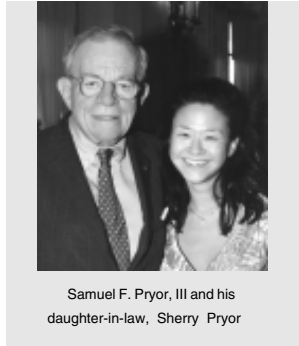


Keesee Award

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

Pryor is the third individual to receive this signature award, joining past recipients, Donal C. O'Brien, Jr., former National Audubon Society Board Chairman, and John C. Bierwirth, Audubon New York Director Emeritus.

This year's event raised over \$125,000 for Audubon New York programs. A true giant in the conservation movement, we thank Sam Pryor for his ongoing commitment to birds, wildlife and their habitats and to the programs of Audubon New York.



Samuel F. Pryor, III and his daughter-in-law, Sherry Pryor



PHOTOS BY CECILY MCGILL

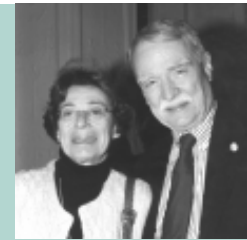
Virginia K. Stowe, Audubon New York Board Member, John Flicker, National Audubon Society President and Jane Swanson



Erin Crotty, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner, and Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff, Audubon New York Board Chairman



Jack Bierwirth, 2002 Keesee Award Recipient and Audubon New York Board Member, Bernadette Castro, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commissioner, and Al Caccese, Audubon New York Director of Conservation and Government Relations



Audubon New York Board Members Gladys Goldmann and Geoffrey Cobb Ryan



David J. Miller, Audubon New York Executive Director, Marian Heiskell, Audubon New York Board Member, and Dan Lufkin from the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation



The Pryor and Keesee Families. (L to R) Samuel F. Pryor, IV, Nathaniel P. Reed, Samuel F. Pryor III, Patricia Keesee and Thomas W. Keesee, III.



Susan R. Cullman, Samuel F. Pryor, IV, and Anne Sidamon-Eristoff



Donal C. O'Brien, 2001 Keesee Award recipient and Phoebe Milliken

Audubon Council

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

Farm were led by Wardens David Wheeler and Larry Federman, and included a stroll along the upper waters of Wappingers Creek, which flows through the center of the sanctuary.

The highlight of the weekend was the keynote address delivered by Dr. Ward Stone, Chief Wildlife Pathologist for the New York State Department of Environmental Protection. Dr. Stone has worked at the DEC's Wildlife Pathology unit since 1969, and has headed the unit for the past three decades. He spoke eloquently on the importance of investigating the causes of death in wildlife populations. The unit's work has been instrumental in uncovering the effects of such problems as the continuing devastating effects of pesticide use for aesthetic purposes on lawns and golf courses, PCB contamination of rivers, and Mirex pollution in Lake Erie. The unit has been critically important in initially discovering and tracking West Nile Virus and its effects. Dr. Stone is also investigating the impact on birds of two invasive species in Lakes Erie and Ontario—the quagga mussel and the round goby, a fish. Quagga mussels

contain a botulin toxin that is passed on to the gobies when they eat the mussels. Fish-eating birds, especially loon, are killed in large number by the toxin when they eat round gobies. It is through such investigations that Dr. Stone and his colleagues continue to bring to light some of the most important environmental threats to our region.

The next Audubon Council of New York meeting will be held on March 26 – 28 at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs, New York. For further details contact Daphne Lumpkin at Audubon New York at (518) 869-9731, x232, dlumpkin@audubon.org.



PHOTOS BY RICHARD JALEY

Kim Keirnan, *For the Birds!* Program Director, talks about her program at the Council Meeting



Karl Brummert, Director of Education at Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center, makes a presentation from the Center's Birds of Prey program



Audubon chapter members enjoy a fieldtrip to Buttercup Farm during the Fall 2003 Council Meeting in Kingston, NY