



## Board Chairman

By Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff

In the fall of 1989, as a brand new regional administrator for Region II of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, I commenced a reassessment of the No-Action Record of Decision, which EPA Region II had issued in 1984. Quite frankly, I and my staff at that time expected that the reassessment work, which would lead to a decision as to the best way of handling the enormously difficult problem of the PCBs which had leaked into the Hudson River from the General Electric Plants in upstate New York, would take two or three years.

I never expected that the reassessment would take more than 11 years to be completed. I consider that this was the most politically contentious issue with which I had to deal during my tenure as regional administrator, which ended with the Bush Administration in January of 1993.

My position then, and still is, was that the science should control the outcome. The work of the Environmental Protection Agency Region II



staff is sound, unbiased and scientifically correct and scientifically peer reviewed. I feel strongly that the decisions that will be made by EPA Region II, under the new administration of Administrator Christine Todd Whitman, will follow these principles.

At this moment, the EPA is conducting public hearings, and reviewing comments, which will have been made during the comment periods. Audubon is making its position of support for EPA's science fully known.

All interested parties from upstate, downstate, river communities and otherwise should support the decisions made by the EPA, which I firmly believe are and will be based on science, and not politics.

## Council Chairman

By Geoffrey Ryan

Birds, wildlife and habitat — that's our mission, and we have been making great strides, particularly in the area of habitat.

In actions spearheaded by Audubon New York, the Council and chapters, the smart growth movement is capturing the attention of government leaders. Also, Audubon's Important Bird Areas concept has earned enthusiasm with the state's Bird Conservation Areas and now Westchester County's similar program.

Another initiative, which involves smart growth, habitat preservation and water quality, got its first head of steam with Audubon's "Listen to the Sound: A Citizen's Agenda" back in 1990. A decade later, Audubon offices, chapters and Councils in New York and Connecticut have launched a new Listen to the Sound campaign. This focuses on establishing a comprehensive network of open space along the Sound's rim.

Out of the series of public hearings came the concept of creating a Long Island Sound Reserve. This will provide for the preservation, restoration and improved stewardship of the Sound's shoreline. Having grown up near the



Connecticut shore and in more recent years lived near the Sound's western end, I can testify to the past abuse and destruction of the area.

The concept of a reserve thrills me — a reserve that will create and preserve a network of the remaining undeveloped and undisturbed sites; restore degraded and debased areas of wildlife habitat, wetlands and accessible urban water fronts; foster better stewardship of public and private lands; and improve the quality of water in the Sound — and I hope thrills the citizens of Connecticut and New York.

Auduboners in these two states can be proud of the Long Island Sound reserve program and, I hope, will take every opportunity to support it at every level of government.

## SURVEY

Dear Reader:

We are committed to continually improving the quality of the *Audubon Advocate*. In an effort to capture and more accurately reflect the interests and preferences of our readers, we have developed this survey. To help us meet our goal, please take a minute to complete and return this survey to: Audubon NY, 200 Trillium Lane, Albany, NY 12203, Attn: Director of Communications. Your comments are important to us. Thank you in advance for the time and thought you put into your responses.

Kimberley L. Ray, editor

Which source do you choose for news: (check one)

- Newspaper       Cable TV  
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How many issues of the *Advocate* do you read each year?

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year? If so, what was the topic of that article?

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5 4 3 2 1

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5 4 3 2 1

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5 4 3 2 1

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5 4 3 2 1

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Please rank the following:

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The size of the type in *Advocate* articles:

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The number of photos in the *Advocate*:

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Spot color is used in the *Advocate*:

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The layout and look of the *Advocate*:

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The length of *Advocate* articles are typically:

- Too long     Too short     Perfect  
 I like the length of most of the articles in this issue

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What subject area(s) would you like to see added to the *Advocate*?

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