THE URBAN AUDUBON

LIGHTS OUT LAWS MOVE FORWARD

MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE

THE LIVING SHORELINE OF JAMAICA BAY

DIRECTOR, JESSICA WILSON

THE NEW YORK STATE BIRDING TRAIL



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.

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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PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Karen Benfield



or birders, green spaces across the five boroughs are kindling a familiar sense of excitement. Migratory birds are returning from wintertime lives lived away from us, and change is in the air. Perhaps you are getting ready to roam your patch, binoculars in hand, waiting for a colorful bird to lead you somewhere special.

NYC Audubon is thrilled that birds have led our new executive director, Jessica Wilson, to us. Growing up in New York



Staten Island's Mount Loretto Unique Area is one of many hotspots that beckon to springtime birders in New York City.

City, Jessica discovered NYC Audubon bird walks and was captivated by Pale Male and his community of ardent hawk-watchers. Over time Jessica's interest in urban wildlife evolved into a career focused on environmental impact, community engagement, and fundraising. Jessica joined our staff in January, bringing a wealth of experience honed at the Prospect Park Alliance, National Audubon, and most recently, the Friends of Governors Island. We are delighted to have begun 2022 under her leadership. Learn more about Jessica on page 6.

Jessica succeeds Kathryn Heintz, who retired in December after seven years of vision and stewardship. We are grateful for so many organizational accomplishments during Kathryn's tenure at NYC Audubon.

Among them, we are proud of NYC Audubon's role in the recent passage of Lights Out bills 271 and 274, which were unanimously approved by the New York City Council in December and became law in mid-January, just as this issue went to press. See page 4 for more on this critically important legislative success, which will protect migratory birds from artificial light at night. As of this writing, Senator Brad Hoylman (D/WFP-Manhattan) and Assemblymember Patricia Fahy (D-Albany) have introduced the "Dark Skies Act" (S.7663) at the state level. Such legislative efforts constitute important progress in the fight against avian collisions and mortality. This is the kind of change NYC Audubon champions.

Another exciting change has occurred at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Nine years ago Hurricane Sandy breached the Refuge's West Pond, and a freshwater resource for birds was lost. NYC Audubon was instrumental in coordinating stakeholders to advocate for a repair of the breach. We are thrilled now to spotlight the National Park Service's new Living Shoreline project at Jamaica Bay, brought to completion by Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy and other local partners. Learn more on page 12.

If your spring birding route needs a refresh, check out the New York State Birding Trail on page 14. This web-based "choose your own adventure" compilation of birding hotspots was launched in Staten Island and will soon roll out across the state. Change it up this spring and discover someplace new. Who knows where that tranquil trail will lead you?



NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS SUGGESTIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NYC Audubon seeks new members of its board of directors for three-year terms beginning in June 2022 and June 2023. To make our board more representative of the City's population, we are especially interested in candidates who increase our board's racial and ethnic diversity; women; residents of Staten Island, Queens, and the Bronx; and/or candidates with financial, educational, fundraising, or city government policy/advocacy expertise. Submit suggestions to Jeffrey Kimball, chair of the nominating committee, at nominations@nycaudubon.org.

IN THIS ISSUE SPRING 2022



Manhattan skyline "Lights Out" rendering with blue filter © shutterupeire



Jessica Wilson © Marc Goldberg Photography



Hummingbird Clearwing moth © Don Riepe



Jamaica Bay Living Shoreline construction © Don Riepe



A Red-winged Blackbird defends its turf in Mount Loretto Unique Area © Dave Ostapiuk

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Blackburnian Warbler male © David Speiser

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LIGHTS OUT LAWS MOVE FORWARD

By Suzanne Charlé

n December 15, NYC Audubon and other members of the Lights Out Coalition celebrated the New York City Council's unanimous passage of Lights Out bills Int. 274 and Int. 271.

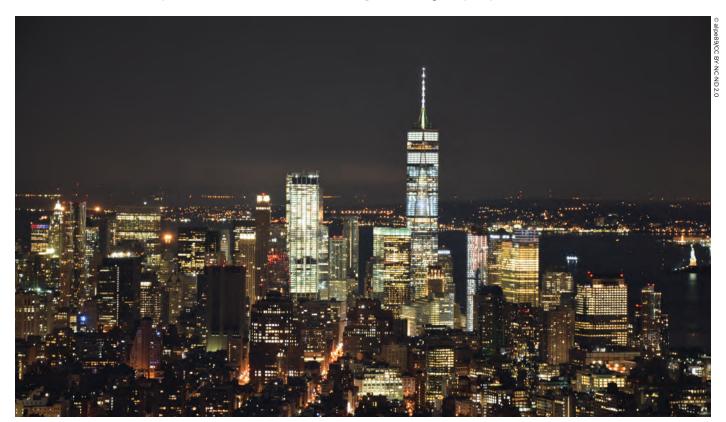
"We've made a big step forward," said Kaitlyn Parkins, interim director of conservation and science for NYC Audubon. Bill 274, introduced by City Council Member Helen Rosenthal, requires that all nonessential outdoor lighting be turned off between 11pm and 6am during peak avian migration periods in City-owned buildings, as well as buildings fully leased by the City. Bill 271, introduced by City Council Member Justin Brannan, requires occupancy sensors that limit illumination in buildings owned by the City. A third bill, Int. 265, which would require similar provisions for privately owned buildings, was not advanced to a vote.

Two weeks earlier, Parkins and over a dozen Lights Out Coalition experts from organizations including the Sierra Club and the International Dark-Sky Association had appeared before the City Council's Environmental Protection Committee, urging that the three bills be passed to protect the 350-plus bird species that live in or pass through the five boroughs. They and the Council Members backing the bills were optimistic: two years ago, in December 2019, the City Council passed milestone bird-friendly building legislation, Local Law 15, which requires that all future buildings, including those to be significantly altered, be built with bird-friendly materials that reduce birdwindow collisions.

At the hearing, Parkins explained that the three proposed laws would constitute an important "second step" by reducing nighttime light pollution: "Turning off lights stops nocturnal collisions with lit windows and reduces the number of birds attracted to areas where they are at risk of collisions during the day."

Science was at the heart of Parkins' presentation. She noted that "70 percent of North American bird species are migratory; of these, 80 percent migrate at night." According to radar data from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, millions of birds fly over the City every year during spring and fall migration. "The bright lights of the City skyline disrupt birds' migration and attract them off their routes from up to three miles away. Unable to continue their passage, they land in unsafe places, vulnerable on our sidewalks to predators and traffic, unable to find nutritious food, with a maze of built infrastructure to navigate. But many don't even make it that far, instead crashing into lit windows, their thousand-mile journeys ending abruptly in deadly collisions with glass."

In fact, a mass mortality event on September 14, 2021, made headlines across the country: over 200 dead songbirds were found around four buildings in Lower Manhattan—all killed by colliding with windows. NYC Audubon's Project Safe Flight research indicates that up to 230,000 birds die in New York City each year in such collisions.



Artificial nighttime lighting (here, in Manhattan's World Trade Center area) attracts night-migrating birds, causing them to stray from their natural migration paths. The birds then may become disoriented and collide with glass windows, either at night or in the morning.

City Council Member Rosenthal first became aware of this danger to birds because her Upper West Side office is next to the Wild Bird Fund (WBF). "People often knock on my door with a worried look and a box with a wounded bird!" she said. Rita McMahon, director and co-founder of WBF, reported that over 60,000 birds have been rehabilitated there since the nonprofit's founding in 2005. Light pollution likely contributed to the deaths of many of those birds; nighttime lighting is one of three important factors in collision mortality cited in a 20-year study conducted in Chicago.

NYC Audubon Advisory Council Member Andrew Farnsworth, senior research associate for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is one of the authors of that study. He reports that by halving the area of windows illuminated at Chicago's McCormick Place during spring migration, collisions were reduced by about 60 percent. Chicago's highly successful Lights Out program limits the amount and timing of exterior lighting and also reduces interior lighting visible from the outside using timers, dimmers, and the like. (Rosenthal had recommended that Int. 274 include a provision to limit interior lighting, but this element was not included in the final bill.) Since 1995, Chicago's tall commercial buildings in "the Loop" district have participated in the program, saving the lives of an estimated 10,000 birds annually.

Parkins praises the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of Lights Out Chicago, but adds that the program's



This female or young male Blackburnian Warbler, collected by Project Safe Flight volunteer Melissa Breyer, died from a window collision in the World Trade Center area on September 14, 2021.

voluntary approach isn't a good fit for New York City. "We have a million buildings," she said. Getting individual private buildings to sign on "is really a Herculean effort." In the past, NYC Audubon has found that even when a building did sign on, a few years later, if management changed, the building would drop out. "There is just too much turnover in ownership and management."

Hence, the focus of New York City's Lights Out Coalition is on legislation. Having successfully navigated the passage of bills 274 and 271, which became law in mid-January, the coalition will soon meet to strategize next steps. "We've made a

big step forward, but we've got a long way to go," Parkins said.

Among the further steps planned: negotiating with REBNY (the Real Estate Board of New York) to create additional bills to limit interior lighting and expand the current laws to privately owned buildings. "We worked with REBNY to pass Local Law 15—we compromised, they compromised, and it got passed," says Parkins.

On behalf of the City's nighttime migrants, let's hope that the spirit of compromise continues. To learn more about light pollution and how it can be reduced to protect migrating birds, visit nycaudubon.org/artificial-light.

VOLUNTEER!

While in-person spring volunteer events have not yet been scheduled because of the ongoing pandemic, some orientations are being held virtually. Updates on these and other spring conservation projects, such as Horseshoe Crab Monitoring, the Spring NYC Shorebird Blitz, and beach cleanups, will be posted at nycaudubon.org/volunteer-events and announced via The eGret eNewsletter (sign up at nycaudubon.org/egret). Visit nycaudubon.org/take-action/volunteer to see an overview of NYC Audubon's community science programs.

PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

Light and glass pose major threats to migratory birds as they travel through New York City this spring. You can help NYC Audubon biologists collect data on building collisions during migration by monitoring designated buildings for collisions. This opportunity requires a time commitment of about one hour, one morning a week, from April through early June. Virtual orientations will be held Thursdays, March 10 and 17, 7–8pm. To learn more and register, contact us at communityscience@nycaudubon.org.



American Woodcocks are among the most common window collision victims in the City.

hors/Audubon Photography Awards

MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, **JESSICA WILSON**

By Kellye Rosenheim

oming from a strong background in nonprofit leadership dedicated to urban green spaces and environmental conservation, Jessica Wilson took the helm of NYC Audubon in late January. Educated at Amherst College and Columbia Business School, this lifelong New Yorker and birder has been most recently the chief development officer at the Friends of Governors Island. She and Kellye Rosenheim had a talk about her first days on the job.

Congratulations on the new post, Jessica!

Thank you, Kellye. I'm thrilled to be here among such a passionate and motivated group-from our 10,000 members, 1,500 volunteers, and many valued partners, to our top-notch staff. I love birds, and I'm really committed to them. And as a New Yorker, I'm also committed to the health and vibrancy of the City. This is a place I've always called home, and I'm excited to work on protections for both birds and New Yorkers.

As a birdwatcher, you must be pretty excited, too.

Absolutely. I've been a birder my whole life-though compared to many of the accomplished birders in our community, I would describe myself as an intermediate-level enthusiast, not an expert. As a New York City kid, I discovered nature in its parks. When I was a teenager, I stumbled upon a bird walk in Central Park led by legendary leader Sarah Elliott. It was a very different world of birders at the time, and I was the youngest person by far on her weekly bird walks. In college, I studied biology with a focus on bird behavior, and my early jobs were in science education as a textbook editor and at a science museum.

After getting my MBA, I spent time in marketing for American Express, but my heart eventually pulled me back to the nonprofit sector. At the National Audubon Society, I led marketing and engagement, and for much of the last decade, I've been lucky to work in some of New York City's great parks and open spaces. I was at Prospect Park Alliance for several years and most recently at the Friends of Governors Island, where I was able to combine my passion for urban wildlife and environmental sustainability with my background in fundraising and community engagement.

What would you say has been your most rewarding career accomplishment to date?

Looking back at my work on Governors Island, I'm proud to have grown and stabilized the organization. The Friends of Governors Island is the Island's designated fundraising partner, and while there, I focused on boosting fundraising efforts, in partnership with our board, staff, and partners at the Trust for Governors Island. We doubled our budget—enabling us to hire more staff and build our volunteer program, improve visitor services, and provide more money for the upkeep and landscaping of the island. At this point, the Friends is able to provide 75 percent of the funds needed to keep the island beautiful and green, including providing great habitat for more than 200 bird species.

What have been your first tasks as you settle into the **NYC Audubon iob?**

In my first few weeks, I've been focused on meeting everyone, including the staff, board, and advisory council, our members on bird walks, and our partners. It's been inspiring to learn more about the terrific work that's already being done with our on-the-ground science and advocacy. While I've been connected to NYC Audubon for years as a member and also as a volunteer in the early days of Project Safe Flight, I'm excited to get more involved with our programs.



Jessica joined the NYC Audubon staff in January 2022.

What do you see the future NYC Audubon looking like?

I'm eager to help strengthen and expand the work that we already do so well. I see real potential with green roofs to create new habitat and engage more New Yorkers in conservation. Another priority is building on our advocacy; we've had great wins with bird-friendly building legislation and are well on our way to effective City Council Lights Out laws and statewide Dark Skies legislation as well.

We will grow and be effective by expanding our audience, and then by mobilizing that army to take action by volunteering and advocating. A goal of mine is to build on the strong diversity and inclusion efforts already in place, to engage all New Yorkers in protecting birds and their habitats. To succeed we'll need our community, our elected officials, our nonprofit partners, our real estate and building partners, and the City's open space managers.

I also think there's a tremendous opportunity to partner with the Audubon network-from the National Audubon Society and Audubon New York to the Audubon Urban Chapter Network and other local chapters—to have broad and meaningful impact. Because, of course, many of our birds are only borrowed for a few months of the year: they depend on habitat and protection across the whole flyway, so aligning our programs, our strategies, and in some cases our outreach efforts, can really amplify the work that we do.

Given your experience at other New York City organizations, how do you view NYC Audubon's role among the City's other environmental nonprofits?

NYC Audubon has a critical role to play in the local protection of birds across the five boroughs. Our decades of historical data and on-the-ground science give us a trusted and credible voice, enabling us to mobilize a dedicated corps of advocates and to influence legislators and open space managers. But we can't do the work alone, and depend on strong partnerships with other local groups.

We recently made great strides technologically, redoing our website, expanding our outreach through social media and online programming, and overhauling our back office. How do you see technology helping us achieve our goals?

COVID-19 forced a lot of organizations to go digital, in a way that can have some positive impacts and can further the mission of NYC Audubon. Technology has helped us become more efficient in our work and improve volunteer engagement and advocacy outreach. It can also help us reach a broader audience: online programs can be more accessible for those who can't travel or may not be able to carve out the time needed to attend an in-person program. Social media and digital resources can also be a way to engage somebody new with birds and conservation in a low-commitment sort of way.

But technology will never be a substitute for being there in person. There's nothing like seeing a bird "IRL" (in real life) and sharing that experience with other New Yorkers.

Speaking of which, is your whole family into birding?

Oh yes. I live near Prospect Park, and that's our birding "patch." It's where I participated in December's Audubon Christmas Bird Count. I have two small kids who love nature and are starting to get into birds themselves. My two-year-old, Jake, already knows several bird calls, and Sadie, my five-year-old, is somewhat proficient with binoculars. My husband Craig is really looking forward to bringing the kids to NYC Audubon's festivals. I can't wait to take them to Raptorama at Jamaica Bay. They're going to love that.



Jessica (and husband Craig, behind the camera) explore the Catskills with children Sadie and Jake.

When you tell people about your new role at NYC Audubon, how do you describe the work?

What's good for birds is good for people and the city of New York. By protecting birds and habitat, we protect all New Yorkers and improve the quality of life for everyone. This is already the essence of the organization, and I'm just so excited to be a part of that mission.

NEWS & NOTES

LIGHTS OUT, NEW YORK!

In mid-January, two Lights Out bills that will significantly reduce artificial nighttime lighting harmful to migrating birds, Int. 274 and Int. 271, became law in New York City. Read more about NYC Audubon's involvement in this significant step forward in our lead article on page 4 and in Conservation Notes on page 8.

Just as we go to press, the Dark Skies Act was introduced in New York State. Read about this promising legislation, and more about the local Lights Out bills, in Avian Advocates on page 13.

TRIENNIAL REPORT

NYC Audubon's *Triennial Report 2019–2021*, published online at the end of December, provides a visual overview of our accomplishments for the City's birds during the past three years. View and download the report at nycaudubon.org/tr.

STAFF

We are very happy to welcome Jessica Wilson as our new executive director. Read our interview with Jessica at left.



Mickey Cohen with his wife of 69 years, Barbara, on a nature hike in Montauk, NY

"MICKEY"MAXWELLCOHEN, 1927-2021

As we go to press, NYC Audubon is saddened to learn of the passing of "Mickey" Maxwell Cohen. Born in Brooklyn's Borough Park and a longtime New York City resident, Mickey passed away in Beverly, Massachusetts, on December 28, 2021, at the age of 94. Beloved by generations for his passionate teaching, as well as for his keen mind and kind spirit, Mickey is described by sons Bradley and Andy Cohen as "an educator, naturalist, environmentalist, civil rights activist, and intellectual . . . also expert in antique restoration, ornithology, marine life, and foraging wild foods."

Following a long and much awarded career as a biology teacher, Mickey's devotion to natural history education led to decades-long roles as a guide for the American Littoral Society and a docent at the American Museum of Natural History, along with wife of 69 years, Barbara. Mickey and Barbara have both been longtime supporters of NYC Audubon. Deeply involved in the conservation of Jamaica Bay wetland properties, they were appointed by NYC Audubon as stewards of Bayswater Point State Park, preserved in 1992 thanks in large part to their efforts.

Mickey is survived by his wife Barbara, children Bradley and Andy (Gerri), and grandchildren Jackie and Jonathan. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a donation to the American Littoral Society, in Mickey's memory, at littoralsociety.org/donate-general.html. (Please write "NE Chapter in Memory of Mickey Cohen" in the comments.)

Visit littoralsociety.org/blog/mickey-cohen-remembered-as-educator-and-environmentalist to read more about Mickey's extraordinary life. ■

CONSERVATION NOTES

ver this past winter, the conservation team has been analyzing data from last year's field season, collaborating with partners on Lights Out legislation in New York City and statewide, and planning for a return to the field in spring 2022. Read highlights of our work below.

PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT Collision Monitoring

Project Safe Flight expanded remarkably this past fall season, employing the greatest number of volunteers in the program's history. Venturing out onto seven monitoring routes in Manhattan and Brooklyn, 37 volunteers spent part of their mornings from September to mid-November surveying selected buildings for victims of window collisions. Findings at some buildings were severe: over 200 birds died in collisions in the World Trade Center area on a single September morning, as reported in the winter Urban Audubon.

Processing of the collective results of our collision monitoring has just been completed for the fall season: 1,120 dead birds were recorded by our collision monitoring volunteers—nearly double the number found in fall 2020. While this increase may reflect a greater number of surveyors, rather than an increased rate of collision, the additional data will contribute to our understanding of both specific problematic buildings and larger patterns of bird collisions in the City. (Our research data has also been an important support of recent Lights Out legislation; see below.)

-Aurora Crooks

Lights Out and Bird-Friendly Buildings

In December the City Council passed two bills that will help mitigate light pollution in New York City, including Int. 274, which requires City-owned and fully City-leased buildings to turn out exterior decorative lighting during peak bird migration periods. Just before The Urban Audubon went to press in mid-January, those two bills became law, and a statewide bill, the Dark Skies Act, was introduced. (Learn more on pages 4 and 13.)

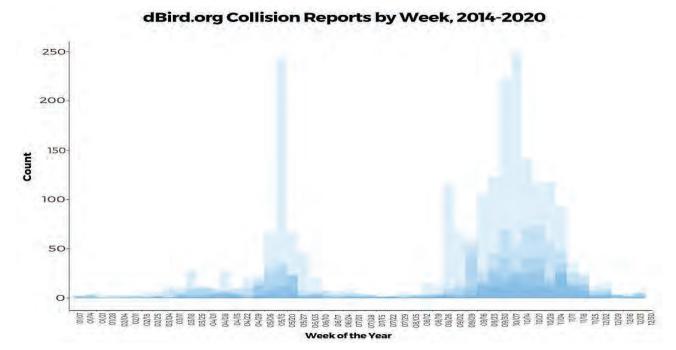
NYC Audubon was able to advise on the language for bill 274 using the crowd-sourced data that concerned New Yorkers have entered into dbird.org. (See the graph below.) By overlaying the weekly frequency of more than 8,000 dBird reports collected since 2014, we were able to visualize the times of the year when the majority of window collisions occur and provide that information to City Council members. Though the timing of migration, and thus collisions, varies slightly each year, we advised that lights should be dimmed from April 1 to May 31 and August 15 to November 15. This time period encompasses the dates when the largest numbers of migrating birds are at risk.

-Kaitlyn Parkins

AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Audubon Christmas Bird Counts were held in all five boroughs of New York City in late December. NYC Audubon coordinates the New Jersey-Lower Hudson "count circle," and on Sunday, December 19, we oversaw counts taking place across Manhattan and Eastern New Jersey, including Randall's Island, Governors Island, and Inwood Hill Park, among other public spaces. One of our most popular counts takes place in Central Park, where nearly 80 participants gathered to count every bird in the park. In total we counted 4,325 birds of 51 species. Once the results for the entire circle are tabulated, we will post them at nycaudubon.org/cbc.

-Kaitlyn Parkins



Using Project Safe Flight collision data gathered via dbird.org, we were able to determine the dates when the largest numbers of migrating birds are at risk.





An apple orchard grows on the Javits Center Green Roof.

GREEN ROOFS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Green Roof Researchers Alliance concluded a busy year with a full-day conference that paired research with practice, in collaboration with the Toronto-based industry group Green Roofs for Healthy Cities. The conference featured speakers from across the United States and Canada, as well as panel discussions examining how current academic research and architectural design can align to maximize green roof benefits in New York City. Following the conference, I synthesized my research and my work with NYC Audubon for a webinar entitled "Urban Green Roofs for Bird Conservation," hosted by Audubon New York and Audubon Connecticut. The webinar was livestreamed on National Audubon's Facebook page and drew over 5,000 attendees.

Our green roof research is growing in 2022, as we launch a new monitoring program on the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center's newly expanded green roof. The green roof features a fully functioning food farm, an apple orchard, a shade garden, and native plants, all of which allow us to examine how wildlife use different green roof habitat types. Our findings will inform guidance on improving habitat quality on individual roofs. We will also continue our biodiversity monitoring and gull conservation and management work on the original Javits Center green roof.

—Dustin Partridge, PhD

WATERBIRDS OF NEW YORK HARBOR Harbor Herons

The 2021 Nesting Survey Report of the Harbor Herons project is now available online at nycaudubon.org/harbor-herons. This past December, we reported on this year's survey at the 17th annual meeting of the Harbor Herons & Other Waterbirds of the Greater NY/NJ Harbor Working Group. Talks at the meeting, organized by Interim Director of Conservation and Science Kaitlyn Parkins and Nellie Tsipoura, chair of the Harbor Herons subcommittee at New Jersey Audubon, were held virtually on the second day of the conference, while on the first day, participants visited wetland habitats in the New Jersey Meadowlands. Stay tuned for the summer Urban Audubon: new Survey Coordinator Shannon Curley, PhD, will share more about the 2022 season.

—Tod Winston



Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Double-crested Cormorants, and a Great Blue Heron, all nesting species in the City, gather in the Jamaica Bay salt marsh.

CONSERVATION NOTES



American Oystercatchers

The American Oystercatcher colony at Breezy Point Tip, at the western end of the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens, had a good year in 2021: all survey parameters improved over previous years. The number of breeding pairs and hatched and fledged chicks in our study area increased, as did several other important variables:

	2020	2021
Breeding Pairs	37	41
Hatched Broods	11	17
Hatched Chicks	18	30
Fledged Chicks	11	22
Hatching Success	0.30	0.41
Chick Survival	61%	73%
Productivity	0.30	0.54

Hatching Success, or the average number of hatched broods per breeding pair, was the lowest on record in 2020, at 0.30 hatched broods per breeding pair, but in 2021 that number increased to 0.41.

Chick Survival, or the percentage of hatched chicks that fledged, has been relatively constant over the years, showing a

slight increase (to 61 percent of hatched chicks fledging) in 2020, and a further increase (to 73 percent) in 2021.

Productivity, or the average number of fledged chicks per breeding pair, was the lowest on record in 2020, at 0.30 fledged chicks per breeding pair. In 2021, the number increased to 0.54. This Productivity level exceeds the goal of the American Oystercatcher Working Group: 0.50 fledged chicks per pair per year are considered sufficient for the species to slowly increase its population.

This spring, we aim to band more adults and chicks to reach full coverage of Breezy Point Tip and nearby areas like Jacob Riis Park and Fort Tilden. Identification of individual birds via banding enables measurement of variables such as productivity of individual pairs, changes in territory, and overall long-term productivity. We will also continue to study the influence of human activity on oystercatcher productivity, along with behavioral variables such as mobility and reactions to human approach. To investigate possible causes of nest failure and chick mortality, such as climate-related events, predator activity, and human disturbance, we plan to install remote camera traps to monitor activity around the nests.

—Emilio Tobón ■



An adult oystercatcher tends to its chicks on the Fort Tilden beach.

STATEMENT ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND ACCESSIBILITY



ew York City Audubon believes all people have the right to a close connection to the natural world and the right to a healthy environment. Preserving our environment is only possible if we all feel that connection.

We recognize that inequities in our society are widespread and hinder access to nature. Only by embracing equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility as values and striving for them in practice will we begin to foster a love of nature in all people and inspire them to be active stewards of the environment.

We further believe that to thrive as an organization and effectively advance our mission and vision, the diversity of New York City's people must be represented in, and welcomed into, our leadership, staff, and membership. The expertise, values, and perspectives of a diverse and inclusive organization are fundamental to expanding the reach and impact of our conservation, advocacy, and educational efforts.

We commit to building an equitable, diverse, inclusive, and accessible New York City Audubon, dedicated to protecting nature for all of New York City's people and its wild birds.

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS OF JAMAICA BAY

By Don Riepe

n the mid-1980s, a group of longtime birders and naturalists decided to learn more about the butterflies of New York City. They formed the NYC Butterfly Club, meeting monthly in the home of prominent bird illustrator Guy Tudor. The group methodically reviewed the various butterfly families, starting with frequently encountered groups such as whites, vellows, hairstreaks, and nymphalids, and conducted field trips to find these brightly colored insects in natural areas around the City. Years of fieldwork both here and across the country culminated in an excellent guide, Butterflies of the East Coast, by Guy Tudor and the current president of the NYC Butterfly Club, Rick Cech.

Thanks in large part to these efforts, the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge currently lists 71 butterfly species that can be found in Jamaica Bay. Experienced Queensbased naturalist Steve Walter has also documented over 700 species of moths for the area. This makes sense; the general rule of thumb is that in any given area, the number of moth species is 10 times higher than that of butterfly species.

Both butterflies and moths belong to an order of insect life known as Lepidoptera, estimated to include 180,000 species across the globe. (Lepidoptera means "scaly wing," referring to the small, dusty scales that cover the surface of the insects' wings.) Adults of most moth and butterfly species eat nectar gleaned from flowers-which makes it possible to actively attract these interesting creatures to parks and gardens. During my tenure as a resource specialist and manager at the Refuge, I designed habitats to enhance the park's Lepidoptera visitors-my areas of interest being the woods, fields, edge areas, and marshes of the Bay. We maintained open fields by periodic mowing, and planted milkweeds, goldenrods, asters, and other nectarproducing wildflowers, as well as earlyblossoming shrubs such as Beach Plum and Shadbush along the wood edges. Our goal was to provide a continuous supply of nectar from early spring through fall.

Other important plantings included "host plants" that feed the larval stage of butterflies and moths (A.K.A. caterpillars).



A Question Mark butterfly feeds at the blossoms of native Beach Plum.

Caterpillars of many Lepidoptera species can eat only the leaves of specific native plants—such as the Common Hackberry, upon which both American Snout and Tawny Emperor butterflies lay their eggs. (Common Milkweed, the host plant for the Monarch, is another wellknown example.) To provide habitat for overwintering species such as the Mourning Cloak butterfly, we added log and brush piles at select sites in the woods and along edge areas. In addition to their immense ecological value as pollinators, butterflies and moths provide great educational opportunities and add color and excitement to any landscape.

Although some species of moths, such as the White-lined Sphinx, Snowberry Clearwing, and Hummingbird Clearwing (see photo on page 3) are diurnal like butterflies, most are nocturnal. That presented a challenge for our survey, so we held "Moth Nights" for those interested in learning about these insects. In front of the Visitor Center we erected a wooden structure with a white background, upon which we hung black and/or mercury vapor lights to attract moths without harming them. On tree trunks in the nearby South Garden, we smeared a concoction of beer,

molasses, and rotting fruit (called "mung"). Most moths were attracted to the lights, to the amazement of Moth Nighters—but a particularly beautiful moth group known as "underwings" (as well as other species that don't usually respond to lights) went for the mung, out of sight of the attendees.

Nationwide, the number and diversity of butterflies, bees, moths, and other pollinators are declining due to loss of habitat (especially open fields and meadows), increased use of pesticides and herbicides, and the conversion of conservation areas to agricultural land for crops of corn and other biofuel sources.

Currently, the NYC Butterfly Club holds virtual meetings every month. If you want to tune in, email me at donriepe@gmail.com for the Zoom link. For information about butterflies in other areas of the U.S. and Mexico, visit the North American Butterfly Association at naba.org. Learn more about the problem of pesticide use and how you can help at nycaudubon.org/save-the-bugs and in the Avian Advocates section on page 13.

And don't forget the fifth annual Jamaica Bay Monarch and Pollinator Festival, planned for mid-September. Look for details in the summer *Urban Audubon*.

THE LIVING SHORELINE OF JAMAICA BAY

By Carol Peace Robins

n October of 2012, New York City was hit hard by Hurricane Sandy, leaving vast flood and wind damage in its wake. It destroyed lives and livelihoods, homes, businesses, and city infrastructure.

But Nature also wreaked havoc on Nature. One of the natural areas hardest hit was the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge's West Pond. Sandy punched through a narrow segment of shoreline separating the pond from Jamaica Bay, creating a deep breach in its popular Loop Trail and allowing sea water into what had been a freshwater (tending towards brackish) pond. The breach impacted both the birds that depend on sources of fresh water and the birders who use the trail.

NYC Audubon led early advocacy efforts in favor of repairing the breach, through creation of the West Pond and Gateway Taskforce, coordination of the West Pond Birders Coalition, and publication of a restoration plan for the West Pond in 2013.

The breach repair took some time—five years, to be precise. But at long last, in 2017, the National Park Service (NPS) re-enclosed the 45-acre pond with a firm earthen dike, restoring the Loop Trail. More extensive restoration would require continued efforts and collaboration among local stakeholders, however.

In May 2019, Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy (JBRPC), in partnership with NPS and with the support of longstanding local conservation organizations Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers and American Littoral Society, contracted with Dirtworks Landscape Architecture, Rippled Waters Engineering, and Great Ecology to create and execute a plan for a "living shoreline." This all-natural infrastructure is designed to protect the area from further storm damage and establish a healthy, welcoming environment for the area's fish, birds, turtles, and other wild creatures—as well

as for the humans who enjoy the West Pond's rich birdlife. Even more important, the project will help to purify water, buffer flooding, reduce erosion, and store carbon.

Constructing a living shoreline is a complicated endeavor. In this case, the design called for planting 200,000 native grasses and shrubs, restoring 2,600 linear feet of shoreline with 51,000 cubic yards of sand, and creating 38 breakwater structures out of 100 discarded Christmas trees, 15 coconut fiber coir logs, and 5,000 oyster shells provided by the Billion Oyster Project. Many volunteers helped by planting seedlings and bundling oyster shells in biodegradable bags.

On November 19, 2021, on a bright sunny day with gusts of wind so strong they blew hats off some of the National Park Rangers, it was time for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Jennifer Nersesian, superintendent of Gateway



A design plan by Dirtworks Landscape Architecture lays out the major habitat areas of the Living Shoreline project and the primary species of concern that are likely to benefit.

National Recreation Area, presided over the ceremony, joined by JBRPC Executive Director Alex Zablocki and many others. Nersesian's remarks celebrated the nine new, beautiful, and resilient acres of marsh habitat, along with the protection of the West Pond, for the area's wildlife and the nature enthusiasts who enjoy it all:

"It has been quite the journey to get here since Hurricane Sandy breached the pond just over nine years ago. With support, we were able to repair the breach. We did it knowing with climate change and sea level rise, it might not last forever, but for the millions of people that it would serve in the interim, it was worth the investment. Today's celebration symbolizes something even greater. It moves us beyond coming back to where we were before the hurricane. It propels us into the future. The Living Shoreline Project shows that rather than trying to fight nature, we're learning to embrace it."



Orange flagging is strung over newly created and planted salt marsh beds to deter waterfowl from feeding on the young plants before they become established.

AVIAN ADVOCATE UPDATES

By Sohel Shah



We hope that you all are safe and well. Below are updates on our advocacy successes along with several ways to advocate right now for New York City's birds.

NEW YORK CITY LIGHTS OUT BILLS PASSED

On December 15, 2021, the New York City Council unanimously passed two bills to reduce artificial light harmful to migrating birds. Int. 274, introduced by Council Member Helen Rosenthal, requires that all nonessential outdoor lighting in buildings either owned or fully leased by the City be turned off from 11pm to 6am during peak migration periods of April1-May 31 and August 15-November 15. Int. 271, introduced by Council Member Justin Brannan, requires the use of occupancy sensors that limit lighting in Cityowned buildings. Both bills became law in mid-January. Learn more on pages 4 and 8.

We thank Council Members Rosenthal and Brannan for working tirelessly to get these bills passed. We also thank the Lights Out Coalition, a dedicated group of individuals and conservation and animal welfare organizations, for all their efforts. Finally, these bills would not have been passed without the work of our Avian

Advocate volunteers, whose emails, messages, and calls to the City Council helped secure support for the bills.

Int. 265, a third Lights Out bill introduced by Council Member Brannan that would limit nighttime illumination of privately owned buildings, did not advance to a vote. We are disappointed but look forward to working with the next City Council on this much-needed legislation.

NEW YORK STATE DARK SKIES ACT

As we go to press in mid-January, Senator Brad Hoylman (D/WFP-Manhattan) and Assemblymember Patricia Fahy (D-Albany) have just introduced the Dark Skies Act (S.7663). The legislation would require that most nonessential outdoor lighting be extinguished after 11pm, be motion activated, or be covered by an external shield. Please check our website (see link at the end of this section) for updates.

THE BIRDS AND BEES PROTECTION ACT

This past December NYC Audubon joined a coalition of over 100 partners, coordinated by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), to urge Governor Hochul and state senate and assembly leaders to support



Pollinators like this Red-spotted Purple Butterfly are imperiled by neonicotinoid pesticide use.

the Birds and Bees Protection Act (A.7429 Englebright/S.699B Hoylman). This legislation would eliminate needless and harmful uses of neurotoxic neonicotinoid pesticides that decimate New York State's bee and wildlife populations, extensively contaminate its water and lands, and threaten the health of its residents. We continue to partner with Audubon New York and the NRDC in advocating for this legislation in the 2022 session. Learn more about this issue at nycaudubon.org/save-the-bugs.

To find out how to contribute to all the bird-friendly advocacy efforts above, and to sign up to be an Avian Advocate, please visit nycaudubon.org/avian-advocates.

THE NEW YORK STATE BIRDING TRAIL KICKS **OFF ON STATEN ISLAND'S SOUTH SHORE**

By Hillarie O'Toole

f you're anything like me, whether you're exploring a new borough or heading farther afield, you want to know where the best birding spots are located. However, it can sometimes be difficult to find the information you're looking for across multiple websites. The newly launched New York State Birding Trail system aims to provide a one-stop, user-friendly, web-based resource for birders to find the trails and public spaces they seek across the state—starting right here in New York City.

Curated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), the Birding Trail is aimed towards beginner and intermediate birders, but it offers information that will be of interest to more advanced users, as well. Unlike the Empire State Trail, a continuous 750-mile multi-use hiking trail, the new birding "trail" is actually a network of highlighted trails and birding hotspots that will function much like the state's Path Through History resource. Like that program, the new birding trail serves to promote tourism throughout various regions of the state, in addition to raising awareness about wildlife conservation. With birding popularity on the rise, this new resource is a high priority for the NYSDEC and is intended to support and promote equity and access to the outdoors for all New Yorkers.



Mount Loretto's wetlands attract a good variety of wading birds, including this Little Blue Heron.



The open fields of Mount Loretto are frequented by Indigo Buntings, Eastern Kingbirds, and Bald Eagles.

The New York State Birding Trail launched with grand ceremony on October 7, 2021, at its inaugural site: Staten Island's Mount Loretto Unique Area, a dramatic bluff preserve overlooking Raritan Bay. Newly retired NYC Audubon Executive Director Kathryn Heintz, who had attended the event, remarked that "this new statewide birding trail system is exactly what we need at exactly this moment. More people in the City than ever before in our lifetimes are experiencing nature right here in the five boroughs."

When the trail is complete, featured locations will consist primarily of state and federal land partners, although private landholders such as towns, cemeteries, and land trusts can complete a selfnomination application for consideration. Such privately held sites must be userfriendly and will preferably have some amenities for visitors. Each official site will have signage clearly marking the area as a New York State Birding Trail location.

More birding trail sites across the state are slated to roll out throughout 2022. The website will incorporate Google Maps, allowing the trail network to be a dynamic resource. The profile of each highlighted trail or public space will describe the site's ecology and include listings of offered activities and amenities, nearby Audubon chapters or parks, and frequently sighted bird species, along with links to more bird species information on eBird.

The Birding Trail website notes Mount Loretto Unique Area's historic and ecologically rich 241 acres: "This land, which was once the territory of the Lenape and Munsee nations, is now home to people from throughout the world, including descendants of those original inhabitants." As we head into spring, it's the perfect time for birders of all ages and backgrounds to get outdoors and learn to love and care for these lands we share. Go out and explore Mount Loretto's birding trail, the first of many more to come. (While you're there, you might spot one of New York City's Bald Eagles, which frequent the preserve; an immature eagle photographed there is featured on the back cover.)

Visit dec.nv.gov/animals/109900.html to learn more. NYC Audubon contributed to the Birding Trail's New York City site information. You'll find detailed birding recommendations for over 100 birding hotspots across the five boroughs at nycaudubon.org/birding-in-nyc.

EVENTS & ADVENTURES



pring is nearly here. Come birding with us!

SPRING WALKS AND TRIPS

Trips and Classes: View our complete listings of spring trips and classes and register at **nycaudubon.org/local-trips-and-classes**.

Members-Only Walks: Members-only walks are free for contributing NYC Audubon members at the Student/Senior level and up. Read about our scheduled spring members-only walks and register at **nycaudubon.org/members-only**.



"The Hills" of Governors Island offer striking views of the City—and nesting territory for Yellow Warblers and Tree Swallows.

GOVERNORS ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER Saturdays and Sundays, May 1-October 31, 11am-5pm Location: Nolan Park House 17

Take the ferry to Governors Island and visit NYC Audubon's seasonal environmental center at Nolan Park House 17. Governors Island boasts an eBird list of 225 species (and counting). Borrow binoculars and participate in one of our free guided bird walks, or strike out on your own. Check nycaudubon.org/gov-island for more information about bird walks, special events, and any changes related to the pandemic. To inquire about volunteering opportunities or art residencies, contact Danielle Sherman at dsherman@nycaudubon.org.

REGISTRATION DATES

NYC Audubon Members: For NYC Audubon members, registration for all events (both members-only walks and fee-based trips and classes) begins on **Monday, March 7, at 9am**. See our website (links at left) for details.

Nonmembers: Trips and Classes registration for nonmembers begins on **Monday, March 14, at 9am.** See our website (links at left) for details.

SIGN UP FOR THE EGRET

Stay updated! Sign up for The eGret eNewsletter at nycaudubon.org/egret and following us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@nycaudubon).



Red Knots, Ruddy Turnstones, Semipalmated Sandpipers, and Dunlin feed on horseshoe crab eggs in Jamaica Bay.

SIXTH ANNUAL JAMAICA BAY HORSESHOE CRAB FESTIVAL May date and time TBA

With the American Littoral Society, Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy, National Park Service

Celebrate the Atlantic Horseshoe Crab with us this May! During the full and new moons of May and June, female horseshoe crabs come ashore in Jamaica Bay to lay eggs—a crucial food source for migrating shorebirds. During this festival you'll see experts handle live horseshoe crabs and learn about their important ecological and medicinal values, and you can participate in family-friendly activities and talks by experts. Learn more and register at nycaudubon.org/festivals. No limit. Free



Each spring a few Summer Tanagers are spotted by lucky (and/or determined) birders in New York City.

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 14 IS WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

Mark Saturday, May 14 on your calendar: NYC Audubon will host free bird walks across the City in celebration of World Migratory Bird Day. Visit **nycaudubon.org/events-birding/calendar** to check for scheduled events as the date approaches.



SAVE THE DATE: MAY 29-JUNE 4 IS #BLACKBIRDERSWEEK

Sunday, May 29 to Saturday, June 4 is Black Birders Week 2022, organized by The BlackAFInSTEM Collective—a collective that "seeks to support, uplift, and amplify Black Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics professionals in natural resources and the environment through professional development, career connection, and community engagement." Details will be posted at nycaudubon.org and in the summer Urban Audubon.



BIRD: EXPLORING THE WINGED WORLD By Phaidon editors Phaidon Press, November 2021

he title of this extraordinary book does not do it justice; Exploring the Winged World doesn't begin to describe its contents. It is a compendium of more than 300 illustrations showing the many ways that, beginning in the Stone Age, humans have demonstrated birds' strong appeal to the imagination through drawings, photographs, symbology, and the incorporation of their likenesses into mundane objects. Represented in largeformat reproductions are media ranging from 34,000-year-old Australian cave drawings to Sesame Street's Big Bird puppet; from a stuffed carrier pigeon (a hero of World War I), to banknotes from Suriname; from Pompeian mosaics to the Twitter bird icon; and on and on.

The book is a luxury object of impressive heft, its thick pages measuring 9.5 by 11.5 inches, with two-thirds of the space devoted to the illustrations and the remainder to compact text that informs us not just about each artwork's creator or symbolic meaning, but also about the printing or ceramic technology used, the art movement involved, or unexpected details like the first known mention in literature of cave paintings (Homer's Iliad, in 750 BC).

The illustrations are paired on facing pages, sometimes tenuously related, sometimes clearly so. Photographer Joel Sartore's recent shot of a Curl-crested Aracari faces a cartoonish Toco Toucan on a Guinness brewery ad from 1955; another pair features a photo of a Common Kingfisher rising from the water, a fish in its mouth, opposite an X-ray of a perched kingfisher that is about to re-catch the fish it has thrown into the air in order to swallow it head-first.

Except for an introduction by Katrina van Grouw, the 25 text-writers are not credited until the end of the book, where their names join a miscellany of end material that includes an avian phylogenetic tree with brief descriptions of each of the orders, illustrations of bird morphology, and short biographies of the artists and photographers whose works are included.

The writers do not use their limited space to scold us about the damage we've inflicted on these species, which have so closely accompanied us throughout human history; the book is a celebration through artifacts of this relationship, rather than an overt warning about extinctions. However, images of Passenger Pigeons and of a dead Tennessee Warbler, the victim of a collision with a window, speak for themselves.

The end material includes a timeline of important milestones in bird-human interactions: a 36,000-year overview that for the year 2019 lists the publication in the journal Science of "Decline of the North American Avifauna," which reported that the U.S. and Canada had lost three billion birds over the past 50 years. The message is clear: we are unthinkingly ridding the world of fellow creatures that have been a source of inspiration throughout our own species' development. -MJK





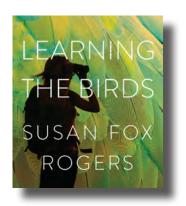




Among the many works of art featured in BIRD are (left to right and top to bottom) Trochilidge - Kolibris by Ernst Haeckel, 1904, picture credit Kunstformen der Natur; Hacha, c. AD 600-1000, picture credit The William Hood Dunwoody Fund; The Hen Egg by Peter Karl Fabergé, 1885, photo courtesy of The Forbes Collection; We Think the World of Birds by Charley Harper, 2005, picture credit Charley Harper Art Studio.

By Mary Jane Kaplan, Ivy Jo Gilbert, Carol Peace Robins





LEARNING THE BIRDS:
A MIDLIFE ADVENTURE
By Susan Fox Rogers
Three Hills; forthcoming, April 2022

Birds were going to show me a world most don't get to see," writes Rogers in this engaging memoir, detailing her romance with birdwatching. Across 22 chapters, each loosely dedicated to a species added to her life list during her first three years of birding, Rogers takes readers from the rivers of the Amazon to the tundra of Alaska. However, it wasn't the exciting locations or specific birds that pulled me into her memoir—it was how she wrote about relationships: personal, romantic, historical, and environmental, all in the context of birding.

Rogers is a writer in residence at Bard College and knows how to construct a blended story: As much as she is writing about birdwatching, she is writing about identity and the things she has learned about herself while birding. Penned at a time of national conversations about identity, Rogers' book calls attention to the pain caused by bird species names that honor historical figures associated with

colonialism, racism, and inequality—and uses her memoir as an opportunity to bring women conservationists and ornithologists into the narrative. I found myself jotting down names and titles of books that I wanted to read next.

I read *Learning the Birds* over the course of a single afternoon while isolating with COVID-19. (Thankfully, I seem to be on the road to recovery.) Rogers' memoir brought me into a season of discovery alongside her, and in many ways, I felt I was witnessing someone fall in love for the first time. Trapped in my apartment for two weeks, I found much needed company in her stories. Rogers' memoir will make a great read for anyone who wants to dip back into the first joys of birdwatching, and offers a beautifully written story filled with worthwhile information and insights. —IJG



A BIRDS' GUIDE TO THE BATTERY AND
NEW YORK HARBOR
By Gail Karlsson
Independently published, 2021
(available at amazon.com)

t's a wild guess: most New Yorkers probably don't think of The Battery at the southern tip of Manhattan as a wildlife haven. But just set foot in this 25-acre public parkland of perennial gardens, woodlands, toxin-free lawns, and an organic urban farm, and you'll find more than a few birds, bees, butterflies, and birders flitting around.

In her appealing newbook, Gail Karlsson introduces many of the avian regulars of The Battery and New York Harbor, many of whom she met on bird walks with NYC Audubon guide Gabriel Willow. Some are visitors, some year-rounders. Some are land birds; some are waterbirds.

From terns to towhees, woodpeckers

to warblers, Black-crowned Night-Herons to White-throated Sparrows, Karlsson's words and pictures invite you into their world. The photos are hers, the words are ... well ... the birds'.

"We are the fastest birds in the world. Actually, fastest living creatures," says a Peregrine Falcon. Karlsson's photos tell stories, too. Many are beautiful portraits, but others are just birds being birds: chatting, eating, cuddling, and even being a wise guy.

It's a unique approach, and one that makes for enjoyably intimate encounters. You may end up with a strong desire to hop on the train to The Battery and experience it for yourself. —CPR ■







The portraits of A Birds' Guide to the Battery and New York Harbor include (left to right) Common Yellowthroat, Ring-billed Gull, and American Kestrel.

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



YC Audubon's conservation work and public programs are made possible by the philanthropic contributions of members, friends, corporations, foundations, and government agencies. We are grateful to all those who have sustained our work over the past six months, especially during these difficult times. Thank you also to the members and donors whose 2,559 gifts in amounts up to \$2,499.99 collectively provided \$289,993 in support of our mission from July 1 to December 31, 2021.

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BEOUESTS

Estate of Janet Burk Estate of Willam Quintavalle



American Oystercatchers feed in the surf at Breezy Point, Queens.

HELP US CREATE A SAFER CITY FOR BIRDS

e hope you'll get outdoors this spring to witness the wonders of bird migration—whether you're searching your "patch" for a rare warbler, or just enjoying the chorus of birdsong as you stroll through your local park. Many of the 350-plus bird species known to visit New York City stop here just for a few days or weeks, each spring and fall. The time they spend here, however, is crucial to their survival. Having flown hundreds or even thousands of miles from wintering grounds as far as Tierra del Fuego, migrating birds must find shelter and food in our green spaces. And, they must navigate the City's maze of concrete and glass. Many don't make it: up to 230,000 each year die in collisions with the City's countless windows, according to our Project Safe Flight research.

We've made great progress: the City's landmark bird-safe building law is now in effect, and two new Lights Out laws for publicly owned buildings were enacted in January, as detailed in this issue. But there's much more to do. Help us to bring our science and advocacy to bear on limiting nighttime lighting at privately owned buildings, such as those of the World Trade Center, and on passing statewide legislation. And, join us as we work to welcome New Yorkers across the City's five boroughs into our corps of bird-loving advocates.

We need all New Yorkers to make New York City the bird-friendly model it can be. Please give at nycaudubon.org/donate.

BECOME A YOUNG CONSERVATIONIST

Calling all young nature-lovers, ages 18-35! For \$25 per year, a Young Conservationist membership will contribute to NYC Audubon's conservation work, and get you (or a young person vou know) connected to the Young Conservationists Council and all they have planned: Flappy Hours, lectures, bioblitzes, trivia nights, and more. See the membership form below at the right or donate online at nycaudubon.org/donate.

The Young Conservationists Council, formed in early 2020, is a group of young New Yorkers who are committed to sharing the wonders of the City's diverse ecosystem with the next generation of New Yorkers, and who are dedicated to protecting and conserving its natural habitats.

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 \$15 per month. See the membership form at right or visit 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 at right or donate online at 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.

REMEMBER THE BIRDS

Please consider remembering the birds in your estate plan; see the back cover.

To learn more, contact us at 212-691-7483 or at development@nycaudubon.org.



The Blackburnian Warbler, also pictured singing on the cover of this issue and as the casualty of a window collision on page 5, is one of many neotropical songbirds that will benefit from strong legislation limiting artificial nighttime lighting during peak migration.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Contributing members are essential to our conservation and outreach work.

Members receive The Urban Audubon newsletter and The eGret eNewsletter, enjoy discounts on field trips and classes, and make a difference for the City's wildlife.

[] 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 \$500 [] Advocate \$250
[] Supporter \$100 [] Family \$75 [] Friend \$25 [] Dual Friend \$50
[] Young Conservationist(18-35) \$25 [] Student/Senior(65+) \$15 [] Dual Senior \$30

I'd like to ADD a gift for NYC Audubon's community outreach and education work: [] \$50 purchases a pair of quality binoculars [] \$150 underwrites a free bird walk

Name:

Email: [] Enclosed is my check payable to NYC Audubon

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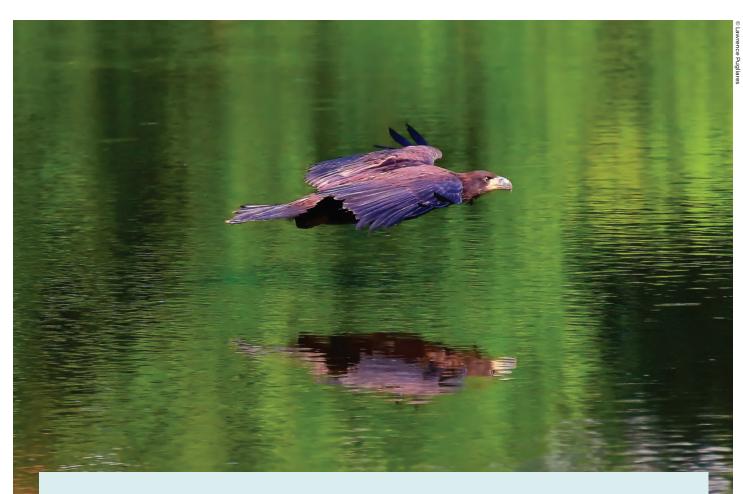
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REMEMBER THE BIRDS

New York City's birds, like this immature Bald Eagle photographed in Staten Island's Mount Loretto Unique Area, need protectors. Make sure that the City remains a haven for the birds and wildlife you love. A bequest to NYC Audubon is a generous and straightforward way to safeguard birds and their habitat in New York City's five boroughs for the future.

A bequest can be expressed in a Will as simply as, "I bequeath [a sum of money, a percentage of my estate, or an IRA, life insurance policy, or investment/bank account] to New York City Audubon Society, 71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1523, New York, NY 10010." Consult with your attorney to determine what is best for your particular situation.

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