

# LEADERSHIP

Board Chairman



**CONSTANTINE  
SIDAMON-ERISTOFF**

AS NEW YORK STATE is facing one of its most difficult economic times in recent history, Audubon New York continues to stay the course and focus on its core mission of birds, wildlife and their habitats. Our initiative and vision to reach one in four children by 2020 through our education programs and Audubon Centers is something that resonates in good times as well as in bad.

This theme holds true for the protection of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and open spaces across this diverse state of New York. Audubon has felt the strain of today's economic pressures but has made adjustments so that although our growth has slowed, it has not halted.

We are on the brink of a second round of designations of the historic Audubon New York IBA program and we are celebrating the first anniversary of the opening of Audubon's first urban Center, the Prospect Park Audubon Center. Over the next 18 months Audubon New York will be opening new centers at Montezuma in Western New York as well as at Jones Beach on Long Island.

We are solidifying our partnerships with our local chapters and we are increasing our contributor base by bringing new people into the Audubon family. Our Board of Directors is

**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.**

growing as is our Stewardship Committee and our bi-partisan influence in State and federal legislative bodies is on the rise.

Audubon New York will be finalizing its strategic plan this summer and fall and we welcome your participation in its implementation. I feel privileged to serve as Audubon New York's Chair and look forward to your assistance in building upon its historic accomplishments.

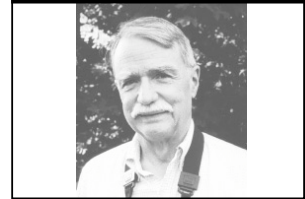
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IN ACCORDANCE with the by-laws of the Audubon Council of New York State, I will step down as Council Chair on June 30<sup>th</sup>. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, we expect to welcome Gladys Goldmann as the new Chair, along with a re-vamped Board of Directors. This year's slate of Board candidates demonstrates the healthy diversity of Audubon across the state—men and women, newcomers and veterans, from Long Island to Jamestown, Westchester to the Adirondacks.

We established the Council in 1988 as an umbrella group for Chapters that had no organized way to communicate with each other, to develop mutually beneficial programs and policies, and to act as a unified force for advocacy on important environmental issues around the state and nation. Soon after our inaugural meeting, National Audubon appointed David Miller as Director of its Northeast Regional Office, and the Council began what has become a long and fruitful relationship with Dave. Several years later, National Audubon began closing Regional offices and establishing offices dedicated to the needs of individual states. I had been advocating for this change since the formation of the Council, because most environmental issues are decided by state and local governments and an office representing both the national organization and its affiliated Chapters across the state can have a strong influence on decision making in executive offices, legislatures and agencies. Additionally, a state office can assist Chapters in many areas.

Audubon New York was among the first state offices established. With Dave Miller as Executive Director, it has

Council Chairman



**GEOFFREY  
COBB RYAN**

become a model for others and has made Audubon the most influential voice for sane, science-based environmental policy in the state.

The Council and its constituent Chapters have played important roles in achieving this stature, most particularly through development of the annual Legislative Resolutions that provide Audubon New York with direction for its advocacy and a potent endorsement of Audubon policies on environmental issues. As we go forward, I am confident that the Council, the Chapters and Audubon New York will continue to work and grow together.

I want to thank all Auduboners who have served on the Council Board, on Committees and as Chapter Delegates, plus all the others who have taken the trouble to host or attend meetings, to submit resolutions, and to support the Council's work in so many other ways. I also thank Dave Miller and all the Audubon New York staff members who do so much work in advocating for the Council Resolutions, in organizing the Council's semi-annual meetings, and in arranging conference calls and mailings throughout the year.

P.S. I am not evaporating, but will remain active in Council affairs as an *ex officio*, non-voting member of the Board, and I continue to serve on the boards of National Audubon, Audubon New York and New York City Audubon.

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

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**Audubon New York  
200 Trillium Lane  
Albany, NY 12203**

Call for more information  
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- I would like to receive the Audubon Advocate in the future.
- I am willing to write a letter, make a phone call or send a fax or email on behalf of birds, wildlife and their habitats in New York State.
- 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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: [ ] Day or [ ] Evening \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
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