



September 14, 2009

In this issue...

- **85 Years - A Cause to Celebrate!**
- **Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary featured on Sound and Story Project**
- **Together Green Funding for Statewide Kestrel Project**
- **Long-time Board Member Retires to Home Town**
- **Raptors for Rookies Lecture**

85 Years - A Cause to Celebrate!

Submitted by Aaron Virgin, Center Director, Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary

Over 230 people attended the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary's annual fundraiser on Saturday, June 27 at Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club, Centre Island. Billed as the *85th Anniversary Benefit*, the Sanctuary is proud to be celebrating its long tradition of connecting people with nature since the early 1920s. W. Emlen and Christine Roosevelt donated the original 11 acres to the Audubon Society to honor their late cousin with a songbird sanctuary in his memory. To celebrate this historic milestone, Audubon President John Flicker gave the keynote speech.

Honorees this year included Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi, *2009 Legacy of Conservation Award*, local veterinarian Ellen Leonhardt, the first recipient of the *Wildlife Humanitarian Award*, and the Winters Bros. Recycling / IESI Corp., *2009 Corporate Stewardship Award*. "We are proud to honor two individuals and a business that are very much tied in with the fabric of our community and our environment. On a daily basis, all three of our honorees go the extra mile to improve our way of life and the natural world. For that we honor and salute them," remarked Aaron Virgin, Sanctuary Director.

Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary featured on Sound and Story Project

Submitted By Eric Lind, Center Director, Constitution Marsh Sanctuary

The Sound and Story Project of the Hudson Valley features Constitution Marsh on their *River Voices Audio Adventure Tour*. Among several stories, Center Director Eric Lind can be heard talking about the natural history of the river at <http://www.soundandstory.org/home.html>. Signs are also posted at several Hudson River waterfront parks with a phone number where a visitor can call in to hear the story of their choice.

The mission of The Sound and Story Project of the Hudson Valley is to strengthen community through the power of listening. The Sound and Story Project of the Hudson Valley is a program of the World Sound Foundation and is funded mainly by the NYSDEC's Hudson River Estuary Program.

Audubon New York, Chapters, and Centers are awarded TogetherGreen funding for Statewide Kestrel Project

Submitted by Laura McCarthy, Grassroots Coordinator, Audubon New York

In August, Audubon New York and partner chapters received word that they received funding to undertake a statewide American Kestrel Project in a unique partnership with NYSDOT. This project ultimately aims to reverse the decline of American Kestrels in New York State by addressing the main threat to their population: lack of suitable nest sites within appropriate habitat.

This project will engage hundreds of individuals across New York State in a coordinated effort to build, erect, and monitor nest boxes for American Kestrels; to teach people about the plight of kestrels and other grassland birds; and to spur action by this group of engaged citizens in support of habitat stewardship and other beneficial state agency policies that will eventually result in protection of kestrel habitats through easements and private land stewardship programs.

Audubon New York, including four Audubon NY centers from Jamestown to Long Island, and 16 local Audubon chapters from Long Island to Buffalo to the St. Lawrence Valley, will partner with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) in a massive, dispersed effort to restore American Kestrels across New York State. Breeding pairs of kestrels in New York have declined significantly in the past 20 years, partly due to both habitat loss and competition for nest cavities, but mostly to the combined effects of these threats: lack of nest cavities in remaining suitable habitat. Chapters and centers will engage local individuals and groups to build, erect, and monitor kestrel boxes in suitable habitats in their chapter territories. This will include work with NYS DOT to put up and monitor boxes in highway rights-of-way. In addition to the nest box component, this project will increase public awareness about kestrels and other grassland bird through educational and outreach programs conducted by chapters and centers. Engaged individuals will be provided with opportunities to voice their concerns and urge

wildlife agencies and state lawmakers to support grassland conservation and stewardship in New York.

Long-time Board Member Retires to Home Town

Submitted by Jeanne Alpert, Central Westchester Audubon Society

At our June potluck supper, members of the board of Central Westchester Audubon Society bid Nancy Moore farewell in expectation of her return in July to her home town, Madison Wisconsin. In honor of the occasion, we presented her with Audubon's "Meritorious Service Award" in recognition of her long record of service to our chapter and to Audubon. During her 19 years as a member of CWAS she was on the board for 17 years serving simultaneously as Membership Chair and Treasurer and briefly from January 2009 as Newsletter Editor as well. Nancy fulfilled all of her duties ably, conscientiously, and dependably. She was a special person and a great asset to our chapter. We will miss her and know that our loss will be Madison's gain.

Raptors for Rookies lecture

Submitted by Arthur Green, Bedford Audubon Society

Anne Swaim of Saw Mill River Audubon Society will be holding her excellent Raptors for Rookies lecture next Saturday at Westmoreland Sanctuary. This presentation is a superb introduction for the neophyte hawkwatcher; no prior birdwatching experience required! The days following this workshop bring thousands of migrating hawks through our area each year, so please pass word of this lecture on to friends and family who've yet to discover this exciting dimension of autumn.

The lecture will be held Saturday, September 12th, 2 p.m in the museum of Westmoreland Sanctuary, 260 Chestnut Ridge Rd, Mount Kisco, NY. There is no fee, although registration is requested (but not required) to attend. Please email me or call Westmoreland Sanctuary at 914.666.8448 for more information.

News Clips of the Month

"Peregrine Falcons Back From the Brink but Face New Threats in New York,
August 25th, New York Times

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aF_k9c2tBRLg

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 .