

## NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON

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NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON

## ANNUAL REPORT 2007



### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been a busy year at New York City Audubon. We guided more than 5,000 New Yorkers on journeys to learn about our region's natural treasures, from eagles on the Hudson to seals at Sandy Hook and shorebirds at Jamaica Bay. Two hundred children from underserved neighborhoods climbed aboard our eco-cruises to visit heron colonies in the East River. Another 10,000 elementary school students learned about birds and nature through our award-winning educational publication, *Look Around New York City*.

As part of our continued efforts to transform urban landscapes into safe environments for migratory birds, NYC Audubon's Project Safe Flight embarked on one of its most ambitious projects yet. Making Buildings Safe is a two-year study to assess where collisions occur most and how to develop preventative measures.

Throughout the year, we also worked to preserve precious wildlife habitat as a member of the New York City Council's Wetlands Transfer Task Force Committee. NYC Audubon helped draft a conservation plan to protect the health of wading birds that breed throughout the metropolitan area. We also conducted the first Breeding and Migrating Bird Census in Van Cortlandt Park, and the First Annual City Birding Challenge.

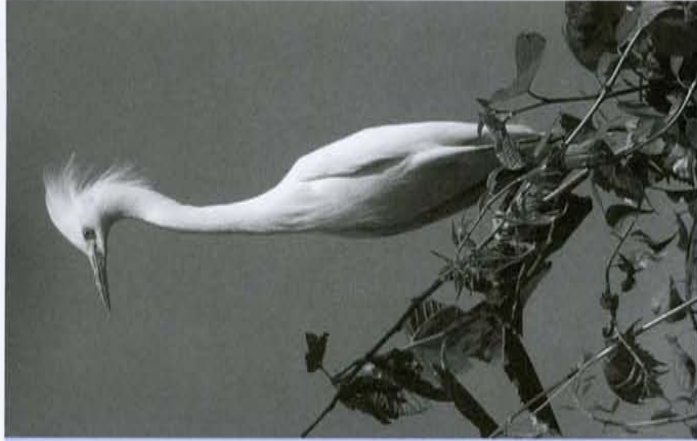
This year we said goodbye to E.J. McAdams, who left NYC Audubon after four years to become Associate Director of Philanthropy at The Nature Conservancy. NYC Audubon was fortunate to have his guidance during a critical period of growth. We look forward to continuing to build our impact under the leadership of new Executive Director Glenn Phillips, who joined NYC Audubon in early 2007.

NYC Audubon faces many new challenges in the year ahead. But with the help of our many diverse programming partnerships, hundreds of dedicated volunteers, and generous donors, we will continue to strengthen our programs and ensure a safe haven for birds in our urban environment.

Thank you for your support.

*Peter Rhoades Mott*

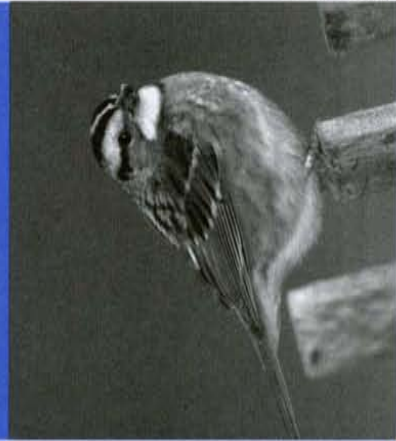
President



Yigal Gelb

New York City Audubon is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. New York City Audubon meets all the Better Business Bureau's Standards of Charity Accountability.

Visit [www.newyork.bbb.org](http://www.newyork.bbb.org) for a full profile.



Steve Nanz

**NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON** IS A GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY THAT WORKS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WILD BIRDS AND HABITAT IN THE FIVE BOROUGHS, IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL NEW YORKERS.



Don Riepe

### EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Through our programs, New Yorkers young and old are able to learn about the wild birds and habitats of New York. This year NYC Audubon Adventures guided more than 3,000 people on eco-tours throughout the metro area, and partnered with groups such as Wave Hill, New York Restoration Project, and Gateway National Recreation Area to present other trips. This year NYC Audubon held its first ever City Birding Challenge. Participants spotted 193 species across the five boroughs, raising awareness about wild birds and money for NYC Audubon's programs. Thanks to the generous support of Claude Bloch and in partnership with The Nature Conservancy of New York and the Earth Institute at Columbia University, NYC Audubon provided six lectures to our members and the public.

### EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

For more than 20 years, children in fourth through sixth grade have learned about local birds and their habitats through NYC Audubon's publication, *Look Around New York City*. Distributed to 10,000 students in 700 classrooms and nature centers throughout the city, *Look Around* features educational articles, interviews, puzzles, and ideas for fun urban nature activities. This year's issues focused on the city's raptors. Another 200 children joined the Harbor Herons Eco-Cruise Project for tours that expanded students' and teachers' knowledge of conservation and environmental issues.



Nicole Delacretaz



Steve Nanz

### PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

Project Safe Flight (PSF) aims to reduce the frequency of bird collisions with structures, which kill an estimated 100 million to 1 billion birds per year in the U.S. alone. The last year saw its most intensive bird collision monitoring effort since informal documentation began a decade ago. September 2006 marked the launch of PSF's two-year research study, Making Buildings Safe, which will monitor 80 sites in Manhattan to assess where collisions occur most and develop preventative measures. As part of "Lights Out NY," six skyscrapers voluntarily dimmed their lights at night during peak migratory months to avoid attracting and disorienting migrating birds. PSF's new publication, Bird-Safe Building Guidelines, created a valuable tool for architects and developers to reduce bird collisions and create a more sustainable urban environment. NYC Audubon also provided advice on bird-safe construction and renovations to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, developers of the Freedom Tower, and the U.S. Postal Service.

### HARBOR HERONS

The summer 2006 nesting season was an interim surveying year for monitoring, which has been set on a once-every-three-years cycle to reduce disturbance of breeding colonies. NYC Audubon surveyed North Brother Island, South Brother Island, Mill Rock, Shooter's Island, Isle of Meadows, and Prall's Island. The last three islands had no nesting herons during the summer 2006 nesting season, and the discovery of an Asian longhorn beetle infestation on Prall's Island (and subsequent tree removal) will preclude re-colonization of that island for some years. The colony of black-crowned night-herons on Mill Rock increased to 60 nests, while their activity at North Brother decreased to 87 nests.

### NATURAL AREAS INITIATIVE

This year our Natural Areas Initiatives Project conducted the first Breeding and Migrating Bird Census Project in Van Cortlandt Park. Van Cortlandt is the third largest park in New York City, supporting a large population of songbirds and providing an important stopover for migratory land birds as well. NYC Audubon plans to conduct future bird censuses around the city in order to document its natural areas and diverse bird populations.

### PHOTO SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (PHOTOSIG)

This year leadership of NYC Audubon's photo committee was transferred to Cal Vornberger, professional wildlife photographer and author of *Birds of Central Park*. Now renamed the Photo Special Interest Group (PhotoSIG), this group holds monthly lectures and workshops for nature photographers. Cal has also created a website ([www.nycaphoto.org](http://www.nycaphoto.org)) where members of NYC Audubon can share tips and post their photographs for critical feedback or as part of monthly photo contests.



**NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES  
THE DONORS WHO MADE CONTRIBUTIONS DURING  
THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2007.**

**AMERICAN KESTREL  
CIRCLE**

The American Kestrel Circle honors leadership donors who have made a special commitment to sustaining a healthy, livable city for birds and people through their contributions of \$3,000 or more.

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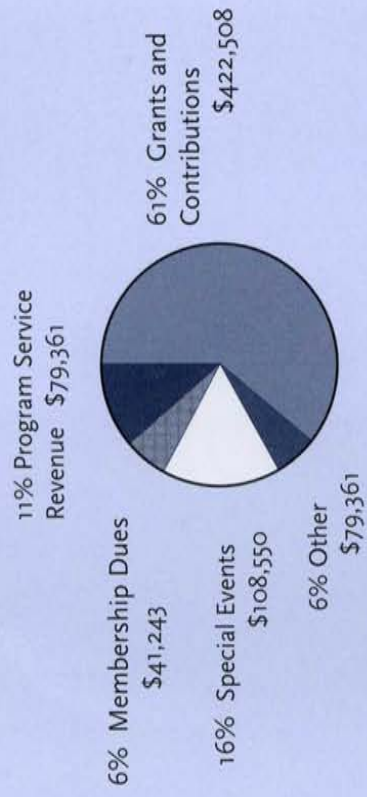
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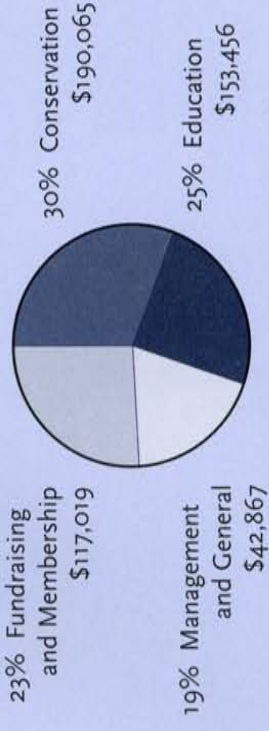


THE FOLLOWING IS AN OVERVIEW OF NYC'S AUDUBON'S INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2007

**REVENUE Total Support and Revenue: \$691,940**



**EXPENSES Total Expenses: \$505,407**



**GOVERNMENT AGENCIES & FOUNDATIONS**

- Hudson River Foundation, New York City Environmental Fund
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, NYC Raptor Fund
- Norcross Wildlife Foundation
- NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation,
- Hudson River Estuary Program
- U.S. Dept. of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service

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