The Connecticut Audubon Society conserves Connecticut's environment through science-based education and advocacy focused on the state's bird populations and habitats.
The 2016 Dave Engelman Volunteer Benchmark Award for Outstanding Service

Jerid O’Connell, Westport
Jerid is founder of the Friends of Smith Richardson Nature Preserve, has organized several neighborhood cleanups, and is involved with planning habitat improvements.

“When I first called Connecticut Audubon, it was not to volunteer - I was another cranky neighbor complaining about the preserve next to my house. But I met some of the most wonderful, passionate people at the Connecticut Audubon and I was blown away at their commitment to nature. “For those of us who love nature, we must chip in to help maintain and preserve these remaining wild places. No organization can do it alone.”

Walter “Sandy” Sanstrom, Essex
Sandy builds and erects platforms and nest boxes, helping to re-establish Ospreys, kestrels and bluebirds.

“In elementary school in the early ‘60’s, my school bus crossed a salt marsh in Westbrook where there was an abandoned Osprey nest in a massive oak tree. One day a classmate offered that her father had told her that the ‘fish hawks were all gone and done for.’

“This news affected me because I had never seen one and figured I never would. It would be years before I would get to see Osprey locally. I grew up at Grove Beach near Duck Island and am still amazed to see eagles, Osprey, Wild Turkey, Canada Geese, ibis, loons, vultures, Brant, etc.”
**KATHLEEN HART, Canterbury**
In addition to being a presence at the Center at Pomfret, Kathleen has funded Connecticut Audubon education programs for residents of Canterbury.

“I got involved because I admired Sarah Heminway, the center director, and what she was doing. I travel a distance to get up there and so it had to be something that I wanted to do.

“At this point in my life I’ve been able to do a little bit. I wrote the education grant first, for kindergarten through 4th grade, and then I said to the school that if the PTA would pay half, I’d pay half. It’s been wonderful.”

**LAWRENCE J. LUNDEN, West Hartford**
A long-time member of our Board of Directors and Glastonbury regional board, Larry co-chaired our Glastonbury Earth Fair for several years and is a frequent bird-walk leader.

“The best thing Connecticut Audubon is doing is the adult programs. All nature centers have children’s programs, but few have such an assortment of adult programming.

“We are putting some effort in the last year or so into maintaining the sanctuaries that are not connected with a center, to make them more visitor-friendly. We are moving in the right direction.”

**GEORGE DEWEY, Middlebury, Milford**
George has chipped in with on-the-spot carpentry at the Coastal Center at Milford Point, including construction of more than a dozen benches for campers.

“Milford Point is my summer place - I have the only shack left standing among all the giant houses. I’ve always been a nature guy. When I came down here, I’d see things at the Coastal Center that needed fixing. I have a machine shop so I’m used to working with my hands and making things. I’ve worked with steel and metal materials all these years, so it’s sort of a natural transition to move over to wood.”
The new tide brings in fresh fish. The sound of the water becomes my therapy from a long week of work. – Dawn Brucale

BENNETT PUDLIN and ANN JUDD, Madison
Osprey Nation Volunteer Stewards and Connecticut Audubon Society Members

They monitor 15 nests, including one they can see from their house.

BENNETT: We moved to Madison from Hamden eight years ago. We were looking for a place where we would have direct access to the water for our kayaks. When we found this house on one of the most important salt marshes on Long Island Sound, we knew we had the right place.

ANN: We knew how to identify Osprey by sight and call and knew their nesting habits, but we’re constantly learning more about their lives as we observe them. We try make a circuit once a week from the Neck River to the East River and back to the Neck.

BENNETT: We monitor our platform on our property often throughout the day. We have binoculars upstairs and down, and our scope is trained on the nest.

ANN: Certainly the constant increase in the Osprey population on our marsh gives me reason to be optimistic, but the rise in sea level that threatens some of the other marsh residents dampens my optimism a bit.

BENNETT: Osprey were very close to disappearing, and in just a few decades, they have made a miraculous recovery.
DAWN BRUCALE, Branford
Osprey Nation Volunteer Steward and Connecticut Audubon Society Member

“Monitoring eight nests may sound like an enormous amount of work and, I kid you not, there are days when it wears me out, but I always make the time to get out there because the reward of listening to the water, breathing in the salty air and staring into the eyes of the Osprey bring me back into balance when the rest of my world is so chaotic.

“Because this nest is in a bit of a small marsh area it seems to be a great feeding ground for the Osprey. They don’t have to go far from their nest and I get the benefit of great photo ops! I’ve captured some of my best Osprey fishing pics from this spot, including juveniles who are doing it for the first time.”

GENEVIEVE NUTTALL, Essex
Osprey Nation coordinator, University of Connecticut Student

“Osprey Nation has grown steadily since its start in 2014. Each year, nests are added to the map, and additional stewards are needed to collect data on these nests so we can understand the population growth of Ospreys in Connecticut.”

The 104 citizen scientists who volunteer for Osprey Nation are monitoring and collecting data for 405 of the 533 active nests in Connecticut.
Conservation Centers, Summer Camps

The campers go home happy and exhausted and looking forward to the next day. – Matthew Yerushalmi

PATRICIA SCOTT, Wilton
Bird-bander, Birdcraft Sanctuary. Connecticut Audubon Society Member

“I went on a birding trip with Connecticut Audubon in the fall of maybe 1999 or 2000. The leader suggested I contact her friend, Judy Richardson, who was the master bander at Birdcraft. She thought I would love bird banding. She was right.

“I knew absolutely nothing about banding. I was certain I would never remove a bird from the net, but after a couple of weeks I thought ‘I can do this.’

“Banding gives us a snapshot of what’s happening with bird populations right now. The collection of data shows us long-term trends and fluctuations. We also get an idea of how the changes in the Birdcraft habitat affect the local and migrant populations. We lost a lot of trees in the Halloween blizzard, and a year later in the Sandy storm. Deer did long-term damage to our understory. It’s finally starting to come back.”

ROXANNE STEED, Mystic
Master Naturalist, Center at Pomfret. Artist in Residence, Trail Wood. Connecticut Audubon Society Member

“I spent the winter and spring in the weekly sessions at the Center in Pomfret. Like ‘drinking out of the fire hydrant’ - there is so much material to cover! It made me realize how long it would take to feel truly competent! Each class was fascinating and amazing.

“As a painter and a naturalist, in a time when so many are disenchanted with our world and things that are going on, I want to help people become ‘enchanted’ by our natural surroundings and help them develop a love and appreciation for it - perhaps helping them see things in a new way. When people see beauty, and learn to see it in places where they might not expect it, they are more likely to love and protect that place or thing.”
MADELEINE HUTCHINS, Hampton
Bird-bander, Center at Pomfret. Yale University student

“I had seen banding done at camp and learned about birds there as well as just watching them on my own time, but I was definitely far less familiar with birds and bird banding than after I started at Pomfret.

“I think birds are often overlooked in their importance to ecosystems, so it’s always good to be keeping track of their whereabouts and habits.

“As far as doing the public demonstrations, I think it greatly increases peoples’ feeling of connection to the birds, which produces an individual desire to help them prosper, whether that’s through donating to organizations like Audubon or changing the landscaping at their home to better accommodate key species.”

MATTHEW YERUSHALMI, Fairfield
Camp counselor, former camper. Center at Fairfield

“I consider Connecticut Audubon my second home. I’ve learned and made great friendships, and always look forward to volunteering and participating in summer camp. The values and purpose of Connecticut Audubon are what make it successful and what separates it from other camps.

“A full day starts at 9 o’clock and ends at 4. The campers go home happy and exhausted and looking forward to the next day.

“They become more respectful towards nature, and develop an appreciation for the environment. The hard work of the teachers and counselors help make a fun and interesting learning environment.”

The Connecticut Audubon Society operates centers in Fairfield, Milford, Old Lyme, Glastonbury, and Pomfret, and owns 19 sanctuaries covering 2,600 acres.
Science in Nature

It goes above and beyond classroom settings. The kids have to understand the whole picture. That’s what I really like about Science in Nature. – Mary Servino

MARY SERVINO, Discovery Magnet School, Bridgeport
Science Specialist/Coach. Connecticut Audubon Society Member

“For Science in Nature, what has been so successful is that you have so many more educators than I would have at school. The kids are broken up into small groups, 8 to 12 kids. They are more confident about saying some of their opinions and ideas. The educators are really good about making everyone feel included.

“The kids use the anemometer and the temperature probes and the soil moisture sensors. That’s a huge thing for me - in a small-group setting to make sure they’re actually using the materials scientists use. They have to record that data and think about how scientists use the data and what the data mean.”

CRAIG STALK and KATHLEEN STALK, Center at Glastonbury
Master Naturalists. Connecticut Audubon Society Members

“We learned about insects, amphibians, reptiles and birds, soil, rocks/geology as well as gardening with an emphasis on native and invasive plants.

“In April we started to work with grade schools, as teacher assistants - helping to explain the subject matter as well as how to use the test instruments and the field measurement techniques.

“What did we get from it? Personal growth. Sharing knowledge with the other adults in the Master Naturalist class. Giving back to the community and paying it forward to the next generation.”

In 2016, 16,750 students from 44 communities participated in Science in Nature. We trained 99 teachers; 14 schools participated in our professional development workshops.
EcoTravel

For me, a big part of why I lead trips for Connecticut Audubon EcoTravel as a volunteer is about giving back to a cause that has given me a lot and one that I'm passionate about. – Joe Bear

JOE BEAR, Wilton
EcoTravel Volunteer Trip Leader

“When I first got the birding bug some 30 years ago I signed up for as many EcoTravel trips as time and money would allow; the trip leaders’ knowledge and enthusiasm inspired my passion, so when I felt I had accumulated enough knowledge I wanted to give back to the birding community by leading trips myself. There’s a real joy and inner satisfaction sharing what you know and love with like-minded people.

“Leading birding trips for EcoTravel is largely about just that - birds - but in many ways it transcends our avian friends. It’s all about creating an awareness of our natural world. When birding, you can’t help but notice and appreciate all the other interconnected aspects of the environment - creating this awareness and importance hopefully influences our behaviors and support of the natural world.”

In 2016, EcoTravel arranged 24 international trips, 19 domestic trips, 65 day trips for 1,236 travelers. Small Groups. Great Leaders. Interesting People.
# Financial Summary

*May 1, 2015, through April 30, 2016*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Gains and Other Support</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total April 30, 2016</th>
<th>Total April 30, 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and bequests</td>
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<td>Eco-travel programs</td>
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<td>Special Events</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>Endowment income:</strong></td>
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<td>Investment income (net of fees)</td>
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<td>Realized gain on securities</td>
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<td>Unrealized gain (loss) on securities</td>
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<td><strong>Net assets released from restriction:</strong></td>
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<td>Satisfaction of restrictions:</td>
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<td>(313,616)</td>
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<td>Capital expenditures</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$2,785,713</td>
<td>($336,003)</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$2,499,710</td>
<td>$2,852,064</td>
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</table>

**NELSON NORTH,** Executive Director

The Connecticut Audubon Society

“We’re always working to improve conservation by delivering first-rate education programs, camp activities, and habitat improvement projects, while remaining fiscally responsible. That’s our challenge, and we’re committed to meeting it.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>TOTAL April 30, 2016</th>
<th>TOTAL April 30, 2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>Education program</td>
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<td>Total expenses</td>
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<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>(592,583)</td>
<td>(336,003)</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>(878,586)</td>
<td>(427,879)</td>
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<td>Net assets at beginning of year</td>
<td>$9,694,914</td>
<td>$683,715</td>
<td>$13,428,680</td>
<td>$23,807,309</td>
<td>$24,235,188</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets at end of year</td>
<td>$9,102,331</td>
<td>$347,712</td>
<td>$13,478,680</td>
<td>$22,928,723</td>
<td>$23,807,309</td>
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</table>

*Based on audited financial statements*
We are grateful to all of you who have helped us achieve our goals through your membership and generous financial support, those listed below and those whom we did not have the space to include. This list reflects giving from May 1, 2015, through April 30, 2016. We apologize for any errors and encourage you to contact our Development Office at 203 259-0416 x402 or akerin@ctaudubon.org.

Benefactors

Annual Fund
- Amount raised: $640,770
- Increase over 2015: 21%
- Participation by members of our Board of Directors: 100%

Membership
- Increase in membership: 24%
- Increase in new members: 47%
- Connecticut towns our members live in: 165 out of 169

Mabel Osgood Wright
Planned Giving Society

Faith Barrington
Marian Erwin
Mahlon Hale
Henry Link
Virginia Loch
Lawrence J. Lunden
Frank W. Mantlik
Bernard Martin
Edwin Martin
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Ms. Anissa M. Berasi
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United Technologies Corp.  
Dr. Theodore Vanitallie  
Voya Foundation  
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Willimantic Rotary Club

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Rev. Anne Stilson Alvord  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
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Leroy and Christine Krumperman  
Ms. Karen Lambert  

WTNH interviews Milan Bull

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Ms. Elizabeth Linderman  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter G. Lombardo  
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Mr. Dennis G. McCarthy  
Mrs. Ilse H. McCarthy  
Karin and John McCormick  
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Don and Jann Parker

Connecticut Audubon Earns 3 Stars
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United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, Inc.
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$250 - $499

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Benjamin M. Baker

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Bill and Katherine Beattie
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Ms. Kristen Beyers
Dr. Richard O. Bierregaard, Jr.
and Ms. Catherine Dolan
Ms. Lisa Bloss
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Blumberg
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Mr. and Mrs. Peter Burnim
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Campaigne Kestner Architects
Cannupa Foundation
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Ms. Alicia Casucci
Ms. Susan T. Cecchini
Ms. Judy Charnesky
Chelsea Groton Bank Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Chicoski, Jr.
Mr. Henwell H. Chou
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A New Sign for Smith Richardson
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CENTER AT POMFRET
218 Day Road, Pomfret Center
860-928-4948

ROGER TORY PETERSON
ESTUARY CENTER
PO Box 62,
12 Halls Road, Old Lyme
860-460-9668

CENTER AT GLASTONBURY
1361 Main Street, Glastonbury
860-633-8402

BIRDCRAFT SANCTUARY
AND MUSEUM
314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield
203-259-0416

COASTAL CENTER
AT MILFORD POINT
1 Milford Point Road, Milford
203-878-7440

CENTER AT FAIRFIELD
2325 Burr Street, Fairfield
203-259-6305

ECOTRAVEL
PO Box 903
30 Plains Road, Essex
860-767-0660

as of April 30, 2016

This Annual Report was conceived, written and edited by The Connecticut Audubon Society; graphic design by Tammy Hines Design.
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The Connecticut Audubon Society conserves Connecticut’s environment through science-based education and advocacy focused on the state’s bird populations and habitats.

The cover photograph was the winner of our #Ctbirds photo contest in March. It was taken by Alexander Kearney, who became a member in 2016. Other photos contributed by the subjects, or by Connecticut Audubon.

Read the full versions of the member interviews in this report at www.ctaudubon.org/annual-report-2016