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Restoring American Kestrels Across New York State

Submitted by Jillian Liner, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon New York

How do you go about reestablishing a population of birds that has declined significantly in the past 20 years? With community participation, lots of new nest boxes, and Audubon NY, chapters, and centers as well as NYS DOT!

Breeding pairs of American Kestrels in New York have decreased due to a lack of nest cavities in remaining suitable habitat. Therefore, to bring back the American Kestrel in NY, Audubon New York and its partners will engage hundreds of individuals in a coordinated effort to build, erect, and monitor nest boxes. In addition, Audubon New York will use this hands-on experience to teach people about the plight of kestrels and other grassland birds, and encouraging these engaged citizens to act in the name of environmental stewardship.

Overall, Audubon New York hopes to engage volunteers in building 200 kestrel nest boxes and setting up a nest box monitoring program. They'll also provide opportunities for New Yorkers to voice their concerns to governmental and non-profit conservation groups. After gaining a better understanding of the kestrel through this project, community members will feel a real sense of ownership and pride towards the birds' continued success.

Volunteers won't just be giving kestrels homes-they'll be giving them a voice! To learn more about this project click link below:

<http://www.togethergreen.org/files/volunteerevent/files/Grantees/Audubon%20New%20York%20-%20Kestrels%202009%20press%20release.pdf>

Audubon New York Awarded Innovation Grants from TogetherGreen

Submitted by Pamela Musk, Director of Centers and Education, Audubon New York

For much of today's youth, the "pipeline" to educational and economic success in the conservation movement is nonexistent. This program will add to environmental education in the classroom with increasingly empowering summer opportunities for Brooklyn Academy of Science and the Environment students throughout their formative high school years that add conservation experience to their resumes.

It will progressively immerse students in ongoing environmental experiences and opportunities for those who do not have the access, support system or connections to nature. To learn more about this project see the TogetherGreen website.

<http://www.togethergreen.org/Projects/GranteeDetails.aspx?granteeID=67>



Audubon New York in partnership with The Nature Conservancy of New York and the Prospect Park Alliance was awarded a TogetherGreen Grant to introduce students from low-income African-American and Hispanic populations to nature and conservation-related careers.

eBird Trail Tracker: New Birding Tool Now Available at the Montezuma Audubon Center

Submitted by Carol Stokes-Cawley Education Manager, Montezuma Audubon Center

Savannah, NY—The Montezuma Audubon Center recently installed a new interactive tool to assist birders within the Montezuma Wetlands Complex: **eBird Trail**

Tracker from the **Cornell Lab of Ornithology**. Visitors to the Complex can now check Trail Tracker to find out which birds have been seen recently and where they may find them. After going out on the trails, visitors can then record their own sightings, creating a continuous, updated record of bird observations for the site. Users can also view photographs, listen to sounds, and read life history information about all the birds on the site's checklist, using simple touch-screen technology. The Trail Tracker can be found in the exhibit area of the Montezuma Audubon Center.

All eBird Trail Tracker reports are pooled in eBird, a database containing millions of bird observations maintained by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. Anyone can explore this data at www.ebird.org, using charts and graphs that highlight patterns in bird distribution over time.

Funds raised during the Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex's Eleventh Annual Muckrace, were used to purchase the eBird Trail Tracker.

The Bedford Audubon Society's Headquarters in Katonah Undergo Energy Audit

Submitted by Helle Raheem, Bedford Audubon Society

Bylane Farm, the Bedford Audubon Society's 220-year-old headquarters on Todd Road, Katonah, recently underwent a Home Energy Audit. Executive Director, James Nordgren had won a free energy audit from Green Tree Energy, which he donated to the organization.

The audit, which was filmed by the local television station, is the first step in assessing how much energy a home consumes and to evaluate what measures can be taken to make a house more energy efficient, not only saving money but also reducing greenhouse gas emissions. An audit will show problems that may, when corrected, save significant amounts of money in energy expenses over time. Audits also determine the efficiency of a home's heating and cooling systems.

Green Tree Energy used equipment to do blower door tests to measure the extent of leaks in a building, and used infrared cameras to reveal hard-to-detect areas of air infiltration and missing insulation. The result of the Bylane energy audit showed that with an \$18,000 investment, including a 15% rebate from New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), savings of at least \$5,000 in annual energy costs can be expected. NYSERDA also provides subsidies of 30% for such audits.

Energy efficiency not only saves money but also reduces fossil fuels use, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. Since reducing climate change is National Audubon's top priority, Bedford Audubon is anxious to lead the way in demonstrating the ease with which homes can be made energy and environmentally efficient. Energy efficiency improvements, scheduled to start soon, are estimated to reduce the use of heating oil at Bylane Farm by at least 2,500 gallons annually—reducing carbon emitted by 25 tons and *reducing Bedford Audubon's carbon footprint by approximately 30%*.

Lewisboro Channel 20 will air the Energy Audit at Bylane Farm in the near future. It's a unique opportunity for home owners to see what an energy audit entails and perhaps schedule one for their own home.

Audubon Council of NYS Fall Meeting

*Submitted by Daphne Lumpkin, Office Manager/Meeting Coordinator
Audubon New York*

The Fall Council meeting is October 30th – November 1st, 2009 at the Thayer Hotel in West Point, NY.

The Council meeting is sure to be both very educational and lots of fun so please plan on attending, and bring other chapter members. On Friday night we will have dinner and cocktails courtesy of Anne & Connie Eristoff at their home in the Highlands overlooking the Hudson River. Connie is the Chairman of the Board for

Audubon New York. We are very grateful for the generous offer, and this will enable us to network and to enjoy the company of Anne and Connie Eristoff, not to mention their spectacular home.

For Saturday night's keynote speaker, Fran Dunwell, Hudson River Estuary Program Coordinator, NYS DEC, has agreed to join us. Fran is the author of The Hudson: America's River which will be available for purchase following her presentation. All royalties from the sale of the book are being donated to the Natural Heritage Trust for conservation of the river. Other Saturday highlights will include: a presentation on "International Partnerships and Programs with our Atlantic Flyway Initiative and why they are important", Audubon New York's Strategic Plan update, workshops and fieldtrips. Then Sunday is reserved for reports from council members and staff.

All in all, it will be a great weekend of conservation and fellowship.

For more information contact Daphne Lumpkin (518) 869-9731.

Use iGive.com to raise money for Audubon New York

Submitted By Pamela Musk, Audubon New York

Every time you shop online at any of their 753 participating stores. And when you search the web through iSearchiGive.com (a search engine powered by iGive!), a penny or more goes to Audubon New York every time.

The iGive Mall features over 700 trusted online retailers like Amazon.com, Staples, Nordstrom, JCPenney, eBay, Expedia.com, Barnes & Noble, QVC, & PET SMART to name just a few! You'll NEVER pay more when you reach these stores through iGive.com. And if you take advantage of the coupons and free shipping deals posted at iGive, you might even save a few bucks! And with iSearchiGive.com, each qualified search earns a penny (or more!) for your cause.

HOW IT WORKS:

1. Join iGive.com to support Audubon New York

It's free, safe, and easy to join.

<http://www.iGive.com/welcome/warmwelcome.cfm?c=48724&m=589653>

OR

Use iSearchiGive.com as your search engine and raise a penny (or more!) every time you search the web.

News Clips of the Month

"Outdoors: A Bird In The Hand", September 30th, Rochester City Newspaper
<http://rochestercitynewspaper.com/news/articles/2009/09/OUTDOORS-A-bird-in-the-hand/print/>

"Rifle hunting OK in Schuyler county", September 21st, Press Connects

<http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20090921/SPORTS/909210405/Rifle+hunting+OK+in+Schuyler+county>

The Audubon New York Newswire helps to more closely connect Audubon New York's staff, Board, Stewardship Council and the state's 27 Audubon chapters. Send any updates, press stories or links to Daphne Lumpkin at dlumpkin@audubon.org .