

# Audubon

A PUBLICATION OF THE National Audubon Society of New York State

## ADVOCATE

### First Urban Audubon Center in United States Opens in Brooklyn

By Cheryl Bartholow and Chuck Remington

THE RIBBON-CUTTING ceremony, which signaled the opening of the country's first urban Audubon Center, occurred in Brooklyn's Prospect Park on April 26. The date also marks the birthday of John James Audubon, naturalist and wildlife painter, and Frederick Law Olmsted, the renowned designer of the park.

The event drew a crowd of 400 spectators and VIP's, including New York Senator Chuck Schumer, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, Commissioner Bernadette

Castro of New York State Department of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, Commissioner Erin Crotty of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Commissioner Adrian Benepe of New York City Parks & Recreation, as well as John Flicker, President of Audubon, David J. Miller, executive director of Audubon New York and Tupper Thomas, president of the Prospect Park Alliance.

Prospect Park Audubon Center is a cooperative effort of the Prospect Park



New York State Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro hands out stickers to youth from PS. #22.

Alliance and Audubon New York that will expand the traditional definition of Audubon Centers and environmental education.

"The Prospect Park Audubon Center is the cornerstone of our plan to create 1,000 nature centers across the country by the year 2020," explained John Flicker, President of Audubon. "Audubon has made a commitment to partner with communities and organizations throughout the nation to help create and sustain Audubon Centers that reflect the values, concerns, and interests of local residents."

The urban-based center is an Important Bird Area, a place where

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JOHN FLICKER  
PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL AUDUBON



The Prospect Park Audubon Center partners and supporters gather for ribbon-cutting.

### Assemblyman Thomas DiNapoli on Conservation

On April 23, 2002, Audubon New York's executive director, David J. Miller had the following interview with the new Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee Chair, Thomas DiNapoli.



David J. Miller (left) discusses environmental issues with Assemblyman Thomas DiNapoli (right.)

**MR. MILLER:** What do you believe are some of your most important achievements in the environment as you come in as Chair of the Assembly EnCon Committee?

**MR. DiNAPOLI:** Well, I have to say that from when I first arrived here, there were two committees that I asked the Speaker at the time to put me on. One was education, the other was environment. So for the past 16 years, this has been one of my continuing committee assignments, and I've been very pleased with a number of the initiatives I've sponsored that have become State law. Probably the one that still stands out as the greatest achievement is the "Pine Barrens Protection Act." It was a wonderful consensus building process that brought the Long Island community together on saving 50,000 acres in the core preservation area, while coming up with a compatible development plan. But I'm also pleased by recent

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KIMBERLEY L. RAY

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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AUDUBON NEW YORK

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