

## Capital District Outreach and Board Meeting Successful



Audubon Board chair Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff plays to the crowd with interesting tidbits about Audubon at the April 4 event.

KIMBERLEY L. RAY

Tom Lyons (Parks/left) and Fred Anderson (Senate staff/right).



KIMBERLEY L. RAY

THE AUDUBON New York Board of Directors kicked off its quarterly meeting with a cocktail reception to welcome interested Capital District residents to learn more about Audubon's programs. Nearly thirty people enjoyed the reception, which occurred at the City Hall Rotunda in Albany on April 4. After a brief word from Board chairman Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff and executive director David J. Miller the crowd continued to talk among themselves. The following day members attended an early morning birding trip and board meetings were held the remainder of the day at the state office.

Audubon New York's Shirley Hartman spots a flock of snow geese for Sam Pryor and other board members.



GRAHAM COX

## Partnership Planned with State Parks

By Chuck Remington

NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY to create an Audubon Center at the new Knox Farm State Park in western New York. Audubon New York met with officials of the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in Albany and in Region 9 to discuss transforming one of the buildings in the park into an Audubon Center that focuses on grassland birds and environmental education.

The Farm, previously owned by the Knox family, was donated to State Parks last year by Jean Read Knox, a member of Audubon New York's Stewardship Committee. The 655 acres property hosts a number of residences, farm buildings, stables, equestrian trails, woods and fields. Portions of the site are still active in agriculture and livestock.

The loss of farmland throughout New York State—and the subsequent habitat changes due to development or natural succession—has resulted in the decline of grassland birds. Species such as meadowlark, bobolink and grasshopper sparrow depend on hay-producing and fallow fields to breed. The Knox Farm State Park offers an opportunity to more closely examine the relationship between grassland birds and farm habitat. Audubon New York is working with Congressman Reynolds' office of Western New York to explore possible federal grants for exhibitry.

Besides exhibits and a discovery room for park visitors, the Knox Farm Audubon Center will provide citizen science education programs for families that will help us to gather data about grassland bird populations on the site. Research on agricultural habitat management techniques to benefit birds will also take place. The Knox Farm Audubon Center could open as early as the summer of 2002.

The Knox Farm Audubon Center's grassland focus will also complement wetland and woodland educational programs currently offered at Buffalo Audubon Society's newly expanded Beaver Meadow Audubon Center. The Knox Farm State Park endeavor is an exciting model for partnerships between Audubon and state parks. All in all, the Knox Farm Audubon Center will be a win-win for all the partners involved.

## Connie and Anne Sidamon-Eristoff to be Honored as Environmental Leaders

By Shirley Hartman

AUDUBON NEW YORK Board chairman Connie and his spouse Anne Sidamon-Eristoff will be honored at National Audubon Society's Environmental Leadership Award Gala on May 21, 2001. The annual event honors three members of the community that have demonstrated exceptional leadership in conservation.

Joining Connie and Anne will be Dan W. Lufkin, co-founder of Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, Inc. and partner of Questor Management Company as well as Jack M. Greenberg, Chairman and CEO of McDonald's Corporation.

This year's gala will be held at Chelsea Piers and proceeds of the event will support Audubon New York's Prospect Park Audubon Center.



Audubon New York Board Chair Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff and Anne Eristoff

For information about ticket or table purchase, call (212) 997-0100.

Last year's recipients of the award were Audubon New York board member Marian Heiskell; Paul Tudor Jones of Tudor Investments Company; and Roy Disney of Walt Disney Company.



## Thank You

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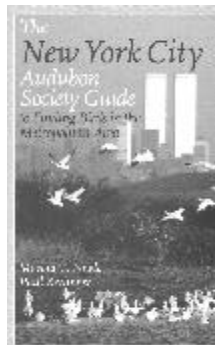
Thank you for completing the survey in the last edition of the *Audubon Advocate*. Your thoughtful responses enabled us to determine your publication preferences and needs. Your comments served us well in this redesigned *Advocate*, again many thanks. We realize that discovery is not limited to this time and the *Advocate* will continue to evolve. We therefore hope that many of you will continue to offer feedback and that you will respond to future surveys. Thank you for helping us improve this product.

We hope you enjoy it.

Yours Truly,

Kimberley L. Ray

*Audubon Advocate* Editor



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