



Audubon CONNECTICUT
ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP
AWARDS BENEFIT



EXPERIENCE NATURE!



HONORING
THE GREGORY FAMILY
MELISSA SPEAR, COMMON GROUND

APRIL 27, 2016



THANK YOU
to all the honorees for
leading by example!

— *Sonia & Paul Jones*

WELCOME TO THE 2016 AUDUBON CONNECTICUT
ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS BENEFIT

EXPERIENCE NATURE!

HONORING

THE GREGORY FAMILY

with the
Audubon Connecticut Environmental Leadership Award
for creating a rich legacy of wildlife conservation and habitat protection

MELISSA SPEAR, COMMON GROUND

with the
Katie O'Brien Lifetime Achievement Award
for inspiring the next generation's dedication to nature

SPECIAL REMARKS

by

David Bell

Chairman Emeritus, IPG
The Interpublic Group of Companies

A. Martin F. Cannon

Chairman, Audubon Connecticut

Stewart J. Hudson

Executive Director, Audubon Connecticut
Vice President, National Audubon Society

Suni Unger

CEO + Founder, Serendipity Magazine

LIVE AUCTION

by

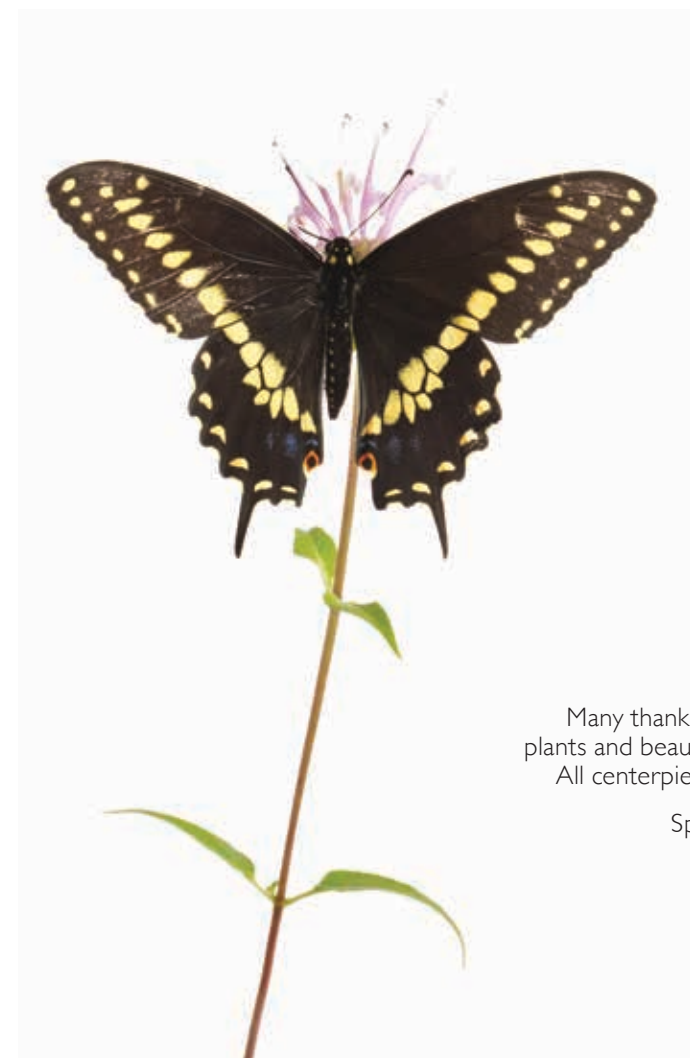
Lydia Fenet

of Christie's

Dessert Reception to Follow the Program

Many thanks to McArdle's Florist & Garden Center for providing native plants and beautiful centerpieces to help us experience nature this evening. All centerpieces are on loan and will be repurposed following the event.

Special thanks to Two Roads Brewing Co. for the donation of Connecticut craft beers and tasting experience.



 **Audubon** CONNECTICUT



**Raising awareness
Protecting our greatest asset**

We applaud Audubon Connecticut for its commitment to preserving and protecting nature.

JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

**LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
STEWART J. HUDSON**



THANK YOU for being part of the 2016 Audubon Connecticut Environmental Leadership Awards Benefit, organized this year around the theme of EXPERIENCE NATURE!

What does it mean to experience nature? For the Gregory family, recipients of the Environmental Leadership Award, it means to draw life lessons from their interactions with wildlife, with rustic landscapes, and—closer to home—with gardens and the nature all around us.

Families often provide our first introduction to nature, perhaps through a parent or grandparent introducing us to forests, or fields, or the birds and other wildlife that live there. Audubon fosters that kind of connection with nature education centers in Sharon, Southbury, and here in Greenwich, which provide landscapes to explore and educational programming for children and families.

For Melissa Spear, the recipient of the Katie O'Brien Lifetime Achievement Award, experiencing nature is the essential curriculum of Common Ground High School, the environmental magnet school she runs in New Haven, Connecticut. Audubon is proud to have Common Ground as a partner in New Haven for our Urban Oases program, which also operates in Bridgeport, Stamford, and other locations across the state.

Audubon's Schoolyard Habitat program creates outdoor classrooms with native plantings that attract birds and other wildlife, and provides educators with a curriculum that emphasizes science and math, as well as environmental education. In the past year alone, over 2,000 students have participated in the program, and over 60 teachers have been trained by Audubon to use these habitats as outdoor classrooms. Follow-up data for our schoolyard habitat program reveals that teachers increased their outdoor teaching by 57 percent, and students increased their science content knowledge by 66 percent.

And, in all of our programs we take advantage of the fact that birds are a wonderful portal to experiencing nature. Our Bird Tales program utilizes this portal in another setting—dementia care facilities where we have trained over 1,000 staff and volunteers to provide an experiential program based on nature themes for patients in these facilities.

The chance to experience nature is one of the greatest gifts we can pass on to future generations. Enjoy the evening as we celebrate those who have done so. And, thank you again for supporting Audubon Connecticut—our ability to help others experience nature couldn't happen without you!

Stewart J. Hudson
Executive Director, Audubon Connecticut
Vice President, National Audubon Society



L CATTERTON

SALUTES THE GREGORY FAMILY
FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY
DEDICATION TO NATURE.



Wheeler Marsh from Milford Point Courtesy of Audubon Connecticut

LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN MARTY CANNON



On behalf of the Board of Directors, welcome to the 2016 Environmental Leadership Awards Benefit. EXPERIENCE NATURE! is more than a theme. It is what our world needs.

On behalf of the birds, thank you for supporting Audubon's work in and around Connecticut. We are connected to something larger, and now you are too.

Tonight, we get to celebrate the Gregory Family and Melissa Spear for their respective legacies. As you will learn from our program this evening, the Gregorys embody Audubon's mission at so many levels. And, Melissa Spear has dedicated her life to building sustainable behaviors in urban communities. Each of these Honorees deserves recognition from all of us. Their vision, leadership, and commitment to a better world are qualities we all must emulate and support.

I love birds, the Black Skimmer in particular, but I am not a birder. So, I am often asked what brought me to Audubon. It is true my wife Nanny and Katie O'Brien, who I and many others consider to be the heart and soul of Audubon Connecticut, introduced me to the idea. But, it was my childhood that built a lifelong "predisposition." My father was a doctor in a West Tennessee farming family...so he fixed people during the week and tended to the crops on the weekends. The health of soil, availability of water, the impact of wildlife, insects, mold, and fungus...all concerned him and, through him, our family. We studied nature through the lens of a doctor-farmer. In both endeavors, he studied science, respected nature, sought strategies for long-term health, and practiced empathy. These are the values that led me to Audubon and its mission.

So, you don't have to be a birder to appreciate the beauty of these creatures or the profound value of their stories. By studying the lives of birds, we gain immeasurable insights into our environment. Audubon has taken the vast science behind bird conservation and has made it available to people like you and me. Where birds thrive, people prosper.

I want to close by thanking our capable and hard-working staff, our Dinner Co-Chairs, and each of you, for listening, thinking, and contributing to the important work of Audubon Connecticut.

Enjoy the evening!

A. Martin F. Cannon
Chairman, Audubon Connecticut

 Audubon CONNECTICUT



**CONGRATULATIONS
and THANK YOU
to the Gregory Family
and Melissa Spear!**

— Kristina & Frank Loverro

Great Blue Heron John Reed/Audubon Photography Awards

**AUDUBON CONNECTICUT
ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**

The Gregory Family

THE GREGORY FAMILY has created a rich history of conservation, initially influenced by W. Grant Gregory, Sr. and carried on by the entire family based on a passion for wildlife, habitat protection, and the experiences derived from a life that involves nature. Through their individual and collective work with organizations including the National Forest Foundation, Arbor Day Foundation, Wyoming Wildlife Foundation, Greenwich Garden Club, and North American Bluebird Society, as well as their leadership in founding the conservation-forward Glen Arbor Club and the WYLD business leadership program, each member of the Gregory family has made incredible contributions to the health of our environment, and above all, proven that our lives are ever-enriched by a connection to nature.



 **Audubon** CONNECTICUT

CONGRATULATIONS
to the Gregory Family and Melissa Spear
for their incredible commitment to
environmental conservation.

—Joni & Kevin Kimberlin



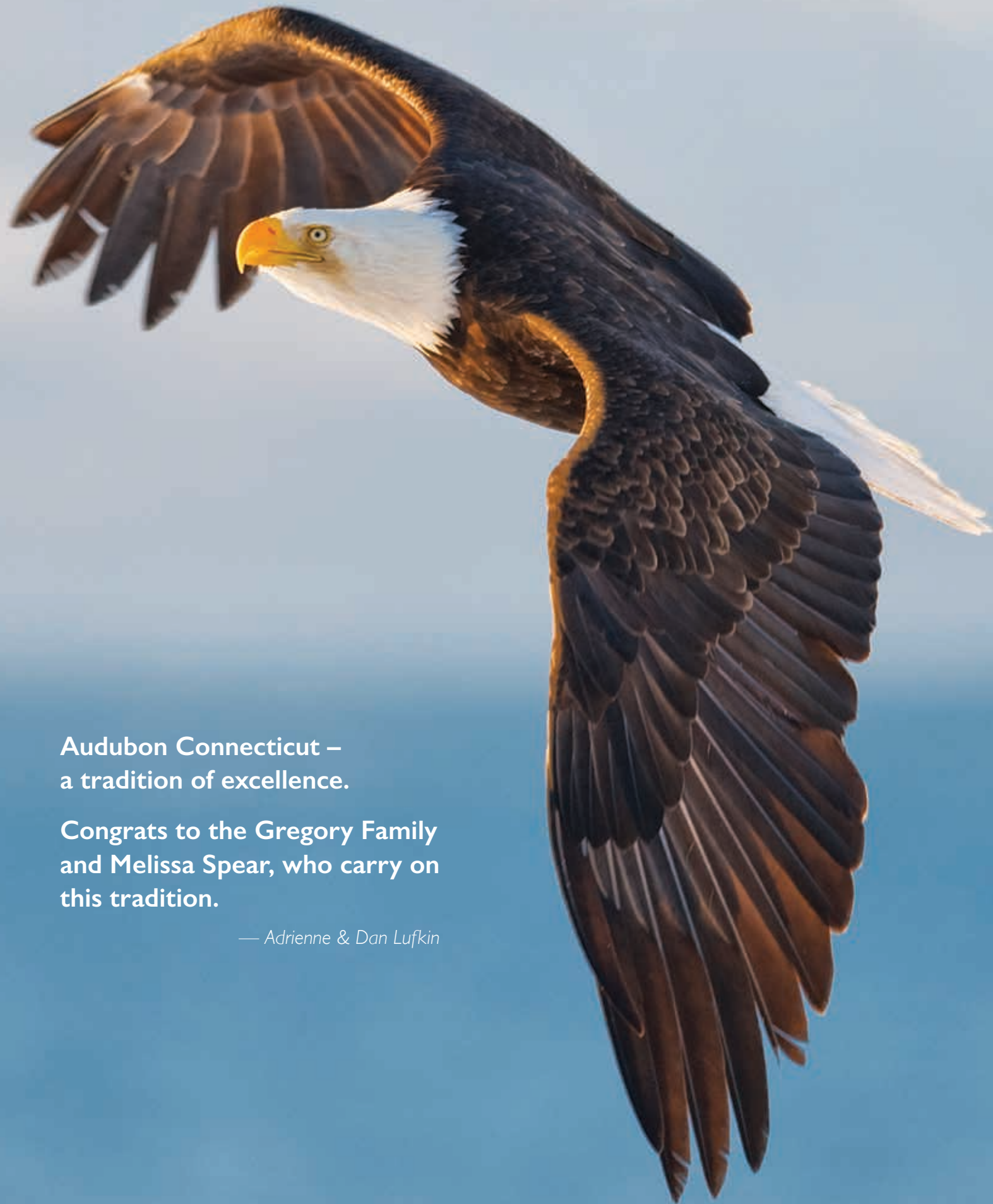
Red-banded Hairstreak Sean Graesser

KATIE O'BRIEN
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Melissa Spear
COMMON GROUND

MELISSA SPEAR is the Executive Director of Common Ground, a New Haven center for environmental learning and leadership whose mission is to cultivate an environmental ethos in urban young people and adults through direct contact with the natural world. Under Melissa's leadership, Common Ground was a founding partner in Audubon Connecticut's Urban Oases program in New Haven. Together, we are creating a network of healthy habitats for birds and people in schoolyards, parks, and yards across the City—building on strong research that urban green spaces improve health, create amazing learning opportunities for students, clean the air and water, build community, and increase economic vitality.





Audubon Connecticut – a tradition of excellence.

Congrats to the Gregory Family and Melissa Spear, who carry on this tradition.

— Adrienne & Dan Lufkin

Bald Eagle Dan Burns



Environmental Leadership Award

Audubon Connecticut's Environmental Leadership Award is given in recognition of vision, passion, and dedication to a sustainable future.

2003 – Phoebe Milliken

2005 – Donal C. O'Brien, Jr.

2006 – Dan W. Lufkin

2008 – Robert F. Schumann

2009 – Christopher Shays

2011 – Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky, M.D.

2012 – Jayni Chase

2013 – Joni Steele Kimberlin

2013 – Kevin Kimberlin

2014 – George E. Pataki

2014 – Ken Salazar

2015 – JPMorgan Chase

Katie O'Brien Lifetime Achievement Award

Audubon Connecticut's Lifetime Achievement Award—renamed in honor of Katie O'Brien by a unanimous vote of the Audubon Connecticut Board of Directors on June 5, 2013—is given in recognition of a lifetime of outstanding achievement in the field of conservation and environmental protection.

2008 – David Ogilvy

2012 – Kathryn D. Wriston

2013 – Eaddo Kiernan

2014 – John W. Fitzpatrick, PhD.

2015 – Dan Esty



Pamela and David B. Ford
Wish to Congratulate
The Award Recipients
For their Commitment to the Environment

THE GREGORY FAMILY

Audubon Connecticut Environmental Leadership Award

MELISSA SPEAR, COMMON GROUND

Katie O'Brien Lifetime Achievement Award



Black-and-white Warbler Sean Graesser

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List as of 4.22.16





Audubon Connecticut

WORKING TOGETHER FOR BIRDS, NATURE, AND PEOPLE

As the state office of the National Audubon Society, Audubon Connecticut's mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. For nearly 75 years, Audubon Centers in Connecticut have been doing this through education, land stewardship, policy initiatives, and the kind of citizen science that makes us the most influential bird conservation organization in the state.

Today, these efforts play a vital role in Audubon's larger Atlantic Flyway and Important Bird Areas conservation work. As our Centers in Greenwich, Southbury, and Sharon continue to evolve, they are becoming 21st Century Centers of Excellence that advance innovative programmatic models; inspire environmental awareness and action; provide engaging place-based education; and employ online communication tools to broaden our reach. They are regional hubs for some of our highest priority programs to protect forests and fields, to protect our seas and shores, and to foster the creation of bird-friendly communities.



OUR CENTERS

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203-264-5098
bentoftheriver.audubon.org

Audubon Greenwich
613 Riversville Road
Greenwich, CT 06831
203-869-5272
greenwich.audubon.org

Audubon Sharon
325 Cornwall Bridge Road
Sharon, CT 06069
860-364-0520
sharon.audubon.org



Securing Our Shores

Connecticut's shores represent all points along the ecological spectrum—from hotbeds of urban development to natural shoreline—and maintaining a balance of habitat is critically important. Healthy barrier beaches, dunes, and tidal marshes are not only critical to the shorebirds that utilize these areas as nesting, stop-over, and over-wintering sites, but also serve as buffers against the ravages of storms and tidal flooding for our coastal communities.

Against all measures, the 2015 shorebird season was a great success, shattering the record for breeding Piping Plovers with 62 nesting pairs fledging approximately 116 chicks—the highest number of pairs since recording began in the 1980s and tying the record for the most chicks fledged in the state. American Oystercatchers also experienced strong growth, with 49 breeding pairs producing 62 fledged chicks for a productivity of 1.27 chicks per pair.



Wood Thrush All Hand

Protecting Our Forests

Thanks to funding from the U.S. Forest Service, Audubon Connecticut's Healthy Forests for the Birds initiative contributes science, education, public policy, and land management expertise to ensure the continual existence of high-quality breeding habitat for forest songbirds along the Atlantic Flyway. One of the primary ways we work toward achieving this goal is through our habitat assessments—providing technical assistance and a means of collaborating with landowners, land managers, and communities who wish to enhance habitat for breeding forest birds on the properties they own and/or manage.

Since 2014, this program has engaged over 80 private landowners in sustainable forest management on behalf of birds and people. The comprehensive site assessment report that we provide to each participating landowner identifies what is special about their property and includes instructions on how to improve their woods by habitat types. To date, we have directly walked and assessed 20,000 acres, and the influence of the program extends to 100,000 acres overall. Judging by the high percentage of landowners who take action after receiving our detailed assessments, it is clear that together we are helping to create bird-friendly forests for imperiled species across the state.



Photos Courtesy of Audubon CT

Creating Our Urban Oases

One of the greatest imperatives in urban areas is engaging diverse audiences, and empowering them with the tools to enrich their communities. Rapid urbanization also means fewer places for birds to nest, feed, and rest during migration. With 80 percent of our nation living in cities, Audubon must take our conservation strategies to new audiences to improve these urban landscapes.

Audubon's Urban Oases program in New Haven, and other Connecticut towns and cities, uses a model of community-based conservation that engages residents in the hands-on restoration of habitat. Teachers learn to use their schoolyards as outdoor classrooms; students are mentored by conservation professionals and provided with green job training; and vital citizen science data is gathered for Audubon's Important Bird Areas program. And, communities come together with help from Audubon and other partners to create, nurture, and maintain greenspaces that provide a home for wildlife and enjoyment for people in urban settings.

CONGRATULATIONS
to the Gregory family and Melissa Spear
for their contributions to conservation,
environmental sustainability and
habitat protection.

— Lile & John Gibbons

Snowy Egret, Sandy Point IBA Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE 2016 AUDUBON CONNECTICUT BENEFIT COMMITTEE

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**List as of 4.22.16*

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK

Debra Belton, Kate Cebik, Joel Coleman, Judy Ferris, Sean Graesser, Scott Lander, Fran Zygmunt, the Audubon Connecticut Wildlife Guards, our many student volunteers and conservationists for their help in the silent and live auctions, and the entire Audubon Connecticut staff.



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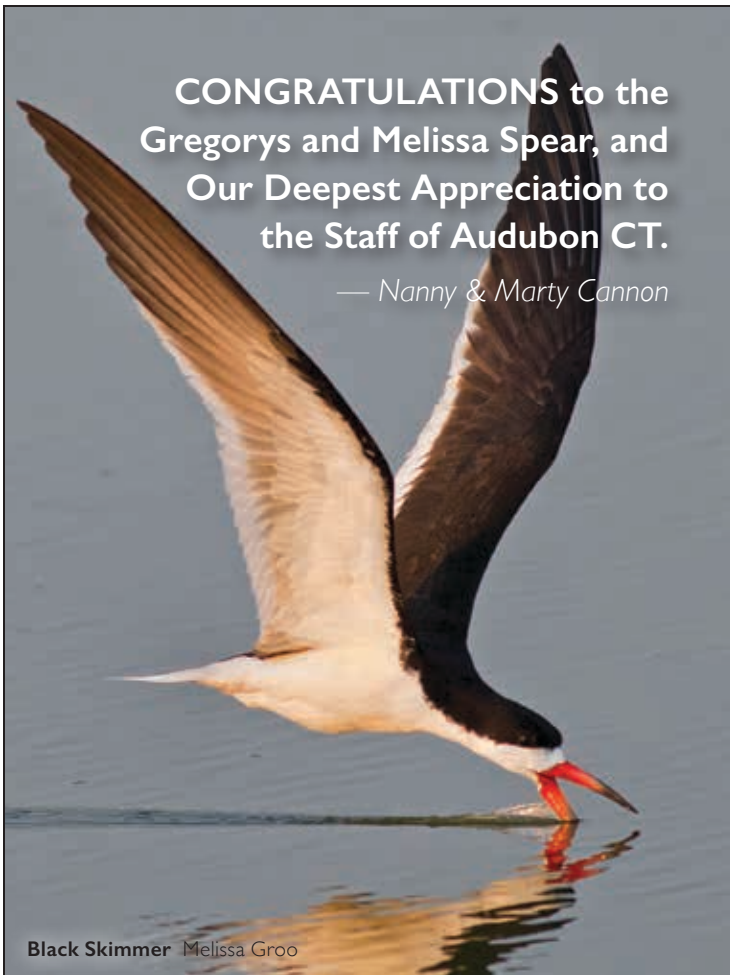
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CONGRATULATIONS to the Gregorys and Melissa Spear, and Our Deepest Appreciation to the Staff of Audubon CT.

— Nanny & Marty Cannon

Black Skimmer Melissa Groo



We would like to **CONGRATULATE** the Gregory Family and Melissa Spear for their outstanding commitment to and leadership in bird and environmental conservation. Their stewardship will be valued and recognized for generations to come.

— Connan & Andy Ashforth

Bald Eagle Keith Szafranski/Audubon Photography Awards



With great admiration, respect and friendship **WE SALUTE** Grant and Karen Gregory and their wonderful family in recognition of their leadership, integrity, untiring energy and steadfast commitment.

— Anne & Bruce Logan

Least Sandpiper Landon Starnes/Audubon Photography Awards



MY DEEP APPRECIATION to the Gregory Family for their dedication and commitment to wildlife conservation and to Melissa Spear for her outstanding leadership of the Common Ground School.

— Katie O'Brien

Yellow Warbler Chas. McRae/Audubon Photography Awards



OUR SINCERE THANKS and deep appreciation to leaders like the Gregory Family and Melissa Spear for their commitment to wildlife conservation.

— Jennifer & James McCarroll

Great Gray Owl Jim Brown/Audubon Photography Awards



PROUD to know the Gregory Family for over 50 years!
THANKS for all you do.

— Steve Andersen, Lincoln, NE — Mitch Ostrove, White Plains, NY

American Bullfrog and Common Green Frog Sean Graesser



AUDUBON THANKS our dedicated Audubon Connecticut Board Development Committee and Benefit Co-Chairs Katie O'Brien, Alexandra Peters, and Suni Unger for their extraordinary leadership and dedication to making this year's Environmental Leadership Awards Benefit a success. Thanks to your shared commitment to nature, we will be well-positioned to pursue our important work throughout Connecticut.

Eastern Pondhawk Sean Graesser



THANK YOU Michelle and the Greenwich Audubon Team for all the fabulous work that you do!

— Libby & Charlie King

Little Blue Heron Bob Malbon/Audubon Photography Awards



CONGRATULATIONS to the Gregory Family and Melissa Spear for all you do to educate and inspire us to protect and preserve our natural treasures. With your guidance, we proudly pass these gifts on to our future generations.

— Jeanne Mininall & Arthur Bass

Graylag Goose Rebecca Golden/Audubon Photography Awards

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VIII. AS WISDOM

Look! Look! he is climbing
the last light
Who knows neither Time
nor error, and under
Whose eye, unforgiving,
the world, unforgiven, swings
Into shadow.

— from "Evening Hawk" by Robert Pen Warren



White-crowned Sparrow
Sean Graesser

With admiration for the work of
Audubon Connecticut.

— Alexandra & Frederick Peters

With gratitude for the continual effort
and commitment of the wonderful
Audubon CT staff. I also wish to thank
all the "birds" who flew in tonight to
support this great event.

— Andrea de Cholnoky



Northern Cardinal
Bernard Friel/Audubon Photography Awards



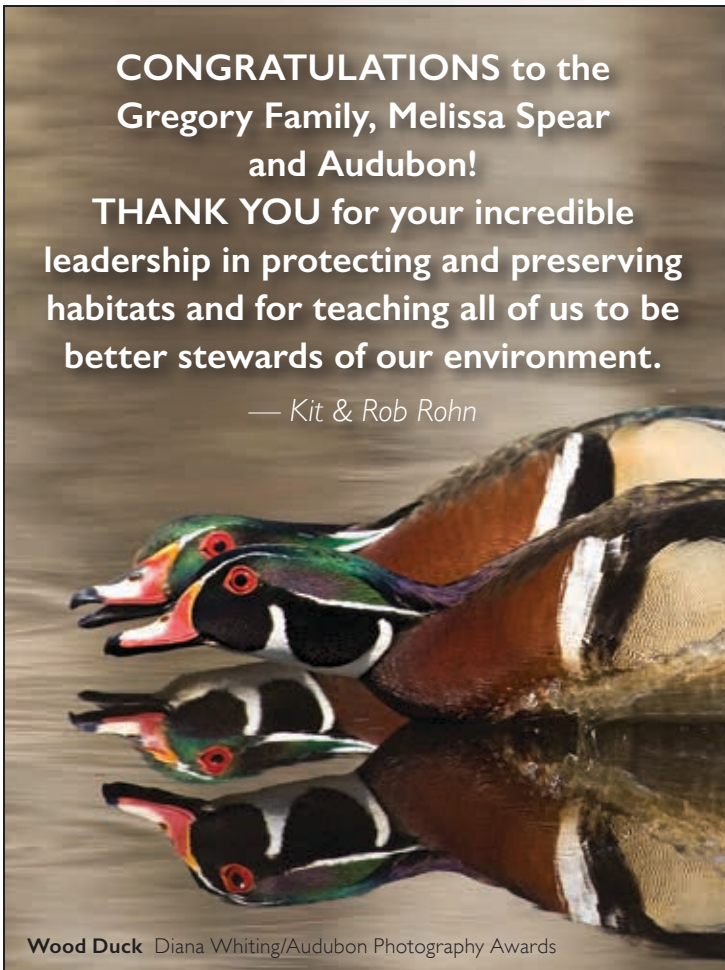
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CONGRATULATIONS to the
Gregory Family, Melissa Spear
and Audubon!

THANK YOU for your incredible
leadership in protecting and preserving
habitats and for teaching all of us to be
better stewards of our environment.

— Kit & Rob Rohn



Wood Duck Diana Whiting/Audubon Photography Awards

EXPERIENCE NATURE
EXPERIENCE LIFE!



American Lady Sean Graesser

Audubon New York congratulates this year's Environmental Leadership Honorees, the Gregory Family and Melissa Spear.

We are proud to partner with Audubon Connecticut on protecting and restoring critical habitat in the globally significant natural resource that we share, Long Island Sound, and admire and respect their leadership in ensuring our air and water are clean, connecting people to nature, promoting land conservation and reducing the impact of global climate change for the benefit of the entire Atlantic Flyway.

Congratulations to all!

— Audubon New York

Congratulations to the Gregory Family for being honored for your steadfast leadership and commitment to protecting wildlife and its habitat. Your tireless enthusiasm has proven to be contagious amongst multi-generations.

We are so very proud to know you!

— Corinne & Scott Welsh

To the Gregory Family,
Sending our gratitude for your watchful guardianship of our natural environment.

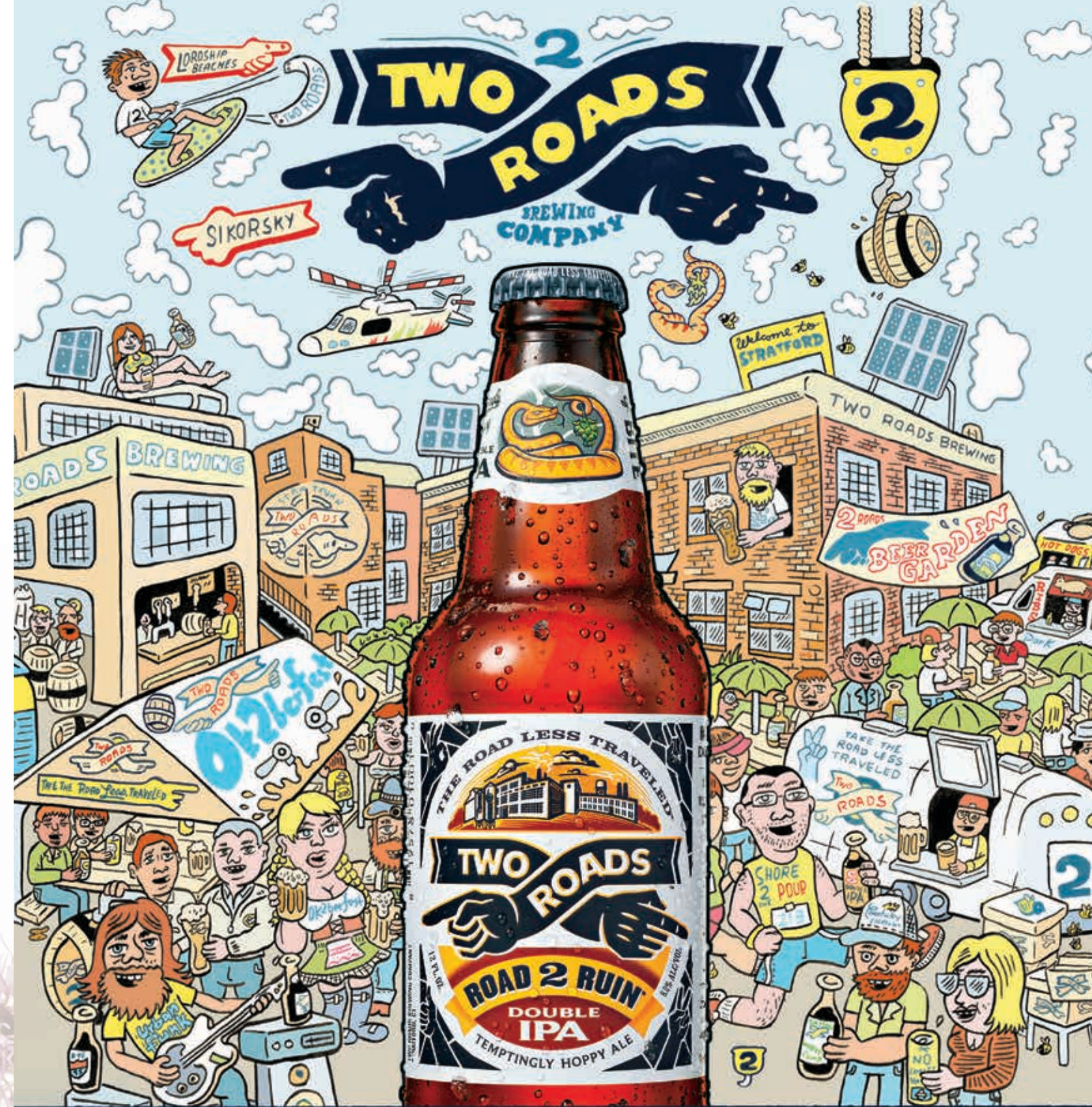
— Janey & Steve Kramer

Audubon knows of Aldo Leopold's great contribution to the science of wildlife conservation and, especially, his greatest gift to the world – the land ethic.

The Grant Gregory Family has a long and treasured history of taking care of the land so that present and future generations may enjoy nature's grand feast for art, table, sport and recreation. This wonderful family also opens their hearts and homes to so many people in lasting friendship, kindness and generosity.

— Theresa & Charles Bruckerhoff

Variegated Fritillary and Great Spangled Fritillary Sean Graesser



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**Thank you to the Gregory Family and Melissa Spear
for all of their efforts on behalf of conservation.**

— Hal & Glenn Shaw and Family

**Congratulations and best wishes to Grant, whose love of nature and
natural beauty has enriched the lives of so many. Thank you!**

— Judith & Peter Scardino

Congratulations to the Gregory Family.

We appreciate all you do for wildlife conservation and our community.

—The Kollitides Family

**Congratulations to one of the great conservation families of the
East and West. Thanks for making the world a better place.**

— Linda & Jim Moore

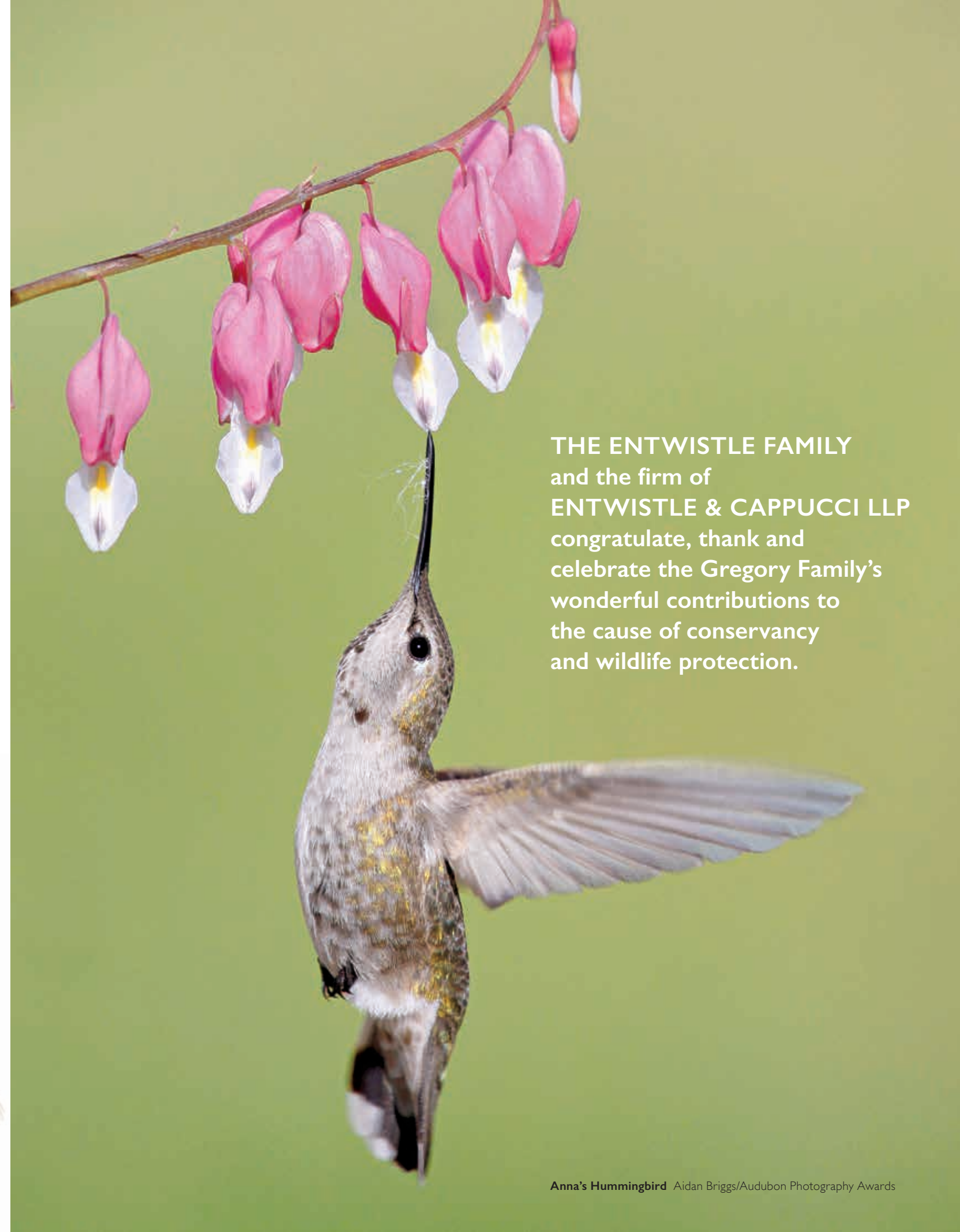
Congratulations with Love from Wyoming.

— The Grays

**Congratulations to the Gregory Family for their amazing commitment
to excellence, generosity and community engagement.**

— The Glassmeyer Family

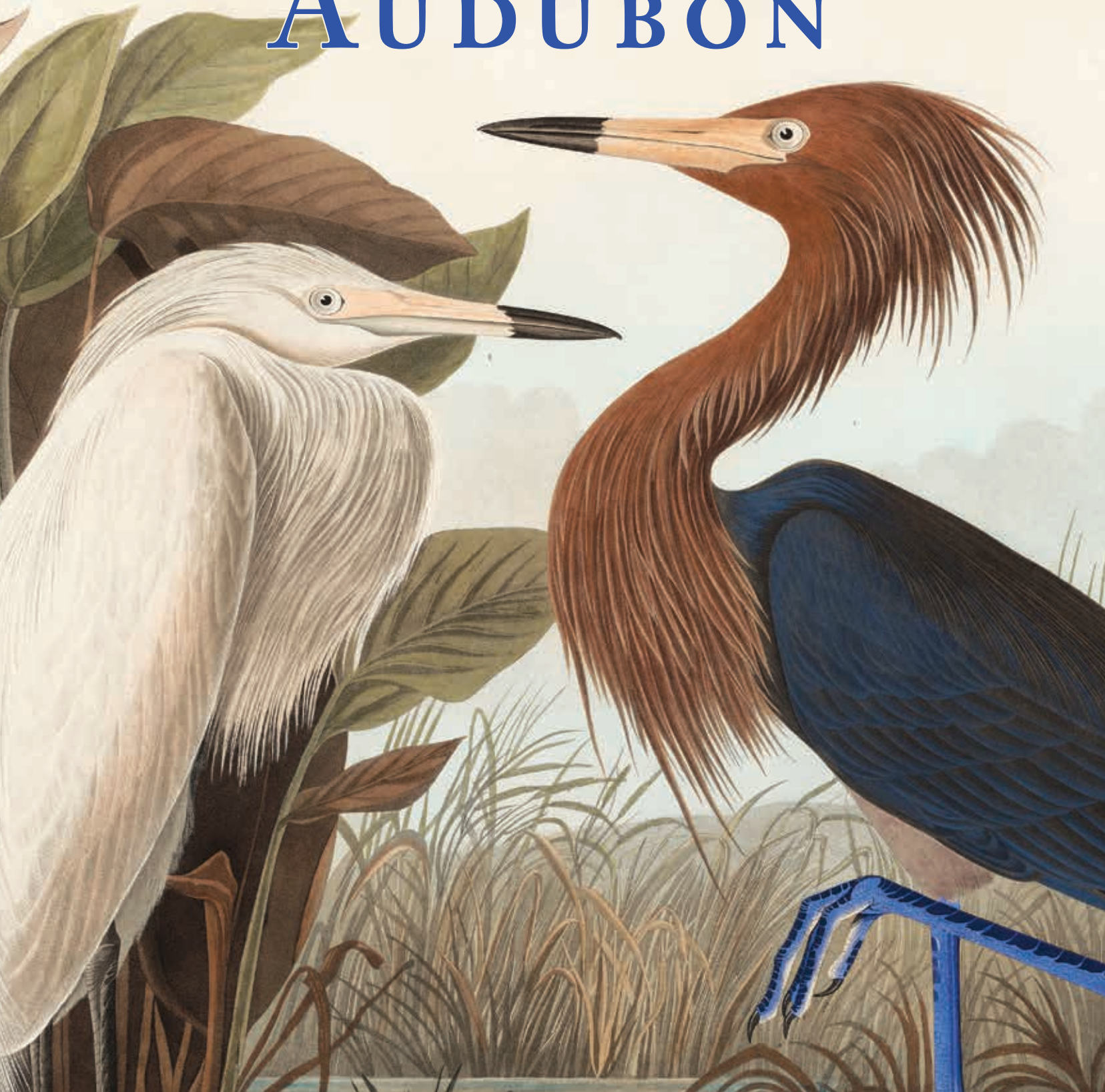
Liliypad Clubtail and Native Bee assortment Sean Graesser



**THE ENTWISTLE FAMILY
and the firm of
ENTWISTLE & CAPPUCCI LLP
congratulate, thank and
celebrate the Gregory Family's
wonderful contributions to
the cause of conservancy
and wildlife protection.**

Anna's Hummingbird Aidan Briggs/Audubon Photography Awards

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