



WINGBEATS

The mission of the Audubon Society of the Capital Region (ASCR) is to protect our local birds and their habitats, as well as the birds that use our area as a stopover during the migratory seasons. Our chapter, with over 1200 members, has the potential to make a significant contribution in the field of bird conservation. Over the course of this year, we will be working hard to create engaging programs to spark your interest and offer you opportunities to become active. Please join us and get involved!

First, **please provide us with your email address** so that we can send you an email once a month to inform you about upcoming programs and important issues. Do this online at <http://www.capitalregionaudubon.org>, or fill out and mail the proxy voting form in this newsletter.

Second, complete the brief survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/M2NJBZC> (a link can be found on the ASCR website mentioned above). This survey will help us plan the kinds of talks, field trips and conservation efforts that you are most likely to value and participate in.

Here are some of the activities and projects we've been involved in this year:

Education

- We are providing the award-winning Audubon Adventures to local school districts.
- 'For the Birds!', will pilot at School 2 in Troy this spring.
- In May, we held a full-day family program at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center for International Migratory Bird Day.
- We have co-sponsored several programs and talks with the Hudson Mohawk Bird Club and Five River Environmental Education Center, as well as a bird talk at a local church.

Advocacy

Our advocacy efforts have included working with Audubon NY and other Audubon chapters to protect NYS's freshwater and assure funding for the EPF.

Conservation

- We took part in an urban bird conservation survey sponsored by Birdlife International.
- We are planning a grassland bird conservation project at Thacher Park this spring.
- The chapter is building and placing kestrel boxes within our region.
- We are planning to make a bird checklist in preparation for bird walks and bird monitoring at Schodack State Park.

This is YOUR organization and we want to hear from you! Please consider coming to the Annual Meeting on February 12th so that we can get to know each other and do something for the birds, together.

The following people have volunteered their time and energy to fulfill the mission and goals of ASCR for

2012 - 2013:

President

Lois Gundrum is a former Earth Science teacher and textbook editor. Her educational background includes two Masters degrees – one in Education and one in Geology, both from Kansas State University. She has always been interested in nature and is thrilled to be part of the Audubon organization. Although a native of the Capital Region, Lois has lived many different places, including Kansas, England, Boston and Philadelphia. Her vision is for ASCR to be an organization that actively engages the people of the Capital Region in bird conservation activities and education.

Vice President

John Loz has been a Production Manager at Global Spec, Inc. (an engineering search engine) for over 10 years. As a life-long resident of the Capital Region, he graduated with a B.S in Biology with a concentration in Environmental Science in 2003 and did research at the Saratoga National Battlefield for a few weeks each Spring between 2000 and 2008 censusing amphibians. He joined the Audubon Society of the Capital Region in March of 2011 taking on the role

of Publicity and Recruitment in re-invigorating the Chapter.

Treasurer

René-Yves Facchetti is a graduate of Siena College with a Bachelor of Science in Finance. He is the owner and CEO of the region's oldest IT company, Platinum ITS, Inc., now in business for over twenty years. In addition to managing his own company's budget and finances, he manages the IT budgets of many companies around the area. He has served Capital Region Audubon since 1987 in many ways: as Newsletter Editor, Website Designer, and Board Member. He hopes to further the endeavors of Capital Region Audubon Society while keeping the budget and finances in good order.

Corresponding Secretary

Fred Bockis is a former board member of the Kidney Foundation of NENY, Federal retiree, and current employee of NYS Dept. of Labor. He is good at seeing the big picture of organizations. A former Naval Reserve Officer, he has experience in management & leadership. He is a true organizer and has been handling many of ASCR's information-gathering and information-dissemination tasks. Currently, he is developing a spreadsheet of potential ASCR partner organizations. A personal goal of his is to ID as many bird species as possible in the Northeast.

Recording Secretary

Heidi Sullivan-Liscomb is a homeschooling mother of three with a passion for environmental activism. In addition to her past professional work as an editor, writer and educator, Heidi has been active with NYPIRG, Greenpeace, The Nature Conservancy and Save The River. When she's not teaching, sailing or cross-country skiing she serves as Recording Secretary for the Audubon Society of the Capital Region and as a Trustee for the North Chatham Library.

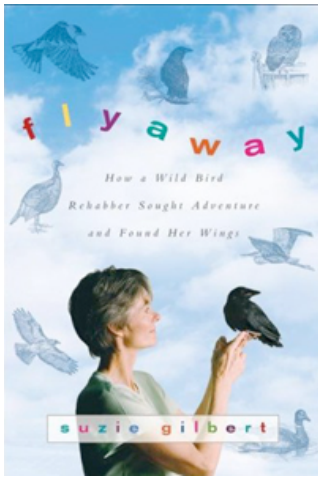
2012-2013 Directors

Jerram Brown, PhD
Larry Deyss
Kent Ellsworth
Mary Theresa Julien
Eric Latini
Barb Samuels, MD
Craig Thompson



Author Suzie Gilbert to Speak at 2012 Annual Meeting

On Sunday, February 12, 2012, at 4 PM, ASCR will host wild bird rehabilitator Suzie Gilbert, author of "Flyaway: How A Wild Bird Rehabber Sought Adventure and Found Her Wings" and "Hawk Hill." Suzie will talk about how her small, backyard non-profit organization, originally dedicated to providing care for only healthy, pre-release adult songbirds, quickly burst its dam and surrounded her unsuspecting family with injured and orphaned songbirds, waterbirds, gamebirds, raptors, and the occasional angry woodchuck.



After she moved to the Hudson Valley, Suzie Gilbert found work at a veterinary clinic and began bringing home abused and unwanted parrots. This led to volunteer work at the Hudson Valley Raptor Center, where she was a board member for 11 years, wrote the environmental column "Bird's Eye View," and published the children's book "Hawk Hill" (Chronicle Books). She opened Flyaway, Inc., her own wild bird rescue operation, in 2002, and her memoir, "Flyaway," was published by HarperCollins in 2009. Suzie will show slides of some of the birds she has rehabbed, and will have copies of her books on hand for sale. For more information, please see www.suziegilbert.com, or join Suzie's blog at www.suziegilbert.wordpress.com. In case of inclement weather, Suzie's talk will be at 4 pm on Sunday, February 26th.

Suzie is known for her warm, entertaining, and humorous talks, and we are very happy to be hosting her at our annual meeting, this year.

Audubon Society of the Capital Region Annual Meeting

You are cordially invited to attend the **ASCR Annual Meeting** being held on **Sunday, February 12, 2012, from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, at the Pine Bush Discovery Center, Albany, NY**. In addition to fun, informative activities for both children and adults, members will consider and vote for the ASCR Officers and Directors who will serve for the 2012 – 2013 fiscal year. All Officers and Directors are elected for a period of one year, with the exception of the President, who serves a two-year term.

We encourage you to participate in this process, because ASCR exists to connect you with the field of bird conservation and education. It is important that you give your support to the people who will be making decisions that guide this organization forward.

Members in good standing as of January 1, 2012, are eligible to vote either in person at the meeting, or by proxy. Voting by proxy can be done electronically or by regular mail. To give your proxy vote electronically, either email: president@capitalregionaudubon.org, making sure to include your name exactly as it appears on this newsletter, or go to the "Contact" page of the ASCR website and give your proxy that way. To give your proxy by regular mail, fill out the form in this newsletter and mail it to the chapter address on this newsletter. Proxy responses must be received by the close of the business day, Friday, February 10.

Join in on the FUN of the ANNUAL MEETING!!!

When? Sunday, February 12, 2011, 2 to 6 pm

In case of inclement weather the meeting, including Suzie's talk, will be held on Sunday, Feb. 26, same time, same place.

Where? The Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center
195 New Karner Road, Albany
518.456.0655

Why? Lots to do including:

Raffle
Guided Snowshoeing (2:30 pm)
Children's Activities
Informative Displays
Food and Drink
Great Company

AND at **4:00 pm, SUZIE GILBERT**, bird rehabilitator and author of FLYAWAY and HAWK HILL!

It's all **free** to members, with exception of \$3/person charge for snowshoeing.

Everyone is welcome! We hope nonmembers will also join us. Nonmembers are encouraged to donate \$5 toward programming costs.

Email: president@capitalregionaudubon.org or call 518.598.3025 with questions.

PROXY FORM

I, the undersigned, a member of ASCR in good standing, hereby appoint Eric Latini, Craig Thompson, and Mary Theresa Julien as my agents to vote as my proxy at the 2012 Annual Meeting and at any adjourned meeting thereof as follows (Check below):

_____ Cast my vote for all nominees as listed.

_____ Cast my vote for all nominees except:

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Sign Here: _____

PLEASE provide us with your email address!!!

EMAIL: _____

Tell us why you joined Audubon and share any comments with us: _____

Audubon Society of the Capital Region

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