

Dear _____,

On Saturday, May 14, **Onondaga Audubon** will hold its 5th Annual **Bird Festival** at **Derby Hill Bird Observatory**, and we are seeking your participation. This year's event will be featuring guided nature walks, educational exhibits, kids' activities, live birds of prey, vendors, prize drawings, a silent auction, and smokin' hot barbecue.

What is Onondaga Audubon? Onondaga Audubon's mission is to engender in Central and Northern New Yorkers a greater appreciation for their land, water, and other natural resources, and to increase respect for the wildlife that inhabits these places, especially birds. We encourage this through our public programs, field trips, newsletters, and many internet activities.

What is Derby Hill Bird Observatory? Located at the southeastern corner of Lake Ontario, Derby Hill is one of the premier hawk watch sites in the northeastern United States. Derby Hill hawk counts began in the early 1960s and average around 40,000 raptors each spring. From March through May each year, we hire a hawk counter who shares daily count results with the Hawk Migration Association of North America, a database that records raptor migration statistics from more than 200 sites in North and Central America (www.hawkcount.org). This information is used by scientists to help determine the health of American raptor populations.

How can you participate in the Bird Festival?

- 1) **You can donate an item to use in our prize drawing.** You will receive recognition at the drawing, in our printed festival program, and on our website.

Item(s) donated: _____

Estimated Value _____

- 2) **You can make a monetary donation.** Businesses can display information about their services or products on an 18-by 24-inch sign (similar to those seen at golf tournaments). Your sign will indicate your sponsorship level plus anything you'd like to share, such as your business name/logo, address, phone number, and/or website. You will also be recognized in our printed festival program and on the Onondaga Audubon website. There are three levels of sign sponsorship:

- Kestrel (Donation of \$50 to \$99)
 Bald Eagle (Donation of \$100 to \$149)
 Golden Eagle (Donation of \$150 or more)

Don't want a sign?

- For a \$25 donation, you will be listed as a Supporter in our festival program and on our website.

- 3) **You can participate as a vendor.** We are not asking for a fee this year for you to display and sell your products at the festival! (Please bring your own table and/or tent.)

Please do take time to consider whether you can help Onondaga Audubon this year. Since we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your donation is fully tax-deductible, and we can provide you with appropriate documentation.

You can contact us by e-mail at BirdFestivalOnAud@gmail.com, by phone at 239-283-2524, or by writing to us at the address below. We hope to hear from you soon!

Sincerely,
Onondaga Audubon Bird Festival Committee