



2022

ANNUAL REPORT



CONSERVATION | ADVOCACY | ENGAGEMENT

A Message from Our Leadership

Dear Friends of NYC Audubon,

The White-throated Sparrow, featured on this report's cover, is a common sight in New York City's parks fall through spring. Its plaintive, whistled song—"Oh sweet Canada . . . Canada . . . Canada"—is also the first that many new birders learn. And as thousands of New Yorkers have discovered the City's green spaces in recent years, many have come to know both song and singer.

To know a bird is, of course, a very short step from loving it. And *you protect what you love*.

The white-throat is very much in need of our protection. It is the most frequent victim of window collisions in the City—and it is not alone. In New York City, an important stop on the Atlantic Flyway for millions of migrating birds, NYC Audubon scientists estimate that up to a *quarter of a million birds die each year* in encounters with building glass, partly due to light pollution.

Help us engage the City's 8.5 million residents to protect the White-throated Sparrow and the more

than 350 other bird species that depend on the City's habitats. The opportunity for significant change is great, as is the need for it: the populations of over half of North American bird species are declining.

As you'll see in these pages, in 2022 NYC Audubon grew to meet that need, increasing our impact by expanding our staff, programs, and collaborative partnerships. We've achieved great recent victories in the passage of local bird-friendly design and artificial light laws. And there's much more to do. We're fighting to pass comprehensive legislation at the City

and State levels, protecting and creating bird habitat, and welcoming New Yorkers of all backgrounds into our conservation community.

What part can you play? The birds need you. Visit nycaudubon.org to learn more.



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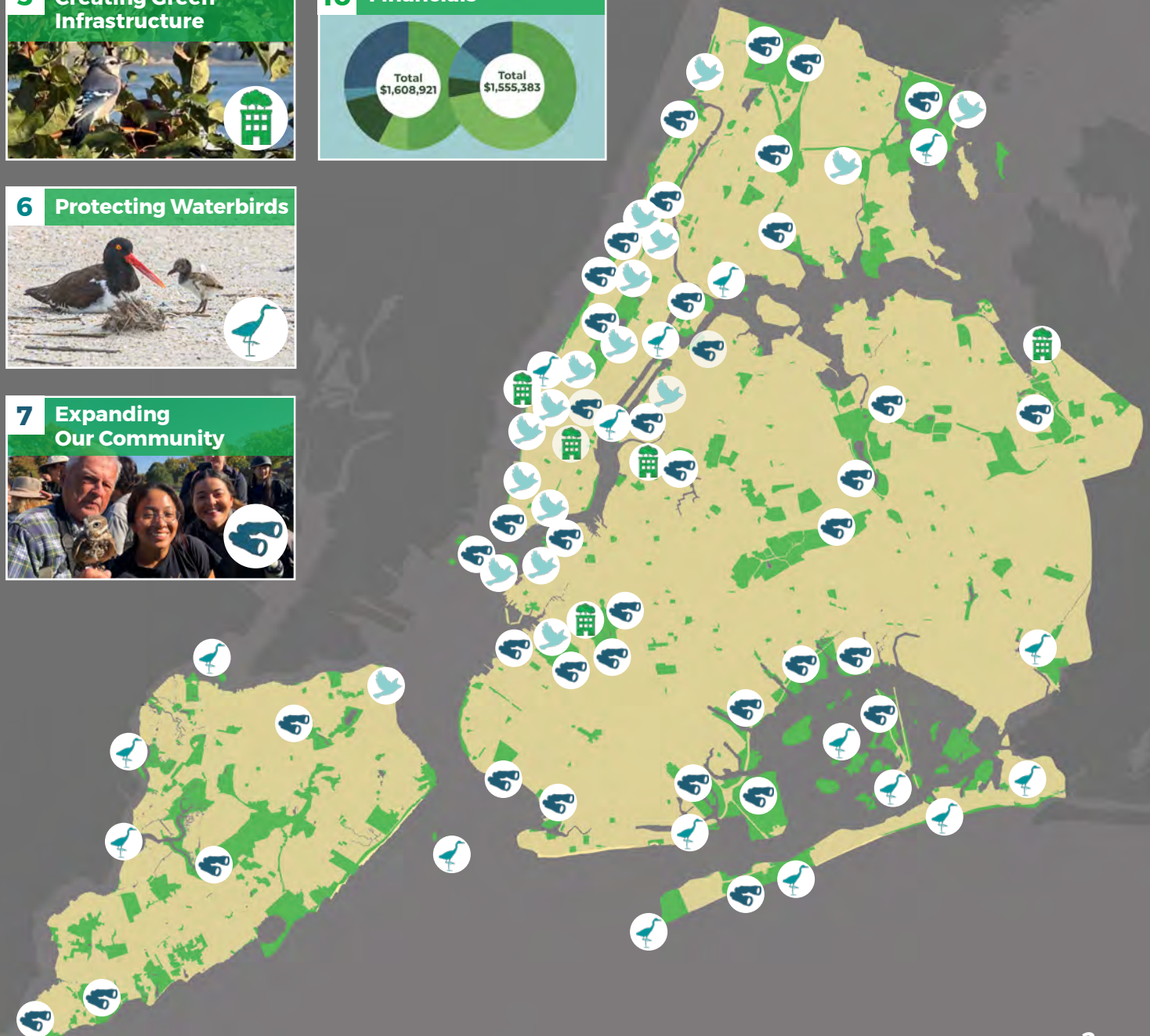
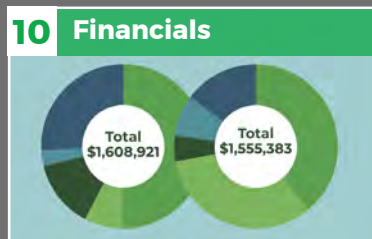
Our staff gathers atop the green roof of Brooklyn's Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages, co-created and managed in partnership by NYC Audubon, Broadway Stages, Newtown Creek Alliance, and Alive Structures.

NYC AUDUBON ACROSS THE CITY

NYC Audubon champions nature in the City's five boroughs through a combination of engaging programs and innovative conservation campaigns. We protect the over 350 species of birds that depend on the City's 578 miles of coastline and 30,000 acres of wetlands, forests, and grasslands.



Find each section of our report at the page numbers at left—and see where we work in each program area, below.





MAKING NEW YORK CITY SAFER FOR MIGRATING BIRDS

NYC Audubon's **Project Safe Flight** protects birds as they migrate through New York City. We use grassroots research to fuel legislative change and bird-friendly partnerships.

In the past few years, we've marshalled our 25 years of window-collision data to win passage of the City's landmark **bird-friendly building design** legislation, Local Law 15, as well as two important **Lights Out laws** that require all City-owned and -operated buildings to reduce lighting during peak migration.

- NYC Audubon's 25 years of Project Safe Flight collision data position us as a **national expert on collisions** and bird-friendly design
- In 2022 we partnered with over 15 New York City buildings to **voluntarily install bird-friendly glass treatments** that save birds' lives
- [dBird.org](https://dbird.org), our crowd-sourced database of bird collisions, is now being used by 77 organizations across the globe. This user-friendly online tool is providing data to **support bird-friendly policies** at a regional and even global scale



THE BIRDS WE SAVE

Though songbirds including the White-throated Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, and Ovenbird are the most frequent collision victims in New York City, the American Woodcock, a bird seemingly out of place in city streets, is a surprisingly common casualty each spring and fall. Project Safe Flight is dedicated to protecting the up to a quarter of a million birds—over 140 species!—that our scientists estimate die in the City from collisions each year.

Large photo: The glass-clad buildings of lower Manhattan can be very dangerous for migrating birds.



GRASSROOTS RESEARCH

Project Safe Flight volunteers Melissa Breyer and Zoe Grueskin collect a Northern Parula warbler, a window-collision victim in downtown Manhattan. Volunteers now monitor collision routes in all five boroughs of the City, providing data we use to advocate for change.



COLLABORATIVE PROGRESS

NYC Audubon's research expertise allows us to achieve victories for birds. Bird-friendly building retrofit projects in 2022 included 1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge (pictured above) and Lower Manhattan's Brookfield Place. Though research and retrofits are ongoing, our monitoring indicates significant reductions in collisions at both sites since the preliminary building changes.

IN 2022

32 buildings monitored for collisions, in all five boroughs

124 collision-monitoring volunteers, a record number

WHAT'S NEXT?

- In 2023, we'll advocate for passage of Lights Out bill Re-Int. 265, which would require all commercial and mercantile buildings in the City to turn out nonessential outdoor lights and use occupancy sensors during migration
- By expanding our education and outreach with the City's architectural community, we'll raise awareness of bird-friendly design solutions

LEARN MORE at nycaudubon.org/project-safe-flight



CREATING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Through **research and collaborative partnerships**, we study and champion **innovative urban green spaces** that provide habitat for birds and promote urban biodiversity.

- We're learning about birds' use of urban habitat through **wildlife monitoring at six sites including the Javits Center** (pictured below), Madison Square Park, and Big Rock Wetland Restoration Area, in Queens
- In 2022 we advised over a dozen **architectural and landscape firms** on improving built habitat for birds



OVER 50 BIRD SPECIES

The Pine Warbler and American Woodcock are the most recent additions to the over 50 bird species that visit the Javits Center green roof network. The rich new habitats of the roof's food forest, farm, and pollinator garden have provided stopover habitat for these two woodlands species.

IN 2022

600,000 square feet of monitored habitat

431 roof-nesting Herring Gulls banded since 2014

WHAT'S NEXT?

- We'll advocate for improved tax incentives for green roofs across the City
- We'll form new partnerships across the City to improve and create new habitats and bird-friendly policies

LEARN MORE at nycaudubon.org/green-infrastructure

Large photo: Research Associate Tod Winston surveys bird species making use of the Javits Center's rooftop farm during fall migration. Spring through summer, monitoring and banding of breeding Herring Gulls on the Center's nearby sedum roof provide important data about local populations of this gregarious species.



PROTECTING WATERBIRDS

NYC Audubon **monitors and protects waterbirds**—including beach-nesting American Oystercatchers, migrating Semipalmated Sandpipers, and the breeding wading birds that are the focus of our 40-year-old **Harbor Herons Nesting Survey**.

- Our research data fuels partnerships and advocacy work to **protect declining species** like the Black-crowned Night-Heron and Glossy Ibis
- Low-impact **camera monitoring of beach-nesting birds** helps us understand the threats they face and how to best protect them

IN 2022

18 Harbor Heron Islands surveyed

49 American Oystercatcher nesting pairs monitored on Queens beaches



PROTECTING VULNERABLE SPECIES

Seasonal Field Technician Emilia Zhang Heaton holds a nanotagged Semipalmated Sandpiper. We've tracked 60 of these migratory shorebirds with lightweight radio transmitters since 2016.



WHAT'S NEXT?

- We'll collaborate with local partners to reduce predator presence on islands and beaches where waterbirds nest
- We'll focus our radio-tagging of shorebirds to provide data on safe siting of local wind energy projects

LEARN MORE at nycaudubon.org/birds-of-ny-harbor

Large photo: Great and Snowy Egrets, Double-crested Cormorants, and a Great Blue Heron gather in Jamaica Bay, one of several important breeding areas for wading birds and their allies in New York City. Subway Island, the Bay's largest colony in recent years, was abandoned in 2022, most likely due to the presence of raccoons on the island.



EXPANDING OUR COMMUNITY

By **sharing the beauty and wonder of birds** with New Yorkers across the five boroughs, we are growing NYC Audubon's activist community and working to **better engage the great diversity of New York City** in our work.

- Over **30 guides led bird outings across the City**, enabling us to reach underserved neighborhoods, with a particular focus on communities of color
- Our **Young Conservationists** engaged a new generation with popular bird outings and trivia nights
- **New partnerships** with green spaces and community organizations across the five boroughs helped us expand our reach

IN 2022

10,000 people reached at outings, festivals, and lectures

175 free bird outings



FAMILY-FRIENDLY PROGRAMS

Our Governors Island Nature Center engaged nearly 2,000 visitors in 2022 with weekly bird outings, art installations and activities, conservation displays, and a "H-owl-oween" costume contest.



Large photo: The Young Conservationists bird in Central Park.



MEETING NEW YORKERS WHERE THEY LIVE

Born and raised in the Bronx, NYC Audubon Public Programs Manager Roslyn Rivas grew to love birds in her neighborhood and at the Bronx Zoo. She has increased our programming in small local parks, such as Brooklyn's Canarsie Park, below.

Roslyn has also reached thousands of fellow New Yorkers at our Shorebird, Monarch, and Raptorama! festivals in Jamaica Bay (at right).



WHAT'S NEXT?

- We'll publish a new Spanish-English guide, *Las Aves de la Ciudad de Nueva York / The Birds of New York City*
- We'll expand accessible outings for people with disabilities and improve accessibility of our online and print resources

LEARN MORE at nycaudubon.org/events-birding

Large photo: Birders explore Brooklyn's Canarsie Park during one of nearly 200 free outings offered in 2022.

SUPPORT FOR NYC AUDUBON

NYC Audubon's conservation, advocacy, and engagement work is made possible by the generous contributions of members and friends. We express particular gratitude for leadership support from the Leon Levy Foundation, The New York Community Trust, the Javits Center, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The supporters listed below donated gifts received from April 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022. We also thank the thousands of members and donors with collective gifts under \$500, as well as our many community partners and in-kind donors.

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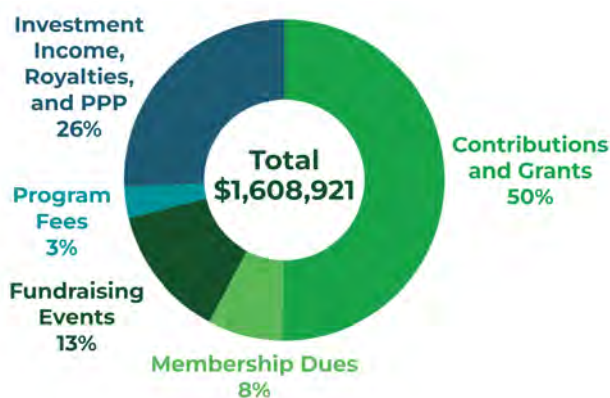
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For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022

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