

Be A Citizen Scientist

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the sharp drop in young birds as evidence of the impact of DDT on the ability of raptor eggs to hatch. The hawk watch at Lighthouse Point in West Haven is one of the premier sites in the U.S. and its excellent and long-running data set makes it one of the sites in the national Raptor Population Index that is considered to be the best bird population project in North America.

The key to successful citizen science is a combination of the work of the professional and the citizen. The professional establishes the protocol that defines what data is to be collected, how it is collected and how it is reported. The professional then analyzes the data, draws the conclusions and prepares the reports. This, for example is the process that I first worked on as an intern with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the late 1940's. A breeding bird census was conducted on a 20-acre piece of shrubland in Maryland that was then sprayed with DDT. The following year I did the breeding bird survey by trapping and banding birds and mapping the territories of singing males. The result was clear: DDT killed birds. But while the work was published in a leading journal we didn't get cited in "Silent Spring" as did Hawk Mountain.

If you want to participate as a citizen scientist you have to choose a project that fits your time availability and your expertise. Some are undemanding and easy. If you have a bird feeder, binoculars, a bird guide and a computer you can participate in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's "FeederWatch." If you have some birding experience you can join one of the numerous Connecticut Christmas Bird Counts that are listed on the Connecticut Ornithological Association web site. If you want to do a breeding bird survey as part of the nationwide network established by the scientist I worked for at the Fish and Wildlife Service, Chan Robbins, then you need considerable expertise in bird identification, particularly bird songs.

Whatever project you choose you will make a direct contribution, you will get out in the field, probably increase your knowledge and hopefully have fun. Many of these projects are sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection so they have direct input into conservation priorities. So look for our next "Connecticut State of the Birds" report when it comes out. Read about Mabel Osgood Wright and hawk watching and peruse the report's Directory for citizen science opportunities. You can also visit our web site, where you will find all our previous "Connecticut State of the Birds" reports (2006-2009) as well as information about citizen science projects being conducted by our Centers. If you are not on our mailing list, you can also sign up online, at www.ctaudubon.org.

Calling All Scouts!

Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

We have programs designed just for you! Our teacher/naturalists can provide your group with a hands-on learning experience that will fulfill your badge requirements.

Please call our CAS Centers for more information:

- CAS Birdcraft Museum - 203-259-0416
- CAS Center at Fairfield - 203-259-6305
- CAS Coastal Center at Milford Point - 203-878-7440
- CAS Center at Glastonbury - 860-633-8402
- CAS Center at Pomfret - 860-928-4948

Registration & Permission Form

Jan.-April 2010 Programs



Connecticut Audubon Society

Participant/Child Name: _____ Birth Date: ____/____/____ Grade: _____
 Parent/Guardian Name: _____ CAS Family Membership: Yes No
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone: Home: (____) _____ Work: (____) _____
 Cell: (____) _____ E-mail address: _____

Program Title	Date	Time	\$ Cost
1. _____			
2. _____			
3. _____			
4. _____			
Connecticut Audubon Society Annual Family Membership – \$55 (Membership must be a Family Membership, and be current, to receive Member-Discounted rates)			\$
TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED			\$

Method of Payment

Check enclosed MasterCard Visa

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____
 Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Please make check payable to Connecticut Audubon Society. Enclose check or credit card information with Registration Form and mail to the appropriate facility below. Check below to indicate program location.

- CAS Birdcraft Museum 314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06824
- CAS Coastal Center at Milford Point 1 Milford Point Road, Milford, CT 06460
- CAS Center at Fairfield 2325 Burr Street, Fairfield, CT 06824
- CAS at Trail Wood 93 Kenyon Road, Hampton, CT 06247
- CAS Center at Glastonbury 1361 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033
- CAS Center at Pomfret P.O. Box 11, Pomfret Center, CT 06259

Parental Permission Form — This section must be completed by a parent/guardian for all youth program registrations

I certify that my child, _____, is healthy and free of problems that could be deleterious to his/her participation in Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) classes. In case of injury, I wish to be contacted as soon as possible at the telephone numbers listed above, or at this emergency number: (____) _____. If I cannot be reached, please contact (name) _____, (relationship) _____ at (telephone) (____) _____.

I also give CAS permission to treat my child in the event of an emergency if I or the emergency contact can not be reached. In the event of serious illness or injury, and that my child may be sent to a local hospital via ambulance, I understand that I am responsible for all charges either through health insurance or otherwise. Also, if classes meet or travel to other areas, I give permission for my child to be transported there in a CAS state-inspected car or vehicle.

List any allergies or medical conditions _____
 Signature: _____ Relationship to Child: _____ Date: ____/____/____
 Pediatrician's Name and telephone number: _____

Registration Information & Directions to CAS Centers

In order to register for any of our Adult, Family and Youth Programs, please complete and sign one registration form for each participant. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required unless otherwise noted.

To complete the process:

- You can mail in your completed registration form(s) to the appropriate CAS Center or facility. In addition to the completed registration forms, please include your check (payable to Connecticut Audubon Society) or credit card information (Visa, MasterCard).
- You can also "walk in" your completed registration form(s) to the appropriate CAS Center or facility (please call first to confirm business hours). Please remember to bring a check (payable to Connecticut Audubon Society) or credit card (Visa, MasterCard).
- You can also fax in your completed registration form(s) to the appropriate CAS Center or facility. Please make sure to include your credit card information (Visa, MasterCard). Please note: all registrations will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Please register early to ensure your spot, as space is limited.

For CAS Adult, Family and Youth Programs, you can register by mail, in person, or by fax:

- For each participant, fill out a separate Registration & Permission Form
- Pre-registration and pre-payment are required unless otherwise noted. (Please check each CAS Center's program listings pages for additional information.)
- Limited scholarships may be available for some youth programs for individuals whose families are receiving assistance. Ask your CAS Center for more information.
- Refund Policy:
For Adult, Family and Youth Programs: if we cancel a class, program or event you will get a full refund.
For Adult, Family and Youth Programs: if you notify us at least one week in advance that you are cancelling a class, program or event, we will give you credit toward future enrollment in any other CAS class, program or event.
- Unless otherwise noted, all classes, programs and events are held rain or shine. In the event of inclement weather, an equivalent indoor activity may replace an outdoor activity. (Please check each CAS Center's program listings pages for "rain date" or "rain cancels" information.)

DIRECTIONS

TO: CAS Center at Glastonbury – 1361 Main Street – 860/633-8402

From Hartford: Take Rt. 2 East to Rt. 17 exit (Portland/S. Glastonbury); follow 17 South. The Center is on the right – 2.5 miles from the exit.

From Middletown: Go east on Rt. 66 to Rt. 17 North; follow through So. Glastonbury Center and proceed on Rt. 17 further about 1.5 miles and the Center will be on your left.

TO: CAS Birdcraft Museum – 314 Unquowa Rd., Fairfield – 203/259-0416

From I-95: Take Exit 21. Go north on Mill Plain Rd. about .5 miles. Take a right onto Unquowa Rd. After you go under the I-95 overpass, the driveway into Birdcraft will be immediately on your left.

TO: CAS Coastal Center at Milford Point – 1 Milford Point Rd. – 203/878-7440

From I-95 N and S: Take Exit 34, follow to traffic light. Take right onto Rt. 1 Go .5 miles to the 3rd light. Take a left onto Naugatuck Ave. and proceed 0.8 miles to 2nd light at intersection with Milford Point Rd. Take right and follow .5 miles, passing tennis courts on right to the stop sign at Seaview Ave. Turn right, go .35 miles to Coastal Center parking lot where the road forks at end (keep to the right).

TO: CAS Center at Fairfield – 2325 Burr St. – 203/259-6305, ext. 109

Merritt Pkwy. from the north: Take Exit 44, go left at light at the bottom of the ramp. Go left at next light, under the bridge and then right onto Congress St. *At the first stop sign, go right onto Burr St. The Center is 0.9 miles on the left.

Merritt Pkwy. from the south: Take Exit 44, at the end of the ramp, turn right onto Congress St. Follow directions from * above.

TO: CAS Center at Pomfret – 189 Pomfret St. (Rt. 169) Pomfret Center – 860/928-4948

From the junction of Rt. 44 and Rt. 169: Travel North on Rt. 169. Center is the third building on the right (across from the Pomfret Center Post Office).

TO: CAS at Trail Wood – 93 Kenyon Rd., Hampton – 860/928-4948 By appointment only.

From the junction of Routes 97 and 44: Travel 5.2 miles south on Rt. 97, turn right onto Kenyon Rd.

From the junction of Rt. 6 and Rt. 97: Go north on Route 97 through the town of Hampton to the Hampton elementary School and travel .8 miles to Kenyon Rd. Travel .5 miles on Kenyon Rd. (bear right at the 1st fork.) Driveway to Trail Wood is on left marked by a sign.

