



# LIVINGSTON RIPLEY WATERFOWL SANCTUARY

## N • E • W • S • L • E • T • T • E • R

Fall 2003

### Board of Directors

Dr. George Archibald, Chairperson; Dr. Thomas Lovejoy, President; Ms. Sylvia Ripley Addison, Vice President; Ms. Rosemary Livingston Ripley, Treasurer; Ms. Julie Ripley Miller, Secretary; Mr. T. Dennis Williams, Mr. Bruce Beehler, Ms. Juliet Tammenous Bakker. Sanctuary Manager: Mr. Michael Bean.



*Panorama of the Sanctuary*

*Photo: Mike Bean*

### CONTINUING RENOVATIONS

Progress has been continuing in 2003! Early last year the Board of the LRWS approved a phased renovation program to upgrade the Sanctuary's facilities to comply with the American Zoological and Aquarium Association's guidelines. In 2002, with capital from two sizable donations, we dredged the eight major ponds and built five new pools, each with an independent water source, in the large



*Wintering barn under construction*

pens. This year the Board approved the second phase of our plan which was to construct a new perimeter fence, dredge two new ponds and construct a new barn for housing the birds during the cold Connecticut winters.

In early August, bulldozers and earth movers arrived and began tearing down the outside fence to make way for

a new one. This new fence, which is 8 feet high and of industrial strength, will enclose the entire perimeter of the ponds and the out-buildings which support the breeding and rearing activities of the Sanctuary. We are all very excited about this significant improvement which will enhance the security for the birds as well as for our visitors!

We also built a new pole barn located in the midst of four of the largest pens to provide enhanced wintering facilities. Previously, all the tropical birds had to be physically moved indoors every year either into a greenhouse or into an adjacent barn. With the addition of the new barn, moving will no longer be required, reducing stress on the birds and their keepers!

None of this work would have been possible without the support of all our donors, amongst whom we would especially like to recognize the Seherr-Thoss Foundations, the Marilyn M. Simpson Charitable Trust, and Mr. Joseph Cullman.



*New perimeter fence*

*Photo: Mike Bean*

## 2003 FUNDRAISER

In June LRWS held its first fundraising event. Two of our esteemed directors, Dr. George Archibald and Dr. Thomas Lovejoy, conducted a private tour through the Sanctuary. Visitors came despite inclement weather and stayed to chat with George and Tom over lunch. George Archibald is the founder of the International Crane Foundation known globally for its work on cranes and especially its efforts to preserve the two most endangered cranes: the Siberian Crane and the North American Whooping Crane. Tom Lovejoy is President of the Heinz Center and the noted ecologist who helped create the debt-for-nature swap which has been instrumental in preserving thousands of acres in Latin America.



*George Archibald with Ted Janulis and Rosemary Ripley  
Photo: Kay Sculthorpe*

Our visitors came from the local area and from southern Connecticut and western New York. We introduced our visitors to the LRWS programs for conserving rare and endangered waterfowl species and to the LRWS goal of raising awareness of the diversity of waterfowl and the importance of preserving their wetland habitats.

## 2003 INTERNS



*Summer Intern:  
Jocelyn Courtney*

This summer we were fortunate to have two interns both of whom were students at the Litchfield High School. Jocelyn Courtney graduated from Litchfield High School in June 2003 where she was editor of the debate team. In addition, Jocelyn was captain of the track, indoor track and cross country teams. Jocelyn has recently matriculated at Yale

University where she intends to pursue a major in history, political science or English. Jocelyn spent her summer assisting the Sanctuary with research on grant-making entities focused on conservation and rare or endangered fauna. She also spent some time working on the Sanctuary's photographic archives.



*Summer Intern:  
Jameson Secco*

Jameson Secco is currently in his senior year at Litchfield High where he captains both the soccer and the ice hockey teams. Over the summer, Jameson helped us with the care and feeding of the birds. He also worked on maintenance and facilitating the construction of the fencing and the new barn.

We were thrilled to have both Jocelyn and Jameson and are thankful for the continued help and support of young people in the community.

## AMERICAN PHEASANT AND WATERFOWL SOCIETY EVENT

On October 9<sup>th</sup> the Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Sanctuary was delighted to host nearly 100 visitors from the American Pheasant and Waterfowl Society, who were attending their annual meeting held this year in Connecticut. With luncheon served on the lawn, visitors were able to tour the grounds and see some of the rare species we are working with. APWS has over 2,000 members, and those who came to Litchfield to enjoy the beautiful day and see our progress hailed from both the U.S. and abroad.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome two new members to the Sanctuary's Board of Directors: Bruce Bechler and Juliet Tammenoms Bakker.

Bruce Bechler, a Vice President for Melanesia at Conservation International, is an ornithologist and tropical ecologist who is an expert on the Southwest Pacific and South Asia. After conducting doctoral fieldwork in Papua New Guinea, Bechler worked for 10 years at the National Museum of Natural History followed by time with the Wildlife Conservation Society, US Department of State and Counterpart International. Today, he oversees a field program that conducts conservation initiatives in Fiji, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Papua (easternmost Indonesia). Bruce is author or co-author of several natural history books: *Birds of New Guinea* (Princeton), *The Birds of Paradise* (Oxford), *A Naturalist in*

*New Guinea* (Texas), and *A Biodiversity Assessment for Papua New Guinea* (Biodiversity Support Program).

Juliet Tammenoms Bakker is a partner at Pequot Ventures where she specializes in health care investments. Pequot Ventures manages approximately \$1.5 billion under management. Prior to Pequot, Ms. Tammenoms Bakker served as director of strategic planning for Waste Management International Inc. in London. Earlier, she was an equity research analyst at Banque Paribas (currently known as BNP Paribas) in London, and for the previous five years, a Vice President in investment banking at UBS Paine Webber in New York City. Ms. Tammenoms Bakker graduated from Cornell University with a B.S. in Biological Sciences and earned an M.P.A. from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

### THE RED-BREASTED GOOSE

*by Mike Bean*

The Red-breasted Goose is considered by many to be the most beautiful of all the geese. It is a stark black and white bird with a defining red breast. Often called the Siberian Red-breasted Goose because it breeds in central Arctic Siberia and winters chiefly in the lowlands of the Black Sea, it belongs to the family of Brent Geese and exhibits many of the Brent Goose's features such as a diminutive size, a short bill and the loudness of its call.

On my first evening at the Sanctuary, back in 1989, I was busy settling in and enjoying the new sounds of a delightful small flock of Red-breasted Geese just outside my window. The geese were very active because it was breeding season, and I heard this incessant "buck-wheat" sound that reminded me of the guinea hens that I once had. It was not until I

decided to go to sleep that I realized just how loud they were! The pen was lit by a full moon, and I could see the geese running about outside. The seconds turned into minutes, the minutes into hours - the racket seemed to enter the house and bounce off the walls. I had a lot of time that night to think about the new job I had accepted! Needless to say, I did not get much sleep that night, but in the morning I was still delighted to see these beautiful, sharp, crisp-looking birds looking at me as I left the house.

S. Dillon Ripley was the first person to breed the Red-breasted Goose successfully in North America. Sadly, their numbers in the wild are in decline, although the decline rate is decelerating from what was experienced during the first half of the 1900's. The Red-breasted Goose is one of many species in need of an effective breeding program. Today, the Sanctuary has six pairs of these geese, and we hope to be able to contribute to insuring the survival of this charming bird.



*Red-breasted Goose*

*Photo: Mike Bean*

*Page 4 photo credit*

*West African Crowned Crane*

*Photo: Kaye Russell*

### WITH THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED DURING 2003

Mr. Bruce M. Beebler  
Mr. William S. Beinecke  
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Berg  
Mr. Guy Boechiuso

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The Honorable & Mrs. Russell Train  
Mrs. Alexander Victor  
Mr. Paul Wimbels, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Zacharias  
The Jacquelyn and Gregory Zehner Foundation

## TOUR INFORMATION

Tours are available on Saturdays in June and July at 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 per person; children under 12 are free. Please call (860) 567-1691 for further information or send us an email at duckpondroad@snet.net.

## DIRECTIONS TO LRWS

Directions to LRWS from Litchfield Center: Take Rte. 202 West toward Bantam. From the center of town, travel 0.8 miles to traffic light (just past Stop & Shop shopping center on left) and turn right at the light onto Milton Road. Travel 1.2 miles on Milton Road, taking the third left turn onto Duck Pond Road, a small dirt road. Proceed 0.5 miles to the third driveway on the right, marked with wooden sign for Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Sanctuary. You will be met there.



Swans on rehabilitated pond

Photo: Mike Bean

L.R.W.S.  
P.O. Box 210  
Litchfield, CT 06759

Address Service Requested



Yes! I would like to support the L.R.W.S. by becoming a member.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 - Wood Duck      \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 - Ross' Snow Goose

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 - Nene      \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000 - Trumpeter Swan

\_\_\_\_\_ \$200 - Siberian Red-breast      \_\_\_\_\_ Set of 10 "Morning Splash"  
notecards (black & white) - \$15

## **PLANNED GIVING**

Did you ever consider planned giving to the Sanctuary? Planned gifts include gifts through your will, charitable gift annuities, gifts of life insurance, pooled income funds and charitable trusts.

If you would like to consider supporting the Sanctuary in one of these ways, please give us a call at 860-567-1691. Your financial support of the Sanctuary will help us realize our mission to conserve endangered waterfowl through propagation, education, and research.

*Please write us with your comments or suggestions. LRWS is a 501(c)3 organization; your contribution is tax-deductible.*