

Audubon NEW YORK

Audubon New York

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PO Box 174, Cold Spring, NY 10516 (845) 265-2601

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Prospect Park Audubon Center and Boathouse

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

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134 Cove Rd., Oyster Bay, NY 11771 (516) 922-3200

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Rheinstrom Hill & Buttercup Farm

Audubon Center and Sanctuary

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

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200Trillium Lane Albany, NY 12203

(518) 869-9731

<http://ny.audubon.org>

CREATING A CULTURE OF CONSERVATION

Audubon New York has reached yet another milestone. Last December, we published the organization's first annual report documenting the successes, programs and supporters for the fiscal year 2000/2001. While the National headquarters publishes an annual report with highlights from all of the state programs, Audubon New York has grown to warrant its own publication.

The theme, "Connecting People to Nature," shows how Audubon New York's Strategic Action Plan is reaching people from Buffalo to Long Island. Whether it is Audubon's Important Bird Area Program and the State's Bird Conservation Area Designations, or the expansion of the Audubon Centers Program, Audubon is making an impact on New Yorkers and their natural resources that will last for generations.

While it is amazing how far Audubon New York has come, it is even more astounding where we are headed. In this issue of the *Audubon Advocate*, we highlight the agreement with New York State Parks to establish an Audubon Center at Knox Farm State Parks in western New York.

This historic partnership has led to serious negotiations with the Department of Environmental Conservation to establish the Crusoe Audubon Center at Montezuma. In April, the Prospect Park Audubon Center will open its doors to Brooklyn residents to reveal innovative exhibits and groundbreaking programs.

Our conservation policy work is identifying critical open space projects in the grasslands of the St. Lawrence Valley, the river valleys of the Catskills and the shores of Long Island. Our new Geographic Information System equipment is helping to provide scientists with data crucial to preserve bird habitats around the state.

These and other successes are already making for an exciting and compelling annual report next year. Thanks to a great board, staff and chapter network, I am confident that every section of this year's annual report will make you proud of your dedicated support of the Audubon cause.

In Conservation,



David J. Miller
Executive Director



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



PARTICIPATE IN MOUNTAIN BIRDWATCH 2002

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) along with its partners Audubon New York, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Green Mountain Club is seeking your help in monitoring high-elevation birds during this breeding season. Audubon New York has been a partner with VINS both in the Catskills and the Adirondacks.

Mountain Birdwatch data has been used to:

- Delineate a Bird Conservation Area in the Adirondacks
- Identify Important Bird Areas in Vermont and
- Evaluate potential impacts of wind power development in Maine

Volunteers may adopt their own routes but must register by **May 1, 2002**. For more information contact Dan Lambert at (802) 457-2779, x132 or dlambert@vinsweb.org. Visit <http://www.vinsweb.org/conservation/citizenscience/mtnbirdwatch.html> to register or for a full report on the 2001 surveys (available after April 1, 2002.)