



# THE URBAN AUDUBON

**Introducing Our Vision for the Future**

**NYC Audubon Adds a New  
Business Model for Green Roofs**

**Connecticut Warbler  
(*Oporornis agilis*)**



## 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.

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Jeffrey Kimball



As we approach 2020, we at NYC Audubon look forward not only to our 40th Anniversary, but also to the implementation of our new *Strategic Plan, 2020-2025: A Vision for the Future*. The process of writing a new strategic plan for any organization is soul-searching. We wrapped ourselves around all that we are currently doing and simultaneously looked forward to all that we hope to achieve in the near future. After almost two years of efforts by staff and board members, we are very pleased with the completed document, which you can view at [www.nyc Audubon.org/strategicplan2020-2025](http://www.nyc Audubon.org/strategicplan2020-2025).

A strategic plan serves as an internal guide for the organization, a roadmap for all our efforts in preserving habitats throughout the five boroughs, making our vast city safer for birds, and illuminating the wonders of nature for all New Yorkers. And the plan provides a reckoning with how we can be more inclusive of the great diversity in our community.

We have always held the preservation of birds at the forefront of our mission. In the next five years, we will continue our decades-long work of monitoring wading bird and waterbird colonies, as well as other important conservation initiatives. But we will also expand our reach, advocating for local and statewide legislation that promotes bird-safe building practices in the city. For the first time ever, NYC Audubon now has a full-time Advocacy and Outreach Manager to ensure that our voice is heard in government offices, public hearings, the press, or wherever birds and nature need a voice in New York City. We will expand our influence as a leader in green roof research and launch a green roof certification program, encouraging the creation of a patchwork of rooftop oases that provide another layer of habitat for migrating and native birds and contribute to cooling buildings naturally and regulating stormwater runoff.

There are of course many other environmental threats to New York City, such as climate change, the rampant use of rodenticides that inadvertently kill hawks and other raptors, and the danger of outdoor cats to bird populations. We are still a small organization, and we cannot always be at the forefront of all these issues, but we do stay abreast of what is going on in the city and contribute our support or expertise wherever we can.

As we look to the half decade ahead, we will greatly increase our footprint in areas of the city that are traditionally underserved, encouraging all New Yorkers to appreciate the nature in our midst and to conserve it. We will continue to expand the number of bird walks we offer in all boroughs, adding several in small neighborhood parks. We will carry on our efforts in education, developing curricula for use in schools, as well as amplifying our successful training of architects and other building professionals in bird-friendly design and construction.

Equally as important, we are growing and working to include a greater diversity of New Yorkers in our membership, our staff, and our board of directors. The future of bird conservation, and indeed the future health of the planet, will be in the hands of the broad diversity of the coming generations.

## 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@nyc Audubon.org](mailto:krosenheim@nyc Audubon.org) or 646-502-9611.

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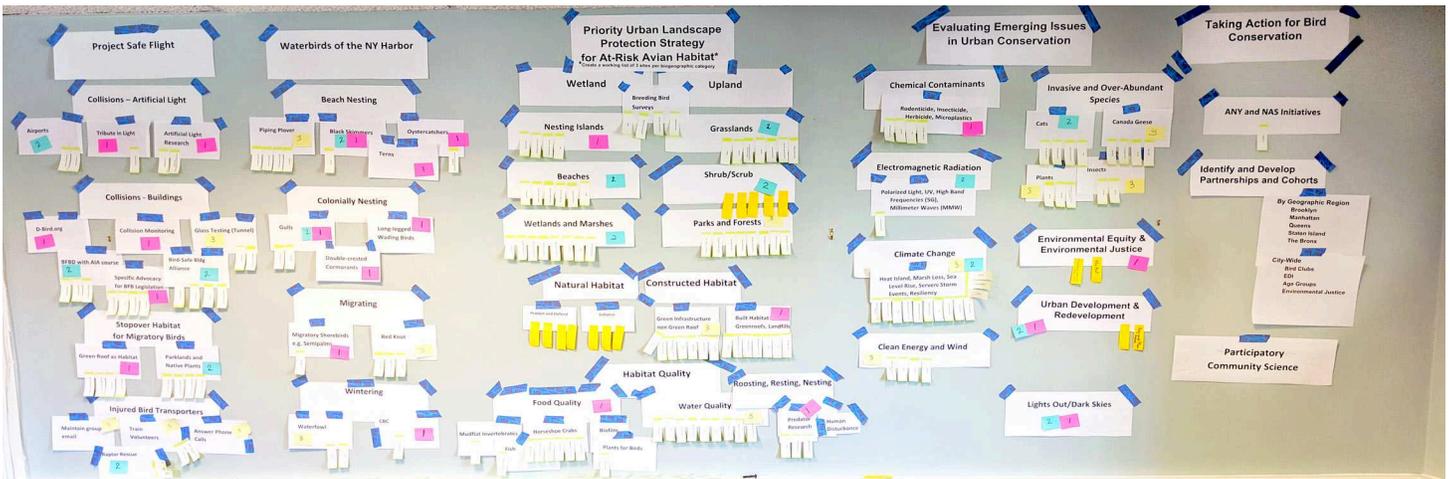
© Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages



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# CONSERVATION NOTES



To help determine our conservation priorities going forward as part of our new strategic plan, the conservation team created an outline spanning our conference room wall that organized all the current projects we are involved in by programmatic area. Each project was represented as a card, with Post-it notes indicating priority ranking as well partner organizations also working on these projects. The outline was critical in helping us understand what projects were in most need of our expertise and efforts over the next five years.

NYC Audubon staff and board members have been laser-focused on creating NYC Audubon's strategic plan, which will set our conservation priorities for the next five years. To help frame the discussion, we produced a comprehensive outline of our work in urban bird ecology and conservation. This outline helped us evaluate all the projects we are involved in and answer these questions about them: Which projects are most central to our mission? Which projects happen solely with NYC Audubon leadership? And which projects are led by our partners (with varying degrees of help from us). There are many environmental and wildlife issues confronting New York City, so it was important to evaluate thoroughly the conservation landscape in the City and determine where our efforts and expertise are most needed and can be put to best use. Over the next five years, we will continue to expand and focus our core programs (Project Safe Flight, Waterbirds of New York Harbor, and Protecting Urban Bird Habitat), reinforcing our status as the "go-to" leader in urban bird conservation. (See page 6 for information about the strategic plan.) Here are a few highlights from the 2019 field season.

## PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

This spring volunteers surveyed the Metropolitan Museum of Art as well as two routes that run through Manhattan's Financial District. The volunteers found a total of 54 dead or injured birds. The Ovenbird was the most common species, with 13 found this season. On one particularly deadly day, 27 birds were found at three buildings in the Financial District, highlighting the need for changes in policy to require bird-friendly design in our city and elsewhere. (Keep up to date on current bird-safe building legislation that need your support by signing up for our Avian Advocates emails at [www.nycaudubon.org/avian-advocates](http://www.nycaudubon.org/avian-advocates).)

Our continued surveys at the Javits K. Javits Center green roof has

led to the sighting of the 29th bird species using the roof as habitat, the Eastern Bluebird. Most of the species are passerines, visiting the roof during their migration. Among breeding birds, Herring Gulls are taking advantage of the green roof for nesting habitat: it was home to nearly 150 nesting pairs this season. We banded 101 of these birds in an effort to see where the chicks go after fledgling and determine if breeding adults return to the roof in subsequent breeding seasons. So far, we have documented several banded adults returning to the roof to breed. Some of the banded chicks have been sighted as far away as Virginia, Florida, and Louisiana.

## WATERBIRDS OF NEW YORK HARBOR

May 2019 marked NYC Audubon's 35th annual Harbor Herons nesting survey on islands in New York Harbor and surrounding waterways. Long-term data sets like these are rare and invaluable for assessing population change over time. Although the total number of wading birds has decreased from 1,479 in 2018 to 1,185 in 2019, the Black-crowned Night-Heron is still the most abundant wading bird species in New York Harbor at 468 nesting pairs. The overall Harbor Heron population trend has been stable, but slowly decreasing. Now more than ever, we need to continue long-term population trend analysis of these climate-threatened species and proactively protect their nesting habitat. In addition to our monitoring, this season we banded three Glossy Ibis, nine Great Egrets, and one Snowy Egret. One of the ibis chicks we had banded in 2014 at Canarsie Pol, Brooklyn, was spotted this June in Grove Beach, Connecticut. Medha Pandey has been updating our banding data and resighting database as part of her Conservation Biology certificate at Fordham University.

Nearly 150 volunteers participated this year in our community science horseshoe crab monitoring program at four Jamaica Bay beaches

Susan Elbin, PhD



(Big Egg March, Plumb Beach East & West, and Dead Horse Bay). We are currently compiling results, but the preliminary data indicate there were a large amount of horseshoe crabs spawning in Jamaica Bay. Look for our final tallies and observations from this season on our blog, *Syrinx*. We can report as of now that volunteers tagged 800 horseshoe crabs, and found some that had been tagged in Jamaica Bay in 2014 and 2016.

This spring we deployed NanoTags on nine Semipalmated Sandpipers, bringing the total number of sandpipers tagged in Jamaica Bay with these radio transmitters to 44. So far we have received data from one of the birds tagged this season; it was picked up by radio towers in Maine at Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge on June 2nd and Grand Manan Island on June 3rd. Another interesting note on our shorebirds: while mist netting sandpipers at Big Egg Marsh this year, our team caught a Semipalmated Sandpiper with a blue leg band, which helped us learn it had been banded over five years ago at its wintering grounds on Coroa dos Ovos, Maranhão, Brazil.

2019 marks our sixth year studying nesting American Oystercatchers in New York City. Led by Field Biologist Emilio Tobón, we monitored productivity in Breezy Point and banded adults and chicks at Breezy Point, Fort Tilden, Jacob Riis Park, and Rockaway Beach. Our banded

American Oystercatchers continue to be spotted in Florida and Georgia in winter and places like Cape May during migration, and they return to New York City to breed in the spring. With the information obtained from banded birds, we can document the productivity of the birds over time and the location of the nests, among other details. For example, two birds we banded as '6U' and '7U' have been a pair since 2013 and have fledged eight chicks. Another pair we banded as 'YAC' and 'YAE' have been breeding since 2014, but have fledged no chicks.

Last year we attached geolocators to 10 Common Terns breeding on Governors Island's Lima Pier. This year we had the challenge of catching those same birds to remove the geolocators and retrieve the data. With the help of Governors Island staff and Field Technician Jose Ramirez-Garofalo, we were able to obtain geolocators from two of the birds. We are looking forward to analyzing the data from them. We also attached NanoTags to 10 Common Terns on the island. The Governors Island tern colony has grown to nearly 70 nests this year, up from 18 last year.

As we celebrate NYC Audubon's 40th birthday, we are looking forward to another productive year of conservation science, research, advocacy, community engagement, and success for the birds.

## 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.

### OFFICE PROJECTS

Help with mailings, filing, and general office work. Computer skills and birding knowledge are helpful, but not required. Contact [volunteer@nycaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@nycaudubon.org) if interested.

### THE URBAN AUDUBON

See your name in print by joining the newsletter committee and contributing your writing skills to four seasonal issues. Meetings are bi-monthly in the early evening. Contact [comm@nycaudubon.org](mailto:comm@nycaudubon.org) if interested.

### INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP

**Saturday, September 21, 10am-1pm**  
With American Littoral Society, National Park Service, Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus, Linnaean Society of New York, Wild Bird Fund

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. RSVP preferred, but not required. Contact [dsherman@nycaudubon.org](mailto:dsherman@nycaudubon.org) for more information. Learn more and register at [www.nycaudubon.org/icc](http://www.nycaudubon.org/icc).

### CALVERT VAUX BEACH CLEAN-UP

**Saturday, October 5, 9am-noon**  
With Brooklyn Marine STEM Education Alliance

Each summer, debris from excessive beach use washes up on our city's shorelines. This waste can be extremely harmful to urban wildlife like whales, migratory birds, and more. Coney Island Creek used to be filled with oysters, which provided a rich habitat for many marine species that have since left the area. The Billion Oyster Project deployed a new oyster reef in the creek and are closely monitoring its impacts on the ecosystem. We will meet at the SW corner of the Calvert Vaux Park Parking Lot. RSVP preferred, but not required. Learn more and RSVP at [www.nycaudubon.org/cvcleanup](http://www.nycaudubon.org/cvcleanup).

### NEW YORK BREEDING BIRD ATLAS III TRAINING

**Tuesday, November 19, 6-8:30pm**  
With New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Join Julie Hart, NY Breeding Bird Atlas III project coordinator, for an introductory training session on how to volunteer in the upcoming breeding bird atlas. Whether you are a beginner or advanced birder, participating will strengthen your birdwatching skills while contributing valuable data to a statewide conservation project. The training session will be held at 71 West 23rd Street Suite 903. Contact [madams@nycaudubon.org](mailto:madams@nycaudubon.org) for more information. Learn more and register at [www.nycaudubon.org/bba](http://www.nycaudubon.org/bba).



# INTRODUCING OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Tod Winston



NYC Audubon's new *Strategic Plan, 2020-2025: A Vision for the Future*, excerpted at right, is the result of an intensive, collaborative effort by our board and staff—and provides a detailed road map to guide our organization over the next five years. Join us in creating a bright future for both birds and people. Read our vision for the future at: [www.nycaudubon.org/strategic-plan2020-2025](http://www.nycaudubon.org/strategic-plan2020-2025).

As New York City Audubon reaches its 40th Anniversary, we present our five-year Strategic Plan to reaffirm *who we are* and *what we do*—and most critically, to commit to *what we must become to achieve our goals*. Over the coming five years, we seek to realize our full potential as an exponentially more effective actor, and influential voice, on behalf of those that cannot speak for themselves: the birds we love and passionately wish to protect.

Over 350 species of birds—almost a third of all the species in North America—can be found along New York City's 578 miles of waterfront and in its 30,000 acres of wetlands, forests, and grasslands. Our city is a major stopover along the Atlantic Flyway, one of the world's great bird migration routes. The millions of migrants that pass through each spring and fall, as well as many resident, breeding, and wintering birds, face challenges particular to our large metropolis: they must navigate a bewildering landscape of glass, artificial light, and degraded, fragmented habitat. Many species are also under threat due to the unpredictable effects of climate change. And yet, our birds are resilient. They survive, and even have the potential to thrive here. We must protect them.

Drawing upon four decades of dedicated work establishing us among New York City's conservation leaders, NYC Audubon is uniquely positioned to fight for the City's birds and their habitats. We envision a city in which bird-friendly building practices are required in all new construction, and green roofs dot the built landscape; a city of engaged community members working together to preserve vulnerable bird habitat, limit the use of polluting chemicals, and advocate for sustainable coastal-resilience measures; a city of parks full of people, of all ages, ethnicities, and walks of life, delighting in the beauty and wonder of birds.

## SUSTAINING OUR GROWING ORGANIZATION

NYC Audubon needs your help now more than ever to grow our organization to save birds. Contributions and grants provide 80 percent of NYC Audubon's revenue; we truly cannot do this work without the support of our entire community. Philanthropy of every size matters! Our immediate priorities:

**Project Safe Flight:** Our signature conservation program, including [D-bird.org](http://D-bird.org), collision and species monitoring, and artificial light studies, provides data we need to demonstrate how lethal our city is for birds and develop solutions. Cost: \$300,000 annually. 1/3 of funding is committed for the next three years.

**Advocacy and Outreach:** Raising our voice and growing our ranks are imperatives to passing bird-safe building and green roof legislation, to protecting threatened habitat, and to broadening our reach to all people and every community across the five boroughs. Cost: \$75,000 annually. 2/3 of funding is in hand for the current year.

**Green Roof Certification Program Launch:** We aim to develop a revenue stream that promotes wildlife habitat. This is a fee-based program informed by the 2019 Morgan Stanley Strategy Challenge feasibility study (see page 8). Cost: philanthropic investment of \$50,000 annually over three years.

**Governors Island Summer Residency:** A place of our own where we can engage a wider public six months of the year with education programs, bird walks, and conservation interpretation through art and activity. Cost: \$40,000 annually. Rent-free, but funds are needed for staffing, displays, and special programming.

**New Website and Refreshed Brand Identity:** More than just content, this is NYC Audubon's face to the world. Our online tools need critical upgrades to bring visibility to our work and facilitate information sharing, memberships, advocacy actions, donations, and event registrations. In tandem with our 40th anniversary celebration, we are simultaneously refreshing our brand identity. Cost: \$50,000. In addition to pro bono support, we have secured a challenge pledge of \$15,000 that needs to be matched 2-for-1.

**People:** Personnel consistently accounts for 75% of our annual operating budget and staffing outlined in this plan will require a further investment of at least \$200,000 per year, including funding for a naturalist educator and sufficient guides to lead more free walks all around the city—our greatest point of entry to the conservation conversation around birds.

**THANK YOU** to all who have seen us through our first 40 years. We have so much more to accomplish. The birds need us to be strong and confident in our work. Please consider a special gift during our 40th Anniversary. Help us reach our goal of raising an additional \$1,040,000 by December 31, 2020.

Make a gift, make a pledge, find out more about the project that is most meaningful to you. Contact Executive Director Kathryn Heintz at 646-434-0423 or [kheintz@nycaudubon.org](mailto:kheintz@nycaudubon.org).

# MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

*Catherine Schragis Heller*



## MARSILIA A. BOYLE

The NYC Audubon board of directors is pleased to welcome back Marsilia A. Boyle, who previously served on the board from 2000 to 2016. A native of Brooklyn, Marcy spearheaded NYC Audubon's efforts during that period to bring two Greenpoint, Brooklyn, projects to fruition: creation of the Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages green roof and restoration of McGolrick Park. Marcy plans to continue expanding NYC Audubon's reach into the outer boroughs.

Although many birders were inspired as children, Marcy came to appreciate birds later in life. She took a trip to the Amazon in her 40s and came back a birder. To nurture her new interest, she discovered NYC Audubon and soon became an active member. She served as chair of its conservation committee and as an officer of its board of directors. During her three years away from the board, she served on NYC Audubon's advisory council and chaired the Audubon Council of New York State.

Marcy is a senior managing director for LeFrak, one of the world's leading property firms. Marcy has a strong background in governmental affairs, having been a member of Brooklyn Community Board 1 for 26 years, two years as chairperson. As a returning NYC Audubon board member, she will focus on furthering our efforts to advance bird-safe glass legislation for buildings in New York City and in New York State.



## SHAWN CARGIL

Crotona Park features 134 acres of trees, fields, a pond, tennis courts, and picnic grounds in a densely developed area in The Bronx. The park is lovely and sparsely populated on early spring days, though it can get crowded on weekends and during the summer—especially when the New York Junior Tennis League is running a program or families are barbecuing. Despite all this human activity, resident and migrating birds make full use of its natural habitat areas. The administrator of this terrific, under-recognized park is Shawn Cargil, a new member of the NYC Audubon board.

Shawn was born in Jamaica, where a childhood based in nature and the outdoors was de rigueur. He left the country with his mother and three brothers when he was 11, and though they relocated to the urban Bronx, his love of the outdoors and nature never left him.

His office at Crotona Park is brimming with books on birds and birding. Gardening and botany are his long-standing interests, and are reflected in the park's recent installations of native plant species. His birding interest came a little later, inspired by the park's natural habitat. Knowing which trees, plants, and shrubs attract which birds has become a useful birding skill for Shawn.

Crotona Park, bordered on all sides by apartment buildings, has 19

schools nearby. One of Shawn's goals has been to have the park play a more prominent role in each school's curriculum. Shawn shares NYC Audubon's goal of educating "the next generation of environmental stewards."

The Bronx has improved from the neglect and poverty it experienced in the 1970s and 1980s, and the borough's finances are more sound, but progress must continue. Shawn's administrative work in Crotona Park is making a difference and, under his leadership, there are plenty of opportunities to both bird and enjoy other activities. Shawn, a firm believer that living near nature positively affects one's quality of life, brings a voice for The Bronx to NYC Audubon's board of directors.



## MICHAEL YUAN

Could a cat's interest in birds spark a fledging birder? Yes, because that's how Brooklyn resident and new NYC Audubon Board Member Michael Yuan became a birder.

During a visit to his parents in suburban Baltimore, Mike observed his indoor cat Rudy mesmerized by watching birds outside the screen door. (Outside and feral cats are a major threat to wild birds, but indoor cats make good pets.) Mike was intrigued by the birds as well. He couldn't identify most of them, but found the website [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org) and learned he and his cat were watching a Common Grackle. Identifying a grackle may not be exciting to an expert birder, but to a novice it's empowering.

Mike and his wife Nicky are hikers, and on their treks Mike began identifying birds. To step up his birding skills, he took Joe Giunta's class at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for several seasons, until Joe proclaimed him to have "graduated." Ten years after the Common Grackle, Mike leads his own bird walks for the Brooklyn Bird Club, usually on the Brooklyn waterfront, Jamaica Bay, or Jones Beach—though on occasion he ventures north to Sullivan County. In December, he is a co-compiler of the Brooklyn Christmas Bird Count.

As a senior associate at New York Life Insurance Company, Mike has experience in data analysis and database management. This background will be extremely helpful to NYC Audubon in analyzing data involving bird collisions and bird sightings, as well as better managing its database of members, contributors, volunteers, and more. Besides strong statistical skills, Mike has a literary side. After graduating from the University of Maryland with a degree in English, his first jobs were teaching ESL and literature at Hebei University and Beijing University in China.

Mike believes people would be more inclined to advocate for bird species if they understood how many factors—loss of habitat, collisions with glass, feral cats, to name a few—endanger birdlife. Mike's know-how and enthusiasm will be invaluable as NYC Audubon follows through on its new strategic plan.

# NYC AUDUBON ADDS A NEW BUSINESS MODEL FOR GREEN ROOFS

Mary Jane Kaplan

Should NYC Audubon launch a fee-based wildlife habitat certification program in New York City? This question was posed last spring to a Morgan Stanley team that had been assigned to do a 10-week strategy study for NYC Audubon. For the past 11 years the multinational investment bank and financial services company has offered an innovative philanthropic program called the “Strategy Challenge,” which offers four-person teams for pro bono consulting to a small group of nonprofit organizations in the greater New York City area, selected competitively on the basis of extensive written applications. The team assigned to NYC Audubon included staff from four of the bank’s departments, all chosen for their superior performance.

NYC Audubon had been thinking for some time about establishing a certification program. In the words of Executive Director Kathryn Heintz, a program of this sort would “help NYC Audubon meet its mission of protecting birds in the city by supporting the creation of bird-sustaining habitat while broadening awareness of wildlife in the city.” The organization already manages the Green Roof Researchers Alliance, a consortium of over 50 researchers, educators, and policymakers studying the benefits of green roofs for wildlife, the environment, and people. It seemed that a certification program would be a natural extension of that work and would provide funding for expanding NYC Audubon’s wildlife monitoring on the roofs of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages, and elsewhere in the city. NYC Audubon’s staff, however, lacked the resources to investigate the potential costs and benefits of such a program. The 2019 Morgan Stanley Strategy Challenge was therefore a timely and welcome opportunity to learn whether this ambitious effort would be feasible.

The consulting team of Lana Belaya,

8 [www.nycaudubon.org](http://www.nycaudubon.org)



*The Morgan Stanley Building at 1585 Broadway displayed NYC Audubon’s logo along with those from the other eight nonprofit organizations participating in the 2019 Strategy Challenge all throughout the day of May 10.*

Brittany Dodd, Filippo Falorni, and Joe Holleran, with Managing Director Thomas Torrisi, had little prior knowledge of the City’s environmental or wildlife issues, but with the help of NYC Audubon staff, they learned fast. Their study included investigating other U.S. green space certification programs, speaking with green roof installers and designers about current and potential market demand, identifying and ranking prospective customer groups, researching possible government support for green spaces, and determining the financial requirements for getting the program on its feet. Of special importance was the team’s evaluation of potential partners for NYC Audubon. Throughout the study, the team was in frequent contact with NYC Audubon staff and became very familiar with its in-house resources.

The team gave its final presentation to Kathryn Heintz, Board President Jeff Kimball, and Advisory Council Member Kimberly Kriger on May 10. Their answer to the original question was a qualified “yes,” recommending that NYC Audubon invest \$150,000 in a three-year test program, with a target of having at least 25 new green space projects certified and achieving at least \$80,000 in annual revenue during that period. At the end of the test program, NYC Audubon would decide whether the program could become financially sustainable, or at least successful enough to warrant continuing at a loss.

The recommendations of Morgan Stanley’s team were readily approved by NYC Audubon’s board. While the details of the start-up are still being finalized, the major components are already known:

- Target certification projects will be limited to roofs. (Backyard bird habitats, while important, would not be cost effective.)
- Marketing efforts will focus on the outer boroughs, where large potential sites like warehouses already exist, physical environments are friendlier to birds, and opportunities for increasing communities’ interest in birds are greatest.
- Marketing partnerships will be formed with well-known organizations that have non-competing certification programs, such as the National Wildlife Federation.
- Close relationships with designers and constructors of green roofs will be developed; the Morgan Stanley team’s interviews showed that many are eager to collaborate with NYC Audubon.
- Dustin Partridge, PhD, NYC Audubon’s urban ecologist and green roof program manager, will manage the new program.

NYC Audubon has included the green roof certification program in its *Strategic Plan 2020-2025: A Vision for the Future* (see page 6 for an excerpt).

# CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*OPORORNIS AGILIS*)

Tom Stephenson

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I was standing in Manhattan's Bryant Park one autumn day with many other birders, hoping to see one of our rare migrants, the Connecticut Warbler. It had been reported earlier foraging on the lawn, and we were all watching closely, hoping it would emerge from the dense shrubbery. There were many Common Yellowthroats in the park that day, a species whose females and young males are often mistaken for the Connecticut Warbler; they share an overall olive back and yellowish underparts, and the female yellowthroats often have a fairly prominent eye-ring. Each time a Common Yellowthroat flew out onto the lawn there were cries of "There it is!" and "Over there!"

Suddenly, a pale yellow bullet flew by.

The Connecticut Warbler had finally arrived. It stopped abruptly in the center of the lawn, feeding in the grass. Walking slowly and with a level posture, the bird's yellow underparts, long primary projection, and contrasting eye-ring were distinctly different from those of its Common Yellowthroat companions.

Connecticut Warblers breed in remote, northern Boreal forests, bogs, and wet woodlands, including small portions of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Only recently was it discovered that they winter in central South America, in Bolivia and the Amazon basin. Although described as "secretive," when sighted they seem outgoing enough. They spend most of their time on the ground in dense habitats without vocalizing, making them hard to spot. Their migration routes are so different in the spring and fall that in *The Warbler Guide*\* we had to use two different maps to accurately show their distribution. They stay well west of the eastern seaboard during spring migration, but in fall can be found in our area. Although the name was based on where the first specimen was collected, Connecticut is one of the least likely places to find this species.

Identifying Connecticut Warblers is usually easier than finding them. On the ground

their habit of walking separates them from the similar Mourning Warbler, which usually hops, often jumping onto low plants and branches. Male Mourning Warblers can show an eye-ring, but never one as complete or contrasting as the Connecticut Warbler's. Finally, Mourning Warbler throats have a yellowish tinge; the Connecticut Warbler's is grayish or buff.

Nashville Warblers are also sometimes confused with Connecticut Warblers, as they have a gray head and very strong eye-ring. However, Nashville Warblers are much smaller birds, with thin bills and bright yellow throats, a trait never seen in the Connecticut Warbler. Another distinction: both Common Yellowthroats and Nashville Warblers have long tails that project far beyond their yellow undertail coverts. The Connecticut Warbler has a short, broad tail that only barely gets past those feathers.

If you have a chance this fall, join the many birders who will again be searching the dense understories of Central Park, Prospect Park, and elsewhere in the city in hopes of seeing this stately, elusive warbler.

\*Tom Stephenson is the author of *The Warbler Guide* with Scott Whittle

## THE STATE OF GREEN ROOFS IN NYC: THE SECOND ANNUAL GREEN ROOF RESEARCHERS ALLIANCE CONFERENCE

© NYC Audubon



Green Roof Ecologist Dustin Partridge Giving Educational Tour on Javits Center Green Roof

Friday, September 27, 10am-5pm  
At the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center

Join the Green Roof Researchers Alliance for a day of discussions, workshops, and green roof visits. Learn about green roof policy, biodiversity, environmental benefits, and curriculum. Meet leading green roof scientists and educators and find out about cutting-edge research being conducted in New York City. Highlights of the conference include a panel of local scientists discussing green roof wildlife, an analysis of the actual benefits of green roofs, tours of the Javits Center green roof, a workshop on using green roofs for education, a hands-on field sampling workshop, and discussion with policymakers of the recently updated and improved green roof tax abatement. All workshops, food, and refreshments are included in the price of admission. Learn more and register at [www.nycaudubon.org](http://www.nycaudubon.org). No limit. \$30 (\$15 for students)

The Green Roof Researchers Alliance is supported by The New York Community Trust



# EVENTS AND ADVENTURES

- NYC Audubon Events
  - Partnership Events
- Overnight Trips

- **DROP IN AND BIRD: MORNING BIRD WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK**  
Tuesdays, August 20-September 24, 7:30-9am

Guide: Harry Maas

Meet at the park entrance at East 79th Street and 5th Avenue, parkside. Start your day off right with bird walks at the height of Fall migration, in one of the best birding spots around. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

- **FALL MIGRATION BIRD WALKS AT THE BATTERY, SOUTHERN TIP OF MANHATTAN**  
Tuesdays, September 3-October 8, 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, 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

- **SEASONAL RESIDENCE ON GOVERNORS ISLAND**

Visit our seasonal nature center on Governors Island for family-friendly activities, information on the City's birds and habitats, binoculars to borrow, and opportunities to meet avian-inspired artists at work. Our residence at Governors Island's Nolan Park House 17 will run through October 27th. Hours of operation, bird walk schedule, and other Governors Island activities are published in our email newsletter, *The eGret*, and online at [www.nycaudubon.org/gov-island](http://www.nycaudubon.org/gov-island). Interested in volunteering with us on Governors Island? Email Danielle Sherman at [ds Sherman@nycaudubon.org](mailto:ds Sherman@nycaudubon.org).

[tbcevents.eventbrite.com](http://tbcevents.eventbrite.com) for more information. No limit. Free

- **MORNING FALL MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK**

Wednesdays, September 4-

October 23,

Thursdays, September 5-October

24, 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 the diverse and ever-changing waves of migrants that stop over Central Park during fall migration. Limited to 15 per series. \$180 (126) per series

- **FALL WARBLERS**

Friday, September 6,

6:30-8:30pm (class)

Sunday, September 8, 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)

- **BIRDING BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK**

Saturdays, September 7 and

October 19, 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 at splendid Brooklyn Bridge Park. Target species include Barn Swallow, Gray Catbird, Laughing Gull, Common Tern, as well as other species of resident and migratory birds. Visit [www.nycaudubon.org/birding-bk-bridge](http://www.nycaudubon.org/birding-bk-bridge) to register. Limited to 19 per walk. Free

- **MORNING FALL MIGRATION WALK IN PROSPECT PARK**

Saturday, September 7, 8-11am

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Join Gabriel Willow for a leisurely walk to get to know the fall migrants of "Brooklyn's backyard". Beautiful Prospect Park's wide variety of habitats 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)

- **VAN CORTLANDT BIRD WALKS, THE BRONX**

Saturdays, September 7-

November 23, 9-10:30am

Guides: NYC Audubon, Van

Cortlandt Park Conservancy

With the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy

Meet at the southeast corner of the Mosholu Avenue park entrance. 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. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

- **PELHAM BAY PARK BIRD WALKS, THE BRONX**

Sundays, September 8-December 8, 9-10:30am

Guide: NYC Audubon

With Pelham Bay Park

September 8: Meet at Rodman's

Neck Parking Lot

September 15-December 8: Meet at Orchard Beach Parking Lot

Join us to explore some of the best birding NYC has to offer. Come discover Pelham Bay Park's

diverse habitat that attracts a variety of fall migrants. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

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

Sundays, September 8, October 13,

November 10, and December 8,

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 per walk. NYC Audubon members enjoy two-for-one admission (see [www.wavehill.org](http://www.wavehill.org) for more information).

- **BIRDING TOURS OF BRYANT PARK**

Mondays, September 9-October 14,

8-9am

Thursdays, September 12-October

17, 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

- **EVENING FALL MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK**

Mondays, September 9-October 14,

Tuesdays, September 10-October 15,

Wednesdays, September 11-

October 16, 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 per series. \$146 (102) per series



• **BIRDING TOURS OF THE NORTH WOODS, CENTRAL PARK**  
**Mondays, September 9-23,**  
**Wednesdays, September 11-25,**  
**Fridays, September 13-27, 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

• **FRIDAY MORNING FALL MIGRATION WALK IN THE NORTH END, CENTRAL PARK**  
**Fridays, September 13, October 25,**  
**and November 1, 8-11am**  
**Guide: Gabriel Willow**

Most NYC birders are familiar with the Ramble, but fewer visit the north end of Central Park, which includes equally productive woodlands, waterways, and meadows. The Pool, Loch, Ravine, and North Woods are some of the wildest and most beautiful areas of Central Park, and during fall migration are full of warblers, vireos, thrushes, orioles,

tanagers, cuckoos, and more. Limited to 15 per walk. \$36 (25) per walk

• **QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN BIRD WALKS**  
**Saturdays, September 14 and**  
**October 26,**  
**Sundays, October 6, October 20, and**  
**November 3, 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](mailto:info@queensbotanical.org) or visit [www.queensbotanical.org/calendar](http://www.queensbotanical.org/calendar) to register. Limited to 25 per walk. Free (with Garden admission)

• **BIRDING GEMS OF STATEN ISLAND: CLOVE LAKES PARK**  
**Saturday, September 14, 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)

• **FALL WALK AT INWOOD HILL PARK, MANHATTAN**  
**Saturdays, September 14 and**  
**October 19, 9am-noon**  
**Guide: Nadir Souirgi**

Inwood Hill Park, simply put, is a jewel. Nestled between the Hudson River, Dyckman Street, and Seaman Avenue, this last tract of largely undeveloped oak and tulip forest transports you to another world and another time. Glacial "pot holes," towering trees, and stunning river views create an unrivaled birding

backdrop. Limited to 15 per walk. \$36 (25) per walk

• **HOOK MOUNTAIN HAWK WATCH, NY**  
**Sunday, September 15, 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 to enjoy atop the mountain while watching the hawks fly overhead. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$100 (70)

... 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 Central Park. Contact Kellye Rosenheim at [krosenheim@nycaudubon.org](mailto:krosenheim@nycaudubon.org) or call 212-691-7483 x306 to register.

**FALL MIGRATION IN ASTORIA PARK, QUEENS**  
**Saturday, September 7,**  
**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.

**SEPTEMBER WALK IN THE CENTRAL PARK RAMBLE**  
**Monday, September 9,**  
**7:30-9:30am**

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

**FALL WALK IN PROSPECT PARK**  
**Saturday, September 14, 8-10am**

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 BirdGenie smartphone app, for a fall meander.

**FALL MIGRATION**  
**Tuesday, September 17, 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 72nd Street.

**KIDS MEMBER WALK IN CENTRAL PARK**  
**Saturday, September 21, 3-4:30 pm**

Meet at 72nd Street and Central Park West to explore the park's best birding hotspots. Open to registered KIDS members ages 8-12, accompanied by a parent or guardian. To register, parents should email [KIDS@nycaudubon.org](mailto:KIDS@nycaudubon.org). Visit [www.nycaudubon.org](http://www.nycaudubon.org) for more information about the KIDS membership program.

**A FALL MIGRATORY SONGBIRD RAMBLE IN CENTRAL PARK**  
**Wednesday, October 2, 4:30-6pm**

Join NYC Audubon Director of Development Kellye Rosenheim

for a sparrowful stroll through the Ramble. Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street.

**DECEMBER WALK IN CENTRAL PARK**  
**Wednesday, December 4,**  
**8-11am**

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street for a walk with NYC Audubon Trip Leader and Harbor Herons Nesting Survey Coordinator Tod Winston. Brave the chilly weather as we search for some of Central Park's best wintering birds.

# EVENTS AND ADVENTURES (CONTINUED)

- **DISCOVERY DAY AT**

**FRESHKILLS PARK,  
STATEN ISLAND**

**Sunday, September 15, 11am-4pm**

**Guide: NYC Audubon**

**With Freshkills Park Alliance, NYC  
Department of Parks & Recreation**

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](http://www.freshkillspark.org) for more information. No registration necessary. No Limit. Free

- **AUDUBON MURAL  
PROJECT TOURS, NORTHERN  
MANHATTAN**

**Sundays, September 15, October  
13, November 10, and December 8,  
10am-12:15pm**

**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 per tour. \$30 (20) per tour

12 [www.nycaudubon.org](http://www.nycaudubon.org)

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

**Tuesday, September 17, 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)

- **AN AFTERNOON BIRD WALK IN  
CENTRAL PARK**

**Saturdays, September 21 and 28,  
October 5 and 12, 2-3:30pm**

**Guide: Jeff Ward**

Search for fall migrants on a leisurely afternoon walk through Central Park's best birding spots. Limited to 15 per walk. \$36 (25) per walk

- **BIRDS (AND APPLES) OF  
SLEEPY HOLLOW, NY**

**Saturday, October 5, 8am-4pm**

**Guide: Tod Winston**

Explore the autumnal bounty available just an hour's drive from the City. We'll bird Rockefeller State Park Preserve and then adjourn to a local orchard for afternoon apple-picking. Bring lunch. Additional farm-fresh goodies may be available at the orchard. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$122 (85)

- **INTRO TO BIRDING: BIRD  
WALK IN CENTRAL PARK**

**Sunday, October 6, 8:30-11am**

**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: FRESHKILLS PARK**

**Sundays, October 6 and  
December 8, 8am-3pm**

**Guide: Cliff Hagen**

Come with NYC Audubon for a special opportunity to see Freshkills

## OVERNIGHT TRIPS

- **CAPE MAY FALL**

**MIGRATION, NJ**

**Saturday, September 21, 9am-**

**Sunday, September 22, 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, NJ**

**Friday, September 27, 9am-**

**Sunday, September 29, 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 hawkwatch 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. \$475 (\$175 single supplement)

- **CHINCOTEAGUE REFUGE/  
ASSATEAGUE ISLAND:  
BIRDS AND PONIES**

**Thursday, November 7, 9am-Sunday,  
November 10, 6pm**

**Guide: Don Riepe**

**With American Littoral Society**

A great natural history weekend on the Virginia coast. See 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](mailto:don@littoralsociety.org) for information regarding transportation, itinerary, and reservations. \$425 (\$150 single room supplement, \$95 transportation from Manhattan)

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 Staten Island St. George Terminal included. Limited to 12 per walk. \$57 (40) per walk

- **RAPTOR ID WORKSHOP**

**Thursday, October 10, 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 12, 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)

● **MIGRATION ALONG THE BARRIER ISLANDS, LONG ISLAND**  
**Saturday, October 12, 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)

● **NYC AUDUBON DAY AT HAWK MOUNTAIN, PA**

**Saturday, October 12, 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, hawks, and falcons. The path to the hawk watch site is a .75-mile hike through mountainous woodland. Bring lunch. Group program, trail admission, and transportation by van included. Limited to 12. \$139 (97)

● **FALL HAWK MIGRATION AT FORT TILDEN, QUEENS**  
**Saturday, October 12, 10am-1pm**  
**Guide: Don Riepe**

**With American Littoral Society, Gateway National Recreation Area**  
Meet at Building 1 at Fort Tilden. 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](mailto:donriep@gmail.com) to learn more and register. Limited to 30. Free

● **BEGINNING BIRDING**  
**Classes: Wednesdays, October 16-30, 6:30-8:30pm**  
**Trips: Saturdays, October 26, 8-11am, and November 2, 8am-3pm**  
**Instructor: Tod Winston**

Learn the keys to identifying the spectacular variety of birds that migrate southwards through New York City every fall. Even if you've never picked up a pair of binoculars, you'll soon be identifying warblers, thrushes, waterbirds, and more—both by sight and by ear. Three fun and educational in-class sessions and two field trips to Central Park and Jamaica Bay (transport to Jamaica Bay included). Limited to 12. \$179 (125)

● **RAPTOR TRUST AND GREAT SWAMP, NJ**  
**Saturday, October 19, 7:30am-4:30pm**  
**Guide: 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 12. \$122 (86)

● **FALL MIGRANTS OF WOODLAWN CEMETERY, THE BRONX**  
**Sunday, October 20, 8:30-11am**

**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 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](http://www.thewoodlawncemetery.org/events) to register. Limited to 20. \$35 (25)

● **SPARROW ID WORKSHOP**  
**Thursday, October 24, 7-8:30pm (class); Sunday, October 27 (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)

● **FALL MIGRATION ON RANDALL'S ISLAND**  
**Saturday, October 26, 9am-2pm**

**Guides: Gabriel Willow, Christopher Girgenti**  
**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)

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

**Saturday, November 2, 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)

● **BRUCE BEEHLER IN CENTRAL PARK**  
**Tuesday, November 5, 9-11am**  
**Guide: Bruce Beehler**

Take advantage of an uncommon opportunity to bird and converse with a top international ornithologist and see the beautiful Ramble of Central Park through the eyes of Bruce Beehler (*North on the Wing; Birds of Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia; The Birds of New Guinea*). Presented in conjunction with Dr. Beehler's lecture the night before. (See page 17 for more information.) Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

● **HAWK MOUNTAIN, PA**  
**Saturday, November 9, 7am-7pm**  
**Guides: Tod Winston, Hawk Mountain Education Specialist**

Visit Hawk Mountain at the peak migration time for raptors such as Golden Eagles, Rough-legged Hawks, and Northern Goshawks. We'll also enjoy an orientation from a Hawk Mountain docent and seek out wintering finches and other songbirds at the Visitor Center's feeder station. The path to the hawk watch site is a .75-mile hike through mountainous woodland. Bring lunch. Group program, trail admission, and transportation by van included. Limited to 12. \$139 (97)

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

© Rick Deaven/Audubon Photography Awards



Red-tailed Hawk

# EVENTS AND ADVENTURES (CONTINUED)

- **SNOW GEESE AND TUNDRA SWANS OF BRIGANTINE, NJ**  
**Sunday, November 10, 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 16, 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 New York City and how to identify them. Contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or [donriep@gmail.com](mailto:donriep@gmail.com) for more information and to register. Limited to 25. Free

- **VAN TRIP TO THE WINTER WATERFOWL WORKSHOP AT JAMAICA BAY**  
**Saturday, November 16, 9am-3pm**  
Register for our van trip to the Winter Waterfowl Workshop (see description above) and get to Jamaica Bay the easy way—by passenger van! Bring lunch and water. Limited to 12. \$53 (37)

**TO REGISTER FOR ALL NYC AUDUBON EVENTS and for more information, visit [www.nycaudubon.org](http://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.**

**EARLY MEMBER REGISTRATION FOR UPCOMING EVENTS**

Winter and early spring events will be posted at [www.nycaudubon.org](http://www.nycaudubon.org) and will be available for registration for contributing NYC Audubon members starting on Monday, November 18, at 9am. (Registration will open to all on Monday, December 2.)

## PARTNER FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

**MONARCH/POLLINATOR FESTIVAL**  
**Saturday, September 28, 10am-3pm**  
**With American Littoral Society, Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy, Gateway National Recreation Area**

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center for a hike around the ponds and gardens to look for migrating monarchs and other pollinators. Afterwards, enjoy a presentation on Monarchs or enjoy a children's program on insects. After lunch, visit Fort Tilden with naturalist Don Riepe for a hike along the dunes to see migrating monarchs and other butterflies. For more information, contact American Littoral Society at 718-474-0896 or [don@littoralsociety.org](mailto:don@littoralsociety.org). No registration necessary. Free (donation suggested)

**FALL FOR BIRDS**  
**Sunday, October 6, 10am-6pm**  
**With The New York Botanical Garden**

The New York Botanical Garden hosts a day of informative conversations, musical performances, bird walks, and more. The day begins with several bird walks: Birding & Photography, Birding for Families, and Birding for Beginners, led by expert guides Gabriel Willow, Debbie Becker, Jeff Ward, and others. Visitors of all ages can learn how to make their own window decals to prevent bird collisions with artists from Materials for the Arts. Learn about urban bird conservation issues and ways you can help through conversations and

Q&A's with American Bird Conservancy, NYC Audubon, and National Audubon's Plants for Birds program, moderated by urban birder, writer, and activist Annie Novak. Enjoy a solo cello and electronics piece, *For the Birds*, composed by Judith Shatin and performed by Amanda Gookin, co-founder of PubliQuartet. For tickets and detailed program schedule, visit [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org). NYC Audubon members save 20% on All-Garden Pass tickets with code *plantlove* online at [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org).

**RAPTORAMA!**  
**Sunday, October 20, 10am-3pm**  
**With American Littoral Society, Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy, Gateway National Recreation Area**

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center for a program on hawks and owls, plus a live demonstration where one can get up-close views of local hawks, owls, and eagles. After lunch, we'll go to Fort Tilden to see the many hawk species flying south for the winter. For more information, contact American Littoral Society at 718-474-0896 or [don@littoralsociety.org](mailto:don@littoralsociety.org). No registration necessary. Free (donation suggested)

**MIKAEL KRISTERSSON FILM SCREENINGS**  
**Friday, October 25, and Saturday, October 26**  
**With Museum of the Moving Image**

Over a 60-year career, filmmaker Mikael Kristersson's work patiently and luminously tran-

scribes the rich ecology of southern Sweden, a landscape internationally recognized as crucial to bird migration. Lauded as one of Sweden's finest documentarians, Kristersson's award-winning films are rarely seen in the United States. Visit the Museum of the Moving Image for a weekend presentation of Kristersson's three captivating films—*Pica Pica*, *Kestrel's Eye*, and *Light Year*—along with conversations on the challenges facing the coastal environments of New York City and Sweden with NYC Audubon, environmentalists, and filmmakers including Kristersson himself. Visit [www.movingimage.us](http://www.movingimage.us) for information and schedule of screenings. General admission to the museum is \$15.

**WINGS OVER WAVE HILL WEEKEND**  
**Saturday, November 9-Monday, November 11**  
**With Wave Hill**

This Veterans Day weekend, spend a day or two (or three) enjoying a wide array of activities devoted to birds both big and small. With plenty to engage both adults and families, enjoy hands-on workshops, art-making, bird walks, and the popular fall falconry demonstration with free-flying birds of prey. No registration necessary. NYC Audubon members enjoy two-for-one admission to Wave Hill for the weekend (see [www.wavehill.org/events](http://www.wavehill.org/events) for more information).

# KINGSLAND WILDFLOWERS TRANSITIONS TO NEW MANAGEMENT

Kathryn Heintz

© James Park/Broadway Stages



*Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages has become a popular destination for local school field trips, providing school children with hands-on workshops facilitating learning about wildlife, ecology, sustainability, and more.*

Three years ago, NYC Audubon partnered with Broadway Stages, Alive Structures, and Newtown Creek Alliance to create the Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages green roof and community space in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. The project was conceived to expand native habitat and green corridors for birds and other wildlife populations and provide the local community with programs focused on sustainable conservation practices and wildlife protection. The partnership grew to include NOoSPHERE Arts, an organization that connects international artists with New York City's art community.

Made possible by a three-year legacy grant through the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund, the project exceeded all expectations, providing over 23,000 square feet of living and growing infrastructure to support wildlife in a heavily industrialized and historically polluted section of North Brooklyn. Just as important, Kingsland Wildflowers has proven to be a tremendous tool to engage the public in conservation issues, environmental stewardship, and sustainability practices. Last year, more than 2,800 people visited Kingsland Wildflowers for more than 60 tours, open houses, school field trips, lectures, film screenings, performances, and workshops offered

through NYC Audubon and its partners.

On July 1, management of Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages transferred to Newtown Creek Alliance, a local environmental nonprofit dedicated to restoring, revealing, and revitalizing Newtown Creek, a three-mile tributary of the East River that runs along the site of Kingsland Wildflowers. Now housed at the Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages building, the alliance will work with all project partners to ensure that Kingsland Wildflowers continues to be a vibrant green infrastructure asset, environmental educational tool, and community resource.

NYC Audubon's wildlife monitoring and engagement will continue at Kingsland Wildflowers as part of our green roof research efforts, and we will continue to collaborate on educational initiatives and co-produce environmental programming for the public. We are proud to have been the lead partner in establishing and incubating this successful project. We look forward to seeing Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages thrive in the years ahead. Please continue to check the Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages website, [www.kingslandwildflowers.com](http://www.kingslandwildflowers.com), for upcoming events and other ways you can engage with the green roof and its partners.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

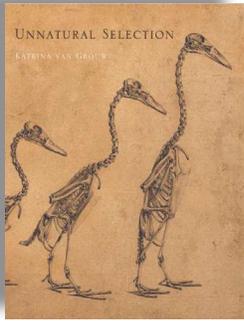
We thank everyone involved in making 2019 a fantastic year for education, programming, tours, and research on the green roof. We thank Niki Jackson for coordinating Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages and wish her the best in future endeavors.

Andrew Abbott	Andrew James
Elizabeth Adams	Christopher Jowers
Leslie Adatto	Raven Keller
Alive Structures	Kings County Brewers
All in One Rentals	Collective
Atlas Obscura	Kit Kennedy, NRDC
Randy Austin, NYS DEC	Last Frontier NYC
Tiera Bartley	Joseph R. Lentol, NYS
Bloomberg	Assembly Member
Philanthropies	Stephen T. Levin, NYC
Broadway Stages	Council Member
Hillary Brown, PhD	Konstancja
Rob Buchanan,	Maleszyńska
NYC Water Trail	National Fish and
Association	Wildlife Foundation
Marta Canida Franco	Newtown Creek
Matias Canida Franco	Alliance
Costa Constantinides,	NOoSPHERE Arts
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Brooklyn College	Protection
Kelsey Cotton	NYC Department of
Meredith Craig de	Sanitation
Pietro	Open House New York
Maja Cule	Cosimo Pori
Alison Dell, PhD, St.	Holly Porter-Morgan,
Francis College	PhD, CUNY LaGuardia
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Program Sustainability	Semillas Collective
Coaches, National	Benjamin Solotaire
Wildlife Federation	Naz Sotoudeh
Greenpointers.com	Korin Tangtrakul, Open
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Elise Heffernan,	Shino Tanikawa,
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Michael Heimbinder,	Conservation District
HabitatMap	Ernesto Villalobos
HeraldPR	Marzena Wolert
Hummingbird	Heather Wolf
Communications	Jamie Woods



Funding for Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages provided by the Office of the New York State Attorney General and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund.

## BOOK REVIEWS



### UNNATURAL SELECTION

By Katrina van Grouw

Princeton University Press, 2018

**K**atrina van Grouw, author of the acclaimed book *The Unfeathered Bird*, created the large-format, illustrated *Unnatural Selection* to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Charles Darwin's *The Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication*. With her newest work, van Grouw has beautifully combined her loves of fine art and science, often calling on the expertise of her husband, ornithologist and bird breeder Hein van Grouw, for a refreshing perspective on Darwin's principles of natural selection and domestication. She methodically paints a panorama of evolution's irrepressible, ever-changing nature, intentionally blurring the line between what we define as "wild" and as "domestic."

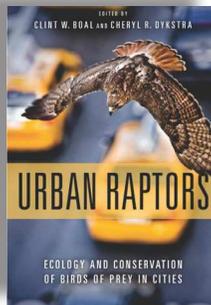
With a tone that oscillates between scholarly and casual, this dense text is designed to appeal to both the layperson and scientist. Van Grouw traces not only the evolution of domesticated animals, but the path that human thought and science have taken since Darwin's time. The text explores origin, inheritance, variation, and selection through examples of animals bred as fancy pets or in isolation due to human intervention. The text and drawings illustrate the constantly changing nature of life, as influenced by social customs, aesthetics, and environmental factors.

Examining dog breeds, race horses, cattle, and fancy pigeons, van Grouw shows how genetic traits, environment, and indi-

vidual choice influence the development of species: virtually "evolution sped up" by domestic breeding practices. Historical anecdotes, such as one about birds that were tried and executed for "crimes against God," provide entertainment as well as illustrations of just how much our thinking has evolved in such short time compared to the majestic pace of natural evolution.

Certain case studies may give the reader pause about choices we have made for our own amusement or benefit (as in her descriptions of bulldog or chicken breeding), but van Grouw does not preach any moral position on the breeding industry or human intervention in how species have evolved. Her perspective is very much one of respect for, and awe of, the process itself. Even the final chapter provides a respectful nod to the species that adapt best to living around ever-growing human populations and cities.

This book is for you if you have more than a passing interest in the principles of natural selection and an appreciation for natural history illustration.—HO



### URBAN RAPTORS: ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF BIRDS OF PREY IN CITIES

Edited by Clint W. Boal and

Cheryl R. Dykstra

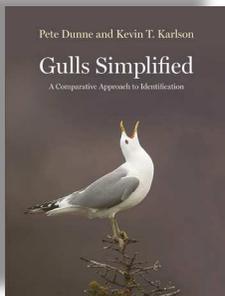
Island Press, 2018

**M**ention "urban raptor" to a New Yorker, and the beloved Pale Male often swoops into mind. He may be the most famous urban bird of prey, having captured the hearts and minds

of the general public in the early 90s when he became one of the first known Red-tailed Hawks to nest on a building (927 Fifth Avenue) rather than a tree. But Pale Male's story is far from unique these days. Around the world, increasing numbers of eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls hunt, breed, live, and die in human-built environments.

In *Urban Raptors: Ecology and Conservation of Birds of Prey in Cities*, editors Clint W. Boal, a research wildlife biologist and professor at Texas Tech University, and Cheryl R. Dykstra, editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Raptor Research*, synthesize more than two decades of research to provide "an overview of urban ecosystems in the context of raptor ecology and conservation." Meeting this goal requires covering a lot of ground. Composed of 19 essays by 25 urban raptor researchers, the book provides snapshots of various species in urban ecosystems such as Powerful Owls in Sydney, Australia; Cooper's Hawks in Stevens Point, Wisconsin; and Peregrine Falcons on skyscrapers across the world. (20 pairs of peregrines nested in New York City's five boroughs last year.) The book also presents explorations of broader topics like "Urban Raptor Communities: Why Some Raptors and Not Others Occupy Urban Environments" and "Raptors as Victims and Ambassadors: Raptor Rehabilitation, Education, and Outreach."

The editors point to sprawl as one reason cities are home to more raptors. In an interview published by *Mongabay*, Dykstra said "Urban areas can provide great conservation opportunities for some raptors, but their abundance in cities can disguise the fact that their natural habitats may be decreasing or disappearing." The editors speculate another reason for their abundance in cities may be due to decreased persecution of these birds by humans. In the final chapter, "Perspectives and Future Directions," Boal and co-author Stephen DeStefano express both hope and concern for how urbanization and other demographic changes will affect the conservation of these magnificent creatures.—NB



*GULLS SIMPLIFIED: A COMPARATIVE  
APPROACH TO IDENTIFICATION*  
By Pete Dunne and Kevin T. Karlson  
Princeton University Press, 2019

What's going on with gulls these days? A recent surge of interest has already brought us two wonderful and very different books, *The Seabird's Cry* by Adam Nicholson and *Landfill*

by Tim Dee, which provide insights into these complex creatures' natural histories and inspire appreciation of a much-maligned bird. To this growing gull library, add *Gulls Simplified: A Comparative Approach to Identification* by two well-known birding group leaders and writers, Pete Dunne and Kevin T. Karlson. Dunne describes the identification method as holistic, derived from his experience of hawk-watching. Their methodology avoids a plumage-based approach and takes into account all the following factors: "size, shape, behavior, structural features, habitat, distribution, range, and direct comparative assessment."

The book is beautifully designed and satisfyingly thorough: for instance, 12 pages and 47 crisp, clear photographs are devoted to the Herring Gull alone. I especially appreciated the comparative discussions, in which several gulls are shown together in one photo and the

authors pick apart the differences.

But I regretted the authors' recommendations, particularly in the front sections, to dismiss deep inquiry, advising you to only learn the familiar birds in your area and forget about looking for rarities. Why would I buy this book if I wasn't hoping to learn to recognize a rare gull I might encounter in the field? This highly personal approach is also at cross-purposes to the mission of conservation organizations like NYC Audubon. We welcome as many people as possible into our efforts by demonstrating that there are infinite ways to enjoy birds.

The "Species Accounts" section is refreshingly straightforward, with a pleasantly overwhelming throng of ID points for each bird. The quizzes are fun and helpful additions, and the photos of gulls fighting, mating, and interacting with other animals are superb.—KR

## FALL 2019 NYC AUDUBON 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.

### NORTH ON THE WING: TRAVELS WITH THE SONGBIRD MIGRATION OF SPRING

Presentation by Bruce Beehler  
Monday, November 4, 7-8pm

In this illustrated lecture, naturalist and ornithologist Bruce Beehler will recount his hundred-day-long 2015 field trip following the spring migration of songbirds from the coast of southeastern Texas up the Mississippi and into the boreal forests of northern Ontario. Along the way, Beehler visited various migratory bird field projects as well as scores of local, state, and national parks and refuges critical for the preservation of the migration phenomenon. He also spent time in many eclectic and beautiful rural communities, from southern Louisiana and Mississippi to the northern limit of roads in Ontario—land of the Cree and Ojibwe First Nations peoples. His presentation touches on wildlife, nature conservation, migration research, American history, and rural culture. Copies of *North on the Wing* (Smithsonian Books, 2018) and his soon-to-be-released *Birds of Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019) will be available for purchase and signing by the author after the lecture.

### BIRDS IN WINTER: SURVIVING THE MOST CHALLENGING SEASON

Presentation by Roger F. Pasquier  
Monday, December 16, 7-8pm

Join us for an in-depth exploration of the ecology and behavior of birds during their most challenging season: winter. Ornithologist and conservationist Roger Pasquier will examine how winter affects birds' lives all through the year, starting in late summer, and will show how the birds' resulting behaviors can be visible to any interested observer. He will also delve into the unique conservation challenges posed by winter and how global warming is altering the nature of the season itself. Pasquier is currently an associate in the Department of Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History. He has worked for the Smithsonian Institution, the World Wildlife Fund, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the National Audubon Society. He has authored several books on birds and art history, which, along with *Birds in Winter* (Princeton University Press, 2019), will be available for purchase and signing by Pasquier after the lecture.

**NOTE: Our lecture series has migrated to a new location! Our new venue is the Parish House of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, 921 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10021 (between 73rd Street and 74th Street).**

# 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 843 members and donors whose individual gifts in amounts up to \$2,499 collectively provided \$60,262 in support of our mission from January 1 to June 1, 2019.

## AMERICAN KESTREL CIRCLE

Gina Argento  
Tony Argento  
Rob Bate & Tracy Meade  
Karen Benfield & John Zucker  
Claude & Lucienne Bloch  
MaryJane Boland & Daniel Picard  
Ronald Bourque  
Marsilia A. Boyle  
Chris Cooper  
Jonathan Cuneo  
Art Sills & Sarah DeBlois  
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Lillian L. Langsan  
Leo  
Barbara Maas  
Stefan A. Mayer  
Fred Spar  
M. Scott Sullivan  
Joseph Tobin

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPRING AND SUMMER STAFF AND INTERNS

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

**CHANTAL HERNANDEZ**, recently graduated from the New York Harbor School, educated Governors Island visitors about birds and conservation as an intern for our Governors Island residency program. This was her second year interning at our Nolan Park house. Chantal is attending SUNY New Paltz this fall.

**CHRISTINE NEALY, ANN SELIGMAN, CHINA MOORE 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 roofs of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center and Kingsland Wildflowers at Broadway Stages, coordinated seasonal interns, and analyzed data. He also coordinates the Green Roof Researchers Alliance. (See page 9 for information about the upcoming second annual State of Green Roofs in NYC conference at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center.)

**D'ANGELO PEÑA PERALTA, ETHAN FOX, LUCA CALOMARDE, and ISIAH CRUZ**, high school students, were shorebird outreach interns based at the Rockaway Waterfront Alliance. They educated beach-goers about sharing the beach with nesting birds.



*Staff and Interns Posing with Artist-in-Residence Autumn Kioti and "Sergio" at New York City Audubon's Governors Island Nolan Park House 17*

**MEDHA PANDEY**, pursuing Fordham University MSC in biology sciences, worked on analyzing waterbird banding data and updating our waterbird banding and resighting database.

**JOSÉ RAMIREZ-GAROFALO**, recent graduate of the College of Staten Island, conducted migratory and beach-nesting shorebird surveys and assisted with bird banding. He also worked on the Governors Island Common Tern project (see "Conservation Notes" on page 5 for more information).

**SOHEL SHAH**, a Tufts University undergraduate, helped with Project Safe Flight collision monitoring data and learned how to create a monitoring program for Tufts University's campus.

**TOD WINSTON** coordinated and led the 35th annual Harbor Herons Nesting Survey on selected islands in New York Harbor. (See "Conservation Notes" on page 4 for more information about this year's surveys.)

**BEN WOOD**, a current undergraduate student at Boston University's Questrom School of Business, joined NYC Audubon as a summer intern in their finance department. He assisted with the yearly audit and reorganizing financial documents. Ben also cataloged New York City Audubon's historical media assets and digitized the organization's entire collection of Urban Audubon newsletters dating back to 1979.

# SUPPORT NYC AUDUBON'S MISSION

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 2.

To learn more about any of the above, contact Director of Development Kellye Rosenheim at [krosenheim@nycaudubon.org](mailto: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](http://www.nycaudubon.org/support-us).

# NEWS & NOTES

## SHIRLEY CHISHOLM STATE PARK OPENS IN BROOKLYN

Shirley Chisholm State Park opened its first section to the public in July. The largest state park yet developed in New York City, the site borders Jamaica Bay in East New York between Howard Beach and Canarsie atop the capped Pennsylvania and Fountain Avenue landfills. Much like Freshkills Park in Staten Island, the park establishes grassland for species suffering greatly from habitat loss. We look forward to offering free guided bird walks and other community programming at the 407-acre facility as it blossoms.

## STATE PASSES COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION

We were pleased to be in attendance at Fordham University on June 19 as Governor Andrew Cuomo signed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. The bill addresses the effects of climate change by drastically cutting greenhouse gases, diverting the state's energy reliance to renewable sources, and creating green jobs to promote environmental justice across New York.

## STATE TRIPLES TAX INCENTIVES FOR GREEN ROOFS

State legislation signed by Governor Cuomo on July 3rd increases the tax break for building owners who implement green roofs from \$5.23 to \$15 per square foot in districts prone to sewer overflows and lacking green space. Thank you to New York State Senator John Liu and Assembly members Rozic, Lentol, De La Rosa, Gottfried, Simon, and Barron for co-sponsoring these bills to incentivize green roof creation with emphasis on communities most in need of greening.

## NY STATE BILL TO CREATE A BIRD-FRIENDLY BUILDING COUNCIL

State legislators also voted to establish a council to study the problem of bird mortality from collisions with glass. Special thanks are due to New York State Assemblyman Steven Englebright for introducing the bill, to New York State Senator Brad Hoylman for introducing it in the Senate, and our colleagues at Four Harbors Audubon and Audubon New York for helping to push this bill through. At press time, the bill passed both houses and is awaiting the governor's signature.

### 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:

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 Family \$75     Dual \$50     Friend \$25  
 Student/Senior(65+) \$15     Dual Senior (65+) \$30     New     Renewal

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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