

January - March 2009

WINGBEATS

Audubon Society of the Capital Region



ELECTION RESULTS BRING OPPORTUNITY

Statement of Audubon President and CEO John Flicker



"Voters in this historic election cast their ballots not only for change, but for a new era of hope for our environment, and the people, birds, and other wildlife that depend on it. Washington has been ignoring critical environmental issues for too long. President-elect Barack Obama and a more environmentally aware Congress offer the promise of leadership and fundamental change that could usher in new protections for America's great natural heritage, and a new lease on life for species in decline.

Despite real reason for optimism, we cannot take conservation gains for granted. Audubon is committed to helping the new Administration and Congress to live up to their great promise; and to make conservation, clean energy and green jobs part of America's path to a brighter tomorrow. Through our local Chapters, state offices and national grass roots efforts, Audubon will join with others in the environmental community to ensure that our newly elected leaders lead the way on issues vital to our environment, our economy and diversity of life on Earth. Issues demanding attention include:

Presidential Appointments

President-elect Obama should start by appointing to key environmental positions within his Administration qualified leaders who will defend our clean air and water, protect habitat and endangered species, aggressively address global warming, and steward our great natural heritage for future generations.

Scientific Integrity

The Department of the Interior should systematically review and reverse decisions made by the past Administration under the Endangered Species Act that were influenced by political considerations and not based on sound science. President-elect Obama should send a clear signal to everyone in his administration to restore and respect scientific integrity in all environmental decisions.

Global Warming and Renewable Energy

President-elect Obama has said that 'we cannot afford more of the same timid politics when the future of our planet is at stake.' He's right. We welcome the opportunity to help him deliver his promised \$150 billion plan for clean energy technologies that would protect our environment and stimulate the economy, creating up 5 million new green jobs. Congress should pass legislation providing significant incentives for development of renewable energy such as a strong Renewables Portfolio Standard and a long-term extension of the Production Tax Credit, and pass significant legislation to address global warming with a comprehensive cap-and-trade program.

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Audubon Society of the Capital Region



**Cordially Invites You To Attend Our
Year 2009 Programs & Field Trips**



ASCR Programs

**Unless Otherwise Specified,
Programs To Be Held At:**

*William K. Sanford
Colonie Town Library*

Not Your Father's Christmas Bird Count Thursday, January 8, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Craig Thompson

For over a century, Auduboners have dedicated a day during the yule-tide season to censussing local bird species. The considerable body of data developed via Christmas Bird Counts has greatly advanced our understanding of bird life, and has helped identify critical conservation needs. The CBC has since grown to international proportions, from the Arctic Bay to the Andes, spinning off a variety of other important citizen science projects.

Join ASCR President and long-time CBC-er Craig Thompson for an overview of the utility of this remarkable Audubon tradition, as well as a summary of surprises encountered on local CBCs this season.

Black Bears in New York: Biology and Management

Thursday, February 12, 2009 @ 7:00p.m.

Speaker: Larry Bifaro

Location: 5 Rivers Environmental Edu. Ctr.

Never seen a bear? Well, just wait. Because in recent years, several converging trends in New York are bringing bears and people ever closer together. Our forest cover has increased. Development of forested land

continues. Every house has a bird feeding station. More people are recreating in more remote forest areas. And bear populations in the Catskills, Adirondacks and Western New York are burgeoning. Join us to learn how to grin and bear it.

Larry Bifaro is a wildlife biologist with NYS DEC's Division of Fish and Wildlife. He began his 20 year DEC career at the DeBruce Fish Hatchery before advancing to the Stamford office in 1997, where he has spent the last 11 years studying black bears in the Capital Region.

Adirondack Issues

Thursday, March 12, 2009 @ 7:00p.m.

Speaker: David H. Gibson

Location: Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks office, 897 St David's Lane, Schenectady, NY

The Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks (AFPA) is the first organization devoted exclusively to advocacy for the globally significant Adirondack Park. Founded in 1901, AFPA remains today the wellspring for citizen advocacy for the Adirondacks and is dedicated to sustaining ecological integrity and mutual well being of the natural and human communities of the Park. The two go very much hand in hand!

Join AFPA Executive Director and long time ASCR Board member Dave Gibson for a brief tour of the AFPA Center and Adirondack Research Library. Then we'll gather in the vaunted "conservation living room", where the late Adirondack wilderness leader Paul Schaefer often rallied the troops, as Dave presents an overview of critical Adirondack issues sure to "peak" your interest.

*Refreshments will be served. As always, we encourage you to bring your friends and family.
For directions or details, call Greg Rucinski at the Colonie Library at (518) 458-9274.*

Election Results, from page 1 ...

The new Administration and Congress must lead a transformation in American energy production and use through investments in energy efficiency and clean energy technologies. This can minimize the fluctuation of gas prices while protecting our beaches, coastal ecosystems and the Alaskan landscape from the threats of oil and gas drilling.

Endangered Species Conservation

We'll work with the Administration to secure reversal of the Bush administration's weakening of the Endangered Species Act, such as the controversial decision to allow agencies to self-consult regarding the impacts of federally-approved projects on endangered species. Congress should pass new tax incentives to encourage private landowners to work toward recovery of endangered species.

Bird and Habitat Conservation

The Administration and the Congress should reinvest in the National Wildlife Refuge System and address the unacceptable \$3.5 billion maintenance backlog crippling this critical tool for conservation. Congress should pass legislation to conserve neotropical migratory birds and address the steep declines in America's common birds that are disappearing from parks, farms, and backyards across the country.

Ecosystem Restoration

The Administration and the Congress should fund significant new restoration projects to improve the status of America's great natural ecosystems: the Mississippi River, the Everglades, Long Island Sound, and the Great Lakes.

Your support, along with Audubon's unique chapter, state, and national presence, will enable us to seize this rare opportunity for real conservation progress in the weeks and months ahead. Please continue your grassroots advocacy to hold our leaders accountable to their conservation promises. If you have not already done so, please sign up for Audubon Action Alerts and the Audubon Advisory at www.audubonaction.org/newyork to stay engaged in emerging issues, and consider making a special gift to support this vital work by visiting <http://audubonaction.org/ct/gd3TN3E1uzwl/electiongift>. Though economic times are hard, there's no time like the present to shape the future of our world for birds, other wildlife, and for people too."

Education & Learning

Audubon Adventures Sponsorships

Available to Local Teachers

ASCR is eager to underwrite your use of National Audubon's acclaimed Audubon Adventures environmental education materials in your classroom. Created for grades 3-5, Audubon Adventures engages teachers and students in scientifically-accurate activities related to birds, wildlife and their habitats. There are many themed packets from which to choose, and each contains 32 copies of essays that improve reading skill and comprehension; paper-and-pencil activities; puzzles; features and activities that relate to students' lives and communities; and suggestions for family involvement. Content is aligned with national education standards in science and language arts.

E-mail president@capitalregionaudubon.org to inquire about ASCR sponsorship.



New Birding Book



The Adirondack Mountain Club has just announced publication of Adirondack Birding: 60 Great Places to Find Birds, by John M.C. Peterson and Gary N. Lee, two of the Adirondacks' most experienced birders. The book includes a history of Adirondack birding, tips on finding boreal species, a complete Index of Birds, and with photography by Jeff Nadler, whose bird photography was featured recently in Adirondack Life. The book can be purchased online at www.lostpondpress.com or www.adk.org. It also will be available in stores.

For more info, call Phil Brown at Lost Pond Press at 518-891-3918

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ASCR Winter 2009 Field Trips

Birding By Snowshoe

Saturday, January 31, 2009; 8:30AM

Trip Leader: Craig Thompson

Location: Five Rivers Environmental Education Center

If a snoop of snowshoers can't scare the cowbirds out of the dog-woods, nothing will. Join ASCR President Craig Thompson on this joint jaunt with the Hudson Mohawk Bird Club, as we search the puckerbrush for winter specialties. A brief introduction to snowshoeing will precede with proceedings. Compilation over hot chocolate afterwards. Please call Five Rivers at 475-0291 or e-mail *president@capitalregionaudubon.org* by January 24 to register. Snowshoes are available at Five Rivers for those not bringing their own. If insufficient snow, we will go afoot.

Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, February 14, 2009; 9:00-10:00AM

Trip Leader: Craig Thompson

Location: Five Rivers Environmental Education Center

This weekend, birders all over North America will count birds in their yard or local park as part of the *Great Backyard Bird Count*. Join us as we conduct an indoor arm-chair survey of birds visiting Five Rivers' bird feeding station. The program, one of thousands of such counts being conducted across North America this weekend, is part of a joint citizen science initiative by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and National Audubon Society to track the distribution and abundance of winter birds. Participants will learn how they can conduct their own Great Backyard Bird Count in their own home, neighborhood or park.

***** For Programs, Field Trip, & Further General
Environmental Information, Visit Us on the Internet at:**

www.CapitalRegionAudubon.Org



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PLEASE EXPEDITE**