

AUDUBON ADVOCATE

Cahill receives Wm. Hoyt Award

Staff Report

The National Audubon Society of New York State and the Audubon Council of New York presented Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner John Cahill with the William Hoyt Environmental Award at the spring Audubon Council meeting. More than 125 people were in attendance when Commissioner Cahill accepted the award at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs March 26.

Audubon cited Cahill's leadership at the Department of Environmental Conservation, emphasizing his shepherding of the state's model bird conservation area programs, his direct involvement in the successful Whitney and Champion land protection projects in the Adirondacks, his support of Long Island Sound funds and implementation of the cleanup plan, and his dedication to open space projects from Benton Bay on Long Island to watershed efforts in the Catskills.

Cahill spoke on his continued commitment to conservation and the privilege given to him to be able to work for a governor, who in turn is a true conservationist. He further noted that Audubon's work is critical to the future of New York state and well-respected by all parties.

Audubon also recognized Chris Arthur for his dedication to conservation over the past 20 years. Arthur, a longtime congressional staff aid most recently serving Congressman Maurice Hinchey, has played a critical role in countless environmental initiatives, from Sterling Forest to



New York State Office

From left are Audubon's David J. Miller, DEC Commissioner John Cahill, longtime congressional staff aid Chris Arthur and Council Chairman Geoffrey Cobb Ryan.

Alaskan land protection.

Over the weekend, the Audubon Council also set the stage for the annual passage of policy resolutions for Audubon in New York. These resolutions, focusing on bird conservation, forests, wetlands and wildlife programs, are summarized throughout this issue of the *Audubon Advocate*. Other activities included a full afternoon discussion of a new membership strategy for National Audubon Society, field trips to area Important Bird Areas and the first Audubon Centers network discussion, bringing state office staff and chapter leaders together to share ideas and programs (see page 11.)

The next Audubon Council of New York State meeting is scheduled for Oct. 13-15, 2000 in Niagara Falls.

Budget passes with conservation gains

Staff Report

As the *Audubon Advocate* went to press, the state budget passed the Assembly and Senate. The budget provides for increased funding in many of Audubon's priority conservation areas. Some of the budget highlights include:

- Land Protection Funding from the Environmental Protection Fund: \$31.5 million;
- Land Protection Funding in the Bond Act: \$30 million;
- Long Island Sound Bond Act Funding: \$30 million;
- Bird Conservation Area Program: \$300,000 (increased by \$100,000);

- Smart Growth Pilot Funding: \$1.15 million (rolled-over from FY1999/2000); and
- Theodore Roosevelt Wildlife Station: \$275,000.

In addition, the Environmental Protection Fund was fully funded at \$135 million with additional stewardship funding. Overall, it was a good budget for conservation and the environment.

Federal budget news...

The historic Long Island Sound Restoration Act to fund the Sound's cleanup and the Conservation and Reinvestment Act for open space and wildlife programs both passed in the House. See page 14.

The Park by paddle

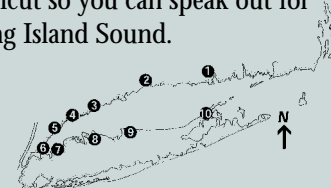


NYS DEC

Canoe routes open the Adirondacks to birders. Discover the kinder, gentler mode of travel, page 6.

Listen to the Sound 2000

See page 8 for the hearing schedule for New York and Connecticut so you can speak out for open space on Long Island Sound.



A first in New York

Audubon is opening the first urban nature center of New York state in Prospect Park of Brooklyn. See page 11 for details on the ceremony and what is to come.

Prospect Park Alliance Archive

Audubon Calendar

June 18, National Audubon Society Board of Directors Meeting, Bear Mountain. For information contact Virginia Ackerman, (212) 979-3156.

Sept. 14, Sound Guardian Award. Call for invitation and information, (518) 869-9731.

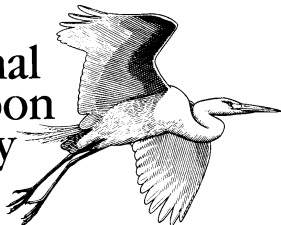
Oct. 13-15, Audubon Council of New York State Fall Meeting, Niagara Falls. For more information contact the National Audubon Society of New York State, (518) 869-9731 or e-mail nasnys@audubon.org.

Listen to the Sound 2000 Hearings, see page 8 of this issue of the *Audubon Advocate* for schedule or call Jane-Kerin Moffat at (203) 629-1248.

THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MISSION:

"TO CONSERVE AND RESTORE NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS, FOCUSING ON BIRDS, OTHER WILDLIFE AND THEIR HABITATS FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY AND THE EARTH'S BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY."


National Audubon Society



New York State Office
200 Trillium Lane
Albany, NY 12203

Phone: (518) 869-9731
Fax: (518) 869-0737

Spring 2000

 The Audubon Advocate is printed on recycled paper.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ALBANY, NY
PERMIT NO. 497