



WINGBEATS

NYSDEC and Audubon Society of the Capital Region Team Up to Protect Wildlife

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has teamed up with the Audubon Society of the Capital Region to install fishing line disposal canisters at DEC public fishing access sites throughout the Capital Region, says DEC Regional Director Keith Goertz.



"I'm very pleased to announce this joint initiative today that will help protect waterfowl and other species of wildlife from being entangled by discarded fishing line," Goertz said. "This is a great example of a public/private partnership that not only benefits our two organizations but also provides a valuable public service to the anglers of New York State."

"The Audubon Society of the Capital Region is thrilled to partner with DEC on this effort and we look forward to more partnerships between our organizations in the near future," said Audubon Society of the Capital Region Program Chair, John Loz.

Numerous fishing line disposal canisters, also known as "tangle-tainers," have been installed at several public access...(*Tangle-tainers continued on page 4.*)

Closed Landfills Can Help Save Grassland Birds

**By Roy Thornton
ASCR Member & Chapter Supporter**

In the Northeast the number of grassland birds, such as the Bobolink seen below, has declined drastically in the last thirty years because of habitat loss. For example, the Eastern Meadowlark and Upland Sandpiper have declined by 85 to 90 percent in the last 30 years.



Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), NYS Management Concern

Efforts are underway by birding and wildlife organizations, as well as federal and state agencies, to save and build habitat for grassland birds, but one resource is underutilized: closed and capped landfills.

These areas are uniquely suited for establishing grassland bird habitat for the following reasons:

- The caps on municipal solid waste and hazardous waste sites are excellent areas free of brush and trees because the caps must be kept intact.
- Mowing can be done as seldom as every three years to keep trees and brush off the caps, and mowing can be avoided during nesting and fledging seasons.
- Vegetation on caps can be native grasses and wildflowers suitable not only for grassland birds but for pollinators and monarch butterflies.
- Many landfill caps are in excess of the 20 or more acres needed for grassland birds to nest and fledge successfully.
- The bird's exposure to pesticides is minimal because insecticides are...(*LANDFILLS continued on page 5.*)

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Friday June 10th - Sunday June 12th



This is Not Your Typical Birding Weekend!

Audubon Society of the Capital Region is proud to be a **primary partner** for this event! This event combines the best of a birding festival with a birding conference, and the **Catskill Center** has invented an event that is rich with presenters, expert led bird walks and hikes, and workshops to choose from all weekend!

Bird Talks, Owl Walks, and Bonfires each evening!

View the impressive lineup of Keynote speakers and presenters here: <http://catskillcenter.org/taking-flight-presenters/>

Location: [The Ashokan Center](#) - 477 Beaverkill Road, Olivebridge, NY

To Register for this new event and fun weekend, go to: <http://catskillcenter.org/taking-flight-about>

“Take Flight” with Audubon in the Catskills this June!

Bird Walks now *two* days a week!

June 1st through July 16th 2016

Location: [Schodack Island State Park](#), 1 Schodack Island Way, Schodack Landing, NY 12156

Join our partners at [Schodack island State Park](#) as they lead bird walks on:

**Remember
to bring
Bug Repellent!*

Warbler Wednesdays!
7am to 9am

Early Bird Saturdays!
7am to 9am

***Meet in the Main Parking Lot!** Any questions? Contact Brooke Morgan at: (518) 732-0187

ALSO! - Mark your calendars on **Saturday June 25th** for “**Park Fest Day!**” **ASCR** will have our info tent there & have conservation activities you can join in on at the Park!

More Late Summer ASCR Outdoor events are on their way!

Check back on our Audubon Society of the Capital Region [webpage calendar](#), [Facebook](#) page and our [Twitter](#) page for volunteer conservation projects you can participate in and a possible... “Birds, Brews, and Book Author” walk!

President's Message

by Lindsay Homenick, ASCR President

Hello Audubon Society of the Capital Region Members! As the incoming President of this wonderful organization, I want to first extend a thank you to all our dedicated Officers, Directors, Volunteers and Chapter Supporters. Without the dedication and hard work of this group of people, ASCR would not be the organization that it is today.

As I often do with organizations I am involved with, I took a step back and looked at ASCR to see where we are as a Chapter. To me, ASCR seems to be in a period of re-birth and growth. Over the past few years, the Chapter has been resurrected and more and more people have come to the table to help grow the organization, plan events and contribute to the protection and conservation of wildlife in our Chapter area. This is undoubtedly a great accomplishment; however we still have a lot of opportunities to do more as a Chapter. While we have a great group of dedicated members and volunteers, we need more members to become actively involved to help the Chapter reach its full potential.

Over the next two years, I look forward to meeting many more of you and learning what talents, experiences and expertise you have to lend to the ASCR. No commitment is too small! This is an exciting time for ASCR and I am excited to be a part of it. 🐦



(l-r) ASCR President Lindsay Homenick and ASCR Corresponding Officer Rebecca Allmond at our Migration Celebration Fest at the Mabee Farm, Rotterdam Jct., NY. May 1st, 2016.

Perspective - A New Bird in the Flock


By Rebecca Allmond, ASCR Corresponding Officer

Today, the beat these wings bring you, is the cadence of Audubon chapter comradery. Many thanks for allowing me to represent our local chapter at this year's Audubon New York Spring Council meeting in Saratoga Springs, NY over the weekend of March 18th-20th, 2016. If you don't know what a Spring Council meeting is, that's ok. Neither did I. Being the new bird in the flock <new kid on the block>, I am learning all that our chapter is involved in. The Spring Council meeting fosters a gathering of active members from other Audubon chapters in New York, 27 in all. It is a weekend of sharing, learning and bonding of Audubon folk who love birds and wildlife, and their communities. From as far away as Buffalo to the eastern forks of Long Island, many local Audubon chapters feathered up for this weekend to learn about new initiatives and programs from the [National Audubon Society](#), and specifically, bird-friendly gardens.

Our chapter was well represented, including our new President Lindsay Homenick, past-President John Loz, Membership Chair Fred Bockis, long time board member Craig Thompson and myself, the current Corresponding Officer. We participated in the round table discussion, where each chapter shared a story about their experiences related to bird-friendly garden projects, and about their chapter's overall successes and struggles. There were several presentations including talks about bird-friendly plants, what to think of when planning a bird-friendly community garden, and a proposal from Audubon New York to plant a bird friendly garden in Troy, NY. We all (*FLOCK continued on page 6*)

(*Tangle-tainers* continued from page 1.) sites along the Mohawk and Susquehanna rivers, as well as the Tomhannock Reservoir in Rensselaer County and Rensselaer Lake in the City of Albany. DEC and Audubon are currently in the process of installing additional canisters throughout the Capital Region as well as in Schoharie and Greene counties.

The PVC canisters instruct anglers to dispose of their used and tangled fishing line properly to prevent birds, fish and other wildlife from becoming tangled in the line. Discarded fishing line on the shores of waterbodies can harm numerous species of wildlife. For example, waterfowl can have their legs or wings entangled in the fishing line and their beaks can become wrapped in the line, preventing them from eating and causing death by starvation.

The canisters come equipped with wooden doors to not only prevent trash from being disposed in them, but to also prevent birds from attempting to nest in them. 

Left: Eric Latini, Conservation Co-Chair and Board Director, installing one of over 30 microfilament fishing line containers he's built over the last two years.



Need more daily Capital Region Birding News?

Check us out at:



Instagram



Questions?

Email: info@capitalregionaudubon.org



Become a Capital Region Audubon Chapter Supporter!

Do You want to see your donation stay local?
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 _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

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

Phone #: _____

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

(**LANDFILLS** continued from page 1.)

...not typically used on capped landfills for food crops.

- Herbicides might be used sparingly or not at all to control invasive plant species.

Communities can also benefit from establishing and maintaining grassland habitat on capped landfills.

The reasons include:

- Landfill managers will benefit from good publicity.
- Landfill mowing costs will be reduced.
- School children, scout groups, and residents will have a place to observe and learn about the birds and, if wildflowers are present, about butterflies, and other pollinators.
- Volunteers will have opportunities to participate in “green” projects to establish and improve the grassland habitat.
- Outside groups such as the Audubon Society can be invited in to give workshops to community groups and kids’ summer day camps.

Ways to get involved include:

- Use online search engines to find a local Audubon Society chapter, birding club, or environmental group. Join, or even act on your own.
- Identify nearby capped or closing landfills, which may be suitable for bird and pollinator habitat, and find who is managing them—city, town, county, or waste management company.
- Advocate the establishment of grassland bird habitat with any or all of the stakeholders. Be persistent—it may take time to persuade landfill managers to change their practices.



Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), NYS Management Concern

Here is a short list of organizations with grassland bird habitat programs, information, and interests:

- **Audubon Society of the Capital Region** at Blatnick Park, Niskayuna NY: a capped landfill site along the Mohawk: http://www.capitalregionaudubon.org/batnick_park_grassland.php
- **Cornell Lab of Ornithology**, <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/> Search: “Grassland Birds”
- **WM (Waste Management)** a company with over 120 sites with wildlife habitat programs, <http://www.wm.com/about/community/whc/wildlife-habitat-sites.jsp>
- **Southern Adirondack Audubon Society** in partnership w/ NYSDEC <http://southernadirondackaudubon.org/birding/Birding%20Locations/WashCounty/washcounty.html>

Grassland Bird Species At-Risk²

*Natural Heritage Program Status

Species	NY Natural Heritage Rank*	NYS Status
Northern Harrier	S3	Threatened
Upland Sandpiper	S3	Threatened
Short-eared Owl	S2	Endangered
Horned Lark		Special Concern
Sedge Wren	S3	Threatened
Vesper Sparrow		Special Concern
Grasshopper Sparrow	S4	Special Concern
Henslow's Sparrow	S4	Threatened

S2: Typically 6 to 20 occurrences; few remaining individuals, acres, or miles of stream, or factors demonstrably making it very vulnerable in New York State.

S3: Typically 21 to 100 occurrences; limited acreage or miles of stream in New York State.

S4: Apparently secure in New York State.

S5: Demonstrably secure in New York State but have suffered significant

Please Note: New and Renewing Chapter Supporters!

We will be acknowledging your support in our *Wingbeats* Fall 2016 newsletter. We ran out of room for this issue, but please know we *greatly* appreciate your membership support in *your* local Audubon chapter. Your donations DO make a BIG difference!

OFFICERS

President: Lindsay Homenick
Vice- President: Angelika Beckmann
Corresponding Officer: Rebecca Allmond
Treasurer: René Facchetti
Recording Officer: Jeremy Taylor

DIRECTORS

Eric Latini
Craig Thompson
Mike Devoe
John Loz

Working Groups

Conservation Working Group: Eric Latini
Dave Covey
Gordon McClelland

Strategic Planning Working Group:

Ryan Henderson - Chair
Lindsay Homenick- Secretary
Dave Covey
Kathryn Sikule
Rebecca Allmond

Education Working Group Leader:
Craig Thompson

Programs Working Group Leader: Open Position!

Field Trips Coordinator: Open Position!

Field Trip Volunteers: Craig Thompson
Eric Latini
Tristan Lowery

Marketing & Communications Group Leader:
Kathryn Sikule

Finance Working Group Leader:
René Facchetti

Fundraising Chair: Open Position!

Membership: Fred Bockis

Editor of Wingbeats Newsletter: René Facchetti
Co-Editor: John Loz

Webmaster: René Facchetti

ASCR Board Members Emeritus:
Jerry Brown
David Gibson

Volunteers At-large!
Linda Davern
Mary Ellen Freiberg
Tristan Lowery
Drew Cashman

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

(*FLOCK* continued from page 3.) ...had the chance to meet National Audubon's new Networking Director, David Ringer, who shared with us the vision and strategic plan recently developed. Part of this new plan involves a recognition to create a stronger network of support among the local State chapters and National. In this spirit, Liz, from National, spent some time showing us a new tool for member networking, called "Audubon Works".

I spent some time learning, meeting new people, and taking it all in. One of the highlights of the weekend are opportunities to do some early morning birding and mid-afternoon field trips. The outing I attended took us to the [NYSDEC Saratoga Tree Nursery](#) where I learned the history of the oldest tree nursery in the state and took a tour of the facility. Not only did I witness where the tree seedlings get planted and harvested, but I even got a sneak peak of where they shell and clean the lupine seed collected from the local Albany Pine Bush and the Wilton Wildlife Preserves (think Karner Blue Butterfly food)! After the afternoon field trips, there was a delicious dinner with some bird trivia, and an awards ceremony. Not only did the Audubon Council honor a Suffolk County official for his dedication and service to protecting the environment, but they also honored a longtime Audubon volunteer from Bronx-Sound Shore Audubon for over 25 years of service. That's a long time to be a volunteer!

After a long weekend of learning and hanging with some bird nerds, this Audubon fledgling was pooped. Afterwards, I found myself roosting at home, reflecting upon my experiences. Ok, yes, I went home and had to take a nap. (Who knew bird conferences were so exhausting?) It was such a great meeting though, and I believe that the ASCR and myself will be able to use what we learned to better serve you, the ASCR members, and the Capital Region community. If you made it reading this far, then I invite you to serve your fellow flock members and the community with us! 🐦



Photo Credit: Rebecca Allmond

Above: Forester at Saratoga Tree Nursery describing the process of how they receive cones and extract the seeds using various processes with the machines behind him. The seeds are then used to grow new tree seedlings they then can sell.

Additional Donations Made In Memory of Charles Koban:

Elizabeth Lee
Nelda L. Polansky
Jennifer Koza-Todaro
Ann & Peter McKinney

Denise Banaag - Midland Park Reformed Church (NJ)
and
Early & Associates—Carlise, MA

Did you know that the [Audubon Society of the Capital Region](#) is **100 percent volunteer run**? That means that everything ASCR does is planned, coordinated and executed by dedicated volunteers in the Chapter Area. This includes speakers, bird walks, conservation efforts & even this newsletter you are reading now.

To help interested people figure out how best to volunteer, ASCR organizes its operations into a series of “Working Groups.” The groups are similar to committees, however, unlike most committees, there is no minimum requirement to participate in a Working Group, *and* you do not need to be an expert on birds, or even the environment to contribute. Just a willingness to enjoy being part of a group of like-minded people!



Below is a listing of the Working Groups, along with a brief description of what each group does for ASCR. Each Working Group also has a leader, or co-leaders, who keep the Working Groups organized. If you are interested in participating in a Working Group, please contact the leader(s) listed below.

Please remember that **no commitment is too small!** Thank you in advance for your help!

- Lindsay Homenick, ASCR President

Working Group Descriptions	
<i>ASCR is dedicated to the protection and conservation of birds, wildlife and the environment.</i>	
Membership & Volunteers	
Working Group Leaders: Fred Bockis and Dave Covey: Membership@CapitalRegionAudubon.org	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain membership records Work with other Working Groups to secure volunteers for ASCR events and engage current members 	
Programs	
Working Group Leader: John Loz Programs@CapitalRegionAudubon.org	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan, arrange and promote lectures and workshops (i.e., Speaker Series) Plan, arrange and promote field trips (i.e., Bird Walks) 	
Conservation & Advocacy	
Working Group Leaders: Dave Covey & Eric Latini Conservation@CapitalRegionAudubon.org	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan, coordinate and maintain conservation activities (i.e., Tangle-tainers) Partner with other similar organizations on conservation and advocacy efforts 	
Marketing & Communications	
Working Group Leader: Kathryn Sikule Marketing@CapitalRegionAudubon.org	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and edit all ASCR publications — Help review content and maintain Website Write, design and disseminate ASCR communications and information Advertise events (i.e., press releases, social media) — Photograph Events 	
Education	
Working Group Leader: Craig Thompson Education@CapitalRegionAudubon.org	
Conduct educational programs (i.e., Ornithology for Kids at children's camps) Coordinate Citizen Science programs (i.e., Christmas Bird Count)	
Finance	
Working Group Leader: Rene Fachetti Finance@CapitalRegionAudubon.org	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create budget for approval (annual) Develop fundraising initiatives (i.e., Bird Seed Sale) Engage in fund development (i.e., grant writing) 	

Buy A Burger...for the Birds!

Audubon Society of the Capital Region was selected by Burger 21 as the Charity of the Month for June!

Support **ASCR** by stopping by **Burger 21** anytime during the day or evening at **622 New Loudon Road, Latham, NY** on:

Tuesday June 21st

from 11am to 9pm



CRAFTED BURGERS AND SHAKES

10% of ALL purchases will be donated to our Audubon chapter!

The Kelly Adirondack Center at
Union College in Schenectady, NY

now publishing

The Adirondack Journal

Volume 20: Birds of the Adirondacks

The [Adirondack Research Consortium](#) and Union College of Schenectady, NY have partnered to publish Volume 20 of the [Adirondack Journal of Environmental Studies \(AJES\)](#).

The avian-themed edition features Teddy Roosevelt's summer bird list and Larry Master's Christmas bird count. It features 11 articles, an organizational profile of Northern New York Audubon and color photos by Larry Master. Leading scientists have contributed research to the journal, including "Songbird Research from Sphagnum Bog to Alpine Summit" by Amy Sauer and David Evers, and "State of the Birds in Exurbia" by Michale Glennon and Heidi Kretser.

Get Your Copy of Volume 20 of AJES, by becoming an "AJES Member" of the Adirondack Research Consortium & the [Kelly Adirondack Center](#). In addition to supporting the ongoing publication of AJES, members will receive updates on future volumes of the journal.

The Adirondack Research Consortium is a not-for-profit research-based organization located on the campus of Paul Smith's College. Founded in 1795, Union College is an independent liberal arts college committed to integrating the humanities and social sciences with science and engineer-ing in new and exciting ways.

Union College is publishing the journal through the **Kelly Adirondack Center** (<http://muse.union.edu/adirondack/>). Contact Dan Fitts at: info@adkresearch.org or Caleb Northrop at northroc@union.edu with any questions.

