



**Early Fall 2014**

# WINGBEATS

## A Message From The President

by John Loz, ASCR president



### Happy Fall Migration Season Everyone!

It has been a BUSY summer where we have been very productive and have accomplished so much! So much so, that we're having an early Fall and a late Fall newsletter to cover in detail all that we have been doing this past Spring and Summer.

ASCR in partnership with Audubon NY's Laura McCarthy, a TogetherGreen Fellow, engaged in a multiphase project of clearing and preparing land to plant bird-friendly plants and shrubs at the 8th Street Capital Region Community Gardens in Troy, NY. On May 15th, volunteers from our chapter, the Community Gardens, Audubon NY and a local engineering company all came together to pull out weeds, clear fences and terrace the property's hillside to prepare it for bird-friendly planting. On July 9th, our many volunteers returned to tarp and plant bird-friendly plants donated to us by Hewitt's Garden Center and another Audubon chapter. We all had A LOT of fun! And more so, the project continues to be a success!

Also in July, ASCR helped send two new board members to the Audubon Hog Island Leadership Camp to work with leaders of other Atlantic State Audubon chapter leaders to plan new initiatives that can be implemented in the coming year here in the Capital Region. Our VP, Di Hoffman & Recording Sec. Angelika Beckmann had an educational and fun time on the coast of Maine and are ready to make our local chapter even more effective. This makes '5' ASCR board members that have gone to this leadership camp in the last 3 years.

Also over the summer, our volunteer educator Craig Thompson, led presentations at Fonda-Fultonville Environmental Student Field Days, workshops in the Helderbergs, conducted beginning ornithology classes and birdwalks for adults (and kids), and presented a John Burroughs presentation, among other educational events.

This August, ASCR entered into a 5 year agreement with the DEC Fisheries Unit Region 4 to build and install used fishing line receptacles at DEC fishing locations and boat launches in 7 counties for the next 5 years. More on that in the Late Fall issue.

The last thing we are very proud of is ASCR hosted the very first Upstate NY Audubon Roundtable where 5 eastern NY chapters and two delegates from Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon participated in 4 breakout sessions at the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center on March 1st. It was very productive for all and we hope to continue this going forward! - Happy Birding Everyone! - John

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## Fall 2014 Programs

### Thacher Park's Centennial Celebration!

Saturday, September 13th, 2014  
10:00am - Fest! Music til 7:00pm!

ASCR will have a table and scope's at the HawkWatch area and an Informational table in the Pear Orchard Vendor Area. Shuttle between both! Full day of guided hikes, carriage rides, vendors,

Location: Thacher State Park

**FREE and Open to the Public!**

### Birding and History on the Mohawk River from Cohoes to Crescent

Friday, September 26th, 2014 10:30a.m to Noon

Location: Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library

475 Moe Road, Clifton Park, NY

*Free and Open to the Public!*

ASCR Board Member Emeritus & Hudson Mohawk Bird Club member, John Hershey will cover the birding landscape of the last 4 miles of the Mohawk River river before it flows into the Hudson. He will show his own photos of birds that were seen along the Mohawk and some borrowed pictures from other local photographers to illustrate the unique habitats and birds, some common and some exotic that have graces this beautiful waterway. Some are endangered or at risk birds seen on the river are: Peregrine Falcons, Ospreys, Bald Eagles, Black Terns, and Horned Larks. Other rare birds in our area such as American White Pelican, and others will also be shown. John also will cover some of the history of Cohoes & the Erie Canal during his talk.

Saturday, September 27th, 2014, Noon - 5 p.m.

### "OktoBIRDFest!"

### Bird Fun at a Fundraiser to support ASCR's Education programs and Conservation initiatives here in the Capital Region.

Location: Albany Visitors Center and the Albany Pump Station

See page 5 of this newsletter for More Info!  
Link:

<http://www.capitalregionaudubon.org/oktobirdfest>

### Open Membership Bird Walk! (and More!)

Saturday, October 11th, 2014 at 9am

Location: Wynantskill, NY

This Unique Walk at a Unique Place is Free and Open to the Public!

*To register for this walk and Directions, and inclement weather info:*

Call John at 518-708-7825.

(NOTE: There is one short steep hill involved and few facilities.)

### A Hitchhiker's Guide to Bird-parasite Coevolution!

Tuesday, October 21st at 7pm

Free and Open to the Public!

Where: William K. Sanford (Colonie) Library

Dr. Chris Harbison, Siena College Biology Department professor of Ornithology and Biology, will present a fascinating program on his research projects that have focused on the ectoparasite community of pigeons and doves. He has found that some of the bird ectoparasites "hitchhike" rides to new bird hosts. Chris will also talk about host-parasite co-evolution focusing on adaptations birds have for combating parasites and reciprocal adaptations of parasites for evading host defenses.

### Raptor Rapture!

Saturday, November 15th, 2014 11:00 am - 4pm

Location: New York State Museum, Albany, NY

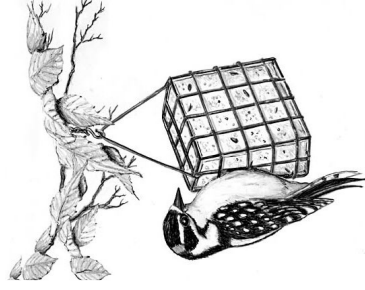
Join in the fun at our Annual Awareness Day to bring attention to the challenges faced by New York State's birds of prey and our migrating songbirds! Spend a full day seeing Live Birds of Prey, participate in many kids activities, attend interesting talks, and this year we have a new twist! Native American Indian storytelling as a fun and educational addition tour programming. Hear how **Free and Fun for the whole family!** Co-sponsor: Friends of the IBA Washington Co. Grasslands



## Why Buy Seed from ASCR?

### Why Donate to Our Seed Fundraiser?

- We're Reducing our Carbon Footprint and Supporting NYS Businesses and Jobs.
- The black oil sunflower seed is grown, hand packed and air dried at a family-owned farm in West Winfield, NY.
- No extra commercially sprayed oil is used on the black oil sunflower seed. The farm does not heat dry the seed, which can change the chemical properties of the seed and make the seed less palatable to birds.
- Aspen Song sources their seed from reliable producers and the mixes are built at a family-owned mill in Oneonta, NY. The main distribution center is trucked from CFD Co-Op in Conklin, NY.
- The suet cakes are made with Aspen Song built seed mixes and produced at a family-owned mill Interlaken, NY.
- You're getting high quality seed at competitive prices that supports an active and sustainable Capital Region community-based volunteer organization.



### How it Works

1. Complete the order form (also available online at [www.capitalregionaudubon.org/store](http://www.capitalregionaudubon.org/store)).
2. Send order form and payment for full amount to: Audubon Society of the Capital Region, Bird Seed Sale, PO Box 14135, Albany, NY 12211-4135.
3. Make sure we receive your order and payment no later than Oct. 31, 2014. (If you are running late with your order, please call it in to John Loz, 518-708-7825.)
4. Pick up your order on Saturday, November 7, between 9am and 1pm at William K. Sanford (Colonie Town) Library, 629 Albany Shaker Road, Loudonville, NY 12211.

NOTE: Please ensure that you pick up your seed on the pickup day! Our storage space is limited, but in an emergency, we will try to hold your order. Call John Loz, 518-708-7825 with any problems and/or questions.



ASCR

P.O. Box 14135

Albany, NY 12211-4135

## 2014 Bird Seed Sale ASCR



## Fundraiser

The ASCR Bird Seed Sale Fundraiser is your opportunity to buy quality bird seed, and help support ASCR

programs including guest speakers at member meetings, field trips and events, Capital Region education programs and conservation efforts, and more. We urge you to buy as much seed as you need for the entire winter.



Rose Breasted Grosbeak  
Photo by Dave Kiehm

# Bird Seed Sale Products & Descriptions

# Order Form

Use this section to keep a record of your order.

Please Detach This Section and Submit with your Payment.		Quantity	Total Price
Product			
<b>Locally Grown Black Oil Sunflower Seed</b> - Grown locally, this seed purchase supports critical local grassland bird habitat as well as local family farms.	30 lb. bag Sunflower	___ @ \$20.00	\$ _____
<b>Aspen Song Ultimate Blend</b> - This is a corn free-mix that includes Black Oil Sunflower, White Proso Millet, Black Stripe Sunflower, Peanuts, Sunflower Kernels, Safflower, Tree Nuts and Shelled Pumpkin Seeds.	20 lb. bag Ultimate	___ @ \$21.00	\$ _____
	40 lb. bag Ultimate	___ @ \$40.00	\$ _____
<b>Aspen Song Premium Blend</b> - This mix includes Black Oil Sunflower, White Proso Millet, Cracked Corn, Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Safflower, Canola, Small Yellow Millet, Canary Seed, Nyjer Seed and Dehydrated Cherries.	20 lb. bag Premium	___ @ \$20.00	\$ _____
	40 lb. bag Premium	___ @ \$38.00	\$ _____
<b>Aspen Song Choice Blend</b> - This blend contains over 30% Sunflowers & Peanuts and includes White Proso Millet, Black Oil Sunflower, Cracked Corn, Peanuts, Safflower and Black Stripe Sunflower.	20 lb. bag Choice Blend	___ @ \$16.00	\$ _____
	40 lb. bag Choice Blend	___ @ \$29.00	\$ _____
<b>Aspen Song Select Blend</b> - This is a mix of many favorites for use in a variety of feeders. It includes Black Oil Sunflower, Cracked Corn, White Proso Millet, Pistachios, Safflower and Steam-crimped Corn.	17 lb. bag Select Blend	___ @ \$11.00	\$ _____
	35 lb. bag Select Blend	___ @ \$22.00	\$ _____
<b>Aspen Song Value Blend</b> - This blend is a good general purpose mixture for ground feeding birds and includes Red Milo, Cracked Corn, White Proso Millet and Black Oil Sunflower.	10 lb. bag Value Blend	___ @ \$ 4.50	\$ _____
	30 lb. bag Value Blend	___ @ \$11.00	\$ _____
<b>Aspen Song Just Desserts</b> - This is a shell-less mix for those who don't want shells, waste, germination or mess. It contains Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Sunflower Kernels, Hulled White Millet, and Shelled Pumpkin Seeds	4 lb. bag Just Desserts	___ @ \$ 7.00	\$ _____
	20 lb. bag Just Desserts	___ @ \$30.00	\$ _____
<b>Aspen Song Nut &amp; Fruit Woodpecker Blend</b> - A shell-less mix designed for woodpeckers and wire mesh tube feeders, this mix includes Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Sunflower Kernels, Steam-crimped Corn, Shelled Pumpkin Seeds, Raisins, Dehydrated Cherries, Dried Cranberries and Dried Blueberries.	4 lb. bag Nut & Fruit	___ @ \$8.00	\$ _____
	20 lb. bag Nut & Fruit	___ @ \$33.00	\$ _____
<b>Nyjer Seed</b> - To primarily attract finches, siskin & redpoll, this is used in feeders with tiny seed ports.	10 lb. bag Nyjer	___ @ \$14.00	\$ _____
	25 lb. bag Nyjer	___ @ \$30.00	\$ _____
<b>Suet Cakes</b> - Made from rendered beef kidney fat with peanut butter, sunflower seed, white millet, cracked corn, peanuts & cashews. Order single units or by the case. Refined to maintain a high melting point for year-round feeding. Hi Energy 12 oz./Nut & Fruit 11 oz..	Hi-Energy (Single)	___ @ \$ 1.50	\$ _____
	Hi-Energy (Case of 12)	___ @ \$17.00	\$ _____
ASCR Membership (1 year): \$20 (Individual or Family) Would you like to include an additional donation to support ASCR Programs? Enter amount.	Nut & Fruit (Single)	___ @ \$ 2.00	\$ _____
	Nut & Fruit (Case of 12)	___ @ \$22.00	\$ _____
TOTAL (Please enclose check for total amount made out to ASCR with 2014 Bird Seed Sale in memo section)	1 year ASCR Member	___ @ \$20.00	\$ _____
	Additional Donation	Enter Amount	\$ _____
	<b>TOTAL</b>		\$ _____



## Hudson Mohawk Bird Club and ASCR Team Up to Investigate an Airport & Species of Concern Issue

by John Loz

Back in June, Hudson Mohawk Bird Club (HMBC) member Tom Williams reported seeing Grasshopper Sparrows and other grassland birds singing and displaying at the Albany International Airport (AI). A couple days later, he reported that the grasses alongside the road and in between the tarmacs had been mowed to quite a short length. He and a number of birders were concerned that the airport might not be aware of these NYS DEC 'Species of Concern' there and that these grassland bird nests might be getting mowed over. Tom and other concerned HMBC members brought this to the attention of Audubon NY's Larry Federman and HMBC president Jory Langner to see how to approach the airport about their concerns and more so to understand what kind of processes there were in place at AI to address animals and birds that appear on the property. Some may be deemed threatened and even endangered. Did AI have a plan in place to address these issues?

It was suggested that HMBC join forces with ASCR to approach the airport administration together. Jory Langner contacted John Loz, president of ASCR, about the observations at the airport and to see how both organizations could move forward together and address the concerns regarding grassland bird management at AI. John indicated that he had a good relationship with Stephen Iachetta, AI's Airport Planner, who by the way is a strong supporter of birds. John reached out to meet with Stephen and he shared with John that when the grasses between the tarmacs and the approaches to the airport runways reach 15 inches, the grass has to be cut per FAA regulations. But, he said, they do not cut the grasses less than 6 inches to deter flocking birds. Flocking European Starlings and Canada Geese, among others don't like tall grasses and generally avoid grasses 6 inches and higher. The airport in fact, rejected a plan of



*Grasshopper Sparrow—Photo credit: Brian Hix*

replacing the natural areas of the airport property with an Astroturf material that many other larger airports have done to cut down on maintenance costs. The AI administration and planners support having natural areas on the airport property as, not only does it look more aesthetically pleasing, but is used as a wildlife management tactic to protect aircraft from collisions with flocking birds. As many of us know, aircraft flying into and through flocks of birds can cause expensive damage to aircraft, but more so, life-threatening situations to the pilots and passengers within the aircraft. The *Miracle on the Hudson* is a particular event that comes to mind.

Mr. Iachetta then directed Jory and John to the local office of the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services in Castleton, NY. AI contracts out the biological expertise and services of the USDA to monitor all wildlife at the airport and make recommendations on how to deal with animals that wander or fly onto the airport property, as well as the flightline approaches of each of the North-South and East-West runways there.

Presidents Langner and Loz then met with USDA reps Allen Gosser, Biologist and Assistant State Director, and Kenneth Preusser who monitors the airport grounds, at their offices in Castleton on July 10th, 2014.

The 2nd part of this story will appear in the early November 2014 edition of ASCR's *Wingbeats* and the full story will be captured in the October edition of HMBC's newsletter *Feathers*.



WINGBEATS

# OKCO BIRD FEST

FUNDRAISER FOR THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE CAPITAL REGION

SATURDAY  
**SEPT. 27**  
**12-5PM**

AT THE ALBANY VISITORS CENTER  
AND THE ALBANY PUMP STATION

**\$30 DONATION**  
WITH PRE-REGISTRATION

→ @ [WWW.CAPITALREGIONAUDUBON.ORG](http://WWW.CAPITALREGIONAUDUBON.ORG)

MUST BE 21 OR OLDER TO GET IN

- TASTING STATION COURTYARD  
(BREWRIES, DISTILLERIES, WINERIES, AND A CIDERY)
- COOL RAFFLE ITEM PACKAGES
- HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES
- LIVE BIRDS OF PREY
- BREWING AND BIRDING VENDORS
- BIRD TATTOO CONTEST!

Our group of incredible speakers includes:

PETER BOWDEN from Hewitts

PAUL RISS from Punk Rock Big Year

DREW WEBER from Nemesis Bird





## Here is who is going to be at our OktoBIRDfest!



LOVED BY BIRDS  
AND BIRD LOVERS



Homessence

518.306.6445

439 BROADWAY, SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK 12866



Cool Stuff for Cool Birders



## Brewing Vendors:



Visit these Vendors at our Fundraiser...  
...there are More on the Way!

Sign-up early to get your choice speaker at  
[www.capitalregionaudubon.org/oktobirdfest](http://www.capitalregionaudubon.org/oktobirdfest)

Questions? Call John at 518-708-7825

New Inaugural ASCR \$20 Chapter Supporter  
Membership - Receive a **\$20 Gift Card** for  
Hewitt's by Signing Up at the Fundraiser!

## Participating Preserves and Foundations:



## Tasting Station Courtyard Vendors:



~ Druthers Brewing Co. ~  
Opening 2nd location Brewery &  
Restaurant in Albany soon!



CASCADE MOUNTAIN WINERY

AMENIA, NY



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