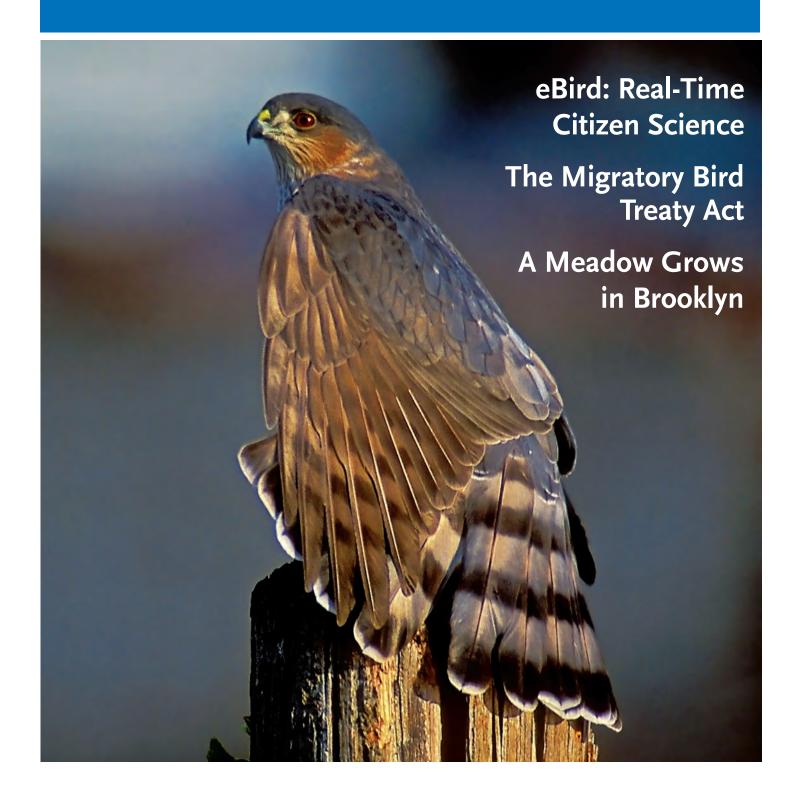


THE URBAN AUDUBON



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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Printing & Mailing Kase Printing, Inc. Design Whitehouse & Company Art Director Christina Rubin Publisher NYC Audubon

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

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n June, I assumed the mantle of board president from Harry Maas, who served in this role for the past five productive years. Under Harry's leadership along with that of Executive Director Kathryn Heintz, NYC Audubon has blossomed. Their collaborative management skills have empowered our talented staff to make NYC Audubon an even more effective agent for conservation. I am honored to follow in Harry's formidable footsteps. And I am excited to serve the needs of our membership and help preserve the natural habitats and wildlife of the five boroughs.

NYC Audubon is unique among Audubon

chapters in that it serves the largest urban area in the country—and while a metropolis may seem inhospitable to nature, New York City is full of wild habitats and is home to a wide variety of wildlife, most specifically birds. Over 350 species of birds nest, reside, or stop over here each year. As migrating birds travel along the Atlantic Flyway, the City's 50,000-plus acres of green spaces, almost 600 miles of coastline, and over two dozen harbor islands attract them like a magnet—and provide a welcome and indeed life-saving respite.

But this haven is not without perils, in the form of glass structures, disorienting night-time lighting, and even cats. NYC Audubon has taken the lead in helping to mitigate some of these dangers. We worked closely with the designers and staff of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center on their recent renovation to ensure that the surfaces in the City's famous "crystal palace" were constructed of bird-friendly materials. We continue to oversee the National September 11 Memorial & Museum's "Tribute in Light" to ensure that the light beams, confusing to migrating birds, are turned off during heavy fall migration flights. We are advocates for the preservation and creation of a variety of habitats throughout the City, from abandoned piers on Governors Island, used by common terns as nesting grounds, to green roofs, increasingly important as a means of energy conservation, stormwater management, and urban bird habitat.

NYC Audubon continues to realize its core missions of advocacy for wildlife conservation, scientific research, and education and outreach to bring environmental awareness, as well as appreciation of nature, to people in all five boroughs. Thanks to Harry and Kathryn's leadership, our organization is on solid financial ground. We have a dynamic and engaged board, and our staff and volunteers form an effective team. In the coming years, I hope to oversee the expansion of our reach throughout the City and make NYC Audubon an even stronger voice for bird conservation.

We cannot do our work without your support and participation, and we depend on your continued financial contributions. Please join us at our upcoming benefit, The Fall Roost, held at the distinctive New York City landmark Guastavino's event space under the 59th Street Bridge. I look forward to serving as board president and furthering the preservation of natural habitats and a wildlife-friendly environment throughout the five boroughs of New York City. And I hope to see you at The Roost on Monday, October 17.



In This Issue

FALL 2016

NYC AUDUBON

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Cover Photograph: Sharp-Shinned Hawk ©Steve Nanz Small Banner Photographs: Susan Elbin, Steve Nanz, and Don Riepe *This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution License.









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Conservation Notes



A Herring Gull Chick Is Banded on the Javits Center Rooftop

ur conservation team and citizen science volunteers had a busy spring and summer-riding the waves in our new Zodiac, walking on beaches, and sitting on rooftops. The time in the boat was often in rough water and fog. Our beach surveys happened in the wee hours of the night, at high tide, and under the threat of thunderstorms. And we got lovely sunburns on rooftops with zero shade for people. Yet when you love doing field work for bird conservation, it really can seem like summer vacation. Below are some highlights from the field.

WATERBIRDS OF NEW YORK HARBOR

We successfully completed our 32nd annual survey of the nesting long-legged wading birds and their allies nesting on islands in the greater NY/NJ Harbor (aka the Harbor Herons nesting survey), led by Communications Manager and Research Assistant Tod Winston. A preliminary total of 1,480 nesting pairs of seven wader species was counted in 2016, representing an 11 percent increase over 2015 and a stable population size over the past five years. Glossy ibis, which were found in unusually low numbers last year, rebounded substantially in 2016. Double-crested cormorant numbers increased by 4 percent over 2015, continuing a slow and steady increase in the harbor population over the past decade. Thanks to a generous

grant from the Eppley Foundation for Science, we will be doing a multivariate analysis of the harbor's waterbird population, looking at the numbers and distribution of breeding birds as a function of habitat changes, environmental conditions, and regional population fluctua-

Herring and great black-backed gulls are included among the Harbor Herons islandnesters; and after the traditional nesting survey was completed, we turned our attention to gulls in rooftop colonies. The Jacob K. Javits Convention Center's green roof provided nesting habitat for 11 pairs of herring gulls this year: 31 eggs and 25 chicks. Although there were 12 nests and more eggs in 2015, there were more chicks this year. The chicks seem to be doing well. We were able to learn a lot from one bird we banded as a chick in 2015: the one-year-old bird was seen this May in Hamilton Harbor, Toronto, Ontario. The James A. Farley Post Office Building's rooftop population of herring gulls increased from 75 in 2015 to 103 in 2016. This is the first year we banded chicks there (14 in all). For the second year in a row, we worked with Jeff Kolodzinski of the Port Authority of NY & NJ to band adult herring gulls nesting on rooftops at Rikers Island. Two adults banded there last year returned this year to the same roof to nest.

We continued our work with New York

State-threatened common terns. The good news: the colony on the decommissioned piers at Governors Island is thriving. Unfortunately, the birds are nesting only on the two piers we cannot access. This spring's observational reports from the island confirmed that herring gulls moved into the prime nesting tern habitat on the third pier, and excluded the terns. We also partnered with Pam Loring of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to attach nanotags (mini radio transmitters) to three adult birds nesting on Breezy Point in the Rockaways. The data transmitted by these birds will be picked up by an array of radio towers located along the eastern seaboard (including a tower at Coney Island's New York Aquarium) and contribute data to the larger project on common tern migration that Pam is conducting.

Field Biologist Emilo Tobón again led our work with American oystercatchers on Breezy Point and on the Rockaway beaches. With the help of the National Park Service and New York City Parks & Recreation's Natural Resources Group and Urban Park Rangers, we banded five oystercatchers by the time this issue went to print in early July.

NYC Audubon Conservation Biologist Debra Kriensky continues to lead our migratory shorebird and horseshoe crab work. Horseshoe crabs returned to our shores in good numbers this spring. The highest count was tallied during Memorial Day weekend, when we counted 415 in our sample plots at Big Egg marsh. We have been monitoring and tagging crabs since 2009 at Plumb Beach, Dead Horse Bay, and Big Egg. A total of 3,835 crabs have been tagged, and this year we re-sighted 80 of them. Thanks goes to our army of citizen science volunteers and our survey site coordinators (see page 18). The data we collect are part of the larger effort for New York State, overseen by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Cornell Cooperative Extension's Matt Sclafani and Barry Udelson.

Debra started a new initiative this year, the one-day "Shorebird Blitz," to capture more information about how shorebirds use New York City habitat. We are looking forward to increasing participation and repeating the blitz in the fall. Along with citizen-science eBird reports,



these data will help us understand the value of the City as stopover habitat for shorebirds. This fall, we will attach nanotags to semipalmated sandpipers as part of another shorebird project designed to help us answer the all-important question about Jamaica Bay shorebird habitat value. Like the tags attached to the terns, each tag emits a unique signal (frequency) that will be picked up by the array of radio towers installed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT: MAKING THE CITY **SAFER FOR MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS**

This spring, 29 Project Safe Flight citizen science volunteers patrolled established routes in the City. We typically find fewer birds in spring than in fall, and this year was no exception. We found 38 birds, most of them at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Bryant Park. We were able to track incidental collision reports via D-Bird, our interactive website designed by NYC Audubon Program Manager Darren Klein, which allows anyone to log the occurrence of dead birds (see page 7 for details). Ninety-one birds were reported on D-Bird this spring. Twenty-one ovenbirds were found in all; this neotropical migrant is typically the most common victim of window collisions in the City. Emilio Tobón led this year's Bronx Zoo tunnel testing for birdfriendly glass. Our primary partner on this project is American Bird Conservancy. Other contributing partners include New Jersey Audubon, Fordham University, and Ennead Architects. The project seeks to identify various patterns that can be applied to glass in order to make them visible to birds. We continue to present a "lunch and learn" course on Bird-Friendly Building Design for architecture firms, a curriculum created in partnership with American Bird Conservancy's Christine Sheppard. New NYC Audubon Board Member Deborah Laurel is a licensed architect and is also instrumental in helping us present the seminar.

We continue to monitor the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center for bird collisions. The Javits Center is a huge success story, going from the top "bad" building in the City to the bottom of the list. After the

retrofit completed by FXFOWLE Architects in 2013, collisions dropped more than 90 percent. This year we recovered only one bird-a common yellowthroat. Meanwhile, up on the green roof, Dustin Partridge and Kaitlyn Parkins continue to survey arthropods and bats, respectively, for the third year of biodiversity monitoring. Empowered by a supportive partnership with the Javits Center and Fordham University, NYC Audubon helped the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation organize a green roof working group. Our inaugural meeting was held at the Javits Center and included scientists from our respective organizations, The Nature Conservancy, Columbia University, Fordham University, and Drexel University. The working group formation is especially timely for us as we move forward with the creation of a new green roof wildlife garden in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, funded by the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund (see page 15).

These accomplishments are the highlights of an exhilarating spring and summer field season. Now it's time to gear up for fall migration.

VOLUNTEER!

ork 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 212-691-7483 x304 or 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

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

PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT Begins Thursday, 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 Tuesday, August 16, and Monday, August 22, 6-7pm.

BIRD SURVEYS AT McGOLRICK PARK See page 15 for details

TRIBUTE IN LIGHT MONITORING Sunday, September 11, beginning at 8pm With National September 11 Memorial &

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 Thursday, September 1, 6-7pm.

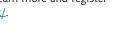
BIRD TRANSPORTERS

We receive many 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 at the Wild Bird Fund on Wednesday, September 7, 6-7pm.

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP Saturday, September 17, 10am-2pm With American Littoral Society, National Park Service, and Sadhana

Join us at North Channel Bridge to take part in an international 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.

Equipment and refreshments are provided; free bus transportation from Manhattan is available (space is limited). Learn more and register at http://field-set.com/icc/.



EBIRD: REAL-TIME CITIZEN SCIENCE



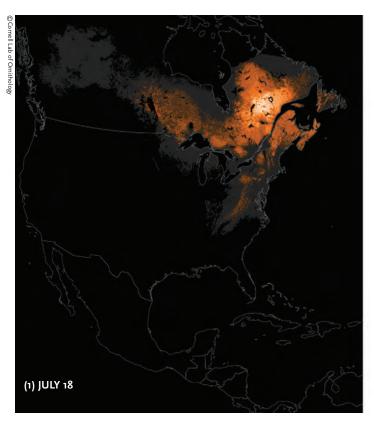
Fall-Plumage Magnolia Warbler (Above)
Distribution and Abundance Maps (Below)
Show This Species' Range During (1)Breeding Season,
(2)Fall Migration, and (3)Winter-Time

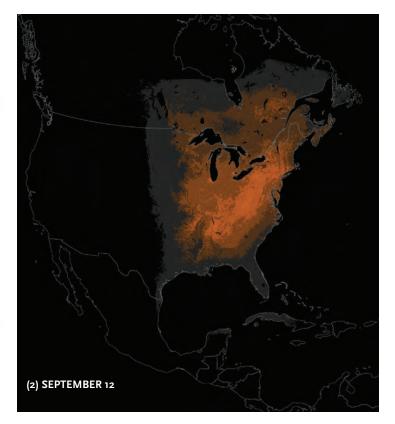
View a dynamic version of this map at www.stateofthebirds.org/2016/resources/species-abundance-maps/magnolia-warbler/

eBird is a real-time, online checklist program that had its official start in 2002, born from a collaboration between Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon. Since that time, the program has become one of the largest and fastest growing citizen science databases in existence, with over one quarter billion records as of mid-June 2016. (This May alone, eBird users logged 664,354 checklists representing over 10 million observations, the highest number of entries in the program's history.)

In the simplest sense, eBird documents the presence or absence of species, as well as bird abundance, through checklist data. A simple smartphone and web interface allows participants to submit observations; all submitted results can be viewed at www.ebird.org. The database is provided in over 20 languages, representing every country and greater than 97 percent of the world's birds. eBird data provide a rich source of basic information on bird abundance and distribution at a variety of spatial and temporal scales—and these data are openly available and used by a broad spectrum of students, teachers, scientists, NGOs, government agencies, land managers, and policy makers, in addition to birders and ornithologists worldwide.

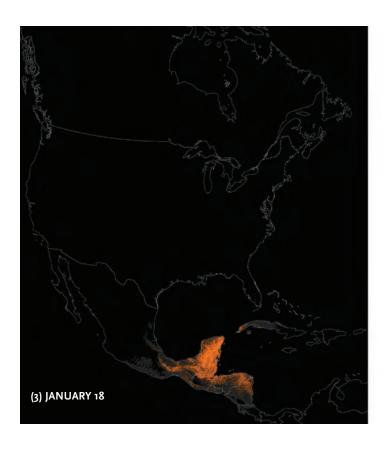
One of the most striking ways to view eBird data is in the form of distribution and abundance maps produced from Spatio-Temporal Exploratory Models (STEM). These species distribution maps are quickly becoming the state of the art for highlighting dynamic changes





in species' ranges throughout the year. With adequate data (even though eBird is a large database, there are still portions of the world where data are sparse), STEM can illustrate patterns of migration and connectivity across vast regions and habitats, as illustrated in the maps shown below of the magnolia warbler, a frequent visitor to New York City during migration. STEM can discover associations between observed patterns of bird occurrence and abundance (i.e., where people have submitted complete checklists) and local land-cover characteristics (i.e., the habitat on the ground as derived from NASA remote sensing data). The STEM models produce one daily abundance estimate per week for all 52 weeks of the year at 3 million terrestrial locations. These models also control for variation in detectability associated with the search effort by standardizing the estimates to be the expected count of the species on a search conducted by a typical eBirder from 7am to 8am while traveling 1 km on the given day at the given location.

Over the past 15 years, eBird has evolved from a basic citizen-science project into an enterprise that touches a diverse array of fields including population and distributions, conservation biology, quantitative ecology, and geographic information systems (GIS) and informatics. With continued participation from citizen scientists in every corner of the world, including New York City, eBird will provide the data that will define the science—distributions, movements, and trends of bird populations—that will support conservation efforts of the future. For more details, and to sign up, visit www.ebird.org.



D-BIRD SPREADS ITS WINGS

Ellen Azorin

very year, hundreds of millions of birds in North America are killed or injured by flying into windows and man-made structures. In 1997, NYC Audubon launched Project Safe Flight to improve our understanding of the



problem and focus on ways to prevent collisions in our area. The project has been expanding ever since, and in 2014, the D-Bird website was created by NYC Audubon Program and Advocacy Manager Darren Klein to help collect data about the collisions. In spring 2015, the project was adapted to take advantage of smartphone technology, making it easier for individuals to contribute timely and accurate feedback. Here's how it works:

- When you find a dead or injured bird, stop where you are and take a photo of it.
- Open up a web browser on your smartphone and navigate to www.d-bird.org. (If you don't have a smartphone with you or don't have time to stop, make note of where and when you found the bird and file a D-Bird report later from your home computer.)
- Follow the form's instructions to provide information about the bird.
- Upload a photo of the bird if you've taken one. This will help NYC Audubon conservation staff to identify (or verify your identification of) the species so that we can better ensure the reliability of our data.

D-Bird plays an important role as a citizen-science complement to the scientific protocols of Project Safe Flight by alerting our researchers to unknown hotspots for bird collisions and giving them insight into the conditions that can cause collisions. This past spring, NYC Audubon's D-Bird project was expanded and shared with Audubon Minnesota, Audubon Texas, and Atlanta Audubon, as these chapters strive to take a more active role in addressing building-related bird mortality.

We're off to a flying start with these innovations to D-Bird, but we need your participation. We hope you'll keep your eyes peeled and your smartphone ready, and become one of our valued citizen scientists. (Visit www.nycaudubon.org/project-<u>safe-flight#D-Bird</u> to view an interactive map of D-Bird data.)

EVENTS AND ADVENTURES

- **NYC Audubon Events**
- **Partnership Events Overnight Trips**

VAN CORTLANDT BIRD WALK, THE BRONX

Saturdays, September 3-November 26, 8-9:30am

Guides: NYC Audubon, Van Cortlandt **Park Conservancy** With the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy

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

BIRDING BASICS FOR FAMILIES: THE RAMBLE, CENTRAL PARK Saturdays, September 3-September 24, 10-11am

Guides: NYC Audubon, Conservancy **Discovery Guides** Offered by the Central Park Conservancy

Meet at the Belvedere Castle (inside the Park, mid-Park just north of the 79th Street transverse). Experience Central Park's fall bird migration with Conservancy Discovery Guides and NYC Audubon. See firsthand how the Conservancy's work has made the Park a sanctuary for birds. Binoculars available. Preregistration recommended. For weather cancellation updates and pre-registration information, call 212-772-0288. Limited to 20. Age 5 and up. Free

BIRDING BASICS FOR FAMILIES: THE NORTH WOODS, CENTRAL PARK

Sundays, September 4-September 25, 10-11am

Guides: NYC Audubon, Conservancy **Discovery Guides**

Offered by the Central Park Conservance

Meet at the Dana Discovery Center (inside the Park at 110th Street between Fifth and Lenox Avenues). Experience Central Park's fall bird migration with Conservancy Discovery Guides and NYC Audubon. Witness firsthand how the Conservancy's work has made the Park a sanctuary for birds. Binoculars available. Pre-registration recommended. For weather cancellation updates and pre-registration information, call 212-772-0288. Limited to 20. Age 5 and

MORNING FALL MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK Wednesdays,

September 7-October 26, 7:30 10:30am

Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers

THE WEDNESDAY SERIES IS

SOLD OUT. Please see the listing for Morning Fall Migration Walks II, starting Thursday, September 8

MORNING FALL MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK II Thursdays, September 8-October 27, 7:30-10:30am

Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street. Birders of all levels can enjoy this fun and educational series of eight walks, observing the diverse and ever-changing waves of fall migrants that stop over Central Park during fall migration. Limited to 15. \$180 (126)

FALL WARBLERS

Friday, September 9, 6:30-8:30pm (class)

Sunday, September 11, 8-11am (trip) Instructor: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers

Identifying "confusing fall warblers" can be tricky, even for the experts. Study some of the most puzzling

species that stop in 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)

INTRO TO BIRDING: BIRD WALK IN CENTRAL PARK

Saturday, September 10, 8-10:30am **Guide: Tod Winston**

Meet at the entrance to Central Park 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)

MORNING FALL MIGRATION WALKS IN PROSPECT PARK Saturday, September 10, and Sunday,

November 6, 8-11am **Guide: Gabriel Willow**

Meet under the arch in Grand Army Plaza. Join Gabriel Willow for a leisurely walk to get to know the fall migrants of "Brooklyn's Backyard," beautiful Prospect Park. Prospect Park has a wide variety of habitats that attracts numbers of fall migrant bird species. Explore the park's meadows, forests, and waterways in search of warblers, vireos, thrushes, tanagers, waterfowl, and more. Limited to 15. \$36 (25) per walk

FALL BIRDING AT WAVE HILL, **THE BRONX**

Sundays, September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11, 9:30-11:30am

Guide: Gabriel Willow With Wave Hill

Meet at 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. Advance registration is recommended, either online at www. wavehill.org, at the Perkins Visitor Center, or by calling 718-549-3200 x251. (Walks run rain or shine; in case of severe weather call the number above for updates.) Ages 10 and up welcome with an adult. Limited to 20. NYC Audubon members enjoy two-for-one admission (see www. wavehill.org for more information)

BIRDING TOURS OF BRYANT

Mondays, September 12-October 17, 8-gam

Thursdays, September 15-October 20, 5-6pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow With Bryant Park Corporation

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



Blue-Headed Vireo





Fox Sparrow

EVENING FALL MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK **Monday Series:**

September 12-October 10, 5-6:30pm **Tuesday Series:**

September 13-October 11, 5-6:30pm Wednesday Series:

September 14-October 12, 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 on the way to their tropical wintering grounds. Look for tanagers, warblers, and other neotropical migrants in the wilds of Central Park. Limited to 15. \$125 (87) per series

NATIVE PLANT WALK AT McGOLRICK PARK

Tuesday, September 13, 5:30-6:30pm (Rain Date Thursday, September 15) Guides: Susan Elbin, PhD; Tod Winston See page 15 for details

FRIDAY MORNING FALL **MIGRATION WALKS IN THE NORTH END, CENTRAL PARK**

Fridays, September 16, 30, October 14, 28, gam-Noon

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Meet just inside the entrance to the Park at Central Park West and 103rd Street. Most NYC birders are familiar with The Ramble, but fewer visit the north end of Central Park, which includes equally productive woodlands, waterways, and meadows. The Pool, Loch, Ravine, and North Woods together constitute one of the wildest and most beautiful areas of Central Park, and during fall migration are full of warblers, vireos, thrushes, orioles, tanagers, cuckoos, and more. Limited to 15. \$36 (25) per walk

HOOK MOUNTAIN HAWK WATCH, NY

Sunday, September 18, 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 fall migrating raptors, including broadwinged and red-shouldered hawks, bald eagles, accipiters, and falcons. Note: this trip requires 35-minute hikes up and down the mountainside. Bring a bag lunch to enjoy atop the mountain watching the hawks fly overhead. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$99 (69)

BIRDING GEMS OF STATEN **ISLAND: CLOVE LAKES PARK** Sunday, September 18, 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 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. We'll even see one of the largest and oldest trees in NYC. Limited to 15. Bus fare (\$2.75 each way—please bring your MetroCard or exact change) not included in registration price. \$43 (30)

BIRD WALK IN CENTRAL PARK'S **NORTH WOODS**

Friday, September 23, 8-11am **Guide: Tod Winston**

Meet at 103rd Street and Central Park West, parkside. Explore the peaceful North Woods and Loch at the height of fall songbird migration. We'll seek out warblers, vireos, tanagers, grosbeaks, and more. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

CAPE MAY FALL MIGRATION WEEKEND

Saturday, September 24, 9am-Sunday, September 25, 7pm Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC THIS TRIP IS SOLD OUT

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET ECOLOGY **CRUISE**

Saturday, September 24, 4-7pm Guide: Don Riepe With the American Littoral Society and **Gateway National Recreation Area**

Meet at 3:30pm at Pier 4 (Emmons Avenue and Bedford Avenue, Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn). Enjoy a special three-hour narrated tour of Jamaica Bay aboard the "Golden Sunshine." Learn about the history and ecology of the bay and see migrating hawks, falcons, osprey, herons, egrets, ibis, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Includes wine and refreshments. Contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com to learn more and register. Limited to 140. \$55

GREENPOINT ECOFEST Saturday, September 24 See page 15 for details

FALL MIGRANTS OF WOODLAWN **CEMETERY, THE BRONX** Sunday, September 25, 8-10am 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. NYC Audubon's Tod Winston and Joseph McManus will look for fall migrants and yearround 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. Limited to 15. \$35 (24)

CAPE MAY FALL MIGRATION WEEKEND Saturday, October 1, 9am-Sunday, October 2, 7pm **Guide: Gabriel Willow** THIS TRIP IS SOLD OUT

RAPTOR TRUST AND GREAT SWAMP, NJ Saturday, October 1, 9:30am-6pm

Guides: Don Riepe, Tod Winston Enjoy a private tour of the Raptor Trust rehabilitation center and see many owls and hawks up close. Afterwards, we'll hike the boardwalk trails of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to look for raptors, waterfowl, reptiles, and amphibians. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 11. \$115 (80)

BIRDING GEMS OF QUEENS: **EVERGREENS CEMETERY AND THE RIDGEWOOD RESERVOIRS**

Sunday, October 2, 7:30am-1:30pm Guide: Kellye Rosenheim

Explore the delights of the historic Evergreens Cemetery and its fall migrants. The trip continues with a long stop at Ridgewood Reservoir, where we will search the treetops and basin for more birds. Moderately strenuous with a great deal of hills and stairs. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$96 (67)

SPARROW ID WORKSHOP Thursday, October 6, 7-8:30pm (class); Saturday, October 8, 2:30-5:30pm (trip) **Instructor: Gabriel Willow**

Sparrows are one of the most challenging groups of birds to identify, yet beautiful and fascinating once they can be distinguished. Learn to identify those LBJs (little brown jobs) by studying behavior, field marks, and songs. Sparrow species seen in prior years include field, swamp, savannah, white-crowned, and Lincoln's. Trip location TBA. Limited to 12. \$65 (45)

MIGRATION ALONG THE **BARRIER ISLANDS, LI** Saturday, October 8, 8am-4pm **Guide: Tod Winston**

Look for migrating raptors and songbirds as they stop and rest along Long Island's barrier islands. We'll visit some of the best spots in the vicinity of Iones Beach and Robert Moses State Park to find what surprises the north

...continued on page 10

EVENTS AND ADVENTURES (CONTINUED)

winds have blown in. Past years have brought scores of merlins, shorebirds, unusual songbirds, and monarch butterflies. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$122 (85)



Brown Creeper

FALL RAPTOR MIGRATION AT **FORT TILDEN, QUEENS** Saturday, October 8, 10am-1pm **Guide: Don Riepe**

With American Littoral Society

Meet at Fort Tilden Building No. 1. Hike along the beach, dunes, and woodlands of the fort and visit the hawkwatch platform on top of Battery Harris East to observe the many species of hawks and falcons migrating along the coast. For more information and to register, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. Limited to 30.

RAPTOR ID WORKSHOP Thursday, October 13, 7-8:30pm **Guide: Gabriel Willow**

If you've ever been to a hawk watch (such as the one we'll visit on our upcoming trip to Hawk Mountain, PA), you've probably been amazed at the ability of the hawk-watchers

to call out IDs of soaring raptors so distant that they look like specks on the horizon. This class will help you distinguish between accipiters, buteos, vultures, eagles, and more. Learn how their shapes reflect their behavior and ecology, and how subtle differences in form and pattern will allow you to identify raptors with newfound confidence. Limited to 12. \$33 (23)

NYC AUDUBON DAY AT HAWK MOUNTAIN, PA

Saturday, October 15, 8am-8pm Guides: Gabriel Willow, Hawk **Mountain Education Specialist**

Mid-October is the perfect time to visit Hawk Mountain, one of the premier hawk-watching spots in the East. Gabriel Willow and a Hawk Mountain education specialist will introduce us to the variety of raptors that may be seen, including golden eagles, buteos, and falcons. The path to the hawk watch site is a 3/4-mile hike through

mountainous woodland. Bring lunch. Group program, trail admission, and transportation by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$139 (97)

FALL MIGRANTS OF INWOOD HILL PARK, MANHATTAN Saturday, October 15, 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 kinglets, warblers, flycatchers, sparrows, thrushes, and more. Then search the shore of the Inwood Hill Park salt marshes for herons and ducks. Some hilly walking required. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

BIRDING GEMS OF STATEN ISLAND: FRESHKILLS PARK Sunday, October 16, 8am-3pm Guide: Cliff Hagen

Meet at the Manhattan terminal of the Staten Island Ferry for a special opportunity to see Freshkills Park. 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. Each autumn, migrant species abound as they travel along the North Atlantic Flyway. Sparrows, waterfowl, and lingering warblers seek refuge in the park while raptors soar overhead. Late-blooming flowers attract butterflies and dragonflies. Transport by passenger van on Staten Island included. Limited to 12. \$57 (40)

NYC AUDUBON MEMBERS ONLY EVENTS

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

FALL MIGRATION IN ASTORIA PARK, QUEENS

Sunday, September 11, 9-10:30am

New Destination! Meet NYC Audubon Board Member Kellie Quiñones at Astoria Boulevard South and 21st Street to seek out migrating birds.

SEPTEMBER WALK IN THE CENTRAL PARK RAMBLE

Tuesday, September 13, 7:30-9:30am

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street. Explore the Ramble with NYC Audubon Past President Harry Maas and revel in fall migration in New York City.

FALL WALK IN PROSPECT PARK

Friday, September 16, 7:30-9am Meet at the entrance to Prospect Park across from Grand Army Plaza and join NYC Audubon Board Member Tom Stephenson, author of The Warbler Guide and creator of the Bird

Genie app, for a fall migration walk.

KIDS MEMBER WALK IN **CENTRAL PARK**

Sunday, September 18, 3-4:30 pm

Meet at 72nd Street and Central Park West and explore the park's best birding hotspots with Tod Winston, Nancy Ward, and Kellye Rosenheim. Open to registered KIDS members ages 8-12, accompanied by a parent or guardian. To register, parents should email KIDS@nycaudubon.org. Visit www.nycaudubon.org/kidsmembership for more information about the KIDS membership program.

A FALL MIGRATORY SONGBIRD RAMBLE IN CENTRAL PARK

Friday, October 7, 4-5:30pm

Join NYC Audubon Director of Development Kellye Rosenheim for a fall stroll through the Ramble. Meet at the Loeb Boathouse snack bar.

DECEMBER WALK IN CENTRAL

Wednesday, December 7, 8-10am

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street for a walk with NYC Audubon Communications Manager Tod Winston. Brave the chilly weather as we search for some of Central Park's best wintering birds.

BEGINNING BIRDING

Classes: Thursdays, October 20, October 27, and November 3, 6:30-8:30pm

Trips: Saturdays, October 29, 8-11am, and November 5, 9am-3pm **Instructor: Tod Winston**

Learn the keys to identifying the spectacular variety of birds that migrate southwards through New York City every fall. 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 two field trips, first to Central Park and then to Jamaica Bay (transport to Jamaica bay included). Limited to 12. \$179 (125)

• FALL FOLIAGE HIKE IN THE GREENBELT, STATEN ISLAND Saturday, October 29, 9:30am-4pm Guide: Gabriel Willow With NYC Parks and the Greenbelt Conservancy

Meet at the Manhattan terminal of the Staten Island Ferry. We will journey to Moses Mountain, which provides a panoramic view of Staten Island and points beyond. We'll look for migrating hawks, warblers, and other songbirds—with crimson sumac and other autumn foliage as a backdrop. Bring lunch. Transportation on Staten Island provided. Limited to 18. \$43 (30)

FALL MIGRATION ON RANDALL'S ISLAND Sunday, October 30, 9am-1pm Guides: Gabriel Willow, Christopher Girgenti of Randall's Island With Randall's Island Park Alliance, Inc.

Meet on the northwest corner of 102nd Street and FDR Drive. We'll walk across the foot bridge to Randall's Island, an under-explored location in the East River that hosts restored freshwater wetlands and salt marsh. We'll look for fall migrants as we explore the results of recent restoration efforts. Two miles of walking and some modest climbs. Limited to 20. \$40 (28)

DUCKS, RAPTORS, AND MORE AT PELHAM BAY PARK, THE BRONX Saturday, November 5, 9am-3pm Guide: Gabriel Willow

Explore the lovely coves and rocky outcroppings of Pelham Bay Park, looking for wintering ducks, migrating raptors, and more. Pelham Bay Park's combination of open water, salt marsh, rocky shore, both youngand old-growth forest, rare coastal tall grass meadows, and patches of dry and wet oak savanna is rare not just within the City but also on this continent. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$102 (71)

SNOW GEESE AND TUNDRA SWANS OF BRIGANTINE, NJ Sunday, November 6, 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. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$125 (87)

CHINCOTEAGUE REFUGE/ ASSATEAGUE ISLAND: BIRDS AND PONIES

Thursday, November 10, 9am-

Sunday, November 13, 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, observation deck), breakfast, a safari bus tour of the back dunes area, five guided hikes, evening programs, and an "all you can eat" oyster and seafood dinner. Contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com to learn more. Limited to 30. \$395 (\$180

VAN TRIP TO THE WINTER WATERFOWL WORKSHOP AT JAMAICA BAY

single room supplement)

Saturday, November 19, 9am-3pm Register for our van trip to the Winter Waterfowl Workshop (see description below) and get to Jamaica Bay the easy way—by passenger van! Bring lunch. Limited to 12. \$53 (37)

WINTER WATERFOWL WORKSHOP AT JAMAICA BAY Saturday, November 19, 10am-1pm Guides: Don Riepe, Tod Winston With American Littoral Society Meet at the Jamaica Bay Refuge Visitor Center for a slide presentation and walk along the trails and ponds to look

for waterfowl and other birds. Learn



Wood Duck

about the many species of ducks and geese that spend the winter in New York City and how to identify them. For more information and to register, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. Limited to 25. Free

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, November 7. (Registration will open to all on Monday, November 21.)

• TO REGISTER FOR ALL NYC AUDUBON EVENTS and for more information, visit www.nycaudubon.org or call Darren Klein 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. See membership form on page 19.

WIND ENERGY: UNDERSTANDING ITS POTENTIAL HAZARDS FOR BIRDS

Suzanne Charlé



s concern about the effects of fossil fuel on the environment grows, wind power is increasingly looked on as one part of the solution. Here in New York, over 100 local leaders and community groups—including the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF)-recently met with Mayor de Blasio to discuss wind as a power source for New York City. Calling offshore wind power a "golden opportunity," NWF's Catherine Bowes wrote that it would "spark massive job creation, reduce local air pollution, and protect wildlife and communities from dangers of climate change."

Indeed, as Jim Brown, conservation chair of South Shore Audubon Society (SSAS), remarked, the continental shelf of the U.S. Atlantic Coast has been termed "the Saudi Arabia of wind power." At the same time, both he and NYC Audubon Director of Conservation and Science Dr. Susan Elbin noted that wind power is not the silver bullet for energy production because it could present challenges to wildlife.

To help stakeholders evaluate the pros and cons of offshore wind energy proposals, NYC Audubon and SSAS engaged Wing Goodale of the Biodiversity Research Institute to prepare a briefing document examining possible impacts of the proposed Long Island-New York City Offshore Wind Project. Funded by the Moore Charitable Foundation and National Audubon, the report outlines what should be considered in assessing risk to birds from placement and operation of an offshore wind farm. The document also makes mention of other wildlife, including fish, sea turtles, marine mammals, and bats.

Currently, New York Power Authority and Con Edison are proposing a project 13 miles off the Rockaway Peninsula shore. Ultimately there would be 194 turbines creating 700 megawatts of energy-enough to power roughly 220,000 homes. The federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) published an environmental assessment for the designated area (see News & Notes on page 19).

Regarding potential danger to birds, the NYC Audubon-SSAS briefing report notes that most adverse effects would occur during the operation of the turbines. The number of turbines and their height, diameter, and placement are among the concerns. Static artificial light is known to attract birds during migration, so lighting, required by the FAA and the U.S. Coast Guard, is another hazard.

Using maps commissioned by the BOEM that chart "hotspots" where birds exist in the New York planning area, the authors noted that many species would be exposed to collision and displacement, and a number of species would be highly vulner-

able, including black-legged kittiwake, great black-backed gull, herring gull, northern gannet, and Wilson's storm-petrel.

The study suggests possible ways to mitigate the negative effects, including helping birds avoid impacts by curtailing turbines during migration and reducing lighting; science-based siting of the turbines, avoiding biological hotspots and critical habitat; and compensation to the affected species population by improving other areas of critical breeding or wintering habitat, thus increasing reproductive success and adult and juvenile survival. Before construction, two steps are critical: the identification of vulnerable species and the creation of guidelines for conducting large avian surveys, which delineate migratory flight paths. These would include boat-based surveys, high-definition-video aerial surveys, and analysis of available eBird data.

Elbin notes that it is "important that our position for any proposed wind energy project be the result of a thoughtful process, and that in making the decision to support or oppose an off-shore wind farm, we understand the costs and benefits, the risks and outcomes." She states further that "off-shore wind energy could be a clean source of energy production, or it could lethal to wildlife. This study will help us identify which projects are worthy of our support."

Visit www.nycaudubon.org/wind-report to view and download the joint NYC Audubon-SSAS report.

REMEMBER THE BIRDS

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



CHRISTIAN COOPER

When a male red-winged blackbird perched on nine-year-old Chris Cooper's homemade bird feeder, it was a pivotal encounter. The feeder was a 4-H project, encouraged by his mother. Although he learned that he had not discovered a new species, his fascination with birds had begun. It was cemented during a family cross-country camping trip, studying *Peterson's Field*

Guide to Birds, and on Sunday morning walks on Long Island with his father and South Shore Audubon. As an adult, Chris devotes the month of May to birding in Central Park every day from dawn till after 10am.

Today Chris is a health writer and editor. He brings board experience, having served as co-chair of the New York Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. He's also a long-time volunteer in Audubon's "For the Birds" program in New York City public schools and helps introduce children to birding and the outdoors, a project he hopes to expand.



DEBORAH LAUREL

In the 1980s, architectural intern Deborah Laurel saw a flock of birds collide with a mirrored glass office building in San Antonio. She assumed the birds were sick. Now, as a partner in the New York architectural firm of Prendergast Laurel, she not only understands the problem, but has also become an expert in using bird-safe glass in buildings.

Deborah has collaborated with NYC Audubon on Project Safe Flight and gives presentations to architectural firms about designing bird-friendly buildings. She's worked with the San Francisco Planning Department, Audubon Minnesota, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to help formulate policies to reduce collisions.

Originally from Austin, Deborah has lived and worked in the New York area since 1989 and has designed fire stations, libraries, health centers, and museums as well as private projects. She believes lives can be enriched by thoughtful design, and the lives she enriches are avian as well as human.



RACHEL "KELLIE" QUIÑONES

As a child, Kellie Quiñones' favorite TV show was Mutual of Omaha's "Wild Kingdom." Wildlife on TV was far removed from what Kellie saw in her Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood, however. She sought out nature and was sustained by the City's parks. She has grown up to become an accomplished birder and an active volunteer at NYC Audubon.

During many years working in Manhattan's financial district, Kellie

witnessed the destructive impact that glass and lights have on migrating birds. During numerous migration seasons, she scouted building sidewalks before work for dead or injured birds as one of the original volunteers for NYC Audubon's Project Safe Flight.

Kellie knows the importance to urban youth of having nature within reach. Nature can provide a lifeline for them, as it did for her. She is excited to help NYC Audubon teach young New Yorkers to become responsible stewards of urban wildlife.



ALAN STEEL

Alan Steel is the president and chief executive officer of the New York Convention Center Operating Corporation, which operates the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. He's also a committed birder and an advocate for birds in the urban environment. A native of Britain, Alan worked previously for the British government at the Department of Trade and Industry

but has lived in the States for many years.

Two years ago, the Javits Center and Alan were honored at NYC Audubon's Fall Roost. The Center had been retrofitted with birdsafe glass and an energy-saving green roof that has become a haven for at least 11 species of birds. Closely monitored by NYC Audubon's Project Safe Flight volunteers, it had been found to be one of the most dangerous buildings for birds in the City. Since its renovation, bird deaths have decreased by 90 percent. The seven-acre green roof, one of the largest in the U.S., is thriving. Alan is enthusiastic about encouraging other building designers and owners to become bird-friendly.



MICHAEL TANNEN

Although trained as a lawyer, Michael Tannen has spent most of his career as a business advisor, consultant, and producer for such well-known artists as John Lennon, Billy Joel, Bruce Springsteen, Grace Jones, Stephen Stills, Lily Tomlin, The Rolling Stones, and Simon & Garfunkel. He is an experienced business strategist as well as an

advocate for the natural environment.

While he credits his wife Mary with his interest in birds, Mike's broad focus is on the preservation of natural habitat. He has been involved with The Mohonk Preserve, Parks and Trails New York, The Upstream Alliance, and RARE. He is also a regional commissioner for New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation. His business career is winding down, giving him more time to promote, educate, and involve others in the enjoyment and preservation of our natural environment. He is particularly interested in engaging new, beginner birders, and brings board expertise, media savvy, and enthusiasm to NYC Audubon.

ACCIPITERS Gabriel Willow

erhaps people are familiar with the northern goshawk after reading last year's bestselling H Is for Hawk; the goshawk is a rare visitor to New York City, occasionally coming from its more northerly breeding grounds to winter in our area. I've seen two or three here over the last 15 years. Goshawks are a member of the genus Accipiter, a group of raptors that comprise the "true hawks." These species are sleek and long-tailed, and specialize in catching birds on the wing in ambush-style attacks in dense woodland. Their short, rounded wings and long tails help them

maneuver around trees in these pursuits. The more familiar buteos, such as the red-tailed hawk, are hunters of rodents, snakes, and frogs (and occasionally birds); their broad wings and short, wide tails are better suited for extended soaring.

Globally there are about 50 species of accipiter, found on every continent except Antarctica. In the United States there are only three species, all of which can be seen in New York City. They are, in ascending order of size, the sharp-shinned hawk (see cover), Cooper's hawk (above), and northern goshawk (see page 3). All three are somewhat uncommon, but Cooper's hawks in particular seem to be adapting to suburban and urban areas; this species is now a fairly fre-



Cooper's Hawk

quent visitor to our parks and occasionally terrorizes backyard birds at feeders. Due to their secretive nature and preference for fairly dense woodland habitat, all accipiters can be hard to spot—an important characteristic for predators that rely on surprise to catch their prey.

A good place to see an accipiter is at known fall migration sites such as Hook Mountain in New York's Rockland County, or Hawk Mountain, PA. At these famous hawk watch spots, dozens or even hundreds of sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks (and

the occasional northern goshawk) can be seen daily from late September to late October, usually peaking around mid-October.

Distinguishing among our three species of accipiter is an identification challenge. Subtle differences in size, shape, and pattern help us to differentiate them, but nothing beats practice and experience. Happily there are many opportunities to learn more about these fierce forest hunters this fall: in addition to the hawk-watching trips NYC Audubon is offering, I am giving a classroom workshop in October to help with the finer points of raptor identification. (See pages 8-11 for details on all of this fall's raptor-related events.)

THE MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT: CELEBRATING NEARLY 100 YEARS OF SUCCESS Carol Peace Robins

ack in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the snowy egret was hunted almost to extinction. Why? Because of a fashion fad. There were those who believed that women's hats just had to be adorned with the white breeding plumes of these elegant birds.

Fledgling conservation organizations like the Audubon Society, founded to oppose the mass slaughter of birds, were outraged. As a result of ensuing advocacy and public pressure, the Migratory Bird Treaty was signed in 1916 between the U.S. and Britain (on behalf of Canada) in order to end the commercial trade in feathers. To enforce the treaty, in 1918 Congress passed and President Woodrow Wilson signed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, making it officially a crime to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, or sell a migratory bird or any of its parts,

including nests, eggs, and feathers, except under the terms of a valid permit issued pursuant to federal regulations.

As we approach the centennial of one of the country's oldest, most comprehensive wildlife protection laws, it is satisfying to note that it has saved millions of birds including the snowy egret, which is now abundant in the U.S. (In 2016, New York City is fortunate to host 236 nesting pairs on its Harbor Heron islands.) The Act currently covers more than 1,000 native species, having been amended to include birds that are not migratory. Non-native species such as the house sparrow, European starling, and mute swan are not protected by the Act.

One hundred years is quite a milestone. But in recent times, the Act, created to prevent species decline, is facing its own dangers. At various times, Congress has attempted to stop federal prosecutors from enforcing the law. It has accused the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service of selectively and unfairly targeting oil and gas companies for damage to birds by their production practices, and has attempted to exempt these companies from prosecution. More recently, federal legislation has been proposed that would allow unlimited fatalities (called "incidental take") of protected bald and golden eagles at wind-power facilities.

So far, these attacks have failed. But, one has to wonder. Will the Migratory Bird Treaty Act survive the next 100 years? Visit www.fws. gov/birds/MBTreaty100/index.php and www. audubon.org/news/migratory-bird-treaty-act to learn more and take part in protecting this important legislation.

A Meadow Grows in Brooklyn at 520 Kingsland Avenue

Suzanne Charlé



Workers from the Fortune Society Put Down Lightweight Soil Medium

our stories above Kingsland Avenue in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, urban landscape designer Marni Majorelle was overseeing workers from the Fortune Society as they leaned into the wind, putting down layers of drainage material on the rooftop of Broadway Stages; next would come six inches of lightweight soil medium. A stone's throw away, the sculptural shapes of the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant rose above the industrial landscape; beyond, the towers of Manhattan glistened.

The Newtown Creek Wildflower Roof and Community Space—20,000 square feet when complete—will be one of the larger green roofs in the City, constructed with a \$971,782 legacy grant awarded by the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund to NYC Audubon and its partners as part of a settlement with ExxonMobil. (See the spring 2016 issue of *The Urban Audubon*.) NYC Audubon has partnered with Alive Structures, founded by Majorelle, to design and install a bird-friendly wildflower meadow. In addition to attracting wildlife and diverting runoff rainwater, the rooftop will have outdoor and indoor educational facilities, with programs throughout the year (see sidebar).

Majorelle noted that Broadway Stages had to have much structural work done to the warehouse before the first 7,000-square-foot-phase of the green roof could begin, including the installation of a public-access elevator to the rooftop. Once that was finished, towering cranes uploaded earth and drainage materials, as well as irrigation drip lines and huge New York bluestones to be used as stepping-stones.

"The work is grueling," Majorelle said, praising the determination of 10 men from the Fortune Society contracted to install the meadow. "It's hot and windy up on the roof. Putting plants in is the icing on the cake."

The icing—plants specially selected to attract birds and other wildlife—will be composed of species native to the Long Island Sound coastal lowlands, including native grasses such as stout blue-eyed grass and northern dropseed; heart-leaved golden Alexanders; and *Asclepias tuberosa*, or butterfly weed. (A host plant for monarch butterflies, butterfly weed also produces silky seed pod fibers used by orioles and goldfinches in their nests.) "We hope to begin planting in July and continue through September," Majorelle said, adding that work on the rest of the roof would resume in the spring and be completed in 2017.

Witness the Greening of Greenpoint this Fall!

This fall NYC Audubon will offer walks and talks at the Urban Oasis in McGolrick Park and the Newtown Creek Wildflower Roof and Community Space in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Join us!

BIRD SURVEYS AT McGOLRICK PARK Wednesday, September 7, 8-9am (Rain Date Friday, September 9) Tuesday, October 4, 8-9am (Rain Date Wednesday, October 5)

Meet in the southwest corner of McGolrick Park, at the corner of Russell Street and Driggs Avenue, and join us for a citizen-science bird survey. Help us map out locations of the birds that use this urban green space during migration. To register, email volunteer@nycaudubon.org.

NATIVE PLANT WALK AT McGOLRICK PARK Tuesday, September 13, 5:30-6:30pm (Rain Date Thursday, September 15) Guides: Susan Elbin, PhD; Tod Winston

Meet in the southwest corner of McGolrick Park, at the corner of Russel Street and Driggs Avenue, and join us for a free interpretive walk of the Park's Urban Oasis with NYC Audubon Director of Conservation and Science Susan Elbin and Communications Manager Tod Winston. We'll highlight native and bird-friendly plants and keep an eye out for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. To register, email volunteer@nycaudubon.org.

GREENPOINT ECOFEST Saturday, September 24

Visit our work-in-progress green roof and wildflower meadow at 520 Kingsland Avenue in Greenpoint. Enjoy a fun family day, with children's activities and more. Learn more at www.nycaudubon.org/gpecofest.

LECTURE BY MICHAEL McCARTHY Saturday, October 8

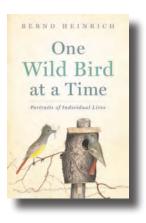
Meet in the community space atop 520 Kingsland Avenue in Greenpoint adjacent to our new green roof. Acclaimed author Michael McCarthy will present an evening lecture based on his book *The Moth Snowstorm*. Learn more at www.nycaudubon.org/lectures.



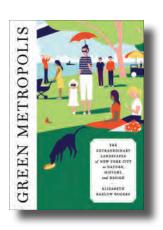
Funding provided by the Office of the New York State Attorney General and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund.

BOOK REVIEWS

ONE WILD BIRD AT A TIME: PORTRAITS OF INDIVIDUAL LIVES By Bernd Heinrich Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016



GREEN METROPOLIS: THE EXTRAORDINARY LANDSCAPES OF NEW YORK CITY AS NATURE. HISTORY, AND DESIGN By Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, with a preface by Tony Hiss Knopf, 2016



erhaps there was nothing more for me to see-or everything. I chose to believe in the latter possibility. . ." Here, Bernd Heinrich is describing his observations of chickadees at his birdfeeder, though the sentiment also clearly captures the spirit of joy and curiosity which is found from start to finish in his One Wild Bird at a Time. Seventeen chapters provide poignant and data-driven insights into the behaviors of a variety of northeastern birds including barred owls, American woodcocks, and European starlings, to name just a few. Each chapter stands alone as a poetic short story, reminiscent of Aldo Leopold's A Sand County Almanac. The book is rife with life and death struggles that would certainly cause scandal and intrigue if played out by their human counterparts: drama presented in the tale of empty-nested great crested flycatchers that try

ouldn't it be great to take walking tours of some of New York City's public parks guided by experts in urban planning, architecture, history, horticulture, geology, and ornithology? Betsy Barlow Rogers obviously thinks so too, and has penned a delightful volume exploring seven green spaces of particular distinction. After an overview of our region's natural underpinnings, Rogers takes us through parks on Staten Island, boats us around Jamaica Bay, and walks us through Inwood Hill Park, Central Park's Ramble, Roosevelt Island, and the High Line.

As the author of six previous books, Rogers writes fluidly and knowledgably about subjects such as plants, social history, and urban design. And she turns over long passages to others whose own voices provide vital information or context. Her carefully curated contributors run the gamut from Joshua David and Robert Hammond, the two men who created the High Line, to Nancy Mirandoli Brown, a woman who has spent her whole life on Roosevelt Island, beginning when she was a child disabled by polio and an inmate in one of the public hospitals. Brown describes what it was like then and takes us to gain control over another pair's nest; mystery in the unique snow tunnels left behind by common redpolls and messages relayed by the calls of American crows; heartbreak for young breeding pairs as they fight the elements to find shelter and food for their chicks; and the victimization of a lone crow in the struggle for resources and a mate.

Heinrich's drawings of each featured bird are peppered throughout the text, with color portraits included at the center of the book. As he often describes the behaviors of one species observed over many years, and not as many individual birds as one may expect, the title is somewhat deceiving. However, the book does not disappoint. Often discovering more questions than answers, Heinrich inspires the reader to be open to witnessing the drama and beauty that can unfold in one's own backyard.

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through her mainstreaming into the utopian housing that we find there today. We also hear from well-known local bird-people like Don Riepe (in the Jamaica Bay chapter) and Joe DiCostanzo (Central Park's Ramble).

You'll learn a lot and come to regard your favorite places in a deeper way. Bird-lovers will enjoy reading how our advocacy helped shape the horticultural program in the Ramble, but like any good walking tour, it's the side paths that matter. The history of garbage-collecting is fascinating, as is the conversion of landfills into public parks. While on these apparent detours, much of the pleasure in the book is seeing our city as Rogers herself sees it. Her own history, as a founder of the Central Park Conservancy and pioneer in the publicprivate partnerships that have saved our city, is in the background. She draws upon these experiences indirectly, and operates rather as someone full of curiosity and appreciation of both the natural and human-made. These are skills that not every guide has, and we're lucky she's chosen to share what she knows with us. (Elizabeth Barlow Rogers will present a NYC Audubon lecture on Thursday, November 17. See next page for details.) KR

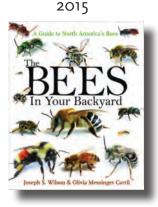
THE BEES IN YOUR BACKYARD:

A GUIDE TO

NORTH AMERICA'S BEES

By Joseph S. Wilson and
Olivia J. Messinger Carrill

Princeton University Press,



I thas taken several years to come into the public awareness, but bee populations everywhere are dangerously imperiled. The phrase "colony collapse," once considered with skepticism, is now scientifically recognized as a real and critical situation. While other animal and insect species contribute to pollination and ecological balance, none is more crucial than the bee to sustaining life—including birdlife. Their unique pollinating talents are beyond those of any other, and their loss would have a devastating effect on habitats and crops.

With this new awareness comes a new interest in bees. What kinds of bees are there and how do they differ? How can you tell them apart? Which ones sting? What makes them thrive, how and where do they live, how do they pollinate, and how does all that

translate into everything from the food on our tables to the well-being of the birds we love?

This gorgeous, glossy new 277-page book features more than 900 stunning color photos and is filled with fascinating information. For example: there are more than 4,000 species of bees in the U.S. and Canada—four times more species than all the bird species north of Mexico. Have you been told that bees can sting only once before they die? Actually, almost all can sting multiple times, and it's only honey bees that die after their first sting.

You might think of this beautiful, fact-filled book as the "bee" equivalent of *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. You'll certainly come away from it with a new respect for *Apis mellifera* and its relatives.

FALL 2016 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.

GREEN METROPOLIS: THE EXTRAORDINARY LANDSCAPES OF NEW YORK CITY AS NATURE, HISTORY, AND DESIGN

By Elizabeth Barlow Rogers

Thursday, November 17, 7pm

In her new book *Green Metropolis*, Betsy Barlow Rogers introduces us to seven remarkable New York City green spaces and to the people who have been instrumental in their design and protection. As a founder of the Central Park Conservancy and current president of the Foundation for Landscape Studies, the author is well positioned to take us through the history—both natural and human—of how these places were created and how they have been transformed. (See our review of *Green Metropolis* on page 16.)

BIRDWATCHING IN NEW YORK CITY AND ON LONG ISLAND

By Deborah Rivel and Kellye Rosenheim Thursday, December 8, 7pm

Deborah Rivel and Kellye Rosenheim are the authors of a new guide to birdwatching in the five boroughs and on Long Island, designed to be easy to use in the field and provide seasonal information and precise directions to the area's best birdwatching locations (see the summer 2016 issue of *The Urban Audubon* for a book excerpt). The authors will share what they learned researching and writing the book. Deborah is an avid bird photographer and award-winning independent wildlife film producer/director. Kellye leads local bird walks and is currently director of development for NYC Audubon.

To learn about our lecture with author Michael McCarthy on October 8 in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, see page 15

NOTE: OUR LECTURES NOW BEGIN AT 7PM. ALSO, OUR SERIES HAS MOVED!

OUR NEW VENUE IS REIDY HALL AT THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF

ALL SOULS, LOCATED ON LEXINGTON AVENUE

BETWEEN 79TH AND 80TH STREETS IN MANHATTAN

Officers, Board, and Advisors

NYC Audubon Board Member Jeff Kimball has been elected board president, effective June 2016. Board members Cathy Heller and Fredric Spar have been elected vice president and treasurer, respectively. We thank Rick Andrias for his service as vice president, John Shemilt for his service as treasurer, and Marcy Boyle for her service as corresponding secretary.

We welcome five new members to the NYC Audubon board (see page 13).

The terms of several board members have ended: Oakes Ames; Rick Andrias; Marcy Boyle; Andrew Farnsworth, PhD; and Marcia T. Fowle will all continue to support NYC Audubon as members of the advisory council, which Marcia and Jim Sheffield will co-chair. Past President David Burg has rejoined the advisory council.

We are grateful to President Harrison D. Maas for his profound contributions to NYC Audubon over the past five years. Harry's leadership has strengthened our organization—and his championing of the Jamaica Bay ecosystem in particular contributed to the successful campaign to restore the West Pond as critical freshwater habitat. We look forward to Harry's continuing contributions as immediate past president of the board.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

NYC Audubon's conservation work and public programs are made possible by philanthropic contributions from members, friends, corporations, foundations, and government agencies. We are grateful to all those who have sustained our work this past season, including the 754 members and donors whose individual gifts in amounts up to \$2,499 collectively provided \$77,528 in support of NYC Audubon's mission from January 1 to June 1, 2016.

AMERICAN KESTREL CIRCLE

Tylee Abbott Karen Benfield and John Zucker Stephen Berger and Cynthia Wainwright Claude and Lucienne Bloch Ronald Bourque Marsilia A. Boyle Joseph and Barbara Ellis Andrew Farnsworth Marcia and Bruce Fowle Philip Fried and Bruce Patterson Richard Fried Nancy Hager Cathy and Lloyd Heller Sarah Jeffords Jeffrey Kimball Lauren and Ethan Klingsberg Jennifer and Philip Maritz Andre Meade Edith McBean Lewis and Sheila Rosenberg

John and Heather Shemilt Fred Spar Alan Steel Antonia Stolper and Bob Fertik Virginia K. Stowe Elizabeth Woods and Charles

CORPORATIONS, **FOUNDATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

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First Cornerstone Foundation **FXFOWLE Architects** Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund Hudson River Foundation Investors Bank Foundation Jacob K. Javits Convention Center Kimball Foundation The Samuel J. and Ethel LeFrak Charitable Foundation Leon Levy Foundation Lily Auchincloss Foundation Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences Marta Heflin Foundation McKenna Long & Aldridge Morton Williams Supermarkets National Audubon Society National Fish and Wildlife Foundation National Grid USA

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IN-KIND DONATIONS

Birds & Beans Coffee **Endangered Species** Chocolate Laure and Stephen Manheimer Materials for the Arts

TRIBUTE GIFTS

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MEMORIAL GIFTS

Baukje Cohen Kirsten Hermansen Kavanaugh Joseph Tobin Sam Vella

BEOUESTS

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THANK YOU TO OUR SPRING AND SUMMER STAFF AND INTERNS

This spring and summer, NYC Audubon's field work was accomplished with the help of a talented and enthusiastic team:

ANDREW BUDSOCK and BRANDI CHANTILLIA CANNON, both MA students at Columbia University, led our outreach effort at NYC Parks' "Piping Plover Day."

CARLY COX and SARAH ELLIS, both MA students at New York University, taught students near Jamaica Bay about the connections between birds, beaches, and people via our Tidal Connections program curriculum.

ROBERT CIARDULLO, who graduated this past spring from Fordham University, assisted Dustin Partridge for the third year in identifying arthropods from the green roof of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center.

ELIZABETH CRAIG, PhD, tern conservation program manager at Shoals Marine Laboratory and former NYC Audubon Harbor Herons Nesting Survey coordinator, collaborated in banding adult common terns at Breezy Point.

PHIL CUSIMANO, DENNIS GALCIK, CHRISTINE NEALY, ANN SELIGMAN, and **DOTTIE WERKMEISTER** worked as horseshoe crab site coordinators, managing our volunteers in Jamaica Bay in collecting crab spawning data.

ALISON KOCEK, a PhD student in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Biology and Management at SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry, conducted saltmarsh sparrow field research on Staten Island.

KAITLYN PARKINS, education director at the Lower East Side Ecology Center and former NYC Audubon employee, conducted bat surveys on the green roof of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center and helped analyze data.

DUSTIN PARTRIDGE, a PhD candidate at Fordham University, conducted arthropod and bird surveys on the green roof of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center and helped analyze data.

EMILIO TOBÓN, a recent PhD student at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and experienced field technician, conducted NYC Audubon's American oystercatcher surveys, which he has done since 2010, and ran the tunnel experiment at the Bronx Zoo, banding birds and testing bird-safe glass alternatives.

ANIKÓ TÓTHA, experienced field technician and bird keeper at the Bronx Zoo, helped Emilio run the tunnel experiment, which she has been involved in since 2014.

News & Notes

COMMENTS SUBMITTED ON OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NYC Audubon and South Shore Audubon collaborated in submitting comments to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management on its recently published Offshore Wind Energy Environmental Assessment. The submitted comments may be viewed at www.nycaudubon.org/images/pdf/oweea-comments.pdf. See page 12 to learn more about this issue.

AWARD-WINNING FILM SAVING JAMAICA BAY

New documentary *Saving Jamaica Bay* recently won Best Documentary at the Chautauqua International Film Festival and the Audience Award at both the Queens World Film Festival and the Princeton Environmental Film Festival. You can catch a screening of *Saving Jamaica Bay* on Friday, September 9, at 7pm at the Picnic House in Prospect Park, Brooklyn. Visit www.savingjamaicabay.com for details and additional screenings.

PUBLICATION OF GULL RESEARCH

NYC Audubon Director of Conservation and Science Susan Elbin is a coauthor of the article "Historical and Current Population Trends of Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) and Great Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*) in the New York Bight, USA," published April 2016 in a Special Issue on Gull Biology of the *Waterbirds* journal.

SUPPORT NYC AUDUBON'S MISSION

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

n 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 \$10 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. See page 12 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.

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DATED MATERIAL: Fall 2016 Newsletter

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THE FALL ROOST

PROTECTING WILD BIRDS AND THEIR HABITAT IN NEW YORK CITY



Co-Chairs

KAREN BENFIELD Marcia T. Fowle CATHERINE HELLER

SILENT AUCTION AND RECEPTION 6:30-7:30РМ

DINNER AND PROGRAM 7:30-9:30PM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2016 AT GUASTAVINO'S 409 EAST 59TH STREET

Please join us for the twelfth annual Fall Roost on Monday, October 17 at Guastavino's. Proceeds from the Roost support NYC Audubon's work protecting birds through outreach, conservation, and advocacy. Tickets start at \$375. For tickets or more information, contact Kellye Rosenheim at 646-502-9611 or krosenheim@nycaudubon.org or find our Roost page at www.nycaudubon.org.