

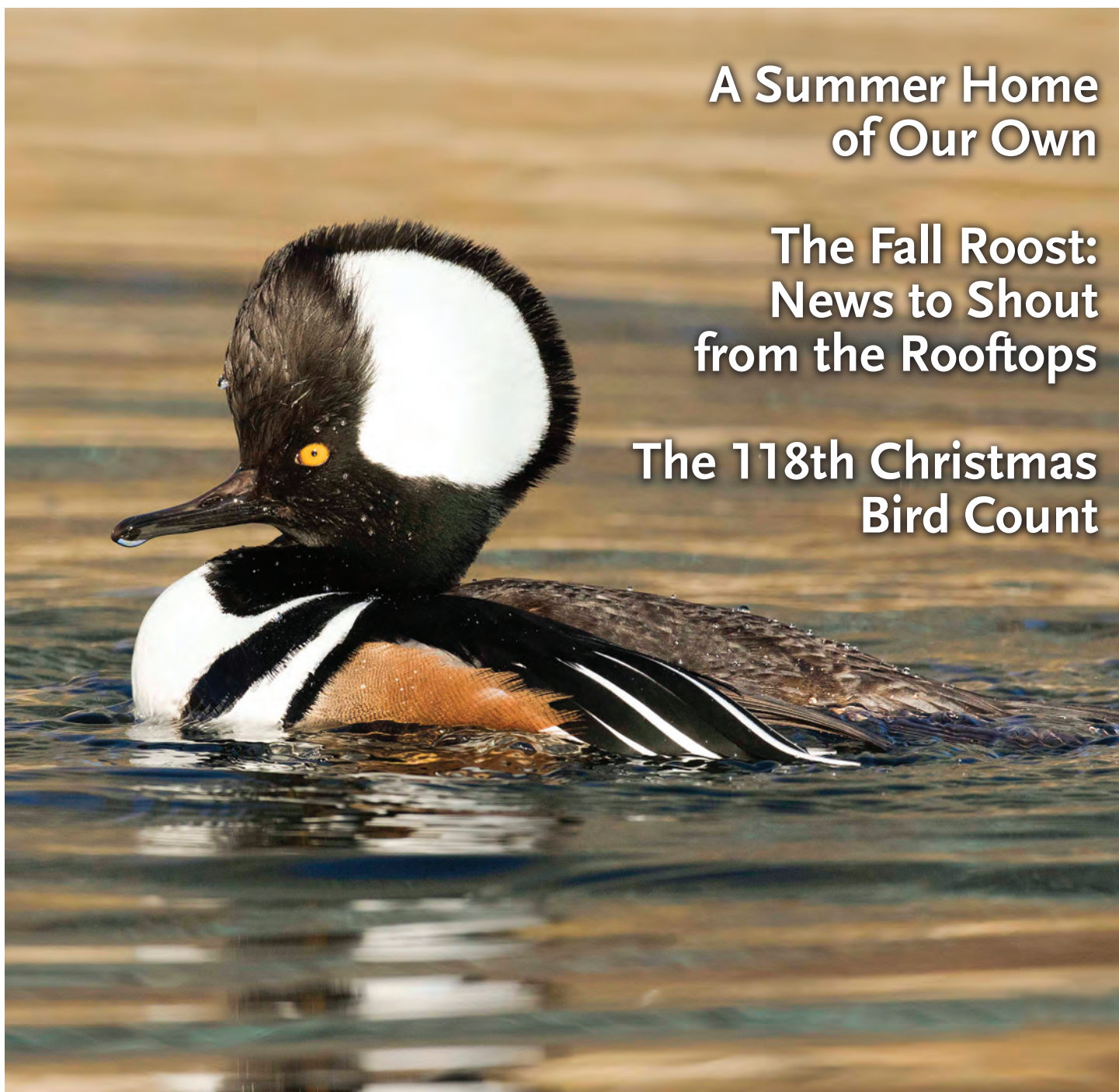


THE URBAN AUDUBON

**A Summer Home
of Our Own**

**The Fall Roost:
News to Shout
from the Rooftops**

**The 118th Christmas
Bird Count**



NYC AUDUBON

MISSION & STATEMENT

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

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

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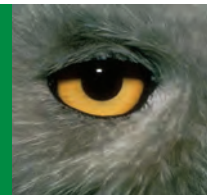
Kathryn Heintz

DIRECTOR OF CONSERVATION AND SCIENCE

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BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Kathryn Heintz



It's working: our efforts to restore and enhance habitats for migrating and nesting birds across New York City is succeeding—and yet no good deed goes unpunished. This success is colliding with the seemingly endless new “glassy” construction in our evolving cityscape that poses an immense threat to our migratory birds.

From the green roof at the Jacob K. Javits Center, one can't help but be overwhelmed by the view of recently constructed buildings in the Hudson Yards. New towers are enclosing the Battery Parking Garage where we monitor the Tribute in Light. In Greenpoint, Brooklyn, from the Kingsland Wildflowers rooftop, shiny skyscrapers are emerging all around. No neighborhood is exempt from the rising walls of glass. Unfortunately, hundreds of thousands of migratory birds are killed each year by colliding with building windows in New York City. We must continue to sound the alarm.

NYC Audubon's Project Safe Flight has never felt more urgent. We are stepping up our collision monitoring and artificial light studies, and we are expanding our crowd-sourced, citizen-science reporting and mapping database, D-Bird. We are not doing this work alone. Many partners converge to protect birds from unfriendly human infrastructure. Among the colleagues we count on for conservation partnership are the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Wild Bird Fund, American Bird Conservancy, the National Audubon Society, and fellow independent urban Audubon chapters around the country.

We count on your partnership too. Help NYC Audubon research, understand, and combat building-related bird mortality. Be alert as you travel about the city and take time to record dead and injured birds. It's easy and takes only a minute. On your mobile device go to www.d-bird.org, set your location via your phone's GPS, and report what you've found. You can even upload a picture to help us identify the species of the bird and its condition.

You can also help by making a year-end financial gift to NYC Audubon. Please consider contributing as generously as your means will allow. This year you can make an additional gift for D-Bird research. See page 19 and the enclosed envelope for more information. The birds that bring us together really need your support. Every gift of every size matters. That we are all giving something matters most. Thank you.

SEEKING SUGGESTIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NYC Audubon is seeking suggestions for new members of the board of directors for three-year terms beginning in June 2018. To make our board more representative of our city's diversity, we are especially interested in candidates who are racially/ethnically diverse, Bronx residents, women, and/or with NYC government policy and advocacy expertise. Please submit your suggestions to Alexander Ewing, chair of the nominating committee, at nominations@nycaudubon.org.

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New York City Audubon is preparing for the 118th Christmas Bird Count. We have just concluded the fall conservation season, focusing on making New York City safer for migratory birds via our Project Safe Flight and Waterbirds of New York Harbor projects. Here are some highlights from the last half of the 2017 field season.

PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

NYC Audubon continues to monitor sites in the City for dead or injured birds that have collided with buildings clad in reflective or transparent glass. NYC Audubon Conservation Biologist Kaitlyn Parkins trained eight new volunteers for this year's monitoring of routes in midtown and lower Manhattan. We designed this season's monitoring routes to align with our New York University partnership project that studies the effects of artificial light on night-migrating birds. We are still analyzing the data, but at first glance it appears that the Lower West Side route, including One World Trade and 200 West Street, has proven to be the deadliest for birds.

Also relating to our studies on artificial light, NYC Audubon staff and volunteers once again monitored the annual Tribute in Light from dusk to dawn for the numbers of birds caught in the Tribute's powerful light beams. We had 37 volunteers engaged in monitoring this year including NYC Audubon Advisory Council Member Andrew Farnsworth and colleagues from Cornell University. There was heavy migratory activity early in the evening, forcing us to shut the lights off three times before 1 am. We thank our partners Michael Ahern Production Services and The National September 11 Memorial & Museum for ensuring the Tribute was once again safe for birds.

This year's Tribute in Light coincided with the publication of a study born out of our many years of work monitoring the annual light display. The study, published this September in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, analyzes seven years of



Studying the Tribute in Light, 2017

data collected at the Tribute to reveal how high-intensity artificial light impacts bird behavior. The paper, of which I am a co-author along with Benjamin Van Doren, Kyle Horton, Adriaan Dokter, Holger Klinck, and Andrew Farnsworth, will be reviewed in the upcoming spring 2018 *Urban Audubon*.

Our biodiversity surveys on green roofs continues to grow. In addition to monitoring wildlife on the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center green roof and Kingsland Wildflowers, our team is spearheading the effort to create and sustain a network of biologists conducting research on other green roofs across New York City. With funding from the New York Community Trust, we have been able to employ Fordham University PhD Candidate Dustin Partridge as the coordinator of this project.

WATERBIRDS OF NEW YORK HARBOR

In the fall 2017 issue of *The Urban Audubon*, we reported that on Governors Island 33 pairs of common terns had nested this summer in the restored habitat on Lima Pier and that we were able to band six adults and 49 chicks. The chicks fledged, and we are hopeful that some become part of the regional population. Volunteers working with Helen Hays of American Museum of Natural History reported seeing two of our banded terns on Great Gull Island in Long Island Sound on August 14.

Over the past six years, NYC Audubon has studied the American oystercatcher under the leadership of NYC Audubon Field Biologist Emilio Tobón. In cooperation with the National Park Service at Gateway National Recreation Area, New York City Department of Parks & Recreation staff at Arverne, and the Town of Hempstead at Nickerson Beach, we were able to band 40 oystercatchers this year. We found 33 nesting pairs at Gateway, and know from our banding work that many adults return to breed on the same beaches every year. An interesting data point: a young American oystercatcher banded on June 12 at Arverne was seen near Jacksonville, FL, on September 12—one day after Hurricane Irma hit the coast.

As part of our second fall NYC Shorebird Blitz on August 27, 2017, volunteers counted more than 6,000 birds at 38 survey locations throughout the five boroughs. Semipalmated sandpiper, ruddy turnstone, and dunlin were the most abundant species. The highest concentration of birds was at Breezy Point on the Rockaway Peninsula, Queens.

This year was NYC Audubon's ninth season monitoring horseshoe crabs, whose eggs are an important component in the diet of many migratory shorebirds. We had a record 206 volunteers at our four sites, with groups from Patagonia, Metropolitan Society of Natural Historians, Atlas Obscura, and the Trinity School. We counted 4,327 horseshoe crabs and tagged 800 individuals.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

We hope many of you will join us for the 118th annual Christmas Bird Count. Learn how you can participate in counts taking place across the City's five boroughs on page 14. If you are traveling from December 14 to January 1, be sure to check in with the local bird clubs: there is sure to be a count happening nearby. Participating in a count is not only a rewarding experience, it is also one of the best ways to help scientists study impacts of climate change on birds.

Good birding! And please remember to look for bands.

VOLUNTEER!



Make a difference for New York City's wildlife by volunteering with NYC Audubon. Unless otherwise noted, contact citizenscience@nycaudubon.org if interested in any of the projects listed here. For up-to-date information on early spring volunteer events such as beach clean-ups, please visit www.nycaudubon.org/volunteer-events.

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

If you're interested in contributing

to NYC Audubon's conservation and science work, there are a variety of projects to choose from. **Project Safe Flight** volunteers monitor buildings in the City to help us learn what effect they have on migratory birds; data collected support our work to make migration through the City safer. **Jamaica Bay program** volunteers monitor migratory shorebirds and horseshoe crabs so that we may better understand how populations of these species are changing and how we can work

to conserve them. **Harbor Herons Great Egret Foraging Study** volunteers collect data on foraging long-legged waders around New York Harbor to help us better understand how these birds use our wetlands. Volunteer orientation dates for these projects will be published in the spring issue of *The Urban Audubon*.

BIRD TRANSPORTERS

We often receive calls from concerned individuals who have found injured birds but

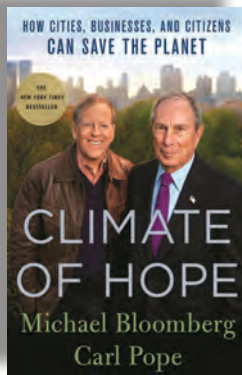
are unable to transport them to a rehabilitator. We need caring volunteers to transport these birds to licensed wildlife rehabilitators in the area.

THE URBAN AUDUBON

Join the newsletter committee and contribute your writing or editing skills to four seasonal issues. Meetings are bi-monthly in the early evening. Email volunteer@nycaudubon.org if interested.

BOOK REVIEW

Suzanne Charlé



CLIMATE OF HOPE: HOW CITIES, BUSINESSES, AND CITIZENS CAN SAVE THE PLANET

By Michael Bloomberg and Carl Pope

St. Martin's Press, 2017

They make an unlikely pair: Michael Bloomberg, the billionaire entrepreneur and former mayor of New York City, and Carl Pope, the former executive director and chair of the Sierra Club. But since they met in 2011, they've combined their ideas and resources to make progress in addressing climate change.

In *Climate of Hope*, the duo offers a primer on how municipal governments, private businesses, and individuals can collectively win the battle against climate change. Global warming, according to the authors, will not be stopped "by slowing down economies but by speeding them up" and by "empowering cities, businesses, and citizens."

Bloomberg first met Pope after an aide told New York City's then-mayor about the Sierra Club's "Beyond Coal" campaign. Coal pollution was prematurely killing 13,200 Americans a year; the financial toll in annual health costs exceeded \$100 billion. Bloomberg pushed for a strategic plan, then offered a grant of \$50 million. Soon after, a deal was brokered to close two outdated coal plants. Six years later, thanks in large measure to Beyond Coal, coal capacity in the U.S. has been cut by half and greenhouse gases have been significantly diminished. Premature deaths have dropped, while the number of jobs in renewable energy sectors has increased exponentially.

Bloomberg, co-chair of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (over 7,000 local and regional authorities

throughout the world have signed on), says that although "stronger leadership from Washington would be greatly welcomed," mayors, business leaders, and citizens will have "the last word on the fate of the Paris Agreement."

There are dozens of avenues to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change: restoring wetlands and fortifying local defenses against natural disasters; combating heat through programs like Bette Midler's "MillionTreesNYC" program that planted one million trees throughout New York City; encouraging renewable power sources and cutting fossil fuel subsidies—the list goes on. Each of us has a part to play, such as using public transportation, installing a green roof, and considering our food choices.

Most important, as the authors underscore, we must "change the tenor and tone of the climate discussion—away from partisanship and toward problem solving . . . and away from Congress and toward communities." Bloomberg and Pope's book is an optimistic and practical look at how to meet the enormous challenge of stopping climate change.

THE FALL ROOST: NEWS TO SHOUT FROM THE ROOFTOPS

Green roofs “are the next new habitats for New York City,” said NYC Audubon Executive Director Kathryn Heintz in her words of praise for this year’s Fall Roost honorees, Gina Argento and Tony Argento of Broadway Stages. Longtime community boosters and environmentalists, this sister-brother team transformed the roof atop their film studios in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, into a 22,000-square-foot green habitat featuring native plants. With funding from the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund, and working in partnership with a coalition including NYC Audubon and landscapers Alive Structures, the Argentos converted the rooftop—now known as Kingsland Wildflowers—into a green space that is a habitat for birds, bees, and other wildlife. The space also serves the Greenpoint neighborhood as a center for environmental education and outreach events through the spring, summer, and fall seasons. All this, in the midst of a heavily industrial area!

The evening’s second honoree was MaryJane Boland, the organization’s 2017 Volunteer of the Year, whose work on behalf of injured birds has touched the hearts of all who know her. Her dedication to bird rescue has become a calling. Friends and colleagues know that if there’s an injured bird that she can save, MaryJane can be counted on to drop everything she is doing to rescue the bird in trouble and take it to the Wild Bird Fund for rehabilitation. “The most rewarding thing is to pick up one of those little creatures and know that you might possibly save its life,” says MaryJane.

In the beautiful Edison Ballroom, adorned with native plant arrangements by Alive Structures Founder Marni Marjorelle, the atmosphere was more like a gathering of friends than a fund-raising event. But funds were raised, generously and enthusiastically. Particularly remarkable was the closing “crowd raise,” during which hands flew up throughout the room to pledge donations for scaling up

6 www.nycaudubon.org





NYC Audubon's D-Bird initiative. Launched in 2014, D-Bird.org is an online database and data collection tool that enables anyone with a smartphone to report the location of birds found injured or killed by collisions with buildings. This innovative tool has allowed NYC Audubon to identify collision hotspots within the City that they had only anecdotal reports about or were previously unaware of, like Morningside Heights in Manhattan. Over \$20,000 was raised to reprogram D-bird, allowing this essential conservation tool to be easily shared with other cities across the country.

Three enlightening short films shown at the Roost are available for viewing on NYC Audubon's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/nyc Audubon. Two of the films are moving tributes to the honorees, while the other documents what makes NYC Audubon the special organization it is. Thanks to Fall Roost Co-Chair Karen Benfield for producing these not-to-be-missed videos with Lark Song Media. And thank you to Co-Chairs Marcia T. Fowle, Catherine Heller, and Jenny Maritz for working so hard to make the Roost another fantastic evening benefiting the birds of New York City.

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7. Annie Barry and Rita McMahon
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9. Honoree Maryjane Boland and Dr. Susan Elbin
10. Betty Hamilton, Bruce and Marcia T. Fowle
11. Karen Benfield
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14. Kathryn Heintz and Don Riepe Announcing the Raffle Winners
15. Tom Stephenson, Jeffrey Kimball, and Scott Stephens

All Fall Roost Photos: David Rodgers

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Our Benefit Chairs for Their
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A SUMMER HOME OF OUR OWN

Carol Peace Robins

Unlike most summer houses, which are far afield from the year-round home, NYC Audubon's home couldn't have been more conveniently located—a seven-minute ferry ride from the southern tip of Manhattan.

The house where NYC Audubon summured this year on Governors Island was also historic, having been built in 1879 as officer housing when the island served as an Army base. And as vacation houses do, it welcomed plenty of guests this summer, at least 3,800 in all from New York City to countries including Holland, Australia, China, and Kenya.

There were locals, too, like the kids from the island's summer camps. On a day I visited, NYC Audubon Executive Director Kathryn Heintz was on the porch showing young campers how to use binoculars. Suddenly, a cardinal made a grand entrance: red bird, on red bench, right in front of the house. The fledgling birders were enthralled—and a few naturalists were born.

As I entered the house, I saw walls papered with bird drawings by budding young artists. One remarkable likeness of a scarlet tanager was created by a six-year-old. When his parents suggested exploring more of the island, he replied that they could go; he'd rather stick around with NYC Audubon staff and volunteers to draw more birds.

The house's front windows sported washable drawings of birds. This activity was great for two reasons: children loved drawing



NYC Audubon's House on Governors Island, Nolan Park House #17

on the glass, plus they learned how marking transparent, reflective windows with opaque images can keep birds from colliding with them.

Then there were the beautiful art displays and installations. Marna Chester and Artist-in-residence Autumn Kioti designed creative bird-themed works displayed through most of the summer. Sabine Meyer, National Audubon's photography director, curated an immersive show based on the summer issue of *Audubon Magazine* with works from artists Tristan Spinski and Andrew Garn, as well as an exhibit featuring stunning photographs of the 2016 Audubon Photography Awards winners. Jeff Mertz created a two-panel video installation featuring awe-inspiring nature and bird footage captured from areas around New York City. Artist Linda LaBella came one day to show kids and adults alike



Gabriel Willow Leads a Bird Walk, One of the Over 50 Offered to Island Visitors this Season

how to make their very own bird nests.

What about actual bird species? Guide Gabriel Willow and Governors Island volunteer Annie Barry were delighted to lead many walks for birders of all levels. One fall day, Gabriel's group included John, a remarkable nine-year-old whose parents had brought him and friends for his birthday celebration. Not only did John sometimes beat Gabriel in spotting the migrating warblers, but he had each bird's specifics at his fingertips with an app on his iPad Mini.

New York State eBird Hotspot Moderator Ben Cacace shares Gabriel and Annie's delight with Governors Island. When he first visited in 2015, the eBird island list was 155 species. By this September there were 24 more—including 11 species that Ben himself discovered and added. The place has its unique aspects, too, he says, "like the unassuming puddles in a fenced-in maintenance area where shorebirds are regularly seen, including the American oystercatcher and a wide variety of sandpipers."

And birding on the island is only going to get better now that Governors Island has extended its season to include all of May and October, key migration months.

Hope to see you out on the island next year!



Kids Had Fun Drawing Birds and Placing Them on the House's "Bird Wall of Fame."

EVENTS AND ADVENTURES

- NYC Audubon Events
 - Partnership Events
- Overnight Trips

• WATERFRONT BIRD WALK AT THE BATTERY, SOUTHERN TIP OF MANHATTAN

Tuesdays, December 5, December 12, January 9, and January 16, 8-9am

Guide: Gabriel Willow

With The Battery Conservancy

Meet at the Netherlands Memorial Flag Pole located at the entrance to the park on the corner of Broadway, Battery Place, and State Street.

Join Gabriel Willow to explore the diverse wintering birds that find food and habitat on lower Manhattan's waterfront, such as ducks, geese, loons, grebes, and gulls. Seals may also be seen. Free; RSVP preferred. Visit tbcvents.eventbrite.com for more info.

• MEMBERS-ONLY DECEMBER WALK IN CENTRAL PARK WITH TOD WINSTON

Wednesday, December 6, 8-10:30am

THIS WALK IS FULL

• WINTER BIRDS AT JAMAICA BAY

Saturday, December 9, 10am-1pm

Guide: Don Riepe

With American Littoral Society and Gateway National Recreation Area

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center for a slide program on winter birds and wildlife followed by a walk around the ponds and gardens. Learn about bird migration, survival, and adaptation to cold temperatures and look for owls, raptors, finches, and waterfowl. For info and reservations, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriep@gmail.com. No limit. Free

• WINTER BIRDING ALONG THE HUDSON: WAVE HILL, THE BRONX

Sundays, December 10, January 14, and February 11

9:30-11:30am

Guide: Gabriel Willow

With Wave Hill

Meet at the Perkins Visitor Center. The Hudson River valley hosts an impressive diversity of bird species, even during the winter months.

Come explore the beautiful gardens and woodlands of Wave Hill and observe the hardy birds that spend the winter in this urban oasis. Walks run rain or shine. Ages 10 and up welcome with an adult. No limit.

See www.wavehill.org for admission rates. NYC Audubon members enjoy two-for-one admission

• WINTER WATERFOWL ID WORKSHOP

Thursday, December 14, 6-7:30pm (class) and Sunday, December 17, 10am-1pm (trip)

Guide: Gabriel Willow

If it walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it's probably a duck . . . but is it a dabbling duck or a diving duck? Or could it be a grebe? This class will help you distinguish the differences among ducks, geese, loons, grebes, and more. Following our class, we'll put our newfound skills to work as we seek out the diverse mix of dabbling ducks, bay ducks, sea ducks, grebes, loons, and cormorants to be found in Central Park's Reservoir. Limited to 12. \$65 (45)

• CENTRAL PARK WINTER WALKS

Fridays, December 15, January 12, February 9, and March 16, 9-11am

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Some of the best sightings await hardy nature-lovers willing to venture out in winter. Several species of owls are found in Central Park in the colder months, along with "winter finches" such as pine siskins, redpolls, and crossbills. Observing the adaptations for cold-weather survival among blue

jays, titmice, and other resident species is fascinating as well. Warm up after the walk with a hot chocolate by the fireplace at the Loeb Boathouse. Limited to 15. \$36 (25) per walk

• GOVERNORS ISLAND WINTER WALKS

Fridays, December 15, January 12, February 9, and March 16, 1-3:30pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Enjoy a quick ferry ride before arriving at this up-and-coming birding destination. Governors Island is typically closed to the public at this time of year, so this is a chance to search for winter residents while enjoying some peace and quiet a stone's throw away from lower Manhattan. Limited to 15. \$36 (25) per walk

• WINTER WALK IN VAN CORTLANDT PARK, THE BRONX

Saturday, December 16, 9-10:30am

Guide: Nadir Souirgi

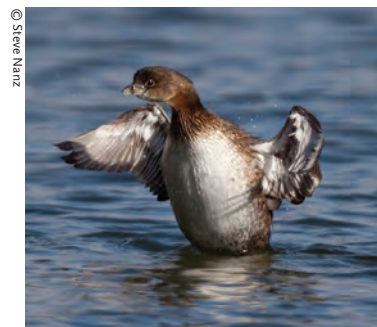
Enjoy this ecologically diverse park with extensive woodlands and the Bronx's largest freshwater lake. Look for rarities such as wintering owls, land birds like snow buntings and Lapland longspurs, or even spot the odd migratory goose species like cackling goose, barnacle goose, or greater white-fronted goose. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

• THE FRESHWATER PONDS OF LONG ISLAND'S SOUTH SHORE

Saturday, December 16, 9am-4pm

Guide: Tod Winston

Visit up to seven South Shore freshwater ponds that provide refuge to a surprising variety of wintering waterfowl—and great viewing opportunities to birders. Possible sightings include hooded mergansers, green-winged teal, ring-necked ducks, northern pintails, and redheads. We'll also make a short stop or two by the bay to look for loons, grebes, and sea ducks. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$94 (66)



Pied-billed Grebe

• CENTRAL PARK RESERVOIR: GULLS AND WATERFOWL 101

Tuesday, December 19, 4:30-6pm and Wednesday, February 21, 5:30-7pm

Guide: Jacob Drucker

Manhattan birders know that the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Reservoir can be a great place to enjoy an abundance of waterfowl, particularly during the winter months. Gull numbers also peak on the Reservoir in the winter, but these difficult to identify birds are often far away, and overshadowed by colorful and charismatic ducks. This workshop will leave you better prepared to find your own black-headed gull in Central Park or beyond, and pick out the loons and grebes from the opposite side of the Reservoir. Limited to 15. \$36 (25) per walk

• NEW YEAR'S DAY BEACH WALK, FORT TILDEN, QUEENS

Monday, January 1, 11am-2pm

Guide: Don Riepe, Mickey Cohen
With American Littoral Society and Gateway National Recreation Area

Welcome in the New Year with a brisk hike along the beach, dunes, and woods of Fort Tilden to look for loons, scoters, and long-tailed ducks. Visit the hawk-watch platform for views of New York Harbor and the Atlantic Ocean. Enjoy champagne, coffee, and cookies afterward at the Rockaway Artists Alliance. For more information, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriep@gmail.com. No reservations necessary. No limit. Free



• **WINTER BIRDING ON THE SOUTH SHORE OF LONG ISLAND**

Saturday, January 6, 9am-6pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow

Winter in New York brings the excitement of possibility: Will snowy owls appear in the dunes? Will harlequin ducks move westward from Cape Cod and Montauk and appear in closer waters? Will irruptive northern finches and bohemian waxwings move south from Canada? All of these species and more are possible on Long Island in the winter, along with more expected species such as

loons, grebes, scaup, eider, northern harriers, and purple sandpiper. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$95 (67)

• **JAMAICA BAY WINTER BIRD WALK**

Saturday, January 6, 9:30-11am
Guide: Corey Finger

Though winter birding can be uncertain, there are always birds around at Jamaica Bay. A walk around the West Pond in winter should provide sightings of a variety of diving and dabbling ducks, gulls, flocks of geese, and some hardy songbirds. We'll be bundled up in

layers of clothing while the birds will be getting by with just their feathers. Marvel at the wonders of winter survival on this Jamaica Bay winter walk. Limited to 15. \$40 (28)

• **INTRO TO BIRDING: BIRD WALK IN CENTRAL PARK**
Saturday, January 6, and Sunday, March 4, 8-10:30am

Guide: Tod Winston
 Are you curious about "birding" but don't have much (or any) experience? Come on a relaxed winter walk to some of Central Park's hotspots to go over birding basics and see sparrows, finches, ducks, and more. Binoculars available. Limited to 15. \$36 (25) per walk

• **RANDALL'S ISLAND WINTER WALK**

Saturday, January 6, 9-11am
Guide: Nadir Souirgi
 Explore this lesser known spot in the East River, where recently restored freshwater wetlands and saltmarsh provide habitat for

many varieties of birds. Hunt for rarities such as common goldeneye, lesser black-backed gull, and Iceland gull. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

• **WINTER BIRDS OF DEKORTE PARK, NJ**

Sunday, January 7, 9am-2pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow
 Come explore the wilds of the New Jersey Meadowlands at DeKorte Park. Here, the Hackensack River meets extensive coastal marshes, creating a rich habitat for wildlife—especially wintering waterfowl and raptors. We'll be on the lookout for large flocks of canvasback, northern pintail, bufflehead, and northern shoveler. And we'll scan the skies for hunting raptors including rough-legged and Cooper's hawks, northern harriers, and perhaps even a snowy or short-eared owl. We can warm up at the environmental center and learn about the Meadowlands' ecology. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$88 (62)

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Purple Sandpiper

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

• **MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND: SEALS, SURF, AND SEABIRDS**

Friday, January 12-Sunday, January 14

Guide: Don Riepe
With American Littoral Society

Spend a weekend at the luxurious Manor House during the peak winter birding time at Montauk Point. See seals, scoters, loons, eiders, goldeneye, and much more. Includes 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, and free pickup at the LIRR station in Montauk. For reservations and details, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. \$395 (\$130 single supplement)

• **WINTER WATERFOWL WEEKEND AT MONTAUK**

Saturday, January 27, 9am-Sunday, January 28, 7pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

The gatherings of sea ducks around Montauk Point are the largest winter concentrations in New York State; the Christmas Bird Count on Montauk Point consistently tallies from 125 to 135 species, one of the best totals in the Northeast. Species that come to feed on the Point's rich kelp and mussel beds include common and red-throated loon, common eider, all three scoter species, bufflehead, common goldeneye, great cormorant, and red-breasted merganser. Harlequin duck and king eider also occur here regularly during the winter. Accommodations

at Daunt's Albatross in Montauk and transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$295 (\$55 single supplement)

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

Come along with NYC Audubon and explore Maine's "Country of the Pointed Firs": land of lighthouses, quaint villages, and lobster pounds—all nestled in a setting of primeval pine forests, bogs, and bucolic islands. Home to some of the East's last true wilderness, Maine hosts populations of Atlantic puffin, bear, moose, shorebirds, and dozens of warbler species. Our

exploration begins with three days on the mainline coast, visiting the salt marshes and beaches to the south before heading to the beautiful fishing village of Camden. From there we will explore nearby hills, meadows, and marshes in search of elusive rails, upland sandpiper, and Nelson's and vesper sparrow. The next four days we'll stay at the Monhegan House Inn on enchanting Monhegan Island, where seeing over 30 warbler species in one day is not uncommon. Last but not least, we'll travel to a puffin nesting colony. While on the water, we'll keep our eyes open for whales and porpoises. \$1,950 (\$595 single supplement)

EVENTS AND ADVENTURES (CONTINUED)

• LOWER MANHATTAN POCKET PARK BLITZ

Sunday, January 7, 9-11am

Guide: Jacob Drucker

Couch's kingbird, Scott's oriole, and western tanager are the crown jewels of extraordinary rarities that found refuge in lower Manhattan's pocket parks in recent winters. We will search several of these parks for "half-hardy" songbirds and hope for something unusual, starting with Madison, Union Square, and Gramercy Parks. We will then have the option to work our way south, covering Stuyvesant, Tompkins Square, and Washington Square Parks. Rarities or not, this is a great route to see a few early-year birds that won't be seen until spring. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

• SNOW BIRDS OF FLOYD BENNETT FIELD AND FORT TILDEN, QUEENS

Saturdays, January 13 and January 20, 10:30am-4pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Winter brings many rare birds to the City that can't be found here at any other time. Perhaps most exciting are the "snow birds" of the Arctic tundra, such as snow buntings and snowy owls, that can occasionally be found in tundra-like habitats further south. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$88 (62) per walk

• AUDUBON'S BIRDS OF AMERICA GALLERY

New-York Historical Society

Experience John James Audubon's spectacular watercolor models for the 435 plates of *The Birds of America* and their corresponding hand-colored plates. The newly opened gallery features a different bird and related works by Audubon that rotate every month:

December 11: Yellow-billed Cuckoo

January 8: Prothonotary Warbler

February 5: Purple Finch

Visit www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/audubons-birds-america-focus-gallery to learn more.

• BIRDING THE BATTERY, SOUTHERN TIP OF MANHATTAN

Sunday, January 14, 10-11:30am

Guide: Jacob Drucker

Join guide Jacob Drucker at the convergence of the East and Hudson Rivers to search for winter waterbirds and discover the nooks and crannies of The Battery. Who knows what hardy songbirds could be tucked away in the southernmost of Manhattan's parks? Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

• EAGLE WATCH AND BIRD WALK AT INWOOD HILL PARK, MANHATTAN

Saturday, January 20, 8:30-10:30am

Guide: Annie Barry

Come along for a winter hike through the various landscapes and habitats of Inwood Hill Park. Located at the northern tip of Manhattan where the Harlem River meets the Hudson, Inwood Hill Park offers shoreline vistas, mature forest, and the last natural saltmarsh in Manhattan. We'll begin on the Hudson shore in search of the bald eagles that have been sighted there frequently in recent winters, then move into the forest to search for wintering and year-round birds, and finally to the saltmarsh to look for wintering ducks. Some hilly walking required. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

• FOREST PARK FEEDER WATCH AND OWL PROWL

Saturday, January 20, 9:30-11am

Guide: Corey Finger

Explore the depths of the largest contiguous forest in Queens. Highlights include the feeding station at the famed Waterhole and a search for owls in the pine groves. Common feeder sightings include woodpeckers, black-capped chickadee, American goldfinch, and usually at least one brown creeper. Past years have also seen ruby-crowned kinglet and pine warbler. On the owl prowl, look for sightings of great horned, northern saw-whet,

or long-eared owl. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

• WINTER EAGLES ON THE HUDSON

Sunday, January 21, 9:20am-4pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Join NYC Audubon in seeking out one of the most incredible avian spectacles in New York: bald eagles wintering along the frozen Hudson River by the dozens or even hundreds. We will travel in comfort by Metro-North to Croton Point Park, where we will look for eagles before hiking up to Croton Point to seek out wintering short-eared and snowy owls, snow buntings, horned larks, and other cold-weather specialties. Limited to 20. Round-trip Metro-North fare (\$20.50) not included in trip price. \$53 (37)

• DUCK WALK AT BAISLEY POND PARK AND WILLOW LAKE PRESERVE, QUEENS

Sunday, January 28, 8:30am-2:30pm

Guide: Corey Finger

Baisley Pond Park is the best place to see wintering ring-necked ducks and redheads in New York City. A wide variety of both dabbling and diving ducks regularly winter in the pond, including American wigeon, ruddy ducks, gadwall, and northern shovelers. We'll also look for wintering songbirds and gulls. From Baisley Pond Park we'll move to Willow Lake Preserve to see common mergansers and the pair of bald eagles that have wintered here the past two years. Habitat next to the lake often hides a variety of wintering sparrows and other songbirds. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$63 (90)

• WINTER WATERFOWL OF THE BROOKLYN COAST

Saturday, February 3, 9am-3pm

Guide: Kellye Rosenheim

Join Kellye Rosenheim on a tour of Brooklyn's most productive coastal winter waterfowl sites. We'll visit Bush Terminal Piers Park, Gravesend, and Calvert Vaux in

search of saltwater species such as common goldeneye, long-tailed ducks, loons, as well as horned and red-necked grebes. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$87 (61)

• SOARING RAPTORS: EAGLES AND OWLS OF THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY, NY

Sunday, February 4, 12-7pm

Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

You don't have to travel to Alaska to see our country's emblem, the bald eagle. Thanks to one of the most successful reintroduction programs on record, many eagles now soar over the nearby Hudson Valley. Travel with us to see this spectacular raptor and try to spot the secretive short-eared owl. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$94 (66)

• SUPERB OWL SUNDAY

Sunday, February 4, 3-5pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Come along for a winter woodland walk in search of owls to celebrate "Superb Owl" Sunday. Join naturalist Gabriel Willow on a walk around the beautiful Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, where we will look for pellets, white-wash, and other signs of roosting great horned, long-eared, northern saw-whet, and other owls. They're secretive and shy creatures, so finding one is never guaranteed, but it's always worth looking. We will also observe winter songbirds and waterfowl. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

© Ellen Michaels



Great Horned Owl

● **WINTER BIRDS OF DEKORTE PARK, NJ**

Saturday, February 10, 9am-2pm

Guide: Nadir Souirgi

Explore the the wilds of the New Jersey Meadowlands at DeKorte Park. We'll take trails through wetland and saltmarsh habitat to look for a rich diversity of wintering ducks and rarities such as rough-legged hawk, short-eared owl, and northern shrike. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$88 (62)

● **RANDALL'S ISLAND WINTER WALK**

Saturday, February 10, 9-11am

Guide: Jacob Drucker

Situated at the junction of the East River and Long Island Sound, Randall's Island is an excellent place to observe birds using these major waterways to facilitate their movements. The presence of converging currents, a saltmarsh restoration project, excellent thickets, and lots of open space makes Randall's Island a great place to go birding. Some species like horned lark, snow bunting, red-throated loon, and Bonaparte's gull are more likely to be found at Randall's than anywhere else in New York County. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

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

Sunday, February 11, 8am-3pm

Guide: Cliff Hagen

With NYC Department of Parks & Recreation

Winter at Freshkills Park is an exciting time for birding. The grass-covered slopes offer plenty of seed and shelter to huddled flocks of horned larks, snow buntings, and sparrow species, as rough-legged hawks soar overhead. Down below the mounds are a crisscross of tidal creeks filled with a variety of waterfowl. Grebes, geese, and coots swim alongside over a dozen species of ducks including teal, mergansers, and pintails. Transport

by passenger van on S.I. included. Limited to 12. \$57 (40)

● **JAMAICA BAY WINTER THAW BIRD WALK**

Saturday, February 24, 10am-1pm

Guide: Don Riepe

With American Littoral Society and Gateway National Recreation Area

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge for a slide program and hike around the ponds and gardens to look for very early signs of spring as well as late winter birds. For more information and to register, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepen@gmail.com. No limit. Free

● **WINTER WALK AT INWOOD HILL PARK, MANHATTAN**

Saturday, March 3, 10am-12pm

Guide: Nadir Souirgi

Inwood Hill Park, simply put, is a jewel. Nestled between the Hudson River, Dyckman Street, and Seaman Avenue, this last tract of largely undeveloped oak and tulip forest transports you to another world and another time. Glacial "pot holes," towering trees, and stunning river views create an unrivaled birding backdrop. Search for wintering species, including ducks in the tidal marsh. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

● **WINTER BIRDS OF THE BARRIER ISLANDS, LI**

Saturday, March 3, 9am-5pm

Guide: Tod Winston

Several bird species that nest in the far north spend the winter at Jones Beach, in a habitat similar to their summer homes. We'll visit Point Lookout and Jones Beach in search of harlequin ducks, common eider, scoters, horned larks, and snow buntings. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$93 (\$65)

● **WINTER BIRDS OF BARNEGAT, NJ Sunday, March 11, 9am-4pm**

Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Explore Barnegat Inlet's expansive beach to view the winter birds that gather where land, bay, and sea meet. Search for harlequin ducks, horned larks, Lapland longspurs, snow buntings, as well as snowy and short-eared owls. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$115 (80)

● **WINTER BIRDS OF SANDY HOOK, NJ**

Saturday, March 24, 10am-5pm

Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

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

● **BEGINNING BIRDING**

Classes: Wednesdays, April 4, 11, and 18, 6:30-8:30pm

Trips: Saturday, April 14, 8am-2:30pm (Jamaica Bay) and Saturday, April 21, 8-10:30am (Central Park)

Instructor: Tod Winston

Learn the keys to identifying the spectacular variety of birds that migrate through New York City every spring. Even if you've never picked up a pair of binoculars, you'll soon be identifying warblers, thrushes, waterbirds, and more—both by sight and by ear. Three fun and educational in-class sessions and field trips to both Central Park and Jamaica Bay (transport to Jamaica Bay included). Limited to 12. \$179 (125)

EARLY MEMBER REGISTRATION FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

More winter and early spring events will be posted at www.nycaudubon.org and available for registration for contributing NYC Audubon members starting on Monday, February 5, at 9am. (Registration will open to all on Monday, February 19.)

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Contributing Members (Student/Senior level and up) receive a 30% discount on most local trips and classes (on discounted events, the discounted price appears in parentheses after the nonmember price). See membership form on page 19.**
- **Classes meet at 71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1523.**
- **For paid trips requiring advance registration, the meeting location will be disclosed in your trip registration confirmation email.**
- **For coach and van trips, the meeting location is in front of 71 West 23rd Street 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.**



© Laura Meyers

Gadwall

THE 118TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DECEMBER 16-DECEMBER 23, 2017

Led by the National Audubon Society, the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is the nation's longest-running citizen-science bird project.

Since the 1950s, the CBC has been organized geographically in "circles" 15 miles in diameter, each overseen by a volunteer compiler who coordinates the circle's counts and is responsible for submitting the final data to National Audubon. The five New York City boroughs belong to five different circles; the circles are in turn divided into "sectors" (or "territories") to make counting more manageable. A participant can join a different count every year—or even several counts in the same year if they occur on different days within the count period. (One notable count marathoner had done 500 counts as of 2016.)

So it's worth taking a look at counts beyond your usual turf.

STATEN ISLAND

Numbers from this borough's 10 sectors are compiled at the Museum of Staten Island, which holds the records of 105 years of CBCs in the borough. The 2016 count was notable for the participation of a team of boy scouts and for the sighting of a grassland species new for the count—the grasshopper sparrow. Enthusiastic owlers were rewarded by spotting multiple numbers of great horned, eastern screech-, and short-eared owls. Last year's results can be found by visiting netapp.audubon.org/cbcobservation and searching for count code NYSI.

QUEENS

This count is managed by the Queens County Bird Club, which posts on its website a map of its circle and those it overlaps with (www.qcbirdclub.org/qcbc-cbc). Because the Queens circle includes

coastal areas like Jamaica Bay and the Rockaways among its 11 territories, participants usually spot thousands of snow geese and brant, as well as a good selection of ducks and shorebirds.

BROOKLYN

While this circle, like Queens's, includes areas fronting the ocean (the 43,000 birds counted in 2015 included 1,470 gannets), its 11 territories are various enough to have included rarities like sora and painted bunting. The most recent records can be found in the winter 2016 issue of the Brooklyn Bird Club's newsletter, *The Clapper Rail*, which can be found at www.brooklynbirdclub.org/clapper-rail.

BRONX

The borough has two territories for the count: West and East. Regular participants include some ambitious birders who go out at four in the morning to count owls. Results for 2016 can be found at hras.org/bwcbc.html, which also shows counts for the Westchester areas included in this circle. Two goose species new to the count—pink-footed and cackling—were found in 2016.

MANHATTAN

Central Park is where the Christmas Bird Count originated in 1900, when ornithologist Frank Chapman proposed that the holiday tradition of competitive bird shooting be replaced by a bird census. Today, birders who regularly participate in the Central Park count may not realize there are 11 other count sectors in Manhattan. In fact, 21 of the 80 species sighted in the borough last year were found outside Central Park; large numbers of birds were seen in Inwood Hill Park, Riverside Park, and Randall's Island. Results for 2016 are posted at www.nycaudubon.org/cbc. Note that the official name of

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The Eastern Screech-Owl Was Counted 14 Times during the 2016 Christmas Bird Count in Staten Island.

© Camilla Ceras/Audubon



A Group of Participants Birding during the Christmas Bird Count in the Ramble, Central Park, December 14, 2014

the circle is New Jersey-Lower Hudson, since it also includes New Jersey's Meadowlands.

Each circle's count day ends with a gathering in a warm place, where participants refuel and socialize as territory coordinators work together to compile the data for the entire circle. New participants, even those less skilled at spotting and identifying, are welcome in

all boroughs. Compilers will ensure participants are directed to territories where they would be most useful. As noted in National Audubon's 2014 "Birds and Climate Change" report, the CBC plays an essential role in monitoring the health of our bird populations. But it's also a lot of fun, so sign up!

CB COUNT CIRCLE	DATE	CONTACT	EMAIL
Brooklyn	Saturday, 12/16	Bobbi Manian	roberta.manian@gmail.com
Staten Island	Saturday, 12/16	Cliff Hagen	chagen72@gmail.com
Queens	Sunday, 12/17	Corey Finger	10000birdsblogger@gmail.com
NJ-Lower Hudson (Manhattan)	Sunday, 12/17	Kaitlyn Parkins	kparkins@nycaudubon.org
The Bronx	Saturday, 12/23	Michael Bochnik	bochnikm@cs.com

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT FEBRUARY 16-FEBRUARY 19, 2018

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) has a shorter history than the CBC, but is equally important for monitoring bird populations. Begun in 1998 as a joint effort of National Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada, the goal of the GBBC is to capture a snapshot of bird numbers in a short period of time. Citizen scientists are asked every February to spend at least 15 minutes counting birds in their backyards—or anywhere else. (New Yorkers without backyards are not excused.) Submit a separate checklist for each new day and location, or the same location if you counted at a different time of day. With eBird, it's easier than ever to submit your data. The 21st annual GBBC takes place from Friday, February 16 to Monday, February 19, 2018. For more information, go to gbbc.birdcount.org.



American Tree Sparrow

IN MEMORIAM: IRVING CANTOR AND SYLVIA COHEN

Born in New York City in 1920, **Irving (Irv) Cantor** birded here and, later, worldwide for more than 90 years. He participated in his first Audubon Christmas Count in Central Park as a child (once doing the count alone). Later he became the organizer of the Bronx Christmas Bird Count. Always keen to mentor neophyte birders, Irv approached the task with warmth, intelligence, and good humor. Never tiring of field trips, he would offer budding birders rides in his car (then uncommon to own in Manhattan) so they could experience the great birding spots outside the City as well. In later years, Irv focused more of his time in Central Park, where he observed that the great waves of spring migrants had strikingly diminished in numbers. He never lost his enthusiasm for the thrill of discovery, which he shared with his wife, Jean.

Sylvia Cohen will be remembered as a special person who was known by and friendly with virtually all Central Park birders. She first took an interest in birds while wheeling her baby carriage in the park, and upon seeing a Blackburnian warbler, quickly developed a lifelong passion for birding, which she shared with her late husband Moe. The couple could usually be seen birding the Ramble in all seasons. Sylvia was one of the first Central Park "regulars" to explore the north end of the park, now a popular birding area. Sylvia's natural history interests extended to butterflies, dragonflies, and plants. She was an ardent conservationist who worked to preserve Central Park's bird habitats and was one of the original members of the Central Park Woodlands advisory board. Sylvia enjoyed her regular visits to the park through her late nineties.

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE FOR NEW BIRDERS

Hillarie O'Toole

Is someone in your life new to birding? (Or do you hope this person will catch the bug?) Check out our helpful gift ideas to nurture a budding enthusiasm for the avian world. Purchasing gifts through Amazon? Go to smile.amazon.com and register “New York City Audubon Society Inc” as your charity to have the Amazon Smile Foundation donate 0.5% of the purchase price to support NYC Audubon.



THE GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE

For the youthful beginner, *Peterson's Field Guides for Young Naturalists: Backyard Birds* by Jonathan Latimer and Karen Nolting is a great place to start. Illustrated by Roger Tory Peterson, the field guide includes 20 of the most frequent backyard visitors in the U.S. and Canada. Easy to navigate and colorful, it is recommended for ages 8-12 but can be enjoyed by any age.



For the eager and inquisitive adult, *Birding for the Curious* by Nate Swick is a quick read filled with fun activities like creating a list of birds in your backyard and producing a sound map of birdcalls. The author highlights the many challenges of bird identification in a way that will keep the new birder from becoming discouraged.

THE GIFT OF GEAR

Finding binoculars for beginners is tricky, especially when even good “inexpensive” binoculars easily range over \$200. The Bushnell Falcon 133410 binoculars (7x magnification, 35 mm lens) are available for under \$50 and serve well as an introductory pair before committing to a more permanent, advanced set.



THE GIFT OF STEWARDSHIP

One of the most memorable gifts I received as a child was . . . a whale. My aunt had adopted a humpback whale in my name. While at first I was disappointed I couldn't bring my new Cetacean friend home, I was inspired to learn all I could about the whale's habitat and behavior, and how to keep it safe. You can do the same for someone with the gift of a bird. New York City's shores are the nesting sites for many endangered and threatened shorebirds. By adopting a banded bird, you'll help support NYC Audubon's efforts to track and protect them. Your gift comes with a beautiful photo of the species, a field update on where it was banded, and the tracking number of the actual bird you sponsored. To adopt a bird for a friend or family member, visit www.nycaudubon.org/adopt-a-bird.



Fledgling American Oystercatcher Banded at Arverne

KINGSLAND WILDFLOWERS

We have put the garden to bed for the winter months, but as we begin to plan programming at Kingsland Wildflowers for next season, we'd like to take time to thank everyone involved in making 2017 an amazing year for education, programming, tours, and research on the green roof:

ArcheWild
Atlas Obscura
Jessica Sirbu Balnaves
Alyssa Benner
Birds & Beans Coffee
Broadway Stages
Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
Bushwick Inlet Park
Joyann Cirigliano

Geoffrey Cobb
Cold Comfort String Band
Gabriel Townsend
Darriau
Department of Natural Science, LaGuardia Community College
CUNY
Joe Diamond

Doreen Zion Art
Duke's Liquor Box
Eagle Street Rooftop Farm
Evergreen Exchange
The Fortune Society
Four Harbors Audubon Society
Go Green Brooklyn
Green Food Solutions

Greenpoint Eco-Schools Program
Sustainability Coaches, National Wildlife Federation
Greenpointers.com
Lauren Grisanti
Growing Chefs
Larissa Hayden
Ian Hays
Erika Jozwiak
Kings County Brewers Collective
Desiree LaVecchia
New York City Council Member Stephen Levin

Konstancja Maleszyńska
Richard Mazur
Jacob McIntosh
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
New York City Department of Environmental Protection
New York City Soil & Water Conservation District
New York State Assemblymember Joseph R. Lentol
Newtown Creek Alliance

Annie Novak
Open House New York
Open Space Alliance for North Brooklyn
Plant Group
Riverkeeper
Rooflite
Dr. Eric W. Sanderson
Renee Sandoval
Benjamin Solitaire
Shino Tanikawa
Zafer Tawil
Trio Xalam
Trout in the Classroom
Untapped Cities
Martynka Wawrzyniak
Wild Bird Fund



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VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

New York City Audubon's conservation and education work would not be possible without the help of hundreds of volunteers who donate thousands of hours each year. If you volunteered during the period from October 2016 to September 2017 and your name is not on this list, please let us know. We strive to keep accurate records for our funders and want to make sure you receive the recognition you deserve.

LEGEND

CBC = Christmas Bird Count
 CON = Conservation
 EO = Education and Outreach
 FR = 2016 Fall Roost
 HH = Harbor Herons
 IBT = Injured Bird Transporters and Raptors NYC Group
 JB = Jamaica Bay (includes Horseshoe Crab and Shorebird Surveys)
 OA = Office Administration
 MP = McGolrick Park
 PSF = Project Safe Flight
 TIL = Tribute in Light
 UA = *The Urban Audubon*
 WE = Website and *The eGret* eNewsletter

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 Cheryl Adams EO
 Molly Adams IBT, JB, TIL
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 Waterfront Alliance EO
 Wave Hill EO
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Show that you care by giving a gift that makes a difference.

Help protect wild birds and habitat in New York City with a gift membership to NYC Audubon. Members receive *The Urban Audubon* newsletter and *The eGret* e-newsletter; enjoy discounts on field trips and classes; and make a difference in the City's wildlife and natural areas.

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

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

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NEWS & NOTES

ABBY McBRIDE ILLUSTRATING FROM THE SEABIRD CAPITAL

Congratulations to *Urban Audubon* Newsletter Committee Member Abby McBride on receiving a Fulbright-National Geographic Storytelling Fellowship. For her year-long fellowship, Abby is traveling to New Zealand, the "seabird capital of the world," to write and illustrate stories on how the country's residents are working to save these birds, which are declining globally at an alarming rate. Abby has been providing her beautiful wildlife illustrations to *The Urban Audubon* for over 20 years, including the "Turkey Vulture and Black Vulture" sketch from our fall 2017 issue. You can follow her digital storytelling work for *National Geographic* at voices.nationalgeographic.org/author/amcbride.

KATE ORFF RECIPIENT OF MACARTHUR FELLOWSHIP GRANT

New York City landscape architect Kate Orff was awarded this fall with a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship for her groundbreaking work addressing ecological issues in the field of architecture and urban design. Kate is the founder of SCAPE, a landscape architecture and urban design firm with projects across the five boroughs ranging from community gardens to large-scale coastal initiatives like the Living Breakwaters Project in Staten Island. NYC Audubon worked with Kate to publish *Bird-safe Building Guidelines* in 2007, as well as design our soon-to-be-constructed stormwater capture park at Justice Avenue Park, Queens. Congratulations to Kate on this well-deserved award.

SAFE FLIGHT IPA BEER TAKES OFF

This fall, NYC Audubon collaborated with Brooklyn brewery Kings County Brewers Collective on "Safe Flight IPA," a limited-batch beer brewed to raise awareness about bird collisions with windows. Pete Lengyel, brewer of the beer and one of the three founding members of the Bushwick, Brooklyn-based brewing collective, was inspired to create Safe Flight IPA after learning of the 100 of millions of birds that perish annually in the U.S from striking windows. We hope the brew is continued seasonally in the fall and spring!

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.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN KESTREL CIRCLE

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

GIVE A MATCHING GIFT

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

LEAVE A LEGACY

When you designate New York City Audubon as a beneficiary in your will, IRA, life insurance policy, or investment/bank account, your gift will support the conservation of the birds you love for many years to come. Visit www.nycaudubon.org/leave-a-legacy, or contact us to learn more.

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

BECOME A MEMBER 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:

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 Family \$75 Dual \$50 Friend \$25 Student/Senior(65+) \$15
 Dual Senior (65+) \$30 New Renewal

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

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

Please direct my gift to D-Bird research

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: _____

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2017-2018 LECTURE SERIES

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

ONE MORE WARBLER

By Victor Emanuel

Thursday, December 7, 7pm

Victor Emanuel, the founder of VENT, the largest avian ecotourism company on earth, shares his journey from inspired youth to world's top birder in his recently released book, *One More Warbler*. For our lecture series, this master raconteur will share some of his biggest adventures, rarest finds, and the people who mentored and encouraged his passion along the way. (See our review of *One More Warbler* in the summer 2017 *Urban Audubon*.)

THE NATURE SPECTACLES OF NEW JERSEY

By Joanna Burger

Wednesday, January 24, 7pm

Rutgers professor and scientist Joanna Burger is a behavioral ecologist whose primary interests are in the adaptive significance of social behavior in vertebrates, ecological risk, and biomonitoring. She is also the author of several books for lay naturalists on birds, butterflies, parrots, and pine snakes. For our lecture, Dr. Burger will acquaint us with the rich natural experiences that can be had in the state next door, New Jersey.

SPARROWS AND PEOPLE AND SPARROW PEOPLE

By Rick Wright

Tuesday, February 27, 7pm

Prolific author Rick Wright will share his expertise and read passages from his forthcoming book, the *Peterson Reference Guide to North American Sparrows*. Among his publications are two scholarly works on the Latin and German animal literature of the late Middle Ages as well as the American Birding Association's field guides to birds of New Jersey and of Arizona.

BIRDING ANTARCTICA

By Tom Stephenson

Thursday, March 15, 7pm

Among the most exciting and exotic of all birding locales, Antarctica also offers some of the most challenging and rewarding experiences. Join NYC Audubon Board Member Tom Stephenson to learn about traveling there and see stunning photos of penguins, albatross, elephant seals, snow petrels, giant icebergs, and more. Tom is the author of *The Warbler Guide*, inventor of the Bird Genie app, and birdwalk leader for the Brooklyn Bird Club and NYC Audubon.

Our lectures are held at Reidy Hall at the Unitarian Church of All Souls, located on Lexington Avenue between 79th and 80th streets in Manhattan.