



WINGBEATS

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

-Winter Supplement 2022-

Audubon Society of the Capital Region *Annual Meeting*

February 19, 2022—11:00 AM
Peebles Island State Park Meeting Room
1 Delaware Ave North, Cohoes, NY 12047

Speaker: Tom Lake
of
DEC's Hudson River Almanac
&
Election of Officers for 2022

Refreshments Provided
RSVP to capitalregionaudubon@gmail.com






ASCR 2022 Nominees for Officer and Board Positions

At the Annual Meeting on February 19, 2022, election of this year's Officers/Board Members will be held. Nominees are as follows:

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Co-Treasurer
Recording Officer
Membership/Volunteers
Director (1 of 2)

Teresa Murphy
Carol Quantock
Rene Facchetti
Krista Galliher
Lindsay Homenick
Fred Bockis
Eric Latini

The following positions are ready to be filled:

 Director (2 of 2)
 Program Chair
 Education Chair
 Marketing/Communications Chair
 Finance Chair

Interested? Email capitalregionaudubon@gmail.com.

Planting Trees? Plant for Birds and Wildlife

by Carol Quantock

If you're thinking of planting trees this year, consider the needs of birds and wildlife before you commit to the expense of a landscaper whose expertise is limited to non-native ornamental plantings. With the trending emphasis on climate change and biodiversity, more and more landscapers are seeing the advantages of offering plantings that are beneficial, providing native wildlife with the food and shelter that they have evolved with over millennia. A reputable landscaper will assist you in creating an inviting yard for you and the animals, insects, and birds that share your space.

Planting native trees that support wildlife should be a number one priority. Placement of the trees in and around your property should be discussed with your landscaper in order to avoid placing "messy" trees near patios and walkways. This includes fruit-bearing trees such as:

- Chokeberry
- Eastern Red Cedar
- Winterberry
- American Cranberrybush
- Staghorn Sumac
- Crabapple
- Serviceberry
- Elderberry

It's easy to see why these trees should be planted where any fruit that falls to the ground won't end up being stepped on and ground into concrete, decking, or patio blocks. However, these trees feed birds and insects, so should be a part of your landscape plan.

You'll also want to be wary of the "adult" size of the trees you plant. Great care should be taken to allow for healthy growth of the tree, which will extend its life and the animals and insects it supports. Native trees also provide the year-round beauty that is so satisfying as we look for the changing of seasons and the arrival or departure of backyard birds. Trees that we all know and love, such as Red Oak, Silver Maple, River Birch, Sugar Maple, Witch Hazel, and Ash, are beautiful deciduous trees that add beauty as well as nesting sites for birds. Coniferous trees such as White Pine, Pitch Pine, White Pine, Norway Spruce and White Spruce are excellent nesting sites and provide winter interest and roosting places for birds.

Trees to avoid planting are ones that are not native to our area, including:

- Tree of Heaven
- Ginkgo
- Callery Pear, aka Bradford Pear
- Lombardy Poplar
- Siberian Elm
- Leyland Cypress

No matter how small your yard, you can find a native tree or two that will not only provide food and shelter for birds, but provide shade, beauty, and the knowledge that you are taking action on behalf of the environment. Every little bit helps.

How to Attract Birds in Winter and Spot More Species

by Ken Keffer
Birds & Blooms

Learn how to attract winter birds you want to see with these simple tips. Use these tricks to see more fliers when the temperature drops.

Attracting birds in winter is easier than you might think! The most straightforward advice on how to attract winter birds is to provide foods they love and offer them safe places for them to take shelter as the air gets crisp and the temps fall. Birds are even more beautiful in the midst of a few flurries, so besides helping them get through winter, you'll also be able to enjoy their beauty in your own backyard.

Feeder activity isn't always consistent throughout the year. You may notice an uptick in guests in the winter, because a lot of natural food is frozen or hidden under blankets of snow. Birds are generally less territorial in the nonbreeding season, too, so they are more tolerant of sharing space at the feeder. So it's time to top off the seed supply, pour yourself a cup of hot cocoa, and enjoy the snow birds with these top tips and tricks for winter bird-watching.

Focus on Feeders

Many birds grow extra down feathers in winter. The puffed-up feathers provide insulation against the elements. Yet winter is still a battle for survival for birds. Feeders with high-fat foods such as suet and peanuts give feathered friends a boost. Woodpeckers are especially fond of these calorie-rich treats, so to attract birds to your yard, consider a double suet feeder or one with a long tail prop that allows them to use their tails as a tripod as they feed. Planting native berry bushes also provides much-needed nutrients for many species as winter settles in.

Provide Fresh Water

Water is an especially attractive offering that will attract birds during the colder months. Adding a heater keeps your bird bath from icing over, giving birds a dependable place to drink (although they won't use it like a birdie hot tub to warm up). Beyond the backyard, natural areas with open water are magnets for birds in winter. Congregations of waterfowl flock to large rivers and coastal areas. Use your car as a portable blind while you scope for large groups of cold-tolerant ducks, geese and swans.

Add Roosting Boxes

Bird boxes are often associated with the nesting season, but nuthatches, chickadees, wrens and others will utilize them as roosting sites in the winter. Roosting boxes provide sheltered spots that are warmer than the bone-chilling outside air. Natural shelters, such as cavities in dead or living trees and dense thickets of conifers, can give a similar refuge to smaller birds such as tiny northern saw-whet owls.





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: Krista Galliher
Correspondence Officer: Fred Bockis
Treasurers: René Facchetti, Krista Galliher
Recording Officer: Lindsay Homenick

Directors

Vacant
Eric Latini

WebMaster: René Facchetti
WebAdmin: Vacant
Newsletter Editor: Carol Quantock

Board Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month. We discuss upcoming events and make decisions that guide this chapter for the year.

Please join us!

Email
capitalregionaudubon@gmail.com
for more information!

**Audubon Society
of the Capital Region**
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Albany, NY 12212-4144
www.capitalregionaudubon.org

Questions?

Email: capitalregionaudubon@gmail.com

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. 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!!