



**Support Connecticut Audubon's Team!
 Help Us Raise \$5,000 during the May 21, 2011
 Connecticut Big Day Birding Challenge!**

Information and 2011 PLEDGE Form

Our team, the Connecticut Audubon Raven Luna-ticks✓(Nick Bonomo, Patrick Dugan, Frank Gallo, Dave Tripp, and Fran Zygmont) will again attempt to break Connecticut's Big Day birding record of 186 species. Our 185 species for 2010 was so close, it hurt, especially when we tossed out a couple of possible species ... It's a new year, and we're taking up the challenge again.

In 2010, we found some amazing birds for late May in Connecticut, including nesting Mississippi Kites, Long-eared and Saw-whet Owls, Horned Larks, 24 species of warblers, a late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Great Cormorant, and Green-winged Teal! Tough misses included, Wilson's Warbler and all our scouted Red-breasted Mergansers. Last year's highlight for me was at Great Pond in Simsbury, when Dave started yelling "Mississippi Kite, Mississippi Kite" while pointing at the sky above the parking lot. My arrival at the lot (you never saw me run so fast) was met by a soaring Mississippi Kite, being mobbed by an angry Cooper's Hawk and a screaming Red-shouldered Hawk – all three were new species for the day... talks about one stop shopping!

This year, we're already nailing down raptor nests (please let us know if you have any in your area), and have planned extra time for scouting. Our sights are set on 200 species, and we'll give it our all! We invite you to join our team by pledging your support. Help us achieve our ambitious goal of reaching 200 species and raising \$5,000 -- **every dollar you pledge goes directly to support the Coastal Center at Milford Point – recently voted by Yankee Magazine as the best birding destinations in Connecticut. We can not do this without you, and we thank you in advance for your generosity!**

Here's how you can help us raise \$5,000:

1. You pledge an amount for every bird species we find during the 2011 Connecticut Big Day Challenge.
 Or pledge a flat amount -- all donations are welcome, needed, and appreciated, and corporate matching helps!
2. We pledge to spend May 21st -- all 24 hours – traversing the entire state of Connecticut in search of birds.
3. We will send you our results and your pledge payment amount the week of May 23rd. 100% of your donations is used to support Connecticut Audubon Society's Coastal Center at Milford Point.
4. Challenge us! Can we really find 200 species in 24 hours in CT? If you want to make it even harder, give us a Challenge Pledge to find a particular bird species.

PLEDGE Form

I am making a per-species donation of (please check one):

\$2.00 \$1.50 \$1.00 .75 cents .50 cents .25 cents Other amount (\$_. __)

OR: ___ I am donating a total amount of : (\$___. __). ___ Here's my Special Challenge Pledge: I will donate \$___. __ if you see this species! _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Please return this form by May 22, 2011 to:

CT Big Day Challenge

Make Check Payable to: Connecticut Audubon Society

Coastal Center at Milford Point

1 Milford Point Road, Milford, CT 06460

Questions? Contact fgallo@ctaudubon.org.