



WINGBEATS

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

- Fall 2020 -

Audubon Society of the Capital Region Is Excited for this Year's Bird Seed Sale!

It is that time of year again, the Bird Seed Sale is on! As in previous years we work with CFD (Co-operative Feed Dealers) a locally based company that prides itself on providing seed mixed and sourced primarily from high quality regional suppliers.

This sale serves as an important source of funding to support existing and launch new programs throughout the year while providing our local birds with food through winter.

Purchases are **TAX FREE** to you as we are a 501c3 non-profit organization.

For more information on ways to order or products, check out pages 2 and 3!

Officers:

President: Teresa Murphy

Vice President: Vacant

Treasurer: René Facchetti, Krista Galliher

Correspondence Officer: Fred Bockis

Recording Officer: Laetitia Duret

Board of Directors:

Rebecca Allmond

Jennifer Ford

Eric Latini

Being aware of Grackle Activity By Fred Brockis

This month's bird of the quarter is the Grackle but here we'd also like to talk about its potential infestations across the country.

Grackles are an abundant type of blackbird. Flocks of them in early 2020 took over two Texas grocery store parking lots (1 in Houston, 1 in Austin).

(Videos can be found on YouTube.)

In areas where Grackles have become problematic some towns go so far as to employ expensive bird control service companies. In Austin, municipal workers fan out at first light with wooden hand clappers to scare the birds along with blue laser flash lights to encourage them to leave downtown where they are most bothersome. These procedures do not harm them.

Grackles can also be scared away with hawk decoys, predator eye balloons, & reflective eye objects hung near your lawn. A study at UAlbany also found that a 1% concentration of garlic oil is another safe deterrent. This is the method most often used at airports.

Grackles have been spotted and documented in 2020 all over the Capital District in preserves, farms, and lakes. However, I could find no record of the flocks causing any problems locally. Thus the Grackle serves as an example of a species which, while beneficial and fun to spot can become troublesome if not monitored well.

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ANNUAL BIRD SEED SALE

The Audubon Society of the Capital Region will be hosting their Annual Bird Seed Sale. This is a great opportunity to help our organization while stocking up to feed your favorite backyard birds over the winter months. We will be taking orders **September 8 through October 18, 2020**. Purchase seed with us and pay *no tax*!

Help support your local chapter of the National Audubon Society!

Order Online at www.CapitalRegionAudubon.org/store or send a completed order form (next page) and payment to our P.O.Box.



Get your suet & seed
for winter bird feeding!

Your purchase is TAX
FREE!

Keep your backyard
birds happy & fed
through winter!



AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE
CAPITAL REGION

P.O. Box 14135
Albany, NY 12212-4135

www.capitalregionaudubon.org

**2020 BIRD SEED SALE FUNDRAISER ORDER FORM**

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Email Address _____
Phone Number _____ Cell _____
May ASCR text your cell for seed pick up reminders? Yes _____ No _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

ORDER DEADLINE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 5:00 PM**PRODUCT PICKUP: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 9AM - 11AM** William K. Sanford Library, 629 Albany-Shaker Road, Loudonville, NYPlease ensure that you pick up your bird seed on the pick-up day, **ASCR is unable to store any bird seed.****Seed and Suet Purchases are TAX FREE and support the mission of the Audubon Society of the Capital Region.**

Bird Seed selection features products from Aspen Song—All Natural Wild Bird Aspen Song mixes are designed to provide the best possible nutrition with the broadest possible appeal to our backyard visitors.

	Quantity	Price	Total
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Black Oil Sunflower—20 lb bag

The soft seed hulls allow the food value of the nutmeat to be easily accessed by all of the seed-eating birds. This is the best single ingredient choice for attracting the most colorful songbirds.

_____	\$23	\$_____
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Sunflower Kernels—25lb bag.

Sunflower seeds with the shell removed means that every bird species can access the nutritional value of the sunflower kernel. No accumulation of empty shells here!

_____	\$39	\$_____
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Value Blend—30lb bag

This general purpose mix is great for attracting ground-feeding birds like Dark-eyed Junco, Mourning Dove, Tree Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, etc. Includes Red Milo, Cracked Corn, White Proso-Millet and Sunflower.

_____	\$16	\$_____
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Ultimate Blend— 5 lb bag**Ultimate Blend—20 lb bag****Ultimate Blend—40 lb bag**

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.

_____	\$10	\$_____
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_____	\$29	\$_____
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_____	\$53	\$_____
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Choice Blend—20 lb bag**Choice Blend—40 lb bag**

Over 30% Sunflowers & Peanuts and includes White Proso Millet, Black Oil Sunflower, Cracked Corn, Peanuts, Safflower and Black Stripe Sunflower.

_____	\$22	\$_____
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_____	\$40	\$_____
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Nyjer Seed—25 lb bag

Attract finches, siskin and redpoll, birds with this 100% pure Nyjer seed.

_____	\$54	\$_____
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Nut and Fruit Suet—11 oz Cake (SINGLE)**Nut and Fruit Suet—11 oz Cakes (CASE OF 12)**

A mix of seeds and nuts will satisfy woodpeckers sapsuckers buntings and more!

_____	\$2.50	\$_____
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_____	\$25	\$_____
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Hi Energy Suet—12 oz Cake (SINGLE)**Hi Energy Suet—12 oz Cakes (CASE OF 12)**

This suet cake from Pine Tree Farms provides top quality seeds grains peanut butter and peanuts to attract a variety of wild birds.

_____	\$2.00	\$_____
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_____	\$20	\$_____
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Buy a Bag, Donate a Bag. ASCR has partnered with [Project Growth](#) and [Lawson's Lake](#). Last year, the youth of Project Growth made a Bird Sanctuary. Please consider donating a seed or suet to Lawson's Lake through ASCR in order to help them attract birds to their new Sanctuary. Your donation is tax deductible.

Yes—please add an additional bag of seed to my order:

Value Blend 30lb bag

Hi Energy Suet (1/2 Case)

_____	\$16	\$_____
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_____	\$10	\$_____
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ASCR Chapter Supporter Membership (1 year)

Your membership contribution helps to support our mission to protect and maintain ecological systems, promote wise use and conservation of natural resources, and improve environmental quality. Please support your local chapter.

_____	\$20	\$_____
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ASCR Additional Donation

Please enter amount \$ _____

Your donation helps to support the many programs of ASCR throughout the year including educational programs, conservation efforts, and the protection of birds and their habitats. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. ASCR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Please calculate your order total and enter.

ORDER TOTAL

\$ _____

Mail this order form with your full payment by check to: Audubon Society of the Capital Region, PO Box 14135, Albany, NY 12212. **Orders must be received by ASCR by Sunday, October 18,** so please plan accordingly for mail orders.

To ORDER ONLINE: please visit www.capitalregionaudubon.org/store. Email info@capitalregionaudubon.org with questions.

Birds Predict Hurricane Season

By N. Fox

I was recently watching a new docuseries when something peaked my attention, *birds predicting the severity of hurricane season.*



PC: Alic d'Entremont | Macaulay Library & Allaboutbirds.org

Naturally, I googled it and lo and behold the National Audubon Society had published an article last year titled “Are These Birds Better Than Computers at Predicting Hurricane Seasons?”.

In a nutshell, yes, birds, particularly the Veery, quite possibly predict the severity of coming hurricane seasons. Research by Christopher Heckscher over the course of nearly twenty years indicates that the Veery (a type of thrush about the size of a robin and native to North America with migratory patterns toward Southern Brazil—check out allaboutbirds.org for more cool facts) will migrate based on the severity of the coming Hurricane season.

During years of mild hurricane activity the veery extends its breeding season and waits to migrate south. Alternatively, during heavy hurricane seasons, the veery will cut its breeding season short and get out of dodge. Making these birds some pretty informed and informative creatures!

I can't help but wonder, as we enter into our fall season and peak migratory season (which started in July believe it or not) what our own birds may be trying to tell us.

Obviously it is all a bit more complicated than just this, I'd recommend checking out the actual article found by [clicking here](#) to learn more.

Bird Words “Rectrix”

By Fred Brockis

Bird Words

Rectrix (plural: *rectrices*)

As a bird word rectrix refers to any of the quill feathers of a bird's tail that help to control its flight direction.

It has another meaning wholly unrelated to birds. It refers to a woman who governs.

This word comes from the Latin “rector” meaning “one that directs”. Rectrix is the feminine of rector.



Imaged Provided by Bing Search.

Help Wanted!

BALD EAGLE NEST WATCH



PC: Teresa Murphy

Do you love to watch birds and wildlife? Do you enjoy spending time outdoors? Are you looking for ways to volunteer that allow you to do both of those things? Then Bald Eagle Nest Watch might be for you!

In this fun and flexible program, volunteers monitor a Bald Eagle nest once a week, and submit observations via an online citizen science website (citsci.org). This data is used by the NYS DEC to help monitor Bald Eagle nests, and success rates, in this area.

With many active Bald Eagle nests in our area, we could really use more volunteers to help with monitoring.

If you think you might be interested, please contact Jennifer Ford, Bald Eagle Nest Watch coordinator at jsf@nycap.rr.com for more information.

- Thank you!



What did I miss?

Our work continues!

Things may have slowed down a touch for the summer as we all enjoy some fresh air, found creative ways to enjoy company while social distancing and squeezing in some birding activities of our own, but we've still been chugging forward!

- ✎ Discussions on our chapter strategy have continued!
- ✎ Program planning remains under way with an continued virtual presence.
- ✎ We're preparing for our Bald Eagle Nest Watch!
- ✎ Maintained existing conservation efforts.
- ✎ Are excited to launch this years Bird Seed Sale!

Be sure to check back in our next issue as we hope to get busy this winter!

Upcoming Events

ASCR Board Meetings

Second Mondays of every month.

We postponed meetings through the summer due to COVID 19, but will soon resume them! However, in order to remain safe and adhere to CDC guidelines we will continue to host them via Zoom Meetings for the time being.

While we hope to eventually resume in-person meetings we would like to stress that all persons are welcomed to join us virtually! Please contact us via email to receive a meeting invitation.

We hope to see you there!

Contact us at: info@capitalregionaudubon.org for more on how to attend a virtual meeting.

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We're trying out hand at virtual events!

Please join our mailing list to remain privy to our upcoming events! Keep your eyes peeled for our next Webinar focused on Reducing and Preventing Bird Window Collisions in your home!

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Please bear with us as we continue to organize and plan our 2020 programs. With the COVID-19 outbreak we consider it our responsibly to remain diligent in the safety and friendliness of our programs. As a result, all events are subject to change based on CDC, NYS and Federal directives. Please be sure to check out our website or Facebook for regular updates, subscribe to our mailing list and attend our virtual meetings to stay in touch.

Have ideas you'd love to share? Interested in planning an event with us?

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Reach out at: info@capitalregionaudubon.org

Be sure to check our website for more programs and information!
www.capitalregionaudubon.org

Bird of the Quarter

By Fred Brockis

The Grackle:

- ✎ Consists of 11 species
- ✎ Is native to North & South America.
- ✎ Favor agricultural areas & lawns.
- ✎ Form massive flocks in winter.
- ✎ Are federally protected.
- ✎ Can be very aggressive and very noisy.
- ✎ Females lay 1-7 eggs which incubate 11-15 days.
- ✎ Are very territorial around their nest.
- ✎ Eat tons of harmful bugs and grubs (including June bugs and Japanese & rose beetles)
- ✎ Make great yard guests.

The "Common Grackle":

- ✎ Is 11-13 inches and weighs 3.9 oz.
- ✎ Males & females make a short squeak followed by a high-pitched whistle, lasting less than a second. Think: "rusty gate".
- ✎ Males are glossy iridescent black & females brownish and smaller.
- ✎ A sub-species is the distinctive 'purple grackle'. They are large and lanky with long legs, a long tail, and a heavy bill.



PC: T I | Macaulay Library & Allaboutbirds.org

VOLUNTEER

Calling Volunteers!

Volunteers make the activities of ASCR possible and without them we could not host the many events, activities and projects we strive to provide for our birds and community!

Interested in starting/planning a new program? Just want to get involved? Lend a helping hand?

We love new faces and energy! Especially as we begin our journey with our new strategic plan!

No experience necessary! Just a positive attitude and desire to help!

Contact us at:

volunteer@capitalregionaudubon.org

Join our volunteer mailing list:

<https://www.capitalregionaudubon.org/volunteer.php>



Conservation Corner

Discovering Plirding

Plirding (v.) - to **pick up litter** while **birding**, this term was coined originally by Ray Brown's Talkin' Birds.

If you haven't heard of Ray Brown's Talkin' Birds, they are a birding group, radio and podcast producer based out of Massachusetts founded in 2006 with over 75,000 podcast listeners to date! Talkin' Birds aims to encourage people to be involved, informed and improving our natural environment.

The plirding initiate is geared to empower hikers, birders and nature enthusiasts alike to clean up our local trails, pointing out that items as small as fishing line to old balloons often get left behind or missed. So why not multitask? Enjoy the weather and birds while also leaving a positive impact.

Plirding can simply mean carrying an old grocery bag along and picking up small items as you go, or taking multiple containers and collecting actively. Every action helps. For more information and tips visit Ray Brown's Talkin' Birds' website at:

<https://www.talkinbirds.com>.

And remember as "Margaret Mead once said, 'Never doubt that a small group of concerned citizens can change the world.

Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.'" (sourced Ray Brown's Talkin' Birds).

ACTIVITIES

**DO YOU KNOW WHAT
KIND OF TREE HAS
LEAVES LIKE THIS?**

**HINT: IT IS NATIVE TO
NEW YORK AND WE USE
THE SAP FOR SYRUP!**



Answer: A Maple Tree

paint the world
SUPER
COLORING

**CHECK OUT THE AUTUMN
AUDUBON WORD SEARCH!
CAN YOU FIND EVERY WORD
ON THE LIST?**

X	S	C	O	R	Y	A	V	S	W	F	A	E	L	X	D	E	D	P	H
B	O	M	A	I	G	P	C	B	O	F	S	I	O	C	E	L	Z	E	M
Q	V	G	N	A	O	P	S	W	L	R	Z	S	I	K	E	T	X	Q	R
F	U	G	U	B	L	L	R	M	L	V	C	D	D	B	S	D	T	A	T
S	A	G	F	I	O	E	I	S	E	B	E	C	W	R	Z	F	X	B	Q
W	J	Q	E	P	H	T	P	E	Y	R	G	Q	A	T	I	S	Z	K	T
U	Y	N	R	P	T	P	H	M	A	R	F	P	R	D	R	B	N	O	B
M	K	D	Y	E	I	H	U	Y	N	D	U	L	B	A	M	K	V	R	L
D	A	V	N	X	N	E	B	M	W	M	Q	P	L	M	R	F	A	H	P
S	B	S	X	W	R	Y	O	F	P	V	U	U	E	S	O	J	C	X	C
P	A	K	C	L	O	D	I	Q	B	K	C	T	R	B	S	I	V	O	C
B	K	U	P	Y	S	C	G	P	K	O	I	Q	U	K	J	K	K	O	K
S	E	V	R	A	C	S	A	X	N	K	E	N	M	A	P	L	E	V	H
B	B	F	O	M	M	Y	J	I	K	Y	C	M	H	R	G	L	M	Y	S
E	Z	Q	J	G	Y	U	B	M	I	G	R	A	T	I	O	N	L	B	T

Word List

Sugar Maple
Migration
Pumpkin
Autumn
Syrup
Apple Cider
Leaf
Yellow Warbler
Ornithology
Bird Seed
Mittens
Binoculars
Scarves



Audubon Society
of the Capital Region
P.O. Box 14135
Albany, NY 12212-4135
www.capitalregionaudubon.org

Questions?

Email: info@capitalregionaudubon.org

Board members of the Audubon Society of the Capital Region

*An All Volunteer Chapter Organization of the
National Audubon Society*

Officers

President: Teresa Murphy
Vice President: Vacant
Correspondence Officer: Fred Bockis
Treasurer: René Facchetti, Krista Galliher
Recording Officer: Laetitia Duret

Directors

Rebecca Allmond
Jennifer Ford
Eric Latini

WebMaster: René Facchetti
WebAdmin: Rebecca Allmond

Board Meetings are the Second Monday of
every Month in Loudonville. There we
discuss upcoming events and make
decisions that guide this chapter for the year.

Please join us!

Email

President@CapitalRegionAudubon.org
for more information!

Looking to have an impact in your community?

Become an Audubon Society of the Capital
Region

Chapter Supporter.

As a Chapter Supporter, 100% of your
membership dues stay local. This helps us
support local conservation efforts, continue to
promote birding and bird education, and to
support other special initiatives, such as the
construction of bird blinds and camp
sponsorships for youth. The Chapter
Supporter membership is just \$20.

In return you get:

- An official ASCR Chapter Supporter Membership card
- An ASCR Chapter Supporter window cling to prevent window strikes
- The satisfaction of knowing you are supporting local birds and their habitats

Click [here](#) for more information on how you can
become an ASCR Chapter Supporter!!