



THE URBAN AUDUBON



**Test Flights
at the Bronx Zoo
Jamaica Bay Shorebird Festival
Following the Starr**

**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

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PRESIDENT'S PERCH *Harrison D. Maas*



As I begin my second term as president of NYC Audubon, I cannot help but look back over the last two years with a great deal of satisfaction in what our organization has accomplished. We have stabilized our financial condition, approved a Strategic Plan to guide us through the next few years, expanded our existing programs, such as Project Safe Flight, and ventured into new areas by developing a “wildlife oasis” for the City at a storm water runoff site in Queens (see the description on page 14). At the same time, we have expanded our advocacy efforts to protect birds and bird habitat in the City, most notably our work in protecting and improving the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. And all these triumphs are thanks to the efforts of you, our members, as well as our talented staff, dedicated board of directors, and enthusiastic volunteers who do so much of our work.

And yet, the battle has just begun. Birds and wildlife habitat have been hit with a double whammy this past year. Hurricane Sandy provided the first punishing hit, as reported earlier in *The Urban Audubon*. The federal government provided the second by reducing or eliminating the funding for many programs that benefit the City’s avian and other wildlife populations.

The result? It is even more imperative that NYC Audubon widen its role, provide the leadership to restore the areas impacted by Sandy, and work to induce the private sector to take on many of the responsibilities formerly handled by the government.

And the only way we can do that is if our board of directors, our staff, our volunteers and, most of all, you, our members, take an even greater proactive role in NYC Audubon’s efforts. Financial support is always welcome, of course, but equally important is hands-on help getting the work done. Opportunities to work on Sandy restoration projects and other conservation programs will be reported in these pages, in *The eGret*, in email messages, and in other media. I know New Yorkers live busy, hectic lives, but if you can take even one day off from your schedule and volunteer to clean up a beach, repair a trail, or plant a tree, it will help, and I am confident you will be glad you did.

As always, thank you for all your support and effort in the past. You are what makes our organization great.

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, ext. 303.

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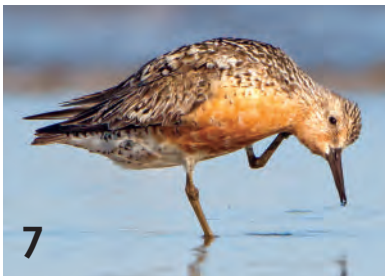
Yellow-crowned Night-heron ©Lloyd Spitalnik

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Susan Elbin, Steve Nanz, and Don Riepe



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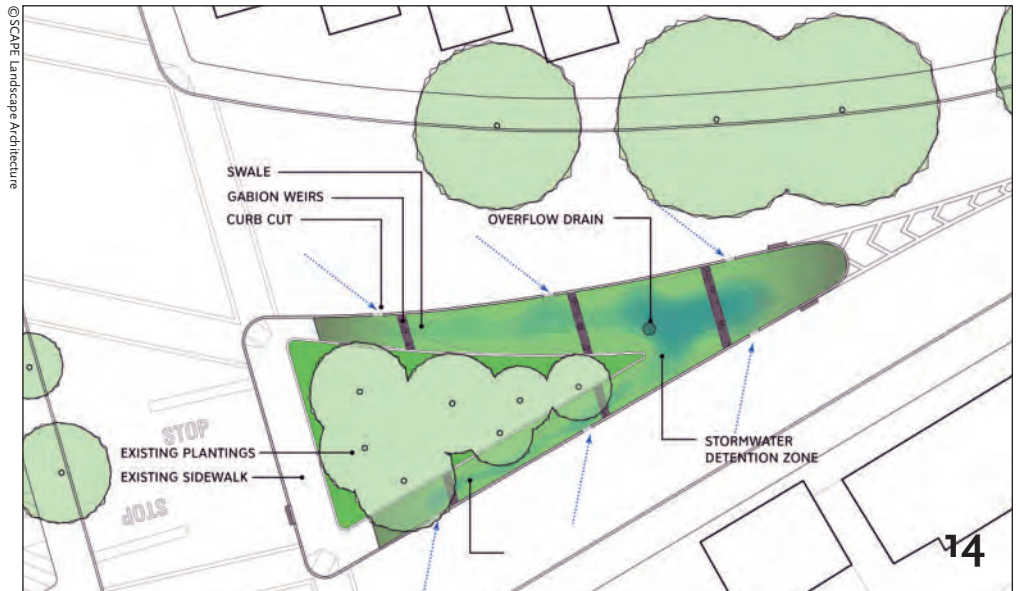
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7



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13



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FEATURES

- 5 **Test Flights at The Bronx Zoo**
by Carol Peace Robins
- 6 **In Memoriam: Following the Starr**
by Jim Sheffield
- 6 **Coat Hanger at 10 O'Clock! A Salute to the Glossy Ibis**
by Ned Boyajian
- 7 **8th Annual Shorebird Festival at Jamaica Bay**
- 12 **NYC Audubon Welcomes New Board Members**
by Catherine Heller
- 12 **The NYSOA Annual Meeting and New York Birders Conference**
- 14 **A Bird-Friendly Swale in Queens**
by Andrew Harmon

DEPARTMENTS

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 4 | Conservation Notes | 13 | Book Review |
| 4 | Volunteer! | 15 | News & Notes |
| 8 | Events and Adventures | 15 | Acknowledgments |
| 10 | National/International Trips | 16 | 2012-2013 Lecture Series |

CONSERVATION NOTES

John Rowden



Citizen science, also known as Public Participation in Scientific Research, is a powerful tool that engages people in meaningful scientific research while providing scientists with important data that further our understanding of the natural world. While citizen science is not a new concept (one of the longest-running citizen science projects, the Christmas Bird Count, just celebrated its 113th anniversary last December), it has gained momentum in recent years. Conservation organizations have increasingly used citizen science as a way to involve the public in scientific research. Advances in technology and the increasing availability and use of “smartphones” have also helped spread citizen science as data collection apps have proliferated.

I have been fortunate to oversee NYC Audubon’s citizen science program for the past four years and have witnessed its power to captivate and change people while generating large amounts of data that help immensely in our work. I have become a huge proponent of citizen science, and consequently have tapped into the network of practitioners around the country. I recently led a Webinar on citizen science for the National Audubon network and will be chairing the session on citizen science at Audubon’s national convention in July. In addition, I served on the Diversity in Citizen

Science Taskforce convened by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, which seeks to expand the reach of citizen science to audiences not traditionally included in scientific research.

Citizen science infuses all of the focal areas of NYC Audubon’s strategic plan. Here are just a few examples of how citizen science is integral to our conservation work.

IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS AND PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

Each spring and fall Project Safe Flight volunteers fan out across the city in the early morning hours looking for dead and injured birds at specific buildings that have the potential of causing injury to migratory birds. The information these volunteers collect helps us clarify particular problem areas and arms us with important data to share with building owners as we work to achieve solutions.

JAMAICA BAY

Since 2009, volunteers have helped us collect information on migratory shorebirds and horseshoe crabs in the bay. We have learned along the way that Jamaica Bay beaches are the most productive spawning beaches for the crabs in New York State, and have identified several shorebird species that have experienced sharp declines in the bay during spring migration.

WESTERN LONG ISLAND SOUND AND THE NARROWS

We have partnered with the community-based non-profit Rocking the Boat since 2010 to monitor the Bronx River for long-legged waders and shorebirds. Students that work with Rocking the Boat have added valuable information to our understanding of this estuary close to the South Brother wader breeding colony.

STATEN ISLAND

Volunteers have been collecting data on the presence and foraging behavior of long-legged waders at several Staten Island sites that are near to the important breeding colonies on Hoffman and Swinburne Islands. As restoration work on Prall’s Island continues, citizen science monitoring will help quantify the success of those efforts.

My experiences at NYC Audubon have reinforced my belief in the power of citizen science to benefit both science and the people who participate in it.

You can find the latest conservation project updates on our blog, *Syrinx*, at www.nycaudubon.org/?Itemid=224.

VOLUNTEER!



Work in our friendly office or in the field and make a difference for New York City’s birds and other wildlife. There are many ways to help; if interested in any of the projects listed below, please contact us at 212-691-7483 or volunteer@nycaudubon.org.

OFFICE HELPERS

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

work. Computer skills and birding knowledge are helpful but not required.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Tweet! Help us get the word out on social media sites.

PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

Thousands of songbirds migrate through the City each fall. Volunteers are needed to monitor designated buildings for bird collisions. Learn how to collect

data and handle injured birds. Orientation sessions will be held Wednesday, August 21 and Tuesday, August 27, 6-7pm. Please contact us to register.

TRIBUTE IN LIGHT MONITORING

Wednesday, September 11: Each year a tireless group of volunteers monitors September 11’s Tribute in Light to ensure that migrating birds do not become entrapped and disoriented by the light beams.

A training will be held Tuesday, September 3 from 6-7pm. Please contact us to register.

BIRD TRANSPORTERS

We often receive calls from concerned 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 will be held in September (date TBA).

TEST FLIGHTS AT THE BRONX ZOO

Carol Peace Robins

Nobody knows the exact number, but it's estimated that between 800 million and 1.2 billion birds are killed in the U.S. each year in collisions with buildings. Many of these collisions occur in big cities like New York. Here, the glass in buildings ranging from skyscrapers to brownstones can create enticing reflections of sky and trees, tricking birds into thinking they're heading for safe, familiar territory. But it doesn't have to be that way. Today, glass companies are devising new ways to modify glass so that it appears as an obstruction to birds. The tricky part is figuring out which of these options works best.

Meet the New York area's newest research tool: an innovative bird-safety test tunnel, only the fourth of its kind in the world. Based on pioneering testing programs in Pennsylvania and Austria, the tunnel is designed to determine which glass treatments come closest to the ideal: glass that looks relatively unobstructed for human enjoyment, but that sets up a barrier birds will want to avoid.

The project is the combined effort of NYC Audubon, American Bird Conservancy, the Wildlife Conservation Society, New Jersey Audubon, Ennead Architects partner Guy Maxwell, Prendergast Laurel Architects partner Deborah Laurel, and Fordham University ornithologist J. Alan Clark and graduate student William Haffey.

The tunnel will be housed in a shipping container on the property of the Bronx Zoo. Birds are introduced through a small opening at one end of the thirty-foot-long space. They fly toward two side-by-side exits: one of clear glass, the other of the modified glass to be tested. (Safety nets will keep birds from striking either glass panel). Contenders include etched and fritted glass in various patterns, translucent glass, and applied films.

The team is particularly interested in improving on one aspect of the first three test tunnels. In these, birds entered darkness and flew toward the light at the end of the tunnel. In the real world, of course, they fly in daylight, so the design team will try to replicate daylight inside the tunnel.

At press time, it's expected that the new tunnel will be up and running by the end of May. "The timing couldn't be better," says NYC Audubon Executive Director Glenn Phillips. "Cities from Toronto to San Francisco are creating bird-friendly rules and guidelines. The Bird-Friendly Buildings Act is pending in the New York State Legislature. And, more personally, this important testing device is a natural extension of the vital work on collision prevention by our own Project Safe Flight."

Research Protocols for Test Flights

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

Christine Sheppard, American Bird Conservancy; Susan Elbin, NYC Audubon; David Mizrahi, NJ Audubon

OTHER PERSONNEL

All other personnel are experienced bird handlers.

SPECIES

Migratory songbirds, not including those listed as threatened or endangered, and house sparrows

CAPTURE

Birds will be captured with mist nets or Potter traps. These nets and traps will be monitored every 10-30 minutes, and closed down when not monitored to avoid unnecessary capture.

HANDLING

Birds will be banded and placed in cloth bags to evaluate their condition. Birds not selected for testing will be released back into the wild immediately. Birds selected will be removed from the bag and further evaluated. If there is any sign of stress, the bird will be released. If any bird does not fly down the tunnel after 30 seconds, it will be released. After one flight, birds will be released. All birds will be held for less than one day, but usually for less than an hour.

PERMITS

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Service
Wildlife Conservation Society's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

SUPPORT

Major support for this project has been provided by the following sponsors:
U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act
Leon Levy Foundation
Dawn and Tommy Lee Jones



This Shipping Container, Located at the Bronx Zoo by the World of Birds Exhibit, Will House the Flight Tunnel

IN MEMORIAM: FOLLOWING THE STARR

Jim Sheffield

My first encounter with birds in New York City was with Starr Saphir about 10 years ago. Friends who were involved with NYC Audubon told me about her early morning walks, and I remember waiting nervously, afraid that I would be the only beginner. But Starr welcomed me and other newcomers and introduced us to the regulars. Starr began like any good teacher,



telling us how to behave (stay together, speak quietly, don't point at a bird as it may scare it off), and what to expect. As her sidekick Lenore Swenson kept a list of the birds we saw, Starr kept us moving along, stopping where she saw something or

where she thought we would find an interesting bird.

Starr got excited when we saw an unusual bird, or a bird that was earlier or later than expected. As cell phones became popular, Starr would communicate with other birders about sightings, and we would sometimes dash off to another area to see a special bird.

Starr's groups were usually a dozen to 25 people, a mix of very knowledgeable birders and relative beginners. I got the feeling that some of the regulars had been birding with Starr for many years. They knew each other, and frequently described interesting birds they had seen on weekends or on trips to exotic places.

Starr was not only an excellent birder, identifying birds by sight and by sound, but a very good advocate and teacher. Starr taught her groups about the individual birds, their feeding, mating, migration patterns, and how they were doing in the long term. She made us aware of how wonderful Central Park is for birding and praised the work of the Central Park Conservancy and NYC Parks & Recreation.

At NYC Audubon, Starr initiated its popular Beginning Birding Classes, served on its board, and was awarded the 1990 Chapter Award.

As Starr became ill, the group became concerned, and I remember some of the regulars chipping in to give Starr a pair of lighter binoculars. But Starr kept going, even when she needed to take her medication and sit down for a few minutes. Birding was therapeutic for Starr as she became weaker. Walking in Central Park kept her going, and she kept hundreds of other birders going. We miss her.

COAT HANGER AT 10 O'CLOCK! A SALUTE TO THE GLOSSY IBIS

Ned Boyajian

The glossy ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*: a flying coat hanger, a fanciful Dr. Seuss creation, or an honest-to-goodness wild bird? Long, curved bill; thin legs; bunched up body. Ungainly? Oh no, they soar with uncommon grace over their brackish and freshwater wetland haunts.

And that wonderful bill? It serves a purpose—letting ibis deftly snap up insects, crustaceans, mollusks, small reptiles, and fish, even nestling birds now and then, as they stalk their meals in tidal mud flats.

The glossy ibis is one of the world's most widespread birds, living on every continent but Antarctica. Before the 1900s the species was rare in North America, breeding only in parts of Florida. But the population expanded along the Gulf Coast to Louisiana and north along the Atlantic to Maine. The first sighting in New York City was recorded in 1935. In 1961 came the species' first breeding record in New York State, when three nests with eggs were found at Jamaica Bay. Today glossy ibis

breed in our area from Staten Island to eastern Long Island. Nests also are found in the Bronx.

Their large and widespread population means glossy ibis is considered a "species of least concern" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Even so, it is suffering declines in particular areas, such as over much of Europe and in New Jersey. The declines generally are attributed to the usual suspects: habitat degradation and loss, pesticides, declining food availability, and predation.

NYC Audubon's director of conservation and science, Susan Elbin, characterizes the New York City population as generally in good shape, though it bears watching.

NYC Audubon's Harbor Herons surveys provide some interesting numbers. The surveys found 275 nesting pairs in 2010 and 178 in 2011. Population swings of 20 or 30 percent are not uncommon among New York City's ibis and other wading birds, Elbin notes. The 2012 survey found only 148 nesting pairs. Elbin explains that one of that year's few



spates of bad weather hit during the survey, which could have affected results. The 2013 survey, which was gearing up as this article was written, will be telling. This is a reminder of the ongoing importance of maintaining a long-term breeding bird survey like Harbor Herons.

But there is strong reason to hope that the beloved flying hangers will be hanging around New York for a long time to come.

8TH ANNUAL SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL AT JAMAICA BAY

©Don Riepe



Saturday, August 24, 8am-5pm, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Join us at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge during peak shorebird migration time. Jamaica Bay is world-renowned as a premier migration stopover for over 35 species of shorebirds. Learn about the history, ecology, and management of the refuge as well as shorebird behavior and identification and how to photograph shorebirds in the wild. The itinerary is as follows:

- 8am** Registration, coffee, juice, and continental breakfast
- 8:30-9:15am** Welcome to the refuge (National Park Service); presentation on the refuge history, ecology, restoration, and management (Don Riepe)
- 9:15am-noon** Visit to the East Pond to view shorebirds (Kevin Karlson, Lloyd Spitalnik, et al.)
- Noon-1pm** Lunch (bring lunch or visit nearby delicatessens)

1-3pm

Guided hike around the West Pond to look for shorebirds, waders, and early migrating warblers (National Park Service rangers and festival guides)

3-4pm

Shorebird photography (Lloyd Spitalnik); shorebird research (NYC Audubon)

4-5pm

Shorebird presentation (Kevin Karlson)

Free bus transportation from Manhattan to Jamaica Bay is available for NYC Audubon members at the student/senior level and up. Meet at 71 West 23rd Street at 7:30am. Contact the office at 212-691-7483 to reserve a seat.

For more information contact NYC Audubon at 212-691-7483, American Littoral Society at 917-371-8577, or Don Riepe at donriepe@gmail.com.

EVENTS AND ADVENTURES

- NYC Audubon Events
- Partnership Events

● **VAN CORTLANDT BIRD WALKS**
Saturdays, June 1 - August 31, 8-9:30am
Guide: NYC Audubon or Urban Park Rangers (first Saturday of the month)
With the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy and NYC Department of Parks & Recreation

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

● **HAWK WATCH IN ASTORIA PARK, QUEENS**
Saturday, June 1, 11am-12:30pm
Guide: Urban Park Rangers
With NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, Urban Park Rangers



Brown Thrasher

Meet at the parking lot at Hoyt Avenue and 19th Street in Astoria. A pair of red-tailed hawks has been nesting in Astoria Park on the RFK Bridge for years. Observe these residents and learn about their nesting and foraging habits. No registration required. For more information call 718-846-2731. No limit. Free

● **EXPLORE THE MEADOWLANDS BY PONTOON BOAT, SECAUCUS, NJ**
Sunday, June 2, 9am-2pm
Guide: Mike Newhouse

With NJ Meadowlands Commission

Come explore the Meadowlands' Mill Creek Marsh, a 225 acre restored wetland off the Hackensack River. We'll take a relaxing pontoon boat ride and see many egrets, night-herons, and belted kingfishers—along with blue and fiddler crabs and diamondback terrapins. Bring sunscreen, lunch, water, and binoculars. Transport by passenger van provided. Limited to 12. \$70

● **SUNSET ECOCRUISES TO THE HARBOR HERON ISLANDS**
Sundays, June 2 through August 11

South Street Seaport, Pier 17 7-8:30pm (Brother Islands; Hoffman and Swinburne Islands) 6-9pm (Jamaica Bay)
Guide: Gabriel Willow
With New York Water Taxi

Meet at South Street Seaport's Pier 17. This summer we'll continue our explorations of the City's principal island rookeries: Depending on which weekend

you choose, your cruise may visit the fascinating Brother Islands, the large egret and cormorant colonies on Hoffman and Swinburne Islands, or the great expanses of Jamaica Bay. Whichever your destination, you'll experience the wonders of New York's famous harbor at sunset and see some of the three thousand herons, egrets, and ibis nesting on these urban islands. To learn about specific cruise dates and to register, contact New York Water Taxi at 212-742-1969 or www.nywatertaxi.com. Limited to 90. Pricing varies by destination

● **THE BREEDING BIRDS OF DOODLETOWN ROAD, ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY**
Wednesday, June 5, 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. \$75

MEMBERS-ONLY
June Member Walk in Prospect Park
Thursday, June 6, 7:30-9:00am

Meet at the Prospect Park Audubon Center. NYC Audubon Board Member Tom Stephenson will lead you on a members-only tour to see breeding birds and late spring migrants in Prospect Park. Please call the office at 212-691-7483 to register. Limited to 20. Free for Contributing NYC Audubon Members at the Student/Senior level and up



Osprey



● **BIKING AND BIRDING:
JAMAICA BAY**

Saturday, June 8, 9am-2pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow

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 20-mile trip; return by subway from Howard Beach. Bring lunch and your bicycle. Limited to 15. \$30.

● **BIRDING AT WAVE HILL**

Sundays, June 9, July 7, and August 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 behavior on these walks along the gardens and woodlands of Wave Hill. Advanced registration is recommended, either online, at the Perkins Visitor Center, or by calling 718-549-3200 x305. (Walks run rain or shine, except for severe weather conditions; call the number above at x245 by 8am the day of the walk for updates.) Ages 10 and older welcome with an adult. Free with admission to the grounds. NYC Audubon Members enjoy two-for-one admission

● **TWILIGHT BAT WALKS IN
CENTRAL PARK**

Tuesdays, June 11-July 9, 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. Bring bug spray and a flashlight.

© David Speiser



American Avocet

Limited to 16. \$25 for adults, \$15 for children under 12. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Recommended for ages 5 and up

● **THE PARAKEETS OF GREENWOOD CEMETERY, BROOKLYN**
Saturday, June 15, 10am-1pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

With Green-Wood Cemetery

Meet at the cemetery entrance at 5th Ave and 25th St., Park Slope, Brooklyn. While it might seem an odd place to go birding, 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. \$30

● **BIRDING BY CANOE IN
CONSTITUTION MARSH**

Saturday, June 22, 9am-4:30pm

Guides: Gabriel Willow, Eric Lind
With Constitution Marsh Audubon Center & Sanctuary

Join two expert naturalists 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, Louisiana waterthrushes, and bald eagles. Then look for warblers and other spring migrants on the sanctuary's trails. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$90

● **JAMAICA BAY SUNSET
ECOLOGY CRUISE**

Sunday, June 23, 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 917-371-8577 or donriepe@gmail.com. Limited to 140. \$55

● **PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP:
NESTING WATERBIRDS OF
NICKERSON BEACH, LI**

Saturday, June 29, 6-9am

Instructor: David Speiser

Meet at the south end of the Nickerson Beach parking lot for this workshop on getting close up and personal with breeding birds in their colonies. We'll see black skimmers, common terns, American oystercatchers, least terns, and piping plovers—in addition to the potential of seeing five gull species. We'll learn how to approach birds and their young and focus on exposure, flight shot technique, and composition. Recommended equipment: DSLR, 300mm+ lens, and tripod. Limited to 8. \$75

● **HORSESHOE CRABS &
TERRAPINS AT JAMAICA BAY**

Saturday, June 29, 1pm-3pm

Guide: Don Riepe

With Gateway National Recreation Area

Meet at the the Jamaica Bay NWR Visitor Center for a hike around the West Pond to look for mating horseshoe crabs and shorebirds. We'll also look for diamondback terrapins coming ashore to lay their eggs. Bring boots and binoculars. To register, contact Don Riepe at 917-371-8577 or donriepe@gmail.com. Limited to 25. Free

MEMBERS-ONLY

**July Member Van Trip to
Jamaica Bay**

Tuesday, July 16, 3-8pm

Join NYC Audubon advisory council member Don Riepe for a walk around Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge's ponds and gardens to seek out waders, shorebirds, and more. Transport by passenger van included. Please call the office at 212-691-7483 to register. Limited to 12. Free for Contributing NYC Audubon Members at the Student/Senior level and up

...continued on page 11

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

MONTAUK SPRING WEEKEND, LI

Friday, June 7-Sunday, June 9
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 bloom. Includes accommodations at the luxurious Manor House, five meals, five guided hikes, two evening programs, and a star watch. See nesting pine and prairie warblers, and visit a cranberry bog with flowering orchids and sundews. For more information or to register, contact Don Riepe at 917-371-8577 or donriepe@gmail.com. Limited to 60. \$385 (\$120 single supplement)

PURPLE MARTIN FESTIVAL, NJ

Friday, August 9, 10am - Sunday, August 11, 7pm

Guide: Don Riepe
With American Littoral Society

Travel to southern New Jersey to observe thousands of migrating purple martins and visit this beautiful, spacious landscape just a few hours from New York City. Visit remote salt- and freshwater marsh and woodland habitat to see bald eagles, peregrine falcons, wading birds, and shorebirds. Explore the wild and scenic Maurice River by canoe or flat-bottom boat, and visit Brigantine NWR. Includes transportation. Limited to 60. \$375 (\$95 single supplement)

CAPE ANN WHALE WATCH, MA

Thursday, August 15-Sunday, August 18

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 dolphins. Includes three nights' stay in historic Gloucester, a whale watch boat trip, an evening Essex River Cruise, canoeing on Ipswich River, birding at Parker River Wildlife Refuge, and a lobster dinner. To register, contact Don Riepe at 917-371-8577 or donriepe@gmail.com. Limited to 40. \$395 (\$180 single supplement)

CAPE MAY FALL MIGRATION WEEKEND, NJ

Saturday, October 5, 9am - Sunday, October 6, 7pm

Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC.

Cape May, New Jersey is one of the best birding venues in the United States, especially during fall migration. Visit the Cape May Hawk Watch on two days, once late in the day and then early to get a good variety of hawks. Also visit

birding hotspots such as Higbee Beach, Cape May Point, Jake's Landing, Cape May Meadows, and Nummy Island. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 10. \$310 (\$50 single supplement)

ASSATEAGUE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE / CHINCOTEAGUE WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEKEND

Thursday, October 31, 9am - Sunday, November 3, 6pm

Guide: Don Riepe

With American Littoral Society

A great wildlife weekend along the Virginia Coast. Includes three nights at the Refuge Inn, guided hikes, a bus tour of backwater flats, plus an "all-you-can-eat" seafood buffet. See wild ponies, sika deer, bald eagles and many other species of wildlife. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 30. \$385 (single room supplement \$150)

BIRDING THE ANDEAN SLOPES: NORTHWEST ECUADOR

December dates TBA

Guides: John Rowden, Edwin Perez

Join us for a trip to one of South America's most celebrated (and spectacularly scenic) areas for birding, led by one of Ecuador's finest bird guides. Starting from Quito, the trip will cover east and west slope Andean birds, from paramo to foothills. Target species include the 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. Price TBA

MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND: SEALS, SEA BIRDS AND SANDY BEACHES, LONG ISLAND, NY

Friday, January 10 -Sunday, January 12, 2014

Guides: Mike Bottini, Mickey Cohen, Don Riepe

With American Littoral Society

Visit the vast dunes, beaches and woods at Montauk during peak seabird season and hike the beautiful "Walking Dunes," Hither Woods, Oyster Pond, and the "Seal Haul-out" site. Includes double-occupancy lodging at the luxurious Manor House, most meals, guided hikes, evening programs, a star watch, and free pickup at the LIRR station in Montauk. To register, contact Don Riepe at 917-371-8577 or donriepe@gmail.com. Limited to 60. \$385 (\$125 single supplement; no member discount)

YUCATÁN, MEXICO

February 2014

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Visit the magical land of the Maya: the Yucatan Peninsula of Southern Mexico. Explore ancient Mayan ruins; swim in the Caribbean and explore coral reefs; and of course, see the amazing bird life of the region: from parrots and toucans to flamingos and trogons, along with many of our wintering neotropical migrants. Includes two pre-trip workshops, lodging, local transportation, most meals, and all park fees. Limited to 12. Price TBA

COSTA RICA: MONTEVERDE AND CAÑO NEGRO

Saturday, March 8-Saturday, March 15

Guides: Glenn Phillips, Richard Garrigues

Our 2014 Costa Rica expedition will visit its most famous birding destination: Monteverde, home to



Hooded Warbler

BASHAKILL, NEVERSINK, AND STERLING FOREST, NY

Saturday, June 15, 9am -Sunday, June 16, 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)



Violet-tailed Sylph

EVENTS AND ADVENTURES (CONTINUED)

resplendent quetzals, black guans, emerald toucanets, and much more. Other highlights include the Celeste Mountain Lodge, known for its fine French cuisine as well as for rarities such as tody motmot and yellow-eared toucanet; and Caño Negro, where Nicaraguan grackles, lesser yellow-headed vultures, and even jabiru are possible. Includes two pre-trip workshops, lodging, local transportation, most meals, and all park fees. Limited to 12. \$1,995 (\$300 single room supplement)

TANZANIA

March 2014

Guides: Susan Elbin, Bjørn Figenschou

Experience the incredible diversity of wildlife of Tanzania. Visit the vast plains of the Serengeti and the wildlife-rich Ngorongoro crater and Tarangire National Park. Includes two pre-trip workshops, lodging, local transportation, most meals, and all park fees. Limited to 12. Price TBA

JAMAICA: THE BLUE MOUNTAINS, COCKPIT COUNTRY, AND CARIBBEAN COAST

Thursday, January 9-Wednesday, January 15

Guides: Tod Winston, Lyndon Johnson, Wendy Lee

Enjoy a luxurious tropical island get-away on the isle of Jamaica—and explore one of the world's best island birding destinations. We'll visit the stunningly beautiful Blue Mountains, the pristine Cockpit Country, and the beautiful north coast to look for endemic species such as Jamaican todies, orioles, and vireos; yellow- and black-billed parrots; and the beautiful crested quail dove. We'll end at the renowned Rocklands Bird Sanctuary, where the spectacular red-billed streamtail feeds from the hand. Includes one pre-trip workshop, lodging, local transportation, meals, and all park fees. Limited to 12. Price TBA

● CITY OF WATER DAY

Saturday, July 20, Time TBA

Guide: NYC Audubon With Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance

As part of City of Water Day, a celebration of the waterways and harbors of New York City, NYC Audubon will once again offer a special ecocruise past Hoffman and Swinburne Islands, exploring the natural history of the area. Visit www.nycaudubon.org to learn more about City of Water Day and ecocruise details. Registration required. Limited to 150. Free

● ANNUAL SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL AT JAMAICA BAY

Saturday, August 24, 8am-5pm

See page 7 for details

● FALL WARBLERS

Friday, September 6, 6:30-8:30pm (class); Sunday, September 8, 8-11am (trip)

Instructor: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Identifying “confusing fall warblers” can be tricky, even for the experts. Come study some of the most puzzling species that stop through our area during fall migration with expert Joe Giunta, and then enjoy a second session in the “classroom” of Central Park. Limited to 11. \$50

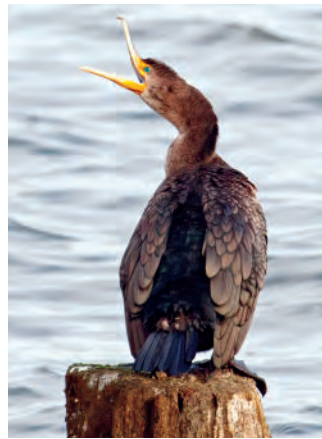
● MORNING FALL MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK

Wednesdays, September 11, 18, 25; October 2, 9, 16, 7:30-10:30am

Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street. Birders of all levels can enjoy this fun and educational series of six walks, observing the diverse and ever-changing waves of migrants that stop over Central Park during fall migration. Limited to 15. \$110

©Laura Meyers



Double-crested Cormorant Juvenile

● EXPLORE THE BRONX RIVER BY ROWBOAT

Saturday, September 14, 3-5pm

Guide: Chrissy Word With Rocking the Boat

Launch from Hunts Point Riverside Park and 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 ecosystem, as well as its social and cultural history. Rowing optional! Limited to 20. \$35 for adults, \$25 for ages 18 and under

● EVENING FALL MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK

Monday Series: September 16, 23, 30; October 7, 14; 5-6:30pm

Tuesday Series: September 17, 24; October 1, 8, 15; 5-6:30pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street. Witness the spectacle of autumn migration as songbirds follow the Atlantic flyway to their tropical wintering grounds. Look for tanagers, warblers, and other neo-tropical migrants in the wilds of Central Park. Choose either our Monday or Tuesday evening series. Limited to 15. \$95

● HOOK MOUNTAIN HAWK WATCH, NY

Sunday, September 22, 9am-4pm

Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Part of the Palisades Interstate Park system, Hook Mountain has commanding views of all nearby mountain ridges and the Hudson River. From this inland hawk watch spot we expect to see many species of migrating raptors, including broad-winged and red-shouldered hawks, bald eagles, accipiters, and falcons. Note: this trip requires a 35-minute hike up and down the mountainside. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$70

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Classes meet at 71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1523.
- Contributing Members (Student/Senior level and up) receive a 10% 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.

NYC AUDUBON WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Catherine Heller

The NYC Audubon Board of Directors has two new members joining this spring. In separate discussions, both Fred Spar and Jeffrey Kimball brought up the word “biophilia,” a term coined by Harvard sociobiologist Edward O. Wilson in 1984. The concept holds that an innate tendency exists in human beings to focus on life and lifelike process and in doing so keeps people mentally and physically healthier. Spar and Kimball started as birders and nature enthusiasts before Wilson formed his biophilia hypothesis, but when the idea was raised they instinctively embraced it.



FREDRIC SPAR

Fred is originally from Brooklyn and grew up in a house with a small garden that was always important to him. He now lives in New Jersey and commutes to Manhattan where he is managing director of Kekst and Company, a corporate communications consulting firm. Fred is chair of the Charles Rogers Wildlife Refuge in Princeton and on the

board of Friends of Princeton Open Space. His wife Winnie shares his interest in birding and wildlife. They have two grown sons.

The decline in songbirds has become apparent to Fred. He believes that preservation of green space is important for birds as well as humans and that birders can play a significant role by monitoring birds in their yards and nearby parks. He singled out Audubon’s Christmas Bird Count as a good example—by counting the number of

birds in a particular area on nearly the same day year after year, critical trends can be noted.

An elegant bird in his backyard decades ago energized his interest in birds, an enthusiasm that has brought him to NYC Audubon. Although Fred didn’t realize at the time it was fairly common in the northeast, the yellow-shafted (or northern) flicker is always beautiful and fascinating to watch. He noted that as birders, we often take familiar or common species for granted, but we shouldn’t.

He pointed out that the name of this publication, *The Urban Audubon*, is seemingly an oxymoron, but not when recalling the living things in his Brooklyn backyard.

JEFFREY KIMBALL

Jeff Kimball grew up in northern California as a nature kid, collecting frogs and observing any wildlife he could find. “I’d watch a buffalo, if I could,” he quipped while describing his fascination. But pursuing a graduate degree in film brought him to NYU, and here he met his wife, whose professional life kept them in the city.

Jeff has had an active career in film, as music supervisor on films such as *Good Will Hunting* and as vice president of the music department for Miramax. Initially he missed California, the outdoors, and nature. Then he started hanging out in Central Park. “Birding became my salvation in New York.”

Jeff became a prolific birder, and his time in the park turned out to be a pivotal point in his life. He became part of the birding community after repeatedly seeing the same cast of characters on his morning walks. The birders rarely exchanged last names and were often unfamiliar with what each other did while not observing birds. He met Harry Maas, NYC Audubon board president, and David Speiser, NYC Audubon vice president. He also met Starr Saphir, the incomparable guide who led birding tours in the park several days a week until her death this February.

After several years, Jeff started gathering footage for what would become an HBO movie, *Birders: The Central Park Effect* (reviewed in *The Urban Audubon*, Summer 2012; available on DVD at Amazon or Barnes and Noble). Jeff’s documentary approach clearly communicates his belief in the preciousness of our green spaces in the midst of an urban environment.

We enthusiastically welcome these two new board members to the board of NYC Audubon.



THIS NOVEMBER IN NASSAU COUNTY: NYC AUDUBON CO-SPONSORS THE NYSOA ANNUAL MEETING AND NEW YORK BIRDERS CONFERENCE

This fall, NYC Audubon will be a sponsor of the 66th annual meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA). The Queens County Bird Club will host the event, which will take place the weekend of November 1-3, 2013, in Nassau County, Long Island.

Held at a different location in New York State each year, the NYSOA meeting is an opportunity for birders from all over the state to meet, exchange ideas, socialize, and bird together. The weekend will include the annual NYSOA business meeting, a papers session, identification workshops, and a banquet with a prominent speaker. And, yes, some great field trips! Please visit www.nybirdersconference.org for more information and to register.

The Unfeathered Bird
by Katrina van Grouw
Princeton University Press
(287 pages; 10x12"; \$50)



This extraordinary book, *The Unfeathered Bird*, is not easy to categorize. Its hefty size and price, artful design, and beautiful sepia drawings make it suitable for the coffee table. But the accompanying text offers so much information on the anatomy, behavior, and evolutionary relationships of birds that it can also serve as a mini-outline of current scientific knowledge. As a former curator of ornithological collections at London's Natural History

Museum, van Grouw had a wealth of information from which to draw the nuggets that most interested her, all of them delivered succinctly and often wittily.

The real attraction is nevertheless the drawings. Like John James Audubon's, van Grouw's subjects are dead birds that have been manipulated into lifelike positions. The big difference is that van Grouw's birds are in many cases stripped down to the bare skeleton, and all of them are missing at least their feathers or both feathers and skin; some species are shown in all three stages of undress. Yet these are not gruesome pictures. Take a look at the Eurasian sparrowhawk, his claws defiantly gripping the dove he's just killed: his lack of feathers in no way robs him of dignity or ferocity or beauty.

But without their outer dress, even familiar birds look new. Seeing the complicated structure of their bones and the muscular machinery that moves them will give you a heightened appreciation for the amazing variety among bird species and their superb adaptation to differing habitats.

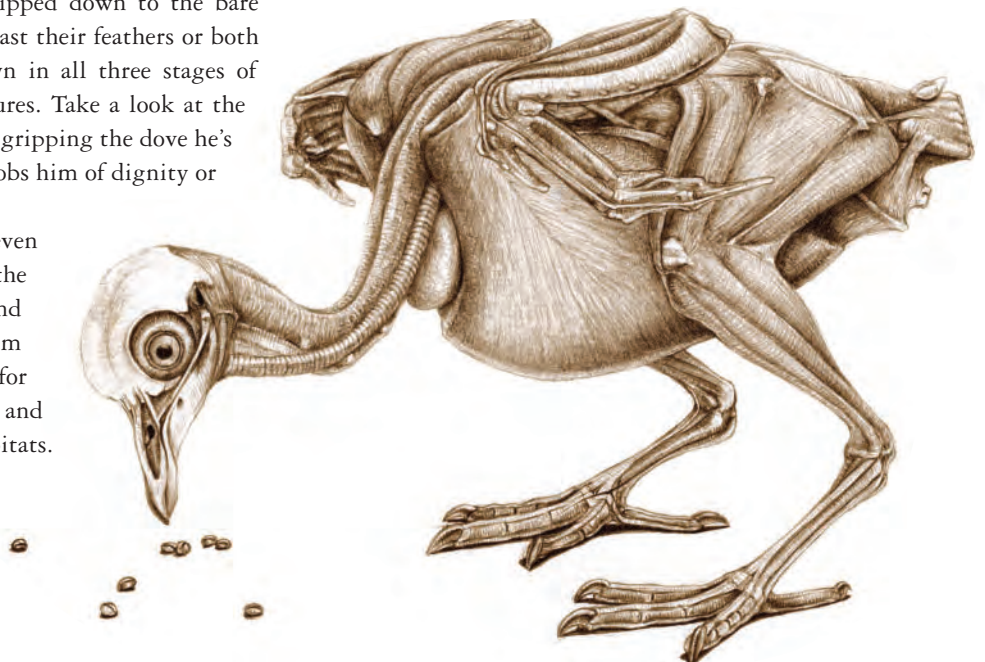


Woodpecker Muscles and Skeleton

Van Grouw's section on "Storks, Ibises, and Spoonbills," for example, demonstrates anatomical differences as they relate to feeding strategies.

The author assures us that no birds were killed for her project. Some were specimens borrowed from scientific collections; others had died naturally and were sent to her by friends around the world.

Do not fail to check out this book. Van Grouw's birds may not have clothes, but they certainly have personality.



Rock Dove Muscles

A BIRD-FRIENDLY SWALE IN QUEENS

Andrew Harmon

A tiny sliver of Queens may become an attractive stopover point for warblers and other migrating species, thanks to new, well-funded efforts for cleaner water in our rivers and bays.

Last year, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and New York City Department of Environmental Protection announced a \$187-million effort over the next three years to reduce combined sewer overflows, or CSOs. During heavy storms, these overflows of stormwater and wastewater negatively impact water quality in the Hudson and East Rivers, as well as other wildlife-rich bodies of water in the area.

The first pilot project will be monitored by NYC Audubon, to see if it will attract migrating visitors. Designed by the landscape architecture firm SCAPE Studio, the project will transform a 25-foot by 100-foot traffic island bordered by Justice Avenue, 56th Avenue, and 90th Street in Queens into a verdant space that can catch overflow and hold it until it is absorbed into the soil. To that end, SCAPE has created several concepts that incorporate swales (low tracts of land designed to capture runoff) and what are known as gabion weirs—step-like structures used to create reservoirs. General contracting firm HDR began drilling core samples on the project last fall, with plans to begin construction in late spring or early summer.

NYC Audubon is studying the density of invertebrates both before and after the project is completed. “We’re hoping that the vegetation

and soil in the swale will attract invertebrates, thereby becoming an avian stopover point,” says John Rowden, NYC Audubon’s outgoing associate director of citizen science and outreach. Rowden says that the pilot project will also be monitored for any breeding bird activity.

In addition to the \$187 million committed by the city and state, officials estimate that \$2.4 billion of public and private funds will be used over the next 18 or so years to create green infrastructure technologies that both prevent overflow headaches, and are potential habitat for birdlife.



News & Notes

NEW LEADERSHIP AT AUDUBON NEW YORK

NYC Audubon is pleased to welcome Erin Crotty as Audubon New York's next vice president and executive director. A recognized leader in environmental conservation, Erin brings tremendous experience to Audubon New York. During her tenure as commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, she led the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and oversaw the protection of more than 260,000 acres of Adirondack woodlands. While serving as director of special environmental projects for Governor Pataki, Erin led the negotiation of the historic NYC Watershed agreement. We look forward to working with Erin and welcome her to the Audubon family.

THE JEFFERSON MARKET GARDEN

Glenn Phillips met with staff of The Jefferson Market Garden this spring to advise on making the popular Greenwich Village greenspace friendlier to birds. As an addition to organic gardening techniques already in place, plans include bird feeders, new bird-attracting shrubs, and a visitor bird log to keep track of what species are attracted to this small urban habitat. You can learn more about Jefferson Market Garden at www.jeffersonmarketgarden.org.

NYC AUDUBON STAFF

NYC Audubon's associate director for citizen science and outreach, John Rowden, left us this past April to join National Audubon as their new research and grants manager. In John's four years with us, he has helped to build a robust citizen science program and shared his enthusiasm for bird and horseshoe crab conservation with hundreds of New Yorkers. We are sad to see him go but pleased that he will not go far.

ADDITIONAL STAFF CHANGES

As of May, Adriana Palmer became our new outreach and volunteer manager, in charge of trips and classes, outreach events, and volunteer recruitment and training events. Tod Winston will continue to oversee *The Urban Audubon*, *The eGret*, and our website as communications manager. David Manry joins our staff as research associate to coordinate Project Safe Flight and other conservation activities.

PARTNERSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Conservation is not possible without working partnerships. NYC Audubon collaborates with government agencies and other nonprofit and community organizations to reach broader audiences and achieve common conservation goals. Recent partnerships have included the following organizations:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Alley Pond Environmental Center | The Jewish Theological Seminary | NYC Wildflower Week |
| Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity, NYU Chapter | Kingsborough Community College | Ocean Conservancy |
| American Bird Conservancy | Lincoln Center | Pace University |
| American Birding Association | Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences | Prendergast Laurel Architects |
| American Littoral Society | Massachusetts Audubon Society | Prospect Park Audubon Center |
| American Museum of Natural History | Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance | Protectors of Pine Oak Woods |
| Arturo Schomburg Satellite Academy | Million Trees NYC | Queens Botanical Garden |
| Audubon New York | Municipal Art Society | Queens College, CUNY |
| Bayside Historical Society | National Audubon Society | Queens Community Board 11 |
| Bayside Marina | National Park Service, Gateway National Recreation Area | Queensborough Community College |
| Bloomberg Company | National September 11 Memorial and Museum | Randall's Island Park Alliance |
| Bronx High School of Science | New Jersey Audubon Society | Riverside Park Fund |
| Bronx River Alliance | New Jersey Meadowlands Commission | Rockaway Waterfront Alliance |
| Brooklyn Children's Museum | New York Aquarium | Rocking the Boat |
| Bryant Park Corporation | The New York Botanical Garden | SCAPE Studio |
| Canadian Wildlife Service | New York City Department of Environmental Protection | See Life Paulagics |
| CBS.com | New York City Department of Parks and Recreation | SocialPakt |
| Central Park Conservancy | New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Central Park Arsenal | St. Francis College |
| Central Synagogue | New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Natural Resources Group | St. Johns University |
| City College of New York | New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Urban Park Rangers | Staten Island Museum |
| Columbia University | New York City Mayor's Office | Students for Service |
| Community Cloud Forest Conservation | New York City Soil and Water District | Stuyvesant High School |
| Con Edison | New York Restoration Project | Toyota |
| Congregation Emmanuel-el | New York State Department of Environmental Conservation | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary | New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation | U.S. Geological Service |
| Cornell Cooperative Extension | New York University | U.S. Green Building Council of New York |
| Empire State College | New York Water Taxi | U.S.D.A. APHIS/Wildlife Services |
| Ennead Architects | NYC iSchool | University of Connecticut |
| Ethical Culture Fieldston School | | University of Delaware |
| Fire Department NY | | University of Maine |
| Fordham University | | Urban Biodiversity Week |
| FXFOWLE | | Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy |
| Greenbelt Conservancy | | Village Community School |
| Green-Wood Cemetery | | Wagner College |
| Harbor Estuary Program | | The Wallerstein Collaborative for Urban Environmental Education |
| Hawk Mountain Sanctuary | | Wave Hill |
| Hudson River Park Fund | | Wild Bird Fund |
| Hunter College | | The WildLab |
| Hunter College High School | | Wildlife Conservation Society |
| Jamaica Bay Institute | | Woodlawn Conservancy |

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.

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.

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2012-2013 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 and Patagonia.

VISIONS: EARTH'S ELEMENTS IN BIRD AND NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

By Kevin Karlson and Lloyd Spitalnik

Wednesday, May 8, 6pm

Join birding experts and photographers Kevin Karlson and Lloyd Spitalnik for a visual and musical program featuring a spectacular collection of bird and nature images from their recently published book, *Visions: Earth Elements in Bird and Nature Photography*. Reflecting the personal visions of eleven contributing photographers, the images are themed to the elements of the planet—earth, fire, air, and water—and include some of the finest action and behavioral photographs available. The unique theme and musical interludes in this program will take you on a riveting visual ride through the world of birds and nature.

CONSERVATION PROGRAM UPDATE AND ANNUAL MEETING

By Susan Elbin

[PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE TO TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 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.

The 2013-2014 Lecture Series will be announced in the fall issue of *The Urban Audubon*.