



ANNUAL REPORT 2010

(April 1, 2009–March 31, 2010)

NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

A Message from the President

New York City may be best known for Broadway and bright lights, but it is also important habitat for wild birds. The city's 52,992 acres of parks and countless backyards and other green spaces provide critical nesting, wintering, and stopover habitat for over 300 species of birds. These birds help to ensure a happier, healthier habitat for all New Yorkers.

For the last thirty years, New York City Audubon members like you have worked to protect those birds and the fragile urban niches and natural areas where they live. In effect, we have been helping eight million New Yorkers share their habitat with hundreds of thousands of wild birds.

Why is local conservation so important? If birds are driven from the city by climate change or urban development, they lose a critical piece of the patchwork of habitats they need to survive. That's why, when nearly every species is threatened, your help is essential to protect them in New York City, whether they are residents or just passing through.

Each year New York City Audubon's conservation and education initiatives reach out to more than 20,000 New Yorkers in all five boroughs. We are grateful to the many partner organizations, committed volunteers, and dedicated donors, whose efforts make conservation in New York City possible. With their help—and yours—we can keep New York City a great place to live for birds and people alike.

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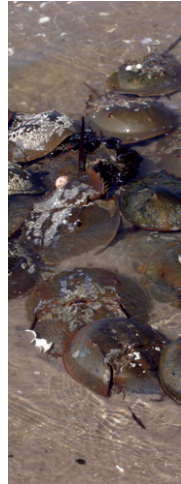
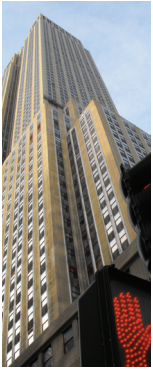
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The success of New York City Audubon's conservation programs is due in large part to the work of New York City Audubon's dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers and interns. During 2009, support from the Leon Levy Foundation and from TogetherGreen, a Toyota-funded program of the National Audubon Society, enabled New York City Audubon to hire John Rowden, PhD as manager of citizen science. In this role Rowden designed and supervised conservation research projects conducted by New York City Audubon's volunteers and student interns for all three program areas below.

CONSERVATION

PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

Collisions with buildings are estimated to kill over 90,000 birds in New York City each year. Project Safe Flight is New York City Audubon's ongoing monitoring and research program that studies the causes of urban bird collisions and seeks ways to prevent them. The project also focuses on protecting and improving stopover habitat for migrating birds. During the 2009 spring and fall migrations a dozen volunteers patrolled the borough of Manhattan for evidence of birds colliding with buildings, rescuing injured birds and bearing witness to the deaths of nearly a hundred birds. In addition, New York City Audubon acted as consultant to the architects redesigning the Jacob Javits Center, where deadly collisions have occurred over the years. As a result, fritted glass will replace the existing glass when Javits undergoes renovation in 2011. A second group of volunteers monitored this year's Tribute in Light. Weather conditions in 2009 were unfavorable for migration, so only a few birds were observed in the beams. As part of Project Safe Flight's effort, New York City Audubon offered assistance to Audubon Minnesota for their publication of *Bird-Safe Building Guidelines* that was modeled on New York City Audubon's 2007 *Bird-Safe Building Guidelines*.

HARBOR HERONS

Through the Harbor Herons program New York City Audubon has assessed the health of waterbird colonies in New York harbor for over 25 years, providing indicators of the health of the entire New York harbor ecosystem. The 2009 survey recorded nesting data for nine colonies of herons and egrets in the harbor. Between 2008 and 2009, population increases were observed for black-crowned night-herons, yellow-crowned night-herons, snowy egrets, glossy ibis, and a slight population decrease was observed for great egrets. Tricolored herons, little blue herons, green herons, and cattle egrets continued to nest in low numbers.

The final version of the Harbor Heron Conservation Plan, developed by New York City Audubon in partnership with the New Jersey Audubon Society, was released in March 2010. The plan is coordinated with other conservation initiatives in the harbor and will serve as a roadmap for conserving habitat and bird species in the greater NY/NJ harbor.

NATURAL AREAS INITIATIVE

Research and monitoring projects for the year included a breeding bird census in Prospect Park. Beginning in May 2009, fifteen volunteers carefully searched Prospect Park, an Important Bird Area, for breeding birds during a ten-week period that ended in the first week of July. Using standard Breeding Bird Census protocols, the New York City Audubon team observed 68 species, 32 of which were confirmed (observed nesting or feeding young) or probable (observed repeatedly defending territorial borders or seen with young). American robins were the dominant breeding species numerically, but common grackles, northern cardinals, gray catbirds, mourning doves, blue jays, and Baltimore orioles were also abundant nesters. In addition, volunteers recorded nests of cedar waxwings, warbling vireos, wood thrushes, northern rough-winged swallows, and red-bellied woodpeckers.

With the support of a TogetherGreen Innovation grant, New York City Audubon initiated a study in Jamaica Bay of migratory shorebirds and horseshoe crabs, whose eggs provide an important food source for the birds during spring migration. New York City Audubon's volunteer citizen scientists monitored several Jamaica Bay beaches including Brooklyn's Plumb Beach from mid-April until early July. Of all the beaches monitored in New York State, Plumb Beach is the most productive for horseshoe crabs. Preliminary analysis of the data suggests that shorebirds are arriving in Jamaica Bay several days later than reported in the 1970s and 80s.

With the support of a Chapter Collaborative Funding grant from Audubon New York, New York City Audubon's Director of Conservation Susan Elbin, PhD and, Manager of Citizen Science John Rowden, PhD gave a shorebird identification workshop in March of 2010 for representatives of all Audubon chapters on Long Island.

In a joint initiative with National Audubon and Audubon New York in memory of the late Geoffrey Cobb Ryan, past president of New York City Audubon, two nesting towers for chimney swifts have been erected in addition to the three established last year. Each city borough now has a nesting tower housed on state park property.

EDUCATION

EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

New York City Audubon offers a rich and diverse array of educational programs for members and the general public. New York City Audubon's trips extend from the five boroughs to regional and international sites that are home to our birds during parts of the year. We partner with other organizations to offer eco-cruises to the Harbor Heron islands in the East River and kayaking on Jamaica Bay. This year's education programs reached a larger number of people than ever before, with over 2,500 participants.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

New York City Audubon staff and volunteers provide environmental education to over 5,000 New York City children and teens through *Look Around NYC*, New York City Audubon's science-based newsletter for grades four through six, and through after-school programs. In new partnerships, students at both Queensborough Community College and Baruch College helped us produce *Look Around* issues this year.

A partnership with THE POINT Community Development Corporation in the Hunts Point neighborhood of the South Bronx enabled twenty teens to engage in environmental restoration work on North Brother Island and in Pelham Bay Park. While participating in these activities, the teens learned about "green-collar" jobs, sorted out the difference between native and invasive plants, and assisted in monitoring Harbor Herons.

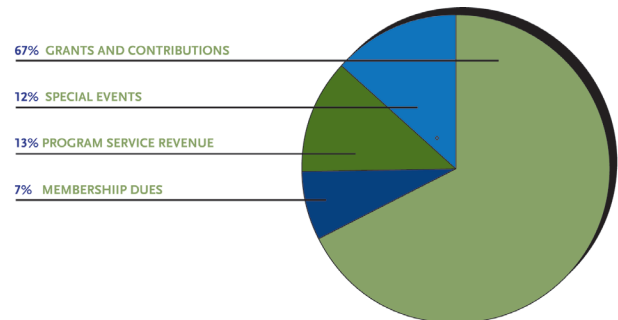
During 2009 the Jamaica Bay monitoring project, part of New York City Audubon's Natural Areas Initiative, included a partnership with the Wallerstein Collaborative for Urban Environmental Education at New York University. Three graduate student interns developed a school curriculum to introduce students to the ecology of the bay and organized beach cleanups for the five Brooklyn and Queens schools that participated in the program.

VOLUNTEERS

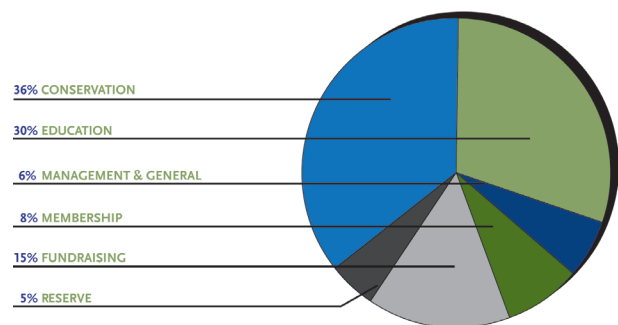
Over the past year, New York City Audubon's volunteer programs have grown tremendously and have positively influenced conservation in New York City. Through the TogetherGreen Initiative, New York City Audubon volunteer Leslie Chase coordinated four Volunteer Days, during which 200 volunteers planted native trees in the Bronx, removed invasive weeds in Idlewild Park (Queens) and Clove Lakes Park (Staten Island), and cleaned up Brighton Beach (Brooklyn). New York City Audubon's volunteers also conducted a census of breeding birds in Central Park, participated in the annual Harbor Herons survey, and monitored buildings for bird collisions with Project Safe Flight. Education volunteers assisted with our trips and classes, produced *Look Around NYC*, our children's newsletter, and created six stunning editions of *The Urban Audubon*, New York City Audubon's bi-monthly newsletter. Behind the scenes, administrative volunteers worked closely with staff to keep the New York City Audubon office running smoothly. New York City Audubon's volunteers come from all five boroughs and display a wide range of skills, experiences, and age brackets. Thanks to 375 volunteers who contributed more than 4,700 hours this year.



INCOME AND EXPENSES



Grants and Contributions	\$ 506,891.00
Special Events	\$ 91,520.00
Program Service Revenue	\$ 101,344.00
Membership Dues	\$ 52,710.00
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 752,465.00



Conservation	\$ 268,084.00
Education	\$ 228,235.00
Management & General	\$ 42,431.00
Membership	\$ 63,908.00
Fundraising	\$ 109,211.00
Reserve Fund	\$ 40,596.00
Total Expenses	\$ 752,465.00

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New York City Audubon's conservation programs are made possible by the leadership support of the Leon Levy Foundation and Joseph & Mary Fiore.

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