

Audubon New York Seeks Volunteers *For the Birds!*

By Regan Clover

AUDUBON NEW YORK'S environmental education program, *For the Birds!* complete its third year in New York City public schools. Starting with only two schools in 1999, the *For the Birds!* program was able to reach ten schools during the 2001-2002 school year. None of this would have been possible without the help of Audubon's many dedicated volunteers. Audubon recognizes the *For the Birds!* volunteers

for their commitment to the program, and the environment.

Many thanks to lead educators: Virginia Carter, Arleen O'Brien, and Wendy Paulson; assistant educators: Oliver Caplan, Philip Coffin, Sybil Costello, Trish Doherty, Margo Ernst, Mary Kay Flowers, Kate Garrison, Erin Gray, Amy Lombardo, Mark Menges, Jean Pettibone, Roz Rosen, Sean Sime; and all of the volunteers who helped

with the *For the Birds!* field trips in May and June.

Audubon New York needs additional volunteers (ages 18 and up) for school-day environmental programs in New York City. Beginning in September 2002, volunteers can teach, or assist with fun classroom lessons, bird walks, and habitat improvement projects at inner city schools.

Volunteers help students learn

science and develop an appreciation for nature. A knowledge of birds is helpful, but not required to be a volunteer. For more information, please contact: Lynn Tiede, Audubon NY Education Manager, 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003, 212-979-3073, ltiede@audubon.org

New Bridge at Wappinger Creek Gives Visitor's New Direction



LARRY FEDERMAN

By Larry Federman

LAST FEBRUARY A BRIDGE at the Buttercup Farm Audubon Center and Sanctuary was remodeled giving visitors a second location at which to cross the Wappinger Creek. By resurfacing the existing bridge and connecting an old farm road, visitors to Buttercup Farm Audubon Center and Sanctuary have an alternate point at which they can safely cross the creek. The update exposes a new trail that will immerse birders and other visitors in the creek's marsh environment. Buttercup Farm Audubon Center and Sanctuary is located on Route 82, between Pine Plains and Stanfordville in the Town of Stanford, Dutchess County. For more information about Buttercup Farm contact Larry Federman at (518) 325-5203 or consult the website at <http://ny.audubon.org>.

Bridge over Wappinger Creek at the Buttercup Farm Audubon Center and Sanctuary.

DID YOU KNOW?

By Jane E. S. Sokolow

CAMELS have three sets of eyelids to protect them from dust.

The **ANTEATER** has no teeth. It uses its long sticky tongue to gather ants and food.

POLAR BEARS have a terrific sense of smell. They can detect seals' "breathing holes" in the sea ice from more than half a mile away.

WALRUSES have built-in life preservers — pockets of air in their neck that hold their heads upright as they sleep in the water.

CARIBOU are the only member of the deer family in which both the male and the female grow antlers.

SEA OTTERS are one of the few animals to use tools while feeding. They dive to the sea bottom, pull up a rock, place it on their bellies, and then, while swimming on their backs, break hard-shelled prey by hitting them against the rock.

INSECTS have no lungs.

The **KOMODO DRAGON** is the largest lizard. It can grow up to 10 feet and weigh 200 lbs.

Jane E.S. Sokolow is a science writing consultant and member of Audubon New York's stewardship committee. She currently works with the New York City Parks and Recreation Department and has worked with American Museum of Natural History, Audubon New York and the National Audubon Society.