



Newsletter of the Audubon Society  
of the Capital Region of  
New York State

Autumn 2016

# WINGBEATS

## 2016 Bird Seed Sale Fundraiser!

The Audubon Society of the Capital Region will be accepting bird seed pre-orders through the end of October to raise funds required to support programming throughout the region in 2017.

A featured item of the sale is NYS-grown black oil sunflower seed, available in 30 lb. bags. The seed is harvested from Wedgenock Farms in West Winfield, NY. Your purchase supports critical local grassland bird habitat as well as family farms.

In addition, the sale features products from Aspen Song, by way of Co-operative Feed Dealers (CFD) located in Conklin, NY,

a company which sources and mixes much of their bird seed products from high quality regional suppliers.

According to ASCR Programs Chair, John Loz, "The Bird Seed Sale is an important fundraiser for the organization as most of our events are designed to run as break-even or free programs.

Proceeds from this sale help to provide support for a number of our activities including speaker

fees for our public programs, purchasing materials for public conservation efforts, funds for our environmental education programs such as nesting box building workshops and more."

The deadline for orders is **Saturday, October 29th** and can be placed by mail-in form inside this newsletter or through our online store. Order at: <http://www.capitalregionaudubon.org/store>

Orders are to be picked up by customers in the parking lot of the William K. Sanford (Colonie Town) Library, 629 Albany-Shaker Rd, in Loudonville on **Saturday, November 5 from 9:00am to Noon**. Thanks for your support!



Downy Woodpecker at Suet Cage

## ASCR Conducts Nesting box workshop, Bird walk, and Invasive Species Plant program at Schoharie Crossing

By John Loz

The hamlet of Fort Hunter, NY in Montgomery County, is on the very western edge of our ASCR chapter area. Here, the remains of an old Erie Canal aqueduct can still be seen, partially collapsed, but ever so still a striking presence on the Schoharie Creek. The [Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site](#) is also there with a visitors center and a number of historic buildings, along with miles of beautiful walking paths along the old Erie Canal and Yankee Hill



ASCR educator, Craig Thompson in white shirt, instructs Girl Scouts in building bird nesting boxes at Schoharie Crossing.

Lock 28. Not only is it a great place to reflect on our state's history, but is an amazing place to explore the rich natural history along the Mohawk River Basin and a fantastic place to go birding!

Our Audubon chapter partnered with David Brooks, the Education Coordinator for the site, to bring a number of programs to the community in and around Fort Hunter. At the beginning of this past summer, on May 24th, we held a bird walk at Schoharie Crossing. Thanks to the keen eyes and ears of Ellen Pemrick, our bird walk leader, we were able to lead a group of 20 along the Schoharie Creek and part of the old Erie Canal finding late spring migrants and various resident bird species. John Loz, our Programs Chair, was also on hand to lend out our extra pairs of ASCR binoculars to those who had none and to share some tips on how to properly use binoculars to spot birds. Following the bird walk, John gave a presentation at the [Friends of Schoharie Crossing](#) monthly meeting on invasive plants species that are threatening our local bird habitats and (*CROSSING Continued on page 3*)

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# Fall and Pre-Winter Events!

## America's National Parks!

Wednesday, September 28 at 7pm  
Bethlehem Public Library,  
451 Delaware Ave, Delmar, NY



This year we're celebrating the *Centennial* of the National Park System!

Scott Stoner and Denise Hackert-Stoner of [Naturelogues](#) will offer a "photo tour" of our parks from coast to coast. They provide an in-depth look at these great places, from the popular large parks to the smaller and lesser known national monuments. They'll also touch on some of the challenges that the parks face as we move into the second century of protecting some of America's greatest assets.

## Juncos!

Monday November 7 at 7pm  
William K. Sanford Library  
629 Albany-Shaker Road, Loudonville, NY 12211

Dawn O'Neal, Executive Director of the [Huyck Preserve and Biological Research Station](#), will speak about one of the most common and abundant, yet amazingly diverse group of songbirds in North America - Juncos!

*This is our annual joint program with the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club.*

**Be sure to check back on our website or  
Facebook page as more programs may  
be added!**



## ASCR Sign's On to Letter Opposing EPA Spoils Dumping in Long Island Sound

Our Audubon chapter has signed on to an Audubon NY letter opposing the dumping of dredged waste in Long Island Sound. Long Island Sound is essential to the survival of migrating shorebirds and waterbirds of the Atlantic Flyway, including the federally threatened Piping Plover and Roseate Tern, and the American Oystercatcher. However, the health of this estuary hangs in the balance, as the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prepares to finalize a proposed rule on the Sound's dredged materials management that would designate additional disposal sites in the coastal waters off of eastern Long Island. To read the letter and add your voice, go [here](#).



*Left: John Loz, ASCR Programs Chair, delivers an Invasive Species Plant program to the [Friends of Schoharie Crossing](#).*

*Below: John outfits young birders with their own pair of binoculars before co-leading a bird walk at the State Site.*



Photos are courtesy of David Brooks, Education Coordinator for Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site..

(**CROSSING** ...continued from page 1.) ...the eradication work ASCR has been conducting with the help of Capital Region volunteers.

We continued our partnered programming on June 4th, where our volunteer educator, Craig Thompson, led a nesting box building workshop for a local Girl Scout troop. Prior to the workshop our volunteer woodworker, Gordon McClelland cut and pieced together 12 bluebird nesting box kits our educator used to deliver a hands-on woodworking class to the children. The Girl Scout troop leaders and David Brooks were delighted with the outcome of the class.

David reports, "The Girl Scouts will be putting up the birdhouses around their homes and in their community. They will be monitoring them as part of a (Girl Scout) patch program and since a couple of the parents helped out as well – making three birdhouses for the site, we will be sure to post them up on the grounds, keeping an eye on them (for new bird residents). Thank you so much for everyone's participation, their time, and work to make this happen."

On July 9th and 10th, we continued our summer-long partnership by participating in the weekend long Canal Days festival on the expansive grassy grounds of Schoharie

Crossing. Our info table featured brochures on proper bird feeding, a mounted female Spruce Grouse, and our "Who Am I?" bird quiz board. Children and adults alike tested their knowledge of birds by matching trivia questions to pictures of associated birds. The board uses a 9 volt battery to power two hand-held electrical contacts to connect electrical nodes of associated questions to birds. If one matches the right bird picture to the trivia question using the two contacts, a circuit is created where a LED will light up and an audio buzzer will sound indicating your answer is correct!

Canal Days also featured a number of other organizations, exhibits, and activities such as [Outpost #4 Wildlife Rehabilitation Services](#), the [Historic Amsterdam League](#), [miSci](#) in Schenectady, a horse show, games for kids, an large scale antique engines exhibit, and animals from the [Utica Zoo](#). There was even a working model of a canal lock to show attendees how a lock works.

ASCR will continue to be a regular partner of this great historical site and we encourage you to "Like" the [Schoharie Crossing Facebook page](#) to see what innovative programming they have to offer you. Go hike the trails of this amazing property and don't forget your binoculars!



Photo Credit: Halldor Sigurdsson

ASCR info tabling at Canal Days in July at Schoharie Crossing

## Thank you!

### New Chapter Supporters!

**Fran & Hal Sigurdsson - Broadalbin**  
**Sue Walker - Rotterdam Jct.**  
**Marie Mutsch - Burnt Hills**  
**Nancy & Frank Carbone - Maspeth**

### Renewed Chapter Supporters!

**Anne Schwaller - East Greenbush**  
**John Loz - Albany**

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

### OFFICERS

President: Lindsay Homenick  
 Vice President: Kathryn Sikule  
 Correspondence Officer: Rebecca Allmond  
 Treasurer: René Facchetti  
 Recording Officer: Fred Bockis

### DIRECTORS

Eric Latini  
 Craig Thompson  
 Mike Devoe  
 John Loz  
 Ryan Henderson  
 David Covey

### Board Members Emeritus:

Jerry Brown  
 David Gibson

### WORKING GROUPS AND LEADERS

Conservation & Advocacy: Eric Latini & David Covey  
[Conservation@CapitalRegionAudubon.org](mailto:Conservation@CapitalRegionAudubon.org)

Education: Craig Thompson  
[Education@CapitalRegionAudubon.org](mailto:Education@CapitalRegionAudubon.org)

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[Programs@CapitalRegionAudubon.org](mailto:Programs@CapitalRegionAudubon.org)

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Newsletter: John Loz  
 Webmaster: René Facchetti

**Audubon Society  
 of the Capital Region**  
 P.O. Box 14135  
 Albany, NY 12212-4135  
[www.capitalregionaudubon.org](http://www.capitalregionaudubon.org)

Tim Carroll from East Greenbush took this great picture of a Barn Owl at the New York State Fair on September 1st, 2016. Thanks Tim!

Do you have pictures of birds you'd like to share? Message us on Facebook or email us!



## Become an Audubon Society of the Capital Region Chapter Supporter!

Do you want to see your donation stay local?  
 You'll be supporting our Free Birding Programs and Help with our operating expenses!

*Please make checks payable to:*  
**Audubon Society of the Capital Region**  
 P.O. Box 14135, Albany, NY 12212-4135

Basic Chapter Membership - Individual or Family - 1 Year \$20.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: (To Receive Our Seasonal Newsletter "Wingbeats"): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\*I would like to make an additional Donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Need more Capital Region Birding News?

Check us out at:



## Questions?

Email: [info@capitalregionaudubon.org](mailto:info@capitalregionaudubon.org)



## How it Works

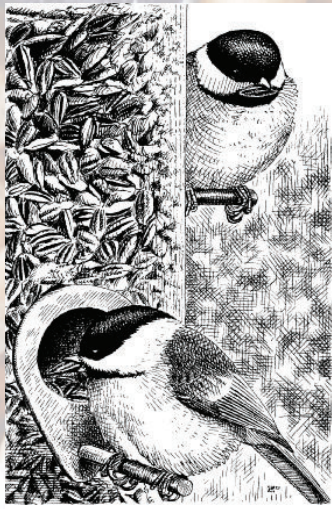
1. Complete the order form (also available online at [www.capitalregionaudubon.org/store](http://www.capitalregionaudubon.org/store)).

2. Send order form and payment for full amount to: Audubon Society of the Capital Region, Bird Seed Sale, PO Box 14135, Albany, NY 12111-4135.

3. Make sure we receive your order and payment no later than Oct. 29, 2016. (To order by phone, please call it in to John Loz, 518-708-7825.)

4. Pick up your order on Saturday, November 5, between 9am and Noon 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.



## Why Buy Seed from ASCR?

- 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 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 in Interlaken, NY.
- You're getting high quality seed at competitive prices that supports an active and sustainable Capital Region community-based volunteer organization.



## 2016 ASCR Bird Seed Sale Fundraiser



**ORDER ONLINE** at [www.capitalregionaudubon.org/store](http://www.capitalregionaudubon.org/store)

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, and more. We urge you to buy as much seed as you need for the entire winter!

**ORDER DEADLINE:**  
**October 29, 2016 - 5pm**



**AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
**OF THE CAPITAL REGION**

*The Upstate New York Chapter of National Audubon*

**ORDER PICK UP DATE:**  
**Saturday, November 5, 9am-Noon**  
**at William K. Sanford (Colonie Town) Library**



# 2016 ASCR BIRD SEED SALE FUNDRAISER - ORDER FORM

NAME:	PHONE NUMBER:
EMAIL ADDRESS:	PAYMENT TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$_____
NOTES (IF ANY):	

PRODUCT DESCRIPTIONS	Quantity	Price each	Total
<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 - \$20	_____	30 LB @\$20	\$_____
<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 - \$19/40 LB. BAG - \$35	_____	20 LB @\$19	\$_____
	_____	40 LB @\$35	\$_____
<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 - \$18/40 LB. BAG - \$34	_____	20 LB @\$18	\$_____
	_____	40 LB @\$34	\$_____
<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. 40 LB. BAG - \$26	_____	40 LB @ \$26	\$_____
<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. 20 LB. BAG - \$31	_____	20 LB @ \$31	\$_____
<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. 20 LB. BAG - \$35	_____	20 LB @\$35	\$_____
<b>Nyjer Seed</b> - To primarily attract finches, siskin & redpoll, this is used in feeders with tiny seed ports. 25 LB. BAG - \$45	_____	25 LB @ \$45	\$_____
<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. Nut & Fruit 11 oz.. (SINGLES - \$2.5 EA. OR CASE OF 12 - \$25) Hi Energy 12 oz. (SINGLES - \$2 EA. OR CASE OF 12 - \$20)	_____	N/F \$2.50 EA	\$_____
	_____	N/F \$25 (12)	\$_____
	_____	H/E \$2 EA	\$_____
	_____	H/E \$20 (12)	\$_____
Would you like to include an additional donation to support ASCR Programs? Enter amount.			\$_____
<b>TOTAL</b> (Please enclose check for total amount made out to ASCR with 2016 Bird Seed Sale in memo section; Mail to: Audubon Society of the Capital Region, Bird Seed Sale, PO Box 14135, Albany, NY 12111-4135. We must receive your order and payment no later than Oct. 29, 2016.)			\$_____