



Connecticut Audubon Society News

The Connecticut State of the Birds 2010 Report Highlights The Important Contributions of Volunteer Citizen Scientists

By Beva Nall-Langdon, Science Writer

Connecticut Audubon Society's *Connecticut State of the Birds 2010* report has just been published. This year's topic, "The Role of Citizen Science," is a departure from previous reports, which have focused on conservation of the state's birds and their habitats. The collection of scientific data needed to understand wild bird populations and their habitats, and to enable sound management decisions, has always depended on the efforts of a large number of volunteer citizen scientists. Scientific studies are designed and guided by professional scientists at academic institutions, government agencies and non-governmental organizations. Collecting data from the field requires many "feet on the ground" at widely dispersed locations. Volunteer citizen scientists, properly trained, provide critical manpower to assist professional scientists in these endeavors.

The 2010 report includes six articles, most written by Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) staff and board members, on the contributions of citizen scientists to the conservation of birds and their habitats in Connecticut. Stephen Oresman, chairman of the Board of Directors, begins the report with a discussion of citizen science in the context of scientific research and the role of science in formulating conservation policies. He reviews the importance of properly designed studies to avoid bias and to ensure objectivity.

In fact, Connecticut Audubon Society was founded by Connecticut's original citizen scientist, Mabel Osgood Wright, in 1898. Frank Mitchell, curator of the CAS Birdcraft Museum and Sanctuary in Fairfield, describes Mrs. Wright's role as an early proponent of bird conservation. She associated with many of the prominent ornithologists of the day and wrote several of the first popular books on wild birds and nature in the United States,



including *Birdcraft: A Fieldbook of Two Hundred Song, Game, and Water Birds* (1895). This book introduced the idea of observing living birds and their behavior in the wild rather than simply collecting their eggs or hunting them for sport. Mrs. Wright and others were particularly alarmed by the widespread use of bird feathers in women's headwear fashion, obtained by the indiscriminate hunting of wild birds. This led her in 1898 to found the Society—which later joined with other state Audubon societies (in 1905) to form the National Association of Audubon Societies (the predecessor of the National Audubon Society)—and, in 1914, to establish the CAS Birdcraft Sanctuary.

In the 19th century, observant bird watchers noticed abundant hawks and other raptors during their fall migration, the course of which is determined by geographic features such as coastlines and mountain ranges where the birds can glide along on favorable winds and

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State Senator Edward Meyer endorsed our new report's recommendations and on March 16 included them in an open space bill being considered by the Environment Committee. See UPDATE on page 2. Photo by Mara Neville.



Citizen scientists at work in Connecticut monitoring bird populations. Photo by Julian Hough.

Keeping You Informed With Online Communications

This is the last issue of our paper newsletter, but we plan to stay in touch with you on an even more frequent basis! Thanks to everyone who has already signed up for one or more of our electronic news bulletins (described below) and to everyone who has sent us their e-mail address. You are helping Connecticut Audubon Society make the move to "paperless" and be a truly "green" conservation organization.

We now offer a wide range of online communications so that we can keep you informed about all that is going on at Connecticut Audubon Society:

- **Connecticut Audubon Society's Monthly E-Newsletter** contains the latest information about our Centers' upcoming programs and special events, EcoTravel trips, and important news about our conservation and advocacy initiatives to protect the state's birds and wildlife habitats.

- Our monthly **EcoTravel News and Photo Journal** highlights our terrific Day Trips and Overnight Tours and includes the very popular "Nature Photos" section.

- Our periodic **Connecticut Audubon Advocacy News** provides up-to-date information about relevant state and local conservation issues, legislative matters, and how to make your voice heard by contacting your elected representatives.

You can sign up for one or all of these e-bulletins on our website. Visit www.ctaudubon.org, enter your e-mail address in the "Join our E-mail List" yellow box on the left, and follow the instructions. You can also send an e-mail to communicationsdir@ctaudubon.org or call 203-259-6305 ext. 103.

- Many of you have received **online bulletins and invitations from your local CAS Center** and we plan to expand that initiative.

- **Connecticut Audubon Society is on Facebook!** Visit www.facebook.com and search "Connecticut Audubon Society"; our page and group will both pop up.

- **We'll be redesigning Connecticut Audubon Society's website** to make it a more useful tool and provide you with an online space to share your birding experiences and photographs.

Please stay tuned as we roll out new communications initiatives!

UPDATE:

Our *Connecticut State of the Birds 2010* Report has had an immediate impact on the State Legislature: 4 of the report's key recommendations are now included in Bill No. 5417, which was unanimously approved by the Environment Committee on March 19. See page 2 for more details.

CAS Center at Fairfield

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CAS Coastal Center at Milford Point

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CAS Birdcraft Museum

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CAS Center at Glastonbury

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CAS Center at Pomfret

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CAS at Trail Wood

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CAS EcoTravel News

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Top left photo: A group of Coastal Center summer campers are set to go birding in West Rock Ridge State Park near New Haven. Connecticut Audubon Society's Centers offer dozens of summer camp programs for children young and older that emphasize being outdoors and exploring the natural world. Check out our great selection, starting on page 6. Photo by Frank Gallo.

Bottom left photo: The birds are back in town! A trained CAS volunteer holds one of 19 American Kestrel chicks banded at our Center at Pomfret in spring 2009. To observe and photograph the young falcons this year, call our Center in June at 860-928-4948 and leave your name and phone number. At Connecticut Audubon Society's Centers and Sanctuaries we offer a terrific variety of bird programs for all ages and all levels of experience, starting on page 6. So go take a hike, a cruise or a class with our staff naturalists! Photo by James Cutler.



Connecticut
Audubon Society

Mission Statement

Connecticut Audubon Society conserves Connecticut's environment through science-based education and advocacy focused on the state's bird populations and their habitats. Founded in 1898, *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

UPDATE:

New Report's Recommendations Included in Open Space Bill Pending in Hartford

We have exciting news to share: our new *Connecticut State of the Birds 2010* Report, issued March 11 at a press conference in Hartford, had an immediate impact on the State Legislature! State Senator Edward Meyer (D, 12th District), Environment Committee co-chair, announced his endorsement of the new report's recommendations and had them included in pending legislation (Bill No. 5417) concerning open space. On March 19, the Environment Committee voted unanimously to approve the bill, which now goes to the Planning and Development Committee, then to the Appropriations Committee.

"The largest single conservation issue is habitat loss, and the best way to protect these critical habitats and the wildlife that depend on them can be described in three words, and that's targeted land acquisition," said Robert Martinez, president of Connecticut Audubon Society. "As we all know, birds and their habitats are key indicators of the environment and environmental health, and that affects all of us, whether we have two legs, four legs, or wings."

Connecticut Audubon Society's recommendations are:

1. Create a state map of all known protected public and private land.
2. Analyze the usefulness of these lands for protecting species of conservation concern.
3. Identify and prioritize lands that need to be acquired to protect habitats of greatest conservation need.
4. Enable an independent review board to help develop acquisition priorities and to oversee activities and progress.

To read our new *Connecticut State of the Birds 2010* Report visit <http://ctaudubon.org/SOTB/index.html>. And stay tuned for further details about Connecticut Audubon Society's actions on this crucial issue.



State Senator Edward Meyer (r.) and CAS's Milan Bull discuss the recommendations contained in our new report. Photo by Mara Neville.



Birthday Parties!

Looking for a place with fun-filled, child-centered activities? Look no further! Connecticut Audubon Society's Centers are great places to go for your child's next birthday party. Please call each Center 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

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From the Desk of Bob Martinez, President

Spring and summer are generally the busiest times around here, and this year is no exception. There is a lot going on at Connecticut Audubon Society, as you will read in this newsletter or as you already know if you've been receiving our electronic news bulletins.

Our *Connecticut State of the Birds 2010* report, which was released on March 11, immediately created a big stir, including a lot of great media coverage. The recommendations contained in our report (for improving the state's process for acquiring land for conservation purposes) also received glowing editorial support from the *Connecticut Post*, *Danbury News-Times*, *Greenwich Time* and *Stamford Advocate*. The impact of our new report was even more immediate in Hartford. I want to thank committee co-chair State Senator Edward Meyer for endorsing our report's recommendations and including them in an important open space bill. I also want to thank all the members of the State Legislature's Environment Committee for unanimously approving Bill No. 5417 on March 19. As I write this letter, we are expecting the bill to go next to the Planning and Development Committee, then to the Appropriations Committee on its journey through the legislative process. We plan to keep all of you informed about the bill's progress. We will also be asking you, at key junctures, to contact your representatives and express your support for this open space bill, which would, if enacted, create a powerful tool for protecting bird species, their habitats and overall biodiversity. If you have not read our report and recommendations yet, you can do so by visiting <http://ctaudubon.org/SOTB/index.html>.

The birds are back in town! To celebrate, we are offering bird-banding demonstrations, bird walks, talks and hikes, bird cruises, and much more. Join our staff naturalists to learn the ABCs of birding, to sharpen your skills or simply to enjoy the beauty and variety of wildlife and wild places that we are so fortunate to have in Connecticut.

For those of you who want to contribute to our scientific knowledge of Connecticut's birds and their habitats, we offer a variety of "Citizen-Science" programs at our Centers and Sanctuaries. In addition to highlighting the important contributions that volunteer citizen scientists make to ornithology and other natural sciences, our *Connecticut State of the Birds 2010* report has "A Connecticut Directory of Citizen-Science Programs." It contains 35 different entries, each of which describes the program's scope, level of experience and commitment needed of volunteers. You can download the directory at <http://www.ctaudubon.org/SOTB/documents/Citizen-Science2010.pdf>.

Each year our staff comes up with great ideas to make our Centers' summer camps for children even more enjoyable and educational. You can read all about them starting on page 6.

During these warm weather months, we look forward to seeing you at a Connecticut Audubon Society program or special event. As always, we are grateful for your interest in our work, and for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Bob

Connecticut Audubon Society Board of Directors 2010

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Deirdre Silberstein

Barbara Strickland

Thomas Sweeney

Dr. Robert Tremaglio

Lorne Wilson

VISIT THE CONNECTICUT AUDUBON SOCIETY AT 7 LOCATIONS

1 | CAS Birdcraft Museum

314 Unquowa Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
203-259-0416

Hours (Museum and Nature Store):
Tuesday-Friday, 9am-1pm

2 | CAS Center at Fairfield

2325 Burr Street
Fairfield, CT 06824
203-259-6305, ext. 109

Hours (Center and Nature Store):
Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-3pm
Larsen Wildlife Sanctuary is open daily dawn to dusk year-round.

3 | CAS Coastal Center at Milford Point

1 Milford Point Road
Milford, CT 06460
203-878-7440

Hours:
Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm
Sunday, Noon-4pm

4 | CAS Center at Glastonbury

1361 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033
860-633-8402

Hours:
Tuesday-Friday, 1pm-5pm
Saturday, 10am-5pm
Sunday, 1pm-4pm (please call first)

5 | CAS EcoTravel

35 Pratt Street
Essex, CT 06426
860-767-0660

Hours:
Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

6 | CAS Center at Pomfret

189 Pomfret Street
Pomfret Center, CT 06259
860-928-4948

Hours:
Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm
Saturday and Sunday, Noon-4pm
Bafflin Sanctuary is open daily dawn to dusk year-round.

7 | CAS Center at Trail Wood

93 Kenyon Road
Hampton, CT 06247

Hours:
Trail Wood Sanctuary is open daily from dawn to dusk year-round.

The Teale Study and Writing Cabin is open to the public by appointment. Call 860-928-4948 to schedule your visit.

Pomfret



Hampton



Glastonbury



Essex



Milford

Fairfield

Fairfield





By Ann O'Leary, Director of Development

The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation Awards Grant to Connecticut Audubon Society

New "Trailblazers" program brings more Bridgeport public school students to our Center at Fairfield

As residents of this beautiful state, we have been given the gift of nature. It is probably why many of us live here. While inside our homes, we can appreciate the birds we view from our windows. When outside, we can follow a trail or walk a shoreline and explore. Connecticut Audubon Society has been a champion of nature, focusing on the birds, for over 110 years. That's fairly incredible when you stop and think about it.

For countless years, the birds have also come to Connecticut for its beautiful and diverse habitats. Our state used to provide safe havens where many different bird species could successfully nest and fledge their chicks. However, because of Connecticut Audubon Society's research you now know that all six of the state's major bird habitats are seriously depleted or fragmented. As a result, about 50% of Connecticut's native bird species are declining. You also know that Connecticut Audubon Society manages 2,600 acres of wildlife habitat across the state, to conserve this precious land and the bird species that depend on it, and is a strong advocate for acquiring and managing additional land for use as wildlife habitat. You also know that Connecticut Audubon Society publishes an annual *Connecticut State of the Birds* report to raise awareness of the environmental problems we face in Connecticut and to make proactive and cost-effective recommendations for addressing them.

As a member, donor or friend to Connecticut Audubon Society, you are supporting the mission and helping to move the Society forward. By doing so, you are also having a positive impact on the gift of nature that surrounds all of us. Your support has helped the Society:

- Work at the state and local levels on a wide range of projects to protect threatened bird species and wildlife habitats throughout the state. Milan Bull, CAS's senior director of Science and Conservation, was just appointed to a committee that will help improve the harbor in Southport. Miley is also a member of the state's Grassland Habitat Conservation Initiative committee. These are just two examples of our work with conservation partners.
- Educate children, families and adults about our state's birdlife and the environment through year-round programs and special events.
- Provide public access to CAS Centers and Wildlife Sanctuaries. We hope to inspire and encourage all Connecticut residents to learn about and appreciate the natural beauty of Connecticut, and to become involved in helping to protect it.

Thank you for your support, and please remember to encourage others to become a member! The more members we have, the greater our impact as we address conservation issues. You will find a gift membership form on the back cover of this newsletter, or you can go online and visit www.ctaudubon.com.org.

The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation, a charitable foundation established to help vulnerable children and families in Connecticut, announced a contribution to Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) to create The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation Trailblazers program. The new program begins this spring and will allow more than 500 Bridgeport public school students this year to participate in a two-hour guided tour and enhanced interactive learning experience, with transportation provided to and from Connecticut Audubon Society's Center at Fairfield.

"We are thrilled to collaborate with Connecticut Audubon Society and its Center at Fairfield to create this meaningful program that will give children an opportunity to take what they are learning in the classroom and apply it through real-life interaction with nature," said Amanda Flanagan, chairperson of The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation. "The CAS Center at Fairfield is very near to our hearts. 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."

The \$6,470 grant will cover the program and transportation costs. The program, lead by a CAS teacher-naturalist, will include a guided tour of the grounds with activities that educate the students about what they are seeing on the trails of the Society's 155-acre Larsen Wildlife Sanctuary, as well as a guided tour of the Center at Fairfield's Birds of Prey Compound, where students will meet the Society's live but non-releasable owls, hawks, falcons and Turkey Vulture. The tour will conclude with a lesson on the birds' habitats and survival skills as well as how human actions can dramatically affect birds and how they live.

"We extend our heartfelt thanks to The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation for their generous donation," said Ann O'Leary, Connecticut Audubon Society director of development. "We also believe that firsthand experience of the environment is essential in order for students to truly understand and appreciate the lessons they are learning in their classroom. And we are thrilled to be able to bring so many additional students to our Center at Fairfield to explore and enjoy the outdoors."

The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation was established in loving memory of John Patrick Flanagan, who passed away from a rare and aggressive form of cancer on December 24, 2009 at the all-too-young age of 44. John's family, friends and colleagues have established the Foundation to serve as a charitable legacy to support what he cherished above all else: children and family. The mission of The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation is to help vulnerable children and families in Connecticut by supporting charities that provide the direction, education and healthy environment they need to have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The Connecticut State of the Birds 2010 Report

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thermal updrafts during their long-distance journeys. One of the major raptor migration routes in the northeast includes Lighthouse Point, in New Haven, where as early as 1886 C.C. Trowbridge and other early Connecticut bird watchers gathered in the fall to observe this natural spectacle. These annual observations evolved into hawk watches, today a major citizen-science activity. During the 20th century hawk watches expanded to raptor migration sites nationwide. In her article on the Raptor Population Index project, Deirdre Silberstein, a member of the CAS Board of Directors, discusses the history of hawk watches and how accurate and comprehensive counts of raptor species over time alerted conservationist Rachel Carson (author of *Silent Spring*) to striking declines in raptor numbers, later attributed to the toxic effects of environmental contamination by the pesticide DDT. Ms. Silberstein also discusses the recently organized Raptor Population Index project, which

standardizes hawk watch count data from sites throughout North America. She describes the hawk watch experience and what volunteers can expect at these popular events.

In her article, Shannon Kearney-McGee, a Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) biologist, gives her perspective on how citizen scientists help this state agency in the collection of bird survey data. She describes several challenges that citizen scientists face when conducting surveys of woodland birds, including accurately determining the presence or absence of individuals of the surveyed species. Avoiding "false negative" observations (the result of failing to recognize the actual presence of a bird) is of particular concern. Elusive bird species must be surveyed during the appropriate season and time of day. During field studies, species counts and details about the surveyed habitat (even if the studied

bird is not sighted) must all be systematically reported through a scientific protocol.

Dr. Twan Leenders, CAS conservation biologist, has compiled a comprehensive directory of citizen-science programs in Connecticut and provides information on how one can participate. The directory includes 35 programs to which citizen scientists can contribute, organized into three levels (beginner, intermediate, and advanced) according to the expertise and time commitment needed of volunteers. Some of the simpler projects include participation in the Great Backyard Bird Count and Project FeederWatch, both of which can be conducted in your own yard. Intermediate level programs include surveys of nesting behavior of woodland raptors (sponsored by Connecticut DEP) and assisting in

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John Patrick Flanagan Foundation members (l. to r.) Jeff Gentes, Caroline Owens Crawford, Amanda Flanagan and John Phelan are joined by CAS teacher-naturalist Carol Kratzman who is holding "Millie," an American Barn Owl.

"John loved to explore [the Center at Fairfield] ... and he would be very pleased to know that his Foundation is giving children the opportunity to share in that experience."

The EcoTravel Experience

By Jim Denham, Connecticut Audubon Society Member, Volunteer and EcoTraveler

When I retired three years ago, I promised myself that I would renew my interest in bird watching, a hobby I have dabbled in since I was in graduate school. Now living in Essex, Connecticut, it is not hard to get back into the right mindset. One has the Connecticut River, the Great Island marshes including Griswold Point, Nehantic State Forest as well as many other productive birding areas only a short distance away.

My introduction to Connecticut Audubon Society's EcoTravel program was therefore a logical event since it has an active calendar of day trips to locations in Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York. Many are led by Andy Griswold, the director of EcoTravel, an expert leader and knowledgeable birder. Andy always makes sure that everyone gets to see as many of the birds as possible. In that sense, I found going out with Andy a big help in improving my skills, both in spotting field marks and in learning bird songs and calls.

So I have become a regular traveler with EcoTravel not only because it is fun but also because I feel I am learning something all of the time. My first experiences with EcoTravel were on winter day trips, travelling to Rhode Island where we would find Harlequin Ducks, Purple Sandpipers and occasionally Barrow's Goldeneyes. I still remember vividly my first views of Short-eared Owls as they drifted above the fields at Sachuest Point. In spring I've done the Lyme Loop, where Andy gives a first-class lesson in identifying warblers and vireos; another highlight is spotting the handsome Cerulean Warbler buzzing away high in the trees.

But EcoTravel is not just about day trips, of which they plan approximately 80 annually, including Eagle-Viewing Boat Cruises in February and March, and the spectacular Tree Swallow roosting show in September. EcoTravel also offers multi-day domestic overnight trips as well as unique international journeys to exotic places like the Galapagos Islands,

Tanzania, Canada's Hudson Bay (to see Polar Bears), and Brazil's Amazon and Pantanal, among many other locations.

Since retiring, I have made domestic overnight trips my priority. These are typically 4-8 day trips in small groups, with 5-10 participants. All arrangements are made by EcoTravel so all one has to do is bring binoculars, appropriate clothing and a little sense of adventure. The trips that I have gone on have taken me to the Connecticut Lakes, Cape May, Florida, Texas, Arkansas, Monhegan and Block Islands, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and both North and South Dakota. As a result of these trips, I have become acquainted with my country in a totally new way: seeing its birds and wildlife; experiencing the river of grass that is the Everglades; searching the bottomland swamp bayous of the Mississippi River Valley; and roaming the pot-hole prairies of the northern plains.

These trips are primarily about birding. We are usually off early in the morning with a plan to visit specific locations that are geographically and ecologically important. Naturally, the focus is on taking in the diversity of bird species, but nothing stops us from seeing something that is unique to the area. I am reminded of the Texas trip I took, where we made time to visit a famous bat cave. A few minutes after sunset, bats would begin pouring out in numbers that eventually reached in excess of 10 million! Needless to say the spectacle seemed to never end, and what made it even more special was being able to observe the Red-Tailed and Swainson's Hawks swoop down for what must be the avian equivalent of "fast food" on a gigantic scale.

At the end of a typical day, the group gathers around at an appropriate "watering hole" and over dinner recounts the highlights. A detailed bird checklist is kept and eventually shared with everyone. Inevitably, there is a sense of competitiveness with prior trips' lists to see if "our" trip can come up with a new higher trip total.



Jim Denham (l.) and EcoTravel director Andy Griswold during a trip to Arkansas. Photo by Hatsy Moore.

Since renewing my commitment to bird watching and having taken a number of trips with Connecticut Audubon Society's EcoTravel, I have become much more aware of the environment, its birds and their habitats. And I have gained a general appreciation for how much there is still to see, appreciate and preserve. As was eloquently stated by President John F.

Kennedy, we have a responsibility "to hand down undiminished to those who come after us, as was handed down to us by those who went before, the natural wealth and natural beauty which is ours." EcoTravel has been my partner in these adventures. I can only wish that many others will avail themselves of these unique and highly memorable experiences.

HS Students Help CAS Create Wildlife Habitat

By Dr. Twan Leenders, Conservation Biologist

Between Thanksgiving and their holiday break, nine students and a teacher from The Forman School (a private college prep school in Litchfield) volunteered their services for 2-1/2 weeks to help CAS conservation biologist Twan Leenders with wildlife habitat improvement projects in the Richard G. Croft Memorial Preserve, a 700-acre sanctuary in the rugged hills between Goshen and Norfolk.

It is one of Connecticut Audubon Society's least developed sanctuaries but has much to offer and explore. This largely wooded area is an integral part of the massive Canaan Mountain forest block in northwestern Connecticut, one of the state's largest intact forest areas. It is home to many species that are generally absent from smaller or fragmented forests, as was evidenced by our sighting of a large Black Bear in its den while we were delineating the area students were about to start working in, or the ubiquitous Moose tracks all over the sanctuary.

Much of the area is now blanketed with relatively old growth forest. Connecticut Audubon Society has been carrying out wildlife habitat management activities to create artificial forest clearings that have an open canopy and ground cover of dense scrub. Such habitat diversity is beneficial to all kinds of animals. Initial surveys in 2009 revealed the presence of Ruffed Grouse, breeding Chestnut-sided Warblers, other scrubland birds and even a territorial Cerulean Warbler, an indication that this species may be breeding here also.

Currently, two artificial clearings exist in the sanctuary: a 20-acre one created in 2008 and an older, 18-acre clearing. Due to natural succession, openings like these in forested areas gradually disappear as tree saplings grow taller and eventually form a closed canopy, thus block-

ing the light for the important scrub layer underneath. Using loppers, hand saws and a small chain saw, Forman School students helped clear out small trees and saplings from half of the 18-acre clearing to maintain its open character. Trees and saplings were dropped in place and brush piles were created to further increase habitat diversity and create additional hiding places for wildlife. By doing this work without heavy machinery, but using enthusiastic volunteers and hand tools instead, we avoided compacting and erosion of the soil, which would damage the habitat. By doing the site work in winter, we also reduced the chances of inadvertently introducing or spreading non-native invasive plant species.

CAS works closely with the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture on this project; the current site work is supported by the federal Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. Since new trees will continue to grow back into the clearings, the habitat work is never done here. The remaining saplings and young trees in the clearing will be tackled next year in order to maintain a mosaic of variously aged habitat patches in the area. And in a few years the whole process repeats itself. The Forman School students did a fantastic job in clearing the main access road to the preserve - which was still buried under the damage from an ice storm in January 2009 - and in opening up nine acres of important wildlife habitat. More importantly, everyone had lots of fun doing it. Hopefully the results of this hard work will be noticed during site surveys this spring and summer, when our target species move back into the clearing. And I hope we'll be out there again next winter with a new group of volunteers to continue the job!

SAVE THE DATE!

FOR OUR SEVENTH ANNUAL

"Let the Birdies Fly!" GOLF TOURNAMENT



Monday, September 20, 2010

at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, CT
Home of the Travelers Championship!

PLAY WHERE THE PROS PLAY!

In past tournaments, our players have received golf shoes, golf travel bags and fleeces as gifts. Raffle items have included foursomes at coveted country clubs like the Country Club of Fairfield, Stonington Country Club and Brooklawn Country Club.

Have a great day and play a great course while you are helping a great cause!

For more information visit our website at www.ctaudubon.org and click on the Golf Tournament icon (left-hand column) or call Ann O'Leary at 203-259-6305 ext. 102.



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migratory bird banding at several CAS locations. Advanced level programs include DEP surveys of birds in scrub-shrub and interior forest habitats. Connecticut Audubon Society offers an advanced level program of bird surveys, which take place at several CAS wildlife sanctuaries and at additional survey sites.

The report ends with the timely recommendations of Milan Bull, CAS senior director of science and conservation, for improving the process of acquiring high-quality open-space land in order to conserve birds and their habitats. In 1997 the Connecticut General Assembly set a goal of preserving as open space 21% of the state's land area. This open space, which does not include farmland, is to be used for public recreation and for conservation of natural resources. Ownership of the open-space land should be roughly evenly divided between the state and other owners, including municipalities, watersheds, land trusts, and non-profit organizations. Currently, the inventory of open-space parcels already preserved is not complete. The quality of these parcels as bird and wildlife habitat varies according to the size and location of the parcels and the level of interference from human recreational activities. Mr. Bull's recommendations include updating the inventory of known, protected land (both publicly and privately owned); analyzing the quality of these lands for protecting species of conservation concern; identifying additional high-quality open-space land parcels for future acquisition; and establishing an independent review board to oversee land acquisition activities and progress.

The Connecticut State of the Birds 2010 report is available as a printable document (in PDF format) on the CAS web site at <http://ctaudubon.org/sotb/index.html>.

Editor's Note: Beva Nall-Langdon is the Graphic Designer and Articles Editor of the Connecticut State of the Birds 2010 report and contributed photos to the report.



Data collected by volunteers at hawk watches are used to assess the effects of environmental changes and human activities on hawk populations. Photo by Julian Hough.

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

May-August 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.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CAS Birdcraft Museum
314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06824 | <input type="checkbox"/> CAS Coastal Center at Milford Point
1 Milford Point Road, Milford, CT 06460 | <input type="checkbox"/> CAS Center at Fairfield
2325 Burr Street, Fairfield, CT 06824 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CAS at Trail Wood
93 Kenyon Road, Hampton, CT 06247 | <input type="checkbox"/> CAS Center at Glastonbury
1361 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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: _____

*Some CAS Centers also require parents/guardians to fill out a separate Medical Form for each child who is attending our summer programs. Please check each Center's web page (www.ctaudubon.org) to download a copy of the Medical Form, or call your Center.

Registration Information & Directions to CAS Centers

Please mail in all **2010 CAS Summer Youth/Camp Programs** registration forms to the appropriate facility. We will mail confirmations to you. If your child is on a "wait list" we'll send you notification and follow-up information. Please do not call CAS about registration status. Registrations will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis in order of postmark date.

For CAS Adult and Family Programs and Special Events, you can also register by phone or in person.

- For each participant/child, please fill out a separate Registration & Permission Form (see above). If registering more than one participant/child, make a copy of the form and return one form per person.
- Pre-registration is required unless otherwise noted. Pre-payment is required to reserve a class or program. Check each Center's listings for additional information.
- Refunds for 2010 Summer Youth/Camp Programs: If you need to cancel, you must notify the appropriate CAS facility directly, in writing. Refunds and transfers must be requested at least 10 days prior to the camp session for which the refund/transfer is being requested. For cancellations before June 1, 2010, you'll receive a refund minus a \$55-per-child, per-program fee. After June 1, 2010 no Summer Youth/Camp Program refunds are given.
- Refunds for Adult and Family Programs and Special Events: Credit toward future enrollment is given when cancellation notice is given at least one week prior to the program.
- If we cancel a class, program or special event, you will receive a full refund.
- We run our programs rain or shine unless otherwise noted. Be prepared. Please pack a raincoat and boots. In the event of inclement weather, outdoor activities may be replaced with equivalent indoor activities.

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.

Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Fairfield

2325 Burr Street, Fairfield, CT 06824 • For more details or information, please call 203-259-6305, ext. 109

Summer Nature Weeks

Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Fairfield's "Summer Nature Weeks" offer exploration, discovery and hands-on learning for children ages 3-12. Campers experience the excitement of discovery as we investigate the animals and plants of the forest, meadow, stream and pond while combining hands-on science activities, games, crafts and research projects in our wildlife sanctuary.

Our Non-member fee includes a one-year CAS Family Membership!

Our afternoon program fees are 20% less than our morning program prices!



Photo by Linnea Scerbo.

Half-Day Programs

Each week we explore different aspects of nature through live animals, crafts, stories and outdoor discoveries. Campers will discover tadpoles, birds, reptiles, amphibians and much more. Enjoy a different theme each week with age-appropriate hands-on activities and plenty of outdoor curiosity time. Children must be toilet-trained and able to attend without an adult. We provide a snack for your child.

Full-Day Programs

Each day and week are filled with fun and engaging age-appropriate activities including live animals, hiking, creative crafts, games and scientific research projects in our wildlife sanctuary.

Please provide lunch for your child; we provide a snack. Each Friday of the session campers gather for a hotdog cookout and marshmallow roast. Each session is unique and different!



One of the young turtles that lives in our pond.
Photo by Linnea Scerbo.

June 7-11, "Scales and Tails"

For 3-5 year olds.
Some animals have scales, some have tails and some have both. What can you do with a tail? You can swim, balance or swing, and these are just some of the things we'll investigate this week.
9 a.m.-noon: \$175 CAS Members, \$230 Non-members.
1-4 p.m.: \$140 CAS Members, \$195 Non-members.

June 14-18, "Life in a Garden"

For 3-5 year olds.
Caterpillars, bees, worms and ants: they all help a garden grow. Come with us as we explore the animals in our butterfly garden, plant some veggies for our education animals, and create a container garden of your own.

9 a.m.-noon: \$175 CAS Members, \$230 Non-members.

1-4 p.m.: \$140 CAS Members, \$195 Non-members.

June 28-July 2, "Swamp Tromp"

For 3 year olds-Grade 6
Come with us and search for cool critters in our swamps, ponds, streams and marshes. Frogs, eels, tadpoles, dragonfly larvae, diving beetles and newts galore! We'll try to catch some turtles for our turtle research project. Don't miss out on this slippery slimy fun!

Age Groups & Schedule:

- For 3 year olds: 9 a.m.-noon, \$175 CAS Members, \$230 Non-members.
- For 4-5 year olds: 9 a.m.-noon, \$175 CAS Members, \$230 Non-members.
- For 4-5 year olds: 1-4 p.m., \$140 CAS Members, \$195 Non-members.
- Full-day program for children who completed K, 1st-2nd Grades, 3rd-4th Grades, 5th-6th Grades: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$270 CAS Members, \$325 Non-members.

July 5-9, "Biggest, Strongest, Fastest: Animal Face-off"

For 3 year olds-Grade 6.
Who's the biggest, strongest, fastest, weirdest animal in Connecticut? You might not believe it when you hear it! How do these animals use speed, strength, color and special senses to survive? Get ready for this action-packed week!

Age Groups & Schedule:

- For 3 year olds: 9 a.m.-noon, \$175 CAS Members, \$230 Non-members.
- For 4-5 year olds & children who've completed K, 1st-2nd Grades, 3rd-4th Grades, 5th-6th Grades: 9 a.m.-noon, \$175 CAS Members, \$230 Non-members.
- For 4-5 year olds & children who've completed K, 1st-2nd Grades, 3rd-4th Grades, 5th-6th Grades: 1-4 p.m., \$140 CAS Members, \$195 Non-members.

"Lunch Bunch" Option for all ages: noon-1:30 pm, \$50/week. Pick up your child 90 minutes later from the morning session. Campers must provide their own lunch. Campers will have lunch and then have some afternoon fun with us.

July 12-16, "Nature Nuts"

For 3 year olds-Grade 6.
No nuts will be present except for us! And we'll serve up a heaping pile of natural fun as we learn about and meet professional nature nuts: Herpetologists, Microbiologists, Geologists, Meteorologists, Ornithologists, and more. Be a different scientist each day.

Age Groups & Schedule:

- For 3 year olds: 9 a.m.-noon, \$175 CAS Members, \$230 Non-members.
- For 4-5 year olds: 9 a.m.-noon, \$175 CAS Members, \$230 Non-members.
- For 4-5 year olds: 1-4 p.m., \$140 CAS Members, \$195 Non-members.
- Full-day program for children who completed K, 1st-2nd Grades, 3rd-4th Grades, 5th-6th Grades: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$270 CAS Members, \$325 Non-members.



On the lookout for wild things. Photo by Abigail Ray Kozel.



Investigating animals and their habitats.
Photo by Abigail Ray Kozel.

July 19-23, "Wilderness Cafe"

For 3 year olds-Grade 6
What are you having for lunch today? Did you know chipmunks eat salamanders and Great Horned Owls eat skunks? Our week consists of exciting expeditions through our wildlife sanctuary mucking for turtles, netting for insects, stomping in the stream and discovering "who eats who" in the forest. We are serving up a week full of adventures!

Age Groups & Schedule:

- For 3 year olds: 9 a.m.-noon, \$175 CAS Members, \$230 Non-members.
- For 4-5 year olds & children who've completed K, 1st-2nd Grades, 3rd-4th Grades, 5th-6th Grades: 9 a.m.-noon, \$175 CAS Members, \$230 Non-members.
- For 4-5 year olds & children who've completed K, 1st-2nd Grades, 3rd-4th Grades, 5th-6th Grades: 1-4 p.m., \$140 CAS Members, \$195 Non-members.

"Lunch Bunch" Option for all ages: noon-1:30 pm, \$50/week. Pick up your child 90 minutes later from the morning session. Campers must provide their own lunch. Campers will have lunch and then have some afternoon fun with us.



The better bird house, built! Photo by Abigail Ray Kozel.

July 26-30, "Bio-Blitz"

For 3 year olds-Grade 6.
This program is truly for the animal lover! Help us gather information for the Bio-Blitz of 2010! We will count and take note of the different creatures we find in meadows, under logs, in ponds and swamps and trees. What will our grand total be?

Age Groups & Schedule:

- For 3 year olds: 9 a.m.-noon, \$175 CAS Members, \$230 Non-members.
- For 4-5 year olds: 9 a.m.-noon, \$175 CAS Members, \$230 Non-members.
- For 4-5 year olds: 1-4 p.m., \$140 CAS Members, \$195 Non-members.
- Full-day program for children who completed K, 1st-2nd Grades, 3rd-4th Grades, 5th-6th Grades: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$270 CAS Members, \$325 Non-members.

Aug. 2-6, "Yuck Muck!"

For 3 year olds-Grade 6.
Mud! Mud! Mud! What fun! Explorers will enjoy a week with the fish, frogs and turtles and everything else that swims or crawls in our ponds, marshes and streams!

Age Groups & Schedule:

- For 3 year olds: 9 a.m.-noon, \$175 CAS Members, \$230 Non-members.
- For 4-5 year olds & children who've completed K, 1st-2nd Grades, 3rd-4th Grades, 5th-6th Grades: 9 a.m.-noon,

- \$175 CAS Members, \$230 Non-members.
- For 4-5 year olds & children who've completed K, 1st-2nd Grades, 3rd-4th Grades, 5th-6th Grades: 1-4 p.m., \$140 CAS Members, \$195 Non-members.

"Lunch Bunch" Option for all ages: noon-1:30 pm, \$50/week. Pick up your child 90 minutes later from the morning session. Campers must provide their own lunch. Campers will have lunch and then have some afternoon fun with us.

Aug. 9-13, "Animal Trackers"

Come with us and investigate the clues that animals leave behind! From footprints to scat, feathers to fur, we will observe the variety of different signs that animals leave for us to find! We'll search for tracks and traces in our quest to discover which animals make our wildlife sanctuary their home.

Age Groups & Schedule:

- For 3 year olds: 9 a.m.-noon, \$175 CAS Members, \$230 Non-members.
- For 4-5 year olds: 9 a.m.-noon, \$175 CAS Members, \$230 Non-members.
- For 4-5 year olds: 1-4 p.m., \$140 CAS Members, \$195 Non-members.
- Full-day program for children who completed K, 1st-2nd Grades, 3rd-4th Grades, 5th-6th Grades: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$270 CAS Members, \$325 Non-members.

Aug. 16-20, "So Long To Summer"

For 3 year olds-Grade 6.
Join us for five days of fun as we get ready to say goodbye to summer, including games, crafts, scavenger hunts and some wacky water fun!

Age Groups & Schedule:

- For 3 year olds, 4-5 year olds & children who completed K, 1st-2nd Grades, 3rd-4th Grades, 5th-6th Grades: 9 a.m.-noon, \$175 CAS Members, \$230 Non-members.

"Lunch Bunch" Option for all ages: noon-1:30 pm, \$50/week. Pick up your child 90 minutes later from the morning session. Campers must provide their own lunch. Campers will have lunch and then have some afternoon fun with us.

BIRDS
2010 IN THEIR
HABITAT

Save the Dates:
Don't Miss the Center at Fairfield's Inaugural "Birds In Their Habitat" Juried Artists' Exhibition & Sale Featuring 2010 Artist of the Year James Prosek

Gala Preview Party to Meet the Artists:
Fri., Oct. 1, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
with open bar, hors d'oeuvres & silent auction.
Tickets are \$75. Call 203-259-6305, ext. 109.

Artwork on display:
Sat.-Sun., Oct. 2-3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Admission is \$5 (good for both days!), free for children 10 & younger.
Net proceeds support Connecticut Audubon Society's environmental education programs for Pre-K through Grade 12 students throughout Fairfield County.

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

Birding by Ear II

Sat., May 8, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
Is that an oriole or a tanager singing, a Hermit Thrush calling or a Catbird? Come find out, as we delve further into the art of birding by ear. After reviewing the basics, we'll practice with similar-sounding groups before heading into the field to hone our skills. Fee: \$60 CAS Members, \$80 Non-members.

Charles Island Explorations

Fri., May 14, 5:45-7:15 p.m.
Discover the natural history and folklore that make this island the "treasure" of Milford. Wear comfortable sneakers or boots that can get wet, as we hike the ½-mile tombolo out to the island. Water, a snack, hat and sunscreen are recommended. Advance registration only. Please call for directions and to register early for this popular program! We meet at the beach end of the board walk. Fee: \$12/adult, \$6/child CAS Members; \$16/adult, \$10/child Non-members; \$7 Seniors.

Avian Art Show

May 15-June 15
The Coastal Center has teamed up with the Firehouse Gallery of Milford to showcase the wonderful bird art of area artists. Winners' artwork is on display at the Coastal Center Tuesdays-Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sundays noon-4 p.m. Free admission; proceeds from sales will benefit both institutions.

Got Ink?

Sat., May 15, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Know how to tell a girl squid from a boy squid? We do! Explore a squid from head to tentacle as we use real squids to find out just why their eyes are so big and where a squid's heart is. An experienced instructor will guide you, step-by-step, through this hands-on dissection. By the end, you too will be able to answer the question, "Is it a boy or a girl?!" Recommended for those 9 years & older. Fee: \$10 CAS Members, \$14 Non-members.

Advanced Birding – New!

Thurs., May 20 & 27, 7-9 p.m. (classroom), Sun., May 30, 8:30-11:30 a.m. (field trip).
Tackle tough identification challenges with instructors Frank Gallo and Patrick Dugan. Intrigued by the subtle differences between Empidonax flycatchers? Confused by Philadelphia and Warbling Vireos? If you want to learn how to identify small sandpipers and terns, or just need to refresh your warbler and sparrow ID skills, then this is the class for you. Our experienced instructors will review difficult groups and guide you through tricky identification challenges. As always, participants will gain valuable time in the field with experienced leaders and fellow birders. For intermediate & advanced students. Please register before May 17. Fee: \$85 CAS Members, \$115 Non-members. Meet at the Coastal Center.

"Connecticut Big Day" Birding Challenge 2010!

Sun., May 23 (rain date May 24).
Connecticut Audubon Society's Raven Luna-ticks (Nick Bonomo, Patrick Dugan, Frank Gallo, Dave Tripp and Fran Zygmunt) will once again attempt to break the Connecticut Big Day birding record of 186 species, to raise money for CAS's Coastal Center at Milford Point. Our total last year of 177 species (despite a flat tire!) is now the 2nd highest Big Day count for Connecticut. The 190s are now in our sights! We invite you to help us achieve our ambitious goal of raising \$10,000 this year. Every dollar you pledge will go directly to support CAS's Coastal Center at Milford Point – truly one of the best birding destinations in the Northeast. We can't do it without you, and we thank you for your generosity! Pledge forms are available on our web page (<http://www.ctaudubon.org/visit/milford.htm>) or contact Frank Gallo at 203-878-7440 ext. 501.

Birding for Beginners

Tues., May 25, 7-9 p.m. (classroom), Sat., May 29, 9-11:30 a.m. (field trip).
This introductory course gives students the basics for identifying birds on their own. Longtime instructor and expert birder Frank Gallo is an enthusiastic teacher. Frank will cover choosing and using field guides and binoculars, how to identify birds, and where to find them in our area during this comprehensive hands-on course. You'll acquire the tools you need to identify birds yourself! The course culminates with in-the-field experience at a local birding hot spot. No experience necessary. Bring the "Peterson Field Guide to Eastern Birds" (which will be for sale at the Coastal Center). Please register before May 22. Fee: \$55 CAS Members, \$85 Non-members.

The Early-bird Walks

Sats., May 29 & June 5, 8-9 a.m.
Would you like to share your interest in birds and learn identification tips from others? Here's a chance to see old friends, meet new ones and get your bird ID questions answered. We'll concentrate on the basics and learn from one another as we search for migrants with Frank Gallo on the productive beaches, marshes, mudflats and forests of Milford Point. More than 315 species (out of CT's total of 423) have occurred at Milford Point! Fee: \$5 CAS Members, \$7 Non-members.

Prehistoric "Crabs" – Citizen Science for All Ages

Sats., May 29 & June 19, 10-11:30 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: \$5/child, \$8 adult CAS Members; \$10/child, \$12/adult Non-members; \$7 Seniors.

Canoe Training

Early-mid June (exact date to be announced). Frank Gallo, a certified basic flat water canoe instructor, will be offering a basic course (probably during the week) that is open to the public and meets the state's summer camp small-craft requirements. Those interested should contact Louise Crocco at 203-878-7440 ext. 502. Fee: \$175 (not including the manual).

Family Birding

Sat., June 5, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Teach a child about birding. Through a series of interactive activities, participants will learn the basics of bird identification before venturing out for a birding tour of the property. All equipment is provided. For children 6 years & older who must be accompanied by an adult. Fee (includes 1 child & 1 adult): \$25 CAS Members, \$45 Non-members; add \$10 for each additional child.

Tidepool Explorers

Sat., June 5, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Discover why our "Life Between the Tides" program is one of our most popular! Join a Coastal Center teacher-naturalist as we wade into our tidepools and uncover their treasures. Seaweeds, hermit crabs, slipper snails and possibly a few sea stars await discovery! Let's grab our buckets and nets and explore! All equipment is provided. Fee: \$8/adult, \$5/child CAS Members; \$12/adult, \$10/child Non-members; \$7 Seniors.

Sorting Out Bird Songs

Thurs., June 10, 7-9 p.m.
Bird song is all around us. It can be lyrical or lazy, haunting or harsh, inconspicuous or breathtakingly beautiful. It is also an incredible aid to finding and identifying birds. Learning bird songs and calls opens another dimension to bird identification,

adding additional layers to your repertoire. Instructor Frank Gallo is an avid student of bird song. He will introduce participants to the basics of birding by ear, covering available resources, as well as the tips, tricks and pitfalls to identifying birds by sound. Is that an oriole or a tanager singing? Come find out as we delve into the basics of birding by ear. Fee: \$35 CAS Members, \$55 Non-members.

Citizen Science: Breeding Bird Survey & Training – New!

Sat., June 19, 9 a.m.-noon (field trip).
Interested in becoming a CAS citizen scientist trained to do bird survey work throughout Connecticut? Then join CAS staff for a half-day survey training course during the peak of songbird breeding season. Participants will gain experience with visual and auditory survey techniques and receive points toward their CAS citizen science accreditation. The course will be held at a CAS property; the location will be available upon pre-registration and will be posted on our web page: www.ctaudubon.org/visit/milford.htm. Fee: \$45 CAS Members, \$75 Non-members



CAS's Miley Bull leads one of our Family Canoe Trips. Photo by Ken Elkins.

Family Canoe Programs through the Charles Wheeler Salt Marsh

Join us on a guided canoe tour of the 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. Bring water and wear shoes that can get wet. Contact the Coastal Center for more information. Trip routes are subject to change due to weather. Wind may cause trips to be canceled, even on sunny days; please call 1 hour to 90 minutes in advance for trip status. Advance registration required. Sign up early for these popular tours! Inquire about additional tour dates in October.

Canoe Trips Schedule:

Sat., June 12, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sun., June 13, 11:15 a.m.-1:45 p.m.
Sat., June 26, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sat., July 10, 9:15-11:45 a.m.
Sat., July 17, 3:15-5:45 p.m.
Sat., July 24, 9:30 a.m.-noon.
Sun., July 25, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Sat., July 31, 2-4:30 p.m.
Sun., Aug. 1, 2:30-5 p.m.
Sat., Aug. 14, 1:45-4:15 p.m.
Sat., Aug. 28, 12:45-3:15 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 11, 12:30-3 p.m.
Sun., Sept. 12, 1:30-4 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 25, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Fees using our canoes:

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

Fees using your own canoe/kayak:

\$19 CAS Members, \$29 Non-members.



Berry picking on a beautiful summer day. Photo by Frank Gallo.

"Sea Squirts" – A New Nature Series

For 3-5 years olds accompanied by an adult.

Thurs., May 13, 27, June 10, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
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 (includes 1 child & 1 adult): \$10 CAS Members, \$15 Non-members; add \$5 for each additional child..

• May 13: Beautiful Butterflies. Read Eric Carle's story about "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and learn about the life cycle of the butterflies that visit our butterfly garden. Make a butterfly of your own.

• May 27: Terrific Trees. Learn how to make recycled paper and how we can help to conserve our trees. Read Lisl Weil's story about "The Little Chestnut Tree" and discover the chestnut trees at our Coastal Center.

• June 10: Seining in the Sound. We'll 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!

Summer Camp at the Coastal Center

For 15 years, our Coastal Center Summer Camp has provided quality programming to area youth. Located on an 8.5-acre Wildlife Refuge and Bird Sanctuary, 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 and live animals can be found inside the Center. For a complete Summer Camp Registration Form, see page 5 of this newsletter or visit www.ctaudubon.org/visit/milford.htm.

HALF-DAY PROGRAM

Beach Bums, for Ages 3-5

Tues.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-noon.
Younger campers interact with nature! Meet live creatures, explore our beaches, and enjoy hands-on activities and games. Fee: \$130/week CAS Members, \$185/week Non-members. Sign up for multiple weeks at the same time and CAS Members receive a discount: 2-3 weeks for \$120/week; 4 or more weeks for \$115/week.

Schedule:

Week 1: June 22-24
Week 2: June 29-July 1
Week 3: July 6-8
Week 4: July 13-15
Week 5: July 20-22
Week 6: July 27-29
Week 7: Aug. 3-5
Week 8: Aug. 10-12
Week 9: Aug. 17-19

Eco-Explorers, for Ages 4-6

Tues.-Thurs., 1-4 p.m.
It's our afternoon version of "Beach Bums"! Explore nature using your senses, and enjoy fun games and crafts! Fee: \$130/week CAS Members, \$185/week Non-Members. Sign up for multiple weeks at the same time and CAS Members receive a discount: 2-3 weeks for \$120/week; 4 or more weeks for \$115/week.

Schedule:

Week 1: June 22-24
Week 2: June 29-July 1
Week 3: July 6-8
Week 4: July 13-15

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

Week 5: July 20-22
Week 6: July 27-29
Week 7: August 3-5
Week 8: August 10-12
Week 9: August 17-19

Junior Naturalists

For 5-7 & 7-9 year olds
Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m.
These exciting half-day programs provide your child with hours of hands-on exploration, games and crafts! Fee: \$155/week CAS Members, \$210/week Non-members.

Schedule:

- Week 1, June 21-25: Down By the Sea 9 a.m.-noon for ages 5-7; 1-4 p.m. for ages 5-7 & 7-9.
- Week 2, June 28-July 2: Xtreme Animals 9 a.m.-noon for ages 5-7.
- Week 3, July 5-9: Motion in the Ocean 9 a.m.-noon for ages 5-7.
- Week 4, July 12-16: Xtreme Animals 9 a.m.-noon for ages 7-9.



A merry trio of "Junior Naturalists" in training. Photo by Frank Gallo.

- Week 5, July 19-23: Spineless Wonders 9 a.m.-noon for ages 5-7.
- Week 6, July 26-30: Motion in the Ocean 9 a.m.-noon for ages 5-7.
- Week 7, Aug. 2-6: Motion in the Ocean 9 a.m.-noon for ages 7-9.
- Week 8, Aug. 9-13: Xtreme Animals 9 a.m.-noon for ages 5-7.
- Week 9, Aug. 16-20: Spineless Wonders 9 a.m.-noon for ages 5-7.; 1-4 p.m. for ages 7-9.



CAS's Frank Gallo demonstrates bird banding to campers.

FULL-DAY PROGRAM

Discovery Squad, for Ages 7-9

Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Focusing on different topics each week, campers explore nature in a stimulating setting. Fee: \$305/week CAS Members, \$360/week Non-members.

- Week 3, July 5-9: Down by the Sea. It's a week at the beach that can't be beat! Meet creatures that jiggle like jellyfish or scuttle like crabs!
- Week 6, July 26-30: Xtreme Animals. Think you can jump higher than a kangaroo or farther than a frog? Test your skills against "Xtreme" animals from around the world during our Animal Olympics.

Aqua Quest, for Ages 8-12

Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
These full-day programs give children in-depth opportunities to experience and enjoy nature. Fee: \$310/week CAS Members, \$365/week Non-Members.

- Week 4, July 12-16, Flying Things Too (ages 8-11). Enjoy a wacky week of beachside experiments, activities and games. Create flying soda cans, make paper rockets, or enter the annual egg drop contest.
- Week 8, Aug. 9-13: Survivor Week (ages 9-12). Learn how to survive a wild week at the Coastal Center. Make a shelter, build a fire, discover edible plant life and enjoy a cookout.



Looking for Peregrine Falcons and other raptors. Photo by Frank Gallo.

Audubon Expeditions, for Ages 10-15

Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Five unique days of travel and exploration! Visit new sites daily in search of Connecticut's natural wonders & wildlife!

- Week 2, June 28-July 2: Hooks and Ladders (ages 10-14). Young naturalists will comb Connecticut's beaches, streams, fields and forests in search of our state's hidden wildlife! Fee: \$360 CAS Members, \$415 Non-Members.
- Week 5, July 19-23: Animal Investigations (overnight) for ages 11-15. Work with wildlife biologists to track, band and tag our state's native wildlife. Plus, enjoy a Thursday overnight at our Center at Pomfret! Fee: \$375 CAS Members, \$430 Non-Members.
- Week 7, Aug. 2-6: Surf & Turf II (overnight) for ages 10-14. Take part in amazing adventures by land and by sea! Go behind the scenes at Beardsley Zoo, take a ferry ride, and spend a night at the Coastal Center. Fee: \$375 CAS Members, \$430 Non-Members.

Connecticut Audubon Society Birdcraft Museum

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

Bird Banding Demonstrations

Wed., April 28 & May 5, 7:30-8:30 a.m.
Connecticut Audubon Society volunteers, licensed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, have operated a bird banding station here since 1979, where over 20,000 birds have been mist-netted, documented, banded and released unharmed. Learn more about the birds that visit our Sanctuary during their journey north. Inclement weather postpones program to Thursday morning. Pre-registration required. Daily fee: \$9/person (family max. \$27) CAS Members, \$13/person (family max. \$39) Non-members.

Afternoon Adventure: Spring Flowers

Wed., May 19, 4-4:30 p.m.
Butterflies, bees, ants and hummingbirds love them: what are they? Flowers, of course! We'll start with a story, plant some springtime flower seeds, then head out in search of flowers and animals in our 6-acre Birdcraft Sanctuary. If it rains we'll visit the museum. All ages are welcome; children must be accompanied by an actively participating adult. Admission by donation.

Summer 2010 Programs

Summer Nature Weeks

Exploration, discovery and curiosity are at the heart of Connecticut Audubon Society Birdcraft Museum's "Summer Nature Weeks." Experience the wonders of nature through hands-on outdoor explorations. Be a naturalist each week, discovering the varied habitats in our wildlife sanctuary, catching butterflies, using binoculars to look at birds, and searching for reptiles and amphibians. Enjoy 3-day weeks filled with hands-on crafts, games, stories and hikes to enhance the fun and learning. All programs are held rain or shine. In case of inclement weather, an outdoor

activity will be replaced with an equivalent indoor activity. Children must be 3-5 years old, toilet-trained, and able to attend without an adult.

June 8-10, 9 a.m.-noon "Animal Babies" for 3-5 year olds.

Ducklings! Bunnies! Chipmunks! Oh My! Come explore with us as we learn about the baby animals that live in our wildlife sanctuary. Some look like their parents, some don't. Do you know which is which? Fee: \$120 CAS Members, \$175 Non-members.

June 15-17, 9 a.m.-noon "Bug-A-Rama" for 3-5 year olds.

Bugs are everywhere! Butterflies, spiders, millipedes and ants are just a few of the creepy crawlies we'll meet this week. Come along and get a "worm's-eye" view of their habitats. Fee: \$120 CAS Members, \$175 Non-members.

June 22-24, 9 a.m.-noon "Safari Adventures" for 3-5 year olds.

Grab your passport and travel to Africa. We're in search of animals big and small. We're sure to find lions, cheetahs and rhinos, but maybe there's more? Join us for an adventure-packed week. Fee: \$120 CAS Members, \$175 Non-members.

June 29-July 1, 9 a.m.-noon "Calls of the Wild" for 3-5 year olds.

Let's use our ears and listen to the symphony of nature sounds around us. Birds chirping, flowing water, squirrels digging and a light breeze through the trees. These are calls of the wild! Fee: \$120 CAS Members, \$175 Non-members.

July 13-15, 9 a.m.-noon "Radical Reptiles & Awesome Amphibians."

For 3-5 year olds. Who thinks reptiles and amphibians are cool? If you raised your hand, then this class is for YOU! Do you know what a turtle shell is made of? Why snakes shed their skin? Are frogs really slimy? Join us

as we discover the weird and wonderful world of these amazing animals! Fee: \$120 CAS Members, \$175 Non-members.

July 27-29, 9 a.m.-noon "Mud Madness" for 3-5 year olds.

What's mud made of? Soil + water = mud! Is all mud the same? Investigate the mysteries of mud and soil, the animals that live in it and those that create it. To top off the fun, we'll create our own mud pies! Fee: \$120 CAS Members, \$175 Non-members.

August 10-12, 9 a.m.-noon "Sense-ational Senses" for 3-5 year olds.

There is nature all around you at all times! Tune into nature using your senses: sight, smell, touch and hearing, and make a special snack to taste. We'll investigate how animals use their different senses. Fee: \$120 CAS Members, \$175 Non-members.

"Cool Kids are ..." Workshops New program for children who completed Grades 4-6.

Tuesday-Thursday, 1-4 p.m. Fee: \$120 CAS Members, \$175 Non-members

July 13-15: Science Kids

Investigate and experiment with chemical reactions using non-toxic household items. Test out all kinds of slime, do tie-dyeing with acids and bases, and more. Can we get the bottle top to pop off?

July 27-29: Survival Kids

Explore basics of wilderness survival. Search for shelter, find water, stay warm and build a fire.

Aug. 10-12: Creative Kids

With nature as your inspiration, we'll "get artistic" with leaves, branches and flowers, create sun prints and mix up some natural plant dyes.

Beach Bums

Sessions:

July 6-8, July 20-22, Aug. 3-5.
For 3-5 year olds at 9 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m.
For K-2nd Grade (completed) 1-4 p.m.
Search for birds, crabs, fish and more while getting wet at Fairfield's Ash Creek Open Space. Drop off at Ash Creek, directions will be provided. In case of inclement weather, classes will be held at our Birdcraft Museum. All children must be toilet-trained and able to attend without an adult. Fee: \$135 CAS Members, \$190 Non-members.



CAS's Tricia Kevalis and a bunch of her "Beach Bums." Photo by Abigail Ray Kozel.

Friday Family Fun

July 9, 16, 23, 30, Aug. 6, 13, 10-10:45 a.m.

For 3-5 year olds accompanied by an actively participating adult. Come and experience the joy of discovering crabs and periwinkles, listening to the sound of birds, the wind in the trees, and the smells of the seashore. Join in the fun at Fairfield's Ash Creek Open Space. Enjoy nature discoveries through stories and explorations with your child. Fee (includes 1 child & 1 adult): \$15/program, \$84 for six programs CAS Members; \$21/program, \$120 for six programs Non-members.

