



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- June 2008

CONTACT: Jim Sluiter, Staff Ecologist
(518) 767-9051, Ext. 16

jsluiter@auduboninternational.org
www.auduboninternational.org

Desert Springs JW Marriott Resort and Spa Golf Course
Recognized for Environmental Excellence

PALM DESERT, CA – Desert Springs JW Marriott Resort and Spa Golf Course has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, an Audubon International program. Albert Perez, Director of Grounds, has led the effort to obtain sanctuary status on this course and is being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International. The Desert Springs JW Marriott Resort and Spa Golf Course is the 45th course in California and the 655th in the world to receive the honor.

"Desert Springs JW Marriott Resort and Spa has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Jim Sluiter, Staff Ecologist for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs.

"To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas," explained Sluiter. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

"We at Desert Springs are thrilled to receive this recognition from Audubon International. Our entire team has been working incredibly hard to bring eco-friendly practices to all areas of the resort," said Matt Stewart, Director Sales and Marketing. "Our golf course grounds team, in particular, shows tremendous pride in their work; they deserve full credit for this achievement."

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, endorsed by the United States Golf Association, provides information and guidance to help golf courses preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, and protect natural resources. Golf courses from the United States, Africa, Australia, Canada, Central America, Europe, and Southeast Asia have achieved certification in the program. Audubon certified courses in Riverside County also include East Valley Golf club in Beaumont and the Citrus Course at LaQuinta Resort & Club in LaQuinta.

For more information on golf and the environment, visit www.golfandenvironment.org. In addition to golf courses, Audubon International also provides programs for businesses, schools, communities, and new developments. For more information, contact Audubon International, 46 Rarick Rd., Selkirk, NY 12158, USA, (518) 767-9051, e-mail them via the Internet at acsp@auduboninternational.org, or visit their website at www.auduboninternational.org.

#