

North Fork CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

response from Ms. Castro, stating that she and Governor Pataki were aware of the property and were looking in to it.

A couple of years went by when one day I got a call from Audubon New York. They wanted to make the KeySpan property the number one open space priority for Audubon. They'd like some more information on the flora and fauna of the site. Now, this might sound a little odd, but I was surprised. How did they hear about this? "From us," I was told; a double shock. Albany seems so far away; I never thought anyone was really paying attention. Then I remembered that Audubon New York hosted the Listen to the Sound 2000 program where we highlighted the property along with other groups. Of course Dave Miller and the people in his office are always reminding us that they are there to help. But I could never figure out what they could help us with. "*Duh.*" I very quickly saw what they could do for us. As momentum grew, Audubon New York guided us through the process of lobbying our representatives and keeping the press informed. They participated in the walks we organized on the site and formed a coalition with other groups in our area. They had the high level meetings both with the governor's office and KeySpan during

the past year. Well, I'm delighted to say, that it worked. Civic organizations, environmental groups and individuals worked together. We wanted this park. We wanted to stop the rampant development, at least here, and we did.

With several different habitats comprising the site, there's always something interesting to see. You start by noticing the small grassland birds, sparrows, finches and the like. I will not soon forget the autumn walk where we were greeted by dozens of flitting goldfinches, darting on and off of the sunflowers as we headed towards the Sound. What a colorful display. After the fields, you enter the woods. Depending on the time of year, you can see warblers, grosbeaks, flycatchers and vireos to name a few. Once through the woods you enter a dune area. Here you see hawks, Ospreys and red tails. Then there's the beach. Our summer walk documented a breeding pair of Piping Plovers and, of course, in the winter there are many ducks to be seen in the water. It's a dream come true for many North Forkers. Now we have a fabulous place to go commune with nature and maybe later take a dip.

It is a great example of what we can do when all of us in the Audubon family join forces for a common conservation goal.

Inside this issue

New BCAs!

Governor George E. Pataki designates four new BCAs.
(See story on page 4)



Sound Guardian 2002

Senator Charles E. Schumer is presented with the Sound Guardian Award.
(See story on page 6)



Going Hollywood!

Constitution Marsh enjoys the TV limelight.
(See story on page 9)

Long Island Sound

Historic bi-state EPA agreement signed.
(See story on page 12)



Audubon New York
200 Trillium Lane, Albany, NY 12203

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALBANY, NY
PERMIT NO. 497