



# WINGBEATS

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

## Winter 2020

### The Audubon Society of the Capital Region Looks to the Future!

In October the board voted to welcome Karen Strong, a local environmental activist and strategic planner to assist in the revitalization of our organizational plan.

In a time of environmental crisis, an ever changing economy and as a volunteer run organization, we feel it is important to remain focused, diligent and adaptable in order to best serve our bird and human communities.

We are excited to see what 2020 will bring us!

#### **Officers:**

President: Rebecca Allmond

Vice President: Erin Allen

Treasurer: René Facchetti

Correspondence Officer: Fred Bockis

Recording Officers: Joe Corra, Nichole Fox

#### **Board of Directors:**

Mark Silo

Jennifer Ford

Eric Latini

Krista Galliher

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### **Looking back at 2019**

- ✂ **Eagle Nest Watch was successful thanks to our volunteers!**
- ✂ **Our First Summer College intern!**
- ✂ **Spring and Fall Bird walks at Albany Rural Cemetery!**
- ✂ **Birding for beginners at Schodack Island State Park!**
- ✂ **Family Fun Day at Tivoli Lake Nature Preserve!**
- ✂ **Moth Night with Thatcher State Park!**
- ✂ **Annual Bird Seed Sale was a success!**
- ✂ **Birdhouse building workshops with Gordon!**
- ✂ **Bird Sanctuary at Lawson's Lake.**
- ✂ **Sponsored two board members to attend Fall Audubon Conference.**
- ✂ **New York State passed new climate change bills with local support!**
- ✂ **National Audubon provided a national climate report!**

**We would like to offer a massive THANK YOU to all of our participants, members, volunteers, co-sponsors, partners and friends of the Audubon Society of the Capital Region! We could not continue our efforts without all of you!**

# What Did I Miss?

Winter came quickly, but before it did we got in a couple more outdoor events:

## 🐦 Tivoli Family Day

Erin took the lead guiding a group of local participants including, *Friends of Tivoli* director, Kim Tateo through the park. Stopping to bird watch, practice binocular use and check out the small farm in the park. Nichole and Rebecca assisted in planning and activities to bring it together.



Two Tivoli Attendees helped feed at the Friends of Tivoli farm. Photo Credit: Nichole Fox

## 🐦 Guest Speaker!

Joe Corra presented *Birds, Insects & Their Urban Environments* for us on October 26th at Peebles Island State Park; using work through his graduate studies to explain Aerial Insectivorous Birds relate to their quickly changing environment.

## 🐦 Bird Houses

This fall, Gordon and a few volunteers, helped attendees at the Mabee Farm Fall Festival and Schodack Island SP Fall Fest learn more about the use and importance of bird houses. He also assisted Girl Scout Troop #1016 in building and installation of next boxes at the Albany Rural Cemetery.



Photo Credit : R.Allmond

## 🐦 Seed Sale!

The annual Bird Seed Sale went off as a huge success! Thanks to Rebecca, Fred and Krista for coordinating the orders. Thank you to volunteers Fred, Krista, Adalyn, Nichole, Lindsay and Ryan for helping out on pick-up day. Finally, a huge **THANK YOU** to all of you who supported this event by making a purchase!

## ASCR Board Changes to Come

The Audubon Society of the Capital Region board is ready for a shake up in this new year.

### ◆ Rebecca Allmond

Has served as the board President for two years, but volunteered for years before that! A familiar face and staple, she is wrapping up her term as president while suggesting a co-presidency going forward. As a growing volunteer chapter sharing the many leaderships opportunities between two may be better than one. Rebecca plans to continue her involvement with us as a board director.

### ◆ Erin Allen

Has also served on the board as Vice President for two years. We will be sad to say goodbye but wish

her luck, as her career with NYS Education launches and hope to see her around events!

### ◆ What Does This Mean?

We need new board volunteers to fill these or other open seats! No experience? No Problem. We provide the training.

All we need is dedication, commitment, a desire to serve birds and our community and drive!

If interested please contact:

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

Board elections will take place at our  
**Chapter Vote and Mingle on**  
**February 29, 2020!!!**

# Upcoming Events

## ASCR Board Meetings

*Second Mondays of every month in Loudonville.*

Got a passion for serving in the Capital Region, consider working with us as a as a member of the board. Not sure what that entails? Come to a board meeting to find out!

We are looking for new board officers for the February 2020 election!

Contact us at: [info@capitalregionaudubon.org](mailto:info@capitalregionaudubon.org)

## Annual Eagle Nest Watch

January 2020 — July 2020

Help us expand our understanding of local bald eagles by participating in our annual Eagle Nest Watch. The schedule is flexible, requesting volunteers commit to only one hour a week in a location of their choosing. More information on how to get involved on **page 5!**

## Great Back Yard Bird Count 2020


*From your own yard - February 14-17, 2020*

Every year the National Audubon Society hosts the Great Back Yard Bird Count. This is a fun, easy way to participate in some research, from your backyard or anywhere. Simply take 15 minutes (or as long as you'd like) to do some bird spotting, take notes of these birds and then log it online!

For more visit: [gbbc.birdcount.org](http://gbbc.birdcount.org)

## Chapter Vote & Mingle - February 29, 2020

Open to current members of the ASCR Board, current ASCR chapter members, current National Audubon Society members, and active chapter volunteers.

We will vote for the new chapter board, then munch on light fare provided by ASCR. Mingling encouraged. Presentations and information provided by current and previous ASCR presidents Rebecca Allmond and John Loz. Contact us for more information. 

Be sure to check our website for more programs and information!  
[www.capitalregionaudubon.org](http://www.capitalregionaudubon.org)



## 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!**

**Interested in starting/planning a new program? Just want to get involved? Lend a helping hand?**

Contact us at:  
[volunteer@capitalregionaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@capitalregionaudubon.org)

Join our volunteer mailing list:  
[www.capitalregionaudubon.org/volunteer.php](http://www.capitalregionaudubon.org/volunteer.php)

# Conservation Corner

## Talking About Climate Change....

In the last issue we talked about the National Audubon's latest climate change report, *Survival by Degrees*. Since then the conversations surrounding climate change have only continued to amp up in the media and across the web. So... How can you, or me or someone else make a personal impact?

Well, we're happy to say that National Audubon has launched its Guide to Climate Action. Which summarizes a variety of ways to get involved in what they've broken into four steps:

- ✚ Start the conversation
- ✚ Lead your community
- ✚ Rebuild the machinery
- ✚ Join a National Cause

Each topic includes a helpful and detailed explanation along with additional links to explore further. Suggestions range anywhere from creating climate friendly yards (remember

this past summer when we got down and dirty talking about the importance of native plants?), to working in tandem with local markets for a greener solution, to lobbying alongside others to make changes on a bigger scale.

As a supplement to National Audubon's climate change we thought it might be helpful to remind you of all the small and local ways to get involved:

- ✚ Attend events with us or other partners to learn more about our specific area, native plant and animal species and how they interact.
- ✚ Look for volunteer/work opportunities to further expand your horizons.
- ✚ Use your [Audubon](#) and [eBird](#) apps to continue helping gather centralized data for the teams who analyze and use the information to make further predictions. (Click the links to learn about the apps!)
- ✚ Check out the [New York Audubon](#) site for opportunities to lobby for legislation.
- ✚ Stay in touch on social media. Follow organizations which peak your interest or align with your values to stay informed and involved.
- ✚ Keep an eye out on events hosted by local colleges and schools for other ways to help.
- ✚ Go green in your own home by shopping conscientiously and carefully, reuse and recycle where you can and aim to waste as little as possible.

Want to read more from the National Audubon Guide? Check out the link below:

<https://www.audubon.org/climate-action-guide>

## Bird of the Quarter

If you haven't seen a cardinal before keep your eyes peeled, the vivid red colors of the male make them particularly easy to spot in the snow. Females also stand out but sport a softer palate of light brown with red accents on their wings.

They enjoy most bird seeds but seem to find sunflower seeds a favorite. And can most often be spotted in wooden areas or in shrubs.



PC: Paul Tavares—sourced from [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org)

Their bird song includes a series of whistles and trills beginning slowly and increasing in speed. To learn more or hear their call you can check out [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org), the Audubon field guide or eBird apps!



# VOLUNTEER

## ASCR Bald Eagle Nest Watch Program

We are looking for volunteers for the 2019-2020 season.

- ♦ If you like getting outside and observing wildlife, this could be the volunteer opportunity you've been looking for.
- ♦ Volunteers only need to commit to spending at least 1 hour per week observing an assigned nest, and submitting a report on that nest.

2018-2019 was a great year for the ASCR Bald Eagle Nest Watch program!

- ♦ 12 volunteers helped watch 12 Bald Eagle Nests throughout the area.
- ♦ More than 92 hours of observations were recorded.
- ♦ Most of the nests were reported to have fledged at least one Eaglet.
  - ♦ Many nests fledged two Eaglets.
  - ♦ One nest did fail – no young were raised.
  - ♦ Trees obscured another, creating difficulties with observing.

If you are interested in volunteering, know of active nests to be added to this project or would just like some additional information please contact **Jennifer Ford, Bald Eagle Nest Watch Coordinator** at:

**jsf@nycap.rr.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 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!!

## Additional Opportunities

### **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!

### **Nest Box Building**

Would you like to assist in helping youngsters build a nest box to bring home and install in their backyard? We are seeking workshop leaders, no experience necessary! Training will be provided by an experience woodworker.

Own a table saw? Want to cut parts for nest boxes to be used in the program? Give us a shout! We'll supply you with materials. Great Opportunity to put in a few hours for the birds!

**Interested in any of these opportunities?**

**Contact:**

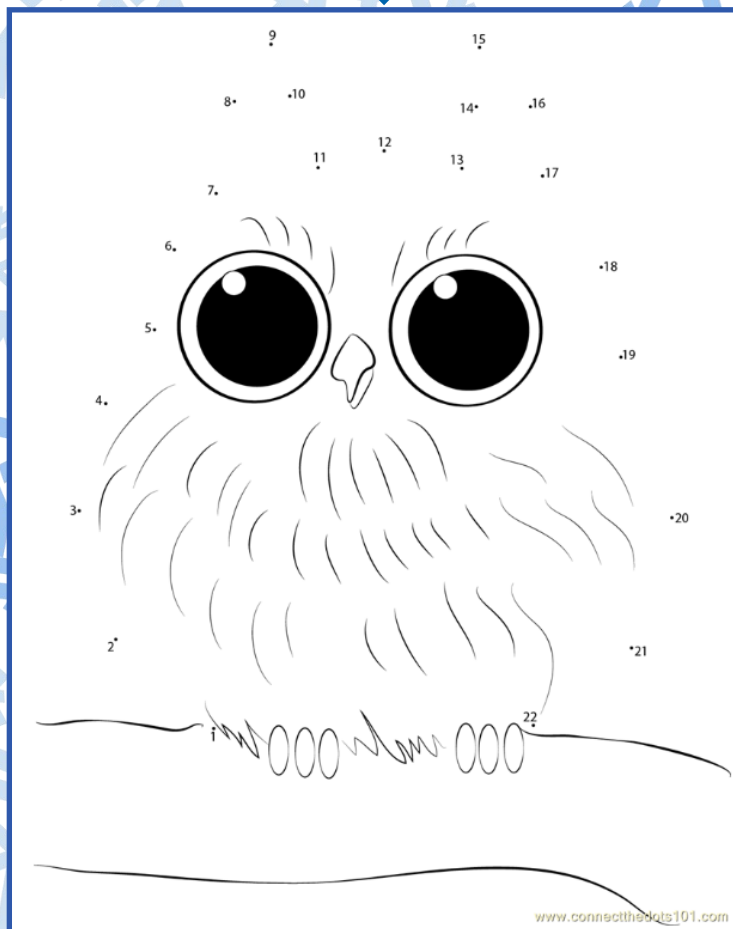
**President@CapitalRegionAudubon.org**



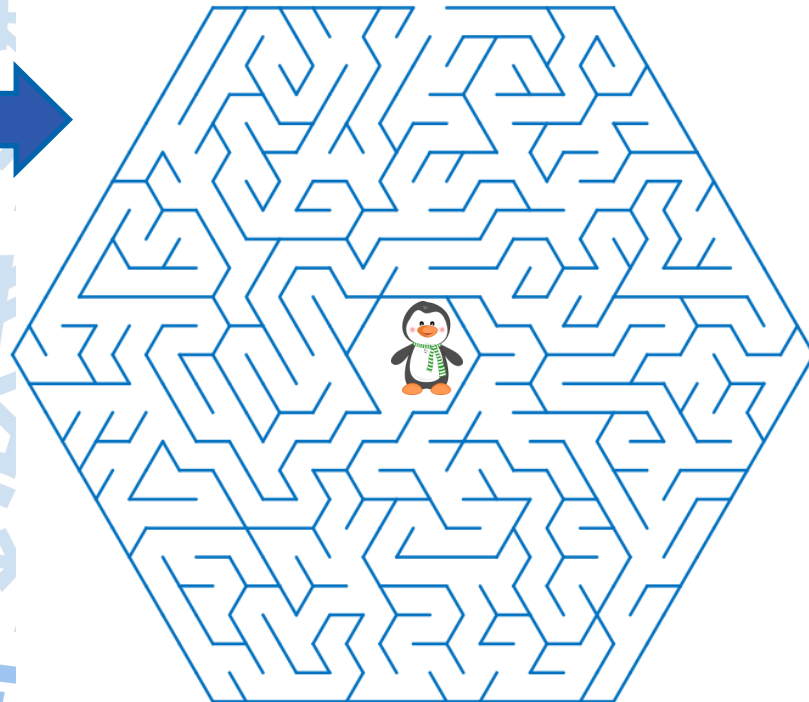
# ACTIVITIES

See if you can make it  
through the maze!!!

Connect the dots and color  
me in!!



Wingbeats Maze



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Image provided by Bing



**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 Officers: Joe Corra, Nichole Fox

### **Directors**

Jennifer Ford  
 Eric Latini  
 Mark Silo  
 Krista Galliher

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**  
 P.O. Box 14135  
 Albany, NY 12212-4135  
[www.capitalregionaudubon.org](http://www.capitalregionaudubon.org)

### **Questions?**

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