



# Fall 2017 WINGBEATS

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



## Audubon Origins

Written by: Mark Silo

The Audubon Society of the Capital Region (ASCR) will be accepting bird seed pre-orders through the end of October to raise funds required to support seasonal programs and events. 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 28, 2017** and can be placed by mail-in form inside this newsletter or through the 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 4 from 9:00am to 11:00am**. Thanks for your support!

In 2017 the National Audubon Society has 450 local chapters in the United States and many more worldwide, operates 41 U.S. wildlife sanctuaries, and offers countless youth and adult programs. In New York State, National Audubon Society has 50,000 members and 27 affiliated chapters. How did Audubon originate?

By the late 1800s many Americans had become alarmed by man's impact on the nation's "inexhaustible" resources. Of particular alarm were the decimation of the bison and the disappearance of birds from habitats where they were recently abundant. The killing of millions of birds annually for feathers to adorn fashionable hats galled many. (Yes, millions: it is estimated that in 1900 alone 200 million birds died to serve the millinery industry.)

George Bird Grinnell (1849-1938), an anthropologist still known today for his work among Plains Indians, came from a well-fixed family that moved to the recently-subdivided Audubon Park in Upper Manhattan in 1857. John James Audubon died in 1851, but his widow Lucy still lived in their house in Audubon Park and ran a school for local children in her home, Grinnell among them. George's education in the Audubon house, among the great painter's artifacts and artwork, made a lasting impression.

Grinnell eschewed the family investment business for the outdoor career of an anthropologist, naturalist, and hunter, and regularly contributed articles to the fledgling magazine *Forest and Stream*. He eventually bought the magazine, returned to New York and remained its editor for 35 years, turning it into a strong voice for conservation. Among his contributors was Theodore Roosevelt with whom Grinnell co-founded the Boone and Crocket Club in 1887.

As a means to stem the tide of greed and indifference during the era that Frank Graham Jr., long-time editor of *Audubon Magazine*, called the "Age of Extermination," Grinnell advocated tirelessly for conservation. (continued on page 4)

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# Fall Events

## **Focus On Nature: Natural History & Cultural Illustrations**

**Wednesday October 25, 7:00pm**

Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave, Delmar

Patricia Kernan has been staff illustrator for Research and Collections at the New York State Museum and curator of the international exhibition Focus on Nature: Natural History and Cultural Illustration. Her talk will focus on the natural history and cultural history illustrations in the collections of the Museum. These were commissioned for publications to document the results of natural resource surveys mandated by the NYS Legislature 1836. During the past 171 years, the collection has grown to include thousands of illustrations, both historic and contemporary, that tell the story of how illustrations have supported and furthered scientific research, education, and knowledge.  
<http://exhibitions.nysm.nysed.gov/fon/>

## **ASCR Annual Meeting with Presentation by Tom Lake**

**Saturday, February 24, 2018, 1:00pm**

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center

Changing Ecology of the Hudson River Flyway by Tom Lake

Join ASCR for their annual meeting and elections where Tom Lake will present on the Hudson River Flyway. This region has been a critical north-south conduit for migratory birds, as well as butterflies, hummingbirds, waterfowl, and raptors. In historic times there has been a slow deterioration of habitat and carrying capacity due to natural and unnatural events, from climate change, human ignorance and apathy, to invasive species. During the presentation, Lake will outline and explain some of the changes already affecting the quality of the flyway as well as those that are looming ahead.

## **The Night Shift: Moths, Birds and Landscaping**

**March 2018 (more details to come)**

Local naturalist Catherine Klatt will present her stunning photographs to illustrate the diversity and beauty of moths. Her talk will explore the tight links between moths and birds, and unexpected ways that our home landscaping choices affect bird and insect populations. Far from being just little brown nuisances, moths play a key role in the functioning of our plant and animal communities.

## **The Adirondack Archipelago: Bird Evolution at the Edge of the Boreal Forest**

**Thursday, April 26, 2018, 7:00pm**

Union College at the Old Chapel

Jeremy Kirchman, Curator of Birds at the New York State Museum, will describe his work catching and sampling birds in the field and sequencing their genes in the DNA lab, examining the geographic patterns of genetic diversity in the boreal forest archipelagos of northeastern North America.

## **National Audubon Photo Awards Exhibit**

**April 12 through May 2, 2018**

Kelly Adirondack Center, Union College, Niskayuna

A beautiful photography exhibit of the award winners from the National Audubon photography competition.



## **“What’d I Miss?”**

*Back in July ASCR hosted a butterfly census at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center. Several families came out to learn about butterflies and how to net them safely and identify them. ASCR also helped sponsor Board Member Rebecca Allmond to attend the National Audubon Convention in July. Rebecca flew to Utah for a whirlwind of meeting and networking opportunities on behalf of the chapter. The National Convention is a great way to hear what Chapters, Audubon Centers and State Audubons are doing around the country and the globe. The theme of this year’s convention was “Elevating Audubon: America’s Most Effective Conservation Network” and indeed we are one impressive network for bird conservation!*

*August saw new bird education signs installed along the Mohawk Towpath Byway! September began the season of harvest festivals. ASCR contributed by tabling at the Five Rivers Fall Festival and the Schodack Island Fall Fest and by launching the annual bird seed sale fundraiser! Our Education Coordinator keeps busy, but managed to teach a workshop on bird box construction for this year’s Becoming an Outdoor Woman, hosted by the NYS DEC.*

## NYS DEC Camp Colby sponsorship available



The Audubon Society of the Capital Region cordially invites boys and girls 11-13 years of age to submit a *Statement of Interest* to the Audubon Society of the Capital Region, to win a 2018 sponsorship to the NYS DEC Environmental Education Camp Colby. For one week in summer 2018 this child will experience Colby, a residential summer camp on Lake Colby in Saranac Lake, that provides a stimulating blend of environmental learning and outdoor recreation which heightens awareness and appreciation of our precious natural heritage. Activities such as bird watching, stream sampling, and hiking in the heart of the Adirondacks bring basic conservation concepts to life, fostering a broad understanding of natural systems and the need for their environmental stewardship. Camp dates and other information about this summer camp can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/1877.html>

Boys and girls age 11-13 years and who are interested in attending Camp Colby for one week in summer 2018, are invited to submit a *Statement of Interest* to the Audubon Society of the Capital Region by mail PO Box 14135, Albany, NY 12111-4135, or by email [president@capitalregionaudubon.org](mailto:president@capitalregionaudubon.org). Statements must be received no later than Wednesday, December 13.



All photos courtesy of the DEC's Camp Colby website:  
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/1877.html>



## First Time Birder Program



Schodack Island State Park and the Audubon Society of the Capital Region invite you to participate in your "First Time Birder" experience at Schodack Island State Park this fall. To introduce you to the stimulating hobby of bird-watching, this program will outfit your field party free of charge with everything you'll need to begin watching birds: a personal guided birding tour at the Park (approximately 1 hr); loaner binoculars; a loaner field guide to the birds; and a Schodack Island State Park bird checklist.

An experienced birdwatcher from the Audubon Society of the Capital Region (ASCR) will guide your field party on your First Time Birder adventure. You'll learn savvy tips on how to recognize the many cool birds you will encounter, and how to learn more on your own. Upon your return, your field party will receive a complimentary 1-year membership in the Audubon Society of the Capital Region, free informational material and nifty swag.

Schodack Island State Park is a great place for beginners to try out birdwatching. You'll find birds everywhere you go, many of them common birds you might see everyday, but some of them "at risk" species that you won't find just anywhere! That's why Audubon New York has designated Schodack Island State Park an Important Bird Area and why New York State has designated the Park a State Bird Conservation Area. Of the 190 birds species recorded at the Park so far, 40 are considered "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" (NYS DEC 2016).

You'll find the trails at Schodack Island State Park very user-friendly: flat, well marked and well maintained. The trails visit a variety of cover types including forests, brush lands and fields, and offer rewarding vistas onto the Hudson River and Schodack Creek. So, after your First Time Birder experience, you can choose your own itinerary and bird at your own pace. Just one word of caution: the hobby is habit-forming!

This limited opportunity is open to the public free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Participants must be "first time" birders. Interested parties should contact ASCR at [education@capitalregionaudubon.org](mailto:education@capitalregionaudubon.org) with date and time preferences, number of participants and age range of party.



(....continued from page 1)

In 1886, believing that concerned private citizens could effectively pool their resources, he announced “the formation of an Association for the protection of wild birds and their eggs, which shall be called the Audubon Society.”

In February 1887 Grinnell launched *The Audubon Magazine* for a membership that already numbered 39,000. But the effort proved too successful for Grinnell to handle and he disbanded the society by the end of 1888. However, the concept and the name had taken hold: in 1896 a group of concerned citizens founded the Massachusetts Audubon Society, emulated later that year in Pennsylvania and in eight more states and the District of Columbia in 1897. By 1900, 35 of the 45 states had Audubon Societies.


In 1899 conservationist Frank Chapman financed and launched *Bird-Lore*, a magazine that informed and galvanized Audubon members in an age before instant, mass communication, and 40 years later morphed into *Audubon*. And in 1905 the incorporation of the “National Association of Audubon Societies for the Protection of Wild Birds and Animals” made possible the entity that has profoundly influenced American environmental policies through the present day. 



Photo: G.B. Grinnell

Courtesy of the National Park Service History eLibrary



Become a Chapter Supporter and receive your own window cling (seen here) to help prevent bird-window strikes! The Audubon Society of the Capital Region encourages its members to protect birds by learning more about what they can do to prevent bird strikes.

Become an [ASCR Chapter Supporter](#) today!

## **CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS!!**

**Audubon Society of the Capital Region is looking for reliable, dedicated people to serve on our Board of Directors who are committed to the organization and the best interests of birds and their habitats in the Capital Region.**

**The ASCR Board is comprised of five Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary) and six Directors. The Board meets monthly to plan activities for the membership and the public as well as guides the Chapter in growth, communication with membership and volunteer management. Board member terms are for one year.**

**If you are interested in becoming involved with the ASCR Board or have questions about serving on the Board, please contact Lindsay Homenick ([President@CapitalRegionAudubon.org](mailto:President@CapitalRegionAudubon.org)) or any current members of the Board. Anyone interested in serving on the Board (or just volunteering for ASCR!) is also welcome to attend the monthly Board meetings, the first Wednesday of each month from 6-8pm at Five Rivers Environmental Center.**

## **Call For Volunteers!**

### **Program Chair Needed**

We are looking for a highly motivated and creative individual to help get involved with creating and sustaining current programs for ASCR. For details about this please contact the current Programs Chair, John Loz, [programs@capitalregionaudubon.org](mailto:programs@capitalregionaudubon.org).

### **Bald Eagle Nest Watch Coordinator Needed**

Our current coordinator, Drew, has done a wonderful service in the Capital Region, but he is moving on! We do not want to lose all the effort he's gone through to start and run this nest monitoring program. We are looking for a coordinator to keep this program running next winter! If you would like to know more about this opportunity please contact [volunteer@capitalregionaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@capitalregionaudubon.org)

### **Movers and Shakers Needed**

We still need assistance in retrieving and preparing the wood for Bird Box construction. ASCR creates bird box kits with pre-cut wood pieces and hardware. ASCR donates them to organizations and leads workshops to assemble the kits. ASCR sells them as a fundraiser at various events. All these bird boxes are prepared by ASCR volunteers, like you! But it takes a big team effort. Currently, we are looking for volunteers for two tasks:

1. ***Help with Picking up Wood***
2. ***Cutting Wood to Assemble Kits***

*If you are interested in helping in any way please contact*

*[volunteer@capitalregionaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@capitalregionaudubon.org).*

# ASCR Bird Seed Sale 2017

## ORDER FORM



### 2017 Bird Seed Sale Fundraiser Order Form

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDER DEADLINE - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 5PM**  
**PRODUCT PICK UP - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 9AM-11AM**  
 At the William K. Sanford Library, 629 Albany Shaker Road, Loudonville, NY 12211  
*Please ensure that you pick up your bird seed on the pick-up day, ASCR is unable to store any bird seed.*

#### PRODUCTS - BIRD SEED

*Featuring products from Aspen Song - All Natural Wild Bird Food. Aspen Song mixes are designed to provide the best possible nutrition with the broadest possible appeal to your backyard visitors.*

	Quantity	Price Per	Total
<b>Black Oil Sunflower 20 lb bag</b> <i>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.</i>	_____	\$16	\$ _____
<b>Ultimate Blend 20 lb bag</b>	_____	\$22	\$ _____
<b>Ultimate Blend 40 lb bag</b> <i>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.</i>	_____	\$40	\$ _____
<b>Premium Blend 20 lb bag</b>	_____	\$21	\$ _____
<b>Premium Blend 40 lb bag</b> <i>Includes Black Oil Sunflower, White Proso Millet, Cracked Corn, Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Safflower, Canola, Small Yellow Millet, Canary Seed, Nyjer Seed and Dehydrated Cherries.</i>	_____	\$38	\$ _____
<b>Choice Blend 20 lb bag</b>	_____	\$17	\$ _____
<b>Choice Blend 40 lb bag</b> <i>Over 30% Sunflowers &amp; Peanuts and includes White Proso Millet, Black Oil Sunflower, Cracked Corn, Peanuts, Safflower and Black Stripe Sunflower.</i>	_____	\$26	\$ _____
<b>Just Desserts 20 lb bag</b> <i>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.</i>	_____	\$44	\$ _____
<b>Nut &amp; Fruit Woodpecker Blend 20 lb bag</b> <i>Shell-less mix for woodpeckers and wire mesh tube feeders. Mix includes Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Sunflower Kernels, Steamed-crimped Corn, Shelled Pumpkin Seeds, Raisins, Dehydrated Cherries, Dried Cranberries &amp; Dried Blueberries.</i>	_____	\$50	\$ _____
<b>Nyjer Seed 25 lb bag</b> <i>To primarily attract finches, siskin, and redpoll, this is used in feeders with tiny seed ports.</i>	_____	\$46	\$ _____
<b>Nut and Fruit Suet 11 oz Cakes (SINGLES)</b>	_____	\$2.50	\$ _____
<b>Nut and Fruit Suet 11 oz Cakes (CASE OF 12)</b>	_____	\$25	\$ _____
<b>Hi Energy Suet 12 oz Cakes (SINGLES)</b>	_____	\$ 2	\$ _____
<b>Hi Energy Suet 12 oz Cakes (CASE OF 12)</b>	_____	\$20	\$ _____
<b>ASCR Chapter Supporter Membership (1 year)</b>	_____	\$20	\$ _____

*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. National Audubon membership is separate from local Chapter membership. Please support your local chapter.*

#### ASCR Additional Donation

*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 administered entirely by a volunteer Board of Directors.*

Please enter amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDER TOTAL**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please calculate your order total and enter above. **Mail this order form with your full payment by check to Audubon Society of the Capital Region, PO Box 14135, Albany, NY 12212-4135.** Orders must be received by ASCR by 5pm Sat., 10/28, so please plan accordingly for mail orders.

**TO ORDER ONLINE**, please visit [www.CapitalRegionAudubon.org/store](http://www.CapitalRegionAudubon.org/store) NOTE: Please ensure that you pick up your seed on the pickup day, Saturday, November 4, 9am-Noon at the William K Sanford Library parking lot. Our storage space is limited, but in an emergency, we will try to hold your order. Call Lindsay Homenick at 518-796-4417 with any problems and/or questions.

Not sure which seed to buy? Check out this seed chart produced by Audubon New York. You can find out more about bird seed and connect with this chart online: <http://ny.audubon.org/conservation/attracting-birds-your-feeder>



Audubon NEW YORK

## SEED CHART

### PREFERRED SEED/FOOD

SPECIES	Oil Sunflower	Striped Sunflower	Sunflower Hearts	Nyjer (Thistle)	Peanuts	Tree Nuts	Fruit	Millet	Safflower	Milo	Cracked Corn	Suet Cakes
Bluebirds			●				●					●
Buntings			●				●	●				
Cardinals	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Chickadees	●	●	●	●	●	●						●
Doves			●	●				●	●	●	●	
Goldfinches	●		●	●				●				●
Grosbeaks	●	●	●						●		●	
House Finches	●		●	●	●	●		●	●			
Jays	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Juncos			●	●	●	●		●		●	●	
Mockingbirds							●					●
Nuthatches	●	●	●		●	●	●		●			●
Purple Finches	●		●	●				●				
Quail								●		●	●	
Siskins	●		●	●							●	
Sparrows	●		●	●				●		●	●	
Tanagers			●				●					
Titmice	●	●	●	●	●	●					●	●
Towhees	●							●		●		
Woodpeckers			●		●	●	●					●
Squirrels	●	●	●		●	●	●				●	



## Volunteers Wanted!

ASCR relies solely on the time and effort of volunteers to keep the chapter operating. We need people like you to get involved. No time commitment or activity is too small. We'd like to [hear from you](#) how we can better engage volunteers.

The working groups below help to give brief descriptions of all that we do. If you see something you would be interested in exploring, or have other ideas, don't hesitate to [contact us](#).

If you have a passion for nature and the desire to make a difference in your community, we do too!

**Come volunteer with us at the  
Audubon Society of the Capital Region!**

### Working Group Descriptions

ASCR is dedicated to the protection and conservation of birds, wildlife and the environment.

#### Membership & Volunteers

Leaders: Fred Bockis

Maintain membership records. Work with other Working Groups to secure volunteers for ASCR events and engage current members.

#### Programs

Leader: John Loz

Plan, arrange and promote lectures and workshops (i.e., Speaker Series). Plan, arrange and promote field trips (i.e., Bird Walks).

#### Conservation & Advocacy

Leaders: Eric Latini

Plan, coordinate and maintain conservation activities (i.e., Tangle-tainers). Partner with similar organizations on conservation and advocacy efforts.

#### Marketing & Communications

Leader: Rebecca Allmond

Review and edit all ASCR publications. Write, design and disseminate communications and information. Advertise events (i.e. press releases, social media). Maintain website. Photograph events.

#### Education

Leader: Craig Thompson

Conduct educational programs (i.e., Ornithology for Kids at children's camps). Coordinate Citizen Science programs (i.e., Christmas Bird Count)

#### Finance

Leader: Rene Fachetti

Create budget for approval (annual). Develop fundraising initiatives (i.e., Bird Seed Sale). Engage in fund development (i.e., grant writing).

## Volunteer Spotlight:

### Drew Cashman



Q: Where, or in what field do you work?

A: *I am currently in the field of being a Dad for my two young boys.*

Q: How are you involved with ASCR?

A: *Bald Eagle Nest Watch Coordinator, Raptor Fest organizer.*

Q: When did you first become interested in birding?

A: *I have been interested in birds my entire life. I went on my first hawk watch at 8 or 9 years old in my hometown in Vermont and was I hooked.*

Q: What made you want to get involved with ASCR, your local Audubon Chapter?

A: *I had reached out to ASCR to see if the chapter was interested in helping me create a Bald Eagle Nest Watch program for the Capital Region.*

Q: What is your favorite bird?

A: *Bald Eagle (of course)!*

Q: What do you like to do when you are not birding?

A: *I like spending time with my family, writing, nature photography, and doing anything out doors.*

*Editors note: Drew confessed that his second favorite bird is the Red shouldered Hawk (pictured above).*



**Here's a Special Shout out and  
THANK YOU to our Chapter Supporters !**

Betsey Kuzia, Albany

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

### OFFICERS

President:	Lindsay Homenick
Vice President:	Open Position
Correspondence Officer:	Rebecca Allmond
Treasurer:	René Facchetti
Recording Officer:	Craig Thompson

### DIRECTORS

Aimee Brunelle  
Ryan Henderson  
Eric Latini  
Craig Thompson  
Mike Silo

### BOARD MEMBER EMERITUS

Jerry Brown  
David Gibson

### WEBMASTER:

WebAdmin:	René Facchetti
Info@CapitalRegionAudubon	Rebecca Allmond

## 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:

- Your support highlighted in the Quarterly newsletter: *WingBeats*
- 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!!

## WORKING GROUPS AND LEADERS

**Conservation & Advocacy:** Eric Latini  
Conservation@CapitalRegionAudubon.org

**Education:** Craig Thompson  
Education@CapitalRegionAudubon.org

**Programs:** John Loz  
Programs@CapitalRegionAudubon.org

**Marketing & Communications:** Rebecca Allmond  
Marketing@CapitalRegionAudubon.org

**Finance:** René Facchetti  
Finance@CapitalRegionAudubon.org

**Membership and Volunteers:** Fred Bockis & Ryan Henderson  
Membership@CapitalRegionAudubon.org  
Volunteer@CapitalRegionAudubon.org

**By Laws:** Lindsay Hominick  
President@CapitalRegionAudubon.org

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



Barred owl  
Photo: R.Allmond

## Questions?

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