

## Wildlife and forestry manual published

By Michael Burger

AUDUBON NEW YORK announces the completion and availability of a new informational resource for forest landowners, foresters, wildlife biologists, and others interested in the relationship between logging and wildlife communities in the Northern Hardwood forests of New York. *Wildlife and Forestry in New York Northern Hardwoods: A Guide for Forest Owners and Managers* is a 44-page, full-color publication that describes how amphibians, breeding birds, and other animals respond to timber harvests of various intensities.

Much of the information presented in the *Guide* resulted from three years of research conducted by Audubon New York. A committee of academics and professionals chaired by Dr. Ross Whaley (formerly of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and now Chair of the Adirondack Park Agency) provided technical review of the research and data analysis and also suggested approaches for describing the results for a non-technical audience. Key findings described in the manual depict how different species of wildlife prefer different forest categories that result from managing or not managing forests of this type. Some species, such as the Black-throated Green Warbler, show a clear preference for forests dominated by many, large trees and closed canopies. Others, like the Chestnut-sided Warbler, prefer heavily-harvested forest stands such as clear-cuts, where few large trees remain, but many saplings exist. Most species had relatively broad tolerances and were found in several forest categories. Species are addressed in

functional groups in order to simplify communication and the decision-making process for landowners and property managers.

The *Guide* also includes information about the importance of working with a professional forester, how to find the right forester, where to go for additional information, and definitions of forestry and wildlife terms.

A collaborative partnership of stakeholders interested in forest and wildlife issues in New York undertook the task of producing the *Guide*. The group is chaired by Mr. Frank Dunstan (NYS Department of Environmental Conservation) and composed of representatives from Audubon New York, Consulting in the Public Interest, Cornell University, Empire State Forest Products Association, International Paper Company, New York Forest Owners Association, New York Institute of Consulting Foresters, NYS DEC, Northeastern Loggers Association, SUNY-ESF and others. The primary authors of the *Guide* are Mitschka Hartley (formerly with Audubon New York, now with the US Fish and Wildlife Service), Kristi Sullivan (Cornell University), and Michael Burger (Audubon New York). Graham Cox (Audubon New York) played an important role by shepherding this project through its many phases, and Aimee Tweedie (Audubon New York) designed the publication.

Funding for this project was provided by the Park Foundation, the New York State Biodiversity Research Institute, the US Forest Service and Audubon New York. NYS DEC, New

York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, Thomas Camp, Watson Homestead, Frost Valley YMCA Camp and SUNY-ESF (through the Adirondack Ecological Center in Newcomb) also supported this effort through donations of field vehicles, accommodations and/or meals for researchers. Finally, the *Guide* would not have been possible without the cooperation of numerous private forest owners who provided access to their lands for research purposes, professional foresters who helped identify potential study sites, and field assistants who collected much of the data.

The *Guide* is now available on the National Audubon Society web site ([http://ny.audubon.org/forestry\\_manual.htm](http://ny.audubon.org/forestry_manual.htm)). A printed version of the manual is for use in training workshops that will be

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conducted throughout the coming year. These sessions are being arranged and coordinated by forest extension staff at Cornell University.

Audubon New York undertook this project so as to help forest landowners appreciate what the effects of different harvest regimes are likely to be on wildlife communities on their properties. The *Guide* is a tool to promote sustainable forest management in New York, particularly as an alternative to land use decisions that result in permanent loss and fragmentation of forests.

## Welcome Aaron Virgin!

By Tom O'Handley

WE'RE DELIGHTED to announce that Aaron Virgin joined the Audubon New York team on December 1, 2004 as the Annual Fund Manager. Aaron is working at Audubon House (700 Broadway) in New York City along with Major Gift Officers Heather Hanson and Nina Whiting, and Director of Development Tom O'Handley.

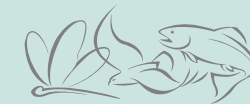
Prior to joining the staff, he worked in a similar capacity with Audubon Connecticut. Aaron also managed the Audubon Birdathon program in 2001 and 2002.

Aaron has a Bachelor's in Environmental Science from Plattsburgh State and a Master's in Wildlife Ecology and Management from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY.



A birder and naturalist at heart, Aaron grew up in Oswego, NY. It was there he began his lifelong passion for birding at nearby hotspots Derby Hill Hawk Watch and Montezuma NWR.

Welcome back to New York, Aaron!



## Save the Date!

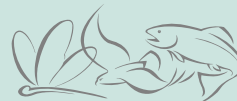
An evening honoring U.S. Representative James Walsh,  
in support of the new Montezuma Audubon Center

Thursday, April 22, 2005  
5:30 to 7:30 PM

Sherwood Inn  
26 West Genesee Street  
Skaneateles, New York

Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres  
Walking Tour of the new Montezuma Audubon Center  
site in the afternoon

For further information, please contact:  
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