



THE URBAN AUDUBON



**Changing Young
Lives with
Rocking the Boat
Bird-Friendly Communities**

**NYC AUDUBON
MISSION & VISION**

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

Editors Lauren Klingsberg & Marcia T. Fowle

Managing Editor Tod Winston

Newsletter Committee Lucienne Bloch, Ned Boyajian, Suzanne Charlé, Catherine Heller, Lynne Hertzog, Mary Jane Kaplan, Abby McBride, Don Riepe, Carol Peace Robins, Matthew Rymkiewicz

Printing & Mailing Kase Printing, Inc.

Design Whitehouse & Company

Art Director Christina Rubin

Publisher NYC Audubon

THE URBAN AUDUBON is published four times per year (spring, summer, fall, and winter) by New York City Audubon Society, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Harrison D. Maas

Executive Vice President David Speiser

Vice President Richard T. Andrias

Treasurer John Shemilt

Secretary Marsilia A. Boyle

Immediate Past President Oakes Ames

Directors Brenda Torres-Barreto, Clifford Case, Judy Craig, Andrew Farnsworth, Marcia T. Fowle, Catherine Heller, Lynne Hertzog, Sarah Jeffords, Jeffrey Kimball, Robert J. Kimtis, Lauren Klingsberg, Lawrence Levine, Dorothy M. Peteet, Peter Shen, Fredric Spar, Tom Stephenson

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Sarah Grimké Aucoin, Driane Benner, Dr. Claude Bloch, Albert K. Butzel, Rebekah Creshkoff, Andrew Darrell, Joseph H. Ellis, Mary Jane Kaplan, Kimberly Kriger, Janice Laneve, Pamela Manice, Mary Tyler Moore, Peter Rhoades Mott, Don Riepe, Lewis Rosenberg, James R. Sheffield

Executive Director Glenn Phillips



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Glenn Phillips



©David Speiser



On Monday, December 9 of last year, I opened my email to discover a flurry of messages from people dismayed by the *New York Post's* story about the shooting of snowy owls at John F. Kennedy Airport. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which runs all three of our regional airports, had decided that the birds posed a risk to aircraft after five incidents of these elegant birds hitting planes at the airports. Immediately, we reached out to our colleagues at the Port Authority to see what we could do to change this policy. In the meantime, Erin Crotty, Executive Director of Audubon New York, National Audubon's New York State Program, called me to discuss how we might work together to solve this problem. Within hours we had a letter drafted to send to the head of the Port Authority, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joseph Martens, and Governor Andrew Cuomo. Even before the letters left the office, NYC Audubon and Audubon New York began using social media channels, including Facebook, to encourage our members and friends to contact the Port Authority to insist that they change their policy. Avid conservationists like Andrew Baksh helped spread the word through birders email lists like NYSbirds-L, with links through to our website that provided phone numbers and a sample script. By the end of the day, the Port Authority announced that it was immediately changing its policy, and accepted our offer to help them trap and relocate owls from local airports.

A shining example of how much is possible when we all work together, this crisis brought together state and local conservation efforts and bird-lovers from all over the world. I have never felt prouder of the Audubon community.

You can read more about snowy owls and the ecology of their winter irruptions at www.nycaudubon.org/snowyowls.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NYC Audubon is seeking nominations to its board of directors for three-year terms beginning in June 2014. Please submit your suggestions to David Speiser, chair of the nominating committee, at nominations@nycaudubon.org. Elections will be held online in 2014. For a final list of nominees, nominee biographies, and details about the election, please visit www.nycaudubon.org/election2014.

NYC AUDUBON

71 West 23rd Street
Suite 1523
New York, NY 10010
Tel: 212-691-7483
Fax: 646-606-3301
www.nycaudubon.org

Cover Photograph:

Red-Winged Blackbird ©François Portmann

Small Banner Photographs:

Susan Elbin, Steve Nanz, and Don Riepe

*This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution License.



©Cass Collins

7



©Lloyd Spiranak

8



©Laura Goodie

12

© Joaquin Cotery/feeding the Boat



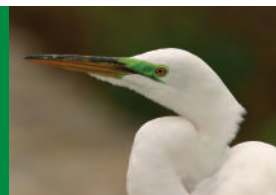
5

FEATURES

- 5 **Changing Young Lives with Rocking the Boat**
by Catherine Heller
- 6 **Isaac Grant's 2013 New York City Big Year with 307 Species**
by Lynne Hertzog
- 6 **Sora Rail (*Porzana Carolina*)**
by Don Riepe
- 7 **A New Tool for Making Your Home More Bird-Friendly**
by Mary Jane Kaplan
- 14 **National Audubon's Bird-Friendly Communities**
by Glenn Phillips

DEPARTMENTS

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 4 | Conservation Notes | 14 | News & Notes |
| 8 | Events and Adventures | 15 | Acknowledgments |
| 12 | National/International Trips | 16 | 2013-2014 Lecture Series |
| 13 | Volunteer! | | |



IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS AND PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

NYC Audubon research assistant and Fordham University graduate student Kaitlyn Parkins, NYU intern Elle Barnes, and Project Safe Flight citizen science monitors have completed a case study project focused on collisions at Bryant Park, and we are currently analyzing the number of collisions correlated with light emission, building features, and carcass detectability. Preliminary results indicate that we find only a small fraction of all collision victims at Bryant Park. Thanks to a Toyota TogetherGreen Innovation Grant, we will be working with the Bryant Park Business Improvement District during spring migration, enlisting the help of sidewalk sweepers to report to us when they encounter dead or injured birds. On the “solutions” side of the collisions issues, this spring we are adding a new section on bird-friendly landscape architecture practices to our Bird-Friendly Buildings Design curriculum, which we teach periodically at The American Institute of Architects. And to help us better assess collision risk in the City, former intern and New School student Darren Klein created a model to predict the likelihood of birds migrating through different areas of Manhattan. This model allows us to create a risk map, showing those areas that are in greatest need of bird-friendly building design.

JAMAICA BAY

We continue to be actively engaged and vigilant as a restoration plan is vetted for the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge West Pond. As part of an ad hoc group called the Birders Coalition for Gateway, we have submitted to the management staff at Gateway several concept drawings and a list of habitat needs for important birds (and other wildlife) that spend significant portions of their life cycle in Jamaica Bay. We have been assured we will have a voice at the table when decisions are being made for the future of the West Pond. The process may take as long as one year, and we all need to be vigilant that the work

©Annie Barry



A Common Tern Nestling in Its Shell-and-Bone Nest

occurs on a timely basis. Restoration funds provided in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy must be spent before the end of 2015. For an important update on Gateway National Recreation Area’s new General Management Plan, see News & Notes on page 14.

WESTERN LONG ISLAND SOUND AND THE NARROWS/STATEN ISLAND

On December 10 and 11, more than fifty biologists, resource managers, and educators took part in the Harbor Herons and Waterbirds of the Greater NY/NJ Harbor Working Group Meeting, a forum NYC Audubon created nine years ago. The two-day meeting was hosted by the National Park Service at Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, and included lively discussions on post-Sandy waterbird populations, habitat restoration efforts, and population movements of wading birds banded in our area. Chip Weseloh of the Canadian Wildlife Service presented an analysis of data for birds

banded in New York or New Jersey. Results showed that cormorants and gulls wintered along the coast while egrets and ibis headed for the Caribbean Islands. For beach-nesting shorebirds, wider beaches created by Sandy’s destruction of dunes yielded more nesting pairs. But the fledging success of piping plovers and American oystercatchers was lower than in 2012. And for the first time in the 30-year history of the Harbor Herons nest survey, which includes waterbirds such as gulls and cormorants, we were able to include common terns. We counted 181 nests on the decommissioned piers of Governors Island. Longtime NYC Audubon research associate and Cornell University PhD candidate Liz Craig led the effort to band terns for the first time in Manhattan; we banded 10 adults and 100 chicks.

You can find the latest conservation project updates on our blog, *Syrinx*, at www.nycaudubon.org/syrinx.

CHANGING YOUNG LIVES WITH ROCKING THE BOAT *Catherine Heller*

In July 2012, while rowing in an industrial section along the Bronx River near Bruckner Boulevard and the ABC Warehouse, Marcus Caceres spotted an elusive green heron (*Butorides virescens*). His sighting advanced the goals of both NYC Audubon and the Bronx's Rocking the Boat.

NYC Audubon's longest-running program, Harbor Herons, monitors nesting populations of wading birds (herons, egrets, and ibis) as well as other water- and shore-birds in New York City's harbor estuaries. The Bronx River and its termination point at the East River provide habitat for many of these species. Recruiting volunteers to follow these birds at this location has been difficult, especially since the best way to observe them is from the water.

Since 1996, Rocking the Boat has been working with students who live mainly in the Hunts Point section of the South Bronx. This is the poorest Congressional district in the country, and the organization strives to empower its young residents by helping them develop self-confidence, set ambitious goals, and gain skills necessary to achieve these goals. Students, ages 14-18, learn wooden boat building techniques and how to handle these rowboats on and around the Bronx River.

NYC Audubon and Rocking the Boat have collaborated on a program that teaches students not only how to row expertly out on the Bronx River estuary (the southern end of the river at Hunts Point Riverside Park), but also to identify and count the



© Joaquin Caten/Rocking the Boat

water birds at six designated areas from Concrete Plant Park to just north of the East River. The students become true citizen scientists by gathering data using established NYC Audubon protocols. Their data reveals that these bird populations are in decline in this particular region of the Harbor Herons complex.

According to Chrissy Word, Director of Public Programs at Rocking the Boat, pigeons are the only birds that these young people can initially identify. After taking part in this collaborative project, the students delight in observing and identifying herons, egrets, and ibis and marvel at the persistence of nature in the City.

But back to that green heron. Marcus was always interested in nature and the environment, and when Rocking the Boat visited his

high school several years ago, he knew he wanted to participate in the program. He is now 22 and completing his Associate's Degree in biology at Bronx Community College. He is also a program assistant at Rocking the Boat, teaching students about boats, navigating waterways, and the science and joy of birding. It's hard to imagine a more successful example of melding the missions of NYC Audubon and Rocking the Boat.

Explore the Bronx River with Rocking the Boat by joining an NYC Audubon trip Saturday, May 3. See page 10 for details.



© Joaquin Caten/Rocking the Boat

ISAAC GRANT'S 2013 NEW YORK CITY BIG YEAR WITH 307 SPECIES

Lynne Hertzog



of Big Years—one could choose Central Park or New York State or even the whole United States (as seen in the Hollywood movie, “The Big Year”). This competition means a lot of time spent birding. Isaac calculates he has spent about 600 hours in the field—that’s 10-12 hours per week, every week. He felt hopeful about seeing as many as 300 species, which for anyone who has kept records of birds in New York City is an awesome number. Through unflagging persistence, he ended up with 307 species!

Birding in Brooklyn since he was five years old, Isaac learned early where to find birds. In summer, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge’s East Pond is one of his favorite birding spots.

At the start of 2013, NYC Audubon member and Staten Islander Isaac Grant was on a mission—a New York City Big Year. In birding, that means seeing as many species as possible within a calendar year and within a certain area. In Isaac’s case, he chose the five boroughs of New York City. Birders do all kinds

In the fall, Isaac hunkers down at the Fort Tilden hawk watch platform in Queens. With a good northwest wind, Isaac has seen tens of thousands of migrating land birds, along with raptors.

These days, doing a Big Year means more than knowing the best birding spots; you also have to get instantaneous “intel,” key information about rarity sightings posted on the internet by experienced birders. Then you make a mad dash to that location to view the bird. Sometimes you score, as Isaac did when tracking down a grasshopper sparrow in Central Park. Sometimes you don’t. Multiple trips to various parks never brought him a golden-winged warbler. Not the internet, but knowing good raptor weather and some luck, led Isaac to Moses Mountain in Staten Island’s Greenbelt on just the right day and time to see not one, but two golden eagles. A great sighting for New York City!

Congratulations, Isaac, on a great birding year.

ISAAC GRANT'S NEW YORK CITY BIG YEAR STATISTICS

Species by Borough

Brooklyn:	32
The Bronx:	8
Manhattan:	11
Queens:	87
Staten Island:	169

Hardest-to-Find Bird: parasitic jaeger

The Birds that Got Away: Wilson’s storm petrel, golden-winged warbler

Sea Watches from Borough Sites: over 30

Miles Driven: an extra 2,000

Read Isaac’s full interview at www.nycaudubon.org/bigyear.

SORA RAIL (*Porzana Carolina*)

Don Riepe

Rails are among the most secretive of marsh birds; they are more often heard than seen. The sora rail, or sora crane, is a handsome chicken-sized bird that is easily identified by its stout, bright yellow bill and black facial markings and bib. Although they once nested in the (formerly) fresh water ponds of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and perhaps several other sites within New York City, sora rails are now considered a migrant in our area. The most common and widely distributed of rail species, soras can be found throughout the US and Canada in summer. They winter in the southern US and northern portions of South America. In many places they are hunted, ostensibly for their meat but more likely as fun “targets” to flush out of marshes. Unlike yellow rails and black rails, which are protected, sora rails are listed as a game species in many states. In 2010, according to one report, 7,700 rails (sora and Virginia rails) were taken in Texas alone, where the

daily limit was 25 birds per person!

Sighting rails in New York City can be tricky, and one must have patience. The best places to look for them are along edges of marshes, especially during the early morning and evening in late August and September when they are migrating south. I have seen them in Big John’s Pond and the northern section of the East Pond at Jamaica Bay, but must confess that during my many years of birding, sightings were few. They seem to appear magically and then, being “thin as a rail,” gracefully slip out of sight as they laterally compress their bodies and silently maneuver through the dense marsh vegetation. The best places to see them in the City are most likely Prospect Park and Central Park lakes during migration as well as any freshwater body bordered by dense vegetation. Bashakill Marsh in Sullivan County, 6½ Station Road Sanctuary in Orange County, and Big Reed Pond in Montauk, Long Island, are



three sites north and east of the City where they may still be breeding, but they can be seen anywhere during migration—if you’re lucky.

A NEW TOOL FOR MAKING YOUR HOME MORE BIRD-FRIENDLY

Mary Jane Kaplan

In 1997, Rebekah Creshkoff began to notice dead birds on the sidewalks as she walked to work near Wall Street each morning. Upon learning that the birds were probably victims of collisions with the glass-covered buildings in the area, she began to monitor the deaths and wrote about her findings for *The Urban Audubon*. Her effort grew into one of NYC Audubon's best-known programs, Project Safe Flight (PSF), which engages volunteers during each spring and fall migration season to monitor the sidewalks around Manhattan's glass towers and other potential bird killers like the Metropolitan Museum's glass façade in Central Park. The data they have collected has been influential in persuading building owners to take remedial steps and in promoting research on more bird-friendly glass products. (More information on PSF is at www.nycaudubon.org/project-safe-flight).

So it could have been expected that when Rebekah, a member of NYC Audubon's advisory council, and her husband Lenny Friedland built a country home on the Delaware River in New York's Sullivan County, they wanted to ensure that the windows framing their beautiful views did not become death traps for migrating and resident birds. They first tried hanging garden netting from the four-foot-deep awnings built over the doors and windows, but found it impractical to step around the netting to leave and enter the house.

A new product from the American Bird Conservancy, ABC BirdTape, proved to be a better solution. Once applied to the windows, the tape is visible both from inside and out, but Rebekah appreciated the "sheltered" feeling it gave her. She used both of ABC's product styles, three-quarter-inch rolls for the glass doors and pre-cut squares on the

windows (see photo). The entire project cost about sixty dollars, plus a few hours' work, and is expected to last about four years.

Christine Sheppard, the bird collisions campaign manager at the American Bird Conservancy, reported that the tape was developed specifically for use on homes, which, according to one estimate, account for 90 percent of all fatal bird collisions. ABC chose its supplier after a thorough study of available products, and during the short time it has been on the market, Sheppard has had nothing but good feedback from users. For information about the tape and to order some, or for other suggestions for eliminating bird collisions at your city residence or country home, go to www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/collisions/pdf/collisions_flyer.pdf.



ABC BirdTape Pre-cut Squares Applied to Windows Help Prevent Bird Collisions

EVENTS AND ADVENTURES

- NYC Audubon Events
- Partnership Events

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

We are happy to announce that beginning this spring, NYC Audubon members will receive a 30% discount on most local trips and classes. On discounted events, the discounted price appears in parentheses after the non-member price.

- **BIRDING FOR FAMILIES**
Sundays, March 2-May 25, 10-11am
Guides: David Perry, NYC Audubon
Offered by the Central Park Conservancy

Meet at the Dana Discovery Center (inside the Park at 110th Street between Lenox and Fifth Avenues). Bring the kids and visit one of New York City's richest bird habitats. Learn as a family how to spot and identify our feathered neighbors in their natural surroundings. Binoculars can be borrowed from the Visitor Center. For weather cancellation information, call 212-860-1370. Limited to 20. Age 5 and up. Free



Brewster's Warbler

- **WINTER SEALS AND WATERBIRDS OF NY HARBOR**
Sundays, March 2 and 9, noon-2pm
Guides: Gabriel Willow, NYC Audubon

With New York Water Taxi

Meet at South Street Seaport's Pier 16 and come aboard NY Water Taxi's eco-friendly vessel for a winter adventure in New York Harbor. Look for harbor seals on the rocky shores of Governors Island and the more remote Hoffman and Swinburne Islands. Learn about the surprisingly diverse winter birds of New York City, including ducks, geese, loons, and sandpipers, many of which migrate south from the Arctic. See the Statue of Liberty and pass under the Verrazano Bridge. Limited to 90. To register, contact New York Water Taxi at 212-742-1969 or www.nywatertaxi.com. \$35 for adults; \$25 for children under 12

- **WINTER BIRDS OF BARNEGAT, NJ**
Tuesday, March 4, 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, snow buntings, and snowy and short-eared owls. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 11. \$80*

- **CAMERA CLUB**
Wednesdays, March 5, April 2, May 7, and June 4; 6:30-8:30pm
Instructors: David Speiser, Lloyd Spitalnik

Meet at the National Audubon Office, 225 Varick St. Whether you're a beginner or more advanced photographer, our camera club is the place to discuss diverse photography-related topics, hone your skills, and learn about the

**Because registration for the trips marked with an asterisk began before our new 30% member discount was instituted, NYC Audubon members will receive a 10% discount on these trips*

great photography opportunities available in the New York City area. Professional bird and nature photographers David Speiser and Lloyd Spitalnik will share their expertise and help you improve your work. Registration required. No limit. \$8 per meeting

- **WINTER BIRDS OF SANDY HOOK, NJ**
Saturday, March 8, 10am-5pm
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Sandy Hook, a spectacular barrier island at the northernmost point of the NJ 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: loons, sea ducks, snow buntings, and horned larks. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 11. \$65*

- **SPRING BIRDING AT WAVE HILL, THE BRONX**
Sundays, March 9, 9:30-10:45am; April 13 and May 11, 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 behaviors on these walks through the gardens and woodlands of Wave Hill. This garden setting along the Hudson River flyway provides the perfect habitat for native and migrating birds. Advanced registration is recommended, either online, at the Perkins Visitor Center, or by calling 718-549-3200 x251. (Walks run rain or shine; in case of severe weather call the number above for updates.) Ages 10 and up welcome with an adult. NYC Audubon members enjoy two-for-one admission.

- **PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES: ADOBE LIGHTROOM AND PHOTOSHOP**

Thursdays, March 13, 27, April 10; 6:30-8pm

Instructor: Lloyd Spitalnik

Join professional photographer Lloyd Spitalnik for this series of three classroom workshops focusing on image post-processing, for all skill levels from beginner to advanced. The classes progress from the basics of Adobe Lightroom and managing raw photos to processing images with Adobe Photoshop to more advanced features. Take advantage of this small-group setting to answer all your questions. Limited to 12. \$260 (180) for the package of 3 workshops; \$110 (77) per workshop

- **MEMBERS-ONLY**
March Member Walk in Prospect Park

Friday, March 28, 7:30-9am

Meet at the entrance to Prospect Park across from Grand Army Plaza, and join NYC Audubon Board Member Tom Stephenson for a members-only early spring migration walk in Prospect Park. Please call Angela Januzzi at 212-691-7483 x306 to register. Limited to 20. Free for Contributing NYC Audubon members at the Student/Senior level and up

- **EARLY SPRING MIGRANTS AT JAMAICA BAY**

Saturday, March 29, 10am-1pm

Guide: Don Riepe

With Gateway National Recreation Area

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Hike around the East and West Ponds and gardens to look for osprey, as well as returning ibis, egrets, oystercatchers, phoebes, and other

migrants. To register, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. Limited to 25. Free

● **CAMERA CLUB**
Wednesday, April 2; 6:30-8:30pm
Please see March 5 listing.

● **MEMBERS-ONLY**
Woodcock Courtship at Jamaica Bay
Thursday, April 3, 3-9pm
Join Don Riepe to witness the spectacular flight of the woodcock, as well as enjoy a few "woodcock-tails" on us! After a leisurely check of Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge's West Pond and gardens, we will adjourn to the woodcock courting grounds to look for male woodcocks executing their dramatic flight displays. Please call Angela Januzzi at 212-691-7483 x306 to register. Bring dinner; transport by passenger van, snacks, and drinks provided. Limited to 11. Free to members only at the Family and Supporter levels

● **VAN CORTLANDT BIRD WALKS, THE BRONX**
Saturdays, April 5-June 28, 8-9:30am
Guide: NYC Audubon Naturalist With the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy
Meet at Van Cortlandt Nature Center. Influential birders such as Roger Tory Peterson and Allan D. Cruickshank learned their craft on Van Cortlandt Park's ecologically diverse grounds, and these walks celebrate the tradition set by them. Participants will look for resident and migrant species and discuss a wide range of avian topics. For more information, please call 718-548-0912. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

● **SPRING HIKE IN THE GREENBELT, STATEN ISLAND**
Saturday, April 5, 9am-4pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow
With NYC Department of Parks & Recreation and the Greenbelt Conservancy
Meet at the Manhattan terminal of the S.I. Ferry and begin your tour on water. Explore trails within the 3,000-acre Staten Island Greenbelt and learn about the efforts to preserve Pouch Camp property: as of December 2013, 95 of the 143 total acres of unspoiled woods and wetlands will be protected; the remaining land however is still under threat of development. Look for early spring migrants and learn about the Greenbelt's ecology. Includes a brief stop at the Greenbelt Nature Center and transportation on Staten Island. Limited to 20. \$39 (27)

● **SPRING MIGRATION IN PELHAM BAY PARK, THE BRONX**
Sunday, April 6, 9am-3pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow
Pelham Bay Park's combination of open water, salt marsh, rocky shore, old growth forest, young forest, shrub-land, rare coastal tall grass meadows, and patches of dry and wet oak savanna are not just unique within New York City, but also on this continent. With such richly diverse habitat it is no wonder

that this urban gem is a great home for wildlife. We'll look for migrating songbirds, raptors, and more. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$90 (63)

● **BIRDING TOURS OF BRYANT PARK, MANHATTAN**
Mondays, April 7-May 19, 8-9am
Thursdays, April 10-May 22, 5-6pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow
With the Bryant Park Corporation
Meet at the Birding Tour sign at the 42nd Street and 6th Ave. entrance to the park. Discover the surprising diversity of birds that call Bryant Park home, as well as those that may stop by during migration. No limit. Free

● **BEGINNING BIRDING**
Classes: Wednesdays, April 9, 16, and 23, 6:30-8:30pm
Trips: Saturdays, April 19 and 26, Times TBA
Instructor: Tod Winston
Learn the keys to identifying the spectacular variety of birds that migrate northwards 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. Two fun and educational in-class sessions and field trips to Central Park and Jamaica Bay (transport to Jamaica Bay included). Limited to 12. \$160 (112)

● **PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP: SONGBIRD MIGRANTS AND INSECTS IN PROSPECT PARK, BROOKLYN**
Saturday, April 12, 9am-noon
Guide: Steve Nanz
Meet at the Grand Army Plaza park entrance at the James Samuel Thomas Stranahan statue, across the street from Brooklyn Library. Prospect Park's varied landscapes provide crucial habitat for multiple species of migratory songbirds. Photograph songbirds and learn insect macro-photography using conservation-friendly field techniques. Digital cameras are appropriate; bring a long lens and macro lens if possible. Limited to 8. \$77 (53)

● **BIRDS AND PLANTS: THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN IN SPRINGTIME, THE BRONX**
Wednesday, April 16, and Saturday, April 19, 10am-1pm
Guides: Gabriel Willow, NYBG Docent
With The New York Botanical Garden
Enter through the Mosholu gate and meet at the Reflecting Pool near the Visitor Center. 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. \$39 (27)

● **EVENING SPRING MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK**
Mondays, April 21-May 19, 5:30pm-7pm
Tuesdays, April 22-May 20, 5:30pm-7pm
Wednesdays, April 23-May 21, 5:30pm-7pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow
Meet at 72nd Street and Central Park West for this five-week series of walks. Witness the spectacle of spring migration as songbirds follow the Atlantic flyway northwards. Look



Tree Swallow

...continued on page 10

EVENTS AND ADVENTURES (CONTINUED)

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. \$122 (85)

● MORNING SPRING MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK

Wednesdays, April 23-May 21, 7:30-10:30am

Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Meet at 72nd Street and Central Park West. This five-week series of walks will observe the waves of birds passing through Central Park during spring migration. Limited to 15. \$122 (85)

● INTRODUCTION TO BIRD SONG

Class: Thursday, April 24, 6:30-8:30pm

Trip: Sunday, April 27, 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. Expert birder 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, and reinforce your learning. Limited to 12. \$65 (45)

● SPRING MIGRATION WORKSHOP AT JAMAICA BAY

Saturday, April 26, 10am-1pm

Guide: Don Riepe

With Gateway National Recreation Area

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center for a slide presentation on spring migration followed by a hike around the ponds and uplands to look for spring migrants. To register, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriep@gmail.com. Limited to 25. Free

BIKING & BIRDING

Did you know that May is National Bike Month? Read about it at www.bikeleague.org/content/national-bike-month, and get into the cycling spirit with Gabriel Willow and NYC Audubon this spring. Explore the wild side of these great New York City spots from your bike!

All Biking & Birding Events are guided by Gabriel Willow. Bring lunch and your bicycle. Limited to 15. \$39 (27)

CLOVE LAKES PARK AND SILVER LAKE PARK, STATEN ISLAND

Saturday, May 3, 9am-2pm

Meet at the Staten Island Ferry, Manhattan side. Journey to the borough of Staten Island to discover some of its best birding spots. Look for ducks and seabirds in New York Harbor on the ferry and then bike to Staten Island's premier "migrant traps," Clove Lakes and Silver Lake parks.

PROSPECT PARK AND GREENWOOD CEMETERY, BROOKLYN

Friday, May 16, 9am-1pm

Meet at the Grand Army Plaza Arch. May is Bike Month. To celebrate, get back on your bike! Tour Prospect Park, an Important Bird Area, and Green-Wood Cemetery, home to nesting parakeets. A gentle ride of moderate distance with some hills.

JAMAICA BAY

Thursday, May 22, 9am-2pm

Meet at Grand Army Plaza.

Bike your way through Brooklyn neighborhoods and along scenic greenways to Jamaica Bay, to look for migrant shorebirds as well as breeding egrets, oystercatchers, and more. This is a 16-mile trip; return by subway from Broad Channel.



Black-and-White Warbler

● PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP: STERLING FOREST WARBLERS, ORANGE COUNTY, NY

May date TBA, 6:30-11am

Instructor: David Speiser

Meet at the Sterling Forest Visitors Center for an intensive small-group workshop focusing on breeding warblers including chestnut-sided, hooded, blue-winged, and prairie warblers, as well as indigo buntings, yellow-billed cuckoos, and more. David Speiser will take you to the best spots to look for these species, as well as threatened cerulean and golden-winged warblers. Special focus on field set-up, exposure, and composition. Bring your longest lens (400mm+, DSLR only, tripod and flash optional). Limited to 4. \$160 (112)

● SPRING WARBLERS

Class: Thursday, May 1,

6:30-8:30pm

Trip: Sunday, May 4, 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 go out in the field and reinforce what you've learned! Field trip to Central Park. Limited to 12. \$65 (45)

● MEMBERS-ONLY

May Member Walk in Central Park

Friday, May 2, 7-8:30am

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street and come ramble in the Ramble of Central Park with NYC Audubon President Harry Maas during the height of spring migration. Please call Angela Januzzi at 212-691-7483 x306 to register. Limited to 20. Free for Contributing NYC Audubon members at the Student/Senior level and up

● EXPLORE THE BRONX RIVER BY ROWBOAT

Saturday, May 3, 10am-noon

Guide: Chrissy Word
With Rocking the Boat

Meet at Rocking the Boat, at 812 Edgewater Road in the Bronx, and launch from the adjacent Hunts Point Riverside Park. Explore the Bronx River aboard a hand-built wooden boat, led by experienced rowers. The Bronx River is the City's only true river and hosts an abundance of wildlife, including herons and egrets, osprey, and belted kingfishers. Visit restoration sites and learn about the Bronx River eco-system and the area's history. Rowing optional. Limited to 20. \$45 (31) for adults, \$35 (24) for ages 18 and under

● **CAMERA CLUB**

Wednesday, May 7, 6:30-8:30pm
Please see March 5 listing.

● **PEAK MIGRATION DAY AT ALLEY POND PARK AND JAMAICA BAY**
Friday, May 9, 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, and then hike the trails of Jamaica Bay to see migrant shorebirds, waterfowl, and more. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$95 (66)

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

Saturday, May 10, 9am-5pm
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 (including golden-winged, cerulean, hooded, prairie, and blue-winged) as well as spring wildflowers, reptiles, and amphibians. Visit the rustic visitor center. Trip involves 4-mile hike and some rocky terrain. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van. Limited to 11. \$108 (75)

● **SPRING MIGRATION ON RANDALL'S ISLAND**
Saturday, May 17, 9am-noon
Guides: Gabriel Willow, Christopher Girenti
With Randall's Island Park Alliance, Inc.

Meet on the N.W. corner of 102nd Street and the FDR Drive. We'll walk across the foot bridge to Randall's Island, an under-explored location on the East River that hosts restored freshwater wetlands and salt marsh. We'll look for spring migrants (both waterbirds and land birds) as we explore the results of recent restoration efforts. Two miles of walking and some modest climbs. Limited to 20. \$32 (22)

● **RED KNOTS AND HORSESHOE CRABS AT JAMAICA BAY**
Sundays, May 17 and 31, 10am-1pm
Guide: Don Riepe
With Gateway National Recreation Area

Meet at the the Jamaica Bay NWR Visitor Center to see the annual mating ritual of the prehistoric horseshoe crab, along with red knots, sanderlings, and ruddy turnstones. Hike along the beach and marshland edges to see fiddler crabs, egrets, and other wildlife. Bring lunch. To register, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. Limited to 25. Free

● **JAMAICA BAY SUNSET ECOLOGY CRUISES**
Saturday, May 17, 4-7pm;
Sunday, June 22, 5-8pm
Guides: Don Riepe, Mickey Cohen
With American Littoral Society

Meet at Pier 2 in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. Enjoy a three-hour narrated cruise aboard the 100-foot boat "Golden Sunshine." Visit backwater marshes near JFK Airport, and learn about the 13,000-acre Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. See nesting peregrine falcons, ospreys,

egrets, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Includes refreshments. To register, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. Limited to 140. \$55 (38)

● **NESTING PEREGRINES AND RED-TAILS OF THE UPPER WEST SIDE**
Sunday, May 18, 9am-noon
Guide: Gabriel Willow

Meet in front of Riverside Church. Many New Yorkers are astonished to discover that their city of steel and glass is home to a large population of large birds of prey: The City boasts 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. \$39 (27)

● **THE BIRDS OF WOODLAWN CEMETERY, THE BRONX**
Saturday, May 31, 7-8:30am
Guides: Joseph McManus, Tod Winston, Woodlawn Conservancy Docent

With the Woodlawn Conservancy
Meet at the Jerome Avenue Entrance of Woodlawn Cemetery. Join us for a morning bird walk and tour of beautiful Woodlawn Cemetery: Tod Winston and Joseph McManus will look for spring migrants and year-round residents on the expansive, wooded cemetery grounds, while a Woodlawn Conservancy docent shares fascinating stories about Woodlawn's history and the interesting mixture of individuals interred there. Limited to 15. To register, call the Woodlawn Conservancy at 718-920-1469. Adult admission \$15; Seniors, students, and NYC Audubon members \$10 (payment at time of walk). Free admission for children under 6

● **SUNSET ECOCRUISES TO THE HARBOR HERON ISLANDS**
June-August, Dates and Location TBA
Guides: Gabriel Willow, NYC Audubon

With New York Water Taxi
Glossy ibis, great and snowy egrets, little blue and tricolored herons, black- and yellow-crowned night herons: Right now all these spectacular wading birds are on their way back north from warmer wintering grounds, headed for the island refuges where they nest each spring and summer in New York Harbor. And we will be ready for them with our annual Sunset Ecocruises to the Harbor Heron Islands, which also offer great views of other nesting waterbirds such as double-crested cormorants and great black-backed gulls. Gabriel Willow will once again offer an entertaining tour of the harbor's wildlife, along with its ecological and social history—against the stunning backdrop of the New York City skyline at sunset. Please check our website for more details.

● **THE BREEDING BIRDS OF DOODLETOWN ROAD, ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY**
Wednesday, June 4, 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 turkey, and much more. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$95 (66)

● **CAMERA CLUB**
Wednesday, June 4, 6:30-8:30pm
Please see March 5 listing.

...continued on page 13

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

BIRDS AND WILDLIFE OF SOUTHEAST ARIZONA **Saturday, April 5–Sunday, April 13** **Guides: Don Riepe, Carol Borneman**

See the best birding and scenic areas in southeast Arizona. We'll start in Phoenix and wind our way by van down to Tucson, visiting Saguaro Cactus National Park, Chiricahua National Monument, Ramsey and Madera Canyons, and many other birding and nature hot spots. Includes lodging, all park entrance fees, most breakfasts and lunches, plus a special barbecue dinner. Airfare not included. For more information, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. Limited to 14. \$1,800 (\$400 single supplement)

CAPE MAY SPRING MIGRATION WEEKEND, NJ **Saturday, April 26, 9am–Sunday, April 27, 7pm** **Guide: Gabriel Willow**

Come 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. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 10. \$325 (\$50 single supplement)

PUFFINS, WARBLERS, AND LOBSTER BOATS: THE ENCHANTING COAST OF MAINE **Saturday, May 24–Saturday, May 31** **Guide: Gabriel Willow**

Join Maine native Gabriel Willow in exploring the Maine coast, home to Atlantic puffins, moose, shorebirds, warblers, and other migratory songbirds. Stay in charming Camden and on the lovely and remote Monhegan Island, a birder's paradise where

©Harald Derschinger



Atlantic Puffin

seeing 25-30 warbler species in a day is not uncommon. Includes double occupancy lodging, some meals, and van transportation in Maine (airfare not included). Limited to 12. \$1,775 (\$500 single supplement)

MONTAUK SUMMER WEEKEND, LI **Friday, June 6–Sunday, June 8** **Guides: Don Riepe, Mickey Cohen, Mike Bottini**

With American Littoral Society
Spend an extended weekend at the eastern tip of Long Island during peak spring orchid and heather bloom. See nesting pine and prairie warblers, and visit a cranberry bog with flowering orchids and sundews. Easy hiking in woodlands and on the dunes, beach, and bluffs. Includes double occupancy accommodations at the luxurious Manor House, five meals, five guided hikes, two evening programs, and a star watch, plus free pickup at the Montauk LIRR station. For more information or to register, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. Limited to 60. \$385 (\$130 single supplement)

BASHAKILL, NEVERSINK, AND STERLING FOREST, NY **Saturday, June 14, 9am–Sunday, June 15, 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. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 10. \$275 (\$50 single supplement)

GASPÉ PENINSULA, QUEBEC **Monday, June 23–Tuesday, July 1** **Guides: Don Riepe, Carol Borneman**

With American Littoral Society
Visit Bonaventure Island gannet colony, the Bay of Fundy, and other wild coastal areas. See moose, black bear, and nesting bald eagles. For more information or to register, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. Limit and price TBA

CAPE ANN WHALE WATCH, MA **Thursday, August 14–Sunday, August 17** **Guides: Don Riepe, Mickey Cohen**

With American Littoral Society
A fun-packed, nature-focused weekend in beautiful Cape Ann, Massachusetts. We hope to see pelagic species such as sooty and greater shearwater, Wilson's storm petrel, and common eider—not to mention minke and humpback whales, basking shark, and family pods of dolphins. Includes three nights' stay in historic Gloucester, a whale watch boat trip, an evening Essex River Cruise, easy canoeing on Ipswich River, birding at Parker River Wildlife Refuge, and a lobster dinner.

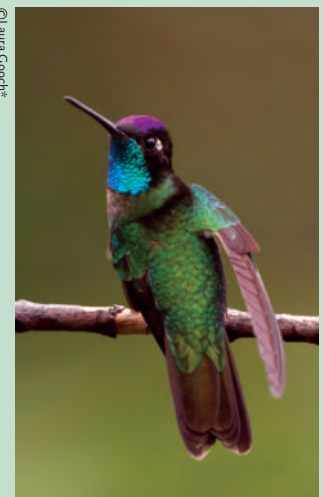
To register, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. Limited to 40. \$395 (\$150 single supplement)

BIRDING THE ANDEAN SLOPES: NORTHWEST ECUADOR **Saturday, December 6–Sunday, December 14**

Guides: John Rowden, Edwin Perez

Join us for a trip to one of South America's most celebrated (and spectacularly scenic) birding areas, led by one of Ecuador's finest bird guides. Starting from Quito, we'll cover east and west slope Andean birds, from paramo to foothills. Target species include the coveted Andean cock-of-the-rock, long-wattled umbrellabird, Andean condor, and sword-billed hummingbird, as well as manakins, tanagers, and many rarities. Includes two pre-trip workshops, lodging, local transportation, most meals, and all park fees. Limited to 12. \$2,695 (\$150 single supplement)

©Laura Goodrich



Magnificent Hummingbird

EVENTS AND ADVENTURES (CONTINUED)

● **BIRDING BY CANOE IN CONSTITUTION MARSH, PUTNAM COUNTY, NY**
Saturday, June 14, 9am-4:30pm
Guides: Gabriel Willow, Constitution Marsh Naturalist With Constitution Marsh Audubon Center & Sanctuary

Join Gabriel Willow and a Constitution Marsh naturalist to explore Constitution Marsh Audubon Sanctuary—a spectacular 271-acre tidal marsh just outside of Cold Spring, NY. Observe marsh birds up close as you paddle through this pristine fresh water habitat by canoe—possible sightings include Virginia rails, spotted sandpipers, and Louisiana waterthrushes, as well as resident breeding bald eagles. Then look for warblers and other spring migrants on the sanctuary's trails. Finally, enjoy a picnic lunch while learning

more about the marsh's ecology. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$122 (85)

● **THE PARAKEETS OF GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY, BROOKLYN**
Saturday, June 21, 10am-1pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow With Green-Wood Cemetery

Meet at the cemetery entrance at 5th Ave and 25th Street, Greenwood Heights, Brooklyn. Green-Wood Cemetery is rich in both history and wildlife. It is also the highest point in Brooklyn, affording marvelous views. We will explore its environs in search of spring migrants and its most unique avian residents: the huge flocks of brilliant green monk parakeets that nest there. Native to South America, these charming immigrants are surprisingly hardy and flourish even in our harsh winters. Limited to 15. \$39 (27)

● **TWILIGHT BAT WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK**
Tuesdays, July 15-August 12, 7:45-9:15pm
Guide: Paul Keim

Meet at 103rd Street and Central Park West. Explore the mysteries of Central Park at twilight as we seek these fascinating and misunderstood flying mammals—and learn about their great importance to our environment. We'll see local bat species in flight as they hunt and dive for insects, and hear them with an echolocator. Other nocturnal creatures may be seen as well. Bring bug spray and a flashlight. Limited to 16. \$32 (22) for adults, \$20 (14) for children under 12. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Recommended for ages 5 and up

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Classes meet at 71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1523.**
- **Contributing Members (Student/Senior level and up) receive a 30% discount on most local trips and classes. See membership form on page 15.**
- **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. See membership form on page 15.**

VOLUNTEER!

Work in NYC Audubon's friendly office or in the field and make a difference for the City's wildlife. There are many ways to help. An orientation session for new volunteers will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 6:30-7:30pm, at 71 West 23rd Street. If interested in either our general orientation session or the specific projects listed below, please contact us at volunteer@nycaudubon.org or 212-691-7483 x304. For information on spring volunteer events such as beach clean-ups and tree plantings, visit us at www.nycaudubon.org/volunteer-events.

OFFICE HELP

Answer inquiries about wildlife and our field trips, classes, events, and conservation work. Help with mailings, filing, and general office

work. Computer skills and birding knowledge are not required. If you do have computer and/or Excel skills, however, we can always use help with conservation and education projects.

BOOKKEEPING/FILE MANAGEMENT

Our finance manager is in great need of a detail-oriented person to help with bookkeeping tasks and maintenance of financial records and files.

PRESS AND PROMOTION

If you have a background in event promotion or publicity, we need your help in spreading the word about our trips, classes, and events.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

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

Project Safe Flight: Spring is here, and migrants confront many hazards as they migrate through New York City. Volunteers are needed to monitor designated buildings for bird collisions, rescue injured birds, and record any casualties. Orientations will be held on Monday March 24, and Friday, March 28, 6-7pm.

Jamaica Bay: Count shorebirds and horseshoe crabs in Jamaica Bay, an important stopover for migratory shorebirds. Orientations will be

held Thursday, April 17, and Friday, April 25, 6-8pm.

Harbor Herons Foraging Study:

Observe herons and egrets as they forage in NYC waterways. An orientation will be held Monday, May 5, 6-8pm.

Bird Transporters: We often receive calls from individuals who have found injured birds but are unable to transport them to a rehabilitator. We need caring volunteers to transport these birds to licensed wildlife rehabilitators in the area. A training session will be held at the Wild Bird Fund Center on Monday, March 10, 6-7pm.



NATIONAL AUDUBON'S BIRD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

Glenn Phillips

In 2012, National Audubon adopted a new strategic plan with the goal of focusing and aligning the Audubon network to meet today's unprecedented environmental challenges. Reflecting the expertise and input of staff, chapters such as NYC Audubon, board members, and other volunteers and partners, this "Roadmap for Hemispheric Conservation" will enable Audubon to deliver conservation impact at scale.

Among the five critical strategies, creating Bird-Friendly Communities has great relevance to New York City. "The strength of this program lies in the very diversity of our existing programs at the chapter, center, state, and national levels," said Bob Petty, National Audubon's director for Bird-Friendly Communities. "That strength is also a challenge—distilling a program with clear achievable goals from such great diversity." Working with leaders from across the Audubon family, Petty's team has identified three simple spheres of focus: empowering individuals to take conservation action, supporting public conservation projects, and creating community-level conservation campaigns.

These programs will be supported and enhanced by a new Bird-Friendly Communities digital presence on the Audubon Website that will widely disseminate information from chapters and centers across the country. "Audubon should be the go-to source for information about protecting birds in our own backyards," according to Petty. "When we make our homes healthier for birds, we make our homes healthier for ourselves."

In support of community conservation projects, Audubon will work to replicate successful conservation programs, especially urban projects like NYC Audubon's Project Safe Flight. "Conservation doesn't happen without people," said Petty. "We must engage people where they live, and over 80% of our population lives in urban places." Our communities were established in resource-rich places, and many of our urban areas harbor critical remnants of priority habitats that must be nourished and improved.

Urban places have the greatest concentration of organizational capacity and constituencies as well as threats that need to be addressed and mitigated. Through comprehensive community conservation campaigns, Audubon's Bird-Friendly Communities initiative will collaborate with chapters, centers, and community partners in the coming years to support major efforts to expand awareness and engagement in bird conservation.

NYC Audubon looks forward to being an integral part of National Audubon's Bird-Friendly Communities program. As this important strategy takes shape, NYC Audubon remains committed to sharing our successes and learning from our colleagues across the Audubon network.

VISIT JAMAICA'S LUXURIOUS MOUNTAIN RETREAT: STRAWBERRY HILL



Visit the beautiful Strawberry Hill Resort and Spa in Jamaica's Blue Mountains, home to 24 of Jamaica's 26 endemic bird species, and receive a 20% discount as an NYC Audubon member. Surrounded by lush gardens and overlooking the verdant rainforest of the valley below, Strawberry Hill's 12 lovely Georgian-style cottages include studio and one- and two-bedroom options, each featuring a private veranda with magnificent views. During your stay, hike the mountainous acreage of the property and beyond, then relax by the infinity edge pool with views of the Blue Mountains and the coastal city of Kingston. The resort also offers a full service spa and fine dining options featuring a fresh take on Jamaican culinary classics. Special travel packages available. 20% discount for NYC Audubon members (discount code: AUDNYC); offer good now until December 15, 2014. To learn more and to redeem this offer, please contact Island Outpost at 1-800-OUTPOST (688-7678) or by email to filecia.davis@islandoutpost.com. Learn more at www.strawberryhillhotel.com.

© Island Outpost Images / © Nikolas Koening

News & Notes

RENEWED HOPE FOR GATEWAY

As this issue was being finalized in early January, we learned that the release of Gateway National Recreation Area's new General Management Plan had been postponed until April. This delay was due in large part to comments submitted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, in addition to pressure exerted by NYC Audubon and others. The National Park Service must now complete a biological assessment of possible impacts of the new plan, as per the Endangered Species Act. We will continue visiting with congressional representatives and their staff as a final decision is made on the General Management Plan, asking them to advocate for natural resource protection in the park. We have already secured support from representatives of several districts, including the two districts that cover Jamaica Bay.

ROCKAWAY BOARDWALK RECONSTRUCTION ADAPTED TO PROTECT PIPING PLOVERS

So as not to disturb endangered piping plovers during nesting season over the next several years, reconstruction work on the Rockaway boardwalk will not take place from April to September from 73rd Street to Beach 19th Street. Only 800 pairs of piping plovers, which are threatened federally and endangered in New York State, are estimated to breed on the Atlantic Coast. Of this total, 200 pairs nest in New York State.

NEWS FROM THE NYC AUDUBON FAMILY

On January 1, 2014, NYC Audubon's Director of Conservation and Science Susan Elbin became president of the Waterbird Society, an international professional ornithological organization focused on waterbird biology and conservation. Congratulations, Susan!

Past NYC Audubon Executive Director E.J. McAdams has stepped down from the NYC Audubon advisory council. We thank E.J. for his service to our organization and to conservation in New York City.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

NYC Audubon's conservation work and education programs are made possible by generous contributions from members and friends. We would like to express our gratitude to all those who have sustained us in our work this past season. In particular, we would like to thank the Leon Levy Foundation for its leadership support of science and conservation.

AMERICAN KESTREL CIRCLE

Claude and Lucienne Bloch
 Ronald and Jean Bourque
 Clifford Case and Karen B. Dubno
 Judy Craig
 Joseph and Barbara Ellis
 Andrew Farnsworth
 Marcia and Bruce Fowle
 Philip Fried
 Cathy and Lloyd Heller
 Tommy Lee Jones
 Jeffrey Kimball and Pamela Hogan
 Lauren and Ethan Klingsberg
 Fredric and Winnie Spar
 Heidi Steiner and Steve Nanz
 Virginia K. Stowe
 Elizabeth Woods and Charles Denholm

CORPORATIONS, FOUNDATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Audubon New York
 The Bay and Paul Foundations
 The Dobson Foundation, Inc.
 The Durst Organization
 The Eppley Foundation for Scientific Research
 Fiduciary Trust International
 First Cornerstone Foundation
 The Graduate Center of the City University of New York
 Jamaica Bay Institute
 Leon Levy Foundation
 The Lillian and Ira N. Langsan Foundation, Inc.
 The Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc.
 The Marcia and Philip Rothblum Foundation
 National Audubon Society
 New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC)

New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
 The Research Foundation for The State University of New York
 S. Forest Company
 Sims Metal Management
 TogetherGreen: Audubon and Toyota
 US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service through the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Costco
 Joan Lieberman
 Trader Joe's

TRIBUTE GIFTS

In honor of Oakes Ames
 Marian Heiskell
 Lee Leggett
In honor of Dr. Claude Bloch
 Jonathan Leigh
 Betty and Michael Rauch
 Schaffer, Schonholz & Drossman, LLP
 Lyris Schonholz

Jessica Weber and Alan Peckolick
 Judy Woodfin
 Rick Wright
In honor of Steve Borell
 Jennifer Flagg
In honor of Dr. Susan Elbin and Greg Elbin
 Donald Kass
 Frederick Luce
In honor of Marcia Fowle
 Warrie and James Price
In honor of Franny Geller
 Sally Baum
In honor of Catby and Lloyd Heller
 Priscilla Bijur and Gerry Kane
In honor of Dan Hendrick and Jimmy Van Bramer
 Alan and Stuart Suna
In honor of Robert Hoguet
 Peter Bakstansky
In honor of Elinor Laurie
 Karen McLaughlin and Mark Schubin
In honor of Julia Turner
 Chris Wasserstein
In honor of Gabriel Willow
 Nancy Kaufman
In honor of Tod Winston
 Dorothea Drayton

Alison Bruce Rea
 Elizabeth D. Taylor
In honor of Phoebe Woodruff
 Caroline Press

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of Ria Charisse
 Suzanne Bennett
In memory of Mark Krotter
 Constantine Valaoritis
In memory of Sean McBride
 Royal Fox
In memory of Lynn Payer
 Cheryl Payer
In memory of Yves Provencher
 Mary Hanna Farag
In memory of Starr Saphir
 Keelin Miller
 George Mullins
 Peter Shen
In memory of Timothy and Milly
 Abbie Zabar
In memory of Michael Waskovich
 Charles Scheidt, Roland Foods

BEQUESTS

The Estate of Mark B. Leeds
 The Estate of Frank Maira
 The Estate of Esther Morse

REMEMBER NYC AUDUBON

A bequest is a thoughtful and straightforward way to protect birds and bird habitat in the five boroughs. It can be expressed "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, for its general purposes." Consult your attorney and give Executive Director Glenn Phillips a call at 212-691-7483 x303.

JOIN NYC AUDUBON

Members are essential to our education and conservation work. Help protect birds and habitats in the five boroughs by joining our flock. As a Member of NYC Audubon you will:
 •Receive *The Urban Audubon* newsletter
 •Enjoy discounts on field trips and classes
 •Make a difference in your city's wildlife and natural areas.
 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.

- Supporter \$100 Family \$50
 Friend \$25 Student/Senior (65+) \$15
 New Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

CARD #: _____

Expiration Date: _____



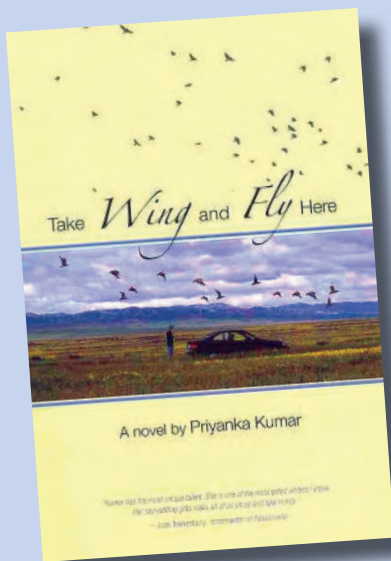
New York City Audubon
71 West 23rd Street
Suite 1523
New York, NY 10010

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
N. READING, MA
PERMIT NO. 234

DATED MATERIAL: SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER

2013-2014 LECTURE SERIES

All lectures are free and open to the public and are held at The Arsenal, Central Park, 5th Avenue at 64th Street, 3rd Floor. This series has been made possible by the support of Claude and Lucienne Bloch.



TAKE WING AND FLY HERE: AN EVENING IN CONVERSATION WITH PRIYANKA KUMAR AND JANE ALEXANDER

By Priyanka Kumar and Jane Alexander

Wednesday, March 26, 6pm

To celebrate the publication of Priyanka Kumar's new novel, *Take Wing and Fly Here*, please join us for an evening of conversation between the author and Jane Alexander, Oscar-nominated actress, conservationist, and board member of the National Audubon Society. They will discuss themes in the book, including land conservation and the portrayal of birds in art.

CONSERVATION PROGRAM UPDATE AND ANNUAL MEETING

By Susan Elbin

Wednesday, June 18, 6pm

NYC Audubon conducts scientific monitoring in all five boroughs to understand how birds are using our urban environment and how this environment affects them. Project Safe Flight seeks to improve the chances that migrants successfully navigate the City by collecting data which is then used to both identify problems and seek solutions. Our Jamaica Bay program studies populations of migratory shorebirds and horseshoe crabs, investigating the status of these populations over time in this important wetland, New York City's largest. Join us as Susan Elbin provides updates on what this research has taught us in the past year.



© Kathryn Perkins