



Fall 2015

WINGBEATS

'How I Spent My Summer Vacation' (Educators Week at Hog Island, Maine) by Jeremy Taylor, Recording Secretary

The excitement aboard the Snowgoose III was as palpable as the fog that surrounded us as we departed Hog Island and cruised out into Muscongus Bay, a day promising great adventure. Several times during our journey, our able skipper brought the boat to a stop so that we could observe the rich variety of bird and marine life surrounding us. We saw harbor seals (with one much larger lone gray seal mixed into the pod, hiding among them in plain sight), harbor porpoise (who are quite the challenge to photograph, by the way!) and all sorts of birds, including white-winged scoters, black guillemots,



Puffins, Muscongus Bay, Bremen, Maine. Photo: Jeremy Taylor

common murrelets, a northern gannet, common eiders, common loons, double-crested cormorants, laughing gulls, great black backed gulls, and common, roseate, and Arctic terns.

As we continued out into the bay, our destination began to materialize out of the mist. Ahead of us, was an island, but this was not just any island, this was Eastern Egg Rock Island, where some 40 years earlier Dr. Stephen Kress had begun what would become his life's work, a quest many doubted he could succeed at, the quest to restore the Atlantic puffin to Maine. And there they were, puffins! All around us the small black and white clowns of the sea could be seen, flying past like orange tipped bullets, swimming in groups of as many as a dozen just yards from the boat, and hopping around on the island, sometimes nearly indistinguishable...(PUFFIN continued on Page 4)

Special 'Dinner and a Movie' Event! **Saturday September 26th** **Huyck Preserve, Rensselaerville, NY**

**Audubon Society of the Capital Region and
The Huyck Preserve are joining forces to
present an educational and entertaining movie
about Junco research in the Americas!**

Meet the Executive Producer of the "[Ordinary Extraordinary Junco](#)", Distinguished Professor at Indiana University [Ellen Ketterson, Ph.D](#) , and the producer, writer, researcher, and the film's director [Jonathan Atwell, Ph.D](#). Also on hand for the post-movie discussion is the [Huyck Preserve's Executive Director, Dawn O'Neal, Ph.D](#) formerly of the [Ketterson Lab](#).

Begin the evening sharing in some delicious food from [Jake Moon Restaurant and Café](#) starting promptly at **5:30 pm** before taking in a film on one of our most favorite winter residents! Take a journey with us from the boreal forests of Canada, down to the Rockies, through the deserts of the Southwest and to the year round junco residents of Guatemala and Costa Rica.

At 7:30pm, a Q&A session will follow the film with the producer, writers, and researchers of the film. This unique opportunity is geared for public *and* student audiences – so don't miss out!

For More Info and RSVP, See Page 2 of this newsletter!

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FALL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS!

September 12th, 9:00am - Bird Walk!

Second Saturday at [Schodack Island S.P.](#)

South of Albany on Route 9J just outside of Castleton-On-Hudson, NY

Join Craig Thompson as he leads you onto the trails of Schodack Island State Park, known for Autumn Migrants & Bald Eagles!

(Please Note: there is an entrance fee per car.)

In the event of inclement weather, this program will be cancelled. Check the web site at close of business on Fri, 09/11.

Monday September 14th, 7pm

"Birding South Florida"

Location: William K. Sanford Library
325 Albany Shaker Road, Loudonville, NY

Join us for our *semi-annual joint meeting* with the [Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club](#)!

Join Scott Stoner and Denise Hackert-Stoner of [Naturelogues](#), will give a detailed photo tour of some of the best birding sites and most sought after birds in South Florida, taking you from the Gulf Coast down to Key West and through the Everglades.

Sun. October 11th

Birds n' Brews Bird Walk! Bird Walk in Middleburgh, NY!

Meet @ [Green Wolf Brewing Co.](#) - 9am

Join us as we'll be looking for Fall migrant waterfowl and songbirds at the Franklinton Vlaie & along the [The Long Path](#).

Afterwards, we'll have some fun conversation back at Green Wolf Tasting Room while eating your brown bag lunch or order take-out from one of the local eateries!

"Join Us For The Junco Movie!"

Saturday September 26th

Reception Dinner - 5:30pm

Movie Starts - 6:00pm

Eldridge Research Center

[Huyck Preserve Biological Research Station](#)

284 Pond Hill Road, Rensselaerville, NY 12147

To RSVP and Register:

Go To: www.CapitalRegionAudubon.org/juncomovie

Or

Email: president@CapitalRegionAudubon.org

Or

Call John at 518-708-7825

For an inexpensive evening out to see the...

"Ordinary Extraordinary Junco" movie!

7:30pm - Q&A with the Movie Producers and...
contributing movie researcher *Dawn O'Neal*,
Executive Director of The Huyck Preserve!

68th Annual Meeting *New York State* *Ornithological Association*

October 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 2015
Here in Albany! More Info on Page 7!

Registration Open to the Public!

Visit our ASCR Info table
in the Exhibitors area!

Happy OWL-ween!

Live Owl Presentation!

Thursday October 29th, 2015

Location:

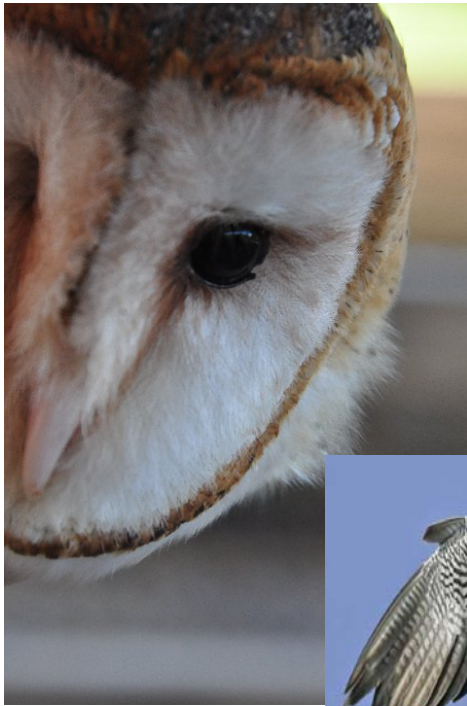
Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library
365 Moe Road, Clifton Park

In the Spirit of Halloween we bring to you the [Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York](#) & their amazing owls (and *maybe* a hawk or 2!)

Saturday November 21st - 11am to 4pm

Raptor Rapture!

at the New York State Museum!



This Indoor Fest brought to you in proud partnership with:



[Friends of the Washington County Grasslands Important Bird Area](#)



This is ASCR's **Fourth Annual Bird & Habitat Awareness Day** to bring attention to the challenges songbirds and birds of prey and face

Spend a full day at the NYS Museum in Albany and see live birds of prey, hear interesting talks and view many educational displays from Capital Region Parks & Preserves. There will be plenty of activities for adults and kids alike, including owl pellet dissection and learning how to do bird art. Come join in the fun!

Special Demonstration: See Dr. Jeremy Kirchman, Curator of Birds @ the NYS Museum, dissect bird specimens & prepare them for mounting within the exhibits in Bird Hall!

Save The Date!

Saturday December 19th, 2015

116th Annual Audubon

Christmas Bird Count!

at The Huyck Preserve!

Call 518-797-3440 or email The Huyck at outreach@huyckpreserve.org if interested!



(*PUFFIN continued from page 1*)...the puffin decoys Kress set out all those years ago to lure puffins in to breed and recolonize their former home.

It was the middle of the morning on Tuesday, July 21st, but with the level of excitement on the boat, it might as well have been Christmas morning! For many of us, this was a new addition to our life list, a list that had already grown for some (myself included) on the trip out. Just the night before, Dr. Kress had recounted his Project Puffin journey to us, sharing the many highs and lows of the adventure, and how close it came to failing. He cautioned us that even though the puffins were once again breeding on Eastern Egg Rock, it was never guaranteed that we would see them, but I believe all of us pushed this thought to the back of our minds, certain that we would. And see them we did!

We had gathered at the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Bremen, Maine on Sunday, to participate in Sharing Nature: An Educators' Week. For some it was a return trip, for others including myself, it was something that had been on our bucket list for years, and this was the year that it finally happened. Hog Island has been home to educator camps since it was established in 1936. Purchased by Dr. David Todd and his wife Mabel Loomis Todd in 1908 to save it from logging, it was inherited by Millicent Todd Bingham in 1932, upon the death of her mother. Millicent was determined to conserve this treasure, and in 1935 she formed a partnership with National Audubon Society to use the island as the location of Audubon's first educational camp. In 1960, Millicent donated the entire island to National Audubon, creating the Todd Wildlife Sanctuary in her mother's honor. National Audubon operated the camp until 2000, when it was transferred to the control of Maine Audubon. Facing financial hardship, the camp was closed in 2009. With the possibility of the sale of the camp to another organization, Dr. Kress and a group of dedicated volunteers stepped in. Dr. Kress declared that the camp was too important to lose, and that if it failed, it would be on Project Puffin's watch. The Friends of Hog Island (FOHI), as the volunteers began to call themselves, rallied to raise much needed funding for the camp, and in 2010 it reopened, under the leadership of Project Puffin, with FOHI volunteers and funding keeping it alive to this very day. So, not only did Dr. Kress successfully return puffins to the Maine coast, he also saved the Hog Island Audubon Camp, which allowed many of us aboard the Snowgoose III that Tuesday morning to see puffins for the first time in their lives!

Throughout the course of the week, we took part in a number of workshops, hikes, and other sessions, all designed to help educators teach children about the importance of the natural world and (hopefully) inspire them to want to save it. Sessions included field sketching, journaling, photography, and many different science topics such as birds, plankton, geology, and more. Daily hikes were taken, ranging from

naturalist rambles through the woods of Hog Island and Harbor Island to all-day perimeter hikes. Some groups went to an off-site bog, while others spent time at a nearby pond. Evening sessions on astronomy, insects, bats, and more helped the gathered educators to better understand the realm of the night, and one morning was spent exploring the amazing world known as the tidal zone, complete with a snack of boiled periwinkles with butter sauce, prepared by the ever-talented Hog Island Facility Manager Eric Snyder.

Two meaningful sessions were led by Dr. Chandra Taylor Smith, Vice President of Community Conservation and Education for National Audubon Society. She spoke to us on the topic of increasing diversity in the fields of environmental education and conservation. This is a very serious topic, being addressed by several organizations. People of color are often not represented or are only marginally represented in the environmental movement, and in education as a whole. Oftentimes, many of the most pressing environmental issues are in places often neglected by much of society. Unfortunately, many of these places are where so many minorities and lower income people live, yet they often don't



Seining Training for Educators, Hog Island, ME Photo: Jeremy Taylor

have a voice to speak out for their own rights. The Environmental Justice movement is one that is growing, and the need to incorporate people of all races and income brackets in environmental education and conservation has never been greater. We listened to her own stories of growing up as part of an African American family that loved the outdoors, and the many uncomfortable, sometimes even dangerous experiences her family underwent during a time when people of color were still not generally welcomed in places like National Parks.

We also heard from several diversity scholarship winners, who shared their own experiences growing up, and how difficult it often was to be a...(HOG continued on page 6)

Much Ado About Birding - Part II

by Evan Mistur

Bird watching in many other states has been given increased attention in recent years, and, in those places, new birding infrastructure and resources have sprung up as a result. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was the first state department to recognize the popularity of birding in their state and launch a trail network specifically for that interest group. Today the [Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail](#) offers birders all over the state a collection of productive bird watching sites all connected by public roads. The project has been very successful, not only in what it has provided for birders, but in what it has done for the local populations along the trail. By attracting large numbers of ecotourists the trail has helped to stimulate the economies of many local towns and villages along the trail as well as benefitting the economy of the state of Texas on the whole. It has been particularly useful in vitalizing business in rural areas, which would otherwise receive visitors only rarely, and has been so successful that it was recently expanded further throughout Texas, receiving a large amount of support and sponsorship from other public and private institutions which wanted their names connected to bird watching along the way. After seeing the success of the Texas trail system, the Florida Wildlife Commission attempted to imitate the project within their own borders and now offers its own version of a birding trail: The [Great Florida Birding Trail](#) (evidently it is important to reiterate the “greatness” of these projects, but I won’t hold that against them). This statewide trail encompasses 2,000 miles and 515 individual birding locations covering nearly the entire state of Florida. It has also had a major impact on its state, and continues to be developed further as new opportunities arise. Though these are two of the more successful public bird watching trails, many other states have seen the positive impact they have had, both socially and economically, and initiated their own wildlife viewing projects. Thirty-five states currently host public birdwatching trails, as well as other similar projects, and the nation-wide network is constantly expanding. As bird watchers gain more and more awareness and recognition, new programs and resources, catered towards our interests, are being made possible.

The development of bird watching projects in Texas and Florida was made possible by the influence of the birders within those states. Once local ornithologists made their influence felt locally they were rewarded with attention from outside institutions, and eventually, with infrastructure such as their respective state birding trails. By making it clear that they were a legitimate socio-economic force, bird watchers proved that development designed for their specific interest group would be worth investing in. Here at home, New York is ripe for this kind of development. Our state offers 136 Important Bird Areas, many of which, particularly here in the Hudson-Mohawk region, are unadorned, inaccessible, and largely unnoticed. The [Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve](#), a local favorite among birders, has been an IBA for years and supports some of the highest biodiversity in the Capital Region; yet, for the general public, it is largely unknown. To the average person it is an afterthought simply because they don’t know about the treasures, both ornithological and historical, that it contains. Areas like these deserve greater publicity.

With the amount of birding potential in this area, the high biodiversity it enjoys, and its close proximity to socially important areas in the state such as Albany, Saratoga Springs, and New York City, the development of ecotourism in our area would be a logical step, not only for birders, but for the local economy as well. I would personally love to see this sort of development take place, and I know that the surest way I can encourage it to happen is by being prominently visible as a bird watcher. All we...(ADO continued on page 6)



(*ADO continued from page 5*) ...have to do is draw some attention to ourselves, and, if what was done in Texas and Florida is any indication, good things will follow.

In a shameless bit of promotion I am going to include a link to Audubon New York's website where they promote their Birds Mean Business program. Here Audubon offers a template for bird watcher calling cards which they suggest be left at places of business visited while out on birding expeditions. Presumably, these businesses will see how much business we naturalists can generate once the cards start piling up, and give us some of the attention that we deserve. You can find the cards, along with other information, at <http://ny.audubon.org/about-us/ecotourism> or search "birds mean business" on their website. I am looking forward to using these cards myself the next time I go out birding – perhaps going back for a second peak at that Barrow's Goldeneye – although once I bring them into play I might have to watch how I tip! I would urge you to do the same as I believe this program will be very effective at promoting our interests in the local area. Although Shakespeare might disagree, much ado is seldom made about nothing; attention is only paid to those who are so loud they are impossible to ignore. Let's be loud enough to have some "ado" sent in our direction. 🐦

(*HOG continued from page 5*)...person of color who was interested in nature and the outdoors. For many, nature was something to be afraid of, was something they had little experience of, or just wasn't the cool thing to do. Many of these scholarship winners (like most of the session participants) were school teachers, and were there to try and learn how to better teach their students about the environment. Students will often feel more comfortable with people who they can relate to, and unfortunately for many people of color, there just are not enough teachers from minority backgrounds who are fluent in the environment. As was pointed out at one point in the conversation, a visit to almost any Audubon chapter meeting or similar group has historically been a visit to a room filled with older white men and women, with extra time and money on their hands. Audubon and other organizations are out to change this, and the National Audubon Society has integrated diversity into everything that they do.

Under the leadership of Pete Salmansohn, education coordinator for the Audubon Seabird Restoration Program, the Sharing Nature session was nothing short of amazing! The instructors for the week were fantastic, and the FOHI volunteers under the leadership of Juanita Roushdy did an amazing job keeping things clean, running, and feeding us three times each day! From the moment I arrived, until the boat ride back to the mainland on Friday, I had an incredible time, and if you ever get the chance to attend a session at Hog Island, I highly encourage you to do so! My attendance would not have been possible without sponsorship from the Project Puffin scholarship program and the Audubon Society of the Capital Region; to both organizations I offer my deepest gratitude for enabling me to attend the session, a week I will never forget. 🐦

Check It Out!

We're now on:



Instagram

"Follow" us on Twitter:



@CapRegAudubon

And Also...



All Birders and the Public are Welcome To Attend!



Friday October 2nd through Sunday October 4th, 2015
Hosted by the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club

Location: Radisson (formerly the Holiday Inn), 205 Wolf Road Albany, NY 12205

Daily Expert Led Field Trips to local birding Hot Spots & fascinating presentations during the day on Saturday!

Friday evening reception at the New York State Museum Bird Hall & behind-the-scenes tours of research labs.

Saturday evening banquet featuring a keynote presentation on *Wood Warblers of North America* by...

Jon Dunn, Chief Consultant for all six editions of the *National Geographic Field Guide to North American Birds*.

For More Information and to Register, go to: <https://hmbc.net/nysoa/>

QUESTIONS? Email Chris Grossman at nysoa-mtg@hmbc.net or call Jean Holcomb (518) 935-3353.

Become an Inaugural Capital Region Audubon Chapter Supporter!

You'll be supporting our Free Birding Events 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 _____

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

Phone #: _____

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

**We'd like to send a
Huge Thank You!**

to the...

**Voorheesville
Public Library**

**...for their Generous
Donation to our local
Audubon Chapter!**

**The Board of ASCR
Thanks You for your support!**



Photo: Albany County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Hawk Migration Watch at Thacher State Park!

Join ASCR birders as we support the Helderberg Escarpment Hawkwatch at The Overlook in Thacher Park on Saturday September 12th from 10am - 2pm!

Helderberg Escarpment Hawkwatch leader, **Will Aubrey**, will be on hand to answer any questions, provide background material on hawk migration, compile migration statistics, & assist with raptor identification.

Also, see **Live Birds of Prey** by Richele Ford of Ford's Falconry and learn about wildlife rehabilitation.

Children will enjoy the butterfly station and face painting. Refreshments available at the Overlook concession stand.

Please call (518) 872-1237 for additional information.

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Co-Editor of Wingbeats: René Facchetti

Webmaster: René Facchetti

ASCR Board Members Emeritus: Jerry Brown
David Gibson

Explore These Fall Events with our Partners!



BIRD WALK! - Saturday October 3rd - 8:00AM

They will be looking for fall migrants & sometimes Great Egrets show up at this time! Meet at parking area at the end of Station Road, Stockport, NY located just south of Kinderhook, NY, off Route 9. - Coordinator: John Piwowarski 518-672-7622

Burden Pond Exploration - September 19th - 10am

Explore Burden Pond Environmental Park and the seldom-visited Wynants Kill gorge upstream.

As you hear the amazing history of industrial Troy, we will see waterfalls and remnants of the old water system, part of the water power engine which made

Troy one of the wealthiest cities in America.

This will be a two-mile hike with a few damp areas. Wear shoes you do not mind getting wet and get a chance to explore the "backwater" of Troy.

To register, contact: Francille Ebert fran.egbert@gmail.com or (518) 674-3214.

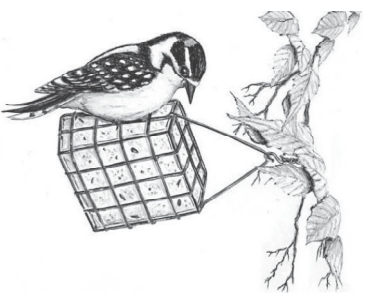
**Audubon Society
of the Capital Region**
P.O. Box 14135
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www.capitalregionaudubon.org



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).
 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, 2015. (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 12pm 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

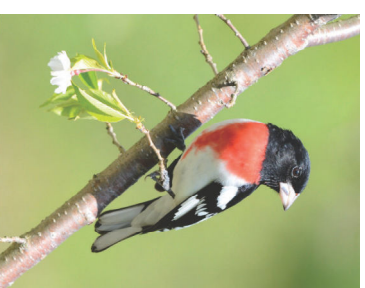
2015 Bird Seed Sale ASCR



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

Use this section to keep a record of your order.

Locally Grown Black Oil Sunflower Seed - Grown locally, this seed purchase supports critical local grassland bird habitat as well as local family farms.	30 lb. bag Sunflower	_____ @ \$20.00	\$ _____
Aspen Song Ultimate Blend - 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	20 lb. bag Ultimate -----	_____ @ \$22.00 -----	\$ _____ -----
	40 lb. bag Ultimate	_____ @ \$41.00	\$ _____
Aspen Song Premium Blend - This mix includes Black Oil Sunflower, White Proso Millet, Cracked Corn, Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Safflower, Canola, Small Yellow Millet, Canary Seed, Nyjer Seed and	20 lb. bag Premium -----	_____ @ \$21.00 -----	\$ _____ -----
	40 lb. bag Premium	_____ @ \$39.00	\$ _____
Aspen Song Choice Blend - 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	\$ _____
Aspen Song Select Blend - 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-cripped Corn.	17 lb. bag Select Blend -----	_____ @ \$14.00 -----	\$ _____ -----
	35 lb. bag Select Blend	_____ @ \$26.00	\$ _____
Aspen Song Value Blend - 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.	30 lb. bag Value Blend	_____ @ \$12.00	\$ _____
Aspen Song Just Desserts - 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 Just Desserts	_____ @ \$35.00	\$ _____
Aspen Song Nut & Fruit Woodpecker Blend - A shell-less mix designed for woodpeckers and wire mesh tube feeders, this mix includes Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Sunflower Kernels, Steam-cripped Corn, Shelled Pumpkin Seeds, Raisins, Dehydrated Cherries, Dried Cranberries and Dried Blueberries.	20 lb. bag Nut & Fruit	_____ @ \$38.00	\$ _____
Finch Seed - To primarily attract finches, siskin & redpoll, this is designed for use in finch tube feeders.	20 lb. bag Finch	_____ @ \$30.00	\$ _____
Suet Cakes - 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 1.1 oz..	Hi-Energy (Single)	_____ @ \$ 2.00	\$ _____
	Hi-Energy (Case of 12) -----	_____ @ \$18.00 -----	\$ _____ -----
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)	_____ @ \$ 2.50	\$ _____
	Nut & Fruit (Case of 12)	_____ @ \$24.00	\$ _____
TOTAL (Please enclose check for total amount made out to ASCR with 2015 Bird Seed Sale in memo	1 year ASCR Member Additional Donation	_____ @ \$20.00 Enter Amount	\$ _____ \$ _____
		TOTAL	\$ _____

Order Form

Name: _____
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Phone# _____