



## A global currency for bird conservation IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS PROGRAM



VERNON BYRD / USFWS

The IBA Program is: proactive, not reactive; voluntary, not regulatory; participatory, not just for professionals; science-based and credible.



IBAs often support a significant proportion of one or more species' total population. In winter, the Niagara River hosts up to 20% of the entire population of Bonaparte's Gulls, making it a globally significant IBA.



WALKER GOLDIER

Audubon-NC teamed up with a local land trust and the State of North Carolina to launch the Lea-Hutaff Conservation Initiative, which secured enough monies to purchase significant portions of this IBA.

### WELCOME TO AUDUBON SCIENCE!

The fall Audubon Science newsletter is a snapshot of the innovative work we are doing to protect birds and other wildlife while safeguarding critical habitats. Our newsletter shows the many ways we connect people to nature, and illustrates the broad vision of the Important Bird Areas (IBA) program, Audubon's focal point for bird conservation work. We are most grateful for your continued support and at the same time ask that you consider participating in our upcoming Annual Appeal. This is one way you can help us to sustain our important conservation work.

As the U.S. Partner for BirdLife International, Audubon has the responsibility for identifying and working to conserve a network of Important Bird Areas throughout the U.S. In the U.S., this network of sites is comprised of state-level IBAs that are prioritized as continentally or globally significant. This identification and prioritization process focuses the IBA program on achieving the greatest conservation

results at the sites most in need of conservation attention.

As of March 2006, over 8,000 Global IBAs have been identified in 178 countries by BirdLife International partners. Audubon has identified approximately 2,000 state-level Important Bird Areas covering more than 200 million acres of habitat in 41 states. The identification process is underway or beginning in 48 states

*continued on page 6*

## Saving birds, one person at a time

### Citizen Scientists do it their way

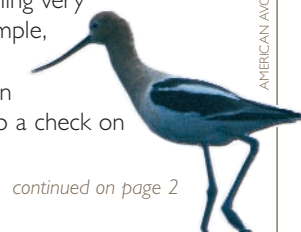
#### PEOPLE LIKE . . .

. . . you are at the core of Audubon's approach to conservation, whether as supporters, stewards, activists, or all three! Citizen Science is one key tool we use to achieve our clearly defined bird conservation goals. Citizen Science is more than what you do for your Christmas Bird Count; it's an interesting thread worth a little more thought.

We can think of science as a way for us to sum up what we know about the world. It is a body of knowledge that people have collected over time, often using a systematic way of collecting that

information so that it reflects the true nature of the world rather than a set of random observations. For many, science is often seen as something alien, something that belongs to a remote and elite group, and something we may not trust.

For some communities, though, science is something very positive. For example, the members of one community in Pennsylvania keep a check on



*continued on page 2*

AMERICAN AVOCET • JESSE ACHTENBERG / USFWS

#### IN THIS ISSUE

- 1,6 Important Bird Areas
- 1,2 Citizen Science
- 3 On the Wing • Let It Fall
- 4 State of the Birds • Program Updates  
• Healthy Yard Pledge • Bookshelf
- 5 Coastal Bird Conservation  
• Speaking Out
- 6 Be on the Lookout
- 7 Thank You
- 8 Seabird Restoration

>> the quality of the water in the creek that flows through their neighborhood, and on the birds that use their woodland. They investigate the causes of any changes they measure. Those who count and measure are citizens in the full sense: they are active members of the communities of which they are a part, doing things for the greater good of those communities. Citizen Science then becomes a fundamental part of participating in a democratic society, and is part of taking responsibility for the quality of the world around us. If this process involves conservation action, then we have created citizen stewards.

### COUNTING BIRDS WITH AUDUBON

Audubon's **Christmas Bird Count** ([www.audubon.org/bird/cbc](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc)) started as a way of highlighting the mass-slaughter that was once common on Christmas Day as teams competed to see which could kill the most animals. In today's CBC, clearer instructions and more sophisticated analysis now produce reliable information on trends of bird numbers and distribution in the early winter, serving a purpose beyond its original design. Combining CBC and Breeding Bird Survey information allows Audubon to prioritize those species most in need of help. The Audubon WatchList is just one outcome of this work (read 'State of the Birds' on page 6).

The easiest way to experience the excitement of Citizen Science is to participate in the **Great Backyard Bird Count**, which next takes place on 16–19 February 2007. Simply follow the link from [www.audubon.org/gbbc](http://www.audubon.org/gbbc) where you'll find instructions, checklists, information on the birds, and more. GBBC provides us with a snapshot of birds in late winter that comes alive when we do



Magnolia Warbler, photographed during the 2005 CBC in Santa Barbara, California.

multi-year comparisons. Audubon and Cornell also developed eBird [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) as a way for you to keep track of your bird observations, pooling them for further analysis.

### LOOKING AHEAD

The future of Citizen Science is even more exciting, with fun activities that help you learn about birds as indicators of the state of your environment, and help us all answer questions about the status of the birds around us. Communities can use these programs to learn about their environment, while scientists can examine continent-wide patterns.

One new Citizen Science activity will measure our conservation success in **Important Bird Areas** (see 'A Global Currency for Bird Conservation' on pages 1 and 6). We are developing Citizen Stewards to manage these important sites for birds. Citizen adoption groups will assess those activities that are threatening the value of a site to the birds, then develop and implement activities to counteract those threats. The local support group will also be counting the birds to check that they are responding well to the conservation actions. Support groups around the globe will be doing the same thing: local community groups taking



Mississippi has taken GBBC in new directions, including school curriculum materials. Above, students from Henderson and Rosa Stewart Schools, Starkville, assisted by Audubon Society volunteer, Dr. Lawrence Croft, collect data for the 2006 GBBC.

responsibility for their site as part of a global program. Look out for opportunities as they develop locally over the coming months and learn more at [www.audubon.bird/iba](http://www.audubon.bird/iba).

While we need to focus on reducing threats at those places that we know are the most important for birds, look out your own window. Is what you see all that it could be for birds? Are you following the **Audubon At Home** principles (see pledge on page 5)? If not, there are real opportunities for you to reconcile what you need from your backyard with what the birds need. If you are a tidy gardener with an acre of turf grass, exotic flowers in beds, no native 'weeds', and bugs kept at bay with insecticides, your opportunities are the greatest. (See 'Let It Fall', page 3). We are developing our new **Garden BirdWatch** to enable you to take stock of what your yard is today and determine which birds you want to help, and to give you specific ideas on what you should do with your yard and log lots of things. We'll ask you, for example, to note down how many days in a year you use pesticides, how many native plants you establish, how much turf grass you have and how often you cut it. We'll also be asking you to count the birds you see and send us all this information through a new website. We look forward to your participation.

*"Look deep, deep into nature, and then you'll understand everything better."*  
Albert Einstein



RON LAUBENSTEIN / USFWS

KATE ROBERTS / MISSISSIPPI GBBC

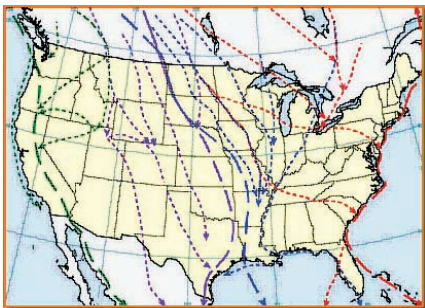


# ON THE WING

As you read this, more than an estimated 5 billion birds in North America have begun their annual migration south. Every community in America can witness this primal exodus while concentrations of fall migrants are found along several major routes known as flyways or corridors. Their journey, which may be as far as 7,000 miles, is a rigorous and occasionally treacherous endeavor; natural threats such as storms, exhaustion, and predators are compounded by human-mediated dangers such as towers and other tall structures, light pollution, and the loss of habitat to development.

Your yard can provide a piece of the puzzle to restoring lost habitat; migrating birds will seek out those places that provide them with safe cover and a familiar source of food. Start by creating a habitat garden with native plants and encourage your neighbors to do the same. Beyond that, here are some things that will allow you to be an active contributor to bird migration success, rather than a bystander in this awesome natural occurrence:

- **Turn off lights at night.** Many birds migrate at night and can become disoriented by artificial light, which often results in fatal collisions with buildings, homes, and other structures. To prevent this, turn off exterior and interior lights during the peak migration hours of midnight to dawn. If you work in a high-rise, advocate for “lights out” during migration season.
- **Prevent window collisions.** Many birds strike windows after being startled off a feeder, seeing escape routes mirrored in reflective glass. To avoid this, reduce reflectivity with



Map showing bird migration routes.

light-colored shades, summer bug screens, or stick decals closely spaced to the outside of windows. Place bird feeders within 3 ft or more than 30 ft of windows—at 3 ft, birds do not have an adequate distance to reach a high speed and are less likely to get injured. At more than 30 ft, birds are more likely to recognize the window.

- **Keep cats indoors.** Cats—domestic, stray, or feral—kill an estimated hundreds of millions of birds each year. Ground feeding birds, such as cardinals and quail, as well as young birds, are the most vulnerable. Keeping cats indoors helps keep the birds safe, and it also reduces outdoor risks to cats, such as injuries and disease.
- **Eliminate pesticides.** U.S. households use 102 million pounds of pesticides in their homes and gardens annually, which kill several million birds each year when the birds ingest tainted insects, seeds and other food sources. Use the least toxic alternatives for combating pests.
- **Keep feeders stocked and clean.** Birds will need places to rest and refuel, so make sure that your yard includes native plants and your bird-feeders are well-stocked. Provide a source of fresh water for the thirsty travelers. Reduce the risk of spreading disease at feeders by regularly cleaning them with a nine-to-one water-bleach solution, or a dilute vinegar solution (three-to-one) or non-fragranced biodegradable soap.



Chipping Sparrow at a feeder. Over 100 North American bird species supplement their natural diets with birdseed, suet, fruit and nectar obtained from feeders.

Help make your landscape attractive to our feathered friends and give them the help they need for their long trip. Then, grab a pair of binoculars, look skyward and you will be rewarded with the beauty of soaring migrants—every bit as exciting and amazing as observing the brilliant colored leaves of fall!

For more on how to keep birds safe, visit the Audubon At Home website at [www.audubonathome.org](http://www.audubonathome.org)



## LET IT FALL!

Autumn is traditionally the time to clear the remnants of spent plants: the lifeless stalks of perennials, dried seed heads, fallen leaves. But all of these things are potential resources for birds, wildlife, and the garden itself. Dry stems provide cover for overwintering insects, perches for birds, and nesting material for next year's breeding season. The seed heads of native flowers provide a fat- and protein-rich food to birds. Fruits that ripen in late autumn and winter provide more food to birds and this helps propagate new plants in the spring. Leaves once destined for a landfill or community compost field can be a valuable addition to a home-based compost pile that can be used to feed the spring garden. Leaves left on the ground provide habitat for insects and prime foraging fodder for birds. So, this year, aim for less maintenance . . . and enjoy more birds that will feel “at home” in the autumn yard.



# STATE OF THE BIRDS *update*

Audubon's State of the Birds Report is designed to summarize the status of America's bird populations—which species are the top conservation priorities? Which species are showing the most severe population declines? Which habitats include the most species in need of conservation action?

We use the best available information to determine the state of our birds—primarily the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). We collaborate with the BBS analysts—primarily Dr. John Sauer of the U.S. Geological Survey—to ensure

compatibility with BBS and CBC analyses. We estimate the quality of results of the two surveys to be sure we are basing our conclusions on the best quality survey results.

In the United Kingdom, bird population status has been adopted as one of the major indicators of the Quality of Life. We are working with Dr. Richard Gregory of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to adopt similar indicators for the United States. Through our State of the Birds Report, we hope that bird indices will become important to U.S. environmental discussions as well.

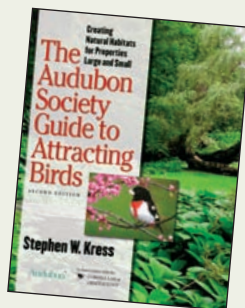
## Take the Healthy Yard Pledge

If you've been thinking about managing your garden to be more wildlife friendly, we've made it easy for you. Just take the Healthy Yard Pledge at [www.audubonathome.org/pledge](http://www.audubonathome.org/pledge) using the resources on the site to make your backyard generally more welcoming and safe for wildlife. When we are ready to launch Garden BirdWatch with its specific ideas on helping birds most in need of help in your area, you'll be among the first to hear from us about it.

## AUDUBON SCIENCE BOOKSHELF

### THE AUDUBON SOCIETY GUIDE TO ATTRACTING BIRDS

In a book long-awaited by landscapers, birders, gardeners, and naturalists, Audubon's own Steve Kress provides a practical and comprehensive guide to attracting birds to properties of all sizes. Whether the property is a small patch of land in the city, country garden, median strip, woodlot, commercial building, or community park, Steve offers a variety of techniques and resources for habitat improvement, with an emphasis on responsible environmental stewardship. This book will help you design your landscape for the benefit of wild birds. For copies, visit your local bookseller, or go to [www.comellpress.comell.edu](http://www.comellpress.comell.edu) and enter the book title in the "Search" box.



## SCIENCE PROGRAMS UPDATES

### Important Bird Areas (IBAs)

Audubon has identified approximately 2,000 state-level IBAs covering more than 200 million acres. As of March 2006 over 8,000 Global IBAs have been identified in 178 countries by BirdLife International partners.

### Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

The 106th CBC again set a record for the number of counts included in one season—2060—and involved over 57,000 observers for the first time in the history of the Count.

### Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)

We broke records again, collecting nearly 61,000 checklists, with a total of 7.6 million birds of 623 species, over a four-day period in February.

### CBC Analysis

The 40-year population trend analysis (1966–2005) of the CBC is revealing information on population status and trends for many species that was previously unknown.

### State of the Birds

The next state-of-the-birds report will include annual indices that show how various species and groups of species have fared over the past 40 years, based on both the Breeding Bird Survey and the Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

### Seabird Restoration

Maine puffin colonies increase to new record high counts; Project Puffin Visitor Center opens with rave reviews.

### Coastal Bird Conservation

Now conducting field work on breeding and wintering plovers and terns from North Carolina to Texas.

### Audubon At Home (AAH)

Developing landscaping guidelines for birds of conservation concern.

### Birds and Agriculture

The Waterbirds on Working Lands project launches Audubon's Waterbird Conservation website ([www.audubon.org/bird/waterbirds](http://www.audubon.org/bird/waterbirds))





# Coastal Bird Conservation Program expands efforts to monitor and conserve beach-nesting birds beyond US into Mexico

SCOTT HECKER

The Coastal Bird Conservation Program employs techniques to monitor and protect at-risk coastal bird species throughout a priority species' range and throughout its yearly life-cycle. To truly protect and conserve coastal birds this entails working with every interested partner to protect all critical sites, during both breeding and non-breeding periods. Each year the CBCP increases its ability to protect more coastal birds by reaching out to new partners and assisting existing efforts protect more species in more places.

In 2006, thanks to the financial support of the USFWS, the CBCP completed the first breeding beach-nesting bird surveys of the barrier islands of the Laguna Madre de Tamaulipas in Mexico. This important project expanded the CBCP's coast-wide efforts along the Gulf of Mexico from Florida to Texas into Mexico. The Snowy Plover, an at-risk species of high concern in the US, is a focal species of Audubon's CBCP. The new project in Mexico focused on this species, but also included critical new work on Wilson's Plovers and American Oystercatchers, both Audubon WatchList species.

The 2006 surveys, combined with prior CBCP surveys reveal that the two-country cross-border ecosystem of the Laguna Madre in south Texas and northern Mexico supports over 40 percent of the breeding Snowy Plovers on the Gulf Coast. Of particular note the new research showed that 112 linear miles of habitat in the Texas portion of the Laguna Madre barrier islands from Corpus Christi Bay south to the mouth of the Rio Grande supported 30 percent of the known Gulf coast population of breeding Snowy Plovers in 2004 (M. Zdravkovic 2006).

Collecting the new data in Mexico was a challenging undertaking and required our team to travel by boat, ATV, and on foot to islands and beaches in a very remote region of Mexico. It was a region dominated by intense sun and heat, deep sand, tidal mud, and unexpected changes in weather. Sand in their food and the limited freshwater were the standard fare, but the hearty team camped out for



CBCP staff in Mexico (L to R): Steve Liptay, Margo Zdravkovic, and Mel Pineda

eight weeks and successfully surveyed hundreds of square miles.

The work of the CBCP greatly expanded what was known about this Important Bird Area and further supports the Mexican government's recent declaration of the Laguna Madre as a protected area. <[www.audubon.org/bird/pdf/CoastalBirdConservation.pdf](http://www.audubon.org/bird/pdf/CoastalBirdConservation.pdf)>



Snowy Plover chick

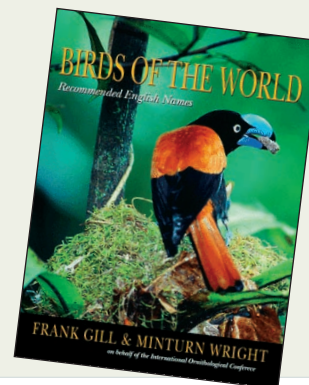
## SPEAKING OUT

>> In April of 2006, Audubon Science staff played key roles at a symposium on *Conserving Birds in Human-Dominated Landscapes* held at the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. As well as presenting a joint paper on *Grassroots All-Bird Conservation in Human-Dominated Landscapes*, Tess Present, Science Department Senior Scientist, Ecology & Conservation, presented a keynote address on *Achieving Bird Conservation in Human-Dominated Landscapes: Goals, Strategies, and Challenges*, and sat on the capstone panel with Michael Rosenzweig, Gordon Orians, and Thomas Lovejoy.

>> At the North American Ornithological Congress in Veracruz in October 2006, Rob Fergus, a Science Department Senior Scientist, will present *Grassroots All-Bird Conservation in Human-Dominated Landscapes* to further the ideas of bird conservation on a global basis.

>> Published in August 2006 by Princeton University Press, *Birds of the*

*World* is a 272-page compendium, which standardizes the English name of every bird species in existence—10,068, give or take—and was 16 years in the making. A collaborative effort by ornithologist Frank Gill, former Vice-President of Audubon Science and current Audubon Scientist from Rushland, PA, and Minturn Wright, international birder and lawyer from Berwyn, PA, *Birds of the World* provides English-language names based on the rules and principles developed by leading ornithologists worldwide and endorsed by members of the preeminent International Ornithological Congress. [www.pup.princeton.edu/titles/8271.html](http://www.pup.princeton.edu/titles/8271.html)



>> leaving only Kansas and Rhode Island to initiate an IBA Program.

### THE U.S. IBA PROGRAM

The United States is unique among BirdLife partners in that the IBA Program is implemented on a state-by-state basis with coordination of state-based efforts at the national level. In other countries, the IBA process often starts with the selection of Global IBAs and is coordinated solely at the national level. Audubon has taken the state-based approach in order to maximize the effectiveness of IBA conservation since conservation of IBAs must be initiated and implemented locally. It will only be through the engagement of communities, individuals, organizations, and agencies at the local level that we can expect to achieve conservation across a vast network of sites.

### IMPORTANT BIRD AREA CRITERIA

Important Bird Area criteria fall into four categories based on a species' vulnerability and/or responsibility. By definition, Important Bird Areas are sites that support: species of conservation concern, range-restricted species, species vulnerable because they often occur in one general habitat type, and species vulnerable due to a tendency to occur in high densities. With these four criteria as general guides, more specific rules and thresholds have been established to select specific sites. For complete details see



Shorebird staging habitat promoted through drawdowns at Crex Meadows State Wildlife Area, a Wisconsin IBA, provides habitat for species such as Greater Yellowlegs.

[www.audubon.org/bird/iba/criteria.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/criteria.html).

IBA criteria are only as good as the data used to apply them and the experts available to evaluate whether the information about the sites meets the IBA standards that have been set. The basic data needed to support the nomination of an IBA at the continental or global level is a reliable estimate of the number of birds of a particular species at a site, in a season, in a year. It is important to have species-specific count data in virtually all cases. For conservation planning purposes we need to know the seasonal importance of a site rather than just the count of birds in a given year. The conservation value of a site may change significantly over time due to changes in land use, the threats to a site, or landscape-level changes for example, those that occur as a consequence of sprawl.

### IBA PRIORITIZATION

Once a site is identified at the state-level as an Important Bird Area, it is cataloged in Audubon's IBA database (to search the database visit [www.iba.audubon.org/iba/siteSearch.do](http://www.iba.audubon.org/iba/siteSearch.do)). In addition, many of these sites are also proposed as global or continental IBAs. These proposed IBAs are reviewed by national IBA staff and then, if all of the necessary information is available, forwarded to Audubon's U.S. IBA Technical Committee for approval. The prioritization of global and continental IBAs has only just begun. The U.S. IBA Committee has prioritized 98 IBAs as globally important and five as continentally important. Over the coming year we expect to add roughly 700 IBAs to the list of those that are globally significant.

Of course, the prioritization of IBAs is still only an early step towards the conservation of these sites. A goal of the IBA Program is to more effectively and efficiently direct our limited resources towards the places most in need. By utilizing a multi-tiered selection process Audubon is realizing this goal. IBA conservation activities are



DAVE MENKE / USFWS

The unique and diverse habitats in Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, a Montana IBA, has attracted more than two hundred bird species including Sage Thrasher.

happening all over the U.S. and range from land acquisition to habitat restoration, advocacy on the behalf of IBAs and educating local communities about their unique birds and bird habitats. To see specific examples of IBA conservation activities and learn more about the IBA program visit: [www.audubon.org/bird/iba/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/index.html)

### BE ON THE LOOKOUT

for details of our special events and plan to join us for any or all that are of interest to you; advance registration will be required. Visit [www.audubon.org/bird/ScienceEvents.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/ScienceEvents.html) for updates on dates, times, location and registration information:

**November 28, 2006**—Private film showing, "World of Raptors" at the County Theater, Doylestown, PA

**March 25, 2007**—Scott Weidensaul presentation, "On the Wings of Birds", Location TBD

**April, 2007**—Premier showing of documentary film, "Audubon: Drawn From Nature", Location TBD

**May 6, 2007**—2nd Annual Wine & Warblers...birding and silent auction, Peace Valley Park, Doylestown, PA and Five Spruce Farm, Jamison, PA

**June 12, 2007**—Private film showing, "Hooked on Hummingbirds" at the County Theater, Doylestown, PA



# THANK YOU

G. GENTRY /  
USFWS

Audubon Science is honored to acknowledge the individuals, foundations, corporations, businesses and others who have donated to our work during our 2006 fiscal year. While space constraints prevent us from listing all donors, we are deeply grateful for each and every gift.

## Gifts of \$100,000 and over

- Monsanto Fund

## Gifts of \$50,000 – \$99,999

- Dr. Lucy R. Waletzky.

## Gifts of \$25,000 – \$49,999

- Mr. David B. Ford • Foundation M
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Gloria and Benjamin Olewine III Trust
- Southern Company Services, Inc.
- W. K. Gordon Jr. Foundation

## Gifts of \$10,000 – \$24,999

- The Booth-Bricker Fund
- BTNEP/LUMCON • Ms. Cathy Brown
- Edward T. Cone Foundation • Conoco Phillips Company • The Marshall-Reynolds Foundation • New Hampshire Charitable Foundation • Mr. and Mrs. Donal C. O'Brien, Jr. • The Philanthropic Collaborative • Dr. Margaret Stewart
- USFWS • Warwick Foundation
- David & Jade Walsh

## Gifts of \$5,000 – \$9,999

- Audubon Mississippi • Ms. Edith Mangone, M.D. • Ronnie G. Stauffenberg Trust • Doris L. Stauffenberg Living Trust

## Gifts of \$1,000 – \$4,999

- Mr. Eric R. Anderson • Mr. Eric Anderson
- Ms. Molly Bartlett & Mr. Robert Stoner
- Ms. Norma Z. Bennett • Ms. Kathleen Crawford • Deanie Dorwart • Mr. Michael Golden • Mr. & Mrs. William E. Hecker
- The Judy and Tony King Foundation
- Francis & Margaret LeBaron • Mr. & Mrs. Edward Long • Mr. & Mrs. James Macaleer
- New England Biolabs Foundation
- Benjamin Olewine IV Fund • Ms. Peg Olsen • Dr. Beverly S. Ridgely
- Ms. Inghilt Traenkle • Mr. & Mrs. James J. Visconti • Waterline Construction of Pinellas, Inc. • Waterline Construction, Inc.

## Gifts of \$500 – \$999

- Mr. Thomas R. Anderson • Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Bascom • Mr. & Mrs. Ron Garret • Brian & Tammy Hecker • H.O.

- Peet Foundation • Mr. & Mrs. Paul Muther
- John E. Pannell • Pine Tree Conservation Society, Inc. • Dr. & Mrs. Roy Pollock
- Tess & Bill A. Present • Bart & Liz Rea
- Mr. Peter T. Smith • Ms. Kathleen E. Sullivan

## Gifts of \$100 – \$499

- Ms. Joyce Andrews • Mrs. Elizabeth P. Atkins • Dr. Michael J. Austin • Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida
- Ms. Jane Baker • Mr. David A. Barrett
- Mr. & Mrs. Eliot C. Beal • Mr. Arthur Beale • Ms. Jean Blumberg • Dr. & Mrs. Donald M. Bradburn • Ms. Pamela Brooks
- Mr. & Mrs. Chester Brown • Ms. Kathryn E. Cade • Kathleen E. Carr • Alden G. Clayton • Mr. Carolus M. Cobb III • Mr. & Mrs. Neil S. Cohen • Ms. Shirley J. Cook
- Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Corcoran • Mr. Eric Cutler • Mrs. Karen A. D'Alessandro
- Caroline Dean • Mr. Robert P. DeMarco
- Ms. Lucy T. Doering • Marjorie Dwyer
- Janet Egan • Ms. Marianne Ellison
- Ms. Rosemary T. Eng • Mr. & Mrs. Roger S. Everett • Dennis & Laura Fortner
- Ms. Mary Frawley • Ms. Joyce Friedman
- Mr. John & Mrs. Fuller • Mr. Stephen O. Fuqua, Jr. • Dr. J. Byron Gathright • Patricia Goodrich • Ms. Nancy T. Gray • Marya Halderman • Mr. Henry R. Hallowell, Jr.
- Ms. Karen Heckert • Mr. & Mrs. W. Hardy Hendren III • Mr. & Mrs. John C. Hepburn
- Ms. Catherine W. Herman • Dr. & Mrs. Walter Hodge • Mrs. Margaret B. Howland • Mr. John Humphreys • Mr. Bobby Hynson • Liba Icahn • Ms. Ingrid Johnson • Ms. Bela T. Kalman • Mr. Brooks Kelly • Mr. & Mrs. Patrick J. Kelly • Warren & Barry King • Ms. Louise Kurtz • Ms. Sue Landry • Mr. Paul H. Lefevre • Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Leland • Mr. Richard Loewenthal
- Lynchburg Bird Club • Ms. Eve B. Masinter • Ms. Marcia Maytham • Harout Mergian • Mrs. Susan W. K. Mimno • James C. & Ann Nelson • The Nelson Mead Fund • Audre W. Newman • Mr. & Mrs. Martin B. Person • Dr. Robert Petersen
- Mr. Jeffrey Plate • Swede & Tracy Plaut
- Ms. Patricia T. Poitras • Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Post • Mr. & Mrs. Irwin L. Post
- Mr. Gordon Postill • Mr. Woodruff M. Price • Mrs. Julia Rosenwald • Ms. Olga Rothschild • Ms. Carolyn C. Rowland
- Mr. & Mrs. William Hart Rufe III • Mr. Karl Rugart • Mr. & Mrs. Steven J. Saffier
- Nana Simone • Ms. Karen F. Sinclair • Ms. Deborah A. Smith • Mr. Curtis C. Sorrells
- Mr. & Mrs. Tatnall Starr • Ms. Barb Taylor
- The Thornton Family Foundation
- Mr. Barry Ulman • Mrs. Almyne Vaillant

- Mr. David C. Vanicek • Ms. Mary VanVleck
- Ms. Diana Wahl • Mr. Robert C. Wallis
- Ms. Candace Williams • Mr. George Wood • Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Zurif

*Donors to the Seabird Restoration Program are acknowledged annually in the Egg Rock Update.*

*Contributions listed were received during our Fiscal Year 2006: July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.*

*We regret if we have inadvertently missed anyone.*



YELLOW WARBLER • USFWS

Audubon Science would like to gratefully acknowledge those individuals and organizations who made contributions to our **WINE & WARBLERS SILENT AUCTION**. Their generosity is truly appreciated.

- Alba Interiors • BI01.1 FM • Bowman's Hill Flower Preserve • Buffalo Games, Inc. • Byerstown Woodwork • Campania International • Carriage Stop Cards and Gifts • Bob Cecil • Costco • Coté & Co.
- Designs in Stone • Avery English-Elliott
- Davis Feed Mills, Inc. • The Market at Delaware Valley College • Delray Plus Hardware and Home Center • Eagle Optics • FitCare Center at the Health and Wellness Center • Elizabeth Gemmill • Genuardi's • Giant Food Stores • Frank Gill and Sally Conyne
- Heritage Conservancy • Scott Hecker
- Lynn Hoffman • Carl Hoffner • Inn of the Hawke • Susan Ketterlinus • Steve Kress • Michener Art Museum • Tony Nastase • Niece Lumber • The Orvis Company, Inc. • Philadelphia Phillies
- Phillips' Fine Wines & Liquors • The Rhoads Garden • Roy and Barbara Pollock • Riverside Symphonia • Charles Reim • John Schneider • David Sibley
- Skin 'n Tonic • Starbucks Coffee Company • Barbara Thornton-Haas
- Waste Management • Welsh's Liquor Store • Whole Foods • Wild Birds Unlimited • Dresher • Wild Bird Center
- The Woolverton Inn • Ralph Wright

# BUILDING ON SUCCESS

## Audubon's Seabird Restoration Program



DERRICK JACKSON / BOSTON GLOBE

The 2006 nesting season finished on an excellent note as Seabird Restoration Program biologists reported record high counts of puffins nesting at Audubon's three Maine coast colonies. This is a long term response to the successful restoration that began 33 years ago. Of special note was the dramatic increase of nesting pairs at Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge to 336 nesting pairs—an increase of 16% since 2005.

Just as the seabirds have departed for their migrations, most of the 17 interns that worked as seabird stewards have also headed back to colleges—enriched by their summer experiences. This year's team was especially cosmo-

politan, representing five countries and 12 states.

Summer 2006 was also notable for the opening of Project Puffin Visitor Center, located in the hub of Rockland Maine's gallery and museum district. To date, more than 9,000 visitors have learned about the dedicated commitment of the Seabird Restoration Program to actively manage these Important Bird Areas. Feature articles in the travel section of the *Boston Globe* and Science Times section of the *New York Times* brought worldwide attention to the program.

To learn more about the program, visit [www.projectpuffin.org](http://www.projectpuffin.org).



DERRICK JACKSON / BOSTON GLOBE

Steve Kress and Mayor of Rockland (right) at the opening of the Project Puffin Visitor Center.

Help us reduce the use of our natural resources by signing up to receive your next newsletter electronically. To sign up, visit, [www.audubon.org/ScienceNews](http://www.audubon.org/ScienceNews)

*"For if one link in nature's chain might be lost, another might be lost, until the whole of things will vanish by piecemeal."*

**Thomas Jefferson**