

CONNECTICUT STATE OF THE BIRDS

Specific Threats to Connecticut's Birds



“The time has come to act with vision today so we can preserve our state for tomorrow. The time has come to plan intelligently for the continued growth of Connecticut so that we have the jobs, housing and amenities we need while protecting the landscapes, the forests, and the rivers that make this state unique.”

- Governor M. Jodi Rell
October 6, 2006

Chestnut-sided Warbler
Photo by Paul J. Fusco



Connecticut
Audubon Society

2007

Introduction

The Connecticut Audubon Society is pleased to present its annual report, *Connecticut State of the Birds 2007*. Last year's report was widely recognized for its conservation message by independent authors, experts in their fields, and for bringing attention to the State's loss of habitats and, with that, the decline of many of Connecticut's birds.

The six major habitats in Connecticut that support breeding bird populations are identified in the centerfold. All of them, except Forest, are declining. While forests are increasing, forest bird populations are threatened by increasing fragmentation and over-browsing by deer, which is one of the subjects of this year's report. Even more importantly, 60% of Connecticut has been dramatically altered by human activities, including cities, towns, suburbs, factories, malls and highways.

Conserving these habitats and the biodiversity they support is critical to the future of the state as an attractive place to live and work. One of the best indicators of the health of Connecticut's environment as represented by these habitats is the state's large number of bird species that live here.

The result of this habitat loss (and other factors) is that the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection lists 21 bird species as Endangered, 9 as Threatened and 20 of Special Concern in the state. Of the 170 bird species that nest in Connecticut, 28 are also considered as species of conservation concern in North America as a whole.

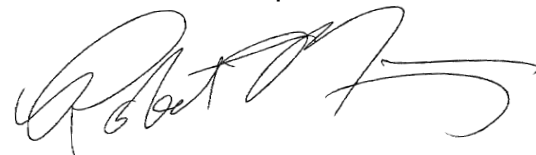
The Connecticut Audubon Society was founded in Fairfield, CT in 1898 as the state's independent bird conservation organization. We are not part of any national group and pre-date

the national organization with a similar name. We are focused on, and dedicated to, protecting Connecticut's habitats and biodiversity through integrated programs in research, education and advocacy.

This report, written principally by independent expert authors, concentrates on factors other than habitat that have an impact on bird populations. These specific human activities include the introduction of invasive species as well as buildings and towers that create hazards for birds. Although these human-initiated activities may not be as important as the overall loss of habitat, it seems clear that anything that increases the mortality of bird species with small populations should be of serious conservation concern.

To ensure that this report is both scientifically valid and impartial, we have established a scientific advisory board headed by Dr. Robert Askins, Professor of Biology at Connecticut College. However, the articles and recommendations are the responsibility of the individual authors and Connecticut Audubon Society and do not necessarily imply the endorsement of the authors' organizations.

We hope this report will enhance the public's understanding of these conservation issues and assist legislators, state organizations, public officials and other organizations who have interests in land use, birds, and animals, to take sound conservation positions.



Robert Martinez, President
Connecticut Audubon Society
Fairfield, Connecticut

CONNECTICUT AUDUBON SOCIETY

Founded in 1898, Connecticut Audubon Society conserves Connecticut's environment through science-based education and advocacy focused on the state's bird populations and their habitats. Connecticut Audubon Society operates nature facilities in Fairfield, Milford, Glastonbury and Pomfret as well as an EcoTravel office in Essex and an Environmental Advocacy office in Hartford. Connecticut Audubon Society manages 19 wildlife sanctuaries around the state, preserves over 2,600 acres of open space in Connecticut and educates over 200,000 children and adults annually. Working exclusively in the state of Connecticut for over 100 years, Connecticut Audubon Society is an independent organization, not affiliated with any national or governmental group. For membership and other information, please visit www.ctaudubon.org.

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STATE HEADQUARTERS

2325 Burr Street, Fairfield, CT 06824
203-259-6305
Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm

CAS ECOTRAVEL

35 Pratt Street, Suite 201, Essex, CT 06426
860-767-2848 800-996-8747
Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm

CAS ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

118 Oak Street, Hartford, CT 06106-1514
860-527-6750
Hours: Monday-Friday,
9 am-5 pm

Connecticut Audubon Centers

CAS BIRDCRAFT MUSEUM

314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06824
203-259-0416
Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10 am-5 pm
Saturday & Sunday, Noon-5 pm

CAS COASTAL CENTER AT MILFORD POINT

1 Milford Point Road, Milford, CT 06460
203-878-7440
Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am-4 pm
Sunday, Noon-4 pm

CAS CENTER AT FAIRFIELD

2325 Burr Street, Fairfield, CT 06824
203-259-6305
Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 9 am-4:30 pm

CAS CENTER AT GLASTONBURY

1361 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033-3105
860-633-8402
Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 1-5 pm
Saturday, 10 am-5 pm; Sunday, 1-4 pm

CAS CENTER AT POMFRET

189 Pomfret Street (Rt. 169)
Pomfret Center, CT 06259
860-928-4948
Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, Noon-4 pm

CAS AT TRAIL WOOD

93 Kenyon Road, Hampton, CT 06247
860-928-4948
Hours: Dawn to dusk

