



Summer 2019 WINGBEATS

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

The Audubon Society of the Capital Region Congratulates our Board Vice President

Congratulations are in order for Erin Allen on the completion of her Master's thesis on New York State pollinators and agriculture. Erin has served as the vice-president on the ASCR board for the past two years while continuing her studies. Her efforts and enthusiasm for ASCR have helped bring new energy to our organization.

This accomplishment is certainly an impressive one. Congratulations Erin!

Officers:

President: Rebecca Allmond
Vice President: Erin Allen
Treasurer: René Facchetti
Correspondence Officer, Fred Bockis
Recording Officer (open)

Board of Directors:

Mark Silo,
Jennifer Ford,
Eric Latini

Thank you To Our Eagle Nest Watchers!

Submitted by Jennifer Ford



"A big THANK YOU to all of our volunteers who made this year's Bald Eagle Nest Watch such a success. This is my first year coordinating the program, and having such diligent nest watchers helped a lot.

Together, 10 volunteers monitored 11 nest sites throughout the season. These volunteers monitored the nests on a weekly basis and submitted reports summarizing the activity in the nest. This information was then shared with the NYS DEC to help them stay informed on Bald Eagle nesting activity in our area. Most of the nesting pairs of Bald Eagles were able to raise at least one eaglet to fledging, and many were able to raise two eaglets.

Additionally, two volunteers discovered new nests that we were able to add to our watch list, and some even stepped up to fill in for volunteers who couldn't make it to the nest sit on a given week."

For more information about the ASCR Bald Eagle Nest Watch Program or to volunteer for next year's watch, please contact Jennifer at jsf@nycap.rr.com.

In This Issue...

Board Member Congrats.....	1
Audubon New York & Atlasing.....	2
Volunteer Opportunities.....	3
IBAs & Conservation.....	4
Upcoming events.....	5
Board Members & Working Groups...	6

News From New York Audubon

“Landmark Climate Bill Among Those Passed in Final Days of Session”

In a flurry of action this week, New York’s lawmakers have wrapped up the legislative session by passing multiple bills that Audubon New York—and many local Audubon chapters—successfully advocated for, including the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). The CLCPA is an ambitious climate bill that puts us on the path to a cleaner future and serves as a model for the nation.

You helped make this landmark legislation happen! Almost 1,500 members gave voice to birds by signing our action alert in support of a climate bill this past week. Another 1,500 signed in support of establishing a bird-friendly buildings council. Thank you!

Climate change is an urgent threat to our local communities and bird species that depend on New York, including the beloved Piping Plover, Wood Thrush, and Snowy Owl.

The CLCPA reflects this urgency in timing and scope: it calls for New York to eliminate 85% of its overall planet-warming emissions by 2050, while offsetting or capturing the other 15%. While five other U.S. states have adopted 100% clean-energy targets, New York’s calls for the greatest reduction in carbon emissions and is the first to implement an economy-wide climate solution.

It’s been a truly memorable legislative session. New York is living up to its motto and moving “Ever Upward.”

Thanks to our members, local Audubon chapters, and conservation partners who mobilized for change, our birds and our communities have a brighter future.

This article can be found at: <https://ny.audubon.org/news/landmark-climate-bill-among-those-passed-final-days-session>

More from Breeding Bird Atlas

Excerpts from

“Atlas Corner: Breeding Codes Part 1”

by Julie Hart, NY BBA III Project Coordinator

This article first appeared in New York Birders, the newsletter of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) June 2019.

In the last issue I introduced the idea of breeding codes used by bird atlases to document the breeding status of birds. It’s now summer and the birds are well into their breeding cycle, which means that you have the opportunity to practice using these codes.

What are the different categories of breeding evidence?

The [atlas breeding codes](#) fall into four categories or levels: Observed, Possible, Probable, and Confirmed. As you can tell by their names, they range from weak to strong evidence for breeding.

Confirmed Breeding – The Holy Grail

The Confirmed codes are the *holy grail* of atlasing. They also tend to be some of the easier codes to apply to your observations because they are so conclusive.

Using the Confirmed Codes

You can start using the confirmed breeding codes today! They are available in eBird all the time all over the world. The code definitions are the same no matter where you are...

Simple, right? You will undoubtedly have questions and want clarifications, and for that we are making lists of examples of how to use the codes. We’ll also hold training workshops around the state and review some of the common issues; contact me (julie.hart@dec.ny.gov) to book a workshop. If you want answers to your questions now, please post them to our [Facebook Discussion Group](#).

Join the Breeding Bird Atlas Community Online!

The Atlas [Website](#) is where we will provide bird-watching tips, field methods, how to use eBird, block maps, answers to frequently asked questions, news and events, you name it! The website is in the nestling stage but will be growing quickly over the next few months.

Follow us on Facebook or on Instagram to share your stories, photos, and videos, ask questions, and discover events happening near you. Read the full article at: <https://nybirds.org/Articles/Atlas/AtlasBreedingCodes1-June2019.pdf>

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!

Opportunities range from board involvement to project design to civilian science projects.

Want to get involved or start something new? We would love to hear your ideas. New to conservation sciences? Looking to spend some time outdoors learning about birds, native plant species and more? This is a great place to start! Worried that you don't have enough experience? Don't. We welcome volunteers of all ages and experience levels.

For more on becoming a volunteer with ASCR please visit:

**Contact us at:
volunteer@capitalregionaudubon.org**

And sign up for our mailing to receive updates for new opportunities at:

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



Additional Opportunities

Bald Eagle Nest Watch

Come help monitor a Bald Eagle nest near Hudson, NY. This involves monitoring the nest for at least one hour per week during the nesting season, and submitting data on nest activity.

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. Minimum commitment is to attend regular board meetings and help coordinate programs for the chapter. Training is provided.

Bird Walk Leaders desired

Do you know birds in the Capital Region? Do you like people? Would you like to share your knowledge with new and curious birders? Come be a bird walk leader with Audubon!

Recording Officer Needed

Are you a good note taker? We need you! Commitment is one board meeting per month to take meeting notes and email them to the Board.

Interested in any of these opportunities?

**Contact:
President@CapitalRegionAudubon.org**





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!!

Capital Region IBA

As the summer kicks into high gear, it is the perfect time to get out-doors and exploring some local IBAs. First, what are IBAs? IBA stands for Important Bird Area. These are areas that have been identified as being important to bird breeding, migration, feeding or over-wintering. This is an international program that Audubon New York began to participating in, in 1997. To-date 132 areas have been labeled in New York as IBAs. Below are a few local to the Capital Region:

Albany Pine Bush Preserve

Located in Albany, New York

This is the only fire-controlled pine barren in the state and serves as the home of many at risk birds and butterflies.

Black Creek Marsh

Located near Guilderland, New York

This is wetland preserve spans into the town of New Scotland and provides important habitat for wetland bird species.

John Boyd Thatcher State Park

Located in Voorheesville, New York

This beautiful, park serves as a habitat to over 170 species of birds!

Stockport Flats

Located in Stockport, New York

This is part of the Hudson River Preserve and a tidal marsh. It serves as an important breeding site for Bald Eagles and other bird species.

Rensselaer Forest Tract

Located near Grafton, New York

This 100,00 acre plot of forest supports a diverse bird population including the American Black duck and Golden Crown Kinglet.

Saratoga National Historical Park

Located in Saratoga, New York

This park serves as a home and breeding area for grass-land birds.

Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve

Located in Clifton Park, New York

Running along the Mohawk River this freshwater wetland is home to a large variety of birds, such as the great Blue Heron.

For a complete list of IBAs in New York state visit:

<https://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/state/new-york>

Upcoming Events

The Night Shift: Moths After Dark

Saturday, July 27, 8:00 pm

Emma Treadwell Thatcher Park Nature Center,
Thatcher Park

Join the State Park and ASCR for as we explore insects after dark.

Come and see gorgeous moths and other nocturnal insects attracted to special lights. After a short introduction inside, we will head out to the moth lighting set-up with resident moth expert, Catherine Klatt and ASCR President, Rebecca Allmond. Bring a flashlight and be prepared for mosquitoes. You will probably be most comfortable with long pants and sleeves. Rain date is August 10.

Please call the park to register: 518-872-0800

ASCR Board Meeting

Monday, August 12, Loudonville

Want to discover how to unlock more bird and nature programs in the Capital Region? Explore the power of influence at the ASCR board meeting! Without folks like you to help us put something on the books—programs vanish!

Please consider coordinating, organizing or leading a program for the public. Simple is best! Got a passion for planning small events in the capital region, consider working with us as a Program Coordinator! Don't have ideas? That's ok—we simply need someone to say 'yes'! Interested? Contact us at: info@capitalregionaudubon.org

Not ready to contribute here? That's ok -check out our partners who put in a lot of hours to offer nature programs to the community:

[Landis Arboretum](#)
[Hudson Mohawk Bird Club](#)
[Thatcher State Park](#)
[Schodack Island State Park](#)
[Peebles Island State Park](#)
[Fiver Rivers Environmental Education Center](#)
[Albany Rural Cemetery](#)

Bird Walk: First Time Birders at Schodack Island Park

Saturday, August 10, 8:00 am

1 Schodack Island Way, Schodack Landing, NY 12156

Join us for an introductory bird walk at Schodack Island State Park. The morning will begin with an hour long walk where we discuss binocular use, spotting techniques and work to ID the most common birds (and may a few rare ones) on our journey through the trails.

Space is limited! Please call the park to register at:
518 -732-0187

Bird Walk! at Albany Rural Cemetery

Saturday, September 21, 2018, 7:30 am

Cemetery Ave, Albany, NY 12204

(main entrance is off of route 378 in Menands)

Join us in the Chapel with local historian Dr. John Pipkin for an intro to the history and design of this National Historic Landmark, featuring the resting places of John Boyd Thatcher and President Chester Arthur. Then walk the cemetery's rolling terrain and various paved surfaces to listen and look for fall migrants and avian denizens, guided by ASCR volunteer and expert birder - Tristan Lowry. Bring binoculars and wear comfortable shoes and clothing. This walk can last up to 2.5 hours. Rain date is September 28.

Space is limited and registration is required!

Please call the Albany Rural Cemetery to register:
518- 463-7017

Speaker at Peebles Island State Park:

Birds, Insects and their Urban Environments.

Saturday October 26, noon

Come join ASCR as we host Joe Corra, active ASCR volunteer, in his delivery of his graduate work on Aerial Insectivorous Birds, and how they are interrelated with urban landscapes, water quality and climate.

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

“What’d I Miss?”

A shout out to our correspondence officer Fred, volunteer Theresa and summer intern Nichole for rocking the table at Lupine Fest. It was a beautiful day with plenty to do! We hope to see you there next year!





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. Recruits and Coordinates volunteers and chapter members for ASCR events and to support the mission of the chapter.

Programs

Leader: Vacant
 Coordinates speakers, workshops and other outreach programs to the public.

Conservation & Advocacy

Leaders: Eric Latini & Mark Silo
 Oversees conservation projects and initiatives. Reviews, initiates, collaborates in advocacy policies and activities.

Marketing & Communications

Leader: Rebecca Allmond
 Publications, chapter member communications and information, advertise events, update social media outlets, photograph events.

Education

Leader: Vacant
 Educational programming, Citizen Science initiatives, Christmas Bird Count, etc.

Finance

Leader: René Facchetti
 Budgets, fundraising, grant writing.

Board members of the Audubon Society of the Capital Region

An All Volunteer Chapter Organization of the National Audubon Society

Officers

President:	Rebecca Allmond
Vice President:	Erin Allen
Correspondence Officer:	Fred Bockis
Treasurer:	René Facchetti
Recording Officer:	vacant

Directors

Jennifer Ford
 Eric Latini
 Mark Silo

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!

**Audubon Society
 of the Capital Region**
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 Albany, NY 12212-4135
www.capitalregionaudubon.org

Questions?

Email: info@capitalregionaudubon.org