

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

### February 2005

**17** Reception for the opening of the John James Audubon exhibition at the New York Historical Society, New York, NY. For further details contact Nina Whiting at Audubon New York, 212-979-3039, [nwhiting@audubon.org](mailto:nwhiting@audubon.org).

**18-21** The 8th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count, developed and managed by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, with sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited. Instructions for participating can be found at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc) or email [citizen-science@audubon.org](mailto:citizen-science@audubon.org) for more information.

### March 2005

**11-13** Audubon Council of New York Assembly at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs, New York. For further details contact Daphne Lumpkin at Audubon New York, 518-869-9731, x232, [dlumpkin@audubon.org](mailto:dlumpkin@audubon.org).

### April 2005

**1** Audubon New York and the Construction Industry Council's Sound Guardian Award honoring Senator Hillary Clinton, at the American Yacht Club in Rye, NY. For further information contact Aaron Virgin at Audubon New York, 212-979-3121, [avirgin@audubon.org](mailto:avirgin@audubon.org).

**22** Montezuma Audubon Center campaign kick-off reception at the Sherwood Inn in Skaneateles, NY. For further details contact Aaron Virgin at Audubon New York, 212-979-3121, [avirgin@audubon.org](mailto:avirgin@audubon.org).

**26** Centennial of the National Audubon Society Reception, Prospect Park Audubon Center in Brooklyn, NY, held on John James Audubon's 220<sup>th</sup> birthday. For further details contact Nina Whiting at Audubon New York, 212-979-3039, [nwhiting@audubon.org](mailto:nwhiting@audubon.org).

**30** *A Bully! Gala*, for the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center in Oyster Bay, NY, held at the Nassau Country Club in Glen Cove, NY. Call 516-922-3200 for more information.

### May 2005

**21** 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Audubon Nature Festival at Knox Farm State Park, Aurora, NY, sponsored by Audubon New York, Buffalo Audubon Society and NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation. See our ad on page 10.

### July 2005

**16-17** 2005 Nature Art Festival in Jamestown, NY, sponsored by the Jamestown Audubon Society. Visit <http://www.natureartfest.org> for more information or call 716-569-2345.

Visit [http://ny.audubon.org/complete\\_calendar.htm](http://ny.audubon.org/complete_calendar.htm) for a more complete listing of events sponsored by Audubon

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## Audubon Leaders

### Board Chair



CONSTANTINE  
SIDAMON-ERISTOFF

AS WE CELEBRATE the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Audubon Society, Audubon New York is embarking on many exciting projects for 2005. The most significant event will be the release of the second edition of the Important Bird Areas of New York State publication. The Important Bird Area project, commonly known as the IBA program, has been the foundation of Audubon bird conservation work since the first edition was published in 1998. The IBA program was originated by Bird Life International and Audubon New York's publication was the first of its kind in the United States. Rewards from this groundbreaking work include the enactment of the State Bird Conservation Area Law, which was modeled after the IBA criteria in the first edition. New York's Bird Conservation Area law was the first in the nation and since its enactment Governor Pataki has designated 28 sites on state owned lands. These designations allowed the State of New York to put forth management plans on these State Parks, DEC or other state lands so that future activities would respect the needs of the bird habitat present.

Another benefit of the IBA program was to identify critical open space lands beyond the control of the state in need of protection. Of the original 127 IBA's, some 73 were on private lands and all of these were added over a several year process to the State's Open Space plan. The strategy for IBA's on private lands could involve private landowner stewardship, conservation easements or public acquisition. The main goal is that the bird populations and their habitats on these lands are properly managed and maintained. Already the public education success of the IBA program over the past six years has resulted in successful conservation actions at all levels.

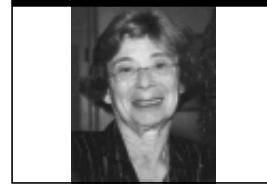
Later this spring the second edition of the IBA book will be released. Its impact on conservation will be as great if not greater than the first edition. Using sophisticated GIS modeling and field confirmation techniques, the IBA program has expanded from a site nomination process to a more comprehensive inventory approach using all means of data collection and site identification. The technical committee was expanded utilizing the expertise of the most widely known bird experts in the State. All previous sites

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### MISSION

*Audubon New York is dedicated to the protection of birds, other wildlife, and habitats through advocacy and education, serving as the state program of National Audubon Society.*

### Council Chair



GLADYS  
GOLDMANN

NEARLY 60 DELEGATES from National Audubon Society chapters across the state gathered on October 22-14 in Armonk for the Fall 2004 Audubon Council of New York Meeting. The twice-yearly Council Meetings invite representatives of all 30 chapters in New York to work on issues of common interest, move forward on projects in partnership with the Audubon State Office, and exchange information.

On the first evening, council representatives were treated to talk from Paul Gally of the Westchester Land Trust. His discussion on protecting open space at the local and county level was quite appropriate for our Chapters and the conservation work that they do locally. The group then received the unannounced treat of having Ted Gilman from the Greenwich Audubon Center give a talk on cranes, including the Sandhill Crane migration stops on the Platte River in Nebraska and Ted's trips to China to work with crane conservation projects.

The Saturday morning session started off with the President's Round Table. Each chapter has an opportunity to share with all of us just what is going on in their area, from Long Island to Buffalo from the Southern Tier to the High Peaks of the Adirondacks. Sharing is the name of the game—chapter achievements, concerns and questions. It is a wonderful exchange of information. Much networking time is built into the weekend. Office staff as well as other members are always available for brainstorming. Considerable discussion was devoted to issues concerning the relationship between chapters and the National Audubon office, and was based around a draft report from the Ad Hoc Chapter Committee. Chapter delegates also received updates on all of the state offices major initiatives.

Delegates took a break on Saturday afternoon for field trips and associated workshops. One group traveled to Byland Farm, headquarters of Bedford Audubon Society, especially to see how they are developing the new Audubon at Home project. Led by John Askildsen and John Hannon, the group hiked the trails and fields of the property and were given information concerning its natural resources and history.

The other group visited Saw Mill River Audubon's Prun and Pinecliff Sanctuaries. This trip was led by Sawmill's Education Director and Naturalist Anne Swaim. While getting some good birding and plant identification and trivia, the group learned about the educational programs they have developed around these properties, for children and adults. The Pinecliff Sanctuary is special in that it has an Americans with Disabilities Act accessible boardwalk which circles a pond and marsh.

One highlight of the weekend was the keynote address delivered by Tom Anderson, Author of *This Fine Piece of Water*, about the history of environmental conservation of nearby Long Island Sound. Anderson discussed the poor environmental health of the Western Sound thirty years ago as evidenced by nitrate levels and the state of the local fisheries, including widespread botulism in the oyster beds. He went on to say that although there is still much to do to permanently clean and protect the watershed of the Sound, overall it is in much better

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