

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON

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THE URBAN AUDUBON

Landmark NYC Bird-Friendly Design Bill Passes

**Audubon's New Climate Report:
*Survival by Degrees***

**The Bronx's
Crotona Park**

Bobolink



NYC AUDUBON MISSION & VISION

NYC Audubon is a grassroots community that works for the protection of wild birds and habitat in the five boroughs, improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers.

NYC Audubon envisions a day when birds and people in the five boroughs enjoy a healthy, livable habitat.

THE URBAN AUDUBON

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Recent months have brought some very bad news for our birds. Last September, the journal *Science* revealed that bird populations in the U.S. and Canada have declined 29 percent since 1970, resulting in the loss of three billion individual birds. National Audubon published its new report on birds and climate change, *Survival by Degrees*—concluding that two-thirds of North American birds are at risk in the coming decades. And against the backdrop of these devastating scientific studies, the Trump administration's elimination of longstanding protections afforded by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act is all the more tragic.

Thankfully, in New York City we have very good news to report. In December, the New York City Council passed bird-friendly design legislation, Initiative 1482-2019—the most broad-reaching bird-safe building policy in the U.S. Starting next year, all new construction and major renovations in the City must employ bird-friendly design materials.

This law will make a world of difference for our birds. During daylight hours, many windows act as mirrors, reflecting the habitat of trees and shrubs—or reveal habitat visible on the opposite side of a building. Birds fly right into these walls of glass at full speed, many dying on impact: according to NYC Audubon's Project Safe Flight research, between 90,000 and 230,000 birds die from such collisions in the City each year. And we know that bird-friendly design can make a big difference. The glass pavilions of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, once the biggest “bird-killers” in the City, underwent a bird-friendly renovation in 2013, conducted by architectural firm FFXFowle and Epstein, in consultation with NYC Audubon. Our research showed that the renovation reduced bird mortality by 90 percent. This bird-friendly design legislation will save hundreds of thousands, eventually millions, of birds.

NYC Audubon and fellow members of the Bird-Safe Buildings Alliance made this happen. NYC Audubon volunteers have been documenting bird-building collisions for over 20 years, contributing to an important data set that has made us a leader in the field and allowed us to provide solid science in support of this legislation. In 2018, NYC Audubon determined that we needed a new staff member who could focus solely on advocacy issues. Through a fundraising push at the 2018 Fall Roost and a grant from National Audubon, we were able to hire Molly Adams as our advocacy and outreach manager. She has worked skillfully and tirelessly in tandem with our partners to direct our advocacy volunteer corps, manage a social media campaign, meet with local stakeholders, and coordinate with members of the Bird-Safe Buildings Alliance, City Council, and Mayor's office. All this work resulted in a more effective, enforceable, and ultimately successful bird-friendly design bill.

As the “urbanest” of Audubons, making our metropolis safer for birds is our calling. And we have succeeded: in collaboration with many partners, we have achieved a great and long-lasting victory for our birds. Your support of NYC Audubon's work made this possible. Your contributions quite literally save the lives of millions of birds. Thank you.



The new law will save the lives of many Ruby-crowned Kinglets, frequent victims of collisions.

Learn more about New York City's new bird-friendly building law on page 6. Read about the Audubon climate report on page 10, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act on page 19.

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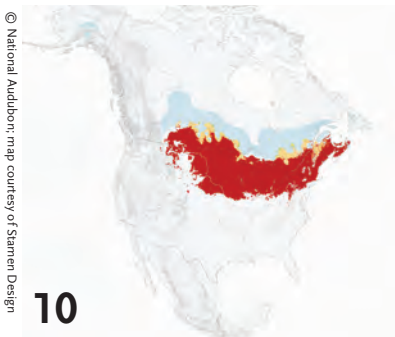
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6



8



10



11

FEATURES

- 6 **Historic Victory for NYC's Birds: Bird-Friendly Design Bill Passes**
by Molly Adams
- 7 **New York City Youth Speak for the Birds**
- 8 **Studio Gang Begets Bird-Friendly Beauty on Tenth Avenue**
by Carol Peace Robins
- 9 **Crotona Park: A 132-Year-Old Oasis in the South Bronx**
by Carol Peace Robins
- 9 **Interns Par Excellence**
by Rebecca Minardi
- 10 **Survival by Degrees: Audubon Warns of Climate Impact on Birds**
by Suzanne Charlé
- 11 **Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*): The Gladdest Bird**
by Don Riepe
- 23 **NYC Audubon's Campaign for the Future**

DEPARTMENTS

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 4 | Conservation Notes | 20 | Thank You to Our Volunteers |
| 5 | Volunteer! | 22 | Donor Acknowledgments |
| 12 | Events & Adventures | 23 | Support NYC Audubon's Mission |
| 18 | Book Reviews | 24 | NYC Audubon Members-Only Events |
| 19 | News & Notes | 24 | Spring 2020 Lecture Series |

CONSERVATION NOTES

Despite temperatures best fit for hibernation, our conservation team spends the winter hard at work. Between analyzing data from the previous field season and meeting with colleagues to share data, we also plan for the upcoming field season, which always arrives before we know it. In the meantime, here are updates from some of our core programs.

PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

On December 10, 2019, the New York City Council passed Initiative 1482-2019, landmark bird-friendly design legislation that will make the City safer for birds (learn more on page 6). This victory is in no small part thanks to Project Safe Flight volunteers who have documented thousands of collisions since 1997. We celebrate this victory—but our work is not over. We will continue our community science collision monitoring, prioritizing problem buildings whose owners may be persuaded to put mitigation in place, and evaluating retrofits for effectiveness. This past fall, volunteers monitoring in Brooklyn and Manhattan found 156 birds on four routes. In 2020 we plan to create an additional monitoring route in Long Island City, Queens, using data

from www.d-bird.org, our crowd-sourcing database, to target potential collision hotspots.

More than 850 collisions were reported through D-Bird in 2019, up 33 percent over 2018. This uptick probably does not represent an increase in bird-building collisions, but rather an increase in the number of people who are noticing and reporting dead and injured birds. As more collisions are reported, we can better identify problem areas and specific buildings in need of intervention.

WATERBIRDS OF NEW YORK HARBOR

In December, NYC Audubon convened the 15th annual meeting of the Harbor Herons and Waterbirds of the New York/New Jersey Harbor working group on Staten Island. It was a well-attended meeting, bringing together 67 waterbird researchers, land managers, and other stakeholders to discuss research and projects. NYC Audubon staff gave presentations on colonial waterbird nesting colony trends across the harbor, Semipalmated Sandpiper migration from Jamaica Bay, American Oystercatcher nesting productivity at Breezy Point, Queens, and gull nesting across New York City.

The 2019 Harbor Herons Nesting Survey data analysis is complete. 2019 was the 35th

consecutive year of nest surveys and a full survey of all islands in the harbor. Hoffman, South Brother, and Subway Islands continue to host the majority (88 percent) of our nesting wader populations. Overall, our count of total island wader nests declined 16 percent since the last comprehensive survey in 2016, from 1,420 to 1,186 pairs. We will continue to monitor and analyze long-term trends for these species and advocate for their protection. Visit www.nycadubon.org/issues-of-concern/harbor-herons to read the report.

Our Glossy Ibis research continues: our field team collected feathers to contribute to a global Glossy Ibis population genetics project, while Dr. Susan Elbin and Emilo Tobón authored an article on Glossy Ibis nesting in the City for the inaugural issue of the research publication *Stork, Ibis, and Spoonbill Conservation*. Read the article at www.storkibisspoonbill.org/sis-conservation-publications.

The final data is now in on nesting American Oystercatchers in Queens. At Breezy Point, 36 pairs nested, 21 chicks hatched, and only 11 chicks fledged, resulting in the lowest productivity recorded in Breezy Point since our program began in 2011. In contrast, our partners at the NYC Parks Wildlife Unit reported 36 pairs and 52 fledged chicks at nearby Rockaway Beach, for a productivity rate of 1.44, well above the recovery target of 0.5 chicks/pair. We will continue to work with the National Park Service to monitor American Oystercatchers and determine the causes of nest and chick loss in Breezy Point. This year we banded six adult oystercatchers and seven chicks. Resightings of these birds allow us to monitor them on both the breeding and wintering grounds, and examine variables such as productivity over time and chick dispersal. For example, a bird banded in Arverne as a chick in 2015 was seen in July 2019 on a Belmar, New Jersey beach—with two chicks of its own.

In late 2019 the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation released



©Matthew Paulson

Our research contributes to a global study on Glossy Ibis, which nest on the Harbor Heron islands.



proposed changes to the state's Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern list, and requested data to support changing the status of many species in New York. Our team is working to provide comments to support and challenge several of the proposed changes, along with partner organizations such as Audubon New York. In particular, we will be providing data to support applying a stricter status than is being proposed for two local species: Black Skimmer (the current proposal recommends it be listed as Threatened, while we advocate for Endangered) and Black-

crowned Night-Heron (the current proposal recommends it be listed as Special Concern, while we advocate for Threatened). You can find the current and proposed species list at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html.

AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

On Sunday, December 15, 109 participants turned out in Central Park for the 120th Christmas Bird Count (CBC), counting 5,148 birds of 57 species. Despite notable absences such as Red-winged Blackbird and Black-capped Chickadee, both the total number of

birds and species total fell well within the 20-year average for the park. Central Park is part of the New Jersey-Lower Hudson Count Circle, which includes Manhattan, western-most Queens, and eastern New Jersey. The New Jersey team added Surf Scoter, Long-billed Dowitcher, and Tree Swallow; their most unexpected find was a Tundra Swan in the Meadowlands. Preliminary reports also indicate four Nashville Warblers were seen on counts in Upper Manhattan, along with one in New Jersey, which is a record number for this species in the count circle. See the final CBC tally at www.nycaudubon.org/cbc.

VOLUNTEER!

Visit NYC Audubon's friendly office or work in the field to make a difference for New York City's wildlife. There are many ways you can help.

THE URBAN AUDUBON

Join the newsletter committee and contribute your writing skills to four seasonal issues. Meetings are quarterly, in the early evening. Contact Tod Winston at twinston@nycaudubon.org if interested.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Become a community scientist and help conduct conservation research; read below about the various ways to get involved. All orientations are held at our office unless otherwise noted and require registration in advance.

Project Safe Flight: Light and glass pose major threats to migratory birds as they move through New York City. Help NYC Audubon biologists collect data on building collisions during migration by monitoring designated buildings for collisions. This opportunity requires a time

commitment of about one hour, one morning a week from April through early June. Orientations will be held Thursday, March 12, and Wednesday, March 18, 6-7:30pm at the NYC Audubon office; an additional orientation will be held Saturday, March 14, 2-3:30pm, at Hunter's Point Library in Long Island City, Queens. Contact communityscience@nycaudubon.org to learn more and register.

Horseshoe Crab Monitoring:

Horseshoe crab eggs are an important food source for migratory shorebirds. Collect data on spawning horseshoe crabs by counting them in Jamaica Bay. The count occurs on 12 nights in May and June, but you don't have to be able to make every count to sign up. Orientations will be held Thursday, April 9, and Friday, April 17, 6-7:30pm, at the NYC Audubon office; a third orientation will be held Thursday, April 23, 6-7:30pm at New York Aquarium in Brooklyn. To learn more and register, contact communityscience@nycaudubon.org.

Breeding Bird Atlas: The third New York State Breeding Bird Atlas has begun! Over the next five years, thousands of birders will survey breeding birds in our state—and you can be a part of it. January 1 kicked off the first year of the survey, and Bald Eagles have already been found breeding in three different New York counties. Learn more about the Atlas at www.ebird.org/atlasny/home. Contact Molly Adams at madams@nycaudubon.org to participate.

PLUMB BEACH CLEANUP Sunday, April 19, Noon-2pm

Each winter, debris finds its way into our waters and washes up on our shores, preventing migratory birds and horseshoe crabs from feeding and nesting on the beaches. Get our beaches ready for them. All equipment is supplied, as well as snacks and water. Transportation via bus from Manhattan is available for a limited number of volunteers. Advance registration is required. Learn more and register at www.nycaudubon.org/plumb-beach-cleanup. Free.

BROAD CHANNEL BEACH CLEANUP Sunday, April 19, Noon-2pm With Gateway National Recreation Area

To celebrate this year's Earth Day, the National Park Service will be running a cleanup at Broad Channel American Park. Dress for the weather. Gloves and cleanup supplies will be provided. No registration necessary. Learn more at www.nps.gov/gate/playourvisit/calendar.htm. No limit. Free.

SPRING NYC SHOREBIRD BLITZ Sunday, May 24

Help us take a one-day snapshot of spring shorebird activity in the City. The NYC Shorebird Blitz is a community-science effort to count the total number of shorebirds using our city during a 24-hour period, helping us answer important conservation questions, such as how many shorebirds come through our area during spring migration, how they are distributed throughout the City, and what disturbances they face. Contact communityscience@nycaudubon.org to learn more and register.



HISTORIC VICTORY FOR NEW YORK CITY'S BIRDS: BIRD-FRIENDLY DESIGN BILL PASSES

Molly Adams

On December 10, 2019, the New York City Council passed Initiative 1482-2019, the most comprehensive bird-friendly building legislation in the U.S. This bill will amend the New York City building code to require that new construction, and significantly altered buildings, use bird-friendly materials. The bill became law January 10, 2020, and will go into effect one year later, with bird-friendly buildings being built or adapted as early as January 2021.

Passing Int. 1482-2019 took an enormous group effort, and it was a long time coming. NYC Audubon has been studying window collisions in the City since 1997, when Project Safe Flight Founder and Advisory Council Member Rebekah Creshkoff recruited early volunteers Allison Sloan, past Board Member Ned Boyajian, and current Board Member Kellie Quiñones to collect dead birds and monitor several buildings in downtown Manhattan. Project Safe Flight research continues throughout the City today and is the reason we can confidently estimate that collisions with buildings kill between 90,000 and 230,000 birds annually in NYC alone; our data also contributed to the estimation that up to one billion birds die in collisions in North America every year. At the end of 2018, decades after we began monitoring collisions, Nancy Shamban, one of NYC Audubon's active members, made contact with the City Council to start a conversation about a citywide bird-friendly building policy. We were given the opportunity to explain that although solutions to this problem exist, NYC Audubon needed the City Council's help to require them.

In February 2019, I was hired as NYC Audubon's Advocacy and Outreach Manager, a brand-new position, primarily to focus on bird-friendly building legislation. In March of 2019, Council Speaker Corey Johnson and Council Member Rafael Espinal introduced the first version of Int. 1482-2019. We formed a working group composed of members of

© Keith Carver



Common Yellowthroats frequently die in collisions with windows when attempting to navigate the City's maze of reflective glass. Countless yellowthroats will be saved by the new bird-friendly design law.

the Bird-Safe Buildings Alliance, including representatives from NYC Audubon, American Bird Conservancy, and the architectural firms FXCollaborative and Ennead, as well as Alan Steel from the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, American Institute of Architects New York, and volunteer lawyers and policy advocates.

We worked with the City Council and the Mayor's Office, and took into account the practical concerns of industry stakeholders such as the Real Estate Board of New York, to strengthen the bill through amendments that made it effective in saving birds, reasonable for building owners, and enforceable. The original version of the

bill would have required bird-friendly glass on 90 percent of buildings' entire façades, regardless of height. Research shows that the majority of collisions occur where vegetation is reflected in glass—and that a small percentage of collisions happen above the level of the tree line, or above roughly 75 feet. We suggested amending the bill to require bird-friendly design where it would prevent most collisions, while allowing developers and architects flexibility in their designs. The resulting final version of the bill requires bird-friendly materials (not just glass) uniformly on 90 percent of façades up to 75 feet; up to 12 feet above green roofs; and at all glass railings and other hazardous elements, regardless of how high they are located on a building's exterior.

Thanks to all the dedicated volunteer advocates who participated in our Bird-Friendly Buildings Campaign by contacting their City Council members via social media, postcards, emails, and calls, Int. 1482-2019 had over 20 cosponsors by the time it was voted on in December 2019, enough to ensure that nearly half the City Council would support it. This gave us confidence that we had a majority of votes, and it passed with an overwhelming vote of 43-3.

I look forward to continuing to work with the appropriate agencies over the next year to make the adoption of this law as seamless as possible. Our Bird-Friendly Buildings Campaign priorities will shift towards working with existing buildings that will not be affected by this law, as well as joining efforts to minimize nighttime artificial light, another serious hazard to birds. We are very proud to work in a city dedicated to becoming a safer place for migrating birds.

Read about a recently built building in the City that aims to be bird-friendly on page 8. To get involved in our advocacy work, sign up to receive Avian Advocate Alerts at www.nycaudubon.org/avian-advocates.

NEW YORK CITY YOUTH SPEAK FOR THE BIRDS

As part of NYC Audubon's advocacy campaign last fall in support of Initiative 1482-2019, staff and volunteers testified before the New York City Council on September 10. Among the volunteers were several school-age advocates: sixteen-year-old Adam Vinson, eleven-year-old John Dean, and nine-year-old Elias Markee-Ratner. Their passionate and well-informed testimony expressed their love of birds—and moved and inspired their older colleagues. We share all three complete testimonies with you, below.

Elias Markee-Ratner

My name is Elias Markee-Ratner and I'm in the fourth grade at a public school in the East Village. I love birds. I have been studying them and birding since kindergarten. It's really important to me to save birds from the threats we've put in their way. Many kids my age have never held a bird, live or dead. I've been lucky enough to hold many live birds. But I've held even more dead ones, and every time it makes me sad. The reason I do this is because I work as a volunteer with New York City Audubon's Project Safe Flight. We monitor dangerous buildings where birds collide with windows, and hopefully help to end this problem. Here is what I've seen as a Project Safe Flight volunteer. This past weekend in the Wall Street area we monitored six tall buildings that are dangerous to birds. In the space of 45 minutes we found four victims—two dead and two badly injured and dying. These included beautiful migrating songbirds like the Chestnut-sided Warbler and the Black-and-White Warbler. I also saw an injured Common Yellowthroat that had just bounced off a large, mirrored glass window. And that was only one morning at a handful of buildings. Imagine the hundreds of thousands of birds that are killed or injured every year in New York City after colliding with buildings that have unsafe windows. Before I started volunteering, I thought the idea of these beautiful birds hitting windows and dying was terrible. But actually witnessing it is 10 times worse. I volunteer with Project Safe Flight to help birds thrive and survive. And that's where you can help us. Please pass the Bird-Friendly Glass bill. Thank you!

John Dean

My name is John Dean and I am 11 years old. For my whole life I have called New York City my home. I have always been passionate about birds, watching them in urban parks whenever I get the chance. For a while I have also been aware of the migratory birds that die each year in our city from colliding with glass windows. When I was in third grade, I wrote a letter to Mayor de Blasio requesting that less tall buildings are constructed in New York City to reduce migratory bird deaths. But today, using modern technology, we have the resources to make a compromise. The bird-safe buildings act would preserve populations of migratory birds while

allowing developers to build high rises. There are many reasons why we should protect birds. They have taught us so much over the years. Travelers lost in a desert used to follow birds to find water. More recently, high-tech drones have been modeled after the flight of birds. The Wright Brothers even designed the first successful airplanes to mimic aspects of avian flight. Birds have helped and continue to help us throughout history and in current times. During World Wars I and II, pigeons were used to deliver messengers to soldiers across enemy lines. One particular pigeon named Cher Ami, French for "Dear Friend," was awarded the Dickin Medal for her bravery in World War I. She delivered an essential message to the Americans during the Meuse-Argonne Offense across German lines and survived despite severe injuries. In 1848, Utah settlers' crops were being destroyed by a cricket plague. But huge flocks of California Gulls devoured the insects, saving the lives of many. Today vultures eat dead animal carcasses, preventing the spread of deadly diseases. In the past, there have been consequences when bird species were threatened by humans. In China during the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Chinese government started the Four Pests Campaign. One of the targeted animals was the Eurasian Tree Sparrow. Across China, millions of sparrows were killed because they were believed to eat crops. The sparrow population was greatly diminished, allowing the populations of their main prey, caterpillars, to increase dramatically and consume much of the crops in China. This was one of the contributing factors to the Great Chinese famine. If the Bird Safe buildings law is passed, it will be not only a win for birds, but a win for people, too.

Adam Vinson

Hi, my name is Adam Vinson. I live in District 4 and I am a Junior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Manhattan. I am the founder of my school's Naturalist Club, a member of the New York State Young Birders Club, and a volunteer with New York City Audubon's Project Safe Flight program to monitor migratory birds and window collisions. I also volunteer at the Wild Bird Fund, New York City's only wildlife rehabilitation center for birds.



Left to right: Adam Vinson, John Dean, and Elias Markee-Ratner (with his father, Patrick Markee) testify before the New York City Council on September 10, 2019.

... Continued on Page 19

STUDIO GANG BEGETS BIRD-FRIENDLY BEAUTY ON TENTH AVENUE

Carol Peace Robins

"Architecture mediates between people, environment, and even other species."

—Jeanne Gang

Architect Jeanne Gang calls it "Solar Carve." *Architectural Digest* calls it "stunning." Officially known as 40 Tenth Avenue, the new 10-story office building is dramatically located between the High Line and the Hudson River. It is the first New York City creation of Studio Gang, Jeanne's Chicago architecture firm.

Note the angled façade, carved with the building's position relative to the sun in mind, in order to ensure that it won't cast shadows on the High Line or endanger West Side Highway drivers with blinding glare. And here at NYC Audubon we're pleased about another of the architect's compassionate decisions: as *The New York Times* puts it, Jeanne Gang "designs glass façades with patterns that appear decorative but address problems like solar heat or bird strikes."

And now, 40 Tenth Avenue, with fritted glass panels on the roof garden and low-reflectivity-glass on the façade, joins other high-profile bird-safe buildings in the City—

among them the retrofitted Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Visitor Center, and the new Statue of Liberty Museum.

A MacArthur fellow and multi-award-winner who was named one of *Time* magazine's "100 most influential people" in 2019, Jeanne Gang is also a lifelong birder. As a child growing up 70 miles from Chicago, she went on bird walks with a local conservationist. Today she birds with fellow Chicagoans, and whenever she goes for a run, always brings her binoculars.

Jeanne has been concerned about bird strikes against glass since 2003, when she won a competition to design a nature center in Calumet, Illinois. Her research uncovered a shocking number of birds killed in collisions with reflective glass windows. To learn more, she joined others to collect dead and injured birds from buildings known as the worst offenders in nearby Chicago, following in the footsteps of our own Project Safe Flight volunteers in New York City.



© Nic Lehoux

The building's façade employs low-reflectivity glass to prevent bird collisions.

With 40 Tenth Avenue, Jeanne is aiming for gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) designation, the next-to-highest level in the green building certification system. Studio Gang's next Manhattan project is the upcoming addition to the American Museum of Natural History. Naturally, it too is being designed with birds, people, and surroundings in mind.

NYC Audubon welcomes this beautiful new ecology-minded structure. It may serve as an inspiring example for future bird-friendly design, as it includes many features now required in all new construction in the City, thanks to new legislation recently passed by the New York City Council. (See page 6 to learn more about this important victory for the City's birds.)

A monograph of Studio Gang's work, including descriptions of its bird-friendly design elements, will be published this spring; learn more by visiting www.studiogang.com/publications/monograph.



© Tom Harris*

Fritted glass panels on the building's garden rooftop are visible to birds.

CROTONA PARK: A 132-YEAR-OLD OASIS IN THE SOUTH BRONX

Carol Peace Robins

Crotona Park, a 127.5-acre sanctuary for both nature and community recreation, has much to offer: its entertainment facilities include grilling areas, an amphitheater, a pool, ball fields, and a renowned tennis center. With newly planted areas and a three-acre lake, this expanding patch of greenery in the not-so-green lower Bronx has become an unsung haven for birds and birders.

Last fall I toured the park with Shawn Cargil, its amiable administrator and a recently elected NYC Audubon board member. We headed first to a lovely grove of lofty, century-old oak, hickory, and ash trees. Although spring is prime birding season here, this late September day brought Northern Flickers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, a Gray Catbird, a Hermit Thrush, and a Black-and-White Warbler. Shawn also showed me the American Sweetgum tree where breeding Red-tailed Hawks return to build their nest each year.

During his five years as administrator, Shawn has planted native species with the goal of creating a complete ecosystem to attract both birds and insects. He has added Tulip Poplar, Swamp White Oak, and American Sweetgum trees, as well as smaller Sassafras, Black Cherries, and Eastern Redbuds. Judging from the monarch butterflies happily flitting by, his patches of Common Milkweed are a welcome addition.

This spring, Crotona Park will also provide a temporary home to BIRDLINK, the native plant sculpture designed by Anina Gerchick. This 12-foot-high living tapestry of native plants, which has been traveling from park to park, provides a beautiful gathering place for both migrating birds and the people who migrate to them.

Having attended Bronx public schools, Shawn is eager to share the local natural environment with nearby students. He regularly leads



Shawn Cargil with one of Crotona Park's grand White Ash trees

nature walks for local high schoolers and plans to hire an educator to develop programs focused on nature and birds for kids of all ages.

On Saturday, May 9, Shawn will lead a Crotona Park bird walk open to all; details are available on page 15.

INTERNS PAR EXCELLENCE

Rebecca Minardi

In January NYC Audubon bid goodbye to two invaluable Queens College service learning interns, Elizabeth Draves and Victorya Kaon. Both spent the fall semester of their senior year assisting NYC Audubon with community events, conservation and outreach projects, and other needs within the organization.

As an advocacy and outreach intern, Elizabeth engaged the public through facilitating postcard-writing opportunities and giving outreach presentations in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens. In addition, she researched wheelchair accessibility in the New York City parks where NYC Audubon offers free bird walks. Advocacy and Outreach Manager Molly Adams noted that Elizabeth was “very passionate about environmental conservation” and instinctively shared her enthusiasm with the community. Elizabeth particularly enjoyed forging connections with both kids and adults and remarked that she often found herself “touched when people showed how much they care about birds and our environment.”

As a digital communications intern, Victorya promoted projects such as the annual Green Roof Researchers Alliance conference and the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. She researched NYC wildlife rehabilitators, organized beach-cleanup data, edited grant proposals, and provided ideas for Project Safe Flight, such as a bird ID guide for volunteers. Communications Manager Andrew Maas described Victorya as “energetic, eager to learn, and quick on her feet. She came into the office intent on helping our organization in any way she could.” Victorya’s favorite part of her internship was “being surrounded by a staff that is extremely passionate and dedicated towards their mission. It’s inspiring.”

Both women are now graduates of Queens College. Victorya is developing a bird-related children’s book based on a collection of photographs of New York City, while Elizabeth is working on graduate school applications to study environmental policy. NYC Audubon thanks Victorya and Elizabeth for their steadfast work and wishes them both the best in their future endeavors. They will be missed!

SURVIVAL BY DEGREES: AUDUBON WARNS OF CLIMATE IMPACT ON BIRDS

Suzanne Charlé

Just months after the United Nations reported that one million plant and animal species worldwide are at risk of extinction because of climate change, National Audubon published *Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink*. Building on its 2014 *Birds and Climate Change Report*, the study combined predictive climate modeling with species models based on more than 140 million bird records from more than 70 data sources. Audubon scientists determined that because of global warming, about two-thirds of North American bird species are at risk. Under the likely scenario of a 3-degree Celsius global temperature rise, these species face the loss of more than 50 percent of their current ranges by 2080.

What this means in New York City

is that birds traditionally found nesting here or migrating through may soon be missing: sea-level rise threatens many coastal birds, like the Piping Plover and Saltmarsh Sparrow, while species such as Red-headed Woodpecker, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, Yellow Warbler, and Bobolink will lose most, if not all, of their current breeding ranges. (See the graphic below.) “We’re in the midst of a bird emergency,” said David Yarnold, president and CEO of Audubon. “Every bird species will experience some kind of impact.”

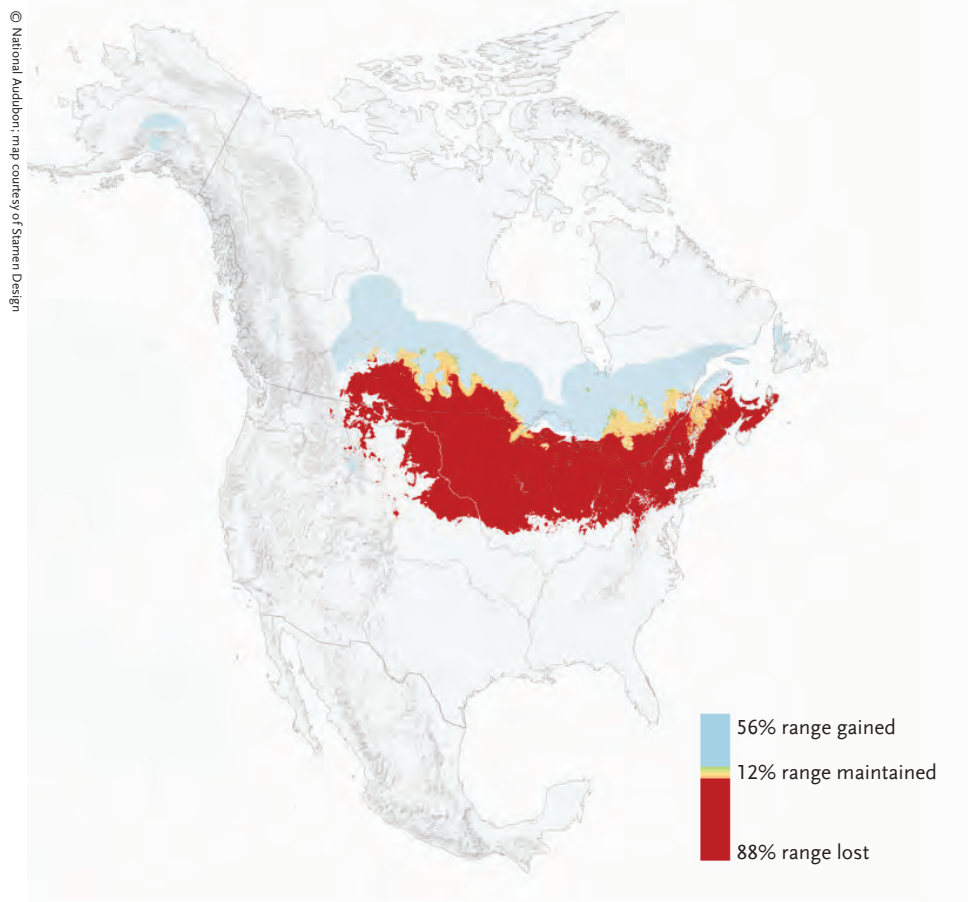
There is hope, however: the Audubon report finds that if we are able to keep global warming under a 1.5-degree Celsius rise through measures to mitigate climate change, we can improve the chances for over three-quarters of bird species at risk.

While such mitigation requires wide-scale change, this change can happen in no small part through local actions. In New York City, the Natural Areas Conservancy, with NYC Parks and many others, has developed a comprehensive plan called New York City Nature Goals 2050 (www.naturegoals.nyc), as well as a Forest Management Framework Plan (www.naturalareasnyc.org/forests) to protect 7,000 acres of the City’s forested parkland.

NYC Audubon’s *Strategic Plan 2020–2025: A Vision for the Future* (available at www.nycaudubon.org/strategic-plan-2020-2025) calls for safeguarding waterbirds and protecting urban bird habitat while supporting clean energy policy and sustainable, low-impact climate resilience measures. “National Audubon’s report underscores the importance of preserving, protecting and enhancing native-plant habitats, includes grasslands, saltmarshes, and coastal habitats—as well as habitat-quality capped landfills and green roofs,” says Kathryn Heintz, executive director of NYC Audubon. “All that we achieve for birds, including the recent enactment of citywide bird-friendly building legislation, will make our bird populations more resilient in the face of climate change.”

Every one of us can take personal action to reduce global warming and make the City more livable for both humans and birds. In addition to supporting the citywide initiatives mentioned above, we can all use public transport, use and advocate for renewable energy sources, and plant native flora to replace invasive species (visit www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds).

To see what other local actions you can take to combat climate change, see our advocacy work at www.nycaudubon.org/avian-advocates. View and download the complete Audubon report, and find more ways to help in Audubon’s digital “Climate Action Handbook,” at www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees.



Bobolink: Audubon’s report shows this species’ breeding range shifting northward, ceding up to 88 percent of its current territory. Bobolinks are known for seeking out new areas to nest—but to move in, they need grasslands to develop first.

BOBOLINK: THE GLADDEST BIRD (*DOLICHONYX ORYZIVORUS*)

Don Riepe

A species of open grasslands, the Bobolink is loved by birders and poets alike. Poet William Cullen Bryant wrote:

*Merrily swinging on briar and weed,
Near to the nest of his little dame,
Over the mountain-side or mead,
Robert of Lincoln is telling his name:
Bob-o'-link, bob-o'-link,
Spink, spank, spink.*

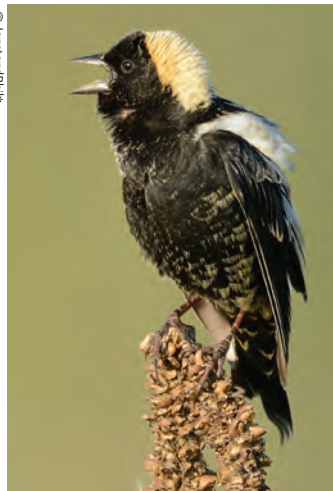
Emily Dickinson, also a great fan, mentioned the bird in more than 20 poems:

*Some keep the Sabbath going to Church –
I keep it, staying at Home –
With a Bobolink for a Chorister –
And an Orchard for a Dome.*

The Bobolink's bubbly, rapid-fire song gives it its name. The male's breeding plumage is as striking as its song: black below with a white rump and scapulars, and a saffron-colored nape. Out of nesting season, the male looks much like the female: tawny with dark streaks. Male Bobolinks are polygynous, mating with several females. Some females are polyandrous, meaning that a single clutch of eggs may have been fertilized by several different mates.

Bobolinks migrate amazing distances, traveling about 12,500 miles roundtrip from breeding grounds across the northern U.S. and Canada to wintering territory in southern Brazil and Argentina. Bobolink researcher Dr. Rosalind Renfrew, cofounder of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, tracked one migrating Bobolink that flew over a thousand miles in a day, averaging a speed of 50 miles per hour.

The Bobolink is one of several grassland birds that are in serious decline. According to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, the



A singing male Bobolink

species has declined 65 percent since 1966—and Audubon's new climate report predicts the birds may lose 88 percent of their current breeding range by 2080. (See map on facing page.) On their South American wintering grounds, the grain-eating birds face harassment by rice farmers. (Indeed, the bird's species name, *oryzivorus*, means "rice-eating.") But the most serious present-day challenge they face is the loss of breeding habitat due to development, reforestation, and farming.

The mowing of hayfields is a particular threat to Bobolinks, which build cup-shaped nests on the ground. In our area, they nest most actively from late May to early July—and mowing before mid-July destroys most nests. Many farmers are under financial pressure to mow their fields early and frequently.

Though Bobolinks will make repeated nest attempts, they are unable to raise young in recurrently mown hayfields.

To protect grassland birds, new conservation strategies are needed during the breeding season. One effort, The Bobolink Project (www.bobolinkproject.com), uses donated funds to pay farmers to delay mowing, allowing Bobolinks to nest and raise their young. During the past few summers, Audubon and other New England nonprofit groups have raised enough money to pay farmers to delay the mowing of over 1,000 acres. And recently, the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service revived a program to help grassland species by paying farmers to delay the second cutting of their hay for 65 days.

Such cooperative projects are a good model to help conserve Bobolinks and other grassland birds. No longer to see and hear the Bobolink, which literary naturalist John Burroughs called "the gladdest bird that sings and flies," would diminish us as a species as well.



Bobolink females incubate their eggs on nests hidden deep in long grasses (inset). While Bobolinks are not known to have nested recently in the City, sightings in grassland habitat in Shirley Chisholm State Park, Freshkills Park, Floyd Bennett Field, and on Governors Island give us hope. NYC Audubon supports grassland bird conservation through an active role in the Grassland Birds and Habitat of Greater NYC Working Group.

EVENTS & ADVENTURES

- NYC Audubon Events
- Partnership Events
- Overnight Trips

NOTE: NYC Audubon Members-Only Events are listed on page 24.

- **PELHAM BAY PARK SPRING BIRD WALKS, THE BRONX**
Sundays, March 1–June 28, 9-10:30am
Guide: NYC Audubon
With Pelham Bay Park

Before May 24: Meet at Orchard Beach Parking Lot

May 24–June 28: Meet at Rodman's Neck Parking Lot

Join us to explore some of the best birding NYC has to offer. Pelham Bay Park's diverse habitat attracts a great variety of spring migrants. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

- **WINTER WALK AT INWOOD HILL PARK, MANHATTAN**
Saturday, March 7, 9am-12pm
Guide: Nadir Souirgi

Explore Inwood Hill Park, the jewel of northern Manhattan. Nestled along the Hudson River, this last tract of largely undeveloped oak and Tulip Poplar forest transports you to another place and time. Glacial "pot holes," towering trees, a tidal marsh, and stunning river views create an unrivaled birding backdrop. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

- **SPRING BIRDING AT WAVE HILL, THE BRONX**
Sundays, March 8, April 12, May 10, and June 14, 9:30-11:30am
Guide: Gabriel Willow
With Wave Hill

Meet at the Perkins Visitor Center. 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. NYC Audubon members enjoy two-for-one admission (see www.wavehill.org for more information)

SOLD-OUT EVENTS

The following previously advertised events are sold out:

- March 1 - Winter Birds of the Barrier Islands, LI
- March 5 - Winter Birds of Barnegat, NJ
- March 7 - Winter Birding on the South Shore of LI
- March 8 - Intro to Birding in Central Park
- March 15 - Winter Birds of DeKorte Park, NJ
- March 21 and 28 - Sky-Dance of the Woodcock, Brooklyn
- March 25 - Early Spring Bird Walk in Central Park
- April 4 - Winter Birds of Sandy Hook, NJ

- **EARLY SPRING BIRD WALK AT JAMAICA BAY**
Saturday, March 21, 10am-1pm
Guide: Don Riepe

With American Littoral Society, Gateway National Recreation Area

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center to enjoy a slide program and a hike around ponds and gardens to look for returning Osprey, Eastern Phoebe, Glossy Ibis, American Oystercatchers, and other early spring migrants. For more information and reservations, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriep@gmail.com. No limit. Free

- **AUDUBON MURAL PROJECT TOURS IN NORTHERN MANHATTAN**
Sundays, March 22, April 26, May 10, and June 21, 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 to make us aware of the challenges they face. In addition to seeing more than 30 murals, we will visit John James Audubon's impressive gravesite in the Trinity Church cemetery. Binoculars will be an asset on this walk. Limited to 20. \$30 (20) per walk

- **QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN BIRD WALKS**
Saturdays, April 4, April 25, and May 16, 9:30-10:30am
Sundays, March 29 and April 19, 9:30-10:30am
Guide: NYC Audubon
With Queens Botanical Garden

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

- **BEGINNING BIRDING**
Classes: Wednesdays, April 8, April 15, and 22, 6:30-8:30pm

Trips: Sunday, April 19, 8am-3pm (Jamaica Bay) and Sunday, April 26, 8-10:30am (Central Park)

Instructor: Tod Winston

Learn the keys to identifying the spectacular variety of birds that migrate through New York City every spring. Even if you've never picked up a pair of binoculars, you'll soon be identifying warblers, thrushes, waterbirds, and more—both by sight and by ear. Three fun and educational in-class sessions and field trips to both Central Park and Jamaica Bay. (Transport to Jamaica Bay included.) Limited to 12. \$200 (140)

- **BIRDING GEMS OF STATEN ISLAND: SPRING MIGRATION AT FRESHKILLS PARK**
Saturday, April 11, 8am-3pm
Guide: Cliff Hagen
With NYC Parks

Start with a journey across the Upper Bay. From wetlands to woodlands to rich, rolling grasslands, Freshkills Park offers a diverse collection of habitats and wildlife. On a spring day, over 100 species of birds and a variety of butterflies can be seen here. Join local naturalist Cliff Hagen and NYC Parks staff for this special opportunity to explore the secrets of this exciting new park. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van from the Staten Island St. George Terminal on S.I. included. Limited to 12. \$50 (35)

- **BIRDING BY EAR IN CENTRAL PARK**
Mondays, April 13–May 11, 7-10am
Guide: Tod Winston

Join Tod Winston for a five-week exploration of all of the chips, tweets, trills, and warbles we hear as we wander Central Park's best migrant spots. If you'd like to identify birds by sound alone, this is the series for you. We'll discuss the meanings of different songs and calls as we get to know them. All experience levels welcome. Limited to 12. \$127 (89)

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Prairie Warbler



• **EVENING SPRING MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK**

Mondays, April 13–May 18, 5:30-7pm
Tuesdays, April 14–May 19, 5:30-7pm
Wednesdays, April 15–May 20, 5:30-7pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Witness the spectacle of spring migration on this six-week series of walks as songbirds follow the Atlantic Flyway northwards. Look for orioles, tanagers, warblers, vireos, and other migrants in the wilds of Central Park, and learn about the finer points of their identification and ecology. Limited to 15. \$145 (102) per series

• **BIRDS, TECHNOLOGY, AND COMMUNITY SCIENCE: eBIRD WORKSHOP**

Thursday, April 16, 7-8:30pm

Instructor: Gabriel Willow

Birders increasingly use technological tools to locate birds, share their sightings, and keep track of their observations. The most widely used of these tools is eBird, a website and app that allows users to upload and track their sightings and see what other users have found. It's also a community-science tool that pools all the data, allowing scientists to study trends in bird population trends, migration timing, and more. Learn how to use eBird and other modern technological tools, such as field guide apps and automated bird ID apps. Limited to 12. \$33 (23)

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

Saturdays, April 18–June 14, 9-10:30am

Guide: NYC Audubon

With the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy

Meet at Van Cortlandt Nature Center. The history of birding and Van Cortlandt Park are inseparable. Influential birders such as Roger Tory Peterson and Allan D. Cruickshank got their starts on Van Cortlandt's ecologically diverse grounds. These

walks celebrate the tradition set by these great ornithologists. Participants will look for various species of residents and migrants and discuss a wide range of avian topics. For more information, call 212-691-7483. No registration required. No limit. Free

• **SPRING MIGRATION IN PELHAM BAY PARK, THE BRONX**
Saturday, April 18, 9am-4pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Explore the lovely coves and rocky outcroppings of the City's largest park, Pelham Bay Park, seeking out migrating songbirds, late wintering birds, ducks, and a breeding pair of Great Horned Owls. The park's rich habitat make it an urban gem and a great home for wildlife. Past rarities include Northern Goshawk and Purple Sandpiper. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$90 (63)

• **SPRING MIGRATION ON RANDALL'S ISLAND**

Sunday, April 19, 9am-2pm

Guides: Gabriel Willow, Randall's Island Park Alliance Staff

With Randall's Island Park Alliance

We'll walk across the footbridge to Randall's Island, an under-explored location in the East River that hosts restored freshwater wetlands and saltmarsh. We'll look for spring migrants (both waterbirds and land birds) as we explore the results of recent restoration efforts. Limited to 20. \$40 (28)

• **BIRDING TOURS OF BRYANT PARK, MANHATTAN**

Mondays, April 20–June 1, 8-9am
Thursdays, April 23–June 4, 5-6pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

With Bryant Park Corporation

Meet at the Birding Tour sign at the 42nd Street and Sixth Avenue entrance to Bryant Park. Discover the surprising variety of birds that stop in Bryant Park during migration. No registration required. No limit. Free

• **BIRDING TOURS OF CENTRAL PARK'S NORTH WOODS,**
Mondays, April 20–May 18, 5:30-7pm
Wednesdays, April 22–May 20, 5:30-7pm
Fridays, April 24–May 22, 5:30-7pm

Guide: Nadir Souirgi

Meet at the 103rd Street and Central Park West entrance to the Park.

Discover the serene northern part of Central Park during the height of songbird migration. Explore the Great Hill, Ravine, Pool, and more. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

• **MORNING SPRING MIGRATION WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK**

Wednesdays, April 22–May 20, 7:30-10:30am
Thursdays, April 23–May 21, 7:30-10:30am

Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

This five-week series of walks will observe the waves of birds passing through Central Park during spring migration. Each series limited to 15. \$143 (100) per series

© David Spenser



Orchard Oriole

• **THE BATTERY BIRD WALKS, SOUTHERN TIP OF MANHATTAN**
Tuesdays, April 21–May 19 8-9am
Wednesdays, April 22–May 20, 8-9am

Guide: Gabriel Willow

With The Battery Conservancy

Meet at the Netherlands Memorial Flagpole located at the entrance to Battery Park on the corner of Broadway, Battery Place, and State Street. Join Gabriel Willow and The Battery Conservancy to explore the diversity of migrating birds that find food and habitat in The Battery. RSVP preferred; visit tbcevents.eventbrite.com for more information. No limit. Free

• **DROP IN AND BIRD: MORNING BIRD WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK**
Thursdays, April 23–May 21, 7:30-9am

Guide: Harry Maas

Meet at the park entrance at East 79th Street and Fifth Avenue, parkside. Join NYC Audubon for bird walks at the height of spring migration, in one of the world's best birding spots. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

EVENTS & ADVENTURES (CONTINUED)

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Eastern Screech-Owl

• SPRING MIGRATION MORNING WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK

Fridays, April 24–May 15, 8-10am

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Join Gabriel Willow for a spring morning walk in Central Park to welcome the arrival of warblers, vireos, tanagers, cuckoos, and other species stopping off in the Park for a rest and a snack on their way north. We will explore the Ramble and surrounding areas, as well as stop for a rest and enjoy a snack ourselves at the Boathouse. Each walk limited to 15. \$36 (25) per walk

• CITY NATURE CHALLENGE iNATURALIST WALK

Saturday, April 25, 10am-12pm

With Gateway National Recreation Area

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Join the challenge! Count NYC's abundant wildlife using the iNaturalist smartphone app. Learn more at www.citynaturechallenge.org. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

• AFTERNOON BIRD WALKS IN CENTRAL PARK

Saturdays, April 25; May 16 and 30, 2-3:30pm

Guide: Jeff Ward

Search for spring migrants such as warblers, orioles, tanagers, and flycatchers on a leisurely afternoon walk through Central Park's best birding spots with Jeff Ward, NYC Audubon's newest trip leader. Each walk limited to 15. \$36 (25) per walk

• BIRDING GEMS OF STATEN ISLAND: CLOVE LAKES PARK

Saturday, April 25, 8am-12pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Discover the beautiful forests and superb birding spots of Clove Lakes Park. Look for ducks and seabirds in the Harbor on the ferry ride across, and then catch a bus to the Park. Warblers, vireos, tanagers, and other migratory songbirds can be seen here, as well as nesting Eastern Screech-Owls and Great Blue Herons. We'll even see one of the largest and oldest trees in the City. Limited to 15. Bus fare (\$2.75 each way; please bring your MetroCard or exact change) not included in registration price. \$43 (30)

• BIRDS AND PLANTS: NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN IN SPRINGTIME, THE BRONX

Sunday, April 26 and Saturday, June 7, 10am-12:30pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

The New York Botanical Garden is home to a large tract of old-growth forest. During the peak of spring migration, the beautiful gardens come alive with migrating songbirds. Each walk limited to 15. Entrance fee to NYBG not included. \$39 (27) per walk

• WOODCOCK SKY DANCE WALK AT JAMAICA BAY

Sunday, April 26, 7-9pm

Guide: Don Riepe
With American Littoral Society, Gateway National Recreation Area

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Join Don Riepe and NYC Audubon to listen and look for the remarkable aerial courtship displays of the American Woodcock. The sky dance of this strange, cryptic bird is one of spring's marvels. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

• INTRODUCTION TO BIRDSONG

Class: Friday, May 1, 6:30-8:30pm

Trip: Sunday, May 3, 8am-12pm

Instructor: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Do you ever wonder who is singing? Learn to identify the large variety of migrant and resident birds in NYC. Joe Giunta will first introduce you to the subtleties of birdsong identification in the classroom, and then take you on a field trip in Central Park to bird by eye and ear. Limited to 12. \$72 (50)

• NYC AUDUBON GOVERNORS ISLAND NATURE CENTER

Saturday, May 2–Saturday, October 31, weekends and holiday Mondays

Location: Nolan Park House 17



Governors Island's Outlook Hill

NYC Audubon returns to Governors Island for a fourth season at our seasonal nature center at Nolan Park House 17. This year's programming will include conservation displays, a children's room with books and activities, bird-inspired artwork, and open artist studios. Governors Island boasts an eBird list of over 200 species; borrow binoculars and participate in one of our free guided bird walks, or strike out on your own. Check www.nycaudubon.org/gov-island for more details and updates on house hours, bird walks, and special events. To inquire about volunteering opportunities or art residencies, contact Danielle Sherman at dsherman@nycaudubon.org

• SPRING MIGRANTS AT INWOOD HILL PARK, MANHATTAN

Saturday, May 2, 9-11:30am

Guide: Annie Barry

Join Annie Barry to hike Inwood Hill's mature forest in search of kinglets, warblers, flycatchers, and other migrants and residents. We'll then head to recently restored Muscota Marsh, the last natural saltmarsh in Manhattan, to search for herons and ducks. Some hilly walking required. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

• SPRING MIGRATION AT JAMAICA BAY

Saturday, May 2, 10am-1pm

Guide: Don Riepe
With American Littoral Society, Gateway National Recreation Area

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge during peak spring migration for a slide program and hike to look for spring migrants and other wildlife. For reservations, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. No limit. Free

• THE BIRDS OF WOODLAWN CEMETERY, THE BRONX

Sunday, May 3, 8-10:30am

Guides: Joseph McManus, Susan Olsen, Tod Winston

With the Woodlawn Conservancy
Join Tod Winston and Joseph McManus to look for spring migrants and year-round residents on Woodlawn's expansive grounds, while Woodlawn Cemetery Director of Historical Services Susan Olsen will share fascinating stories about the interesting variety of individuals interred there. Limited to 20. \$35 (25)

• DAWN BIRDSONG IN CENTRAL PARK'S NORTH WOODS

Thursday, May 7, 6-10am

Guide: Tod Winston

Get up early to enjoy the chorus of early morning birdsong, right after dawn, in a small group. We'll explore the peaceful and beautiful Great Hill, North Woods, and Loch, listening for warblers, vireos, tanagers, orioles, and more. Limited to 12. \$40 (28)

● **RIVERSIDE PARK SUMMER ON THE HUDSON BIRD WALKS, MANHATTAN**
Fridays, May 8, July 10, and September 11, 5:30-7pm
Guide: NYC Audubon
With Riverside Park Summer on the Hudson

Meet at the park entrance at 120th Street and Riverside Drive and explore Riverside Park on this family-friendly bird walk. Who knows what birds we'll discover while taking in views of the Hudson River? No limit. No registration. Free

● **PROSPECT PARK BIRD WALK**
Friday, May 8, 5-7pm
Guide: Gabriel Willow
 Prospect Park's wide variety of habitats attracts an impressive number of migrant and breeding bird species—significantly more than Central Park, in fact. Join Gabriel Willow to explore the Park's meadows, forests, and waterways in search of waterfowl, warblers, tanagers, and more. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)

● **SPRING WARBLERS**
Class: Friday, May 8, 6:30-8:30pm
Trip: Sunday, May 10, 8-11am
Instructor: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC
 Learn to identify the 30-plus species of warblers that migrate through our area each spring, using field marks and other techniques. Then come for a walk in Central Park to reinforce what you've learned. Limited to 12. \$72 (50)

● **BIRD WALK AT CROTONA PARK, THE BRONX**
Saturday, May 9, 9-10:30am
Guides: Shawn Cargil, NYC Audubon
With Crotona Park
 Meet at 1700 Crotona Avenue (in front of the brown brick building). Join NYC Audubon and Crotona Park Administrator Shawn Cargil on an exploration of this little-known birding gem. With a water feature and plenty of habitat, Crotona Park is a great place to hunt for spring migrants. Contact 718-926-2084 for more information. No registration necessary. No limit. Free

● **SPRING WALKS AT INWOOD HILL PARK, MANHATTAN**
Saturday, May 9 and 17, 9-11am
Guide: Nadir Souirgi
 Explore Inwood Hill Park, the jewel of northern Manhattan. Nestled along the Hudson River, this last tract of largely undeveloped oak and Tulip Poplar forest hosts breeding Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Wood Thrush, and Hairy Woodpecker. Glacial "pot holes," towering trees, a tidal marsh, and stunning river views create an unrivaled birding backdrop. Limited to 15. \$36 (25) per walk

● **EARLY MORNING BIRDSONG IN THE RAMBLE**
Tuesday, May 12, 6-9am
Guide: Tod Winston
 Get up early and enjoy the chorus of early morning birdsong, soon after dawn, in a small group. We'll explore the migration hotspots of Strawberry Fields and the Ramble, listening for warblers, vireos, tanagers, orioles, and more. Limited to 12. \$40 (28)

● **PEAK MIGRATION DAY AT ALLEY POND PARK AND JAMAICA BAY**
Tuesday, May 12, 8am-4pm
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC
 Join Joe Giunta for a tour of the crown jewels of Queens birding: Alley Pond Park and Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. First visit Alley Pond's wooded grounds and kettle ponds to seek out warblers and vireos, then hike the Refuge for shorebirds, waterfowl, and more. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$115 (80)

● **THE BIRDS OF ROCKEFELLER STATE PRESERVE, NY**
Thursday, May 14, 7am-3:30pm
Guide: Tod Winston
 Explore the forested hills, fields, and ponds of this former country estate of the Rockefeller family. We'll look for migrant songbirds and breeding species like Eastern Bluebird, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Blue-winged Warbler. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van. Limited to 12. \$122 (85)

● **WARBLERS OF STERLING FOREST, NY**
Saturday, May 16, 7am-3pm
Guides: Don Riepe, Tod Winston
 Explore the woodlands and wetlands of the 20,000-acre Sterling Forest State Park during spring migration. Look for nesting warblers, as well as spring wildflowers, reptiles, and amphibians. Trip involves a four-mile hike and rocky terrain. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 11. \$115 (80)

● **BIRDING BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK**
Saturday, May 16, 9-10:30am
Guide: Heather Wolf
 Meet at the 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. We'll look for spring migrants including warblers, vireos, wrens, and more. Visit www.nycaudubon.org/birding-bk-bridge to register. Limited to 19. Free

● **RANDALL'S ISLAND BIRDING BONANZA**
Saturday, May 16, 10am-1pm
Guide: NYC Audubon
With Randall's Island Park Alliance
 Meet at the Randall's Island end of the Ward's Island Bridge, by East River Lane. Randall's Island is home to over 180 bird species. Enjoy a day of free, family-friendly activities and birding in the Island's restored habitats. Learn more at www.randallsisland.org/events. No registration required. No limit. Free

● **JAMAICA BAY HORSESHOE CRAB FESTIVAL**
Saturday, May 23, 8:30am-1pm
With American Littoral Society, Gateway National Recreation Area
 Celebrate the annual arrival of the 400-million-year-old Atlantic Horseshoe Crab. During full and new moons of May and June, females lay billions of eggs at the high tide line. At the same time, thousands of migrating shorebirds arrive to feed on the eggs, regaining the body weight they've lost during their long journey north. At the festival you'll see and hold live horseshoe crabs and learn about their important ecological and medicinal values. For more info contact the American Littoral Society at 718-474-0896 or email Don Riepe at donriep@gmail.com. The program is free, but donations of \$20 for adults and \$10 for children to NYC Audubon are suggested to offset the festival cost. To inquire about transportation, call NYC Audubon at 212-691-7483 x304.

● **THE BREEDING BIRDS OF DOODLETOWN ROAD, NY**
Friday, May 29, 8am-4pm
Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC
 A great variety of warblers and other songbirds, including species at risk, breed at Doodletown Road in Bear Mountain State Park. Hooded, Cerulean, and Golden-winged Warblers may be seen, as well as Indigo Buntings, Wild Turkeys, and much more. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$122 (85)

© Lloyd Spradlin



Tree Swallow

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

EVENTS & ADVENTURES (CONTINUED)

• BREEDING BIRDS OF JAMAICA BAY

Saturday, May 30, 7am-2pm

Guide: Tod Winston

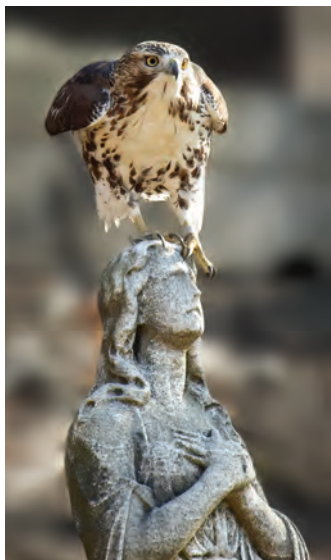
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge is home to nesting Cedar Waxwings, Brown Thrashers, White-eyed Vireos, Tree Swallows, Yellow Warblers, American Redstarts, Osprey, Willet, Clapper Rail, and seven species of wading birds. We'll walk the refuge trails and seek out these species and many more on their breeding grounds. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$93 (65)

• NESTING PEREGRINES AND RED-TAILS OF THE UPPER WEST SIDE, MANHATTAN

Saturday, June 6, 1-4pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Many New Yorkers are astonished to discover that this city of steel and glass is home to a diverse population of large birds of prey: the City boasts the world's highest densities of the Peregrine Falcon—the world's fastest flyer—and a growing population of Red-tailed Hawks (several pairs of which have reached celebrity status). We'll visit a nesting site of each of these fascinating species, and may glimpse parents feeding their chicks. Limited to 15. \$36 (25)



Red-tailed Hawk

• DISCOVERY DAY AT FRESHKILLS PARK, STATEN ISLAND

Sunday, June 7, 11am-4pm

Guide: NYC Audubon

With Freshkills Park Alliance and NYC Parks

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

• EXPLORE THE NEW JERSEY MEADOWLANDS BY PONTON BOAT

Saturday, June 13, 8am-1pm

Guides: Tod Winston, NJ Meadowlands Docent With NJ Meadowlands Commission

Explore the Meadowlands on a relaxing pontoon boat ride in search of egrets, night-herons, and kingfishers—along with nesting Osprey, Peregrine Falcons, and Marsh Wrens. We'll travel along the Hackensack River to both man-made and restored wetland sites and learn about the area's environmental history. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 11. \$108 (75)

• THE PARAKEETS OF GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY, BROOKLYN

Saturday, June 13, 10am-1pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

With Green-Wood Cemetery

Explore Green-Wood Cemetery, rich in both history and wildlife, in search of spring migrants and its unique avian residents: the brilliant green Monk Parakeets that nest there. Native to South America, these charming immigrants flourish even in our harsh winters. Limited to 15. \$46 (32)

• BREEDING BIRDS OF THE HUDSON HIGHLANDS, NY

Saturday, June 20, 8am-5pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Visit some of the most exciting and beautiful birding locations in the Hudson Valley: Doodletown Road, Constitution Marsh, and Indian Brook Farm. At Doodletown we'll look for breeding warbler specialties such as Cerulean, Hooded, Golden-winged, and Worm-eating Warblers. Constitution Marsh Audubon Sanctuary then offers breeding Wood Ducks, Bald Eagles, and Least Bitterns. After a picnic lunch, we'll visit Indian Brook Farm in search of

breeding Field and Savannah Sparrows, Bobolinks, and Indigo Buntings. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$129 (90) per trip

• BREEDING BIRDS OF CONNECTICUT

Sunday, June 21, 7am-4pm

Guide: Tod Winston

Discover the nearby birding wonders of "the Constitution State": We'll explore the woods and fields of Trout Brook Valley Preserve in search of Acadian Flycatchers, Scarlet Tanagers, Worm-eating Warblers, and Indigo Buntings—and then search the beach and marsh of Sherwood Island State Park for Purple Martins, Marsh Wrens, and waterbirds. Bring lunch. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 12. \$103 (72)



Golden-winged Warbler

TO REGISTER FOR ALL NYC AUDUBON EVENTS and for more information, visit www.nycaudubon.org or call Danielle Sherman at 212-691-7483 x304 unless otherwise specified.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Contributing Members (Student/Senior level and up) receive a 30% discount on most local trips and classes. (On discounted events, the discounted price appears in parentheses after the nonmember price). See membership form on page 22.
- 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 coach and van trips, the meeting location is in front of 71 West 23rd Street unless otherwise specified.
- We depart promptly at the stated start time.
- For overnight trips, NYC Audubon membership at the Student/ Senior level and up is required.

EARLY MEMBER REGISTRATION FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

More summer and early fall events will be posted and available for registration for contributing NYC Audubon members starting on Monday, June 1, at 9am. (Registration will open to all on Monday, June 15.)

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

• CAPE MAY SPRING MIGRATION WEEKEND, NJ Saturday, May 2, 9am–Sunday, May 3, 7pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Welcome the spring in lovely Cape May, NJ, the East's capital of birding. On good spring migration days, the area's forests and marshes are swarming with warblers in breeding plumage. We'll visit Cape May Point, Higbee Beach, South Cape May Meadows, and more in search of returning songbirds, shorebirds, wading birds, and terns—as well as lingering winter visitors, such as sea ducks and gannets. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 10. \$350 (\$60 single supplement)

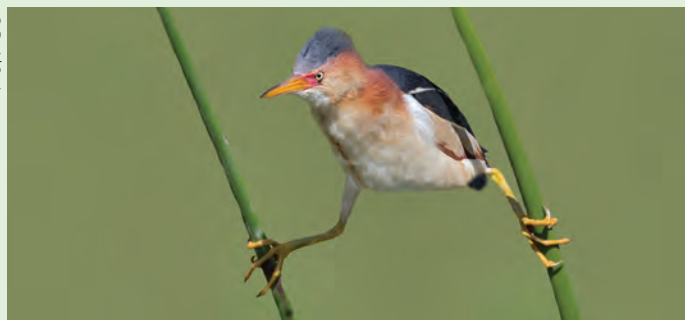
• ASSATEAGUE/CHINCOTEAGUE WEEKEND Thursday, May 7–Sunday, May 10

Guide: Don Riepe

With American Littoral Society

Spend an extended weekend at this famous wildlife area during spring migration. See wild ponies, Bald Eagles, Black-necked Stilts, Whites Ibis, dolphins, and maybe even a River Otter. Includes three nights' lodging at Refuge Inn, breakfasts, a boat tour of marshes, a safari bus tour of backwater dunes, guided hikes along beaches, woods, and marshes, plus two evening programs. For more information and reservations, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. \$450 (\$150 single supplement. \$95 for van transport from Manhattan)

© David Speiser



Least Bittern

• PUFFINS, WARBLERS, AND LOBSTER BOATS: THE ENCHANTING COAST OF MAINE Saturday, May 23–Saturday May 30

Guide: Gabriel Willow

Explore Maine's "Country of the Pointed Firs": land of lighthouses, quaint villages, and lobster pounds—all nestled in a setting of primeval pine forests, bogs, and bucolic islands. Maine's eastern wilderness hosts Atlantic Puffin, bear, moose, shorebirds, and dozens of warbler species. We'll begin birding the saltmarshes and beaches of the mainland coast, before heading to the beautiful fishing village of Camden. There we'll search marsh and meadow for Upland Sandpiper, rails, and Nelson's and Vesper Sparrows. Our final destination, enchanting Monhegan Island, offers up to 30 warbler species in one day and a nearby puffin nesting colony. Visit www.nycaudubon.org/overnight-trips for more information and a detailed itinerary. Limited to 10. \$1,975 (\$595 single supplement)

• MONTAUK SPRING WEEKEND, LI Friday, May 29–Sunday, May 31

Guides: Mike Bottini, Mickey Cohen, Don Riepe

With American Littoral Society

Visit the east end of Long Island and enjoy hiking along beaches, bluffs, woodlands, and dunes during peak spring blossom time. Registration price includes lodging at the luxurious Montauk Manor, five meals, five guided field trips,

two evening slide programs, an evening star watch, and free pickup at the LIRR station in Montauk. For more information and reservations, contact Don Riepe at 718-474-0896 or donriepe@gmail.com. \$425 (\$140 single supplement)

• BASHAKILL, SHAWANGUNK NWR, AND DOODLETOWN, NY Saturday, June 6, 8am–Sunday, June 7, 6pm

Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Look for breeding Eastern Meadowlarks, American Bitterns, Cerulean Warblers, and more at these three great birding areas. An overnight stay will facilitate being in the right spot at the right time. Bring lunch for the first day. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 10. \$325 (\$75 single supplement)

• BASHAKILL, NEVERSINK, AND STERLING FOREST, NY Saturday, June 13, 8am–Sunday, June 14, 6pm

Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Look for breeding American Bitterns; Cerulean, Hooded, and Golden-winged Warblers; and more at these three great birding areas. An overnight stay will facilitate being in the right spot at the right time. Bring lunch for the first day. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 10. \$325 (\$75 single supplement)

• BASHAKILL, WALLKILL NWR, AND HICKOCK BROOK, NY Saturday, June 20, 8am–Sunday, June 21, 6pm

Guide: Joe Giunta, Happy Warblers LLC

Look for breeding American Bitterns; Cerulean, Hooded, and Golden-winged Warblers; and more at these three great birding areas. An overnight stay will facilitate being in the right spot at the right time. Bring lunch for the first day. Transport by passenger van included. Limited to 10. \$325 (\$75 single supplement)

• BOREAL BIRDING IN THE ADIRONDACKS

Friday, July 3, 8am–Monday, July 6, 8pm

Guide: Gabriel Willow

At six million acres, Adirondack Park is the largest publicly protected area in the contiguous U.S., larger than Yellowstone, Everglades, Glacier, and Grand Canyon National Parks combined. Within its boundaries lie vast forests and rolling farmlands, towns and villages, and mountains and valleys, as well as lakes, ponds, and rivers. This diverse habitat leads to an incredible array of plant and bird species, including several boreal specialties of the mountain spruce and fir forests that cannot be found in NYC, such as Gray Jays and Boreal Chickadees. Join Gabriel Willow on a four-day tour of this wild region, featuring a day with local Adirondack resident, guide, and President of the New York State Ornithological Association Joan Collins. We will stay in the town of Saranac Lake at the charming Amanda's Village Motel overlooking the lake, spend our days exploring the mountains and valleys in the region, and dine at restaurants in Saranac Lake and nearby Lake Placid, NY. Transport by passenger van included. \$750 (\$220 single supplement)



American Birds: A Literary Companion

By Andrew Rubinfeld and Terry Tempest Williams, editors
Library of America, 2020

Terry Tempest Williams is a prolific and honored writer and a distinguished activist for the conservation of American wildernesses and national parks. Her foreword for this evocative and absorbing anthology is personal, reflective, fragmentary, and impassioned. By way of contrast, Andrew Rubinfeld's introduction is an informative and engaging preview of the book's pages of prose and poetry—and the joys, revelations, troubles, hopes, amusements, rigorous observations, fascinations, thrills, and mysteries therein. It is also a capsule history of American nature writing and its offspring, environmental writing.

Rubinfeld, who chose the book's selections, is a professor of American literature at Stevens Institute of Technology, a two-term past president of the Linnaean Society of New York, a constant birder, and a staunch conservationist. Both he and Williams are people who fit his description of Thoreau as "a true sojourner in nature."

The contents of the book, except for the first and last selections, appear in chronological order from 1782 to 2017. They include journal entries, poems, essays, a short story, descriptive passages from a birders' field guide, and excerpts from a novel and from books by naturalists, journalists, and environmentalists. All the selections were chosen with an emphasis on personal experience with America's wide diversity of

bird species and their habitats, their near-miraculous migrations and homing abilities, and their soul-stirring songs and flights.

The book features its own alluring diversity of American authors: John James Audubon, Henry David Thoreau, Sarah Orne Jewett, Herman Melville, Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, Robert Frost, Rachel Carson, Ogden Nash, Elizabeth Bishop, E. B. White, Barry Lopez, May Swenson, W. S. Merwin, Richard Powers, and many other compelling writers.

Despite the present day's mortal threat to birds as their habitats continue to disappear due to human-caused climate changes, there are no haunting dirges or accusatory screeds in this book, which is largely celebratory in tone and intent. All who read it will find their own favorites among the 74 appealing selections and will marvel at the many different ways to see, think about, describe, and cherish birds and their place in our lives.

—LSB



A Season on the Wind: Inside the World of Spring Migration

By Kenn Kaufman
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2019

Well known by naturalists for his illustrated field guides and nature writing, Kenn Kaufman continues to make wildlife accessible in his recent book *A Season on the Wind*. The book is a portrait of northwestern Ohio's Magee Marsh, a migration stopover site famous for the diversity and quantity of birds it attracts. And where there are birds, there are birders: every spring thousands of birders make their

own journey to this part of the Lake Erie shoreline for one of the world's largest birding festivals. With Magee Marsh as its primary backdrop, *A Season on the Wind* offers readers a deep understanding of the mechanics of migration and a lens into the almost unbelievable migratory feats that songbirds perform twice a year.

It's evident that Kaufman has a deep grasp—and love—of both the phenomenon of migration and the birds themselves. His book is a fast-paced narrative structured around the seasons, building up to spring migration and birding festivities at the marsh. Each chapter is filled with personal memories and emotions, scientific anecdotes, natural history, and rich descriptions that will keep birders and non-birders wanting to know more. Halfway through the book, Kaufman presents a collection of his photographs of waterfowl, warblers, and other noteworthy migrants and bird-related events, which gives readers a refreshing pause, reminiscent of the images in a field guide.

Kaufman spends some time grappling with the topic of wind energy and the implications of wind farms for migrating birds, using the Black Swamp Bird Observatory and its relationship with the Camp Perry wind project as a case study. This is where Kaufman most excels as a storyteller. He balances complex conservation challenges like climate change, notorious for leaving people feeling powerless, with passionate first-hand accounts of moments that capture the hope that birding can inspire: the annual excitement of seeing the season's first warbler, adding a new bird to one's life list, tracking weather radar for migration density the night before a bird walk, and the friendships that form in the field.

A Season on the Wind authentically captures the spirit and excitement of birding while reinforcing the supportive, inclusive community it can help form. Kaufman's writing will leave both new and seasoned birders excitedly turning the pages for new seeds of information to be cached.

—IG

NEW YORK CITY YOUTH SPEAK FOR THE BIRDS (CONTINUED)

Adam Vinson (continued)

Helping birds that migrate through our city is incredibly important and I am speaking here today to encourage you to vote in favor of Initiative 1482. I have seen with my own eyes the consequences glass window collision have on migratory birds. I hope the City Council takes this bill seriously. It's a small measure that could help our planet. New York City is an incredibly important spot on the Atlantic/Eastern Flyway bird migration route. Twice a year, millions of birds fly through our city and while New York is incredibly important, it is also incredibly dangerous for birds. In Manhattan, both Central Park and Bryant Park, which are major birding spots, are completely surrounded by buildings covered in glass windows. When the birds hit the windows they often die in especially painful and grotesque ways. I've found Song Sparrows, Hermit Thrushes, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers with their necks snapped. Unfortunately, they were the lucky ones. Other birds often have their beaks snapped and gain internal injuries that eventually kill them. Most birds that survive the initial strike

often die within a month. When I volunteer at the Wild Bird Fund I often feed the migratory birds. One day I found one of them, a Brown Creeper, dead. It had struck a window and died the next day. Brown Creepers are incredibly tiny, fragile, and unique birds, so seeing one dead was deeply depressing. This year, I made a petition at my school supporting bird strike legislation. Over 170 Eleanor Roosevelt students signed, including most of my grade. I also created an online version of the petition which quickly got another 259 signatures. I hope this response demonstrates to you that when people are made aware of the consequences of poorly designed glass-windowed buildings, they care and want to see a change. Birds mean a lot to me and my interest in them has made my life better. Now is my time to give back to them. I ask all of you to support this bill as there is no good reason that you shouldn't. If this bill passes nobody gets hurt and the birds who desperately need our help are supported.

NEWS & NOTES

NYC BIRD-FRIENDLY DESIGN BILL PASSES

This past December, the New York City Council passed landmark bird-friendly design legislation, Initiative 1482-2019. This huge win for the City's birds follows a focused campaign by NYC Audubon and the Bird-Safe Buildings Alliance. Learn more on page 6.

DEFEND THE FEDERAL MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT

Over the past year, the Trump administration has gutted enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the 100-year-old legislation created to protect native North American Birds. The proposed Migratory Bird Protection Act (MBPA) has been designed to restore protections for migratory birds and create a permitting system to reduce preventable bird mortality from industrial and governmental developments. Ask your representatives to support the MBPA (H.R. 5552), in order to restore and strengthen protections for birds. Learn more and make your voice heard at www.abcbirds.org/action/petition-mbta.

SUPPORT LOCAL CONSERVATION

Several current, local bird-friendly efforts deserve your support. Here in New York City, Brooklyn Botanic Garden's plant collections are jeopardized by a proposed massive building development just 150 feet from the Garden. To learn more, visit www.bbg.org/petition/index.html.

Right across the Hudson, Liberty State Park's Caven Point, a rich wetland bird habitat, is under serious threat of development from the expansion of an adjacent golf course. Visit Friends of Liberty State Park at www.folsp.org to find out how to help.

Some good news: Governor Cuomo has proposed the "Restore Mother Nature" bond act for New York State. This legislation would provide recurring funding to restore streams, wetlands, and coastal habitat. Visit ny.audubon.org/press-release/audubon-new-york-statement-2020-state-state-address to learn more.

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 AVAILABLE MAY 1

With the support of our donors, partners, and volunteers, NYC Audubon continued expanding its conservation and outreach programs in 2019. See highlights of the past year's initiatives and learn how NYC Audubon is making the City a healthier and more livable habitat for birds and people by viewing our *Annual Report 2019*, available May 1 on our website at www.nycaudubon.org/annual-report. To request a print copy, call us at 212-691-7483 or email communications@nycaudubon.org.

SUSAN ELBIN, PHD, NYC AUDUBON SCIENTIST EMERITA

As reported in the winter *Urban Audubon*, NYC Audubon's first and longtime director of conservation and science, Dr. Susan Elbin, retired at the end of 2019. Susan remains involved with NYC Audubon through 2020 as scientist emerita: she will continue to advance our work through the Bird-Safe Buildings Alliance and the Harbor Herons and Waterbirds of the Greater New York/New Jersey Harbor working group, while working toward the publication of a scientific paper based on NYC Audubon data and research.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

New York City Audubon's conservation and outreach work would not be possible without the help of hundreds of volunteers who donate thousands of hours each year. If you volunteered during the period from October 2018 through December 2019 and your name is not on this list, please let us know. We want to make sure you receive the recognition you deserve.

LEGEND

AC = Advisory Council
BD = Board of Directors
CBC = Audubon Christmas Bird Count
CON = Conservation
EO = Education and Outreach
FR = Fall Roost
HH = Harbor Herons
IBT = Injured Bird Transporters and Raptors NYC Group
JB = Jamaica Bay (includes Horseshoe Crab and Shorebird Surveys)
KW = Kingsland Wildflowers
OA = Office Administration
PSF = Project Safe Flight
TIL = Tribute in Light
UA = *The Urban Audubon*
WE = Website and *The eGret eNewsletter*

VOLUNTEERS

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Catarina Abend FR
Miriam Abrahams EO
Jennifer Adams CBC
Molly Adams CBC
Meryl Aekley CBC
Becca Albee JB
Jon Aldieri JB
Salia Alizar EO
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Jennifer Berlinger FR
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Victor Castanho EO
César Castillo BD
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Sara Jay EO
Sarah Jeffords BD
Molly Jensen EO
Bill Johnson CBC
Carol Johnson JB
Elizabeth Johnson JB
Joel Johnson CBC
Deborah Jones FR, OA
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Stephanie Joseph JB
Laura Juner JB
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Keiko Kamiya CBC
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Saoirse Kempe EO
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David Krauss CBC
Leah Krauss JB
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Sara Kross CBC
Ariel Kruger CBC
Benedict Kupstas JB
Becca Kusa JB
Carol Landess EO
Janice Laneve AC
Karen Larsen OA
Lily Lasovick CBC
Deborah Laurel BD
Chelsea Lawrence PSF
Anne M. Lazarus CBC
Sylvie Le Blancq EO
Anne Lee PSF
Kathy Lee IBT
Bobbie Leigh CBC
Jon Leland JB
Pilar Leon EO
Jesse Lerer JB
Jenna Levendosky CBC
Lawrence Levine BD
Akilah Lewis JB
Peter Lichtendhal CBC
Richard Lieberman CBC
Emily Liebert JB
Allie Lilly EO
Skyla Lilly EO
Su-Yee Lin CBC
Jeanne Linsley PSF
Sarah Linson EO
Peter Littlewood EO
Heather Loebner OA
Stephanie Loria JB
Denise Lu CBC
Renee Lucier TIL
Ron Lulov CBC
Aimee Lusty JB
Theodora Lynne EO
Chris Lyons CBC
Harry Maas BD, CBC, EO
Sandra Mackee JB
Meghan Magee JB
Amy Raites Magnolia JB
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Pamela Manice AC
Shayna Marchese CBC
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Patrick Markee CBC, PSF
Elias Markee-Ratner CBC, PSF
Elena Markovitz JB
Hank Marriott FR, TIL
Jeff Marvel CBC
Holly Mascaro CBC
Nick Mason JB
Esther Mathieu JB
Niki Matzukas CBC
Sandra Maury CBC
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Sarah McGrath CBC
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Drew McQuade CBC
Calista McRae ADV, CBC,
PSF
Sam Meigs CBC
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Scott Meyers JB
Ellen Michaels UA
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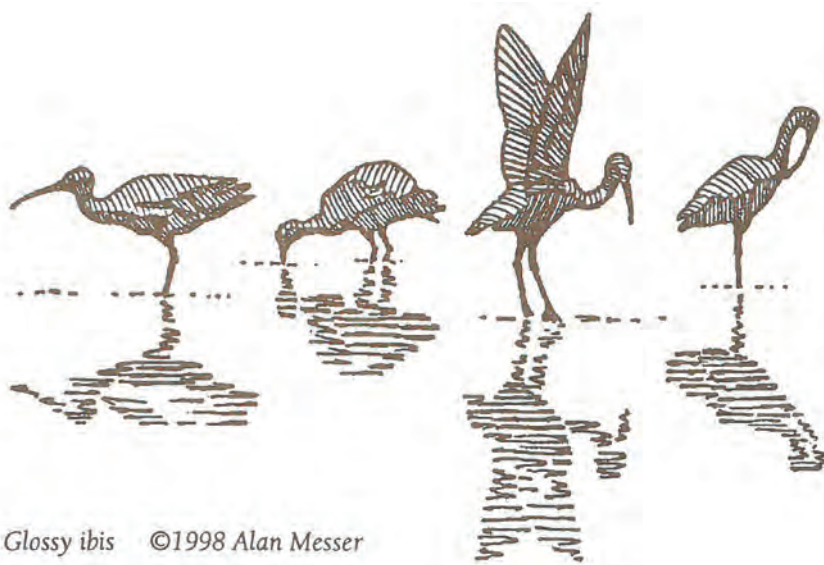
Linda Mullaney CBC
Adrianne Murray EO
Chris Nagy HH
Gunda P. Narang PSF
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Daniel Polgardy IBT
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Vijay Ramesh CBC
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Benj Sadock CBC
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Priyanka Sampersaud EO
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Georgia Silvera Seamans
CBC
Amy Simmons CBC
Brady Simmons HH
Roger Simon EO
Nirmala Singh EO
Shay Singh JB
Andria DePaula Slua JB
Ray Slyper EO
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Elizabeth Sorrell JB
Alena Spanger JB
Fred Spar BD
David Spawn HH
Jennie Spector JB
David Speiser AC, UA
Joe Spiegel EO
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Rochelle Thomas CBC, EO
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Allegra Torres-Kelly EO
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Peggy Tsue CBC
Vasant Tulyani JB
Monika Uchiyama JB
Kevin Uehlinger JB
Lola Uehlinger JB
Jill Unferth TIL
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Nimrah Vakil EO
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Brianna Ventriello JB
Anna Vershuta EO
Debra Vilen TIL
Joshua Villorreal EO
Adam Vinson PSF
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John Wittenberg CBC
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Julia Wood JB
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Rick Wright CBC
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Jacqueline Wu CBC
D Bruce Yoltson CBC, UA
Will Young CBC
Anna Youngwood CBC
Michael Yuan BD, PSF
Gary Yuen EO
Christopher Zavelo OA
Kate Zeleninkaya ADV
Anthony-Redman Zoe EO
Kylie Zorilla EO
Arthina Zorrilla EO
Eric Zou CBC
Ryan Zucker CBC, FR, TIL
Reuben Zwich-Lavish CBC
David Zwich-Lavish CBC
Sam Zwich-Lavish CBC



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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 2,102 gifts from members and donors in amounts up to \$2,499.99 that collectively provided \$267,731 in support of our mission from June 1 through December 31, 2019.

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Tony Argento
Robert Bate and Tracy Meade
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Claude and Lucienne Bloch
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Michael Yuan

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Oakes Ames
William Robert Batley
Janet Carrillo
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Erica Overberger Greenbaum
Betsy J. Hill
Barbara Maas
Pigeon
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BEQUESTS

Michael O. Willson

MAKE A DIFFERENCE Contributions are essential to our work. Help us reach our goal of \$1,040,000 in individual gifts during our 40th Anniversary year.

Count me/us in with my/our support of wild birds in New York City:

Anniversary Leadership Gifts: ☐ \$40,000 ☐ \$10,000 ☐ \$5,000

Anniversary Celebration Gifts: ☐ \$2,500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$100

☐ Other amount: \$ _____

☐ Additionally, I would like to ADD \$40 to my gift above!

"ADD \$40" gifts received before October 31, 2020 will be matched.

TOTAL AMOUNT: \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

☐ Enclosed is my check payable to NYC Audubon

☐ Charge my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ DISC

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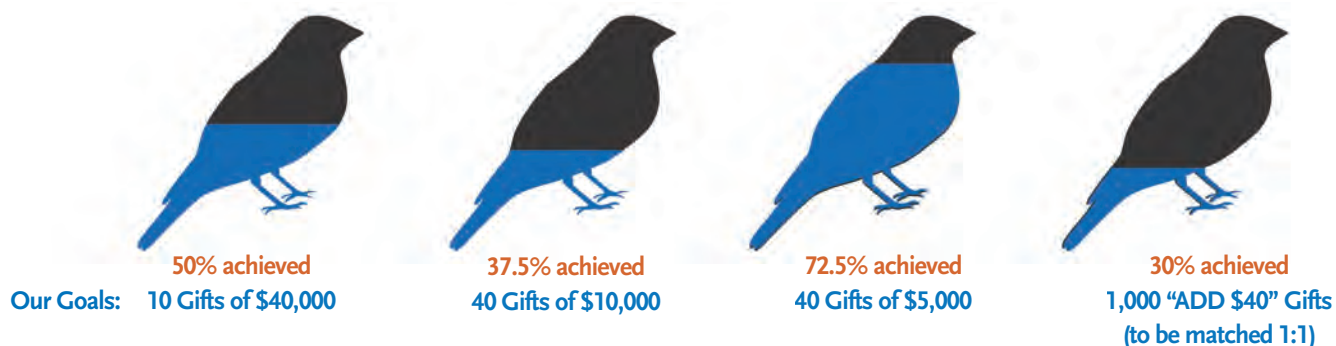
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NYC AUDUBON'S CAMPAIGN FOR THE FUTURE

To meet both ongoing and new challenges successfully in the next 40 years, we must return to our activist roots—and engage the vast and diverse population of New York City. The work before us is enormous, but the people of New York are with us. This year we saw tremendous public support for bird-friendly building design, culminating in the passage of landmark legislation in the City Council. This publicly supported victory should give us all hope: New Yorkers want a sustainable city that welcomes wildlife and appreciates wild birds. They want to see birds nesting on our beaches and foraging in our wetlands, and hear them singing in our parks.

Join us in our efforts to ensure that birds have a future. NYC Audubon's *Strategic Plan 2020–2025: A Vision for the Future* (view it at www.nycaudubon.org/strategic-plan-2020-2025) creates a road map to guide us forward. In celebration of our 40th anniversary, we are committed to raising \$1,040,000 this year. We're just about halfway there, at a total of \$503,310 raised; as you can see below, we still have a long way to go to reach our fundraising goals.



Please be sure to **ADD \$40** (or \$400, or \$4,000) when you give, renew your membership, or register for NYC Audubon events throughout the year. Every "ADD \$40" gift will be matched up to a total of \$40,000.

SUPPORT NYC AUDUBON'S MISSION

There are three billion fewer birds in the U.S. today than there were in 1970, according to a September 2019 study published in the journal *Science*. You can make sure that birds have a future in New York City. Nearly 350 species nest, breed, or migrate through here. We protect them. Celebrate our Big Year by contributing to our 40th Anniversary Campaign. **Every gift, in every amount, is essential.**

GIVE MONTHLY

Provide ongoing monthly support to ensure our birds are protected throughout the year. You can make a huge difference for as little as \$15 per month. See the membership form below or donate online at www.nycaudubon.org/donate.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN KESTREL CIRCLE

Soar above the rest by making a donation of \$2,500 or more. American Kestrel Circle Patrons enjoy special access and exclusive tours. See the membership form below or donate online at www.nycaudubon.org/donate. Contact us to learn more.

GIVE A MATCHING GIFT

Supporters can double or triple the value of donations through their employers' matching gift programs. Contact your company's personnel office to learn how. Be sure to specify New York City Audubon as the designee.

REMEMBER THE BIRDS IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN

Make sure that New York City remains a haven for the birds and wildlife you love. A bequest to NYC Audubon is a generous and straightforward way to safeguard birds and their habitat in New York City's five boroughs. This can be expressed in a will as simply as, "I bequeath [a sum of money, a percentage of my estate, or an IRA, life insurance policy, or investment/bank account] to New York City Audubon Society, Inc., a not-for-profit organization with offices at 71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1523, New York, NY 10010." Consult with your attorney to determine what is best for your situation. To learn more about planning a gift for NYC Audubon, visit www.nycaudubon.org/leave-a-legacy, or contact us.

To discuss how you can contribute to NYC Audubon's future, contact Executive Director Kathryn Heintz at kheintz@nycaudubon.org and 646-434-0423, or Director of Development Kellye Rosenheim at krosenheim@nycaudubon.org and 646-502-9611.



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SPRING 2020 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.

IN CONVERSATION: THE AUDUBON MURAL PROJECT

By Gail Albert Halaban, George Booruji, and Avi Gitler

Monday, March 2, 7pm

Parish House of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church (betw/ 73rd and 74th Streets)

Join us for an evening's exploration of the *Audubon Mural Project*, a public art initiative of the National Audubon Society executed in partnership with Gitler & _____ Gallery. Inspired by the legacy of John James Audubon, the project commissions artists to paint murals of birds threatened by climate change in hopes of calling attention to their plight. This "conversation" will feature three unique perspectives: Gail Albert Halaban is a photographer whose quest to document the murals recently culminated in an exhibit at the Aperture Foundation. George Booruji is an artist who has been an integral part of the project and whose work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. Avi Gitler is the owner of Gitler & _____ Gallery and the driving force behind the project.

40TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING, BOARD ELECTION, AND CONSERVATION UPDATE

Wednesday, June 10, 6pm

The Arsenal Third-floor Gallery, Central Park (Fifth Avenue at 64th Street)

Join NYC Audubon in a membership toast to our 40th year, including birthday cake and a sparkling beverage. The evening's program will include highlights of the conservation accomplishments of the past year, including the landmark passage of citywide bird-friendly building legislation and the publication of our new five-year *Strategic Plan*. We will present what we've learned from recent Project Safe Flight and Harbor Herons research—and we'll discuss where NYC Audubon's is heading next, as we seek to grow our organization, advocate for birds and habitat, and better reflect the diverse communities of New York City. Our board election and annual meeting will precede the talk.

NYC AUDUBON MEMBERS-ONLY EVENTS

Join us for a free NYC Audubon member event this spring. Member events are free for contributing NYC Audubon members at the Student/Senior level and up. Registration is required. 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 or call 212-691-7483 x306 to register.

BROOKLYN'S BEST

Saturday, April 18, 7:30-9:30am

Guide: Tom Stephenson

Bird with Tom Stephenson on his home turf. Meet at the entrance to Prospect Park across from Grand Army Plaza for a walk around Brooklyn's premier birding location.

SONGS OF CENTRAL PARK

Wednesday, April 22, 7:30-9:30am

Guide: Tom Stephenson

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street to seek out early spring migrants with Tom Stephenson, author of *The Warbler Guide* and creator of the BirdGenie smartphone app.

CENTRAL PARK RAMBLE

Thursday, April 30, 7:30-9:30am

Guide: Harry Maas

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

KIDS MEMBER WALK

IN CENTRAL PARK

Saturday, May 2, 3-4:30pm

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street to explore the park's birding hotspots with NYC Audubon. Open to registered KIDS members ages 8-12, accompanied by a parent or guardian. Parents: please email KIDS@nycaudubon.org to register.

SPRING MIGRATION

Tuesday, May 5, 7:30-9:30am

Guide: Jeff Kimball

Meet at Central Park West and 72nd Street for a spring walk through the Ramble with Jeff Kimball, filmmaker of *Birders: The Central Park Effect* and president of NYC Audubon.

CENTRAL PARK'S NORTH WOODS

Wednesday, May 6, 7:30-9:30am

Guide: Kellye Rosenheim

Meet Kellye Rosenheim at Central Park West and 100th Street to see what the North Woods have to offer at the peak of migration.

SPRING MIGRATION IN ASTORIA PARK, QUEENS

Sunday, May 10, 9-10:30am

Guide: Kellie Quiñones

Meet NYC Audubon Board Member Kellie Quiñones at the entrance to Astoria Park at 19th Street and Hoyt Avenue North for a Mother's Day walk to seek migratory and resident birds.

EXPLORING GOVERNORS ISLAND

Friday, May 15 and

Saturday, May 16, 10am-12:30pm

Guide: Annie Barry

Meet at the Governors Island Ferry (Battery Marine Terminal near the S.I. Ferry) to ride to the island for a bird walk with expert Annie Barry. Check ferry schedule online in May.