

**Connecticut Audubon Society  
Center at Pomfret and Trail Wood**

**Master Naturalist Training Program**

**Program Purpose:** To train a corps of volunteers to support our facilities as well as providing stewards for northeastern Connecticut at large.

**Meeting Time:** Tuesdays, March 20 – May 22, 8 a.m. to noon

**Meeting Place:** Grassland Bird Conservation Center, 218 Day Road, Pomfret

**Training Cost:** \$195 members, \$250 nonmembers (includes membership)

**Post Training Expectation:** In exchange for a heavily discounted training cost, trained volunteers are expected to contribute a minimum of 40 volunteer hours to the organization.

**March 20: Connecticut Audubon Society, Who are we?**

Our mission, our facilities, our sanctuaries and an up close look at what we have in northeastern Connecticut. Field trip to Trail Wood in Hampton. Instructor, Sarah Heminway, Director of Northeast Corner Programs

**March 27: Birds**

Birds and their habitats is the Connecticut Audubon Society's mission. Watch Andy's slide show on how to identify native birds and discuss the habitats in which they are found. Hike on the Bafflin Sanctuary, looking for birds. You will learn how to identify our common species on the sanctuary based on field marks, songs, calls, and habitat. Instructor, Andy Rzeznikiewicz, CT Audubon Sanctuary Manager.

**April 3: Wildlife Habitat Management**

Learn how to read the landscape of the sanctuaries. Humans, animals, and weather all leave behind clues which can be interpreted when one knows the language. See how the properties are managed to benefit native species. Learn to identify non-native plants and animals and how they impact native flora and fauna. Instructor, Andy Rzeznikiewicz, CT Audubon Sanctuary Manager.

**April 10: Citizen Science Monitoring Projects**

This program trains volunteers to collect local conservation data. Offered throughout the year, volunteer opportunities include Vernal Pool identification - woodfrogs and salamanders, Stream Walk and Rapid Bioassessment - stream water quality projects, Grassland Bird Habitat Surveys, and Mammal Monitoring - tracking wildlife. This session will be followed with fieldwork experience. Instructor, Paula Coughlin, Citizen Science Program Coordinator.

**April 17: Leading Hikes and Programs/first aid**

Running a public center and conducting regular programming for the public requires an understanding as to how to best handle the public to assure a quality experience for all. We will also cover first aid basics with option to take Red Cross certified class at a future date. Instructor, Sarah Heminway, Director, Northeast Corner Programs; John Folsom, retired CTDEEP Park Manager.

### **April 24: Mammals of Northeastern Connecticut**

The Bafflin Sanctuary and the surrounding landscape support a diverse array of mammal species, ranging in size from mice to moose. Learn how to identify mammals, their natural histories and the niches they occupy in the Quite Corner's ecosystems. Learn about current wildlife studies and ways to improve coexistence between mammals, habitats and people. Instructor, Dale May, retired, CT DEEP Wildlife Biologist

### **May 1: Amphibians and Reptiles**

**Instructor to be announced**

### **May 8: Nature Photography**

Learn basic principles of nature photography including best types of cameras, lenses, and accessories and how to use them; how to find and get close to subjects; what makes a good landscape photo. Learn tricks and procedures that make flower and insect photography easier. We will discuss ways to use our photos to benefit the Connecticut Audubon Society. Instructor, Fran Baranski, life long nature photographer and tracker

### **May 17: Insects**

The session on insects will cover their place in the Animal Kingdom, their distinctive anatomical characteristics, and the advantages as well as disadvantages of these characteristics. There will be a discussion of insect behaviors and the different "techniques" which insects employ in order to survive colors sensitivities, odors, diapause, and metamorphosis. Other topics will include a review of the insect orders with emphasis on the Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies), and relationship between Lepidoptera species and their host plants, population controls as well as the importance of insects to the ecosystem in general and man in particular. Instructor, Ben Williams, nationally recognized lepidopterist, life long naturalist.

### **May 22: Final Review and Wrap-up**

**Are you interested? Did we whet your appetite?**

**Join the Connecticut Audubon Team !**

**For application form go to our website [www.ctaudubon.org](http://www.ctaudubon.org) or call the Center at 860-928-4948**