

Cornell Lab & Audubon Build Strong Partnerships

By David J. Miller

AUDUBON NEW YORK'S Board of Directors held its October meeting in Ithaca at the Imogene Powers Johnson Center for Birds and Biodiversity, the new home of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (CLO). In addition to touring the beautiful new facility and learning more about the Cornell Lab and its programs, the directors were treated to presentations by Audubon and CLO staff on the thriving partnership between the two organizations. The partnership has existed since the mid-1990s, when Audubon New York's bird conservation staff were first located at the CLO. More recently, the partnership has expanded to include several joint endeavors in avian research and monitoring, conservation planning, education, and citizen science.

"I can think of no better place for a bird conservationist to work," said Dr. Mike Burger, Audubon New York's director of bird conservation. "At the Johnson Center, some of the best ornithologists and most forward-thinking conservationists are partnering under one roof," he added, "and the birds are the real winners." Dr. John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, agreed that the partnership with Audubon New York helps both organizations meet their bird conservation and education missions in an unprecedented way.

Science and conservation projects on which Audubon's bird conservation and CLO staff collaborate include Important Bird Areas, New York State's Bird Conservation Area Program, the New York Breeding Bird Atlas, regional and state bird conservation planning, species atlases, and habitat stewardship programs. In education, CLO programs are utilized in concert with Audubon programs at Audubon Centers as well as within Audubon's *For the Birds!* urban environmental education programs. Educators from all Audubon centers in the state met for a "brain drain" session at the CLO in September to share ideas and increase collaboration.



The new Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, New York.

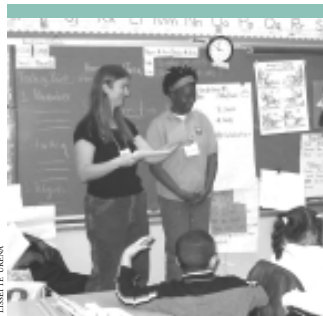
New Program Coordinator of *For The Birds!*

By Richard Haley

AUDUBON NEW YORK is pleased to introduce Kim Keirman, our new Program Coordinator of *For The Birds!*, our Manhattan-based innovative program that gets urban schoolchildren learning about birds and ecology in their classroom and in their neighborhoods. Kim comes to the position with excellent qualifications. She followed her bachelor's degree at Cornell with not one, but two Master's degrees. She holds a degree in Environmental Studies from Long Island University, and a Masters of Science in Environmental and Forest Biology from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. She has worked as a horticultural inspector in New York City, an education and research coordinator for Cooperative Extension in California, and an Urban Park Ranger in New York City. She and her husband live in the city, but range out to go backpacking, one of her favorite pursuits.

Kim leapt into the job in early September and quickly became familiar with every aspect of *For The Birds!* She is already working on plans to develop and grow the program in New York City, and to expand it to Long Island, Utica, and Albany. She has already become an important member of the Audubon New York Centers and Education team.

Kim replaces Regan Clover, who decided to pursue her Master's degree and is currently enrolled at the University of Maine at Orono.



LENETTE URBINA

Annual Meeting Held at Cornell Lab of Ornithology

By Shirley Hartman

THE AUDUBON NEW YORK State Board held its 2003 Annual Meeting at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in Ithaca, New York. In addition to its quarterly responsibilities, the Board re-elected five officers and elected two new members: Roger Saillant and Rick Lazio.

Roger Saillant, Ph.D. is President and CEO of Plug Power, Inc. and lives in the Capital Region. Rick Lazio, former Congressman, is President of Financial Services Forum and lives on Long Island. Both newly-elected members bring a strong commitment to the environment and to enhancing and expanding the work of Audubon New York.

The Board thanked William Davis,

Ginny Fields and Ross Whaley for their outstanding service as board members. All three members have chosen to relinquish their seats after completing their terms last fall.

Constantine Sidmon-Eristoff was re-elected as Board Chairman; Oakes Ames and Geoffrey Cobb Ryan were re-elected as Vice Chairmen; Virginia K. Stowe was re-elected Secretary and Alexander Zagoreos was re-elected Treasurer.

A Board reception at the new Cornell Lab of Ornithology was held the night before the official meeting, and allowed for an exceptional interchange between Lab staff and leadership with Audubon New York staff and leadership.



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Kim Keirman, Program Coordinator of *For the Birds!* (L) and Natasha Jones, Assistant Teacher from New York Restoration Project (R), hand out Junior Birder certificates to second grade students at PS 128—the Audubon School. Earlier in the fall, Kim presented a PowerPoint on the life and work of John James Audubon, to teach students about the man for whom their school is named. Students were fascinated to learn that this famous artist and bird lover once lived just a few blocks from where their school is today.