



# THE URBAN AUDUBON

NYC Audubon's Summer Island Home  
12th Annual Jamaica Bay Shorebird Festival  
On Becoming an Activist



## 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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## BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

*Kathryn Heintz*



As I write mid-spring with thoughts of summer, thousands upon thousands of enthusiastic and energized environmental supporters are turning out across the country for a second weekend in a row to support science, research-based inquiry, climate study, and conservation. These ground-swelling public events show why recent attacks on the Environmental Protection Agency and our national parks and monuments will not succeed. We who love nature and respect the earth are in the majority. We will not stand passively by.

When we went to press for our Spring issue, our appeal was to be vigilant, to stay informed, and to engage with our voices and support. We are doing all of this and more. We are marching and on the move. So what do we do next? What do we do to help birds? My answer is to keep up the pressure nationally and continue to act locally.

Our own backyard, New York City, challenges birds with its heralded and majestic structures—buildings, bus shelters, anything with deadly reflective or clear glass. The city that never sleeps endangers birds with the lure of artificial lights. The desire to develop and reclaim land threatens birds' precious remaining natural habitats—even those previously protected. What we must do locally is make the places under our control bird friendly. We must make our homes, windows, windowsills, roofs, balconies, and yards welcoming and safe. We can treat windows, turn lights out, and grow native plants. Those of us commanding larger dominions must influence workplaces and community spaces, as well as municipal, state, and federal legislation. We can and must carry out these things. From the simple to the complex, whatever our individual capacities, every act of every size matters.

Now we welcome summer. Join us at the Tern and Shorebird Festivals. Come out to our new seasonal visitor and education center at Governors Island—and come out often. Get outside and get birding!

### TAKE ACTION!

RECEIVE NYC AUDUBON

ACTION ALERT EMAILS

Stay current on pressing

environmental issues that require immediate action. Enroll to receive environmental action alerts from NYC Audubon by sending your email to [communications@nycaudubon.org](mailto:communications@nycaudubon.org).

## HELP US ON GOVERNORS ISLAND THIS SUMMER

We are seeking friendly and bird-knowledgeable volunteers to help out this summer during our inaugural residency on Governors Island. Volunteers are needed weekdays and weekends now through October 1 to greet and engage with visitors at our Nolan Park house as well as to lead bird walks. To apply, please email [volunteer@nycaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@nycaudubon.org).

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6

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7

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11

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12

## FEATURES

- 6 **NYC Audubon's Summer Island Home**  
by Suzanne Charlé
- 7 **"It's Your Tern" Festival at Governors Island**
- 8 **New York City Nightlife: Hanging with the City's Bats**  
by Ned Boyajian
- 8 **Remember the Birds**
- 9 **On Becoming an Activist: Sharing the Learning Curve**  
by Meryl Greenblatt
- 10 **Birding Cemeteries in the Five Boroughs: Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery**  
by Mary Jane Kaplan
- 11 **12th Annual Jamaica Bay Shorebird Festival**
- 17 **Kingsland Wildflowers**
- 20 **The Fall Roost**

## DEPARTMENTS

- |    |  |    |                               |
|----|--|----|-------------------------------|
| 4  | Conservation Notes                     | 16 | Book Reviews                  |
| 5  | Volunteer!                             | 18 | Acknowledgments               |
| 10 | Annual Meeting and Conservation Update | 19 | News & Notes                  |
| 12 | Events and Adventures                  | 19 | Support NYC Audubon's Mission |



# CONSERVATION NOTES

During most summer days (and some nights) you can find our conservation staff and volunteers out in the field. Spring migrants have come and gone, but summer is right in the middle of the breeding season, which means we are hard at work monitoring breeding populations of herons, egrets, shorebirds, gulls, terns, and more nesting throughout the City. Here are some updates from the field:

## PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

This spring, we partnered with Dr. Greg Dobler, data scientist from New York University's Center for Urban Science and Progress, to begin a study looking at the role light plays in building collisions throughout lower Manhattan. A recently installed high-tech camera perched at the top of One Bryant Park will be tracking light levels at various buildings, while our dedicated Project Safe Flight volunteers will be patrolling those buildings to track bird collisions. We are looking at 16 different buildings located from Battery Park to Midtown. If the waves of migration should pass further to the west, few to no birds would be flying over lower Manhattan, and collisions would be rare. To help us determine whether birds are present over lower Manhattan, Dr. Andrew Farnsworth, NYC Audubon advisory council member and scientist at Cornell University, will be adding a weather radar layer to the data set to tell us where exactly the birds are migrating. The data we collect from D-Bird is also a very important component. This work has been made possible by a generous grant from the Leon Levy Foundation.

During one day in late March, we had an overflow of reports—over 40 in total—of injured and dead American woodcocks that had collided with glass windows. While very sad, the data will help us understand more about where and how often this is occurring. *The New York Times* published a story, quoting Dr. Elbin, about this highly unfortunate occurrence. Read the story online by visiting [nyti.ms/2mbMH3l](http://nyti.ms/2mbMH3l).



*Herring Gull and Chicks Nesting on Javits Green Roof*

At the beginning of May, we once again took to the green roof of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center to monitor for birds, bats, and arthropods. Each year we find that more bird species are using the roof as habitat, such as eastern kingbird and white-throated sparrow. We will also be monitoring the roof's growing colony of nesting herring gulls. Last year we had 11 nests and 17 fledged chicks on the sedum roof. Through a grant from the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund, we began similar monitoring this spring on the new Kingsland Wildflowers green roof in Greenpoint. Dustin Partridge and Kaitlyn Parkins are once again leading the team, along with Dr. Alan Clark of Fordham University.

Some additional hot-off-the-press news: we were awarded a grant from the New York Community Trust to advance the science of green roofs as habitat by facilitating a working group of urban ecologists and resource managers. The working group meetings, designed to help us better understand the function of green roofs as habitat and make recommendations for the creation of more green roofs, have been hosted by the Javits Center.

## WATERBIRDS OF NEW YORK HARBOR

We are currently in the middle of our 33rd Annual Harbor Herons nesting survey, led by Tod Winston. For over three decades, we have been recording colony size and species composition in rookeries on our harbor islands (and some on the mainland). Last year's comprehensive survey of 20 locations throughout the City showed a continued decline of black-crowned night-heron, though they remain the most abundant wader nesting in the harbor. But, glossy ibis has increased by 45% since the last full survey in 2013. Go to [www.nycaudubon.org/issues-of-concern/harbor-herons](http://www.nycaudubon.org/issues-of-concern/harbor-herons) to find the complete 2016 report.

Citizen science volunteers are also out in force for our Harbor Heron foraging surveys, which help us learn more about where and when these birds are foraging. We are still tracking Edward, the great egret fitted with a backpack SMS transmitter in 2015 on Staten Island as part of a project in partnership with John Brzorad, the U.S. Forest Service, and New Jersey Audubon. Edward goes back and forth between New York City and South Carolina, but as of April 5, he's back in the Big Apple at Hoffman Island in New York Harbor. You can check Edward's latest movements on [www.movebank.org](http://www.movebank.org).



American oystercatchers are back, breeding on City beaches, and right about now chicks are beginning to hatch. For the sixth year, Field Biologist Emilio Tobón is monitoring oystercatcher nests in Breezy Point thanks to funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Manomet Center for Conservation Science. Each year, we band adults and chicks to track oystercatcher nest productivity, local movements, and annual migration patterns. Since 2012, NYC Audubon has banded over 60 birds in 3 different areas: Breezy Point and Arverne in New York City, and Nickerson Beach on Long Island. Through resightings, we have learned that our adult banded birds spend their winters in Florida, South Carolina, and Georgia, then come back to NYC to nest—with some pairs breeding in our area for at least four consecutive years.

Speaking of migration, last year we conducted a pilot study where we attached

five small radio tags, called NanoTags, to migrating semipalmated sandpipers to track their migration from Jamaica Bay as they pass by VHF radio towers throughout the eastern U.S. We are excited to be expanding this work in 2017. We hope to put out 20 more NanoTags on semipalmated sandpipers by the fall to learn more about how long they stay in Jamaica Bay, where they go from there, and if they return.

Several volunteers counted shorebirds during their spring migration and will start up again in fall (which for shorebirds is July) to contribute data to the International Shorebird Survey effort that helps experts track global and regional populations over time. The surveys also tell us a lot about shorebird abundance and diversity in New York City.

We held our third NYC Shorebird Blitz on May 21 to get a one-day snapshot of shorebird activity in the City, and are currently poring over the numbers. We look

forward to providing an update on Shorebird Blitz findings and future Shorebird Blitz dates in our fall Conservation Notes.

Horseshoe crabs are once again spawning on our shoreline. We are currently in our ninth year of surveying horseshoe crabs, whose eggs are an important food source for migratory shorebirds as they make their way to their breeding grounds, in conjunction with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Monitoring takes place at Plumb Beach, Dead Horse Bay, and Big Egg marsh. Last year we had a record number of citizen scientist volunteers (163) helping us count horseshoe crabs.

From a busy migration season, to monitoring green roofs, to surveying the City's waterways, it's been an active and productive time for our conservation staff and dedicated volunteers. Stay tuned for updates and results in the fall *Urban Audubon*.

## 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. If interested in any of the projects listed below, contact us at [volunteer@nycaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@nycaudubon.org).

### OFFICE PROJECTS

Help with mailings, filing, and general office work. Computer skills and birding knowledge are helpful, but not required.

### THE URBAN AUDUBON

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

### PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT Begins Friday, September 1

During spring and fall, migrant birds confront many hazards as they pass through New York City. Volunteers are needed to monitor buildings weekly for bird collisions, rescue injured birds, and record any casualties. Orientations will be held Monday, August 21, and Thursday, August 24, 6–7pm.

### 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 session will be held Thursday, August 31, 6–7pm, at the Wild Bird Fund.

### TRIBUTE IN LIGHT MONITORING Monday, September 11, begins at 8pm

#### With National September 11 Memorial & Museum

Each year a tireless group of volunteers monitors the Tribute in Light to ensure that migrating birds do not become entrapped in the light beams. A training session will be held Tuesday, September, 5, 6–7pm.

### INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP

Saturday, September 16, 10am–1pm

With American Littoral Society, National Park Service, and Sadhana

Join us at North Channel Bridge to take part in a multi-state effort to improve coastline habitat. The North Channel Bridge area, used by species like the American oystercatcher, is also a stone's throw away from the Harbor Heron Islands, and the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Help us clear the beach and raise awareness of the importance of coastal areas to birdlife. Please check [www.nycaudubon.org/volunteer-events](http://www.nycaudubon.org/volunteer-events) in the coming months for more details and registration.



# NYC AUDUBON'S SUMMER ISLAND HOME

This spring and summer NYC Audubon will have a seasonal education center on Governors Island, right in the heart of New York Harbor, where we will offer a wealth of projects and activities for visitors including free bird and nature walks.

Since opening the island to the public in 2006, The Trust for Governors Island has regularly increased its programming for arts, culture, food, and the environment. This year, said NYC Audubon Executive Director Kathryn Heintz, "The Trust started offering opportunities for nonprofit organizations to do a residency on the island." Competition for the "residency"—the right to occupy one of the island's handful of former captains' houses—was keen. And with reason: The outreach potential is enormous. "Last year, there were more than 600,000 visitors," Heintz said.

NYC Audubon was awarded Nolan Park house #17, once one of several homes for officers during the island's days as an Army base and later Coast Guard base before being closed in 1996. Heintz added, "It's a great location from which to provide walks and interpretive



*Nolan Park House #17, NYC Audubon's Summer Island Home*

information about our own work in the five boroughs and in the harbor, including Harbor Herons and Project Safe Flight." The cottage will also provide a reference library of nature-related books to read.

The residency will have limited hours in May and June; in July and August, the

house will be open seven days a week from 10:30am to 5:30pm, offering displays, books, and videos about NYC Audubon projects, as well as nature-inspired crafts and activities for children and loans of binoculars. The house will close with the end of the Governors Island public season on October 1. NYC Audubon staff members, guide Gabriel Willow, other guides, and volunteers will lead the free nature and bird walks throughout the 172-acre island. High school interns will serve as ambassadors, greeting visitors at the ferry and answering questions at the house.

NYC Audubon's Director of Conservation and Science Susan Elbin is particularly interested to see how birds take to the new areas Hammock Grove and The Hills, on the southern tip of the island, which have been planted with more than 50 species of trees and bushes native or adapted to the New York region. These bird-friendly landscapes were designed by the Dutch firm of West 8 and the New York City firm of Mathews Nielsen.

The avian stars on Governors Island are the common terns, colonizers of its decommissioned piers. In 2013, Elbin and NYC Audubon Research Associate Liz Craig counted 181 nests and banded 100 chicks. In June 2015, there were only 72 nesting pairs.

**We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of those who recognized the unique opportunity that a residency on Governors Island would offer to bird conservation and to NYC Audubon:**

**Anthony Argento**  
**Gina Argento**  
**Broadway Stages**  
**Marcia and Bruce Fowle**  
**Tatiana Kaletsch**  
**Fredric and Winnie Spar**  
**Mary and Michael Tannen**

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Nancy Ward  
Tod Winston



©NYC Audubon

*The Hills on the Southern Tip of Governors Island*

Just how many terns will be nesting this year remains to be seen, as Yankee Pier, a favored nesting site, collapsed during a recent storm. “We’ll see if they desert the area or move to the other two piers,” said Elbin. “We’re doing all we can to enhance the habitat for nesting.” Efforts include scattering grass cuttings and oyster shells from the New York Harbor Foundation’s Billion Oyster Project (another summer resident). To help visitors see the terns, NYC Audubon is configuring webcams, thanks to a grant from the Hudson River Improvement Fund.

Come mid-July, the island hosts NYC Audubon’s annual “It’s Your Tern” Festival. (See below for details.) Amid Governors Island’s jam-packed schedule of special events and festivals, hanging with NYC Audubon and visiting the terns is just one more reason to join the fun on the island this summer.

## “IT’S YOUR TERN” FESTIVAL SATURDAY, JULY 8, 10AM–4PM (Rain Date Sunday, July 9, Noon–4pm)

With Governors Island Alliance,  
National Park Service, New York Harbor School,  
Earth Matter NY

Come celebrate Governors Island’s treasures: common terns and oysters! Common terns, listed as a threatened species in New York State, have nested for several years on decommissioned piers on Governors Island’s waterfront. The colony has benefited recently from the introduction of oystershells as a nesting material. Free activities at this year’s festival will include bird walks and talks with Annie Barry, displays, and hands-on activities for the whole family. Get to the festival by taking a ferry to Governors Island. For more information and directions to the Tern Festival, visit [www.nycaudubon.org/tern-festival](http://www.nycaudubon.org/tern-festival). No limit. Free



©David Spitzer



# NEW YORK CITY NIGHTLIFE: HANGING WITH THE CITY'S BATS

Ned Boyajian

Long mysterious to New York City's residents—and researchers—the City's bats are gradually becoming better known. To improve knowledge of these nocturnal critters, researchers have set up detectors around the town to monitor and record the ultrasound squeaks bats emit for echolocation.

NYC Audubon has monitored bats at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center's green roof and the Tribute in Light memorial. Additionally, Fordham University and the Wildlife Conservation Society have been observing bat activity at the Queens Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo, Central Park Zoo, and four locations throughout the Bronx.

To identify bat species and activity, researchers use acoustic recording devices set up on building rooftops as well as handheld ultrasonic recording units. These recording devices are able to capture bat echolocation calls, which fall outside the range of human hearing. Using a software program, such as SonoBat, researchers are able to analyze the recordings to identify the different species present.

This increased attention is for good reason. Bats, whose 1,200 species make it the second largest order of mammals in the world (behind rodents), are divided into two groups: megabats and microbats. Each group serves important ecological functions. Megabats, which mainly eat fruit and are usually found in warmer climates, act as pollinators and seed dispersers for hundreds of plant species worldwide. Microbats, which primarily eat flying insects, serve as a natural pesticide, with a single bat able to eat thousands of insects in a given night.



*Eastern Red Bat*

Of the nine New York State species (all microbats), five have been detected in New York City: big brown bat, eastern red bat, hoary bat, silver-haired bat, and tri-colored bat, according to Debra Kriensky, NYC Audubon's conservation biologist. Only eastern red bat was identified for certain at the 2016 Tribute in Light. But all five of these species were found during the 2014 and 2015 monitoring seasons at the Javits Center.

"Eastern red bats dominated the Javits Center sample in both years, accounting for nearly 50 percent of the total passes recorded," notes Fordham University PhD candidate Kaitlyn Parkins, who led monitoring efforts there. Parkins goes on to note that eastern red and silver-haired bats are common during their fall migratory period, while big brown bats are more common during the summer.

Some bats roost in caves while others roost in trees. Eastern red, hoary, and silver-haired are among the latter group. "An interesting finding is that some tree bats seem to spend their winters here and come out on warm days. I've heard

reports of birders seeing eastern red bats out during the day in winter. It seems like winter activity is a normal behavior that we just don't know much about yet," commented Parkins.

Many other discoveries may await as Parkins and her colleagues continue to investigate the City's bats for NYC Audubon. You can observe these nocturnal critters yourself by joining NYC Audubon on a "Twilight Bat Walk in Central Park" this summer (see page 13 for walk details).

## REMEMBER THE BIRDS

There are many ways to play a significant and lasting role in supporting New York City Audubon's mission to protect wild birds and their habitat in the five boroughs of New York City:

- Include New York City Audubon in your will or irrevocable trust. Specify "New York City Audubon Society, 71 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010" as a beneficiary. You can change your bequest or designation at any time.

- Name "New York City Audubon" as a residual beneficiary, or co-beneficiary, in your retirement account, bank account, or insurance policy. It's very easy! Often it can be done online. Retirement plans include IRAs, 401(k) plans, profit-sharing plans, Keogh plans, and 403(b) plans.
- Have payments from your retirement account made directly to New York City Audubon. You must be 70 ½ or older. Payments made this way are not included in your gross income.

The tax benefits of these options can be very attractive, too. Be sure to speak with your financial advisor about any arrangements you make on behalf of New York City Audubon.

To learn more about ways to plan a gift to New York City Audubon, contact Director of Development Kellye Rosenheim at [krosenheim@nycaudubon.org](mailto:krosenheim@nycaudubon.org) or 646-502-9611.



# ON BECOMING AN ACTIVIST: SHARING THE LEARNING CURVE

Meryl Greenblatt



Conservation Biologist Debra Kriensky (Right) with Colleagues from Wildlife Conservation Society at NYC March for Science, April 22, 2017

I volunteered at January's Newsletter Committee meeting to write an article on activism. Furious with the new political order, I proclaimed: we've got to do something! Then I read and highlighted articles. Tweeted and retweeted. Pored through emails. Clicked link upon link. And watched as my inbox sagged under the onslaught of incoming missives. Sign this petition. Call my congressperson. Organize a bus to Washington. Information and directives piled up, along with a growing sense of dread as well as guilt at my inability to keep up.

My deadline kept me from shutting down. Immersing myself in the American Bird Conservancy (ABC), Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), League of Conservation Voters, National Audubon, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), The Nature Conservancy, and The Sierra Club, I saw how I could help. First, I shortened the learning curve for others (see "Lessons Learned" Nos. 1 and 2 below); then, I took my own advice ("Lessons Learned" Nos. 3 and 4). You can find a list of resources at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) that

may help in deciding how you want to engage. Having good reference material can help you map the forest. Then you can choose your tree.

## LESSONS LEARNED

1. Not everything you hear matters. Tune out the President's Twitter rants. Focus on what's coming out of Congress. The legislation is what matters.
2. There's a limit to what any one person can take in. Avoid information overload by focusing on one area. Choose your passion. Some examples:
  - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). According to EDF, EPA's funding at present is only 0.22% of the federal budget. The President has proposed large cuts to this agency, moving toward its termination.
  - Legislation on climate change, land management, migratory flyway safeguards, air and water quality, and pesticide use. These laws could affect birds and their habitat.

- Endangered Species Act. You can read it at [www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/ESAall.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/ESAall.pdf).

3. Contacting your representatives works, depending on your approach. The *New Yorker's* article "Call and Response" (March 6, 2017) suggests that personalized emails, personalized letters, and editorials in local newspapers are more effective than telephone calls. But calls work better during mass protests because they take up more staff time, interrupt business as usual, and garner media attention. Clicking "Take Action" links are fine, but you'll accomplish more by drafting your own email. National Audubon offers these tips:

- Keep your letter to one topic.
- Keep it short and to the point.
- Tell your lawmaker how the issue affects you personally.
- Let your lawmaker know you live and vote in their state or district.
- Ask for a reply.

4. When it comes to email lists, I've found EDF Action alerts to be the most informative, with timely updates and Take Action links. I favored those from ABC for bird-specific issues.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

As President Jeff Kimball stated in *The Urban Audubon* spring issue, NYC Audubon is not a lobbying body. But we're talking about what we can do as a chapter, and we invite you to join the conversation. If you have an idea, or want to help us develop a plan, write to [communications@nycaudubon.org](mailto:communications@nycaudubon.org) with the subject line "NYC Audubon Takes Action." And if you haven't already, please send us your email address. We'll add you to our Armchair Activist Action Alerts list. Finally, please continue to donate. You'll be contributing to on-the-ground conservation efforts that generate data to support the legislative work being done by others.

# BIRDING CEMETERIES IN THE FIVE BOROUGHS: BROOKLYN'S GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY

Mary Jane Kaplan

© Laura Meyers



*American Kestrel Spotted at  
Green-Wood Cemetery*

© David Berkowitz



*Monk Parakeets Nesting at  
Green-Wood Cemetery*

To end our series about cemetery birding in the five boroughs, we headed to Brooklyn. Green-Wood Cemetery, unlike some of the other sites we've previously described—Trinity Uptown (Manhattan), Evergreens (Queens/Brooklyn), or Moravian (Staten Island)—needs no introduction for many of the City's birders. In fact, it is one of only four Brooklyn "hotspots" described on the NYC Audubon website. And even non-birders may be familiar with its most well-known wildlife species: the monk parakeets that for decades have lived year-round in nests on the cemetery's Gothic Revival entrance gate.

With its 478 acres of hilly topography hosting 7,000 trees, 4 spring-fed lakes, and an abundance of stunning monuments (many with famous names), Green-Wood has long been a treasured oasis for New Yorkers. But for bird lovers, the wide variety of birds seen in all seasons is a special attraction. Over 220 species are listed on [ebird.org](http://ebird.org), the same number as on the cemetery's printed checklist; and thanks to the lakes, more than 30 of those are waterfowl, wading birds, and shorebirds.

As if to prove the suitability of Green-Wood's habitat for birds, research indicates that it was in Green-Wood that house sparrows were first introduced to North America, in the 1850s. Marge Raymond, a

tour guide at Green-Wood, notes that the purpose was to get rid of crop-eating pests, and not (as legend would have it) to ensure representation in New York of all the birds named in Shakespeare's works.

Founded in 1838, Green-Wood, like nearby Evergreens Cemetery, predates Central and Prospect Parks and is another example of early cemeteries being the only open green space available to New Yorkers before the development of urban parks. Green-Wood's site, like Evergreens', figured prominently in the 1776 Battle of Brooklyn, which eventually forced George Washington to retreat in order to fight another day. Green-Wood's 200-foot high Battle Hill, the highest point in Brooklyn, was named for that famous confrontation.

In addition to trolley tours, Green-Wood offers bird walks, after-hours nocturnal critter tours, and many special events; see [www.green-wood.com](http://www.green-wood.com) for the full schedule. For more information about Green-Wood's trees and birds, as well as suggested birding itineraries, go to [www.nycaudubon.org/brooklyn-birding/green-wood-cemetery](http://www.nycaudubon.org/brooklyn-birding/green-wood-cemetery). Or sign up for the NYC Audubon walk with Gabriel Willow on June 25, "The Parakeets of Green-Wood Cemetery." See page 13 for trip details.

## ANNUAL MEETING AND CONSERVATION UPDATE

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

### ANNUAL MEETING AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM UPDATE

By Susan Elbin, PhD, and  
Conservation Staff

Tuesday, June 6, 6pm

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

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



# 12TH ANNUAL JAMAICA BAY SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL

© Don Riepe



## AT JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE, SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 8:30am–5pm

During the past 40 years, over 40 species of shorebirds (including rare and accidental vagrants) have been recorded at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge's East and West Ponds from mid-July through October, with the greatest diversity and abundance usually occurring in August. We invite you to attend our 12th annual celebration at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, August 26. Activities include guided shorebird walks, family programming, and talks from experts on shorebird conservation, shorebird identification, and Jamaica Bay.

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 718-474-0896, or Don Riepe at [donriepe@gmail.com](mailto:donriepe@gmail.com). The program is free, but suggested donations of \$20 for adults (children are free) to NYC Audubon are most welcome to offset the festival cost.

The Shorebird Festival is a NYC Audubon partnership program with the American Littoral Society and Gateway National Recreation Area.

- 8:30am** Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center for registration and continental breakfast (coffee, donuts, juice, etc.)
- 9am** Hike to the West Pond to view shorebirds during the incoming tide (Kevin Karlson, Lloyd Spitalnik, Sean Sime, Tom Burke, et al.)
- 10:30am** Welcome from the National Park Service (Gateway Superintendent Jennifer Nersesian)
- 10:45am\*** Family activity with a National Park Service Ranger
- 10:45am** Overview of Jamaica Bay conservation issues and wildlife (Jamaica Bay Guardian Don Riepe)
- 11:15am** NYC Audubon shorebird research (Conservation Biologist Debra Kriensky, Director of Conservation and Science Dr. Susan Elbin)
- 11:45am** Lunch (bring lunch or drive to deli located in nearby Broad Channel)
- 12:30pm** Hikes to East and West Ponds at high tide or other sites to be selected (all leaders)
- 2pm\*** Family activity with a National Park Service Ranger
- 3pm** Shorebird photography (Lloyd Spitalnik)
- 3:30pm** Birding by Impression (Kevin and Dale Karlson)
- 4:30–5pm** Discussion and wrap-up

\*Family activities are intended for children and will run concurrently with principal festival events.



# EVENTS AND ADVENTURES

- NYC Audubon Events
- Partnership Events

## ● VAN CORTLANDT BIRD WALKS, THE BRONX

Saturdays, May 6–July 29, 8–9:30am  
Guides: NYC Audubon, Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy  
With Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy

Meet at Van Cortlandt Nature Center. The history of birding and Van Cortlandt Park are inseparable. Influential birders such as Roger Tory Peterson and Allan D. Cruickshank got their starts on Van Cortlandt's ecologically diverse grounds. These walks celebrate the tradition set forth by these great ornithologists. Participants will look for various species of resident and migrant birds and discuss a wide range of avian topics. For more information, call 212-691-7483. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

## ● THE BREEDING BIRDS OF DOODLETOWN ROAD, ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY

Thursday, June 1, 8am–4pm  
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

**THIS TRIP IS SOLD OUT**

## ● FRESHKILLS DISCOVERY DAY, STATEN ISLAND

Sunday, June 4, 11am–4pm  
Guides: NYC Audubon, NYC Parks  
With NYC Parks

At 2,200 acres, Freshkills Park is almost three times the size of Central Park and the largest park to be developed in New York City in over 100 years. It also has a significant history as the site of the former Fresh Kills Landfill. The landfill has been covered with layers of soil and infrastructure, and the site has become a place for wildlife, recreation, science, education, and art. Trails and paths normally off-limits to the public will be open on this day and offer views of the park's hills, creeks, and wildlife.



*Saltmarsh Sparrow*

Activities include guided bird walks, hiking, running, bikeriding, kayaking, free shuttle buses into the park and to the top of a hill offering panoramic views of New York, and educational tours and displays. Visit [www.freshkillspark.org](http://www.freshkillspark.org) for more information. No limit. Free.

## ● BIRDING GEMS OF STATEN ISLAND: CLOVE LAKES PARK

Saturday, June 10, 8am–12pm  
Guide: Gabriel Willow

Meet at the Manhattan terminal of the Staten Island Ferry and journey to the "forgotten borough" to discover some of the beautiful forests and incredible birding spots of Clove Lakes Park. Look for ducks and seabirds in New York Harbor on our way across on the ferry ride and then catch a bus to the park. Numerous warblers, vireos, tanagers, and other migratory songbirds can be seen here, as well as nesting eastern screech owls and great blue herons. We'll even see one of the largest and oldest trees in NYC. Limited to 15. Bus fare (\$2.75 each way; bring your MetroCard or exact change) not included in registration price. \$43 (30)

## ● SUMMER BIRDING AT WAVE HILL, THE BRONX

Sundays, June 11, July 9, August 13, and September 10, 9:30–11:30am  
Guide: Gabriel Willow  
With Wave Hill

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

## ● EXPLORE THE MEADOWLANDS BY PONTOON BOAT, SECAUCUS, NJ

Saturday, June 17, 7:30am–12:30pm  
Guides: Tod Winston and NJ Meadowlands Docent  
With NJ Meadowlands Commission  
**THIS TRIP IS SOLD OUT**

## ● BREEDING BIRDS OF THE HUDSON HIGHLANDS, NY

Saturdays, June 17 and July 8, 8am–5pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Join Gabriel Willow on a day-long trip to some of the most exciting and beautiful birding locations in the Hudson Valley—Doodletown Road, Constitution Marsh, and Indian Brook Farm. We'll look for uncommon breeding warbler specialties at Doodletown, such as cerulean, hooded, blue-winged, golden-winged, and worm-eating warblers. We will then head to the Constitution Marsh Audubon Sanctuary, home to breeding wood duck, bald eagle, least bittern, marsh wren, and more. After a picnic lunch, we will drive to Indian Brook Farm in search of breeding field and savannah sparrows, bobolinks, and indigo buntings. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$129 (90) per trip

## ● THE SUMMERING BIRDS OF INWOOD HILL PARK, MANHATTAN

Saturday, June 17, 8:30–11am  
Guide: Annie Barry

Meet at the entrance to Inwood Hill Park at the corner of Isham Street and Seaman Avenue. Join Annie Barry for a hike through a mature forest in search of Baltimore and orchard orioles, eastern towhees, wood thrushes, warbling vireos, and other summer residents. We will then move to the shores of the Inwood Hill Park saltmarshes to search for herons and ducks. Some hilly walking required. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

## ● PROSPECT PARK BIRD WALK

Sundays, June 18, July 16, and August 20, 8–11am  
Guide: Gabriel Willow

Meet under the arch in Grand Army Plaza. Join Gabriel Willow for a leisurely walk to see later-



spring migrants and breeding bird residents of “Brooklyn’s Backyard,” beautiful Prospect Park. Although summer birding in the City can be a bit slow, Prospect Park has a wide variety of habitats that attract a large number of migrants and breeding bird species. We will explore the park’s meadows, forests, and waterways in search of waterfowl, warblers, tanagers, and more. Limited to 15. \$36 (25) per walk

● **THE PARAKEETS OF GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY, BROOKLYN**  
**Sunday, June 25, 10am–1pm**

**Guide: Gabriel Willow**  
**With Green-Wood Cemetery**  
 Meet at the cemetery entrance at 5th Avenue and 25th Street, Park Slope, Brooklyn. Explore Green-Wood Cemetery, rich in both history and wildlife, 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. \$46 (32)

● **BREEDING BIRDS OF NICKERSON BEACH AND MARINE NATURE STUDY AREA, LI**

**Saturday, July 8, 6:30am–1pm**  
**Guide: Tod Winston**  
 Join Tod Winston in exploring two popular birding spots that are a little hard to get to for car-less New Yorkers. Departing early to beat the heat, we’ll first seek out breeding common and least terns, American oystercatchers, piping plovers, and black skimmers at Nickerson Beach. Then we’ll walk the boardwalks of the nearby Marine Nature Study Area in search of nesting saltmarsh and seaside sparrows, as well as osprey, herons, egrets, and shorebirds. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$94 (66)

● **BIRDING GEMS OF STATEN ISLAND: FRESHKILLS PARK**

**Sunday, July 9, 8am–3pm**  
**Guide: Cliff Hagen**  
**With NYC Department of Parks and Recreation**  
 Meet at the Manhattan terminal of the Staten Island Ferry for a special opportunity to see Freshkills Park, currently in transition from what was once the world’s largest landfill into an expansive park. Currently closed to the general public, the park is

home to rolling grasslands, tidal marshes, successional woodlands, and a freshwater pond system, which host an array of breeding birds, butterflies, mammals, frogs, and turtles. Grasshopper sparrows, osprey, yellow warblers, and blue grosbeaks nest alongside wrens, blackbirds, orioles, and shorebirds. Wading birds feed on the mudflats at low tide while hawks and vultures soar above. On calm, sunny days, one can expect to find nearly two dozen species of butterflies here. Transport by passenger van on S.I. included. Limited to 12. \$64 (45)

● **CITY OF WATER DAY ECOCRUISE**

**Saturday, July 15**  
**Guide: Gabriel Willow**  
**With The Waterfront Alliance**  
 Boat launches TBA. As part of City of Water Day, a celebration of the waterways and harbors of New York City, join naturalist Gabriel Willow for a free guided ecocruise to Hoffman and Swinburne Islands exploring the natural history of the area. Find more info about City of Water Day and register for the free boat tour to Hoffman and Swinburne Islands at <http://waterfrontalliance.org/what-we-do/city-of-water-day>. Registration required. Limited to 150. Free

● **TWILIGHT BAT WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK**

**Tuesdays, July 18–August 22, 7:45–9:15pm (no walk on August 15)**  
**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 echolocation device. Other nocturnal creatures like crickets and katydids may be seen as well. Bring bug spray

and a flashlight. All children must be accompanied by an adult; recommended for ages 5 and up. Limited to 15. \$26 (18)

● **CROTON POINT PARK, NY**  
**Sunday, July 23, 8:20am–3pm**

**Guide: Gabriel Willow**  
 Meet at Grand Central and travel in comfort aboard Metro-North to visit Croton Point Park, overlooking the Hudson River about one hour north of the City. This 500-acre park is a wonderful mix of forest, wetlands, and grasslands that are home to hard-to-find breeding birds such as indigo buntings, grasshopper sparrows, bobolinks, and eastern meadowlarks. Great horned owls, willow flycatchers, and orchard orioles breed in nearby woodlands. Bring lunch for a picnic in one of the riverside pavilions. Limited to 20. Round-trip Metro-North fare (\$20.50) not included in trip price. \$50 (35)

● **“IT’S YOUR TERN” FESTIVAL ON GOVERNORS ISLAND**

**Saturday, July 8, 10am–4pm**  
**(Rain Date Sunday, July 9, Noon–4pm)**  
**With Governors Island Alliance, National Park Service, New York Harbor School, Earth Matter NY**  
**See page 7 for details**

● **SHOREBIRD IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP**

**Thursday, August 10, 6:30–8:30pm (class)**  
**Saturday, August 12, 10:30am–2:30pm (trip)**  
**Instructor: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC**  
 Shorebirds are one of the most challenging groups of birds to identify, yet beautiful and fascinating once they can be distinguished. Learn to identify plovers and sandpipers (including “peeps”) by learning behavior, field marks, and calls—then take a field trip to Jamaica Bay to practice your new skills. Limited to 12. \$65 (45)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



*Golden-crowned Kinglet*

©Lloyd Spitznik

# EVENTS AND ADVENTURES (CONTINUED)

© Lloyd Spornink



*Piping Plover*

## ● SHOREBIRD WALK IN JAMAICA BAY, QUEENS

**Saturday, August 19, 9am–1:30pm**  
**Guide: Gabriel Willow**

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. We'll search the mudflats and ponds for breeding herons and egrets, Forster's and common terns, clapper rails, and American oystercatchers, as well as migratory

plovers and sandpipers that already will be headed south. Limited to 15. \$40 (28)

## ● 12TH ANNUAL JAMAICA BAY SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL

**Saturday, August 26, 8:30am–5pm**  
**With Gateway NRA and American Littoral Society**  
**See page 11 for details**

## ● MORNING FALL MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK

**Wednesday Series:**

**September 6–October 25**

**Thursday Series:**

**September 7–October 26**

**(All Walks 7:30–10:30am)**

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

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street. Birders of all levels

## OVERNIGHT TRIPS

### ● MONTAUK SPRING WEEKEND

**Friday, June 2–Sunday, June 4**  
**Guides: Mike Bottini, Mickey Cohen, Don Riepe**

**With American Littoral Society**

Join us for our 20th year at the luxurious Montauk Manor and enjoy indoor/outdoor heated pools, Jacuzzi, and spacious suites. Registration price includes five meals, five guided field trips, two evening slide programs, an evening star watch, and free pickup at the LIRR station in Montauk. Contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or [donriep@gmail.com](mailto:donriep@gmail.com) for more information and to register. \$395 (\$140 single supplement)

● BASHAKILL, SHAWANGUNK NWR, AND DOODLETOWN, NY  
**Saturday, June 10, 8am–Sunday, June 11, 6pm**

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

**THIS TRIP IS SOLD OUT**

● BASHAKILL, NEVERSINK, AND STERLING FOREST, NY  
**Saturday, June 17, 8am–Sunday, June 18, 6pm**

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

**THIS TRIP IS SOLD OUT**

### ● BOREAL BIRDING IN THE ADIRONDACKS, NY

**Friday, June 30, 8am–Monday, July 3, 8pm**

**Guides: Gabriel Willow, Joan Collins**

NYC Audubon returns to the Adirondacks, NY State's wildest region. The incredible diversity of habitat within Adirondack Park's six million acres leads to an astounding variety of plant and bird species, including several specialties of mountain spruce and fir forest as well as gray jays and boreal chickadees. Accompanied by local Adirondack resident, guide, and president of the NYS Ornithological Association Joan Collins, we'll stay in the town of Saranac Lake, spend our days exploring the mountains and valleys in the region, and dine at restaurants in Saranac Lake and nearby Lake Placid. Transport by passenger van included. \$720 (\$220 single supplement)

● CAPE ANN WHALE WATCH, MA  
**Thursday, August 10–Sunday, August 13**

**Guide: Don Riepe**  
**With American Littoral Society**

Visit scenic Gloucester, Massachusetts and enjoy a whale watching boat tour, an evening cruise on the Essex River, easy canoeing on the Ipswich River, a guided hike

along a scenic shoreline, and a lobster dinner. Contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or [donriep@gmail.com](mailto:donriep@gmail.com) for more information and to register. \$425 (\$150 single supplement)

### ● CAPE MAY FALL MIGRATION, NJ

**Saturday, September 23, 9am–Sunday, September 24, 7pm**  
**Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC**

Cape May, NJ, 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, Jake's Landing, Cape May Meadows, and Nummy Island. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 10. \$350 (\$50 single supplement)

### ● CAPE MAY FALL MIGRATION, NJ

**Saturday, September 30, 9am–Sunday, October 1, 7pm**  
**Guide: Gabriel Willow**

Cape May, NJ, is the East's capital of birding, and is particularly bird-rich in the fall. On good fall migration days, the area's forests and marshes are swarming with warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other songbirds, and

of course, the hawk watch is legendary as well. We'll visit Cape May Point, Higbee Beach, Cape May Meadows, and more in search of songbirds, raptors, wading birds, ducks, and terns. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 10. \$350 (\$50 single supplement)

### ● CHINCOTEAGUE REFUGE/ ASSATEAGUE ISLAND: BIRDS AND PONIES, VA

**Thursday, November 9, 9am–Sunday, November 12, 6pm**  
**Guide: Don Riepe**

**With American Littoral Society**

A great natural history weekend on the Virginia coast. See wild ponies, snow geese, bald eagles, migrating hawks, waterfowl, shorebirds, and lots more. Includes three nights lodging at the luxurious Refuge Inn (heated pool, Jacuzzi, sauna, exercise room, and observation deck), breakfast, a Safari bus tour of back dunes area, guided hikes, evening programs, and an "all-you-can eat" oyster & seafood dinner. Contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or [donriep@gmail.com](mailto:donriep@gmail.com) for information and to register. \$395 (\$150 single room supplement)



can enjoy this fun and educational series of eight walks, observing the diverse and ever-changing waves of migrants that stop over Central Park during fall migration. Limited to 15. \$180 (126) per series

● **FALL WARBLERS**

**Friday, September 8, 6:30–8:30pm (class)**

**Sunday, September 10, 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 12. \$65 (45)

● **EVENING FALL MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK**

**Monday Series:**

**September 11–October 16**

**Tuesday Series:**

**September 12–October 17**

**Wednesday Series:**

**September 13–October 18**

**(All Walks 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. Limited to 15. \$146 (102) per series

● **INTRO TO BIRDING: BIRD WALK IN CENTRAL PARK**

**Saturday, September 16, 8–10:30am**

**Guide: Tod Winston**

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street. Are you curious about “birding” but don’t have much (or any) experience? Come on a relaxed walk through Strawberry Fields and the Ramble to go over birding basics and see warblers, tanagers, sparrows, waterbirds, and more. Binoculars available. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

©Francis Potnam



*Cooper's Hawk*

● **HOOK MOUNTAIN HAWK WATCH, NY**

**Sunday, September 17, 9am–4pm**

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

Part of the Palisades Interstate Park system, Hook Mountain has commanding views of all nearby mountains 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 binoculars, water, and a bag lunch to enjoy atop the mountain while watching the hawks fly overhead. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$99 (69)

● **FALL MIGRANTS OF WOODLAWN CEMETERY, THE BRONX**

**Sunday, September 17, 8–10:30am**

**Guides: Tod Winston, Joseph McManus, Susan Olsen With 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 help us look for fall migrants and year-

round residents on the expansive, wooded cemetery grounds, while the Woodlawn Conservancy's Susan Olsen shares fascinating stories about Woodlawn's history and the interesting mixture of individuals interred there. Bring water. Limited to 15. \$35 (24)

● **JAMAICA BAY SUNSET ECOLOGY CRUISE**

**Saturdays, September 16 and 23,**

**4–7pm**

**Guides: Don Riepe, Mickey Cohen With American Littoral Society and Gateway NRA**

Meet at Pier 4 in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. Enjoy a three-hour narrated cruise aboard the “Golden Sunshine.” See migrating hawks, herons, ibis, and many other species and learn about the history, ecology, and wildlife of this great urban preserve. Wine, cheese, fruit, and snacks included. To register, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or [donriepe@gmail.com](mailto:donriepe@gmail.com). Limited to 140. \$55 (children under 16, \$25) per cruise

● **BIRDING GEMS OF STATEN ISLAND: CLOVE LAKES PARK**

**Saturday, September 23, 9am–1pm**

**Guide: Gabriel Willow**

Meet at the Manhattan terminal of the Staten Island Ferry and journey to the “Forgotten Borough” to discover some of the beautiful forests and incredible birding spots at Clove Lakes Park. Look for ducks and seabirds in New York Harbor on our way across on the ferry ride and then catch a bus to the park. Numerous warblers, vireos, tanagers, and other migratory songbirds can be seen here. We'll even see one of the largest and oldest trees in NYC. Limited to 15. Bus fare (\$2.75 each way; bring your MetroCard or exact change) not included in registration price. \$43 (30)

● **SNOW GEESE AND TUNDRA SWANS OF BRIGANTINE, NJ**

**Sunday, October 29, 9:30am–7pm**

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

Brigantine, part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, is one of the East Coast's premier sites for waterbirds, offering a diversity of species and panoramic views. Bring lunch and water. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$125 (87)

**EARLY MEMBER REGISTRATION FOR UPCOMING EVENTS**

More fall and early winter events will be posted at [www.nyc Audubon.org](http://www.nyc Audubon.org) and available for registration for contributing NYC Audubon members starting on Monday, August 7. (Registration will open to all on Monday, August 21)

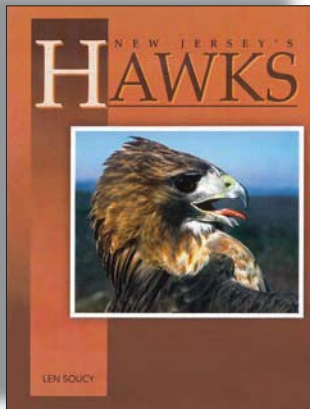
**TO REGISTER FOR ALL NYC AUDUBON EVENTS and for more information, visit [www.nyc Audubon.org](http://www.nyc Audubon.org) or call Danielle Sherman at 212-691-7483 x304 unless otherwise specified.**

**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 (on discounted events, the discounted price appears in parentheses after the nonmember price). See membership form on page 19.**
- **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.**

## *New Jersey's Hawks*

By Len Soucy  
Ace/Twill, 2016



Planning a birding trip in New Jersey? If the answer is “yes,” be sure to familiarize yourself with the hawk species that can be seen in the Garden State. If the answer is “no,” this book may make you reconsider. Lovingly curated by the late Len Soucy, founder and president of the Raptor Trust, *New Jersey's Hawks* is a thorough reference guide not only to the 16 hawk species found in New Jersey, but for all species found throughout the eastern United States. These include some that one might expect, such as the red-tailed hawk, but surprises as well, like the golden eagle.

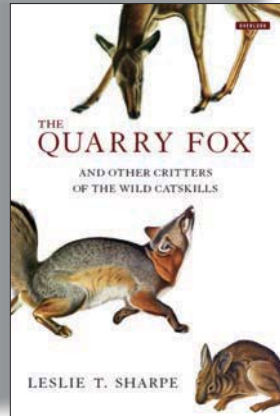
While the book's content is geared primarily for novice birders, the level of detail on biology, taxonomy, behavior, and habitat can be of interest for more experienced nature enthusiasts. The book provides an overview on taxonomy practices and describes traits shared by all diurnal raptors. For each species, Soucy presents a two-page spread with a description of the raptor's features, range, habitat, nesting habits, diet, voice, and details of known occurrences in New Jersey (including future survival prospects and threats).

The chapter dedicated to New Jersey hawk-watching lists Soucy's top nine recommended locations, based on species reported, site accessibility, and best time of year

to visit. Number one on his list, Cape May Point State Park, is reported to have annual fall counts of 35,000-40,000 raptors. When mapping the route to visit one or more of these sites, consider adding a stop to tour the Raptor Trust in Millington, NJ. Founded in 1982, it is one of the premier wild bird rehabilitation centers in the U.S. and is home to about 50 non-releasable permanent raptor residents. Over the years, it has provided care for more than 100,000 injured or sick birds. The nonprofit center is open seven days a week and serves as an active education center for the public. Admission is free, with a suggested donation of \$2.—HO

## *The Quarry Fox: And Other Critters of the Wild Catskills*

By Leslie T. Sharpe  
The Overlook Press, 2017



Spending time with naturalists can enrich the way one views the world. Take, for example, just a naturalist's close examination of a small bluestone rock that contextually evokes a vision of upstate New York covered by a warm, shallow sea some 350 million years ago: “Even today, it is possible to see this ancient sea and the racing rivers that nurtured it at work in the ripple marks left on bluestone slabs, and in some places in the Catskills.”

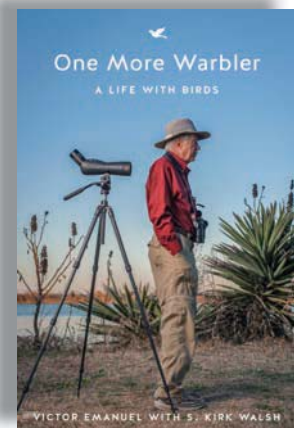
In *The Quarry Fox*, naturalist Leslie Sharp invites readers to conjure the Great Western Catskills through her eyes and to hear

her thoughts running through the region's biology, geology, human history, and more. A former vice president of NYC Audubon, Sharp embraces the beauty of this land and its wildlife. Her enthusiasm infuses her holistic observations: “The changing light—the ever-shortening days—is the signal for the summer birds to begin their migrations south . . . The nectar-loving ruby-throated hummingbird, which is also an insectivore, is the first to heed the warning of the light's diminishment . . . Seeing them at feeders so close to the house, I get to know them as individuals—their quirky and passionate personalities.”

Sharp similarly summons dozens of wild critters familiar to the Catskills region, offering insights into how nature shapes them and, in turn, how they shape their world. —NB

## *One More Warbler: A Life with Birds*

By Victor Emanuel & S. Kirk Walsh  
University of Texas Press, 2017



*One More Warbler: A Life with Birds* offers a highly personal story recounting Victor Emanuel's lifelong interest and dedication to birds and birding. Traveling to every continent, including Antarctica, the renowned bird guide has tallied over 6,000 bird species.

Emanuel explains how the sight of a male cardinal as a child of eight in his native Texas

*Ned Boyajian, Claude Bloch*

first drew him to birds. By the time he was 15, he was invited to Mexico by experienced birding friends for his first experience in tropical birding. He describes his excitement on the day he was told to join a well-known local birder to look for a very rare shorebird on Galveston Island, Texas. That group remains the last to have seen the eskimo curlew in the U.S. Emanuel also details his numerous journeys to the El Triunfo World Biosphere Preserve in Mexico. His many encounters with tropical birds, penguins, and birds of prey are vividly enumerated.

Woven into his journey, Emanuel describes his get-togethers with a host of top-notch birders, well-known ornithologists, writers, artists, and political leaders, among them Roger Tory Peterson, George Plimpton, and Laura Bush. Many were instrumental in his formative years and later; others participated with him in exploring new regions with a specific focus on avifauna.

In a particularly moving section, Emanuel shares how his longtime friend, the late writer and environmental activist Peter Mathiessen, had hoped for one more visit to Texas to see warblers. Unfortunately, Mathiessen was unable to fly while undergoing chemotherapy. Emanuel instead flew to New York and the two went birding in the Ramble in Central Park. “We saw warbler after warbler,” he writes, tallying 18 species that day. The last, which Mathiessen spotted, was “one of the most beautiful warblers, a male Cape May.”

Also evident is Emanuel’s devotion to training young people by including them in local and distant field trips, and by starting summer camps to develop the next generation of birders. I highly recommend this book to learn more about the fascinating life of this avid and legendary birder, who continues to seek new adventures and inspire others to bird by leading birding tours to this day. —CB

## KINGSLAND WILDFLOWERS

© Mitch Waxman



### AN ORAL HISTORY OF NEWTOWN CREEK AND INDUSTRIAL NORTH BROOKLYN

**Presentation by Mitch Waxman  
Followed by Green Roof Tour  
Saturday, June 3, 5–7pm  
520 Kingsland Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11222**

**J**oin Newtown Creek Alliance historian Mitch Waxman for a special slide-show presentation exploring one of the key epicenters of the Industrial Revolution: Newtown Creek. A photographer and blogger, Mitch has been documenting the area’s rich history and the environmental issues that plague the largely unknown 3.8-mile-long waterway, found at the center of New York City and recently placed on the Environmental Protection Agency’s Federal Superfund site list. The presentation will photographically carry viewers from the Newtown Creek’s junction with the East River all the way back to the heart of darkness found at its end in East Williamsburg. A tour of the Kingsland Wildflowers green roof will follow the presentation, offering views of this historical site.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information on Kingsland Wildflowers and upcoming programming, visit [www.kingslandwildflowers.com](http://www.kingslandwildflowers.com)



*Funding provided by the Office of the New York State Attorney General and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund*



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## PARTNERSHIPS

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:

Alive Structures  
American Bird Conservancy  
American Birding Association  
American Littoral Society  
American Museum of Natural History  
Audubon New York  
The Battery Conservancy  
Broadway Stages  
Bronx River Alliance  
Brooklyn Bird Club  
Bryant Park Corporation  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Central Park Conservancy  
Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve  
Columbia University  
Columbia University Environmental Biology Society  
Con Edison  
Conserve Wildlife  
Constitution Marsh - Audubon Center and Sanctuary  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Cornell University  
The Corner Bookstore  
The Dalton School  
Earth Matter NY  
Ennead Architects  
The Event Office  
Evergreens Cemetery  
Film Presence  
Fordham University  
Freshkills Park Alliance  
Friends University  
FXFOWLE  
Governors Island Alliance  
Great South Bay Audubon Society  
Greenbelt Conservancy  
Greenbelt Native Plant Center  
Green-Wood Cemetery  
Grounded Truth  
Harbor Estuary Program  
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary  
The Horticultural Society of New York  
Hunter College  
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society  
Jacob K. Javits Convention Center  
Jamaica Bay Birders' Coalition  
Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers  
Jamaica Bay Institute  
JM Kaplan Fund  
Kingsborough Community College  
Larksong Media  
Lenoir-Rhyne University  
Linnaean Society  
LongHouse Reserve  
Macaulay Honors College  
Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences  
Massachusetts Audubon Society  
McGolrick Park Neighborhood Alliance  
Michael Ahern Production Services Inc  
Million Trees NYC  
Moynihan Station Development Corporation  
National Audubon Society  
National Park Service  
Gateway National Recreation Area  
National September 11 Memorial and Museum  
The Nature Conservancy  
Natural Areas Conservancy  
New Jersey Audubon Society  
New Jersey Meadowlands Commission  
The New School  
The New York Botanical Garden  
New York City Department of Environmental Protection  
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation  
Arts & Antiquities  
Central Park Arsenal  
Natural Resources Group  
Urban Parks Rangers  
New York City Economic Development Corporation  
New York City Soil & Water Conservation District  
New York Harbor School  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
New York State Ornithological Association  
New York University Center for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP)  
New York University Wallerstein Collaborative for Urban Environmental Education  
New York Water Taxi  
Newtown Creek Alliance  
The North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of Staten Island  
NYC H2O  
Ocean Conservancy  
Open Space Alliance for North Brooklyn  
The Ornithological Council

Pace University  
Palisades Interstate Park Commission  
Patagonia  
Port Authority of NY and NJ  
Prendergast Laurel Architects  
Prospect Park Audubon Center  
Protectors of Pine Oak Woods  
Queens Botanical Garden  
Queens College, CUNY  
Queens County Bird Club  
Randall's Island Park Alliance  
The Raptor Trust  
Rockaway Waterfront Alliance  
Rocking the Boat  
Sadhana  
SCAPE Studio  
Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay  
South Shore Audubon Society  
St. Bernard's School  
Staten Island Museum  
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
Toyota TogetherGreen  
The Trust for Governors Island  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Geological Service  
U.S. Green Building Council of New York  
U.S.D.A. APHIS/Wildlife Services  
Unitarian Church of All Souls  
Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy  
Wagner College  
The Waterbird Society  
Waterfront Alliance  
Wave Hill  
Wild Bird Fund  
Wildlife Conservation Society  
Woodlawn Conservancy  
YMCA of Greater New York

## NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON THANKS THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS, AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES FOR THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

Achelis Foundation  
AmazonSmile Foundation  
American Bird Conservancy  
Bank of America  
Bloomberg Philanthropies  
Broadway Stages  
Carle Place Union Free School District  
The Chervenak-Nunnalle Foundation  
Commercial Roofing Solutions  
Con Edison  
The Dobson Foundation  
The Eppley Foundation for Research  
FedEx  
First Cornerstone Foundation  
FXFOWLE  
Genting New York LLC  
Great Performances  
Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund  
Hallingby Family Foundation  
Hollywood Theatre  
Hudson River Foundation  
Investors Bank Foundation  
Jacob Burns Film Center  
Jacob K. Javits Convention Center  
Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy  
Kekst  
Kimball Foundation  
Leon Levy Foundation  
Lily Auchincloss Foundation  
Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences  
The Marta Heflin Foundation  
Moore Charitable Foundation  
National Audubon Society  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
National Park Service  
The Nature Conservancy  
New York Community Trust  
NYC Soil & Water Conservation District  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Office of the New York State Attorney General  
Patagonia  
Queens County Bird Club  
Queens World Film Initiative  
Robert and Joyce Menschel Family Foundation  
Rockaway Beach Boulevard Construction  
Roland Food  
Romemu  
Sperone Westwater Gallery  
Tannen Family Foundation  
The Walt Disney Company Foundation  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
William C. Bullitt Foundation  
The Williams Companies  
Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater  
Wildlife Conservation Society

## NEWS & NOTES

### JAMAICA BAY WEST POND'S LOOP PATH TO BE RE-OPENED THIS MAY

We are happy again to report on continued restorations efforts to return Jamaica Bay's West Pond, originally breached during Hurricane Sandy, to its original state as a freshwater source. With construction completed this winter to fill the pond's breach and fortify it, National Park Service began construction to re-install the loop path around the pond this spring. The trail is expected to be open to the public by the end of May.

### SUMMER ECOCRUISES ON HIATUS THIS SUMMER

Our scheduled Summer Ecocruises to the Harbor Heron Islands regrettably had to be cancelled as of press time. These trips are taking a hiatus as we seek a new cruise partner.

### MANY THANKS FOR THE COMMUNICATIONS HELP

We wish to thank Sarah McGullam for her volunteer service working on *The Urban Audubon*. As a member of our Publications Committee, Sarah copy edited, proofread, and fact-checked our newsletter using her eagle eyes and astounding expertise in all matters involving style and language. We wish her the best as she relocates to Western Massachusetts.

We also thank Susan McFeatters for her contributions helping with our communications efforts this past fall and spring. Susan joined us as an intern through Patagonia's Employee Internship Program, choosing to volunteer with our organization because of her interest in our horseshoe crab monitoring work in Jamaica Bay. During her time here, Susan was indispensable in helping with many of our communications efforts, including editing this issue of *The Urban Audubon*. Her good-natured and enthusiastic spirit will be missed.

## SUPPORT NYC AUDUBON'S MISSION

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

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

**GIVE MONTHLY** Provide ongoing monthly support to ensure our birds are protected throughout the year. You can make a huge difference for as little as \$5 per month. See the membership form below or donate online at [www.nycaudubon.org/donate](http://www.nycaudubon.org/donate).

### BECOME A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN

**KESTREL CIRCLE** Soar above the rest by making a donation of \$2,500 or more. American Kestrel Circle patrons enjoy special access and exclusive tours. See the membership form below or donate online at [www.nycaudubon.org/donate](http://www.nycaudubon.org/donate). Contact us to learn more.

**GIVE A MATCHING GIFT** Supporters can double or triple the value of donations through their employers' matching gift programs. Contact your company's human resources department to learn how. Be sure to specify New York City Audubon as the designee.

**LEAVE A LEGACY** When you designate New York City Audubon as a beneficiary in your will, IRA, life insurance policy, or investment/bank account, your gift will support the conservation of the birds you love for many years to come. Visit [www.nycaudubon.org/leave-a-legacy](http://www.nycaudubon.org/leave-a-legacy) or contact us to learn more. For more information on a bequest, see the REMEMBER THE BIRDS box on page 8.

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

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: H: \_\_\_\_\_ C: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check payable to NYC Audubon

Charge my credit card:     VISA     MC     AMEX     DSC

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with your payment to:

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## SAVE THE DATE



# THE FALL ROOST

BENEFITING NYC AUDUBON—PROTECTING WILD BIRDS AND THEIR HABITAT IN NEW YORK CITY FOR 38 YEARS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017  
THE EDISON BALLROOM

Honoring Broadway Stages, Gina Argento, and Tony Argento  
and Volunteer of the Year MaryJane Boland

For more information, please contact Kellye Rosenheim  
at 646-502-9611 or [krosenheim@nycaudubon.org](mailto:krosenheim@nycaudubon.org)