

*"A Quarterly Resource for Audubon Chapter Leaders Across the Nation and Beyond"*

## Kaler's Pond Audubon Center Officially Joins Centers' Network

The newest member of the Audubon New York Centers' network is Kaler's Pond Audubon Center in the eastern Long Island village of Center Moriches. The center was originally taken over in 1967 by Moriches Bay Audubon Society, then enhanced in 1998 through a partnership of the Audubon Chapter, the Flight 800 Memorial Committee, and the Town of Brookhaven, as part of the work to honor and remember the victims of the TWA Flight 800 jetliner crash. The Chapter and the community together raised the funds to refurbish a building and create a nature center on the site of the Flight 800 Memorial Gardens.

The hard work of the Chapter, volunteers, and seasonal staff have developed the center to the point where, at the Chapter's request, Audubon New York is now taking on the management role. The Chapter will continue to have an integral role in educational activities as well as on the Center Board, while the site and its growing programs will now also benefit from additional resources available from Audubon New York staff.

Thanks to the efforts of the Moriches Bay Audubon Society and especially



*Least Tern  
by Steven  
D'Amato*

to the hard work of volunteer director Gene Arpino, the Center has diversified its offerings to include birding, pond ecology, sketching Long Island wildlife, and Summer Fun kids program and has increased attendance each year. Badge programs are provided for local Girl Scouts, who help maintain trails. The center features the Gilbert S. Raynor Interpretive Trail, a butterfly garden, a gift shop, and displays of local plants, wildlife, and minerals.

Moriches Bay is also one of New York's Important Bird Areas. The 20,000 acres of this site are home to a wide variety of nesting beach and salt marsh species, supporting 16% of the state's population of endangered Piping Plovers and 18% of the threatened Least Terns that nest in New York. Being located in this IBA puts the Moriches Bay Audubon Center in an excellent setting to blend education with Audubon's conservation work.

FOR MORE INFO.: Contact Richard Haley, Centers and Education Director, Audubon New York at [rhaley@audubon.org](mailto:rhaley@audubon.org) or 518/869-9731, or Gene Arpino at [garpino\\_11949@yahoo.com](mailto:garpino_11949@yahoo.com) or 631/878-0295.

## Audubon Joins Together to Save Louisiana's Coastal Wetlands

More than 80 members and friends of Audubon attended a recent dinner in New Orleans, hosted by the National Audubon Society, with Chapter sponsorship from the Orleans and Baton Rouge Audubon Societies. The meeting focused attention on a national economic, social and environmental crisis: the rapid deterioration and loss of Louisiana's coastal wetlands.

The keynote speakers included: Glenn Olson of National Audubon, Len Barr of the Governor's Office, and Mark Davis of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. The discussion focused on what is arguably one of America's most acute environmental crises, the imminent loss of most of Louisiana's coastal wetlands from the effects of man-made changes to the lower Mississippi River delta and the hydrology of coastal ecosystems. Loss of these wetlands will profoundly affect populations of colonial nesting waterbirds and of most species of birds that migrate through the central United States. The plan to restore coastal wetlands is at the early stages of development. Keynote speakers raised a number of issues that concerned citizens will be facing in order to generate the funding and Congressional support that will be needed to save Louisiana's vital coastal wildlife habitat: the Army Corps of Engineers are now working on a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the project. Audubon will be putting a team together including coastal bird experts in our

**Continued on Page 2**

THE CHAPTER NETWORKER is published quarterly by National Audubon Society as a resource for Chapter leaders, and sent to all Chapter officers, committee chairs, and board members, as well as Audubon board members and staff. It is posted on the Audubon Web Site.

- Send *Networker* articles and any Chapter Services inquiries to:  
AUDUBON CHAPTER SERVICES:  
Bldg 30, Fort Missoula Rd.  
Missoula, MT 59804  
phone/fax: 800/542-2748  
[chapter\\_services@audubon.org](mailto:chapter_services@audubon.org)  
Lynn Tennefoss,  
Vice President, State Programs and Chapter Services
- Contact Audubon-Policy Office:  
1150 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20036  
202/861-2242, fax 202/861-4290
- Contact Audubon-HQ:  
700 Broadway  
New York, NY 10003  
212/979-3000, fax 212/979-4290
- E-mail all Audubon staff:  
<First initial and last name  
@audubon.org>  
e.g. [jdoe@audubon.org](mailto:jdoe@audubon.org)
- Access the Audubon World Wide Web Site:  
<http://www.audubon.org/local/cn/>
- Editor: Lynn Tennefoss
- Design: Jen Jacaruso, Kinko's
- Printing: Signal Graphics
- Contributors: Michael Bochnik, Jennifer Coulston, Dorothy Prowell, Steven D'Amato, Daniel S. Kilby

## NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

for Submitting Materials to the *Chapter Networker*:

**WINTER 2003 ISSUE:**  
Friday October 17, 2003

**SPRING 2004 ISSUE:**  
Friday January 16, 2003



The *Chapter Networker* is printed on 100% recycled paper using soy ink.

## Continued from Page 1

science program, experienced wetland and river restoration professionals from nearby state offices and water policy experts in DC to assist the Louisiana Chapters in this entire effort.



*Long-billed Curlew*  
by Daniel S. Kilby

Because the coastal restoration program is ultimately linked to the health of the entire Mississippi basin, Audubon will continue to pull together state offices and Chapters up and down the river.

FOR MORE INFO.: Contact Emily Byram, Audubon Grassroots Coordinator, at 202/861-2242 or [ebyram@audubon.org](mailto:ebyram@audubon.org), Dorothy Prowell, President, Baton Rouge Audubon Society at [dprowe@lsu.edu](mailto:dprowe@lsu.edu), or Jennifer Coulson, President, Orleans Audubon Society at [jacoulson@aol.com](mailto:jacoulson@aol.com).

## CALENDAR ORDER INFORMATION

The 2004 Audubon calendars are now available. Chapters interested in taking advantage of the discount calendar offer to raise funds for their Chapter are asked to work directly with Workman Publishing. A schedule of discounts and ordering information has been sent to all Chapters; to place an order or for more details, please contact Workman Publishing, Artisan Books at 800/722-7202, Ext. 7592.



*Screech Owl*  
by Steven D'Amato

## STILL WANTED: YOUR CHAPTER'S EDUCATIONAL PRODUCTS!

In the last *Networker*, we put out a call for Chapter publications, and we've received some great items – such as “The New York City Audubon Society Guide to Finding Birds in the Metropolitan Area” and San Diego Audubon Society’s “natural history packet” for teachers. We've decided to extend the deadline for a full listing until the next issue, so there is still time to feature items developed by your Chapter that focus on education or connecting people with nature. If your Chapter would like to have such a product included, please send a sample along with Chapter contact information and any information on the development of that product (ie number of volunteers involved, number sold to date, etc.) to the Chapter Services Office, Building 30, Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, MT 59804 by October 17, 2004. (To have the item returned, please include a self-addressed envelope.) Please do not send clothing, patches and pins, or other items that are not directly produced by the Chapter. If you have any questions about items to be included, please email [chapter\\_services@audubon.org](mailto:chapter_services@audubon.org) or call 800/542-2748.

## Mark your calendars!

This winter's Great Backyard Bird Count will be February 13-16, 2004.

## AUDUBON Magazine Seeks Your Suggestions

Audubon in Action welcomes your ideas for stories and features. This widely read section in AUDUBON magazine provides an important national platform to share significant news about your Chapter's activism, victories, and programs. Please e-mail suggestions, including a summary, backup materials (if available), and contact information to [editor@audubon.org](mailto:editor@audubon.org) or mail to Editor, Audubon in Action, 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003.



*Piping Plover*  
by Daniel S. Kilby

# Dear Auduboners:

Heritage — it is a word that means a great deal personally to each of us.

It is also a word that means a great deal to Audubon as an organization. To me, nothing can be closer to the heart of our heritage than the notion that people from different backgrounds and interests can come together, united by their love of birds and nature, to protect what they love.

Two such dedicated women, Harriet Hemenway and Minna B. Hall, started the Audubon movement when they formed the Massachusetts Audubon Society in 1896. Their work to stop the slaughter of birds for use in women's hats spawned other Audubon societies and Chapters throughout America. Today, these groups of energetic volunteers fighting to protect birds and their habitat have grown to more than 500 strong. The movement now includes 400,000 members and thousands upon thousands of additional citizen scientists and activists.



**Carol Browner**

*Photo by Ralph Alswang*

At our Board of Directors meeting in St. Louis in June, Audubon's heritage again shone brightly when Carol Browner was elected as the first woman ever to chair Audubon. I am certain Ms. Hemenway and Ms. Hall would approve.

Carol was the head of the Environmental Protection Agency from 1993 - 2001 and served in that position longer than any of her predecessors. Her tenure was marked by the implementation of some of the strongest Clean Water and Clean Air

regulations in U.S. history. She greatly accelerated Superfund clean-up sites and created the highly successful urban Brownfields program. And she accomplished all of this by building a workable consensus among community advocates, business leaders, and representatives from all levels of government. Her efforts to find common ground to reach conservation goals are firmly in the tradition of Audubon's heritage.

As someone who grew up near the Everglades and early on developed a love of birds and other wildlife, Carol will work to fortify our core strengths in bird science, public policy and education. She will help guide us as we pursue our 2020 Vision and seek to engage people of all ages and backgrounds in positive conservation experiences. Importantly, her experience working with community and grass roots leaders will strengthen the relationship among Audubon's local Chapters, state offices, and NAS home office staff.



As we welcome Carol, we also say goodbye to a man who has been more than an individual in the cause of conservation: he has been a force. After nearly 24 years on Audubon's Board of Directors, including nearly 15 years as Chair, Donal C. O'Brien, Jr., is retiring.

Donal has, perhaps more than any Audubon officer of recent years, brought more groups of people together in the common cause of conservation.

Through his work on the Board, his work with Audubon Connecticut and his home state's Chapters, and his involvement with numerous sister conservation groups, Donal brought passion, commitment and diplomacy to advancing Audubon's mission. He knows best that Audubon works most effectively when it works together on shared conservation goals. The organization's power lies in the deep roots of its Chapters, the growing influence of its state offices and nature centers, and the expertise of its science, policy and education home staff.

To see real life examples of this power in action, one need look no further than two stories from New York and Louisiana featured in this issue of the *Networker*.

This summer, at the request of the Moriches Bay Audubon Society, their Chapter-developed Kaler's Pond Audubon Center was formally incorporated into the growing Audubon Centers network. Working closely with Audubon New York, Chapter representatives will continue to have an integral role in educational activities as well as on the Center Board, while the site and its growing program will now also benefit from additional resources available from Audubon New York staff.

In May, Louisiana's Orleans and Baton Rouge Chapters acted to bring National Audubon's attention and resources to bear on an extremely urgent conservation challenge: finding ways to stem the loss of Louisiana's coastal wetlands from the effects of man-made changes in the lower Mississippi River. Our national staff committed to working with Louisiana Chapter leaders and the state government to review the Army Corps of Engineers' ecosystem study and offer comments on the restoration plan.

It is gratifying to work in an organization in which there is such a continuum of action and such a continuum of history. The committed volunteers of the 19th century have much in common with our committed volunteers of the 21st century.

The goal remains the same: to protect birds, other wildlife and the habitat that supports them. It's our heritage and it is alive and well.

*John Flicker*  
President



**Donal C. O'Brien, Jr.**



**CHAPTER NETWORKER**

Bldg. 30, Fort Missoula Road  
Missoula, MT 59804

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HARRISBURG, PA  
PERMIT #291

# Bluebirds Return to Yonkers

Thanks to the Hudson River Audubon Society, Eastern Bluebirds have successfully nested in Yonkers for the first time in at least 50 years! While the species was occasionally counted on winter surveys such as the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts, as a result of habitat destruction, nesting pairs had been absent since the 1950's. The Chapter decided to do something to reverse the trend, and took action. After identifying tracts of appropriate nesting sites, their efforts focused on the 40-acre Lenoir Preserve along with additional residential proper-



ties. Chapter members built bluebird boxes and erected a trail from Irvington to Yonkers that now numbers 50 nest boxes. Though only the nest box in Yonkers has successfully fledged bluebirds, other species, such as Tree Swallows and House Wrens have also used the boxes to breed young.

FOR MORE INFO.: Contact Michael Bochnik, President, Hudson River Audubon Society, at [bochnikm@cs.com](mailto:bochnikm@cs.com), 914/785-3840 (day) or 914/237-9331 (eve).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPCOMING MEETINGS

Jan. 23-25, 2004: Atlanta, GA  
May 2004: Park City, UT  
September 2004: TBD

Audubon members are welcome at all Board of Directors Meetings. For copies of agenda or minutes for the Board meetings, or FOR MORE INFO: Please contact Lynn Tennefoss at 800/542-2748 or [ltennefoss@audubon.org](mailto:ltennefoss@audubon.org).

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Kaler's Pond Audubon Center .....	1
Saving Louisiana Wetlands .....	1
Chapter Publications Wanted.....	2
Calendar Order Information .....	2
Great Backyard Bird Count Dates .....	2
Message from John Flicker .....	3
Bluebirds Return to Yonkers .....	4

