



A Message from the President

This year, we at New York City Audubon have once again energetically pursued our mission to be a clear and consistent voice for wild birds throughout New York City. Under the leadership of our new Executive Director Glenn Phillips, NYC Audubon has made a huge difference for wild birds.

First, Arlington Marsh, the largest remaining intact salt marsh on Staten Island's north shore had been slated for elimination to expand a port. NYC Audubon's successful efforts saved this rich 220-acre habitat, home to birds such as the marsh wren, saltmarsh sharp-tailed sparrow and pied-billed grebe, to name just a few.

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Next, NYC Audubon worked to preserve South Brother Island for wildlife. We were the first organization to target this island as a priority for acquisition by the City. South Brother will now remain a necessary sanctuary and nesting colony for great and snowy egrets, black-crowned night herons, and glossy ibis.

As part of our continued efforts to transform urban landscapes into safe environments for migratory birds, NYC Audubon's Project Safe Flight persuaded the U.S. Postal Service to retrofit the Morgan Mail Processing Center. With its highly reflective windows mirroring the sky and trees in Chelsea Park, this had been the deadliest building in the city for birds. By installing opaque film over its non-functional windows, it is estimated that over 300 birds will be saved each year. Also, Project Safe Flight has continued its two-year study, Making Buildings Safe, to assess where bird strikes occur most and how to develop further preventative measures.

Our efforts to build grassroots public support for birds and habitat continue. This year we worked to preserve Ridgewood Reservoir in Queens as a thriving bird habitat, and nominated new properties for the state's Open Space Initiative. In the Bronx, we are working to involve teens with the environment by restoring habitat on North Brother Island. This hands-on learning opportunity will help create the next generation of New York City's environmental stewards.

Sadly, this year marked the passing of four of our founding leaders: Geoffrey Cobb Ryan, Alfred Ott, Richard Garretson and Peter Berle. Each one was a distinguished conservationist who left a legacy in the enduring impact of NYC Audubon. We will miss their wisdom and warmth.

NYC Audubon faces many new challenges in the year ahead. But with the help of our diverse programming partners, 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.

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President

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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.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Our educational programs for adults provide participants with the valuable opportunity to

learn about wild birds and their habitats. Our programs have taken 3,373 people on eco-tours throughout the metropolitan area and beyond. NYC Audubon also worked with dozens of organizations in all five boroughs to bring more and more New Yorkers outdoors. Collaborating organizations included the American Littoral Society, Audubon New York, Gateway National Recreation Area, Greenbelt Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, Urban Park Rangers, WildMetro and many others. We provide bus and van trips, eco-cruises and engaging classes that open the eyes of all participants to the intricacies of our natural world. Our lecture series ranged from a PlaNYC update by Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe to the history of birding by Scott Weidensaul. PhotoSIG, our photography education program, hosted nine lectures at its new venue, The Coffee House.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Many children living in New York City do not have strong opportunities to learn about the

wonders of the natural world firsthand. Through programming dedicated to children, NYC Audubon bridges that gap. *Look Around New York City*, our environmental newsletter for kids, helps children and caregivers learn about nature in the city and encourages them to get outdoors. This year we published three issues, which were linked to city and state learning standards, and reached nearly 10,000 young people. NYC Audubon also provided over 500 children and educators with educational eco-cruises, introducing them to the ecological and cultural spectacles of New York harbor. In addition, we partnered with THE POINT Community Development Corporation and the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation to teach teenagers in the South Bronx about the ecology of the East River and the nesting heron and egret colonies on North and South Brother Islands.



*Left: Wild Raptors:
up close and personal*

photo: NYC Audubon

*Students from
THE POINT visit
North Brother Island*

photo: Adam Leibowitz



Left: Morgan Mail Processing Facility

photo: Burnham Yu

NYCA Harbor Herons Project survey of Prall's Island, May 18, 2007

photo: © A. Bernick

PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT

The past year saw the most significant success in Project Safe Flight's history: After five years of monitoring and over 900 collisions recorded, the U.S. Postal Service agreed to retrofit 440 glass panels at its Morgan Mail Processing Facility on 28th Street. Further monitoring showed that collisions were brought down to zero at this site, emphasizing the immense success of NYC Audubon's efforts. Over the spring and fall migration seasons, monitoring efforts have been maintained at major bird collision sites. In spring 2007 Yigal Gelb and Nicole Delacretaz's article "Avian Window Strike Mortality at an Urban Office Building" was published in the *Kingbird* (Volume 56 No.3 September 2006), and won the John J. Elliot Award for excellence. As part of "Lights Out NY," skyscrapers have continued voluntarily dimming their lights at night during peak migratory months to avoid attracting and disorienting migrating birds. PSF's publication, Bird-Safe Building Guidelines, has reached a nationwide audience and has inspired many architects to include bird friendly design in their projects. The Guidelines have received numerous awards, including a prestigious award from the American Institute of Architects' New York Chapter.

The past year saw the most significant success in Project Safe Flight's history: After five years

HARBOR HERONS

The 2007 nesting season was a comprehensive survey year, which has been set on a once-every-three-years schedule to reduce disturbance of breeding colonies. Conducted in partnership the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation—Natural Resources Group, the National Park Service—Gateway National Recreation Area, and The Wildlife Trust, this survey included 17 islands. We monitored nesting populations of wading birds, cormorants and gulls on the islands and surrounding waterways; documented nesting habitat including species composition of nest trees and shrubs; and documented other nesting species and flora as possible. Ten of the islands visited contained a total of 1,846 nests of nine species of wading birds, a 7 percent increase over the last survey in 2004. Despite overall improvements, both Huckleberry Island and North Brother Island experienced significant declines since 2004. In November 2007, South Brother Island, one of the largest nesting colonies, was acquired by NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, after years of advocacy by NYC Audubon. The acquisition was funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program and supported by Congressman Jose Serrano of the Bronx.

The 2007 nesting season was a comprehensive survey year, which has been set on a once-



Officials celebrate South Brother Island purchase

photo: NYC Audubon

INCOME AND EXPENSES

53% GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

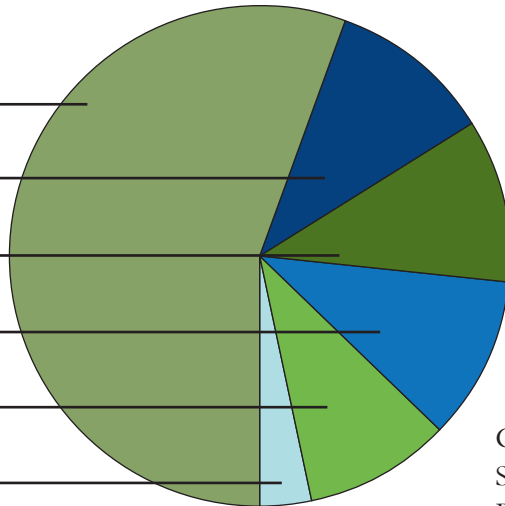
15% SPECIAL EVENTS

10% RESERVED FROM PRIOR YEARS

10% PROGRAM SERVICE REVENUE

8% MEMBERSHIP DUES

3% OTHER



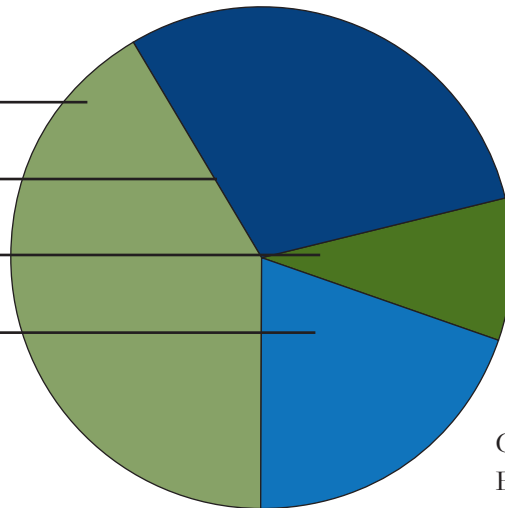
Grants and contributions (53%)	\$ 311,838.00
Special events (15%)	\$ 90,835.00
Reserved from Prior Years (10%)	\$ 60,542.00
Program service revenue (10%)	\$ 56,926.00
Membership dues (8%)	\$ 47,088.00
Other (3%)	\$ 20,282.00
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 587,511.00

42% CONSERVATION

30% EDUCATION

9% MANAGEMENT & GENERAL

20% FUNDRAISING



Conservation (42%)	\$ 244,223.00
Education (30%)	\$ 178,157.00
Management & General (9%)	\$ 50,292.00
Fundraising (20%)	\$ 114,839.00
Total Expenses	\$ 587,511.00

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*Eco-cruise on the
East River aboard
a NYC water taxi*
photo: NYC Audubon



*Horseshoe
Crab tour at
Jamaica Bay
photo: Don Riepe*

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*Shorebird Festival
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Photo: Don Riepe

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