

# Audubon NEW YORK

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## Prospect Park Audubon Center and Boathouse

95 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, NY 11215 (718) 965-8945

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## Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Center and Sanctuary

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Isabel Fernandes, *Volunteer Coordinator*

## Rheinstrom/Buttercup Audubon Center and Sanctuary

PO Box 1, Craryville, NY 12521 (518) 325-5203

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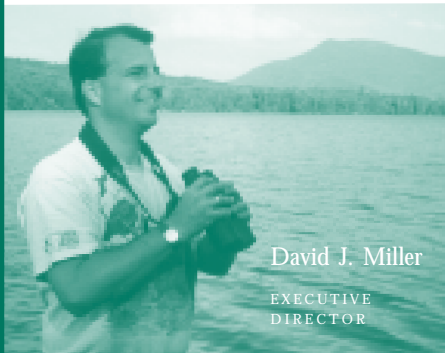
Diane Cooper / Gladys Goldmann / Norman Shapiro

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# CREATING A CULTURE OF CONSERVATION



David J. Miller

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

"WOW!" was the overwhelming reaction of the participants during the opening of the Prospect Park Audubon Center on April 26, 2002. In addition to being a crown jewel of Olmsted's park system, Brooklyn's Prospect Park made Audubon history, becoming the first urban Audubon Center.

Already, the migratory warblers were beginning to arrive just in time for this new Audubon urban education center, which showcases "state of the art" environmental education exhibits. The building, the exhibits, the classroom, the educational programming as well as the high level officials who attended made for an impressive day.



Senator Chuck Schumer and other dignitaries enjoy a light moment during Prospect Park Audubon Center opening.

The Prospect Park Audubon Center will establish the links between Brooklyn's diverse ethnic communities, their cultures and natural history. The overriding purpose is to connect people to nature, focusing on urban youth. The partnership of Audubon New York, Prospect Park Alliance and the City Parks Department as well as the financial support of so many sponsors from federal, state and city government to corporations, foundations and individuals made the vision for this Audubon center a reality.

Audubon New York has committed to raise a \$10 million endowment for programs at the Audubon Center and Toyota International announced its lead gift of \$1.0 million at the opening, adding to the \$1.5 million already secured. This is a tribute to the staff and volunteers as well as National Audubon's commitment organization-wide for this project.

The success of this magnificent program goes beyond local achievements and endowment goals. The valuable lessons we are learning at Prospect Park Audubon Center will help us better construct future urban sites and other Centers across the state. Audubon New York's portion of the nationally conceived "2020 vision" includes developing a dozen Centers across the state by 2010. Already established Centers such as Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center as well as Constitution Marsh Audubon Center have made their mark on local communities. New Centers are planned in rural settings like Knox Farm State Park and Montezuma Wildlife Refuge as well as urban settings such as Albany, Utica and the other boroughs of New York City. As Carnegie was to libraries, Audubon can be to environmental education centers as long as we remain true to our mission. The Prospect Park Audubon Center is an incredible watershed step towards that goal.

So, get your calendar out and plan a trip to the Prospect Park Audubon Center. Experience through virtual reality how a cardinal flies through the park and then go out and see the Northern Cardinal first hand. It doesn't get any better than that!

In Conservation,

David J. Miller

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

### June 2002

28 - July 7

The Hudson River Valley Greenway and Hudson River Water Trail Association host their second annual Great Hudson River Paddle.

For more info visit <http://www.greathudsonriverpaddle.net>.

### July 2002

1 - August 29

Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center will hold its summer camp for children ages 4 -12 (grades Pre-K through sixth) July 1 thru August 29. For more information call (516) 922-3200.

### August 2002

10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

The fourth annual Nature Art Festival will occur in Jamestown New York. Experience nature and art combined during two fun-filled days. For more info contact the Jamestown Audubon Society at (716) 569-2345.

### September 2002

7<sup>th</sup>

The sixth annual Montezuma Muckrace will occur at the Montezuma Wetlands Complex in central New York. All proceeds from the 21-hour birding competition will support bird conservation and research. For more information call Jillian at (607) 254-2437.

21<sup>st</sup>

The American Littoral Society will join conservation groups to clean up New York State's beaches. For more information on how to volunteer call (718) 471-2166.

22 & 23

The Hudson Valley Greenway and National Heritage Area will sponsor the second annual Hudson River Valley Ramble. The ramble is a festival of guided tours and inter-preted walks showcasing nearly 3,000 miles of trails and scenic landscapes.

### September 2002 continued

27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>

The next Audubon Council of New York State meeting will be held September 27-29 at Kutsher's Country Club in Monticello, New York.\*

### October 2002

The Sound Guardian Award will be given to Senator Chuck Schumer at the annual benefit to be held in Rye, New York in October. Look for Save the Date cards and invites this summer.\*

### November 2002

20<sup>th</sup>

The Thomas W. Keese Award will be presented at a luncheon at the Yale Club in New York City. This year's honoree is outgoing Audubon New York board member and conservation leader, John C. Bierwirth.\*

\* For information on the following Audubon New York events call 518-869-9731 or go to <http://ny.audubon.org>