

CONNECTICUT AUDUBON SOCIETY

2010 Annual Report

May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010



CONSERVATION

EDUCATION

ADVOCACY



May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010

A Year In Review

There is no getting around it – this has been a tough economic year for all of us. The good news is that you recognize the value of our work to conserve and protect Connecticut's birds and habitats, as witnessed by the *increase* in contributions we received. For that we are very grateful to you, our supporters. We are prudent managers of these funds and 80% of our expenditures are directed to mission-specific education, research and advocacy programs.

Birds are key indicators of environmental health and we all know that the single greatest threat to our state's birds is habitat loss. Connecticut Audubon Society's *Connecticut State of the Birds 2010* report contained recommendations that would make the State's current land acquisition process more effective and proactive as a conservation tool, and would provide more transparency into the process. State Senator Edward Meyer, co-chair of the Legislature's Environment Committee, embraced the recommendations and incorporated them into a bill that was unanimously approved by the Environment Committee: "RB 5417: An Act Concerning Open Space Registry, the Identification of Open Space for Acquisition and the Recording of Certain Open Space Restrictions." Much work must still be done, but we are determined to see this bill become law.

We unveiled plans for a new Grassland Bird Conservation Center at Pomfret to meet the increasing demand for our environmental education programs from schools and the public in the northeast corner, and to highlight the urgent need to conserve critical grassland habitat. Located in the heart of our 700-acre Bafflin Sanctuary, this habitat-focused Center will be unique to Connecticut and much of New England. The new Center is designed with energy-efficient building elements, multi-functional design, and long-term, low-maintenance building components. Our plans also include an endowment to assure future sustainability for the Center. Thanks to strong community support, we have already raised 85% of our \$2 million goal.

A dramatic example of the recognition of our organization's impact, one that spans generations, came in the form of a generous grant from The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation. The grant enabled 500 inner city children to explore our 155-acre Larsen Wildlife Sanctuary, guided by our teacher-naturalists, and then take part in an experiential learning program that reinforced what the children had seen and heard. "The Center at Fairfield is very near to our hearts," said Foundation chairperson Amanda Flanagan. "John loved to explore and spend time here, and he would be very pleased to know that his Foundation is giving children the opportunity to share in that experience."

Our staff's expertise continues to be in great demand and this year, with the help of professional partners, volunteers and trainees, we conducted over 12 habitat conservation projects. For the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, we completed wildlife and habitat studies for five USACE flood control areas and are now working on a sixth. We continue to manage the Lordship Coastal Grassland Area for the DuPont/Sporting Goods Properties, conducting waterfowl studies and assessing the feasibility of restoring the natural salt marsh vegetation on Stratford Point's shoreline. Working with Baystate Environmental Corporation we produced a conservation plan for the Stratford Great Meadows Important Bird Area; then, together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we carried out Breeding Bird and Migratory Bird Surveys there. In cooperation with Sacred Heart University, our staff produced an online, interactive "Directory of Data" for the Milford Point Ecosystem; with Yale's Peabody Museum of Natural History and Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo, we coordinated and participated in the 2009 Stratford BioBlitz.

We also began baseline biodiversity and natural resource assessments on our 19 wildlife sanctuaries. These studies will help to determine how well existing management and stewardship plans are working and how we can make them even more effective, a process we call "adaptive habitat management," designed to foster the greatest success when dealing with threatened habitats. High school, college and graduate school volunteers helped our staff remove invasive plants from our sanctuaries and conduct bird population and biodiversity studies. We even involved summer campers from our Coastal Center in BioBlitz-like assessments of the flora and fauna in CAS sanctuaries.

Our Centers in Fairfield, Glastonbury, Milford and Pomfret were busy places. Tens of thousands of visitors participated in hundreds of nature-focused programs and special events for children, families and adults and our popular summer camps. Through our EcoTravel program, explorers young and old traveled from Guilford to the Galapagos in search of the amazing diversity of birds and natural beauty that our world has to offer.

Our talented and hardworking staff would be hard-pressed to accomplish all of this without the invaluable assistance of hundreds of volunteers. In this report you'll read about some of these wonderful people and the many ways they are helping Connecticut Audubon Society.

In reflecting on the challenging economic year, the increase in contributions and volunteers to help carry out our mission fuels our confidence that Connecticut Audubon Society is moving in the right direction. Our science-based research, advocacy and education programs are making a positive impact in protecting our state's birds and habitats. Several at-risk bird species are increasing in numbers in our sanctuaries because of our adaptive habitat management plans. As we have said before: now is the time, and Connecticut is the place, for us to take action. It appears you have heard us, and we thank you for your support and hope you will continue to do so in the coming year.


Stephen B. Oresman, *Chairman*


Robert Martinez, *President*

Front Cover Photography

Top: About 100 years ago, a child explores the pond at Birdcraft Sanctuary in Fairfield, site of Connecticut Audubon Society's original headquarters.

Left: With Yale's Peabody Museum of Natural History and Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo, Connecticut Audubon Society coordinated and participated in the town-wide Stratford "BioBlitz." Here researcher Mike Mosher and CAS conservation biologist Tawen Leenders (r.) set turtle traps in Peck's Mill Pond. Photo by Mike Van Valen.

Middle: During an after-school program at the Center at Glastonbury, teacher Chris Krumpferman leads a group of 5-9 year olds on a nature hike. Photo by Duffy.

Right: A lack of natural cavities to nest in and large fields to hunt in have reduced American Kestrel populations; they are now a state-listed "threatened" species. But the birds had a record year in Pomfret, where four nesting boxes produced 18 young falcons that were banded by staff and volunteers. Two of the boxes were located on CAS's 700-acre Bafflin Sanctuary. Photo by James Cutler.

About Connecticut Audubon Society



Founded in 1898 by Mabel Osgood Wright – Connecticut's pioneer conservationist, citizen scientist, and one of the most influential leaders of the early Audubon movement – the independent Connecticut Audubon Society is a statewide non-profit organization with a membership of almost 10,000. Connecticut Audubon Society conserves Connecticut's environment through science-based education and advocacy focused on the state's bird populations and their habitats. Our conservation science initiatives form the basis for this dual agenda of education and legislative action that reaches more than 200,000 state residents annually, including 60,000 children. This outreach occurs through our adult travel programs, citizen science projects and year-round school, children and adult programs at our centers.

Connecticut Audubon Society puts its mission to work in the places where it matters most — here in the state of Connecticut. The Society has positioned itself to do so with five centers, 2,600 acres under active management in 19 wildlife sanctuaries statewide, and a staff with a reputation for conservation leadership and education expertise. Connecticut Audubon Society operates the historic Birdcraft Museum in Fairfield (declared a National Historic Landmark in 1993, and site of the nation's first privately owned songbird sanctuary), as well as centers in Fairfield, Glastonbury, Milford and Pomfret. Each of these centers focuses on the distinct wildlife habitats in which they are located. Through its conservation advocacy efforts, Connecticut Audubon Society provides leadership and key information on environmental issues. Of equal importance, it provides pragmatic solutions to the complex conservation issues facing state legislators and policymakers. The EcoTravel office in Essex offers travel opportunities to unique destinations around the state, the nation and the planet that bring adults and families together with the natural world through firsthand experience.

Introduced in 2006, the annual "Connecticut State of the Birds" report examines the health of Connecticut's bird populations and habitats and the effectiveness of conservation efforts. It also presents recommendations on conserving and restoring Connecticut's bird populations through habitat protection and maintenance activities.



State Senator Edward Meyer incorporated Connecticut Audubon Society's recommendations to protect wildlife habitat into a bill unanimously approved by the State Legislature's Environment Committee. Photo by Mara Neville.



This juvenile Bald Eagle and many other bird species will benefit from targeted land acquisition, as recommended in CAS's 2010 report. Photo © Paul J. Fusco.



At Connecticut Audubon Society's Annual Meeting on October 1, Steve Oresman (l.) was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors, and outgoing Chairman Ross Strickland received special recognition for his many years of outstanding service. Photo by Abigail Ray Kozel.

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* as of April 30, 2010

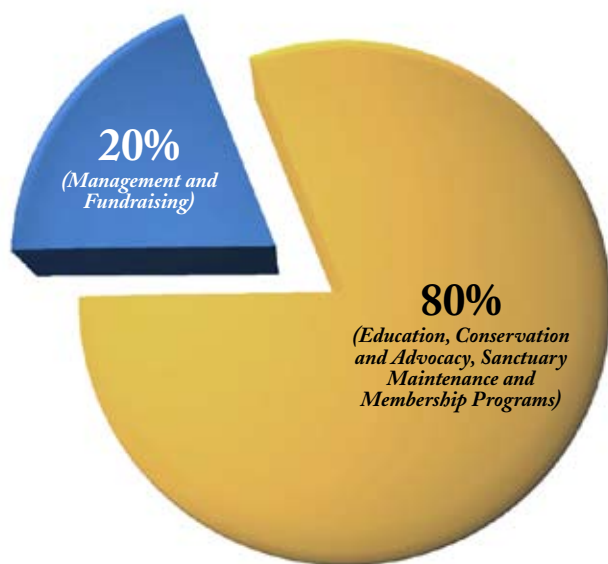
May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010

REVENUE <i>Gains and Other Support</i>	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	TOTAL April 30, 2010	TOTAL April 30, 2009
Contributions and Bequests	\$527,455	\$609,927	\$45,000	\$1,182,382	\$546,829
Membership Dues	264,836			264,836	313,304
Education Programs	552,459			552,459	572,894
EcoTravel Programs	310,714			310,714	355,706
Special Events	158,461			158,461	251,708
Nature Stores Sales	151,958			151,958	207,694
Other	161,444			161,444	136,930
Investment Income	33,307	115,045		148,352	199,114
Satisfaction of Restrictions	422,189	(422,189)			
TOTAL REVENUES <i>Gains and Other Support</i>	\$2,582,823	\$302,783	\$45,000	\$2,930,606	\$2,584,179

EXPENSES	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	TOTAL April 30, 2010	TOTAL April 30, 2009
Education Programs	\$1,878,254			\$1,878,254	\$2,088,446
Sanctuary Maintenance	120,634			120,634	122,278
Conservation & Advocacy	241,605			241,605	213,239
Membership	210,570			210,570	239,689
Management and General	420,949			420,949	415,167
Fundraising and Development	207,099			207,099	216,497
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,079,111			\$3,079,111	\$3,295,314
NET ASSETS					
Change from Operations	(496,288)	302,783	45,000	(148,505)	(711,135)
Change from Investment Activities	250,660	941,194		1,191,854	(1,632,074)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(245,628)	1,243,977	45,000	(1,043,349)	(2,343,209)
NET ASSETS <i>(Beginning of Year)</i>	\$6,061,667	\$2,626,200	\$13,256,180	\$21,944,047	\$24,287,257
NET ASSETS <i>(End of Year)</i>	\$5,816,039	\$3,870,177	\$13,301,180	\$22,987,396	\$21,944,047

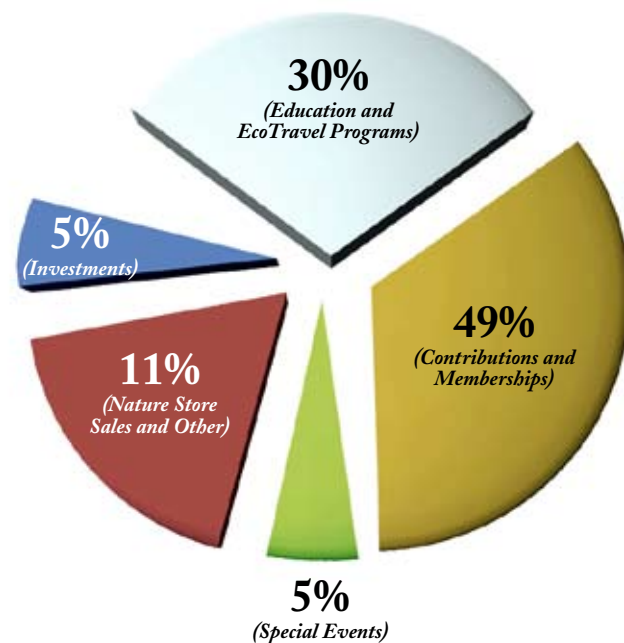
Expense Summary

(Total Expenses: \$3,079,111)

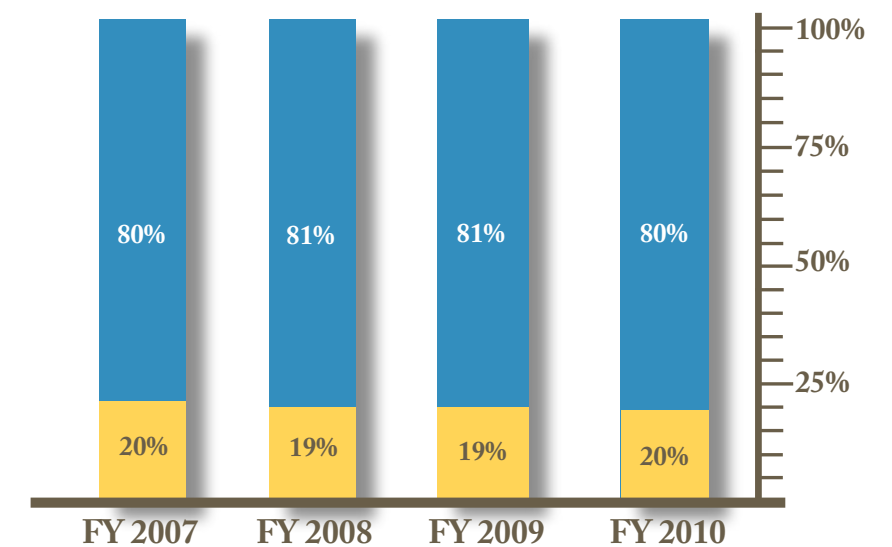


Revenue Summary

(Total Revenues: \$2,930,606)



A lesson in bird anatomy from Andy Rzeznikiewicz at the Center at Pomfret. CAS's planned Grassland Bird Conservation Center at Pomfret will help meet increasing demand for our environmental education programs. Photo by Sarah Heminway.



■ = Program Expenses
■ = Management and Fundraising Expenses

*Based on audited financial statements



Connecticut Audubon Society Benefactors

Connecticut Audubon Society is most grateful to the many individuals, families, foundations, corporations and civic groups that help support our important mission of conserving Connecticut's environment through science-based education and advocacy focused on the state's bird populations and habitats. The following list* celebrates these friends, many of whom also donate countless hours of their time. We also extend our sincere thanks to the thousands of other individuals and families who also help to support Connecticut Audubon Society's mission.

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The John Hancock Financial Network donated 100 native trees to re-stock our 74-acre H. Smith Richardson Wildlife Preserve in Westport, and our 155-acre Roy and Margot Larsen Wildlife Sanctuary and 60-acre Banks South Farm Sanctuary in Fairfield. Volunteers from the company were also on hand in October to help plant the 4-year-old Red Cedar saplings, which will provide habitat and haven for birds and many other kinds of wildlife. Pictured are (l. to r.) Nelson North, CAS's director of Fairfield Operations, and from John Hancock Financial Network, Michael Lebrhaupt, Richard Beaulieu Jr., Karen Rosen, Melissa Diaz and Patrick Egolum. Photo by Ann O'Leary.



CAS's 2010 report also contains a "Connecticut Directory" of 35 citizen-science programs that need volunteers, including "beginner level" programs that require little or no prior training. You can read it at www.ctaudubon.org/SOTB/index.html



At Connecticut Audubon Society's 2009 Annual Meeting, Judy Richardson (l.), shown with Mrs. Luann Engelman, received the Board of Directors' "David Engelman Volunteer Benchmark Award." Among her many outstanding contributions, Judy has served as Chairman of CAS's Fairfield Regional Board of Governors for over 10 years, is a member of the Board of Directors, and, as a Master Bird Bander, runs Birdcraft Museum's seasonal bird banding station. Photo by Abigail Ray Kozel.



As part of the ongoing habitat maintenance and management work that must be done to preserve the ecological makeup and biodiversity of our 19 wildlife sanctuaries, our skilled land managers use a variety of tools, ranging from hand saws to this heavy-duty "Brontosaurus," to remove Japanese barberry and many other invasive plants and trees. Photo by John Laiacone.

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The Board of Directors also honored Wendell and Alison Davis with its "David Engelman Volunteer Benchmark Award" for their outstanding volunteerism. Wendell and Alison were good friends of the Pulitzer Prize-winning author and naturalist Edwin Way Teale and his wife, Nellie Donovan Teale. Now they are long-time caretakers of Trail Wood, the 168-acre Edwin Way Teale Memorial Sanctuary in Hampton, and of the Teale legacy, and an inspiration to everyone they meet. Photo by Cheryl Bozorgmanesh.



During the 2009 Annual Meeting, keynote speaker Karl J. Wagener (l), Executive Director of the Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality, discussed the State's open space acquisition program and its impact on conservation efforts. As a special treat for attendees, Pequot Library Executive Director Dan Snyder had on display and turned the pages of the Library's rare, mint-condition copy of the Bien edition of John James Audubon's "Birds of America," a beautiful double elephant portfolio of chromolithographs. Photo by Abigail Ray Kozel.



Parent-volunteers take part in CANE training: Connecticut Audubon Society's "Connecticut Audubon Nature Explorers" program began in the 1970s. For the 2009/10 school year, CAS Fairfield Education Coordinator Carol Kratzman (far r.) trained 270 parent-volunteers to present our science-enrichment programs to 2,400 kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade students in 12 Fairfield elementary schools. Photo by Mara Neville.

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The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation, established to help vulnerable children and families in Connecticut, made a contribution to Connecticut Audubon Society to create The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation Trailblazers program. This year, the new program enabled more than 500 Bridgeport public school students to participate in a two-hour guided tour and enhanced interactive learning experience with CAS teacher-naturalists, with transportation provided to and from our Center at Fairfield. Photo by Ann O'Leary.



Flanagan Foundation members (l. to r.) Jeff Gentes, Caroline Owens Crawford, Amanda Flanagan and John Phelan with CAS staff Carol Kratzman (holding "Millie," an American Barn Owl) and Ann O'Leary (far r.). Photo by Abigail Ray Kozel.



Nine high school students and a teacher from The Forman School in Litchfield volunteered for 2 1/2 weeks to help CAS conservation biologist Twan Leenders with wildlife habitat improvement projects in our 700-acre Richard G. Croft Memorial Preserve in Goshen. To avoid compacting and erosion of the soil, which would damage the habitat, the volunteers used loppers, hand saws and a small chain saw, not heavy machinery, to clear out small trees and saplings. These were dropped in place and brush piles were created to further increase habitat diversity and create additional hiding places for wildlife. Photo by Dr. Twan Leenders.



Scott Krutbosch works as a part-time conservation technician for CAS. As a volunteer, Scott spends many hours counting migrating raptors at the CAS-sponsored Hawk Watch site in Stratford that he started, opens the gate at Stratford Point after hours and on weekends for other birders, and is a driving force behind the new CAS blog. Photo by Dr. Twan Leenders.

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Let The Birdies Fly! Connecticut Audubon Society's annual golf tournament is a major fundraiser that allows friends to play on a prestigious course where the pros play — the TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, CT, home of the Travelers Championship — while supporting our mission. Among our 2009 players were (l. to r.) John Starr, Jack Salisbury, Bill Cotter and Roger Andrus.

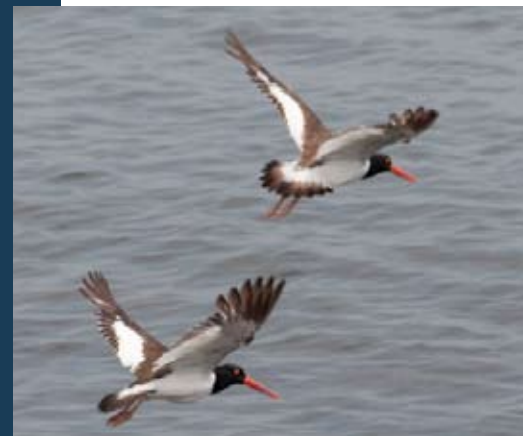


John Straub's nickname was "Nature Boy" and with good reason. John loved nature and the outdoors, and he especially loved spending time in our 233-acre Morgan R. Chaney Sanctuary in Montville. As a volunteer, John helped to clear and create many trails here. Working with Mayor Joe Jaskiewicz and Public Works director Don Bourden, John also arranged for a 4-man crew to place boulders at the Sanctuary's entrance in order to prevent ATVs and other off-road vehicles from entering illegally. John lost his battle with cancer in June, and he is sorely missed. Photo by John Laiacone.

If there are any omissions or if corrections are needed, please accept our apologies and contact the Development Office at 203-259-6305 ext. 106.



Summer campers from the Coastal Center get a bird-banding lesson from Frank Gallo at Hancock Brook in Middlebury. Photo by Dr. Twan Leenders.



A pair of American Oystercatchers soars past Stratford Point, where staff is conducting waterfowl and habitat-restoration studies. Photo by Dr. Twan Leenders.

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Mr. and Mrs. Alan P. Goldbecker

In Honor of Charles and Emily Paruolo

Dr. Lisa Kugelman

In Honor of Cary Paynter

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Richardson

In Honor of Ed and Sylvia Ryan

Mr. Wayne Ryan

In Honor of August Serra

Ms. Judith Dodson

In Honor of Mim Schreck

Mr. James Magliano, Jr.

In Honor of Craig and Kathy Stalk

Ms. Karen Voloshin

In Honor of Hope Stefenson

Mr. Jon Stefenson

In Honor of Ross Strickland

Mr. and Mrs. David W. Blagys
Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Maloney

In Honor of Honor Thompson

Mr. Eric Ballentine
Mr. Timothy Cawley
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hoffman
Ms. Kathie Mandel
Ms. Beth Saunders

In Honor of Ben Williams' birthday

Mrs. Isobel W. Pelham

In Honor of Vinnie Zimbel

David and Maria Nulf

In Honor of Joe and Gail Zorpette

Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Jontos, Jr.



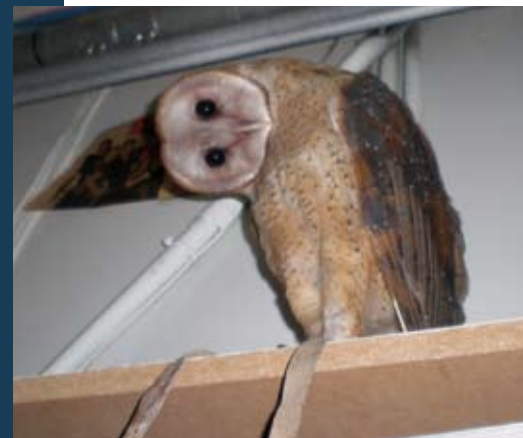
CAS Centers and EcoTravel offered dozens of programs about and in search of Connecticut's birds, including the "World of Woodpeckers" with Milan Bull (l). Photo by Abigail Ray Kozel.



Summer campers are in search of "Wild Things" in the Larsen Wildlife Sanctuary in Fairfield. Photo by Abigail Ray Kozel.



For the 13th straight year an Osprey pair returned to the Coastal Center's nesting platform, where they produced and fledged three chicks. Thousands of website visitors tuned in via CAS's Osprey Cam, the first of its kind in the state. Photo by Sherri Delaney.



"Millie," an American Barn Owl, strikes a pose while her cage is being cleaned at the Center at Fairfield. Photo by Linnea Scerbo.



Mara Neville, Editor

Tammy Hines Design, Designer

Connecticut Audubon Society's Annual Report is available on our web site at www.ctaudubon.org/annualreport, and on CD by request (contact communicationsdir@ctaudubon.org). By not printing and mailing copies of our Annual Report, we saved the equivalent of 24,000 sheets of letter-size paper and all the energy required to make the paper and print, bind and mail the report.

STATEWIDE STAFF and FACILITIES*

STATE OFFICE

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Milan Bull, *Senior Director, Science and Conservation*
Irene Kiszurno, *Membership/Development Database Assistant*
John Laiacone, *Sanctuary Manager*
Dr. Anton (Twan) Leenders, *Conservation Biologist*
Mara Neville, *Director, Marketing Communications*
Ann O'Leary, *Director, Development*
Frank Thiel, *Director, Finance and Human Resources*

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Deborah Callan, *Facilities and Nature Store Manager*
Frank Mitchell, *Museum Curator*

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203-259-6305 ext. 109

Nelson North, *Director, Fairfield Operations*
Deborah Callan, *Facilities and Nature Store Manager*
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Linnea Scerbo, *Teacher/Naturalist, Animal Care Coordinator*
Jane Guenther, *Assistant Manager, Program Coordinator*
Joan Winter, *Assistant Manager, Publicist*

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**Staff list as of April 30, 2010.*

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Paula Coughlin, *Citizen Science Coordinator*
Terry LaVoie, *Administrative Assistant*
Andy Rzeznikiewicz, *Sanctuary Manager*

ECOTRAVEL OFFICE

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Andrew Griswold, *Director*
Priscilla Wood, *Assistant*

For information about our 19 Wildlife Sanctuaries statewide visit www.ctaudubon.org/visit.sanctuaries.htm.



Jane Guenther and John Laiacone during the Center at Fairfield's popular "Enchanted Forest" Halloween event. Photo by Mara Neville.

Please visit us online at www.ctaudubon.org

**This list reflects gifts made from May 1, 2009 – April 30, 2010*