HILL PARK, MANHATTAN**

Saturdays, April 28 and May 5, 2-5pm

Guide: Nadir Souirgi

Inwood Hill Park is a jewel. Nestled between the Hudson River, Dyckman Street, and Seaman Avenue, this last tract of largely undeveloped oak and tulip forest transports you to another world and another time. Glacial "pot holes," towering trees, and stunning river views create an unrivaled backdrop for observing the many migratory and breeding avian species that are drawn to this hotspot. Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Wood Thrush, and Yellow Warbler breed here, and the Park includes Manhattan's last remaining tidal saltmarsh. Limited to 15. \$36 (25) per walk

• **BIRDING GEMS OF STATEN ISLAND: SPRING HIKE IN THE GREENBELT**

Sunday, April 29, 9:30am-3pm

Guide: Cliff Hagen

With NYC Parks and the Greenbelt Conservancy

Explore trails in the 3,000-acre Staten Island Greenbelt with Cliff Hagen and visit High Rock Park, Walker Pond, and the Pouch Camp property: 143 acres of unspoiled woods and wetlands. Look for spring migrants and learn about the Greenbelt's ecology. Trip involves approximately three and half miles of hiking. Van transportation from the Staten Island St. George Terminal included. Limited to 19. \$43 (30)

• **WOODCOCK MOON PROWL AT JAMAICA BAY**

Sunday, April 29, 7-10:30pm

Guide: National Park Ranger

With American Littoral Society, Gateway National Recreation Area

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Join a park ranger to listen and look for the aerial courtship displays of the American Woodcock under the full moon. The sky dance of this cryptic bird is one of spring's marvels. For more information and reservations, call 718-318-4340. To inquire about van transportation from Manhattan, call NYC Audubon at 212-691-7483 x304. No limit. Free

• **BIRDS, TECHNOLOGY, AND CITIZEN SCIENCE: eBIRD WORKSHOP**

Thursday, May 3, 7-8:30pm

Instructor: Gabriel Willow

Birders increasingly use technological tools to locate birds, share their sightings, and keep track of their observations. The most widely used of these tools is eBird, a website and app that allows users to upload and track their sightings and see what other users have found. It's also a citizen-science tool that pools all the data, allowing scientists to study trends in bird population trends, migration timing, and more. Learn how to use eBird and other modern technological tools such as field guide apps and automated bird ID apps. Limited to 12. \$33 (23)

• **INTRODUCTION TO BIRD SONG**

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

Trip: Sunday, May 6, 8am-noon

Instructor: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Do you ever wonder who is singing? Learn to identify the large variety of migrant and resident birds in New York City. Joe Giunta will first introduce you to the subtleties of bird-song identification in the classroom, followed by a field trip in Central Park to bird by eye and ear. Limited to 12. \$72 (50)

• **BIRD WALK IN THE NORTH WOODS OF CENTRAL PARK**

Saturday, May 5, 7-11am

Guide: Tod Winston

Explore the peaceful North Woods and Loch at the height of spring songbird migration. We'll look (and listen) for warblers, vireos, tanagers, grosbeaks, and more. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

• **STERLING FOREST WARBLERS, ORANGE COUNTY, NY**

Sunday, May 6, 7am-3pm

Guides: Don Riepe, Tod Winston

Explore the woodland and pond habitat of the 20,000-acre Sterling Forest preserve during peak spring migration. Look for nesting warblers, as well as spring wildflowers, reptiles, and amphibians. Trip involves four-mile hike and some rocky terrain. Bring lunch and water. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$115 (80)

• **SPRING MIGRATION ON RANDALL'S ISLAND**

Sunday, May 6, 9am-2pm

Guides: Gabriel Willow, Randall's Island Park Alliance Staff

With Randall's Island Park Alliance

We'll walk across the footbridge to Randall's Island, an under-explored location in the East River that hosts restored freshwater wetlands and saltmarsh. We'll look for spring migrants (both water birds and land birds) as we explore the results of recent restoration efforts. Limited to 20. \$40 (28)

• **BIRDING GEMS OF STATEN ISLAND: SPRING MIGRATION AT FRESHKILLS PARK**

Sundays, May 6 and 20, 8am-3pm

Guide: Cliff Hagen

With NYC Department of Parks & Recreation

From wetlands to woodlands to rich, rolling grasslands, Freshkills Park offers a diverse collection of habitats and wildlife. On a spring day, over

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EVENTS AND ADVENTURES (CONTINUED)

100 species of birds and a variety of butterflies can be seen here. Join local naturalist Cliff Hagen and NYC Parks Department staff on this special opportunity to explore the deep, secret places of the City's latest, greatest park. Transport by passenger van from the Staten Island St. George Terminal included. Limited to 12. \$50 (35)

- **SPRING WARBLERS**

Class: Friday, May 11, 6:30-8:30pm
Trip: Sunday, May 13, 8-11am
Instructor: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

First learn to identify the 30-plus species of warblers that migrate through our area each spring using field marks and other techniques. Then reinforce what you've learned on a field trip in Central Park. Limited to 15. \$72 (50)

- **SPRING MIGRANTS AT INWOOD HILL PARK, MANHATTAN**

Saturday, May 12, 9-11:30am
Guide: Annie Barry

Join Annie Barry for a hike through a mature forest in search of kinglets, warblers, flycatchers, sparrows, and other migrants and residents. We'll then head to the shores of recently restored Muscota Marsh, the last natural saltmarsh in Manhattan, to search for herons and ducks. Some hilly walking required. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

- **RANDALL'S ISLAND BIRDING BONANZA**

Saturday, May 12, 10am-1pm
Guide: NYC Audubon

With Randall's Island Park Alliance

Meet at Little Hell Gate Salt Marsh, south of Icahn Stadium. Randall's Island is home to over 180 species of birds. Enjoy a day of free, family-friendly bird watching! Learn about the amazing adaptations of birds as they thrive in the Island's restored habitats. No Limit. Free

- **PEAK MIGRATION DAY AT ALLEY POND PARK AND JAMAICA BAY**

Tuesday, May 15, 8am-4pm
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Join Joe Giunta for this tour of the crown jewels of Queens: Alley Pond Park and Jamaica Bay. First visit Alley Pond's wooded grounds and

kettle ponds to search for warblers and vireos, then hike the trails of Jamaica Bay to see migrant shorebirds, waterfowl, and more. Bring lunch and water. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$115 (80)

- **NESTING PEREGRINES AND RED-TAILS OF THE UPPER WEST SIDE, MANHATTAN**

Saturday, May 19, 1-4pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow

Many New Yorkers are astonished to discover that their city of steel and glass is home to a diverse population of large birds of prey: the City boasts

KINGSLAND WILDFLOWERS EVENTS

- **BIRDING BY THE BRIDGE: IN SEARCH OF EVERY BIRD ON THE BROOKLYN WATERFRONT**

Presentation by Heather Wolf
Thursday, April 19, 6-8pm

When avid birder Heather Wolf moved from tropical Florida to an apartment near Brooklyn Bridge Park, she wondered how many species she might see there, and soon came to a surprising realization: not only is the park filled with an astonishing variety of birds, but the challenges that come with urban birding make them even more fun—and rewarding—to find. Join us as Brooklyn birder and author Heather Wolf shares tips for birding in Brooklyn and talks about her book *Birding at the Bridge: In Search of Every Bird on the Brooklyn Waterfront*.

- **FIELD DAY FRIDAYS**

With Newtown Creek Alliance
Fridays, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, and August 17, 4-7pm

Tour the roof and dig in the dirt at these hands-on volunteer days maintaining the garden with Newtown Creek Alliance. Learn more and register at www.newtowncreekalliance.org. Free



Kingsland Wildflowers in Full Bloom, June 21, 2017

- **EARTH DAY BIOREMEDIATION LECTURE AND WORKSHOP**

With Newtown Creek Alliance
Sunday, April 22, 12-4pm

Join Newtown Creek Alliance for an afternoon of hands-on learning about the basics of healthy soils, common contaminants, and ways to use natural methods in improving ecological function and better protecting human health. An introductory lecture will be followed by soil testing, seed-bomb making, and outdoor planting at a street in Greenpoint. Learn more and register at newtowncreekalliance.org. Free

- **OPEN HOUSE SATURDAYS**

Saturdays, May 19, June 16, July 21, and August 18, 12-3pm

Tour the native plant garden and visit our community engagement space as

we open Kingsland Wildflowers to the general public. Free

- **KINGSLAND WILDFLOWERS SENSORIUM**

Saturday, June 2, Time TBA
 Brooklyn-based artists Cara Marie Piazza of Calyx Apothecary, fashion designer Merica Lee, and Marie Lockhart of Lockhart Embroidery team up to present you with a day of sensorial delights to celebrate and support Kingsland Wildflowers. Join us for a holistic day that will stimulate your senses while playing with crafts and supporting ecology, community, and preservation. For more information, email njackson@nycaudubon.org.

All events take place at Kingsland Wildflowers, located at 520 Kingsland Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. More events will be posted throughout the spring on www.kingslandwildflowers.com.

Funding 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.



the world's highest densities of the Peregrine Falcon—the world's fastest flyer—and a growing population of Red-tailed Hawks (several pairs of which have reached celebrity status). We'll visit the nesting site of a pair of each of these fascinating species, and may glimpse parents feeding their chicks. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

• **JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISE**
Sunday, May 27, 5-8pm

Guide: Don Riepe

With American Littoral Society and Gateway National Recreation Area

Meet at pier 4 in Sheepshead Bay to board the "Golden Sunshine." Learn about the Bay and its history, management, and ecology. See egrets, herons, ibis, terns, gulls, falcons, and shorebirds. Includes wine and cheese, fruit, drinks, and snacks. For information and reservations, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriep@gmail.com. Limited to 140. \$55

• **THE BREEDING BIRDS OF DOODLETOWN ROAD, ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY**
Friday, June 1, 8am-4pm
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

A great variety of warblers and other songbirds, including species at risk, breed at Doodletown Road in Bear Mountain State Park. Hooded, Cerulean, and Golden-winged Warblers may be seen, as well as Indigo Buntings, Wild Turkeys, and much more. Bring lunch and water. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$122 (85)

• **BREEDING BIRDS OF JAMAICA BAY**
Saturday, June 2, 7am-1pm
Guide: Tod Winston

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge is home to nesting Cedar Waxwings, Brown Thrashers, White-eyed Vireos, Tree Swallows, Yellow Warblers, American Redstarts, Osprey, Willet, and seven species of wading birds. We'll walk the refuge trails and

observe these species and many more on their breeding grounds. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$93 (65)

• **FRESHKILLS DISCOVERY DAY, STATEN ISLAND**
Sunday, June 3, 11am-4pm
Guide: NYC Audubon With NYC Department of Parks & Recreation

At 2,200 acres, Freshkills Park is almost three times the size of Central Park and the largest park to be developed in New York City in over 100 years. It also has a significant history as the site of the former Fresh Kills Landfill. The landfill has been covered with layers of soil and infrastructure, and the site has become a place for wildlife, recreation, science, education, and art. Trails and paths normally off-limits to the public will be open on this day and offer views of the Park's hills, creeks, and wildlife. Activities include guided bird walks, hiking, running, bike-riding, kayaking, free shuttle buses into the Park and to the top of a hill offering panoramic views of New York, and educational tours and displays. Visit www.freshkillspark.org for more information. No limit. Free

• **BIRDING GEMS OF STATEN ISLAND: CLOVE LAKES PARK**
Saturday, June 9, 8am-12pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow

Journey to the "forgotten borough" to discover some of the beautiful forests and incredible birding spots of Clove Lakes Park. Look for ducks and seabirds in New York Harbor on our way across on the ferry and then catch a bus to the Park. Warblers, tanagers, and other migratory songbirds can be seen here, as well as nesting Eastern Screech-Owls and Great Blue Herons. We'll even see one of the largest, oldest trees in New York City. Limited to 15. Bus fare (\$2.75 each way; please bring your MetroCard or exact change) not included in registration price. \$43 (30)

• **EXPLORE THE MEADOWLANDS BY PONTOON BOAT, SECAUCUS, NJ**
Saturday, June 9, 7:30am-12:30pm
Guide: Tod Winston, NJ Meadowlands Docent

With NJ Meadowlands Commission
Explore the Meadowlands on a relaxing pontoon boat ride in search of egrets, night-herons, and kingfishers—along with nesting Osprey, Peregrine Falcons, and Marsh Wrens. We'll travel along the Hackensack River to both man-made and restored wetland sites and learn about the area's environmental history. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 11. \$108 (75)

• **BREEDING BIRDS OF THE HUDSON HIGHLANDS, NY**
Saturday, June 23, 8am-5pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow

Join Gabriel Willow on a day-long trip to some of the most exciting and beautiful birding locations in the Hudson Valley: Doodletown Road, Constitution Marsh, and Indian Brook Farm. We'll look for uncommon breeding warbler specialties at Doodletown, such as Cerulean, Hooded, Blue-winged, Golden-winged, and Worm-eating Warblers. We will then head to the Constitution Marsh Audubon Sanctuary, home to breeding Wood Ducks, Bald Eagles, Least Bitterns, Marsh Wrens, and more. After a picnic lunch, we will drive to Indian Brook Farm in search of breeding Field and Savannah Sparrows, Bobolinks, and Indigo Buntings. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$129 (90) per trip

• **THE PARAKEETS OF GREENWOOD CEMETERY, BROOKLYN**
Sunday, June 24, 10am-1pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow

With Green-Wood Cemetery
Explore Green-Wood Cemetery, rich in both history and wildlife, in search of spring migrants and its unique avian residents: the

huge flocks of brilliant green Monk Parakeets that nest there. Native to South America, these charming immigrants flourish even in our harsh winters. Limited to 15. \$46 (32)

EARLY MEMBER REGISTRATION FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer to early fall events will be posted at www.nycaudubon.org and available for registration for contributing NYC Audubon members starting on Monday, May 7, at 9am. (Registration will open to all on Monday, May 21.)

TO REGISTER FOR ALL NYC AUDUBON EVENTS and for more information, visit www.nycaudubon.org or call Danielle Sherman at 212-691-7483 x304 unless otherwise specified.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Contributing Members (Student/Senior level and up) receive a 30% discount on most local trips and classes (on discounted events, the discounted price appears in parentheses after the nonmember price). See membership form on page 22.**
- **Classes meet at 71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1523.**
- **For paid trips requiring advance registration, the meeting location will be disclosed in your trip registration confirmation email.**
- **For all coach and van trips, the meeting location is in front of 71 West 23rd Street in Manhattan unless otherwise specified.**
- **We depart promptly at the stated start time.**
- **For all overnight trips, membership in NYC Audubon at the Student/ Senior level and up is required.**

STUDY MEASURES LIGHT'S DRAMATIC IMPACT ON BIRD MIGRATION

Kellye Rosenheim

NYC Audubon's own Dr. Susan Elbin, director of conservation and science, has co-authored an important paper about the impact of light on nocturnally migrating birds for the peer-reviewed journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Other co-authors were Dr. Andrew Farnsworth, Cornell Lab of Ornithology researcher and NYC Audubon advisory council member, and scientists from Cornell University, University of Oklahoma, and Oxford University. Published in September 2017, the paper describes how the 9/11 memorial, the Tribute in Light, affects the flight patterns of nocturnally migrating birds from as far away as .5 kilometers and as high as four kilometers in the air. In short, birds would change their normal flight path to come closer to the strong artificial light and become disoriented.

NYC Audubon has monitored bird activity in the lights every year with the cooperation of the Tribute's producer, Michael Ahern Production Services. "This is a moving and powerful memorial to the people who lost their lives on September 11, but it was clear from the get-go that this was going to pose a hazard to birds at the peak of migration," says Dr. Elbin. Birds use a variety of clues when navigating, and one of them is the stars of the night sky. "Like the



Volunteers Monitoring the Tribute in Light, September 11, 2017

early navigators, birds will use a star compass to orient themselves in the right direction," says Dr. Elbin. "Birds also navigate using a geomagnetic map of the naturally occurring forces of the earth. Artificial light may interfere with their ability to accurately receive these wavelengths." Dr. Elbin and her colleagues realized that a study of the Tribute's effects on birds could demonstrate in the clearest possible way artificial light's effect on avian navigation.

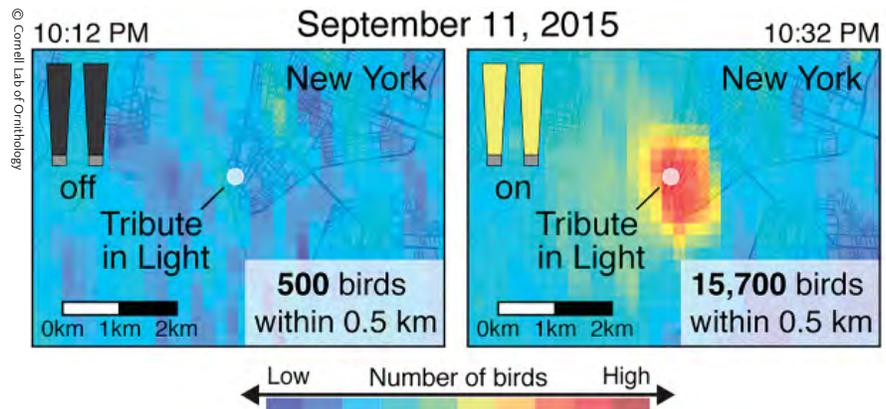
Since the Tribute's inception in 2002, NYC Audubon staff and volunteers have

counted the number of birds that become trapped in the beams. When the number rises to more than 1,000 birds, Dr. Elbin asks the producers to turn the lights out and allow the birds to re-orient themselves in the darkness and continue on their way. In each instance, the birds are able to recover and move on, proving that the lights (two beams each with 44 xenon bulbs of 7,000 watts) are distracting. For the past seven years, Dr. Elbin and Dr. Farnsworth have been collecting visual observations, radar images, and acoustic recordings. They recently synthesized the data and were able to model what the birds were experiencing: disorientation by and attraction to the light. As stated in the paper, "The simulations revealed a high probability of disorientation and subsequent attraction for nearby birds, and bird densities near the installation exceeded magnitudes 20 times greater than surrounding baseline densities during each year's observations."

Dr. Elbin explains: "We now know that artificial light at night draws migratory birds off their original flight trajectory—even when the sky is clear and visibility is high—at great distances. We have seven years of data to prove it. What do we do now? We advocate even more strongly against light pollution, starting with lights-out programs, and we especially do so during migration."



Susan Elbin (Left), Andrew Farnsworth (Right) Discussing Bird Identifications at the 2017 Tribute in Light Memorial



The images above were taken 20 minutes apart during the 2015 Tribute in Light and show concentrations of birds on radar with light beams turned off (left) and turned on (right).

SAFE FLIGHT IPA TAKES OFF

Andrew Maas

Pete Lengyel, one of three brewers who founded Kings County Brewers Collective (KCBC) in 2016 in Bushwick, Brooklyn, was not always a birder. Growing up in San Diego, he craved the outdoors, visiting the beach and running through the canyons every chance he got. His interest in birds, however, took flight inside a Brooklyn apartment. As he and his friends looked for a movie one night to stream on Netflix, they came across the documentary *Birders: The Central Park Effect* by filmmaker and NYC Audubon Board President Jeff Kimball. The film, which reveals the extraordinary array of wild birds in Central Park and elsewhere in the City during migration, blew Pete and his friends away. “I had no idea there were all these gorgeous migratory birds coming through the City,” Pete said. “Most people don’t bother looking up, and I guess we hadn’t noticed them either.”

The very next day, Pete and his friends bought binoculars and tried them out in nearby Prospect Park. The day after, they took a guided walk in Central Park, where they saw their first warbler, a Black-and-white. They were hooked. Beer, which had

© Brian Cassel / @drinkgoodbeer



Kings County Brewers Collective's Pete Lengyel Showing Off a Pint of Safe Flight IPA

dominated Pete’s life for the past decade, now had company with this new obsession. Pete’s group, which he calls the ‘beerders,’ regularly bird in Prospect Park, Greenwood Cemetery, or hop in a car to travel upstate. When describing the allure of birding, Pete quotes NYC Audubon Board Member Chris Cooper in the *Birders* documentary: “It’s the thrill of the hunt, without the bloodshed.”

Pete was given a membership to NYC Audubon as a Christmas gift later that year, and soon learned of Project Safe Flight, our program working to safeguard the City’s migratory birds from collisions with glass. He was taken aback after learning that hundreds of millions of birds die annually in the U.S from hitting windows. “It was shocking that there were so many birds dying for nothing,” Pete said. He immediately reached out to NYC Audubon to see how he and KCBC could help raise awareness and find solutions to the problem. “We don’t have any money yet,” Pete explained. “But we do have beer.”

With that in mind, Pete created a special brew in partnership with NYC Audubon last fall: Safe Flight IPA. The beer was a featured draft at KCBC’s taproom in Bushwick, where it proved to be a hit and sold out quickly. Over 4,500 pints of the beer were canned and distributed to local stores including Whole Foods and the Beer Table

at Grand Central Station. The can, beautifully designed by Pete’s girlfriend Patty Woo, features facts about bird collisions with windows as well as a link to NYC Audubon’s Project Safe Flight webpage. “We wanted to reach people who aren’t necessarily bird-watchers or interested in conservation and nature to at least drink a beer and realize this is happening and there are ways to prevent it,” Pete said. In addition to raising awareness, the beer also raised significant funds. Through sales of the brew, KCBC donated \$3,630 to support Project Safe Flight. They also generously donated the beer for the Fall Roost and other NYC Audubon events.

KCBC and NYC Audubon celebrated the beer’s launch last fall with a screening of *The Messenger* documentary about the conservation threats that imperil songbirds around the world. The event proved to be a great way to spread awareness about birds and conservation to a new audience. Because of its success, KCBC and NYC Audubon will again be collaborating this spring to host two more film screenings where you can learn more about birds and conservation issues while savoring delicious brews. (See the sidebar for more information.) And come this fall, Pete will be brewing up a new batch of Safe Flight IPA for fall migration.

FILM SCREENINGS AT KCBC

Thursdays, April 26 and May 10, 7pm
Kings County Brewers Collective (KCBC)
381 Troutman Street, Brooklyn, NY

Join us during spring migration at KCBC in Bushwick, Brooklyn to learn about the many conservation issues threatening migratory birds as we screen two important films:

Birders: The Central Park Effect on Thursday, April 26 and *Saving Jamaica Bay* on Thursday, May 10. The screening will be followed by a Q + A panel with filmmakers, NYC Audubon ecologists, and KCBC brewer Pete Lengyel. Ages 21 and up. For more information, email njackson@nycaudubon.org. Limited to 150. This event is free and open to the public.

TAKE A GUIDED TOUR OF THE AUDUBON MURAL PROJECT

Sundays, March 18, April 15, May 20, 10am-12pm

Guide: Leigh Hallingby

The Audubon Mural Project is an exciting effort by National Audubon and Gitler & _____ Gallery to create murals of over 300 birds in the northern Manhattan neighborhoods of Hamilton Heights and Washington Heights. As all the birds painted are threatened by climate change, the project is designed not only to help us appreciate the beauty of the birds, but also make us aware of the challenges they face. In addition to seeing about 30 murals, we will visit John James Audubon's impressive gravesite in the Trinity Church Cemetery. Binoculars will be an asset on this walk. Limited to 25. \$30 (20)

Support for these tours is provided by Audubon New York through the Norman Shapiro Collaborative Grant. This award is given annually to a local New York state chapter in honor of Norman Shapiro, whose leadership for his local chapter Orange County Audubon, the Audubon New York state office, and the Audubon Council of New York personified collaboration and "One Audubon." New York City Audubon is honored to receive this award and make people aware of the threats from climate change through the mural project.

© Photos: Mike Fernandez/Audubon



From top, left to right: Roseate Spoonbill by Danielle Mastrion, Red-faced Warbler by ATM, Pinyon Jay by Mary Lacy, Osprey by Soten

BROWN THRASHER (*TOXOSTOMA RUFUM*)

Carol Peace Robins

© Laura Meyers



It's those deep yellow eyes that get you. If, that is, you manage to spot the Brown Thrasher hiding in the dense thickets and forest edges, where it likes to forage in the earth. You may even see and hear one singing at the top of a tall tree. It is a most talented mimic, with over 1,100 songs—one of the largest repertoires of any songbird in North America.

Compared to two other famous mimics, the Gray Catbird and the Northern Mockingbird, the Brown Thrasher is slightly larger: almost one foot long. It wears a somewhat severe expression due to its heavy, down-curved bill, and has long, thick-set legs—ideal for covering a lot of ground. Reddish brown on the back from the top of its head to the tip of its long tail, it has dark streaks on its whitish underparts. And oh, those piercing yellow eyes.

Brown Thrashers enjoy a varied diet. In thickets and shrubbery, they flip away dead leaves and dig in the soil for worms

and beetles. They also eat caterpillars, grasshoppers, snails, frogs, berries, seeds, and acorns—cracking open the nuts by pounding them with their bills.

As parents, both the male and female are involved in family care, from building a nest—usually low in a shrub or on the ground—to taking turns incubating the eggs and feeding their young, for whom they're fierce guardians. Humans and dogs beware!

Brown Thrashers are not long-distance travelers. Those in the South stay put year-round, while those that nest in the North fly a bit further south in winter. Fairly common in the Northeast, Brown Thrasher sightings in New York City have decreased significantly in recent decades. You can still find them in the City during all seasons, most likely in parks and Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

Last, a bit of trivia: In 1928, the schoolchildren of Georgia selected the Brown Thrasher as the state bird. It must have been those yellow eyes.

THE AUDUBON URBAN COLLABORATIVE NETWORK *Meryl Greenblatt*

Running an urban conservation nonprofit organization with several thousand members has its challenges. For NYC Audubon, this includes ensuring a robust science program; planning walks, trips, classes and events; budgeting; fundraising; serving and retaining a staff, a board, and members; and, of course, handling day-to-day office operations. Having peers to turn to for guidance and advice is essential. In NYC Audubon's case, the Audubon Urban Collaborative Network, or AUCN, is at hand.

The AUCN is a loose-knit community of some 20 urban Audubon chapters from across the country. Covering cities like Seattle, San Diego, Portland, San Francisco, Atlanta, and Pittsburgh, together they boast about 80,000 members who have urban wild bird conservation in common.

Formed in 2004 by a handful of chapters as the Audubon Urban 'Chapter' Network, the organization focuses on shared urban issues not prominent on National Audubon's list of priorities. "Take bird collisions with buildings," says Kathryn Heintz, NYC Audubon's executive director. "This is a major problem in cities, and is related to curtailing artificial light and implementing lights-out programs to help birds navigate safely through urban landscapes during migratory seasons." Encouraging bird-friendly building design, minimizing outdoor and interior lighting, developing green roofs, and promoting green urban infrastructure

are integral to this effort. "Our other big issue is large populations of feral cats," adds Kathryn. "Cats, along with building collisions, are the greatest causes of bird deaths in cities."

Urban chapters also share programmatic goals like expanding educational outreach and increasing equity, diversity, and inclusion across their membership rosters, boards, and audiences. Working in concert with others similarly situated can really make a difference when you're trying to promote big-idea initiatives and enact change with a small staff and a frugal budget.

AUCN meetings are held monthly over the phone and once yearly in person, with chapters rotating the opportunity to host

an annual meeting. At the 2017 gathering, held in Portland, OR, the AUCN outlined a series of goals for member chapters to make the network more effective. While tentative, these goals include focusing on creating a strong peer network, sharing best practices and knowledge, providing a collective voice on issues of common concern, and representing the best interests of birds at the local, regional, metropolitan, and national levels. The AUCN also changed the C in AUCN from 'Chapter' to 'Collaborative.'

"AUCN provides the opportunity for executive directors to share ideas, leverage knowledge, and gain professional expertise on better managing chapters," says Kathryn, "As a peer network, it's invaluable."

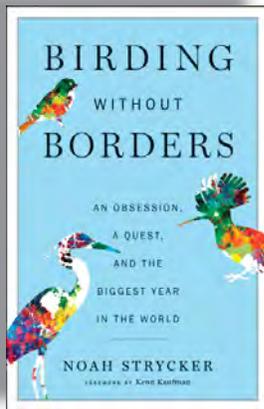


Atop the Green Roof Habitat at the Oregon Health & Science University Center for Health & Healing: John Brosnan (Seattle Audubon); Nick Hardigg (Audubon Society of Portland); Staff Member (Oregon Health & Science University); Chris Redfern (San Diego Audubon); Cindy Margulis (Golden Gate Audubon); Kathryn Heintz (NYC Audubon); Jim Bonner (Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania); and Bob Sallinger (Audubon Society of Portland)

REMEMBER THE BIRDS

Make sure that New York City remains a haven for the birds and wildlife you love. A bequest is a generous and straightforward way to safeguard birds and their habitat in New York City's five boroughs. It can be expressed as, "I bequeath [a sum of money or a percentage of my estate] to New York City Audubon Society, Inc., a not-for-profit organization with offices at 71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1523, New York, NY 10010." To learn more, contact Director of Development Kellye Rosenheim at krosenheim@nycaudubon.org or 646-502-9611.

BIRDING WITHOUT BORDERS: AN OBSESSION, A QUEST, AND THE BIGGEST YEAR IN THE WORLD
By Noah Strycker
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt,
2017



If the somewhat grandiose title of Noah Strycker’s book *Birding Without Borders* leaves you unimpressed, take a look at the inside cover. It shows a map of the author’s travels during 2015, when he set out to beat the previous record of 4,341 species for a worldwide “Big Year.” Another indication of Mr. Strycker’s mind-blowing feat is the list at the back of the 6,042 species he saw during his Big Year: it fills 50 double-columned pages.

In the text itself, his entries are mostly limited to a quick rundown of the species seen in a particularly birdy area, but a few special and/or rare birds get full descriptions. The most striking may be that of the fabled Harpy Eagle, which the author finally saw after spending an entire morning under its nest in central Brazil. The length of that wait inspires a portrayal of birding that is sometimes painfully accurate: “A game of patience punctuated by sharp moments of excitement.”

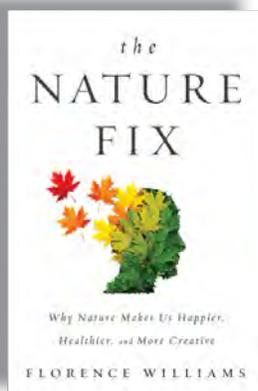
Despite five months of careful planning, the author encountered formidable problems along the way: visa mix-ups, plane cancellations, vehicle breakdowns, dirty clothes, sleeplessness. One element of his planning, however, worked out almost flawlessly: nearly every

local guide he lined up to meet him at airports and provide a vehicle (and often a place to sleep) proved reliable and superbly informed about where to find the birds. Buoyed by new technologies and the expansion of worldwide birding travel by Westerners, experts have evolved almost everywhere.

For readers already aware of the daunting challenges to nature found around the globe, it may be a relief that Mr. Strycker doesn’t give a lot of space to that subject. The trip, he writes, was not “meant to be a commentary on worldwide habitat destruction and conservation, though I witnessed plenty of both. It was, pure and simple, a celebration of birds, in all their fascinating detail.”

Records are made to be beaten, of course. Already in March of his Big Year, he learned of a Dutch birder, Arjan Dwarshuis, who was planning his own quest. (Dwarshuis indeed topped Strycker’s record the following year, identifying 6,833 species). Strycker handles the competition with aplomb, noting that as DNA testing expands the number of taxonomical splits, the record will become even easier to surpass. —MJK

THE NATURE FIX: WHY NATURE MAKES US HAPPIER, HEALTHIER, AND MORE CREATIVE
By Florence Williams
W. W. Norton & Company,
2017



As a devout nature lover, avid birder, and admitted Luddite, I opened *The Nature Fix* by Florence Williams with some trepidation. Hers is a complex world of synapses, neurochemistry, brain flow, olfactory triggers, and the many technologies examining “our brains on nature.” She uses modern scientific methods to explore our well-being and our co-evolutionary roots in nature, as well as provide the chemical facts underlying the “feelings” we experience when in nature. She quotes (among others) E.O. Wilson, “In short, the brain evolved in a bio-centric world” to underscore how much our potential and brain capacity are deeply rooted in the “fix” we get from nature.

Williams tells the story as a kind of quest, seeking an East/West cultural approach to understand how experiences in nature—including the need to protect, preserve, and cultivate time in nature—are necessary to our

evolution and an antidote to today’s sensory overload from technology.

Balancing Williams’s highly scientific research is her bright and approachable writing style. She is a deft storyteller and includes many quirky accounts of her field experiences and compatriots. Hilarious photos and incisive quotes begin every chapter.

Could modern technology really help us explain something as seemingly mystical as one’s attachment to the natural world? Though skeptical initially, I finished the book a believer. Williams makes a good case that without a sense of connection to the natural world we are compromising the fullest potential of our brain for deep thought, and that on the most fundamental level we are wired into water, soil, plants, and animals. Scientific measurements verify what we already know to be true: being in nature makes you feel more alive. —VC

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU FIND A YOUNG OR INJURED BIRD

From time to time, you may come across a young or injured bird that needs assistance. It is important to follow proper steps to make sure you are helping these birds and not further harming them.

If you find a bird, first determine its age. If the bird is not fully feathered, it is a nestling and needs to be returned to its nest. Contrary to popular belief, birds do not have a well-developed sense of smell, and therefore the parents won't know if the baby has been touched by humans and will not abandon it. If the nest is intact, put the baby back in and watch from a distance to see if the parents are visiting the nest. If you cannot find or reach the nest, you can put the nestling in a box that has holes poked in the bottom for drainage and suspend the box near where the nest is located.

If the young bird is fully feathered, has a short tail and wings, and is able to hop or take short flights, it is a fledgling and can most likely be left alone. Young birds often leave the nest with weak flight muscles and are fed outside the nest for a few days by their parents. If the bird is in immediate danger (for example, it is on a sidewalk or road), move the bird off to a safer spot like the top of a bush or shrub nearby. Do not return the bird to the nest; it has outgrown its former home and will quickly hop back out. Despite your urge to take in

© Barbara Krizan/Audubon Photography Awards



Fledglings, like these Tree Swallows pictured above, feature fuzzy, short down feathers on the body and short tails and wings.

the young bird, its parents are far better at feeding it and teaching it survival skills than any human, and taking in a young bird of a native species is illegal.

An adult bird on the ground unable to fly is probably injured. Slowly approach the bird, and if it doesn't fly away when you're within 10 feet or so, you can assume something's wrong. Approach the bird from behind and scoop it up firmly. Carefully put it in a box with a lid or a towel over the top (or better) in an unwaxed paper bag clipped shut. Handle the bird as little as possible and do not force feed it or give it water. Birds go into shock very easily when injured, and often die from the shock. If the bird shows visible signs of injury (unable to flutter

wings, bleeding, wings drooping unevenly, weak or shivering), it needs to be taken to a wildlife rehabilitator. You can find a list of rehabilitators in New York City at www.nycaudubon.org/animal-hospitals-and-rehabilitation. If you are unable to take the bird to a rehabilitator yourself, call NYC Audubon at 212-691-7483 to see if someone from our network of volunteers can pick up the bird and transport it. (See Volunteer! on page 5 for information on how to become a volunteer bird transporter.)

If a bird has hit a window and is still alive, it may just be stunned and need a little time to regain its senses, after which it may be able to fly away. If there are cats or other predators nearby, place the bird in an enclosed bag or box and keep it in a safe, quiet, dark place. In a few hours, or once you hear the bird begin to flutter around, open the bag or box and place it on the ground to give the bird a chance to fly out. If the bird doesn't fly away on its own, it needs to be taken to a wildlife rehabilitator. Just as important as saving the bird, you can also make a valuable contribution to our Project Safe Flight research and contribute to our understanding of bird collisions in New York City by logging the injured bird on D-Bird, our crowd-sourced bird collision data collection tool, on your smartphone or computer at www.d-bird.org.

SPRING 2018 LECTURE SERIES

All lectures are free and open to the public. This series has been made possible by the support of Claude and Lucienne Bloch.

BIRDING ANTARCTICA

By Tom Stephenson

Thursday, March 15, 7pm

Reidy Hall at the Unitarian Church of All Souls

Lexington Avenue between 79th and 80th streets in Manhattan

Among the most exciting and exotic of all birding locales, Antarctica also offers some of the most challenging and rewarding experiences. Join NYC Audubon Board Member Tom Stephenson to learn about traveling to the world's southernmost continent and see stunning photos of penguins, albatross, skuas, giant icebergs, and much more. Tom is the author of *The Warbler Guide*, inventor of the Bird Genie app, noted lecturer, and birdwalk leader for the Brooklyn Bird Club and NYC Audubon.

CONSERVATION PROGRAM UPDATE AND ANNUAL MEETING

By Susan Elbin, PhD, and Conservation Staff

Thursday, June 14, 6pm

The Arsenal, Central Park, Fifth Avenue at 64th Street, Third-Floor Gallery

NYC Audubon conducts scientific monitoring in all five boroughs to understand how birds are using our urban environment and how this environment affects them, via Project Safe Flight, our Jamaica Bay program, and our Harbor Herons project. Join us as Dr. Susan Elbin and our conservation team provide updates on what this research has taught us in the past year. Our board election and annual meeting will precede the lecture. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

SUPPORT NYC AUDUBON'S MISSION

NEWS & NOTES

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO PROTECT NEW YORK CITY'S WILD BIRDS

In addition to becoming a member or making a one-time donation, there are several ways to play a larger role in supporting NYC Audubon's mission to protect wild birds and their habitat in the five boroughs of New York City:

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.

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. Contact us to learn more.

GIVE A MATCHING GIFT

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

LEAVE A LEGACY

When you designate New York City Audubon as a beneficiary in your will, IRA, life insurance policy, or investment/bank account, your gift will support the conservation of the birds you love for many years to come. Visit www.nycaudubon.org/leave-a-legacy, or contact us to learn more. For more information on a bequest, see the **REMEMBER THE BIRDS** box on page 19.

To learn more about any of the above, contact Director of Development Kellye Rosenheim at krosenheim@nycaudubon.org or 646-502-9611. Save paper, time, and money by making your contribution online 24/7 at www.nycaudubon.org/support-us.

LOOK FOR AND REPORT SIGNS OF INVASIVE EMERALD ASH BORER

The emerald ash borer, a voracious beetle that kills North American ash trees, was discovered this fall in Prospect Park. Infected trees that succumbed to this infestation have been removed from the park, but your help is needed in preventing the bug's further spread to New York City's more than 51,000 ash trees. One sign of infection is profuse woodpecker activity on an ash tree. Woodpeckers feed aggressively on the borers' larvae that tunnel beneath the bark. Learn more about this issue and report suspected infestations (taking pictures if possible) by completing the form at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html. You can also call New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Forest Health Information line at 866-640-0652 or email firewood@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

STAFF NEWS

Many thanks to Erin Geddes for her contributions to NYC Audubon as our development associate. We wish her the best in her new role as executive assistant at the National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath). We are pleased to welcome Leo Wexler-Mann to fill our development associate role. Born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota, Leo is a New York City-based pianist, composer, and podcaster. Since graduating from Juilliard in 2015, Leo has worked as a collaborative pianist, an archive assistant for the New York Philharmonic, and a music teacher. Leo spent much of his childhood birdwatching in Minnesota, learning species' calls and behavior. It's a love that has stayed with him to this day; Hermit Thrushes pop up regularly in his music. He looks forward to meeting NYC Audubon members out in the park and at lectures and other outreach events.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Contributing members are essential to our conservation and outreach work. As a member of NYC Audubon, you will receive *The Urban Audubon* newsletter and *The eGret* email newsletter; enjoy discounts on field trips and classes; and make a difference in helping to protect the City's wildlife and natural areas.

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

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

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

Additionally, I would like to make a donation to NYC Audubon in the amount of \$ _____.

I'm already a member but would like to make a **gift** in the amount of \$ _____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: H: _____ C: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is my check payable to NYC Audubon

Charge my credit card: VISA MC AMEX DSC

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

Mail this form with your payment to:

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

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

NYC Audubon's conservation work and public programs are made possible by philanthropic contributions from members, friends, corporations, foundations, and government agencies. We are grateful to all those who have sustained our work this past season, including the 1,087 members and donors whose individual gifts in amounts up to \$2,499 collectively provided \$130,454 in support of our mission from June 1 to December 31, 2017.

AMERICAN KESTREL CIRCLE

Tylee Abbott
Gina Argento
Tony Argento
Gabrielle & Louis Bacon
Rob Bate & Tracy Meade
Karen Benfield & John Zucker
Claude & Lucienne Bloch
MaryJane Boland
Ronald Bourque
Marsilia A. Boyle
Virginia Carter
Sarah DeBlois & Arthur Sills
Althea Duersten
Helena Durst
Alexander Ewing & Wynn Senning
Marcia & Bruce Fowle
Philip Fried & Bruce Patterson
Ronnie & Richard Grosbard
Nancy Hager
Ellen & Scott Hand
Kathryn & Vincent G. Heintz
Cathy & Lloyd Heller
David & Laurie Hodgson
Sarah Jeffords
Tatiana Kaletsch
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Estate of Ellen Wendy Weiss

ANNUAL REPORT 2017 AVAILABLE ONLINE ON MARCH 30

With the support of our donors, partners, and volunteers, NYC Audubon continued growing and expanding its wide variety of conservation and outreach programs in 2017. See highlights of the past year's initiatives and learn how NYC Audubon is making the City a healthier and more livable habitat for birds and people by viewing our Annual Report 2017, available on our website March 30 at www.nyc Audubon.org/annual-report. To request a print copy, contact the office at 212-691-7483 or email communications@nyc Audubon.org.



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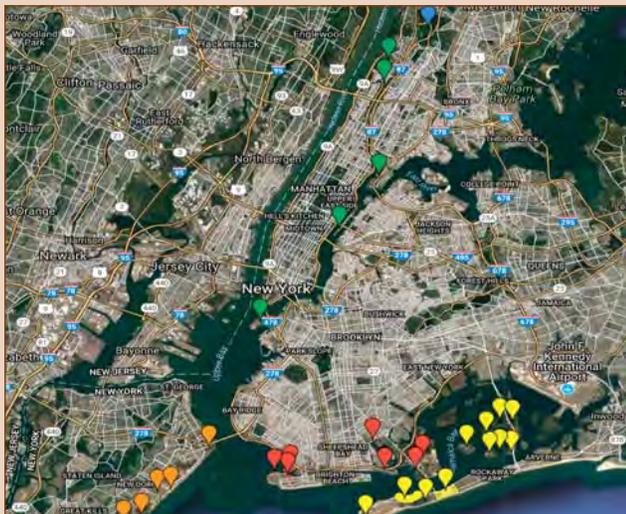
SPRING NYC SHOREBIRD BLITZ — SUNDAY, MAY 20

Contribute to NYC Audubon’s conservation efforts by helping us take a one-day snapshot of spring shorebird activity throughout New York City. Scheduled for May 20, the NYC Shorebird Blitz is a citizen science initiative that aims to find the total number of shorebirds using our City during a 24-hour period, helping us answer important conservation ques-

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Lesser Yellowlegs and Stilt Sandpiper at Jamaica Bay



At last year’s Spring NYC Shorebird Blitz on May 21, 2017, volunteers monitored 29 different sites for shorebirds.

tions such as how many shorebirds are coming through our area during peak spring migration, how they are distributed throughout the City, what they are doing while here, and what disturbances they face. At last September’s NYC Fall Shorebird Blitz, 17 volunteers counted over 6,000 shorebirds in one day throughout all five boroughs.

Whether you have been shorebirding for years or are a beginner, there are plenty of areas that need to be covered, so mark your calendars and start practicing your shorebird identification. For more information or to get involved, email citizenscience@nycaudubon.org.