



THE URBAN AUDUBON

**The NYC Green Roof
Researchers Alliance**

**Trip Leader Profile:
Nadir Souirgi**

**The Merlin
(*Falco columbarius*)**

Uptown Birds



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.

THE URBAN AUDUBON

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New York City Audubon is the most urban Audubon chapter in North America. Our office is on the 15th floor of a beautiful Art Deco building in Chelsea, not in a former farmhouse on 40-something acres. Being in a large, highly developed city has its challenges, of course, but it also presents opportunities, and even magical moments. I am inspired daily by the abundance of wildlife present in our urban midst. That each year the City plays host to nearly a third of all the bird species found in North America is truly astonishing. Raccoons, chipmunks, and woodchucks flourish in our City parks, while seals, dolphins, and even the occasional whale grace our harbor. Endangered turtles nest right under flight paths at JFK airport.

NYC Audubon started in 1979, when a small and dedicated group of naturalists and birdwatchers (there were no “birders” back then, just “birdwatchers”) organized a chapter here in the City. We’ve grown considerably and are now looking forward to celebrating our 40th anniversary next year. Back then, just as now, the goal was to preserve fragments of nature that still existed in the City and to encourage conservation practices that protect habitat and wildlife—notably birds, both local ones and migrants that pass through.

And as every organization must do from time to time, we are getting set to launch a new strategic plan to guide and inspire us moving forward. We continue to embrace and even expand our core mission of furthering conservation issues in the City. We are adding a new position to our staff team: an advocacy/outreach manager who will rally members to champion our causes at the governmental level, locally and in conjunction with National Audubon in Washington, D.C., and Audubon New York in Albany. We are strengthening our educational sphere as well, adding afterschool outings for schoolchildren and multilingual programs for adults, rooted in our understanding that everyone must be a steward of the environment. The sooner people find a connection to nature, the deeper that commitment will be.

We are at a place in our evolution where advocacy, outreach, and meaningful conservation education are essential. Clean air, water, and habitat are critical for healthy wildlife and people. We must broaden our membership and our base of support to all reaches of the five boroughs. And we are committed to the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion, believing that our path forward is to engage everyone in protecting the environment of New York City.

FALL 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.

IDENTIFYING VERSUS IDENTIFYING WITH: A BRIEF HISTORY OF BIRDWATCHING, BIRD STUDY, AND BIRDING IN AMERICA

By John C. Rumm

Thursday, November 8, 7pm

Do you consider yourself a “birder” or a “birdwatcher?” As used today, the terms have different connotations. “Birders” are considered hardcore and dedicated to keeping (and growing) their bird lists. “Birdwatchers,” meanwhile, are viewed as less driven and serious, and more passive about seeing birds. In reality, the situation is more complex. Drawn from extensive research, historian John C. Rumm traces the changing meaning of the term “birdwatching” and the rise and fall of “bird study” from the late 1800s to the closing decades of the 20th century.

VISIONARY WOMEN: HOW RACHEL CARSON, JANE JACOBS, JANE GOODALL, AND ALICE WATERS CHANGED OUR WORLD

By Andrea Barnet

Thursday, December 6, 7pm

In her new book *Visionary Women*, Andrea Barnet tells the story of four visionaries who profoundly shaped the world we live in today: Rachel Carson, Jane Jacobs, Jane Goodall, and Alice Waters. With a keen eye for historical detail, Andrea Barnet traces the arcs of these women’s careers and explores how their work collectively changed the course of history.

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.

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CONSERVATION NOTES

During the 2018 spring/summer field season, our conservation and science team went “high tech.” We started the season with a drone flight and will be ending it with “big data” analysis. In between, we of course continued regular monitoring programs that relied on our trusty eyes and ears.

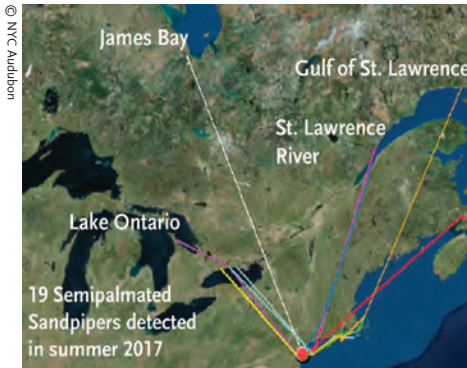
WATERBIRDS OF NEW YORK HARBOR

Tod Winston led our 34th annual Harbor Herons Nesting Survey of long-legged wading birds and co-occurring colonial waterbird species. Preliminary results suggest the total number of nesting birds (Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Tricolored Heron, Little Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis) was similar to last year (1,578 pairs), nesting on six of 11 undeveloped islands in New York Harbor and one mainland site. Hoffman Island continued to support the largest number of birds (581 nesting pairs from five species). Recently abandoned nesting islands (Goose Island and Huckleberry Island, North Brother Island, and Canarsie Pol) remained unused by long-legged waders. High-tech analysis for Harbor Herons this year included a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based examination of population trends. Support from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) allowed us to build on work initially supported by the Eppley Foundation.

MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS

This season’s Horseshoe Crab monitoring has concluded, with 150 volunteers having counted and tagged crabs on 12 nights at four beaches in the City (East and West Plumb Beach, Dead Horse Bay, and Big Egg Marsh). Monitoring data are currently being analyzed by the New York State Cornell Cooperative Extension, and we are awaiting results from Long Island sites. We will report on this year’s Horseshoe Crab monitoring data and findings later this year on our blog, *Syrinx*.

4 www.nycaudubon.org



The Motus Wildlife Tracking Network Picked Up the Migration Routes of 19 Semipalmated Sandpipers NanoTagged by NYC Audubon Scientists in the Spring and Summer of 2017 as the Tags Pinged Radio Towers along the Flyway. We Learned That Tagged Birds Went to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, James Bay, and Lake Ontario, among other areas.

We continued to employ NanoTag technology in our bird banding work. All 19 Semipalmated Sandpipers that we tagged with NanoTags in 2017 were detected by at least one radio tower along their spring migration routes that year, including as far north as the Gulf of St. Lawrence and James Bay in Canada. Seven of those birds were also detected by towers during fall migration later that year. In 2018, we tagged 10 additional Semipalmated Sandpipers with NanoTags. We anticipate seeing the NanoTag data once it is downloaded from the network of radio towers along the Atlantic Flyway to learn where our birds traveled on their spring and fall migrations this year. We will also be using a hand-held tracking unit later this summer at Jamaica Bay to see if we can pick up any signals from our tagged birds on their return flight south.

BEACH-NESTING WATERBIRDS

Our work with American Oystercatchers progressed for the seventh year under the leadership of NYC Audubon Field Biologist Emilio Tobón. Field technician Jose Ramirez-Garofalo joined the team to help Tobón conduct shorebird surveys. This year’s efforts focused on disturbance—which includes people, boats, dogs, predators, and vehicles—

at nesting and foraging sites. This is part of a larger Atlantic Flyway disturbance study managed by Walker Golder, director of Atlantic Flyway coast strategy at National Audubon Society. For our part of the project, we are conducting surveys on disturbance at Breezy Point, Queens, from March through October.

Common Terns are usually found nesting on beaches and marshes of the outer boroughs, but for several years they have nested in Manhattan—on Governors Island’s decommissioned piers. NYC Audubon has been monitoring the colony and banding adults and chicks on these piers since 2014. This year we ramped up our work at the tern colony with the help of some new technology. We attached 10 geolocators to adult terns nesting on the island’s lone accessible pier, Lima. In June, we set up a panorama camera system on Tango Pier, one of the piers we could not access, allowing us to count chicks remotely. Our colleague Jason Smith from NYSDEC piloted two drone flights over Tango Pier—once before the terns arrived and once just before the chicks fledged. Drones proved to be a particularly effective way to observe and count the nesting terns (18 nesting pairs and 29 chicks observed this year) without stepping foot in the colony.



Conservation Biologist Kaitlyn Parkins with Common Tern Banded with a Geocator on Governors Island’s Lima Pier, Manhattan

Susan Elbin, PhD



PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT: COLLISION MONITORING

Data is streaming in from our high-tech cameras installed on the Durst Organization Building at One Bryant Park. A team of students from the The Urban Observatory at New York University's Center for Urban Science+Progress (CUSP) are completing a capstone project that analyzes the occurrence of artificial light, the presence of migratory birds detected by radar, and Project Safe Flight mortality data from bird/building collisions. The team is working under the tutelage of CUSP Director Dr. Greg Dobler, Cornell University Research Associate and NYC Audubon Advisory Council Member Dr. Andrew Farnsworth, and NYC Audubon's conservation staff. The students have presented their findings and are in the process of drafting a final report. We look forward to sharing their analysis soon.

PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT: STOPOVER HABITAT

PhD Candidate Dustin Partridge continued to lead our green roof program. In addition to coordinating our fifth year of biodiversity monitoring at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center green roof and our second year of monitoring at Kingsland Wildflowers, Partridge led the NYC Green Roof Researchers Alliance (GRRRA). A working group of 50 researchers in green roof environmental science, biodiversity, mapping, policy, and education that was formed in 2017 with support from The New York Community Trust, the GRRRA shared its collective research with the public this June at its inaugural conference, "The State of Green Roofs in New York City." Much of the science presented at the conference is high tech: Mike Treglia of The Nature Conservancy is using remote sensing and GIS for mapping roofs; Dr. Franco Mon-

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Members of the NYC Green Roof Researchers Alliance after a Successful (and Informative) Inaugural Conference at the New School on June 7, 2018

talto of Drexel University is utilizing lysimeters and infrared cameras to measure green roof water retention and visualize heat effects; NYC Audubon Conservation Biologist Kaitlyn Parkins is employing microphones coupled with computer software to record ultrasonic bat calls and turn the recordings into species-specific voice prints. You can read more about the GRRRA's collaborative work and its inaugural conference on page 6.

VOLUNTEER!

Work in NYC Audubon's friendly office or in the field and make a difference for New York City's wildlife. There are many ways you can help. Unless otherwise noted, contact volunteer@nycaudubon.org if interested in any of the projects listed below. For information on fall volunteer events such as beach clean-ups and tree plantings, visit us at www.nycaudubon.org/volunteer-events.

OFFICE PROJECTS

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

THE URBAN AUDUBON

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

FALL NYC SHOREBIRD BLITZ Sunday, August 26

Contribute to NYC Audubon's conservation efforts by helping us take a one-day snapshot of fall shorebird activity throughout New York City. The NYC Shorebird Blitz is a citizen-science initiative that aims to find the total number of shorebirds using our city during a 24-hour period, helping us answer important conservation questions such as how many shorebirds are coming through our area during

fall migration, how they are distributed throughout the City, and what disturbances they face. Email citizenscience@nycaudubon.org to register.

TRIBUTE IN LIGHT MONITORING Tuesday, September 11, Begins at 8pm With National September 11 Memorial & Museum

Each year a tireless group of volunteers monitors the Tribute in Light to ensure that migrating birds do not become entrapped in the light beams. An orientation will be held at our office on Tuesday, September 4, 6-7pm. Advance registration required to attend

orientation. Email citizenscience@nycaudubon.org to register.

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP

Saturday, September 15, 10am-1pm
With American Littoral Society, National Park Service, Sadhana
Join us at North Channel Bridge to take part in a multi-state effort to improve coastline habitat. The North Channel Bridge area, used by species like the American Oystercatcher, is also a stone's throw away from the Harbor Heron Islands and the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Help us clear the beach and raise awareness of the importance of coastal areas to birdlife. Learn more and register at <http://nycaudubon.org/icc>.



THE NYC GREEN ROOF RESEARCHERS ALLIANCE

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New York City has over one million buildings with a total of 38,000 acres of rooftops. That combined rooftop space—45 times the size of Central Park—is largely unused. What if instead, the City had a network of green growing across its rooftops?

NYC Audubon has been monitoring wildlife on the green roof of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center since 2014 and on its own green roof at Kingsland Wildflowers since 2017. Its scientists are finding that green roofs attract a diversity of bird, bat, and insect species and can add much-needed habitat to the urban grid. Other research shows that green roofs can retain stormwater, reducing the sewer overflows that pollute our waterways. Rooftop green infrastructure can also filter air pollution, temper heat, and lower buildings' energy use and the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

“Greened” roofs come in many forms—from a collection of flowerpots on a rooftop to hardy sedums on a thin layer of growing medium to a meadow of deep-rooted native plants—and some do not provide meaningful environmental benefits. Any citywide strategy to increase the number of green roofs requires accurate information about the most effective designs, plants, and locations. The field of

green roof research is nascent and a great deal of information is still needed—including a full picture of the City's existing green roofs.

In 2016, at the request of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, NYC Audubon helped convene a group of experts from government agencies, nonprofits, and academia to discuss the status of green roof science. It quickly became clear that ongoing formal collaboration would be needed to advance green roof research and provide a scientific and policy foundation for greening the City's rooftops. With a grant from The New York Community Trust, our organization collaborated to launch the NYC Green Roof Researchers Alliance (GRRRA) in 2017. The group, coordinated by NYC Audubon Ecologist Dustin Partridge, includes 50 researchers in green roof environmental science, biodiversity, mapping, policy, and education.

In its first year, the GRRRA compiled information, such as plant composition, soil depth, size, and purpose, for green roofs on 128 public and nonprofit buildings. These data have been entered into a citywide map of green roofs developed by The Nature Conservancy in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society and Columbia University. Ultimately, the map and data will be accessible via an online, searchable map. The next step will be to incorporate information about green roofs on private buildings. (If you have access to a private green roof, you can help researchers by filling out a quick survey online at <http://bit.ly/GreenRoofSurvey>.)

The GRRRA's inaugural conference this past June, “The State of Green Roofs in New York City,” was the first-ever opportunity for green



RIGHT: Timon McPhearson (The New School), Mike Treglia (The Nature Conservancy), Greg Yetman (Columbia University), Rositsa Ilieva (The New School), Jaskirat Randhaw (The New School), and Emily Nobel Maxwell (The Nature Conservancy) on Stage for a Roundtable Discussion at the “State of Green Roofs in NYC” Conference on June 7, 2018.

SPREAD: The Kingsland Wildflowers Green Roof and Wildflower Meadow, Completed in 2017 in Partnership among NYC Audubon, Broadway Stages, Newtown Creek Alliance, and Alive Structures, Provides Valuable Stopover Habitat for Birds in a Heavily Industrialized Area in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

roof researchers in different disciplines to share their research. Over 170 people attended, including green roof installers, architects, and staff from the Mayor's office and City agencies. Judging from the questions and discussions, there is tremendous interest in getting accurate information on the environmental benefits of green roofs—and in policies that would encourage their installation.

Compared to other cities in the U.S. and around the world, New York City is far behind in greening its rooftops. Its few programs to spur private green roof construction have not been successful. The GRRRA's work is contributing to a greater awareness of the environmental value of green roofs, and could lead to new policies to accel-

erate their spread. Already in July, legislation was introduced in the City Council to mandate green roofs, solar panels, or wind turbines on new buildings, and City Comptroller Scott Stringer has called for restructuring the City's green roof property-tax abatement to make it effective.

However, a great deal of misinformation about green roofs continues to be circulated and researchers still have much to learn about the physical and biological effects of different types of green roofs. As these City initiatives move forward and interest in green roofs grows among building owners, the GRRRA will provide research-based guidance to help create a truly sustainable network of green roofs.

BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDINGS ON THE RISE

Seth Ausubel

In May 2007, New York City Audubon published *Bird-Safe Building Guidelines*. The American Bird Conservancy proceeded to collaborate with NYC Audubon to create *Bird-Friendly Building Design*, published in 2010 and updated in 2015. These manuals reveal the magnitude of bird collisions with glass (up to one billion estimated per year in the U.S.), describe the causes of these collisions, and offer design strategies that can be implemented to prevent them. The manuals also explain how bird-friendly building components often compliment environmentally sustainable design.

As developers, architects, and others involved in building design and construction become aware of the serious threat glass poses to birds, we are beginning to see these design strategies embraced in innovative new buildings. In addition to their benefits to birds, these designs have provided integral enhancements to the buildings' aesthetics and environmental sustainability.

As part of a new series, Bird-friendly Buildings on the Rise, NYC Audubon is featuring architecture in New York City that has utilized bird-safe principles in their design. Our first example is the Diane H. and Joseph S. Steinberg Visitor Center at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Designed by Weiss/Manfredi and completed in 2012, the building has earned Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification for environmental sustainability. Key bird-friendly features of this building include glass walls fritted with a patterned glaze that prevents bird collisions and a 10,000-square-foot green roof planted with over 40,000 plants, including native species that provide birds with shelter and food. These bird-friendly components provide important sustainability benefits as well: the fritted glass minimizes heat gain and maximizes natural illumination, while a series of rain gardens on the roof collect and filter runoff to improve stormwater management.

This handsome building blends into the landscape, and is an integral part of the visitor experience at the Garden. If you haven't seen the center in-person, we recommend combining a visit with a birding outing in nearby Prospect Park.

New buildings are being developed which incorporate bird-friendly design principles. We look forward to highlighting more examples in upcoming issues. To find out more about bird-friendly building design, visit New York City Audubon's Project Safe Flight webpage at www.nycaudubon.org/project-safe-flight.



© Albert Vecerka/ISTO. Courtesy of Brooklyn Botanic Garden

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden Visitor Center, Completed in 2012, Features Fritted Glass to Deter Bird Strikes and a 10,000-square-foot Green Roof Planted with Over 40,000 Plants, Including Native Bird-friendly Species.

TRIP LEADER PROFILE: NADIR SOURGI

Suzanne Charlé

On the last NYC Audubon “Birding Tours of the North Woods” walk of the spring migration season, there weren’t many species to be seen on Central Park’s Great Hill, or even in the Ravine. Nevertheless, trip leader Nadir Souirgi kept birders fascinated with his deep and expansive avian knowledge. For example, on this unseasonably hot day Nadir told us that birds expel excess heat by opening their mouths or spreading out their wings. When a Great Egret flew overhead, Nadir noted that herons have a cosmopolitan distribution and nest on the islands of New York Harbor.

Nadir’s passion for birds is rooted in his childhood. When he was five, Oscar Ruiz, a family friend in Queens Village, got him interested in nature. Oscar started pointing out backyard birds and soon was taking Nadir farther afield, to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and beyond. “He even gave me my first field guide and my first set of binoculars,” Nadir recalls. When he was nine, Nadir’s family moved to South Florida: “I was so sad, and then, on the first day of spring break, I opened the door and there he was.” The two went on a three-day adventure in Everglades National Park. A dedicated birder was born.

After studying art in Florida and in Paris, Nadir moved back to New York City, where he became an art teacher at Harbor Science and Arts Charter School. “I wanted to pass on to the children a passion about art



Nadir Souirgi, Photographed Here Birding on Governors Island, Spotted Three Sanderlings on July 23rd, 2018, the First Time the Species Has Been Recorded at the Island on eBird.

and nature—to stimulate their intellectual curiosity.”

When he started at the school, then located near Central Park, Nadir would take walks in the Park on lunch breaks and after school. Some students became curious and asked to come along. Soon after, Nadir started the Harlem County Bird Club for students in kindergarten through fourth grade.

Nadir, whose mother was a Haitian refugee and father an immigrant from Morocco, is passionate about social and environmental justice: “My students are children of color—from Harlem, East Harlem, and the Bronx. Few have had experience birding.” He takes members of his bird club—over 130 last year—on trips to Central Park and provides them with field guides and binoculars. Recently, thanks to a gift from the American Birding Association

through their Spark Bird program, he received 20 pairs of binoculars for his students: “They’re solid quality and waterproof—very important with kids,” he said, smiling. In April, the club received copies of *The American Birding Association Field Guide to Birds of New York*, written by fellow NYC Audubon trip leader Corey Finger.

In 2013, Nadir was connected with NYC Audubon trip leaders Gabriel Willow and Jacob Drucker, and soon after they set out together for a New York County Big Day. In 24 hours, they sighted 113 species—a record for New York County according to eBird—and Gabriel was so impressed that he suggested Nadir start offering tours for NYC Audubon. Since then, Nadir has been leading walks on the organization’s “Van Cortlandt Bird Walks” and “Birding Tours of the North Woods” series. This past spring, he ran “Nature Sketching for Better Birding,” an innovative program that paired a nature illustration class with two bird walks. He also leads overnight trips for Zugunruhe Birding Tours.

This summer, Nadir was an artist-in-residence at NYC Audubon’s Nolan Park house on Governors Island, where his paintings and drawings were the delight and awe of visitors. This fall, Nadir is continuing to lead the Van Cortlandt and North Woods series of walks. Check “Events & Adventures” on page 10 for details.

BIRD TRIVIA NIGHT

**Monday, November 12,
6:30-8:30pm
THE GRAY MARE
61 Second Avenue
Hosted by Tod Winston**

Bring your own team of four or flock with others as we test how much you really know about our feathered friends. \$20 per person donation to NYC Audubon to play. Drinks and food can be purchased from THE GRAY MARE. Fun prizes. The evening starts at 6:30pm with the contest beginning at 7pm. Register for the trivia night on our website, www.nycaudubon.org/trivia.



BIRDING WITHIN A BORDER: NYC AUDUBON'S TRIP TO ECUADOR

Beverly Aldrich

Noah Strycker writes in *Birding without Borders*, a highly entertaining account of his record-setting world Big Year of 2015, “If you want to see the most species of birds in the shortest amount of time, Ecuador is without doubt the best place to do it.” So when NYC Audubon offered to coordinate a group trip to the country last spring, I jumped at the chance to test out his claim.

On April 26, seven of us gathered in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, eager to start our 10-day expedition. Led by our terrific local guide Marcelo Arias and transported via minivan by our capable driver Pablo Monje, we traveled high and low—from the cloud forests of Mindo and Intag to the mountainous flanks of Antisana and Papallacta. Marcelo was assisted by former NYC Audubon Board Member Peter Joost, our host at El Refugio de Intag and an authority on the region's birds.

Ecuador, Colombia, and Peru have the highest concentration of hummingbirds in the world, with 59 percent of the species on the planet. We were delighted to watch the

pandemonium at our lodges' feeders: of the 40 species we enjoyed, some of our favorite “flying jewels” were the Purple-crowned Fairy, Empress Brilliant, Violet-tailed Sylph, Booted Racket-tail, Shining Sunbeam, and Collared Inca.

While we were astonished at the sheer quantity of beautiful birds found around the lodges, we also made sure to venture out to find the country's elusive species. Some of the more memorable experiences included braving the frigid blasts and swirling mists of the 14,733-foot-high Papallacta Pass in search of the Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe, and sloshing through heavy mud amid the pouring rain to hear the eerie squawk of the Oilbirds at the Cueva de los Tayos.

The seven of us learned that, although Ecuador is the only country in the world to recognize “Rights of Nature”—the idea that ecosystems have inalienable rights, just as people do—local communities who have built their livelihoods on ecotourism struggle to keep mining companies out of the cloud forests and biosphere of Santa Rosa. We also learned that near Otavalo, the páramo of



The Shining Sunbeam Hummingbird Is One of 267 Bird Species That NYC Audubon's Group Saw While in Ecuador.

Mojanda is threatened by local residents who cut thousand-year-old trees for firewood and burn the moisture-rich native grasses so their cattle will have better feed. Even though the páramo only covers 35 percent of Ecuador's land, this high elevation grassland provides 80 percent of its water. So there is reason for concern about protecting this ecosystem.

In addition to sighting 267 different species of birds, we savored tasty Ecuadorian cuisine; were awed by the country's landscapes, kind and hard-working people, and astonishing tropical flora; and enjoyed genial companionship. Truly a tour to remember.

KINGSLAND WILDFLOWERS EVENTS

All events meet at Kingsland Wildflowers, 520 Kingsland Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. More events will be posted throughout the fall on www.kingslandwildflowers.com.

THIRD ANNUAL KINGSLAND WILDFLOWERS FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 22, 12-4pm

Join us for a fun day celebrating our third season of programming, education, and research at Kingsland Wildflowers. Visitors can explore the half-acre, green roof habitat and native plant garden. North Brooklyn community organizations will be tabling and featuring activities to engage families and children. The festival offers an opportunity to learn about local environmental initiatives while exploring green infrastructure dedicated to native plants and birds. No registration required. No limit. Free

GREENPOINT BRIDGE TO CALVARY CEMETERY: BIRD WALK IN NORTH BROOKLYN

Guide: Heather Wolf

Sunday, September 23, 8-9:30am

Join Heather Wolf, author of *Birding at the Bridge* and web developer for Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird.org, for a leisurely walk from Greenpoint Avenue Bridge to Calvary Cemetery to see fall migrants and breeding bird residents in North Brooklyn. Contact njackson@nycaudubon.org for more information and to register. No limit. Free

NICOLAS HOLIBER: BIRDS ON BROADWAY AUDUBON SCULPTURE PROJECT

Thursday, October 18, 5:30-7:30pm

By Nicolas Holiber

Artist Nicolas Holiber, in partnership with NYC Audubon, Broadway Mall Association, NYC Parks, and Gitler & _____ Gallery, presents *Nicolas Holiber: Birds on Broadway Audubon Sculpture Project*. Learn about this ambitious public art initiative scheduled to debut in April 2019 with the mission of drawing attention to the plight of birds threatened by climate change while bringing beauty to the urban landscape. A Brooklyn Gin cocktail hour (cash bar) on the green roof will precede the artist presentation. Visit www.kingslandwildflowers.com for more information and to register. Limited to 40. Suggested donation of \$15 to support the *Audubon Sculpture Project*

Funding for Kingsland Wildflowers 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.



EVENTS AND ADVENTURES

- NYC Audubon Events
 - Partnership Events
- Overnight Trips

• VAN CORTLANDT BIRD WALKS, THE BRONX

Saturdays, September 1-November 24, 9-10:30am

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 migrants and discuss a wide range of avian topics. For more information, please call 212-691-7483. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

• MORNING FALL MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK

Wednesdays, September 5-October 24, Thursdays, September 6-October 25, 7:30-10:30am

Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

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

• FALL WARBLERS

Friday, September 7, 6:30-8:30pm (class)

Sunday, September 9, 8-11am (trip)

Instructor: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Identifying "confusing fall warblers" can be tricky, even for the experts. Come study some of the most puzzling species that stop through our area during fall migration with expert Joe Giunta, and then enjoy a

second session in the "classroom" of Central Park. Limited to 12. \$65 (45)

• QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN BIRD WALKS

Saturdays, September 8 and October 20, and Sundays, September 23, October 7 and 28, 9:30-10:30am

Guide: Corey Finger With Queens Botanical Garden

Explore Queens Botanical Garden in search of migrant songbirds and learn about the valuable resources that the Garden offers birds and other wildlife. Binoculars available. Register for one date or the whole series of five walks (walk-ins welcome). Email info@queensbotanical.org or visit www.queensbotanical.org/calendar to register. Each walk limited to 25. Free (with Garden admission)

• MORNING FALL MIGRATION WALK IN PROSPECT PARK

Saturdays, September 8 and October 27, 8-11am

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Join Gabriel Willow for a leisurely walk to get to know the breeding birds and fall migrants of "Brooklyn's backyard." Beautiful Prospect Park has a wide variety of habitats that attract a number of both breeding and passage migrant bird species, with even more recorded than in Central Park. We will explore the Park's meadows, forests, and waterways in search of migratory warblers, vireos, thrushes, tanagers, waterfowl, and more. Limited to 15. \$36 (25) per walk

• BIRDING BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK

Sunday, September 9, and Saturday, October 6, 9-10:30am

Guide: Heather Wolf

Meet at Pier 1 park entrance at the intersection of Old Fulton Street and Furman Street. Join Heather Wolf, author of *Birding at the Bridge*, for a picturesque bird walk along the Brooklyn waterfront. Target species include Barn Swallow and Gray

Catbird (both of which nest in the Park and will be raising young at this time), Laughing Gull, Common Tern, and more. Visit www.nycaudubon.org/local-trips-and-classes to register. Limited to 19. Free

• FALL BIRDING AT WAVE HILL, THE BRONX

Sundays, September 9, October 14, November 11, and December 9, 9:30-11:30am

Guide: Gabriel Willow With Wave Hill

Naturalist Gabriel Willow contributes his extensive knowledge of bird species and their behaviors on these captivating walks. Wave Hill's garden setting overlooking the Hudson River flyway provides the perfect habitat for resident and migrating birds. Ages 10 and up welcome with an adult. Limited to 20. NYC Audubon members enjoy two-for-one admission (see www.wavehill.org for more information)

• BIRDING TOURS OF THE NORTH WOODS, CENTRAL PARK

Mondays, September 10-24, Wednesdays, September 12-26,

Fridays, September 14-28, 5:30-7pm

Guide: NYC Audubon

Meet at the 103rd Street and Central Park West entrance to the Park. Discover birding in the more serene northern part of Central Park during the height of songbird migration. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

• BIRDING TOURS OF BRYANT PARK, MANHATTAN

Mondays, September 10-October 15, 8-9am

Thursdays, September 13-October 18, 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 migration. No registration necessary. No limit. Free



Yellow-rumped Warbler in Fall Plumage

• EVENING FALL MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK

Mondays, September 10-October 15, Tuesdays, September 11-October 16, Wednesdays, September 12-October 17, 5-6:30pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Witness the spectacle of autumn migration as songbirds follow the Atlantic Flyway to their tropical wintering grounds. Look for tanagers, warblers, and other neotropical migrants in the wilds of Central Park. Limited to 15. \$146 (102) per series

• INTRO TO BIRDING: BIRD WALK IN CENTRAL PARK

Saturday, September 15, 8-10:30am

Guide: Tod Winston

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)

• BIRDING GEMS OF STATEN ISLAND: CLOVE LAKES PARK

Saturday, September 15, 9am-1pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Journey to the "forgotten borough" to discover some of the beautiful forests and incredible birding spots at Clove Lakes Park. Look for ducks and seabirds in New York Harbor on our way across on the ferry ride and then catch a bus to the Park. Numerous warblers, vireos, tanagers, and other



migratory songbirds can be seen here. We'll even see one of the largest and oldest trees in NYC. Bus fare (\$2.75 each way—please bring your MetroCard or exact change) not included in registration price. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

● **AUDUBON MURAL PROJECT TOURS IN NORTHERN MANHATTAN**
Sundays, September 16, October 21, November 11, and December 9, 10am-12pm
Guide: Leigh Hallingby

The *Audubon Mural Project* is an exciting effort to create murals of over 300 birds in the northern Manhattan neighborhoods of Hamilton Heights and Washington Heights. As all the birds painted are threatened by climate change, the project is designed not only to help us appreciate the beauty of the birds, but also make us aware of the challenges they face. In addition to seeing about 30 murals, we will visit John James Audubon's

impressive gravesite in the Trinity Church Cemetery. Binoculars will be an asset on this walk. Limited to 20. \$30 (20) per tour

● **FALL MIGRATION ON RANDALL'S ISLAND**
Sunday, September 16, 9am-2pm
Guides: Gabriel Willow, Christopher Girgenti of Randall's Island With Randall's Island Park Alliance

Join us for a trip to Randall's Island, an under-explored location in the East River that hosts restored freshwater wetlands and saltmarsh. 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. \$36 (25)

● **HOOK MOUNTAIN HAWK WATCH, NY**
Sunday, September 16, 9am-4pm
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Part of the Palisades Interstate Park system, Hook Mountain has

commanding views of all nearby mountains ridges and the Hudson River. From this inland hawk watch spot we expect to see many species of migrating raptors, including Broad-winged and Red-shouldered Hawks, Bald Eagles, accipiters, and falcons. Note: this trip requires a 35-minute hike up and down the mountainside. Bring binoculars, water, and a bag lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$99 (69)

● **BIRD WALK IN CENTRAL PARK'S NORTH WOODS**
Thursday, September 20, 8-11am
Guide: Tod Winston

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)

● **JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISE**
Saturday, September 22, 4-7pm
Guide: Don Riepe

With American Littoral Society, Gateway National Recreation Area
 Meet at Pier 4 in Sheepshead Bay to board the "Golden Sunshine." Learn about the Bay and its history, management, and ecology. See migrating hawks, egrets, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Includes wine and cheese, fruit, drinks, and snacks. Contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriep@gmail.com for more information and reservations. Limited to 140. \$55

● **BIRD WALKS AT THE BATTERY, SOUTHERN TIP OF MANHATTAN**
Wednesdays, September 5-October 10, 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,

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

NYC AUDUBON MEMBERS-ONLY EVENTS

Join us for 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. Except for the KIDS walk, all member walks are limited to 20 people. As these events are popular and fill quickly, please limit your registration to one free member event in September. Contact Kellye Rosenheim at krosenheim@nycaudubon.org or call 212-691-7483 x306 to register.

FALL MIGRATION IN ASTORIA PARK, QUEENS

Saturday, September 8, 9-10:30am
 Meet NYC Audubon Board Member Kellie Quiñones at the entrance to Astoria Park at 19th Street and Hoyt Avenue North to look for migrating birds (and possibly resident Monk Parakeets).

SEPTEMBER WALK IN THE CENTRAL PARK RAMBLE

Tuesday, September 11, 7:30-9:30am
 Meet at Central Park West and 81st Street. Explore the Ramble with NYC Audubon Past President Harry Maas and revel in fall migration.

FALL MIGRATION IN CENTRAL PARK

Friday, September 14, 7:30-9am
 Enjoy a fall ramble with Jeff Kimball, filmmaker of *Birders: The Central Park Effect* and president of NYC Audubon. Meet at Central Park West and 81st Street.

FALL WALK IN PROSPECT PARK

Saturday, September 15, 9:30-11am
 Meet at the entrance to Prospect Park across from Grand Army Plaza and join NYC Audubon Advisory Council Member Tom Stephenson, author of *The Warbler Guide* and creator of the soon-to-be-released "BirdGenie" app, for a fall meander.

KIDS MEMBER WALK IN CENTRAL PARK

Sunday, September 23, 3-4:30pm
 Meet at 81st Street and Central Park West and explore the Park's best birding hotspots with Jeff Ward, 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/kids-membership for more information about the KIDS membership program.

FALL MIGRATORY SONGBIRD RAMBLE IN CENTRAL PARK

Monday, October 15, 4:30-6pm
 Join NYC Audubon Director of Development Kellye Rosenheim for a sparrowful stroll through the Ramble. Meet at Central Park West and 81st Street.

DECEMBER WALK IN CENTRAL PARK

Wednesday, December 5, 8-11am
 Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street for a walk with NYC Audubon trip leader and Harbor Herons Nesting Survey Leader Tod Winston. Brave the chilly weather as we search for some of Central Park's best wintering birds.

EVENTS AND ADVENTURES (CONTINUED)

Battery Place, and State Street. Join Gabriel Willow to explore the migrating birds that find food and habitat on lower Manhattan's waterfront. RSVP preferred, visit tbcevents.eventbrite.com for more information. No limit. Free

- **MIGRATION ALONG THE BARRIER ISLANDS, LI**
Sunday, September 30, 8am-4pm
Guide: Tod Winston

Look for migrating raptors and songbirds as they stop and rest along Long Island's barrier islands. We'll venture to some of the best spots in the vicinity of Jones Beach to find what surprises the north winds have brought us. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$122 (85)

- **DISCOVERY DAY AT FRESHKILLS, STATEN ISLAND**
Sunday, September 30, 11am-4pm
Guide: NYC Audubon
With NYC Parks

At 2,200 acres, Freshkills Park is almost three times the size of Central Park and the largest park to be developed in New York City in over 100 years. It also has a significant history as the site of the former Fresh Kills Landfill. The landfill has been covered with layers of soil and infrastructure, and the site has become a place for wildlife, recreation, science, education, and art. Trails and paths normally off-limits to the public will be open on this day and offer views of the Park's hills, creeks, and wildlife. Activities include guided bird walks, hiking, running, bike-riding, kayaking, free shuttle buses into the Park and to the top of a hill offering panoramic views of New York, and educational tours and displays. Visit www.freshkillspark.org for more information. No Limit. Free

- **SPARROW ID WORKSHOP**
Thursday, October 4, 7-8:30pm (class); Sunday, October 7, 9am-noon (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. Limited to 12. \$65 (45)

- **RAPTOR ID WORKSHOP**
Thursday, October 11, 7-8:30pm
Instructor: Gabriel Willow

If you've ever been to a hawk watch, 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 a newfound confidence. Limited to 12. \$33 (23)

- **FALL MIGRANTS OF INWOOD HILL PARK, MANHATTAN**
Saturday, October 13, 9-11:30am
Guide: Annie Barry

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 saltmarshes for herons and ducks. Some hilly walking required. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

- **NYC AUDUBON DAY AT HAWK MOUNTAIN, PA**
Saturday, October 13, 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 van included. Limited to 12. \$139 (97)

- **HAWK MIGRATION AT FORT TILDEN, QUEENS**
Saturday, October 13, 10am-1pm
Guide: Don Riepe
With American Littoral Society, Gateway National Recreation Area
Hike along the beach, dunes, and woodlands to look for migrating

hawks, falcons, and other raptors. Visit the hawk watch platform for a good view of beach and bay. Contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriep@gmail.com to learn more and register. Limited to 30. Free

- **FALL MIGRANTS OF WOODLAWN CEMETERY, THE BRONX**
Sunday, October 14, 8-10:30am
Guides: Tod Winston, Joseph McManus, Susan Olsen
With Woodlawn Conservancy

Join us for a morning bird walk and tour of beautiful Woodlawn Cemetery: Tod Winston and Joseph McManus will help look for fall migrants and year-round residents on the expansive, wooded cemetery

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

- **CAPE MAY FALL MIGRATION**
Saturday, September 22, 9am-Sunday, September 23, 7pm
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Cape May, NJ, is one of the best birding venues in the United States, especially during fall migration. Visit the Cape May hawk watch on two days, once late in the day and then early to get a good variety of hawks. Also visit birding hotspots such as Higbee Beach, Jake's Landing, Cape May Meadows, and Nummy Island. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 10. \$350 (\$50 single supplement)

- **CAPE MAY FALL MIGRATION**
Friday, September 28, 9am-Sunday, September 30, 7pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow

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

well. We'll visit Cape May Point, Higbee Beach, Cape May Meadows, and more in search of songbirds, raptors, wading birds, ducks, and terns. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 10. \$400 (\$100 single supplement)

- **CHINCOTEAGUE REFUGE/ ASSATEAGUE ISLAND: BIRDS AND PONIES**
Thursday, November 8, 9am-Sunday, November 11, 6pm
Guide: Don Riepe
With American Littoral Society

A great natural history weekend on the Virginia coast. See Snow Geese, Bald Eagles, migrating raptors, waterfowl, herons, and more. Includes three nights lodging, breakfast, safari bus tour of the back dunes area, boat tour, two evening programs, a star watch, plus an "all-you-can eat" oyster and seafood dinner. Contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or don@littoralsociety.org for information regarding transportation, itinerary, and reservations. \$395 (\$150 single room supplement)

grounds, while the Woodlawn Conservancy's Susan Olsen will share fascinating stories about Woodlawn's history and the interesting mixture of individuals interred there. Visit www.thewoodlawncemetery.org/events to register. Limited to 20. \$35 (25)

● **BEGINNING BIRDING**

Classes: Tuesdays, October 16-30,

6:30-8:45pm

Trips: Saturdays, October 27, 8-11am,

and November 3, 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 field trips to Central Park and Jamaica Bay (transport to Jamaica Bay included). Limited to 12. \$179 (125)

● **RAPTOR TRUST AND GREAT SWAMP, NJ**

Saturday, October 20, 8:30am-5pm

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 beautiful Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to look for raptors, waterfowl, reptiles, and amphibians. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 11. \$122 (86)

● **BIRD WALK AT THE EVERGREENS CEMETERY, QUEENS**
Sunday, October 21, 9-10am

Guide: Corey Finger

With The Evergreens Cemetery

Meet inside the cemetery entrance at Bushwick Avenue and Conway Street. Join us for a family-friendly walk exploring the serene grounds of the cemetery as we keep an eye out for the variety of species that call The Evergreens home. Moderately strenuous with hills and stairs. Visit www.nycaudubon.org/evergreens-trip to register. No limit. Free

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

Sundays, October 21 and

December 2, 8am-3pm

Guide: Cliff Hagen

Come with NYC Audubon 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 that host an array of breeding birds, butterflies, mammals, frogs, and turtles. Each autumn, migrant species abound as they travel along the Atlantic Flyway. Sparrows, Osprey, a collection of waterfowl, and lingering warblers seek refuge in the park. Overhead, raptors soar along the terminal moraine as they make their way south for the impending winter. Late-blooming flowers attract an assortment of butterflies and dragonflies. Transport by passenger van from the Staten Island St. George Terminal included. Limited to 12. \$57 (40) per walk

● **FALL FOLIAGE HIKE IN THE GREENBELT, STATEN ISLAND**

Sunday, October 28, 9:30am-4pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

With NYC Parks, Greenbelt Conservancy

Join us as we 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 and water. Transportation from the Staten Island St. George Terminal included. Limited to 18. \$43 (30)

● **DUCKS, RAPTORS, & MORE AT PELHAM BAY PARK, THE BRONX**

Saturday, November 3, 9am-3pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Come explore the lovely coves and rocky outcroppings of Pelham Bay Park as we look for wintering ducks, migrating raptors, and more. Pelham Bay Park's combination of open water, saltmarsh, rocky shore, both young- and old-growth forest, rare coastal tall grass meadows, and patches of dry and wet oak savanna are not just unique within the city, but also on this continent. Bring lunch and water. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$97 (68)

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

Sunday, November 11, 9:30am-7pm

Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

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

● **WINTER WATERFOWL WORKSHOP AT JAMAICA BAY**

Saturday, November 17, 10am-1pm

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

● **VAN TRIP TO THE WINTER WATERFOWL WORKSHOP AT JAMAICA BAY**

Saturday, November 17, 9am-3pm

Register for our van trip to the Winter Waterfowl Workshop (see description before) and get to Jamaica Bay the easy way—by passenger van! Bring lunch and water. Limited to 12. \$53 (37)

EARLY MEMBER REGISTRATION FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

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 12, at 9am. (Registration will open to all on Monday, November 26.)

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 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.**



Northern Saw-whet Owl

© David Sponer

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Ellen Azorin



TATIANA KALETSCH

“I’m more a conservationist than a birder,” begins Tatiana Kaletsch, but she then goes on to mention the long list of NYC Audubon birding excursions she’s been on, covering every borough, and even New York Harbor on a winter Eco-cruise to see the seals. Her point is that birds need habitat; and every type counts, from large forested areas to

the small urban gardens.

Tatiana says the thing she most admires about NYC Audubon is that the organization makes becoming more aware of—and involved with—nature and birds accessible for people of all ages and backgrounds, whether through field trips, indoor and outdoor classes, or special events. She has a particular interest and involvement in the innovative outreach projects underway on Governors Island, as well as the many initiatives at Jamaica Bay such as the annual Shorebird and Horseshoe Crab festivals. “These fun and inviting activities not only create awareness, they generate enthusiasm, and enthusiasm leads to action.”

Tatiana is an organizer by nature and in her professional life, where she is a health and wellness program manager, implementing programs designed to support healthy, active, productive communities. She brings a love of the natural world and solid business experience to NYC Audubon’s board of directors.

CÉSAR A. CASTILLO

“It’s so easy to be unaware of nature when you grow up in New York City,” observes César Castillo. In his native Colombia, nature was part of everyday life. When, at three years old, he and his family moved to a New York apartment, nature became distant and was even considered dangerous. César is determined to change that perception.



He tells of his own experiences in the city, particularly in the urban forest of Alley Pond Park in Queens where he has seen many bird species. It was there that he saw a Yellow-throated Warbler (not the more frequently spotted Common Yellowthroat), which triggered his journey into serious birding. He also frequents Cunningham Park, Forest Park, and Jamaica Bay, and leads field trips in these places. “I don’t want kids to grow up without ever experiencing the wonderment that comes from an encounter with one of nature’s jewels.”

César teaches biology at Queens College, where he derives enormous satisfaction from seeing young people initially unaware of the riches of our urban forests become life-long nature-lovers. César believes the best way to save nature is to learn to love it. He brings remarkable knowledge and passion for the conservation of flora and fauna to NYC Audubon’s board of directors.

MONARCH/POLLINATOR FESTIVAL AT JAMAICA BAY

**With American Littoral Society and
Gateway National Recreation Area
Sunday, September 30, 10am-3pm**

Learn about the amazing journeys of butterflies such as the monarch, along with many different species of moths, bees, and other pollinators at the first-ever Monarch/Pollinator Festival at Jamaica Bay. Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center for a fun day of activities, including indoor presentations, children’s programs, walks around the refuge, and a trip to Fort Tilden, Queens, to see the Monarch Butterfly migration. Contact American Littoral Society at 718-474-0896 or donriepc@gmail.com for more information and to register. Free

The Monarch/Pollinator Festival is a NYC Audubon partnership program with American Littoral Society and Gateway National Recreation Area.

© Ellen Michaels



Monarch Butterflies at New York Botanical Garden, the Bronx, NY

UPTOWN BIRDS

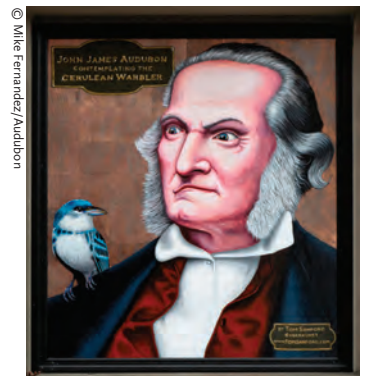
Carol Peace Robins

Finally, a bird walk that doesn't require binoculars! One where the birds aren't flitting about behind leaves and underbrush. On this walk, the birds sit still, right out in the open.

The birds I mean are in the *Audubon Mural Project*, a startling display of avian murals in Upper Manhattan's Hamilton Heights and Washington Heights, which adorn building walls, shops' roll-down doors, even the windows of a gas station. NYC Audubon is offering walks of these larger-than-life birds, led by Leigh Hallingby, a retired librarian and experienced walking tour guide.

The *Audubon Mural Project* was hatched three years ago when Avi Gitler, of "Gitler & ____" Art Gallery on 150th Street and Broadway, asked an artist friend to paint a mural on a local building he felt needed embellishing. The artist painted a flamingo. Aha! It came to Avi that birds should grace buildings throughout the neighborhood. National Audubon learned about the idea and suggested the murals represent the 314 North American species identified as threatened in National Audubon's *Birds & Climate Change Report*.

On a beautiful Sunday in May, I attended one of Leigh's tours, joining 15 others to see the majestic murals. (As of this writing, 95 murals have been completed). We walked from bird to bird, with Leigh reading the artist's statements about each bird. Among our sightings were Hooded Warblers, an American Oystercatcher, and Calliope Hummingbirds. There was also a Cerulean Warbler accompanied by John James Audubon himself. Toward the end of the walk, we visited Audubon's



LEFT: Canada Warbler by Andres Alvarez; RIGHT: Cerulean Warbler by Tom Sanford

grave in nearby Trinity Church Cemetery.

Gitler is quite pleased with how the birds have been welcomed in the community. "It's even made a birder out of me," he happily says. "Just a novice, though."

He is also excited about an upcoming project for April 2019, *Nicolas Holiber: Birds on Broadway Audubon Sculpture Project*, a collaboration between Gitler's gallery, NYC Audubon, NYC Parks, and the Broadway Mall Association. For this project, artist Nicolas Holiber is creating 12 wooden bird sculptures up to nine feet high from reclaimed and recycled wood

to be installed on the Broadway Malls from 64th to 166th Streets. Each sculpture will be a climate-threatened species that lives in or migrates through New York City.

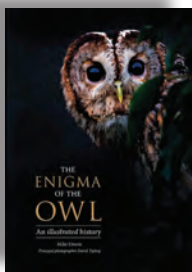
Meanwhile, do check out the *Audubon Mural Project*. You can come on a guided tour with Leigh this fall (see page 11 for more information), or see the murals on your own by going to www.audubon.org/amp and downloading a Google map of the mural locations. Early mornings, evenings, and Sunday mornings are best so that murals on roll-down doors are visible.



Swallow-tailed Kite (and Others) by Lunar New Year

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.



THE ENIGMA OF THE OWL: AN ILLUSTRATED NATURAL HISTORY
By Mike Unwin and David Tipling
Yale University Press, 2017

Owls are arguably the most photogenic of all birds, thanks to their large, front-facing eyes. If a contest were held for the world's best collection of owl photos, this book by Mike Unwin and David Tipling would be a real contender. Produced in super-sized coffee-table format, its photos will knock your socks off: see, for example, the two-page spread of the Eurasian Eagle-Owl about to land, its six-foot wingspan in full display; or the Barred Eagle-Owl of Indonesia, its black eyes glaring at you intensely; or the tiny Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, with talons looking big enough to take down a small bear. The book showcases 53 species from around the world, with photos credited to more than 80 photographers and chosen by Tipling, who took many of the photos himself.

The photos are accompanied by descriptions of each species, including its distribution, related species, and calls, along with mating, nesting, and hunting habits. We're also given its conservation status; happily, all but three of the 53 species are considered of "least concern" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Unwin, though, adds a caveat in most cases to warn that climate change, deforestation, or any number of other potential threats could change that status.

There's also information about the owls' taxonomical order, Strigiformes, as a whole. In addition to their front-facing eyes, all owls share an aversion to building their own nests: they lay their eggs in holes in cacti or trees, often made by woodpeckers, as well as in nest boxes, in old eagle nests, in tree forks,

on the ground, and even—as with Burrowing Owls—under the ground (usually in burrows made by mammals). Most owls are nocturnal and non-migratory. While owl species share many similar characteristics, they vary greatly in stature, having perhaps the broadest size range of any bird order. The smallest is the tiny Elf Owl of the southwestern United States and Mexico, weighing 1.4 ounces—about the same as a Gray Catbird. At the other extreme, the Eurasian Eagle-Owl ties for the world's largest owl with Blakiston's Fish-Owl of the Far East; both can weigh over 10 pounds.

In choosing species for the book from the total of about 200 owl species worldwide, the authors included at least one from every type of habitat in order to demonstrate the order's remarkable adaptability. Few of us will ever have a chance to see most of these species, but this book provides an introduction to these fascinating creatures. —MJJK



THE FEATHER THIEF: BEAUTY, OBSESSION, AND THE NATURAL HISTORY HEIST OF THE CENTURY
By Kirk Wallace Johnson
Viking, 2018

What possessed a promising young American flutist named Edwin Rist to break into the British Natural History Museum at Tring—home to one of the largest ornithological collections in the world—and steal 299 priceless bird skins? Bird lovers unfamiliar with the world of fly-fishing will be distressed to learn he did it for the feathers, some of which fetch hundreds of dollars on fly-tying forums and eBay. Full bird skins (bird specimens preserved with all their feathers) can fetch thousands of dollars.

As it turns out, fly-tying is an art form that dates back to the Victorian era, when George M. Kelson, the "godfather" of fly-tying, extolled the virtues of creating "authentic" ties with exotic bird feathers. Nothing less would do, despite the availability of feathers from common birds not threatened with extinction. Even today, an extensive illegal market exists for rare feathers. Many "tiers," interestingly enough, do not even fish.

Rist was eventually caught, but many of the birds he had stolen were never found. In *The Feather Thief*, a true-crime recounting of the 2009 heist, Kirk Wallace Johnson, a part-time fly fisher himself, writes of his growing fixation with the case and his attempts to recover the missing bird skins.

Johnson begins this well-written, thoughtful account with an overview of expeditions by nineteenth century British naturalist Alfred Russell Wallace to collect bird skins, five of which were among those stolen by Rist. To understand Wallace's motivation, Johnson asked the Tring Museum's curators, "Why collect birds?" They impressed upon him both the historical significance of the collection and the ways in which, even now, research on bird specimens contributes to science. Examples include aiding studies on rising mercury levels in the oceans and efforts to save the California Condor. In Johnson's words, these birds represent "an optimistic vision of humanity ... [early scientists] understood that the birds held answers to questions that hadn't even been asked."

As his quest continues and culminates in an unsettling resolution, Johnson tries to understand humankind's need to possess beauty at any cost—from the time when the fashion industry nearly extirpated birds like the Snowy Egret to the present day, when some in the fly-tying community believe putting collected skins on the market helps reduce poaching. Our ever-present thirst to own what is rare reflects the ongoing struggle between those who would take what is beautiful for their own selfish pleasure and those who would preserve what is rare and wonderful for future generations. —MG

JAMAICA BAY RAPTORAMA

**With American Littoral Society and Gateway National Recreation Area
Sunday, October 21, 10am-3pm**

Join us for a special program at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center to see and celebrate hawks, falcons, eagles, owls, and other birds of prey. Learn about raptor behavior, biology, and migration, as well as where to find many species around the city. Activities include indoor slide programs, a presentation of live hawks and owls provided by a local rehabilitation center, and a visit to the hawk watch platform at Fort Tilden, Queens. For more information and reservations, contact American Littoral Society at 718-474-0896 or donriepc@gmail.com. The program is free, but suggested donations of \$20 for adults (children are free) to NYC Audubon are most welcome to offset the festival cost.

The Jamaica Bay Raptorama Festival is a NYC Audubon partnership program with American Littoral Society and Gateway National Recreation Area.

© Don Riepe



The Osprey, Pictured Here Nesting at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Requires Its Nest Sites to Be in Open Surroundings for Easy Approach.

THE MERLIN (*FALCO COLUMBARIUS*)

Don Riepe

Once known as the ‘Pigeon Hawk,’ the Merlin is a small, stocky falcon that makes up for its size with speed, agility, and aggressiveness. Unlike the smaller American Kestrel, the Merlin doesn’t hover over fields for prey; nor does it dive at great speed from above like the larger Peregrine Falcon. Instead it flies low and fast, usually only a few feet off the ground, darting around bushes and along the coast seeking small shorebirds—its primary target. Bird banders refer to the late afternoon flight of this bird as “the Merlin Express” as it flies very fast at the level of the banders’ heads.

Aside from speed, the Merlin also has great endurance. Once I watched a Merlin chase a Semipalmated Sandpiper for a full five minutes until the poor sandpiper gave up under stress and succumbed to the talons of the tenacious Merlin. They will also catch bats and dragonflies in flight, which I have witnessed on several occasions. Occasionally Merlins themselves fall prey to the largest falcon found in New York City—the peregrine.

While some raptors, such as American Kestrels, have declined in

population, Merlin numbers have increased. Also, in recent years, these falcons seem to be wintering in the Northeast: last winter at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge a Merlin was seen in the same tree every day around dusk for three straight months (January through March).

You are most likely to see Merlins and other raptors in New York City during the fall migration, which starts in mid-September

and runs into early November. While they migrate through all boroughs of the city, one of the best viewing spots is the hawk watch platform located along the coast at Battery Harris East at Fort Tilden, Queens. Optimal weather conditions for hawk migration usually occur during a high front, which brings a drop in temperature and northwest winds. Outside the city, the major birding hotspots for raptors in the fall are Hook Mountain in Upper Nyack, NY, and three

in New Jersey: the State Line Hawk Watch in Alpine, Sandy Hook, and Cape May. (See “Events and Adventures” on pages 10 to 13 for trips to additional hawk watch locations.)

© Lord Sparhawk



Merlin in Flight

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 965 members and donors whose individual gifts in amounts up to \$2,499 collectively provided \$62,883 in support of our mission from January 1 to June 1, 2018.

AMERICAN KESTREL CIRCLE

Tylee Abbott and Katie Ermilio
Mady Ahern
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Tony Argento
Louis and Gabrielle Bacon
Robert Bate and Tracy Meade
Karen Benfield and John Zucker
Claude and Lucienne Bloch
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Michael Ahern
Lydia Enriquez
Joseph Tobin
Ellen Wendy Weiss
Eve Winer

THANK YOU TO OUR SPRING AND SUMMER STAFF AND INTERNS

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

MICHAEL BROUGHTON, recent graduate of the College of Staten Island, worked on the Common Tern project on Governors Island and in New York Harbor.

ELIZABETH CRAIG, PhD, tern conservation program manager at Shoals Marine Laboratory and former NYC Audubon Harbor Herons Nesting Survey coordinator, provided expertise in geolocator attachment for the Common Tern project on Governors Island.

JUSTINE HENNINGER, student at the University of Vermont, assisted Danielle Sherman with program implementation for our summer residency on Governors Island.

CHANTAL HERNANDEZ and MYA ROBERTSON, New York Harbor School students, educated Governors Island visitors about birds and conservation while staffing NYC Audubon's summer residence at the island's Nolan Park House 17.

ANDREW MARTIN, CHRISTINE NEALY, ANN SELIGMAN, and DOTTIE WERKMEISTER worked as Horseshoe Crab site coordinators, managing our volunteers in Jamaica Bay in collecting crab spawning data.

DUSTIN PARTRIDGE, PhD candidate at Fordham University, designed and conducted arthropod and bird surveys on the green roof of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center and the Kingsland Wildflowers green roof, coordinated seasonal interns, and analyzed data. He also established and led the NYC Green Roof Researchers Alliance (see page 6 for more information).

D'ANGELO PEÑA PERALTA, KEVIN JOHNSON, AIDAN LANE, and BRIANNA FRANCIS, high school students, were shorebird outreach interns based at the Rockaway Waterfront Alliance. They educated beach-goers about sharing the beach with nesting birds.

JOSE RAMIREZ-GAROFALO, recent graduate of the College of Staten Island, conducted migratory and beach-nesting shorebird surveys and assisted with bird banding.

NAILEA RODRIGUEZ, recent New York Harbor School graduate, supported the office in a wide variety of efforts this summer and assisted at NYC Audubon's outreach events at Kingsland Wildflowers and Governors Island. Nailea was an intern at our Governors Island house last summer and is heading to Bard College this fall.

MÓNICA RIVERA-ROSADO and HANYU LU, MA students at New York University, taught students near Jamaica Bay about the connections between birds, beaches, and people as part of our Tidal Connections program.

TOD WINSTON coordinated and led the 34th Annual Harbor Herons Nesting Survey. This was his fifth year leading the Survey.

ROSALIE ZAWADSKI, MS student at the College of Staten Island, assisted Dustin Partridge in identifying arthropods from the green roof of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center and the Kingsland Wildflowers green roof.

SUPPORT NYC AUDUBON'S MISSION

NEWS & NOTES

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. For more information on a bequest, see the **REMEMBER THE BIRDS** box on page 15.

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.

BIRDLINK PUBLIC ART PROJECT

NYC Audubon is partnering with local artists to bring beauty to the urban landscape and raise awareness about urban birds threatened by climate change. In addition to *Nicolas Holiber: Birds on Broadway Audubon Sculpture Project* (see page 15 for more information) we have become the fiscal sponsor for the public art project *BIRDLINK*. Created by artist Anina Gerchick, *BIRDLINK* is an interactive native-plant sculpture, designed to support urban birds and engage community. Multiple *BIRDLINK* installations are being designed to link isolated patches of natural bird habitat and promote awareness of species that share our space. *BIRDLINK* made its debut this July at our Governors Island Nolan Park House 17, and additional native-plant sculptures will be installed at East River State Park in Brooklyn from September 4, 2018, to May 31, 2019, and Sara D. Roosevelt Park in Manhattan from September 2019 to September 2020. Learn more about this innovative public art project at www.birdlink.world.

NYC AUDUBON'S COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

NYC Audubon was delighted to partner with National Audubon Society for the first-ever "Let's Go Birding Together" walk in Central Park this summer. A series founded and organized by Jason St. Sauver of Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center in Denton, Nebraska, "Let's Go Birding Together" welcomes those who identify as LGBTQ+, allies, families, and anyone who wants to enjoy an inclusive outdoor experience. The Central Park walk was a great success, and we look forward to participating in more events that reach out to groups that have been under-represented or not previously engaged in birding and in conservation.

NYC Audubon is committed to building an equitable, diverse and inclusive organization dedicated to protecting nature for all of New York City's people and its wild birds. Please read our full statement on our website at www.nycaudubon.org/edi-statement.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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

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

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

American Kestrel Circle \$2,500 Conservationist \$250 Supporter \$100
 Family \$75 Dual \$50 Friend \$25
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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 \$ _____.

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NYC AUDUBON FALL ROOST
Protecting Wild Birds and Habitats in New York City
Tuesday, October 2, 2018

HONORING
Andrew Farnsworth, PhD and
Volunteer of the Year, Annie Barry

Tribeca Rooftop
Silent Auction and Reception 6:30
Dinner and Program Follow

CO-CHAIRS
Karen Benfield | Marcia T. Fowle | Catherine Heller | Tatiana Kaletsch | Jenny Maritz

For tickets or more information, contact Kellye Rosenheim
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