

Connecticut Audubon Society Coastal Center at Milford Point

1 Milford Point Road, Milford, CT 06460 • For more details or information, please call 203-878-7440

Coastal Center Summer Program

Since 1995 Connecticut Audubon Society's Coastal Center Summer Program has provided unique hands-on environmental education and outdoor adventures for area youth. The Coastal Center is located on the 8.4-acre Smith-Hubbell Wildlife Refuge and Bird Sanctuary and is adjacent to the 840-acre Wheeler Salt Marsh. The Coastal Center provides unique and easy access to Long Island Sound's many habitats, including tidal salt marshes, barrier beaches, tide pools and coastal dunes. A variety of educational exhibits, live animals and program space for crafts, games and other activities can be found inside the Center.

Our Coastal Center Summer Program is staffed by experienced teacher/naturalists and college-educated men and women who have experience working with children. Each group has a lead teacher and assistant counselor. Our camp has a "First Aider" on site who is First Aid and CPR-certified. All our lead teachers are also qualified to dispense medicine and are Epi-pen trained.

Beach Bums For Ages 4-5

3-day programs held Tues.-Thurs. (except week of June 30), 9 a.m.-noon. Our Beach Bums programs let younger campers interact with nature using their senses, guided exploration, hands-on activities, games and crafts. Together, we'll explore our beaches, marsh, forest and fields, meet live creatures and have tons of summer fun at the shore! Themes change weekly. Sessions fill quickly and run with a minimum of 5 children. Weekly fee: \$125/child CAS member; \$180/child Non-member (includes free 1 year CAS Family Membership). All campers will receive a CAS tee shirt.

DATES:

Week 1: June 3-5	Week 7: July 15-17
Week 2: June 10-12	Week 8: July 22-24
Week 3: June 17-19	Week 9: July 29-31
Week 4: June 24-26	Week 10: Aug. 5-7
Week 5: June 30-July 2 (Mon.-Wed.)	Week 11: Aug. 12-14
Week 6: July 8-10	Week 12: Aug. 19-21

Aqua Quest For Grades 4-6

These full-day programs cover a variety of topics, inviting children to explore nature in enjoyable and stimulating settings. Each day, children engage in hands-on exploration, activities, games, crafts and active summer fun! Weekly fee: \$310/child CAS member; \$365/child Non-member (includes free 1 year CAS Family Membership). All campers will receive a CAS tee shirt.

Seashore C.S.I. (New!)

June 23-27, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Unravel mysteries of land, air and sea, as we tackle Seashore C.S.I. challenges! Something's "fishy" at the Coastal Center. We've been "floundering" around tracking clues to a string of mysterious "crimes." Ancient creatures have been seen lurking under rocks, hiding beneath the waves and slinking along our shores. Help us ferret out clues, reconstruct "crime scenes" and find answers to some amazing seaside mysteries. Care to take an "archeological dig"? What could arrowheads, potshards and bits of broken shells mean? Can you piece together evidence that Native Americans once lived here... perhaps find an arrowhead? What's in the box? It's not Jack. Are those bones? All our witnesses have clammed up, flown the coop or evaporated into thin air. Help!

More Wacky Seashore Science (New!)

July 28-Aug. 1, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

We've created another week of wacky experiments, activities and games. Have a "gack" attack creating silly substances that bounce, stretch and snap. Construct and fly your own "paper tiger" rockets, make mini water cyclones and test your creative skills at kite construction and flying. Enter the egg-drop contest and make a solar car or fan. There's even time to explore the beach and

meet some weird land and water creatures. See what spins your top, flies your kite and boosts your rocket, experimenting with more wacky seashore science.

Audubon Expeditions For Grades 5-9

Get ready for a week of travel and new adventures! Let Connecticut Audubon's talented teacher/naturalists guide your child on a fun-filled week of summer exploration! We'll visit new sites each day as we seek out Connecticut's incredible natural wonders and wildlife! All campers will receive a free CAS tee shirt.

Advanced Expeditions: Where the Wild Things Are III (New!)

For Grades 6-9

July 14-18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Take the best of Wild Things I and II, add awesome new outdoor adventures and it's Wild Things III! Want to hike on Connecticut's famous Blue Trail, go mountain-biking or wild blueberry picking? Care to explore a cranberry bog, go prospecting for gems or track a beaver? Here's your chance to canoe in a marsh, tag horseshoe crabs, band birds at the beach and seek out odd salamanders, mammals, birds, fish and frogs. There are always new creatures to meet and places to explore going where the Wild Things Are! Fee: \$345/child CAS member; \$400/child Non-member (includes free 1 year CAS Family Membership).

Expeditions: Surf and Turf (New!)

For Grades 5-8.

Aug. 11-15, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., plus Thursday overnight at the CAS Coastal Center. We're serving up a week full of land and sea adventures! Our menu consists of exciting expeditions and exotic day trips... fabulous forays to wildlife-rich destinations. As an appetizer, we start with active group challenges, followed by a canoe tour of our 840-acre salt marsh. Our blue-plate special is to go behind the scenes at the famous Peabody Museum. Other entrées include a river romp for aquatic turtles and stream-life, topped off with a cool swim. Included are a tour of a rare white cedar swamp, a quest to find porcupines and a Thursday overnight at the Coastal Center, complete with toasted marshmallows and a pancake breakfast. For dessert, we have a ferry ride to a heron rookery, sprinkled with egrets, night-herons and a tern or two. Come dine on some fine summer adventure! Fee: \$355/child CAS member; \$410/child Non-member (includes free 1 year CAS Family Membership).

Weekly Lunch Bunch Noon-1 p.m.

Pick up your child an hour later for the morning session or drop your child off an hour early for the afternoon session. Fee: **\$30 per week** of supervised lunch and activities. Campers must provide their own lunch. (Please write "Lunch Bunch" on registration sheet and include fee.)

Family Canoe Trips through the Charles E. Wheeler Salt Marsh

Join us on a guided canoe tour of the 840-acre Charles Wheeler Salt Marsh. Steeped in local history, the Marsh offers an abundance of birds and other wildlife, beautiful vistas and a chance to paddle and relax. Sign up early for these popular tours! **Bring drinking water and wear shoes that can get wet.** Contact the Coastal Center for more information. Trip routes are subject to change due to weather. High winds can cause trips to be canceled even on sunny days **so please call 90 minutes in advance to confirm trip status.** Advance registration and pre-payment required.

Canoe Trip Dates

Sat., June 7, 1:30-4 p.m.	Sat., Aug. 23, 3:15-5:45 p.m.
Sat., June 21, 12:30-3 p.m.	Sun., Aug. 24, 4:15-6:45 p.m.
Sat., July 19, 11:15 a.m.-1:45 p.m.	Sat., Aug. 30, 9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Sun., July 20, noon-2:30 p.m.	Sat., Sept. 6, 3-5:30 p.m.
Sat., Aug. 2, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Sat., Sept. 20, 2-4:30 p.m.
Sat., Aug. 9, 4:30-7 p.m.	Sun., Oct. 5, 2:30-5 p.m.

Fees using our Coastal Center canoes:

for CAS Members: \$25/person,
\$65/canoe (up to 3 people).
for Non-members \$35/person,
\$95/canoe (up to 3 people)

Fees using your own canoe or kayak:

for CAS members: \$19/person
for Non-members: \$29/person



Junior Naturalists

These exciting weeklong half-day programs provide your child hours of hands-on exploration, games, crafts and summer fun! Each week focuses on a different topic, inviting children to explore nature in an enjoyable and stimulating setting. All Campers will receive a free CAS tee shirt.

"One Fish, Two Fish..." (New!)

June 30-July 2 (Mon.-Wed.)

Grades 2-3: 9 a.m.-noon.
Grades K-1: 1-4 p.m.
... Red Fish, Blue Fish! We're basing this nature-filled week around the wonderful writings of Dr. Seuss. "Horton Hears a Who," "The Lorax," "Thidwick the Big-Hearted Moose," "Yertle the Turtle" and other engaging stories will act as our spring board into a world of outdoor exploration. Campers will exercise their imaginations, meet live animals, and do hands-on activities, crafts and games. Hey, we may even tackle something silly, like the tongue-twisting "Fox in Sox." Count on this to be a naturally outrageous week! Fee: \$125/child CAS member; \$180/child Non-member (includes free 1 year CAS Family Membership).

Seashore Explorers

July 7-11

Grades K-1: 9 a.m.-noon.
Grades K-1: 1-4 p.m.
Grades 2-3: 1-4 p.m.
There's more to the seashore than meets the eye. Enter an incredible underwater world of exotic sea creatures through exciting hands-on activities, games, and crafts! Meet live fish, clams, crabs, shrimp, and other incredible creatures, as we explore hidden worlds within our tidepools. Countless treasures abound along our shores! Come explore! Session fee: \$150/child CAS member; \$205/child Non-member (includes free 1 year CAS Family Membership).

Sea Stars (New!)

Session I: for Grades K-1, June 23-27, 1-4 p.m.
Session II: July 21-25:
Grades K-1: 9 a.m.-noon.
Grades 2-3: 1-4 p.m.
We'll find those stars of sea and shore -- crabs, oysters, mussels and more -- as we sift through sands, wade through waves and wander our shores! Seashore activities, games and a few surprises await! Session fee: \$150/child CAS member; \$205/child Non-member (includes free 1 year CAS Family Membership).

To the Beach (New!)

August 4-8

Grades K-1: 9 a.m.-noon.
Grades K-1: 1-4 p.m.
Grades 2-3: 1-4 p.m.
Horseshoe Crabs, Lady Crabs, Puffer Fish, and Whelks are just a few of the many incredible animals that we'll meet as we head to the shore to explore. Some jiggle like jellyfish, others scuttle like crabs and many just clam up. Meet creatures that fly, swim and crawl in a week at the beach that can't be beat! Session fee: \$150/child CAS member; \$205/child Non-member (includes free 1 year CAS Family Membership).

Family Programs

Early Bird Walk

Sat., June 7, 8-9 a.m.
Share your interest in birds, learn identification tips from others, see old friends, meet new ones and get your bird I.D. questions answered. We'll search Milford Point's marshes, mudflats and forests for migrants with Frank Gallo. Milford Point's bird list is 315+ species! Fee: \$5 CAS members, \$7 Non-members.

Nature Babies

For children 3-5 years old accompanied by an adult.

Moms, dads, grandparents and guardians! Bring your youngster to the Coastal Center for a "hands-on" introduction to nature. Each one-hour program features an outdoor discovery walk or live animal presentation, plus stories, songs and crafts. Adult participants will learn tips on sharing nature with children while engaging in inspiring family exploration. Fee per program (1 child and 1 adult): \$10 CAS members, \$15 Non-members.

The Grouchy Ladybug

June 4, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Ladybugs (also called Lady Beetles) are small, oval-shaped winged insects. They are very helpful in our gardens. Learn more about them -- and why this one is so grouchy!

Seining in the Sound

June 18, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
We will use nets to catch creatures of the sea for observation before releasing them back into their habitat. Learn about the animals that make Long Island Sound their home!

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Aliens in a Drop of Water

Sat., June 7, 1-2 p.m.
Attention! Something small, and alive, is floating in the waters of Long Island Sound; in fact there are millions of them! They're plankton! We're breaking out the microscopes to scrutinize (enter) the world of these often tiny plants and animals. Discover a crab's secret identity, witness one of the fastest animals alive in action, and all before you can say "dino-flagellate." We will collect our own water samples from the Sound, so come ready to get wet. Prepare to be amazed as we uncover the secret world of microscopic plankton! We'll even sneak a peek at these amazing critters on our big screen TV! Fee: \$5 CAS members, \$7 Non-members.

Down By the Sea Chanteys!

Sun., June 8, 1 p.m.
The Coastal Center is an ideal place for a concert. Join us and the talented students from The Sound School in New Haven for a delightful afternoon of maritime music! These students will share with you their incredible love of the water and the music it inspires, through sea chanteys

and other musical forms. Led by Paula Daddio, previously of the trio Shipping News, and Kristi Otterback, they perform with the enthusiasm expected of a bunch of teenagers! Don't miss the fun, there's a little something for everyone! Fee: \$7 per person.

Prehistoric "Crabs"

Sat., June 14, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Sat., June 21, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
On rising tides in May and June, Horseshoe Crabs visit our beaches to lay eggs. Shorebirds, traveling north to Canada, time their arrival to take advantage of this rich food source. Researchers who are trying to understand and protect these living fossils need your help! Delve into the incredible world of the Horseshoe Crab by helping to tag and release these amazing creatures. Bring water shoes, a water bottle and a towel. Sign up early. Fee: \$4/child, \$8/adult for CAS members; \$8/child, \$12/adult Non-members; \$5 for Seniors.

Original Paper Designs: Cut-and-Fold Art

Sat., July 19, 10:30 a.m.-noon.
Out of a small piece of paper let a 3-dimensional butterfly

take shape. In little more than a minute, make a 3-D dragonfly you can let stand delicately in the palm of your hand. Learn to create wonderful enhancers for scrapbooks and delightful additions to greeting cards from cut and folded paper. Recommended for children 10 years and older. Fee: \$6/child, \$8/adult CAS members; \$10/child, \$12/adult Non-members; \$5 for Seniors.



The "Peep" Show: Shorebird and Tern Workshop

Sat., Aug. 9, 2:30-4 p.m.
Confused by those little brown "peeps"? Do all terns look the same to you? Join experienced leader Frank Gallo for a hands-on shorebird and tern identification workshop. Enjoy an array of migrant species, including rare breeders such as Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher and Least Tern, while sharpening your birding skills. Milford Point is a major staging area for shorebirds and terns along the Connecticut Coast. Fee: \$15 CAS members, \$20 Non-members.

Connecticut Audubon Society Birdcraft Museum

314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06824 • For more details or information, please call 203-259-0416

SUMMER HOURS AT BIRDCRAFT MUSEUM

In addition to the 2008 Summer Nature Weeks programs described below, during June, July and August our Birdcraft Museum, Visitors Center and Nature Store are open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday from noon-5 p.m. (Closed Sundays and Mondays.)

Our adjoining 6-acre Birdcraft Sanctuary is open 7 days a week from dawn to dusk year-round. Founded in 1914 by Connecticut Audubon Society's founder, Mabel Osgood Wright, Birdcraft is the first private bird sanctuary in the U.S. It includes the Teaching Bridge and Pavilion that abut Birdcraft Pond, which is home to Painted Turtles, Tree Swallows and many duck species. You'll also find Black-crowned Night Herons and other varieties of song birds in the Sanctuary.

Our Birdcraft Museum's 2008 Summer Nature Weeks Are Special!

Our staff are experienced teacher/naturalists and college-educated men and women who have experience working with children.

Your child will learn about the natural world from professionals and explore the environment right in our own backyard, in the 6-acre Birdcraft Sanctuary and Museum (and for "Beach Bums," in Fairfield's Ash Creek Open Space).

Each program has a low staff-to-child ratio so that all participants enjoy a safe and fulfilling educational experience.

Each program includes age-appropriate activities which may include stories, crafts, songs, games, experiments, museum visits and outdoor explorations.

2008 Summer Nature Weeks

Exploration, discovery and curiosity are at the heart of the Birdcraft Museum's Summer Nature Weeks for preschoolers. Participants will explore the wonders of nature as the outdoors becomes an exciting learning place for all children. They'll become naturalists each week, discovering the pond and the forest, catching butterflies, using binoculars to look at birds and searching for reptiles and amphibians.

Enjoy 3-day Nature Week sessions (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) filled with games, stories and hikes that enhance the fun and learning.

- Morning Sessions: 9 a.m.-noon.
- Afternoon Sessions: 1- 4 p.m.
- Fee per session: \$115 CAS members, \$170 Non-members. (Our Non-member fee includes a free 1-year CAS Family Membership.) Children must be toilet trained and able to attend without an adult.
- Each camper receives a free Connecticut Audubon Society tee shirt.

- All programs are held rain or shine. In case of inclement weather, an outdoor activity will be replaced with an equivalent indoor activity.
- Please call 203-259-0416 ext. 403 for more information. (See Page 5 for Registration & Permission Form or visit www.ctaudubon.org/about/programs.htm.)

Preschool Explorers for 3-5 year olds

Children must toilet-trained and able to attend without an adult.

A Day In The Life: June 3-5

9 a.m.-noon only.
Come join us while we hop like a frog, crawl like an ant, or stroll like a bear. Each day we will act like an animal as we discover the daily routines of the creatures that live in our small Wildlife Sanctuary.

Insect Insanity: June 10-12

1-4 p.m. only.
Six legs? Eight eyes? Come along as we investigate the world of insects. Discover how they escape and hide from birds and other animals. Grasshoppers, butterflies and ladybugs are just a few of the friends you will visit this week.

June 24-26: Creature Feature

9 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m.
Explore the wildlife habitats at our Birdcraft Museum as we learn about the feathered, furry, scaly and slimy creatures that fascinate us. We'll have fun creating crafts, visiting the Museum and searching our Wildlife Sanctuary for clues that animals are around.

July 15-17: Flutter, Buzz and Crawl

9 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m.
Which animals talk with their legs, buzz in the breeze, or spin silk webs? We'll find out as we investigate the lives of bees, butterflies, birds and raccoons and all sorts of amazing animals

July 29-31: Hooray for Herps

9 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m.
We'll get up close and personal with those scaly and slimy critters known as reptiles and amphibians. Eavesdrop on turtles in ponds and discover salamanders under logs as we hunt for herps on the trails of the Birdcraft Sanctuary.

Aug. 12-14: Animal Alphabet

9 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m.
"A" is for Ant, "B" is for bat, "C" is for . . . ? Come along as we learn the ABCs of the wonderful world of nature.

Aug. 19-21: So Long to Summer

9 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m.
Join us for three days of fun as we get ready to say goodbye to summer, with games, crafts, scavenger hunts and some wacky water fun.



Beach Bums for Preschoolers-Grade 2

9 a.m.-noon for 3-5 year olds.
1-4 p.m. for Grades K-2 (Group 1) and 3-5 year olds (Group 2).
Children must be toilet-trained and able to attend without an adult.

Search for birds, crabs, fish and more while getting wet at Fairfield's Ash Creek Open Space. (Drop off and pick up children at Ash Creek – we will provide directions.) In case of inclement weather, classes will be held at the Birdcraft Museum.

DATES:

July 8-10
July 22-24
Aug. 5-7 (all sessions full)

- Fee per session: \$130 CAS members; \$185 Non-Members (includes free 1-year CAS Family Membership).

Friday Family Fun

For children 3-5 years old accompanied by an actively participating adult. Classes meet Fridays, 10-10:45 a.m.

Come and experience the joy of discovering crabs and periwinkles, catching dragonflies in the field, listening to the magnificent sound of birds and more at Fairfield's Ash Creek Open Space. Enjoy nature discoveries through stories and explorations with your child. (Each class will meet at Fairfield's Ash Creek Open Space; we will provide directions. In case of inclement weather, the class will be held at the Birdcraft Museum.)

DATES:

June 27	July 18	Aug. 1
July 11	July 25	Aug. 8

FEE (includes one child and one adult):

- Daily: \$14 CAS members, \$20 Non-members.
- Six-program series: \$75 CAS members \$75; \$130 Non-members (does not include free 1-year CAS Family Membership).

