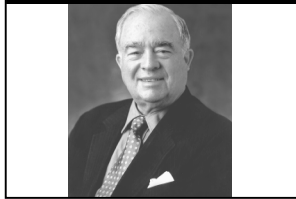


LEADERSHIP

Board Chairman



**CONSTANTINE
SIDAMON-ERISTOFF**

THIS IS A TOUGH YEAR for the State of New York. Budgetary crises affect not only the state government but all local governments, New York City included. Money is short, in all levels.

It is difficult to focus on the future and to realize that the glass is half full, when it seems so empty. Nevertheless, even during this time of great need, those of us in the environmental world must continue to look forward. There are many things that need to be accomplished, needs that need to be satisfied, environmentally as well as economically and socially, in our state.

We have a full agenda for 2003: new publications, much more bird and habitat scientific work, and new and enlarged Center operations; and we will need to raise more money. We must continue to look ahead, and to plan and to accomplish whatever we can in the future as soon as, and maybe even before, our state and local economies improve and tax revenues increase.

It takes a long time to move ahead with a series of projects, and the planning and engineering involved in accomplishing any new project or idea,

**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.**

takes a lot of time. Now is the time for all of us at Audubon, New York to look forward, and to decide what we want to accomplish, and this is what your Board and the members of the Stewardship Committee, the chapters, and the staff have been working on.

We are moving ahead, fiscal crisis or not. With our help, we intend to improve ourselves and our operation, and magnify what we are able to accomplish, with the assistance of the chapters statewide, National Headquarters, and of course the many terrific volunteers who have helped us move ahead so successfully heretofore.

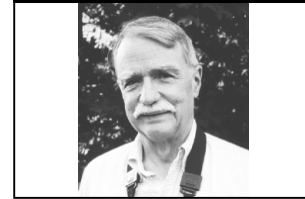
"We must continue to look ahead, and to plan and to accomplish whatever we can in the future as soon as, and maybe even before, our state and local economies improve and tax revenues increase."

AS THE NORTHEAST REGIONAL representative on the National Audubon Society Board, I thought it might interest Auduboners in New York to hear about some activities of that board.

As of December, Audubon had established 26 state offices that were up and running, with six more in formation. Because most environmental issues are resolved at local government levels, establishment of state offices is one of the most important initiatives undertaken by Audubon in many years. Audubon's stature and influence have increased dramatically in every state as offices have been set up, boards have been organized, and the new staff and board members have worked closely with existing chapters and councils. National's goal is to establish offices in all 50 states over the next few years.

State offices are charged with many responsibilities, most immediate and one of the original reasons for establishing them is acting as the principal Audubon advocate at state capitols on conservation issues. More recent initiatives for state offices include establishing and overseeing the Important Bird Area (IBA) program and the development of Audubon Centers. Both involve the participation of Chapters, which can be significant contributors to their success. National

Council Chairman



**GEOFFREY
COBB RYAN**

Audubon anticipates adding 5,000 IBAs across the country and developing, to cite a committee report, "a framework to use them as organizing principle for selecting ecosystems for conservation as national policy, creating ... integration from chapters through National and improving visibility for Audubon policy and brand."

Development of Audubon Centers, perhaps as many as 1,000 across the country, complements the IBAs in promoting the Audubon cause and image. The Centers will serve as the primary educational facilities that eventually will reach millions of school children and their families. The connection between Centers and IBAs will be enhanced particularly since our plans call for at least half of the Centers to be developed in conjunction with IBAs.

Through education, advocacy and land conservation these programs will contribute greatly to Audubon's standing as the premier environmental organization within communities and at state capitols throughout the 50 states.



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

Please fill out and return in a stamped envelope to:

AUDUBON NEW YORK
200 TRILLIUM LANE
ALBANY, NY 12203

Call for more information
(518) 869-9731 or
visit <http://ny.audubon.org>

- 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 e-mail 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.

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