

## Making a Difference in New York With the Audubon Action Network

By Sean Mahar

IF IT IS ONE THING that the events surrounding the removal of Pale Male's nest has taught us, is that Audubon's *Action Network* can be a very effective conservation tool. Thanks to the help of Audubon members, and interested advocates from across the nation and world, more than 10,000 signatures were collected in just a little over a week for a petition to restore Pale Male's Nest, and over 4,500 letters were sent directly to the building. This outpouring support was essential in helping Audubon work with the building to come to an agreement that allowed Pale Male to return. As with any environmental issue that interests you, it is always crucial to call, write, fax, or email your feelings to the appropriate person or place. Whether that person is your Congressional representative, State Senator or Assembly member, or the owner of a building, the *Audubon Action Network* makes identifying and contacting

those important individuals simple and easy to do.

At Audubon New York, we are committed to providing you with the most up to date information on state issues impacting birds, other wildlife and your own backyard, as well as providing you with the tools necessary to take effective action in the comfort of your own home and in your community. From increasing protection for wetlands, addressing the spread of invasive species, to decreasing pollution into the Long Island Sound, we keep you informed through the Audubon New York e-Nest—your free guide to conservation action in the state. The e-Nest provides you with information on important conservation legislation before the state legislature, proposals being considered by state agencies, and directions on how you can effectively communicate with your elected officials on these measures. It also provides you with information on other important conservation priorities

of Audubon New York, such as reducing the use of lawn pesticides, and protecting Important Bird Areas throughout the state. We are also committed to providing you with the best information on conservation legislation pending in Congress, as well as the tools and resources to ensure your efforts are as effective and successful as possible. And we deliver this information to you every-other week through the Audubon Advisory.

Even though it may seem that the *Action Network* is set up to only provide you with information, it is not limited to just that. To raise local awareness of pressing conservation issues, Audubon will frequently hold Action Evenings in communities across the State. For instance, to help raise more awareness of Pale Male's plight, we held "Pale Ale's for Pale Male" an action evening where City residents could come and learn the latest information on the situation, sign our petition to have the nest restored, and

enjoy a free beverage for coming out. These evenings provide a great forum for like-minded individuals to meet one another, learn about the pressing environmental issues affecting their backyards, and how they can help make a difference on those issues, through writing letters, signing petitions, or calling their representatives. Action Evenings also allow everyday citizens to learn about Audubon programs, and how they can be involved with Audubon in their local community.

On any important conservation issue, the more your elected officials hear from you, the better the chance they will embrace the conservation point of view. In the coming year we hope that you can help us increase the effectiveness of the *Action Network*, and help advance our legislative priorities, by becoming a member and writing letters, making calls, and letting your voice be heard.

## Art in Nature Featured at Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary

By Heather Hanson

Visitors to Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center (TRSAC) in Oyster Bay, NY are used to seeing beautiful birds on the Sanctuary grounds and in the aviary. But on the evening of September 17<sup>th</sup> visitors were treated to beautiful birds depicted in artwork of various forms at the TRSAC "Art in Nature" event.

Over 100 guests were on hand for this festive cocktail reception and art show. Guests admired beautiful paintings, sculptures, and stunning bird carvings by artist Lance Lichtensteiger. The Campbell-McCullough Gallery in Locust Valley, NY, provided all the featured artwork. Guests could purchase the artwork on display, with a portion of the proceeds donated to TRSAC.

However, the highlights of the exhibit were not for sale. Three original works by John James Audubon were on display, on loan to TRSAC from the private collection of a local supporter.

"Now that was fun!" recalls smiling Center Director Trish Pelkowski. "This gentleman was saying how disappointed he was to be missing the event. Then he stops in mid-sentence, 'I have some Audubon works, why don't I send them over'. Of course I accepted his very gracious offer, but I was expecting reproductions. When the works arrived I saw pencil marks on the paper, and sketches of birds feet along the edges and that was when I realized that they were original works by John James Audubon."

Guests of the event could experience another art form on the Sanctuary's beautiful trails, where local naturalist Bob Turner recited some of his original, nature-themed haiku poetry.

"So many children in the community come to the Sanctuary as part of a school or camp program, this was a great opportunity for their parents to come to the Sanctuary and see who we are and what we offer. It's all about showing people what is right in their own community," said Ed Mohlenhoff, Co-President of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center Advisory Board.

The event raised over \$5,000 for the Center. Funds will be applied to a number of areas, ranging from upgrades to the Center facility to support for environmental outreach programs for underserved communities. TRSAC is currently one of the largest providers of environmental outreach programs on Long Island, reaching over 70,000 students through on-site and off-site programs.

Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center

## *Bully! Gala*

## Save The Date!!!

By Heather Hanson

ON APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005, supporters of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center (TRSAC) will don their finest at the annual 'A Bully! Gala', held at the Nassau Country Club in Glen Cove, Long Island.

This annual fundraiser celebrates TRSAC's service to the community, and in turn honors one or more members of the community for their service both to TRSAC and the environment. Last year's event honored community leaders Jane Greenleaf, Ted Von Briesen, and recently retired TRSAC Director Marilyn England. This year, TRSAC will honor Dr. James Watson, world-renowned as a discoverer of DNA, an active philanthropist, and a committed environmentalist.

Always a bright spot on the North Shore social calendar, the event is short on speeches and long on fun. After dinner, guests dance the night away in a beautiful setting—all to benefit a great cause.

The *Bully! Gala* is TRSAC's largest single fundraiser, raising over \$100,000 in support of the TRSAC mission—to *build a culture of conservation and to foster communities that value nature by providing environmental and natural science education*. TRSAC is dedicated to the protection of Long Island's critical habitats and promotes the conservation of avian populations through sound science and habitat enhancement.

If you would like more information about this terrific event please call the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center at 516-922-3200.