

# Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Trail Wood

## Edwin Way Teale Memorial Sanctuary

93 Kenyon Road, Hampton, CT 06247

For more details or information, please call 860-928-4948



Teale home at Trail Wood

Trail Wood Sanctuary is open daily, dawn to dusk year-round. The Teale Study and Writing Cabin is open to the public by appointment during the spring months. Call 860-928-4948 to schedule your visit.

### Woodcock Watch

Thur., March 22, 6:45 p.m.

Andy Rzeznikiewicz will take you to see woodcock performing their mating display. As long as the weather and temperature cooperate, we should hear and see woodcock in action. Fee: \$4 CAS Members, \$10 Non-members.

### Bird Walks

Thur., April 24, 8 a.m.

Thur., May 8, 8 a.m.

Sun., May 18, 8 a.m.

Join Andy Rzeznikiewicz as he walks around the many trails searching for various bird species. Hooded Warblers, Red-shouldered Hawks, Chestnut-sided Warblers and Louisiana Waterthrush can be found here regularly. On May 8 and 18 we'll also celebrate International Migratory Bird Day. Fee: free CAS Members, \$5 Non-members.

### Second Sunday Afternoon Walks

March 9, April 13, May 11, 2 p.m.

Stretch your legs and burn off those extra holiday calories with an afternoon walk at Trail Wood with caretaker Vern Pursley. Some readings from Edwin Way Teale's "Walk Through the Year" will be included along the trail. Free.

### Full Moon Walks

Fri., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Fri., March 21 (Vernal Equinox), 7:30 p.m.

Sat., April 19, 7:30 p.m.

Sat., May 17, 7:30 p.m.

Get the nocturnal view of Trail Wood under the full moon. Catch the reflection of the moonshine off the beaver pond, listen for the denizens of the night and delight in the beauty of it all. Fee: free CAS Members, \$3 Non-Members.

### Family Earth Day Festival

Sun., April 27, 12:30-4 p.m.

Bring your family, friends, a picnic, big blanket and celebrate Trail Wood. Come relax and enjoy our wildlife egg hunt for the kids, guided walks, live music and a beautiful setting. Free but donations are always appreciated.

### Private Guided Bird and Nature Walks

This service is offered year-round. Each walk can be geared toward your expectations and locations. Sanctuary Manager Andy Rzeznikiewicz can take you to your next life bird, to local hot spots, or just use his knowledge to find birds and wildlife for you. Owl walks are very successful in small groups. This is an excellent gift for that outdoors enthusiast who has everything.

### Spring Work Day

Sat., April 26, 9 a.m.-noon.

It's spring cleaning time at Trail Wood. Join the Friends of Trail Wood as we clean out gardens, rake, wash windows, clean out the writing cabin and information shed, clear trails and do whatever needs doing to spruce the place up for the season. Always a great time with good company and we'll rustle up a hearty brunch for all to charge up on before heading home.



Don't miss Connecticut Audubon Society's 9th Annual Eagle Festival™ in Essex, CT on Feb. 16-17. It's the best place and the best time to see the largest concentration of wintering eagles in the entire Northeast. Photo by Mathias Kohring

### Trail Wood After-School Nature Club

March Session: Wed. March 12, 19, 26, April 2.

April Session: Wed. April 9, 16, 23, 30.

May Session: Wed. May 7, 14, 21, 28.

Do your kids need some time to blow off steam after school? Send them to Trail Wood. We will fill their afternoons with fresh air and hikes on the Sanctuary with some lessons on wildlife quietly inserted when the right moment arises along the trail. Fee per session: \$35 CAS Members, \$45 Non-members.

# Connecticut Audubon Society EcoTravel News

Day, Weekend, Domestic, and International Travel

Andrew Griswold, CAS Director of EcoTravel

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### EcoTravel News E-mail

If you would like to receive the EcoTravel News by e-mail, please drop us a note at ecotravel@ctaudubon.org. Our e-newsletter is frequently updated and is the best way for you to keep informed early about our exciting schedule of events.

## Two Youthful Perspectives on the Amazing Galapagos

Kicker Rock was the most interesting landform that I saw in the Galapagos Islands. Kicker Rock is an eroded tuff cone off the coast of the island of San Cristobel. A tuff cone is a type of volcanic cone formed by the interaction of basaltic magma and water. Basalt is volcanic rock that is dark in color, contains 45-54% silica and is rich in iron. Kicker Rock is also known as "Leon Dormido" because it resembles a sleeping lion. A narrow channel splits Kicker Rock and is a popular diving and kayaking spot. Kicker Rock is home to many sea birds including the Blue-footed and Masked Boobies, Red-billed Tropicbirds and Magnificent Frigatebirds.

Some colonies of Blue-footed Boobies nest on Kicker Rock. Blue-footed Boobies are aerial divers, so they dive from the air into the water to catch their food, which is typically fish. The boobies catch the fish with their mouths open instead of spearing them with their bills closed. They dive in shallow coastal waters and their colonies are spread throughout the Galapagos, including Kicker Rock. The boobies' nests are shallow depressions on bare ground and the pebbles have been moved from the inside of the nest to the perimeter. To attract females, the male dances and whistles. There are several ways to identify males from females: males have smaller pupils, and females have larger bodies than the males as they honk.

Masked Boobies also live on Kicker Rock and also dive for their food, although they dive in deeper water off shore and have fewer larger colonies. Masked Boobies lay two eggs but only raise one of them. They nest on the ground, usually near a cliff edge, and their nests look quite similar to the Blue-footed Boobies.

Magnificent Frigatebirds also live on Kicker Rock. Their diet consists of fish and squid (which are mollusks). Larger than their cousins, the Great Frigatebirds, male Magnificent Frigatebirds have a black plumage with a purple sheen and females have a blue eye ring with a black throat. To attract females and like its cousin, the Magnificent Frigatebird has a red pouch that it inflates.

The final bird species that is found on Kicker Rock is the Red-billed Tropicbird. Red-billed Tropicbirds are clumsy and helpless on land but are very graceful in the air. On the ground they move by pushing themselves on their belly with their feet.

Below the surface of the water near Leon Dormido there is a variety of marine organisms including the Galapagos Shark, which is narrow and a silvery grey brown and grows up to six-and-a-half feet. They usually travel alone. Galapagos Sharks are known to eat other sharks, fish and rays. There is also the Chocolate Chip Sea Star, which comes in various colors such as yellow, reddish-brown, blue, and white with dark brown tubercles (spiny points). The color of the Chocolate Chip Sea Star depends on its location. They are carnivorous and feed on clams, other sea stars, tubeworms, sponges and soft corals.

In conclusion, Kicker Rock was exceptionally beautiful with varied bird life and marine life. Many of the animals are unique to the Galapagos and thrilling to see in a habitat where humans are not allowed to walk. Kicker Rock is one of my favorite memories of my trip to the Galapagos Islands. – By EcoTraveler Louisa Colas, age 11.

This past April I was given the honor and the privilege of traveling to the famed Galapagos Islands on a scholarship awarded by Connecticut Audubon Society. Some may call it a waste, saying I am too young to appreciate the scope of such a pilgrimage, too immature to grasp the scale of walking in the footsteps of Charles Darwin himself. But this is not so, my experiences with Connecticut Audubon on the most sacred and precious grounds of evolutionary science, ecology and biology, moved me as people are moved by great works of art or the birth of a child. The things I saw and heard, the things I smelled and felt and tasted all became the most unforgettable ten days of my life. As a young student of nature, the Galapagos are a veritable Mecca, and that week and a half, although a tiny snapshot of the days I have lived and have to live, I will hold closer to my heart than any.

My and my fellow travelers' tour around the Islands was one marked by shocking beauty, delicious food, and with every passing moment an exponentially increasing appreciation for our natural planet. Day after day we were treated to a dizzying array of wildlife in this biological treasure trove. One day it was damp mossy forests above Puerto Ayorro rimming immense volcanic craters, dramatic reminders of the Islands' tumultuous geologic history. We saw the prehistoric Giant Tortoises, 300 pounds, six feet around and so old they outlive by generations the scientists who study them. We walked on the vast Martian lava fields as thousands of Storm-petrels and boobys swirled around us and albatross traced the sheer cliffs that plunge into the deep blue Pacific Ocean where marine iguanas troll the bottom for tasty bits of seaweed and thousands of brilliant tropical fish complete the panorama. The Islands give the impression that this is some ancient paradise we stumbled upon, a glimpse at the height of the glory of nature on this earth, unsullied by car exhaust and Burger King cups. I feel truly lucky to have been able to observe and experience the crown jewel of wildlife on earth. – By EcoTraveler Danny Williams, age 17.