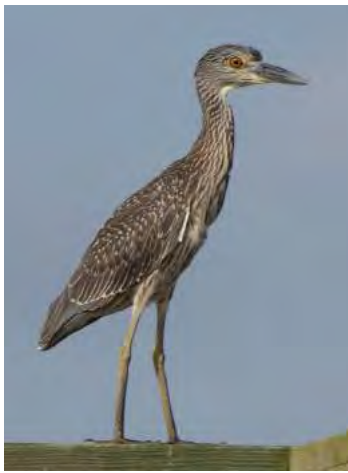
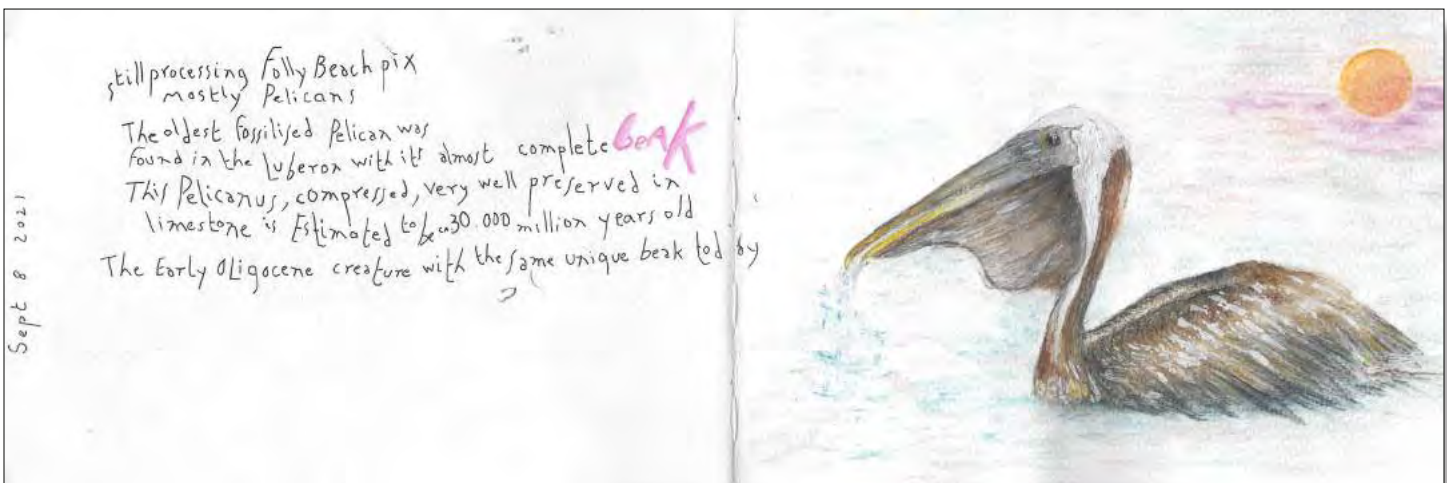
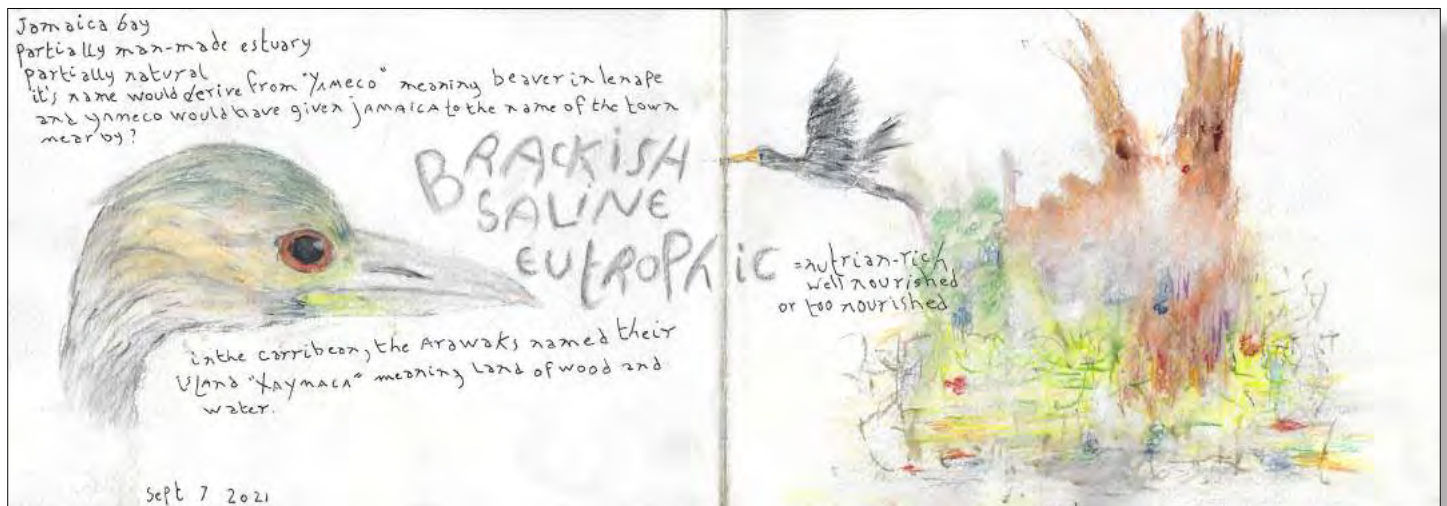


Field Sketches

By Nicole Peyrafitte



Left to right: Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Brown Pelican, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Horned Lark. All photos by Nicole Peyrafitte.



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January 1 2022

"*l'été automne*"
 Racontar des histoires à l'aide des "Seuls Faits"
 via d. haraway et v. despret

connection en
 mill-feuille

ASH Throated Flycatcher
 MARCHUS CINEASERS
 MEGA RARITY
 IN NEW YORK

OR WANDERING off your western home and head East
 Is it our business or is it not? the right place at the right time?
 vous nous contemplons dans le miroir animal poli par nos soins "D.H."

La culpabilité
 démocratise

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QUESTION
 Nouvelle

Alouatta Bird = avéle llea = self suspended . en
 le seul oiseau qui ne vole pas
 le seul oiseau qui ne vole pas
 le seul oiseau qui ne vole pas

MAHTEKOLA
 LAKOTA



***Ardea herodias*: Coney Island Sentinels**

High tide day between Calvert Vaux & Coney Island creek
I paddle among five impassible Great Blue Herons
perched on shipwrecks & rusted industrial decay.
These majestic Coney Island sentinels remain silent, vigilant, resilient
& will wait patiently for their prey to come within range.
Neither the muffled brouhaha of cars, planes & soccer games nearby,
nor the gouged out eye of the almost fully-submerged yellow submarine
seem to be of concern.
My presence is noticed but not significant.
One takes off.
Its majestic flight leaves me elated/deflated.
The gracious landing on the gnarled dead tree is sympoietic
& the message is potent & clear:
 find peace & time for yourself.

- Nicole Peyrafitte





Not part of the publication



Not part of the Publication



Razorbill

The colonial seabird seems to be alone today.
 I am literally chasing *le petit pingouin* up & down the Narrows
 & barely keeping up on my bicycle.
 I am counting how long it stays under water to be able
 to catch a shot between dives.

It's cold, it's crisp, it's bright,
 we both love it, both having grand fun.
 Our playful dispositions don't reveal any concerns regarding our status:
 it, as the only extant member of the genus *Alca* of the family *Alcidae*,
 & I, as a *homo sapiens*, a juvenile species 30 million years its junior.
 These moments hold neither despair, nor hope, but a sense of co-presence,
 an awe-filled moment with a companion species.

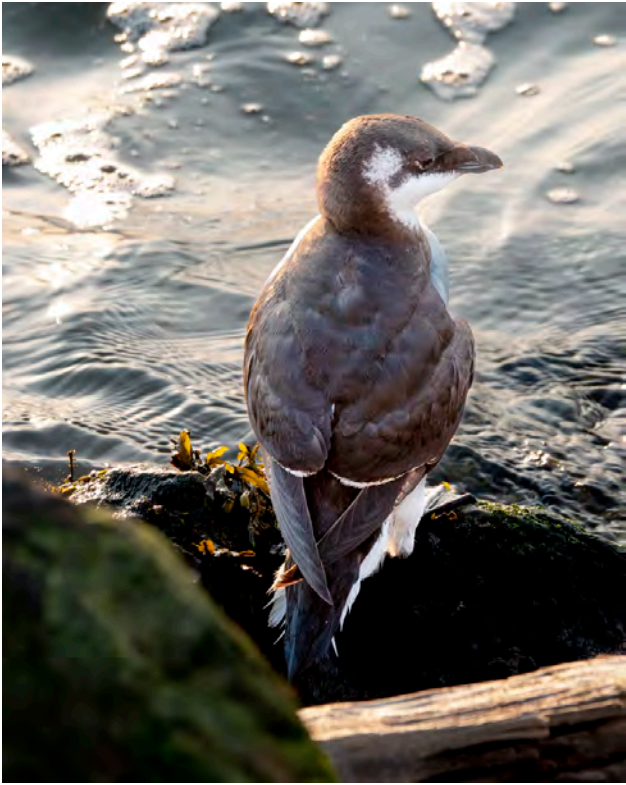
—Nicole Peyrafitte

Excerpt from field journal by Nicole Peyrafitte, from Bay Ridge Shore Rd. Promenade.

For more poetry, please see "A Flock of Poets reading Avian works: A Rail Reading, curated by Nicole Peyrafitte," May 31, 2023.

Video recording available [here](#).





Field Sketches: Nicole Peyrafitte



Madame Cardinal, "How do we change human nature?" Mixed media.



Eastern Towhee at Owl's Head Park.



Sanderling at Plumb Beach.

Notes on Purple Sandpipers

By Nicole Peyrafitte



The *Calidris maritima* are back foraging on Shore Promenade's slippery green rocks. Our holarctic winter residents have returned from their Arctic tundra breeding grounds. *Les bécasseaux violets*, s'il-vous-plaît! are bi-continental, yes! They can be found on both shores of the Atlantic, from Greenland and Iceland to northern Spain and infrequently in North Africa. In my birth country, France, they winter along the coasts from Dunkirk to Biarritz and on our American coasts their wintering extends to Maryland. How smart of them to avoid all the tourist traffic! Dedicated couples they are, with very little extra-pair copulation, as some DNA studies have confirmed their essential monogamy. Voilà!

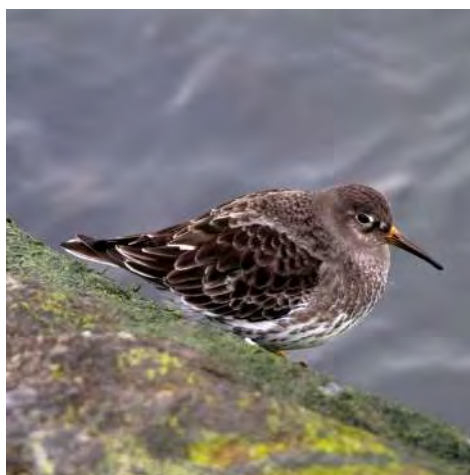
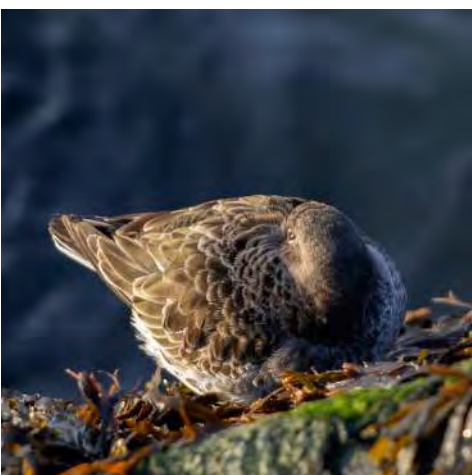
One more important thing: the sandpipers are in the Scolopacidae family, dating from as early as the Early Oligocene period, around 30 million years ago. Native populations dwelled on this land for thousands of years before the first colonist reached these shores less than 500 years ago. Except for a few occurrences,

their native names are hard to find. After several days of online research and contacting various cultural outfits, here are the names I came up with for sandpiper—more need to be recovered. If you have any sources please contact me at np@nicolepeyrafitte.com.

Lekau in Lenape. This is by deduction, as I found that the totem of the Boy Scout Lekau Lodge, chartered in 1935 in the Camden County Council located in West Collingswood, New Jersey, was the sandpiper¹. It makes sense since the Lenape-English dictionary gives the translation *lekau* to mean sand, gravel. *Ji-twish'-ki-wen* in Chippewa². 🐦

1 <https://oa-bsa.org/article/news-you-can-use-history-behind-merger-lenape-lodges-ancestral-tree>

2 *Bird Nomenclature of the Chippewa Indians*. Author(s): W. W. Cooke. Source: The Auk, July, 1884, Vol. 1, No. 3, pp. 242-250. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/4066840.pdf>



Excerpt of field journal and photos of Purple Sandpipers at Shore Promenade. All work by Nicole Peyrafitte.

Kwùskwtis*

Life-World thoughts
 granted by Killdeer proximity phenomenon
 Charadrius vociferus
 shifts my mind from: in the world
 to: in their world
 both swamped by cold winter sun & industrial remains
 here at Calvert Vaux
 this is just a fact, a situation to be observed
 & delight in
 a golden moment to
 spread my wings beyond my limited content

—Nicole Peyrafitte



*Killdeer in Lenape, from the [Lenape Talking Dictionary](#).
 Excerpt from field journal by Nicole Peyrafitte.

