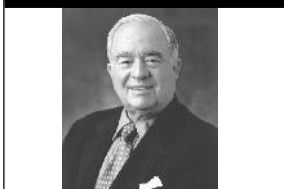


LEADERSHIP

Board Chairman



**CONSTANTINE
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AUDUBON NEW YORK has just completed its third annual smart growth conference—a huge success. The proceedings are to be published and will be very well worth reading.

The Quality Communities Inter-agency Task Force Report of January 2001 contains a multifaceted blueprint—a series of 41 sharply important recommendations that we all—private citizens, government officials, non-profit organizations—should study carefully and implement as quickly as is reasonably possible.

New York is a “home rule” state—local control over land use, zoning and planning is deeply ingrained in our society.

The phenomenon we call “sprawl” is spreading rapidly —“growth”, whether good or bad, continues. We all want “smart” growth. We cannot reach that goal unless our communities work with each other. Towns must deal with towns; villages with villages, across the boarders—and resist the different forces that seek to split our communities apart.

Nothing shapes our state more powerfully than transportation. Decisions control or limit growth whether good or bad, funnel development, foster or prevent economic development and may destroy communities.

**TO CONSERVE AND RESTORE NATURAL
ECOSYSTEMS, FOCUSING ON BIRDS, OTHER WILDLIFE
AND THEIR HABITATS FOR THE BENEFIT OF
HUMANITY AND THE EARTH’S BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY.**

Transportation decisions in our state are made at many different levels, but they all share the same sort of imperatives: the need to accommodate traffic, vehicular or pedestrian; to allow all transport or modes to share the same limited space—without accidents or mayhem; and the need to foster growth and thus to alleviate very real problems.

Rarely in the past, have transportation planners deliberately taken into account ecologies, open space, habitats and the needs of nature for unspoiled and untouched corridors connecting valuable habitats. This is changing.

As indicated in the Quality Communities Report and the New York Department of Transportation’s environmental initiative, conservation and ecological concerns are becoming more important to the design of transportation projects. These designs also affect the overall quality of life in the community, which is linked to its ecological assets.

New York State’s Open Space Plan, Audubon’s Important Bird Areas program and the state’s newly established Bird Conservation Area program are all vital tools and critical pieces of information to transportation planners. Audubon New York, through its smart growth and quality communities initiatives, is working to ensure that these themes are integrated into transportation and community planning efforts.

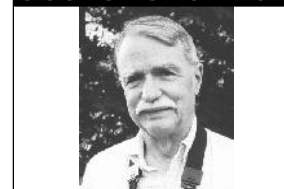
But in the end, the community is the sine qua non. Without its leadership, sprawl continues, smart growth sputters and nature suffers.

AT THE SPRING COUNCIL meeting in Elmira, Council delegates form 20 chapters voted to accept a well-rounded complement of resolutions*—37 in all —new, revised and repeated from previous years. The Conservation Policy Resolution process is the most significant and rewarding aspect of any Spring Council Meeting. These resolutions set the advocacy agenda for the State Office and the Council; they support the advocacy efforts of Chapters, Council and State Office at every level of government—village, town, county, state and federal; and they let everyone know where a united Audubon stands on specific issues.

A review of the 2000 Resolutions demonstrates just how important the process is. A few highlights of actions taken on resolution issues include:

The Quality Communities Executive Order signed by Governor Pataki based on objectives outlined in the Council’s Smart Growth resolution. Monies for the Environmental Protection Fund were increased to \$125 million in the fiscal year with viable proposals to increase it still further in 2001-2002. Additions of State property to the designated Bird Conservation Areas list occurred in

Council Chairman



**GEOFFREY
COBB-RYAN**

2000 and are likely to continue in 2001. Legislation was passed and signed by the Governor to ban the use of Avitrol, a toxic pesticide that was killing raptors and songbirds in New York City. All but 500 acres of the 19,000-acre Sterling Forest lands have been purchased by the State. Key conservation land acquisition projects in the Beaverkill Valley and other areas of the Western Catskills were announced. The State has acquired major land holdings in the Adirondacks. Two new golf course proposals for sensitive habitat areas—shrub oak and grassland —on Long Island were defeated.

These are extraordinary achievements of the Audubon movement at every level—Chapter, Council and State Office. They serve as strong testimony to the value of the resolutions, which represent the environmental initiatives of 30 Chapters and 50,000 Auduboners across the state, and particularly to the work of Audubon New York staff in helping us to realize the goals set forth in our resolutions.

**See page 14 for a brief listing of resolutions or call 518-869-9731 for your copy of the 2001 State and Federal Legislature Resolution book.*

Yes, Consider Me an Advocate for Birds, Wildlife and their Habitats in New York State

Please fill out and return in a stamped envelope to:

AUDUBON NEW YORK
200 TRILLIUM LANE
ALBANY, NY 12203

Call for more information
(518) 869-9731

- I would like to receive the Audubon Advocate in the future.
- I am willing to write a letter, make a phone call or send a fax or e-mail on behalf of birds, wildlife and their habitats in New York state.
- I would like to become an Audubon member. Enclosed is my check for \$20.
- Please send me information about including National Audubon in my Estate Plans.

Name: _____

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E-mail Address: _____