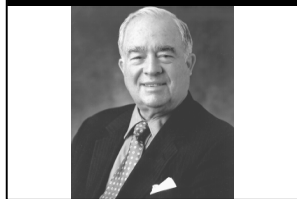


LEADERSHIP

Board Chairman



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After the terrible attack and tragedy of September 11, many people involved in the world of non-profit organizations and fund raising, including myself, were first obviously very pleased with the enormous outpouring of public sympathy and generosity to the various funds that were set up for the relief of the heroic rescuers and all the others that lost their lives or their businesses. It is a fantastic tribute to America's ability to rise to an occasion and to pour money into where it was absolutely necessary.

However, there were a number of people very worried about the effect on the general giving and support of the many causes which we all hold dear, and in particular what effect September 11 would have on the programs and

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**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.**

fundraising of Audubon New York, of which we are all a part.

In planning for this next year, Audubon's David Miller took appropriate steps early on, lowering his expenditures and budget so that there was a potential cushion, should things not end up in good shape.

The tremendous success of our Tom Keese Award dinner last November, really buoyed up all of us, and I think we can say that the staff, including David, Sandra Doring, Shirley Hartman and her team did a fantastic job. We had an extremely profitable as well as successful and fun occasion to unveil our extraordinary 2000-2001 Annual Report designed by Kimberley Ray. We were blessed with the most generous and wonderful honoree!

In general, philanthropy nationwide has not fallen off to the extent that some had feared. It is now clear, that although things are not as easy as they might have been, at least people are still willing to support other good works and in particular to support environmental organizations like ours.

We must move forward now with our 2002 programs, all of which are extremely important. We are doing so, and David Miller and the staff are to be commended, again, for the energy and dedication with which they have continued to plan and move ahead.

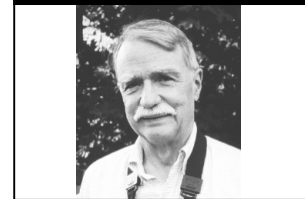
This coming year is crucial and we need to work very hard on all levels: Chapters, staff, Board of Directors, Stewardship Committee, and Audubon Council to keep our Audubon New York moving towards a banner 2002.

Happy New Year!

Governor George E. Pataki stated an ambitious goal in his State of the State message early this year, a goal that all Auduboners can support. He wants to preserve one million acres of open space across the State. This is in addition to over 325,000 acres that have already been designated for open space preservation under his administration.

New York State has a vast variety of bird habitats from the shores of the Great Lakes to the mountains and forests of the Adirondacks and Catskills, from the grasslands of Central New York to the watersheds of the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers, from the Hudson Valley to the Atlantic Ocean and Long Island Sound. Indeed, Audubon New York's Important Bird Area (IBA) program has identified IBAs in all of these regions. Some IBAs on State property have already been designated as Bird Conservation Areas — 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 BCA; the Buckhorn Island BCA in Erie County; the Montezuma Wetlands Complex; and the Bashakill BCA in Sullivan County, to name a few. Some, 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,

Council Chairman



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so close to the metropolitan New York, which were acquired by both New York and New Jersey; and the Galeville Airport, now known as the Shawangunk National Wildlife Refuge a unit of the Walkill River National Wildlife Refuge.

A prime target for acquisition is the Keyspan Energy property at Jamesport. The site consists of over 500 acres on the north shore of the North Fork of Long Island. It contains critical bird habitat; is designated by Audubon New York as an Important Bird Area; is an ideal site for a State Park in the future; and, of course, would help in our longtime campaign to clean up, enhance and protect the waters of Long Island Sound.

Audubon Chapters, the Council and the Audubon State Office can be proud of our work in identifying, monitoring and advocating for the IBAs. The IBA program has been one of the most successful partnerships, not only of the involved Audubon entities, but also of our government agencies that have bought into this wonderful concept. Literally hundreds of thousands of acres already acquired and to be acquired in the future will preserve habitat for birds and other flora and fauna and for the enjoyment, education and solace of generations of people to come.



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ALBANY, NY 12203

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

Yes, Consider Me an Advocate for Birds, Wildlife and their Habitats in New York State

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- I would like to become an Audubon member. Enclosed is my check for \$20.
- Please send me information about including National Audubon in my Estate Plans.

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