



Clean Water/Jobs Coalition and an Audubon representative on front the steps of the Capitol in Washington D.C. before rallying legislators to fund the clean-up of Long Island Sound.

Audubon State Council Resolutions 2001

The following 37 Audubon New York 2001 Conservation Resolutions were passed at the at the Spring Council meeting:

General:

- Support of the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act;
- Increase funding of the Environmental Protection Fund;
- Support for citizen suit legislation;
- Support fall funding of Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF);
- Support smart growth legislation in New York State's Quality Communities Report;

Bird Conservation:

- Support Audubon's Important Bird Areas program and State Bird Conservation Areas Program;
- Support Montezuma Wildlife Refuge in Land Protection Program;
- Support Niagara River Corridor Bird Conservation Plan.

Forests:

- Support of Great Northern Forest Campaign;
- Support for the Adirondack Park Campaign;
- Oppose commercial logging in Allegany State Park;
- Support for Western Catskills/Beaverkill watershed program;
- Support Sterling Forest Campaign;
- Monitor Catskill ski resort development issues;
- Support of Long Island Pine Barrens plan;
- Support federal acid rain legislation;
- Oppose conversion of NYS Parks open space;
- Monitor state parks golf course issues;
- Support open space at SUNY Old Westbury campus.

Wetlands

- Support for Clean Water Act in Congress;
- Support funding of Hudson River estuary programs; EPA PCB clean up program;

You can help by writing your member of Congress and Senators

Join the Audubon Advocate E-list

<http://ny.audubon.org> or fill out and mail the form on pg. 4

Let Your Voice Be Heard

- Support for Long Island Sound campaign;
- Address Long Island Sound Sediment disposal issues;
- Support Jamaica Bay buffer zone;
- Support for Great Swamp Campaign;
- Support for conservation on Chautauqua Lake;
- Support the completion of South Shore Estuary Plan;
- Support protection of the Underhill property;
- Supports Chesapeake Bay and Susquehanna River program;
- Support protection of New York City watershed.

Wildlife:

- Support increased funding to the state Conservation Fund;
- Support federal Teaming with Wildlife campaign;
- Support the Return a Gift to Wildlife program;
- Support Cormorant conservation management issues;
- Support ban on lead sinkers;
- Support education to discourage feeding waterfowl;
- Pesticide concerns and issues.

For your copy of the 2001 Resolutions consult the website at <http://ny.audubon.org> or call (518) 869-9731.

Clean Water/Jobs Coalition goes to Washington

By Bill Cooke

IN EARLY MARCH, the Clean Water/Jobs Coalition, with Audubon, construction industry and labor representatives, walked the halls of Congress to push for full funding for the clean-up of Long Island Sound.

The Clean Water and Estuary Act of 2000, which was signed into law last November, had a provision authorizing \$40 million in federal funds annually for five years to match state dollars in reducing nitrogen pollution to Long Island Sound. Nitrogen Pollution is robbing the Sound of its oxygen in bottom waters, choking marine life. The coalition met with leaders of the New York and Connecticut Congressional Delegations, who agreed to and sent a joint letter to the full Appropriations Committee. In addition, the governors of New York and Connecticut have sent similar letters. The letters call for Congress to fully appropriate the \$40 million authorized this year for the Sound's clean-up program.

You can help by writing your member of Congress and both Senators Clinton and Schumer, encouraging them to fight for these federal dollars. It is critical that the full \$40 million due to Long Island Sound is allocated. For further information contact Audubon New York at (518) 869-9731.

PESTICIDES Audubon starts new pesticides education program

By Bill Cooke

SINCE THE PUBLICATION of Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* nearly 40 years ago, there has been a growing realization that the use of pesticides is having an enormous detrimental impact on birds, other wildlife and our environment, and now on our general human health. But moving to non-toxic alternatives and to different agricultural, gardening and household practices has been difficult.

Recent statistics collected on the causes of death of thousands of birds across New York—numbers collected as a result of the concern over the spread of West Nile encephalitis in birds—has shown that in fact pesticide chemicals rather than disease has been the major single cause of death.

In New York state, we use several million pounds of pesticides each year in agriculture, industry and in households and gardens. Pesticides are a general term that includes herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and rodenticides. Pesticides are most often used to control insects, blights and weeds, and they are often applied by people who have no training as commercial applicators, that is, by homeowners and amateur gardeners.

There is a growing appreciation by the public that pesticides are having massive impacts on what are called non-target species, including birds and other wildlife. People are much more aware that pesticides are not safe for broad, general use and their impacts are so pervasive that we all, as humans, now carry toxic resi-

dues in our bodies. This is referred to as the total body burden.

We are now realizing that we need to move away from widespread pesticide use, from our massive dependence on toxic and hazardous chemicals, to use non-toxic alternatives and different techniques in our homes and gardens to deal with pests and weeds.

Audubon New York and *National Audubon* together have now begun a major campaign aimed at educating members and the general public, as well as public officials, to try to reduce the dependence on chemical uses to control pests. We are asking people to put their actions together—if, for example, you have bird feeders in your yard and encourage birds, are you also using chemicals on your grass to kill weeds and grubs and encourage grass growth? If so, you may well be killing the birds you are feeding.

The core of the education program is to encourage people to look for alternative practices and non-toxic alternatives to deal with weeds, pests and insects. Can you live with some weeds, can we grow plants together that protect each other from pests, and can we control grubs through use of milkspores, for example? To learn more about alternatives to pesticide use, visit <http://www.audubon.org/bird/pdf/pesticideguide.pdf>.

