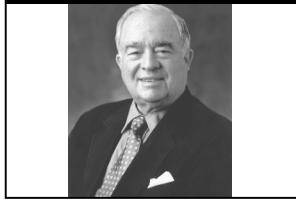


# LEADERSHIP

Board Chairman



**CONSTANTINE  
SIDAMON-ERISTOFF**

This month I want to pay tribute to Audubon's legislative program and its most recent successes and to the devoted staff which is responsible for those successes. Led by our executive director, David Miller, and by our director of governmental affairs, Bill Cooke, our program truly rests on a bipartisan spirit and has had success after success in this past year.

As Audubon's primary focus is on birds, their habitats, and bird science, we are delighted that Bird Conservation Area law amendments were passed that, first, expanded the program to all State lands beyond State parks and Department of Environmental Conservation properties, and secondly requires that any future governor who wants to undesignate a Bird Conservation Area must first do a full environmental review. Lastly the law adds a natural areas program for other species of concern to parallel the Bird Conservation Area program.

Our thanks go to Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assemblyman Tom Dinapoli, and to Assemblyman Stephen Englebright. In the State Senate,

**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.**

Senator Carl Marcellino, and on his staff, Fred Anderson, were strong and essential supporters as were Governor Pataki and his devoted staff led by Lynette Stark. And of course you cannot accomplish legislative miracles in New York State without strong support from other environmental groups, and I especially want to single out the Nature Conservancy and thank them for their help.

New York State's sadly endangered Loon population will thank the State Legislature and the Governor for the passage of Lead Sinker Legislation which bans the sale of lead split shot sinkers in our State. This legislation is a model for the entire country. A special thanks goes to Senator Marcellino and to Assemblymen Dinapoli and Englebright, and to Governor Pataki for signing the legislation into law. Without the tremendous help of the broad coalition put together with the Conservation Council and other sportsman's groups, we would not have succeeded. A special thanks goes to the Adirondack Council and the Adirondack Landowners Association with leadership from our own Margo Ernst.

Grassroots support remains our chief strength, and my thanks go to all of our Chapter Members and leadership who helped us this year. More challenges loom next year — and Audubon New York will be there!

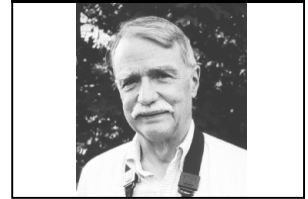
One of the most significant and important conservation programs that we in Audubon New York — Chapters, Council and state office — have developed is that of the Important Bird Areas (IBAs). The first IBA book, compiled by Jeff Wells and published in 1998 by the Audubon state office, listed and described 127 sites across the state that met IBA criteria.

Subsequently, New York State adopted legislation calling for designation of state-owned properties as Bird Conservation Areas (BCAs) following criteria established by the IBA program. At this writing, the State had named 19 BCAs, all but one of which had been identified beforehand as IBAs, and there are more to come.

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Chapter to make certain  
that every potential IBA  
is properly documented  
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time around."*

To get an idea of how important the IBA program is, just look at some of the BCAs designated so far by the State

Council Chairman



**GEOFFREY  
COBB RYAN**

— Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary; the Catskill High Peaks; the David A. Sarnoff Pine Barren Preserves on Long Island; the Eastern Lake Ontario Marshes; the Buckhorn Island in Erie County; the Montezuma Wetlands Complex; and the Bashkill in Sullivan County.

In addition, other IBAs, with ardent Audubon advocacy, have been acquired by state or federal governments for open space and water quality protection, among them are the Nissequogue River BCA and the 127-acre Benton Bay property, both on Long Island; the Whitney estate and other properties in the Adirondacks; the major holdings at Sterling Forest, so close to metropolitan New York, which were acquired by both New York and New Jersey; and the Galeville Airport, now known as the Shawangunk Grassland, a unit of the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge.

Now that four years have elapsed since publication, it is time to re-visit the IBA project. It is likely that potential candidate sites have not yet been nominated and that others, which may not have made the first cut, can qualify this time around if more supporting data has been collected. (Approximately 250 sites were nominated in the first round.)

This is not an exercise in naming hot birding spots; it is a project that helps to identify and protect habitats that are critical to the survival of birds, most particularly those whose populations may be endangered or threatened. It is a program of which every Auduboner can be proud. I encourage every Chapter to make certain that every potential IBA is properly documented and nominated this time around. Remember that any site not nominated has less protection from development in the future if it is not an IBA. If you, or others you know, (and you don't have to an Auduboner) are interested in participating in the second round of IBA nominations, please contact Jillian Limer, Important Bird Areas Coordinator [jbutler@audubon.org](mailto:jbutler@audubon.org) or (607-254-2437).

## 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 or  
visit <http://ny.audubon.org>

- 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.
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