Look Inside
for Many
Special Destinations!

Montauk
Galapagos
Nebraska
Vietnam
Costa Rica
Texas
Iceland
Cornwall, England
Norway
Nova Scotia
Day Trips and more!

Small Groups!
Great Leaders!
Interesting People!

ctaudubon.org/ecotravel

EcoTravel News
Overnight Natural History Tours and Day Trips

ICELAND
June 2020
Is your binocular tired?

Birdwatching and nature appreciation really don’t take much equipment beyond a couple of field guides, a binocular, and if you want to enhance the experience, a fistful of cash sure would be helpful. But certainly the area where you must not skimp is your binocular. If you have been looking through glass that is 40 years old and may have been purchased at a marine supply store, it’s likely you are due for a step-up in the technology by now. Quality of the glass, weight, and ease of use are all factors that contribute the overall quality of a binocular. The newer binoculars have been designed to maximize image brightness, clarity, and usability. No more anchors around the neck or glass soda bottles tied together by a string. Old versus new equipment is similar to comparing an old color TV with a new high definition screen. People are often astounded by how good binoculars can be, even the less expensive binoculars have become. “Oh my God! What are these?” Well those are the OMG model, of course! Even the less expensive binoculars can be a step up, but certainly the old adage of “you get what you pay for” is totally true. Spend as much as you possibly can, because every dollar will be absolutely well spent. Ok, I know you didn’t get that holiday gift you hoped for, so give us a call so we can help you with a new binocular.

See you soon!    Cheers

Andrew Griswold, CAS Director of EcoTravel

The William C. Young Family Foundation
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International

Vietnam and Cambodia Extension
February 28 – March 14, 2020   16 Days!
Home to over 850 species of birds and over 300 species of mammals, including some of the world’s rarest primates, and stretching a thousand miles down the east coast of Southeast Asia, Vietnam encompasses an amazing array of habitats and biodiversity. From spectacular Halong Bay to rhododendron covered peaks rising above 9,000 feet to lush rainforests and the exciting Ho Chi Minh City, this ancient land offers a unique cultural and ecotourism experience. Visit cultural sites, unique national parks, the Central Highlands, and lowland tropical forest. Join the extension to Cambodia’s Angkor Wat. Not to be missed! Leader: Rob Taylor. Fee: $6,698. With member discount: $5,998.

Italy: Bird Migration and Culture
May 12 – 23, 2020   12 Days!
Explore the stunning landscapes and historical locations that have stood the tests of time as we explore the famous Tuscany region while traveling from Florence to Rome. Discover dense forests, gaze over vast meadows, and relax in the presence of waterfalls and icy lakes as we visit national parks and UNESCO biodiversity hotspots. While exploring the many unique Mediterranean habitats, keep an eye out for the diverse wildlife, flora, and of course, birds! Time will be spent both enjoying nature and exploring the local towns with their extensive history, some even dating back to the Etruscans. Birds may include Great Spotted Cuckoo, White-throated Dipper, and Firecrest. Leader: Chris Nevins. Fee: $5,598. With member discount: $4,898.

Cornwall, England: Hiking Tour of the Coast
May 14 – 24, 2020   11 Days!
Immerse yourself in maritime heathlands, tropical valleys, moors, history, and legends. Connect with nature along coastal paths, beaches, and lanes bordered by carpets of brilliant pastel spring flowers or summer heathers in fields stitched together with hedgerows. Enjoy the quiet, the clean air, and the fresh scents as we explore this land of Daphne De Maurier, Doc Martin, and Poldark on daily hikes near the cliffs and in the countryside. Our native naturalist/guide knows the flora and fauna, geology, significant historic sites, folklore, birds and wildlife, back roads, country tea houses, local gossip, and scenic villages off the beaten track. Leader: Rami Haxhi. Fee: $2,798. With member discount: $2,198.

Iceland: Land of Fire and Ice
June 1 – 11, 2020   11 Days!

Norway’s Western Rivers, Fjords, and Islands
July 10 – 21, 2020   12 Days!
Similar in size to California, but with only five million people, Norway has plenty of open space to explore. Its unique fjords, mountains, and picturesque villages give this outdoor adventure paradise a unique character. Norway's latitude, with part of the country located north of the Arctic circle, creates pronounced seasonal differences. Hike the Scandinavian landscapes, experience the Midnight Sun, visit the famous fjords at Aurland, and explore charming fishing villages. A must see is the city of Oslo with its museums, rich history, and numerous ways to experience Norway off the beaten path. Leader: Rami Haxhi. Fee: $5,598. With member discount: $4,998.
Ireland: Hiking Wicklow Way  
July 22 – 29, 2020  
Eight Days!

The 80-mile-long Wicklow Way was Ireland’s first waymarked trail and the brainchild of Dublin hillwalker J.B. Malone. Containing many miles of wonderfully unspoiled mountain trails, Wicklow Way offers a wide variety of scenic experiences, some of them in truly remote upland areas, including mountains, upland lakes, glacial valleys, mountain streams, forests, and farmland. The trail passes many famous sites, including the Christian monastic settlement established by Saint Kevin in the beautiful Glendalough Valley. See Round Tower, almost 1,000 years old. The trail is a pleasure to walk, with rougher sections graded to prevent erosion. The central section goes through Wicklow Mountains National Park. Stay at wonderful bed-and-breakfast lodgings. Leader: Rani Haxhi. Fee: $2,998. With member discount: $2,598.

Nova Scotia from Fundy to Cape Breton  
August 13 – 21, 2020  
Nine Days!

From the spectacular tides of the Bay of Fundy to the rolling farmland to the heathlands of Cape Breton, there is no better highlights tour! The tremendous number of shorebirds at this time of year is legendary, known for their incredible aerial ballet. Nights are at Canada’s government-owned four-star lodges. Cape Breton delights travelers with its high cliffs overlooking the North Atlantic and its quaint fishing villages. Leader: Andy Griswold. Fee: $4,698. With member discount: $3,998.

Hiking Through Spain  
September 2 - 12, 2020  
11 Days

Northeast Spain packs a powerful punch in terms of diversity of landscapes and habitats. The summits of the Pyrenees reach over 3,000 meters and are distinctly alpine. The Pre-Pyrenees show sun-bathed cliffs and towering crags overlooking the Ebro River valley. Following the course of the River Ebro will take you to the nature-rich Ebro Delta. Apart from travelling between the best natural sites, we’ll be incorporating walks on a daily basis to savor the countryside at a more intimate level with two or three short walks per day, or one longer one. We’ll take time to sample some of the other delights, with visits to a winery, an extra virgin olive oil museum, visits to clifftop villages and castles, and a guided walk to see some of the vast Roman heritage. Optional extension in the city of Barcelona to take in some of the modernist wonders of architect Gaudi and a walk down the Ramblas. Leader: Rani Haxhi. Fee: 4,698. With member discount: 3,998.

Tanzania Safari  
February 6 - 19, 2021  
14 Days!

Visit this stunning landscape to view the animals of the Serengeti! Lions, cheetahs, hyenas, and other predators abound. Visit Ngorongoro Crater, described as the eighth wonder of the world, Lake Manyara National Park in the Great Rift Valley, and Oldupai Gorge, where the Leakeys made their famous archeological discoveries of early hominids. Witness the migration of thousands of wildebeest. Travelers are accompanied by popular leader Miley Bull and local guides. Fee: 6,798. With member discount: 5,998.

Kilimanjaro Trek extension available. See below.

Trek to the Top of Kilimanjaro  
February 17 - 28, 2021  
12 Days!

Many people list Kilimanjaro as a lifetime dream adventure. This itinerary allows you the time to see all of Kilimanjaro’s main areas and offers the best chance of successfully making it to the roof of Africa! If you are looking for a great adventure and a life time experience that does not compromise safety or ethics, then this trek is for you. This climb via the unspoiled Lemosho route will take you into true wilderness. The flora and fauna are richer here than on more heavily trodden routes. The trek is supported with the best mountain tents and most important, well-trained professional mountain guides and a doctor. Leader: Rani Haxhi. Fee: 5,698. With member discount: 4,998.

Iceland: Land of Fire and Ice  
June 1 – 11, 2020  
11 Days!

Travelers visiting Iceland today follow in the steps of the mighty Vikings who first visited the island in the 9th century. Whether you delight in vast untouched and uninhabited expanses of landscape or walking around town making friends, you’ll feel free in Iceland and enter a whole new realm of experience. You’ll discover original nature as you’ve never seen it before while visiting thousands of cliff-nesting birds and exploring the culture, history, geology, and more. Leader: Andy Griswold. Fee: $6,798. With member discount: $5,998.

A Do-Not-Miss Tour

Amazing Amazon Cruise  
Year-round Departures.  
Seven Days!

Our most popular cruise explores some of the most untouched rainforest in all of Amazonia. On an eight-cabin expedition vessel, travelers venture far up some of the least inhabited rivers in the Amazon Basin for a full seven days and explore areas rarely visited, seeking out the mysterious life in the heart of the Amazon. This is the most thorough, detailed, and sophisticated trip offered in the entire Amazon and comes with rave reviews from past participants. Guides are accomplished local naturalists. This is easy for seniors and families! Starts at $3,150 per person. Extensions available to Iguacu Falls, Machu Picchu, Pantanal, Ecuador, and the Galapagos Islands. Call or email us for more information and a detailed itinerary.

Featured Cover Tour

© Daniel Forster

© Andrew Griswold
Domestic
(Regional Overnight Tours include transportation from Connecticut)

Montauk Escape
February 7 – 9, 2020  Three Days!
The town of Montauk, on the far eastern tip of Long Island, is one of the best winter birding spots. The open ocean and the harbor provide opportunities to see many winter waterfowl not so commonly found in Connecticut. Eiders, all three scoter species, gulls, alcids, grebes, loons, and other winter specialties are among the many birds one can expect. Enjoy the quiet of an off-season resort town and the fresh air of winter beaches.

Florida’s Everglades, Keys, and Dry Tortugas
March 19 – 26, 2020  Eight Days!
One of North America’s “Top Ten Birding Spots,” South Florida hosts a large number of unusual birds and other wildlife that are found nowhere else. Visit unique and sensitive habitats, including such well-known places as Big Cypress, Loxahatchee, Shark Valley, Anhinga Trail, Key West, and the famed Dry Tortugas. Bird species include the federally endangered Snail Kite, Short-tailed Hawk, Masked Booby, Brown Noddy, federally threatened Florida Scrub-Jay, and Sooty Tern. Witness first-hand how special a place the Everglades truly is! Leader: Andy Griswold. Fee: $4,198. With member discount: $3,698.

Nebraska’s Crane Migration
March 22 – 27, 2020  Six Days!
Nearly half a million Sandhill Cranes descend upon the broad valley of the Platte River, and by March approximately 80 percent of the world’s Lesser Sandhill Cranes crowd a 150-mile stretch of the river in the largest gathering of cranes anywhere in the world! We may even find a few of their rare and elegant cousins, the federally endangered Whooping Crane. Witness one of North America’s greatest wildlife spectacles! Leader: Jim Sherwood. Fee: $2,695. With member discount: $2,295.

Nantucket: Seasons in Transition
April 7 – 10, 2020  Four Days!
The birding starts the minute we board the ferry and gets better as we leave the mainland behind. Revel in the peace and quiet of an off-season resort, the inescapable sense of history, and the abundance of open space. Expect sea ducks, rare gulls, and spectacular Snowy Owls as we search the desolate beaches by four-wheel-drive vehicle. Take time to relax in the delightful teahouses and pubs in the heart of the historic town. You’ll be pleasantly surprised by the experience of the island in early spring. We’ll be staying in a private house in the village of Siasconset. Leaders: Andy Griswold and island native Rich Newman. Fee: $1,598. With member discount: $1,298.

Colorado’s Grouse and Prairie Chickens
April 14 – 24, 2020  11 Days!
Our tour is designed to allow time for birding the Great Plains, the Rocky Mountains, the Colorado Plateau, and the marvelous leks of Colorado’s grasslands, emphasizing the western birds you seldom or never see on the East Coast. The tour provides the best opportunity to find each of the many target bird species, including Greater and Gunnison sage-grouses, Lesser and Greater prairie-chickens, Dusky Grouse, White-tailed Ptarmigan, American Three-toed Woodpecker, rosy-finchers, and more. Each day is a total natural history experience! Leaders: Phil Rusch and second driver TBD. Fee: $5,485. With member discount: $4,885.
**Migration Chase: Delmarva Peninsula**  
April 15 – 19, 2020  Five Days!  
Venture to the Delmarva Peninsula, the piece of mainland sandwiched between the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean that comprises all of DELaware, the eastern portion of MARyland (including the renowned “Eastern Shore” of Chesapeake Bay), and a disconnected sliver of Virginia. After visiting key natural and historic areas, you will come away with a good feel for the land, its regional culture, and wild inhabitants. Explore varied habitats in search of birds as you scour the beaches, visit the vast marshland, and witness the first glimpses of spring. Enjoy Chesapeake foods, traditions, history, birds, and scenery. Destinations include Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague National Seashore. Leader: Matt Bell. Fee: $1,598. With Member Discount: $1,298.

**Texas: Coast, Valley, and Hills**  
April 27 – May 6, 2020  10 Days!  
Join the guide team of Jay Hand and Andy Griswold for a grand adventure in “The #1 Bird State.” Three-quarters of all birds occurring in the continental United States have been recorded in Texas, where on this ten-day trip you can see over 250 species, including Green Kingfisher, Plain Chachalaca, Great Kiskadee, Green Jay, Tropical Parula, Golden-cheeked Warbler, and more. The scenery is fabulous, featuring vast open spaces unlike anything in the East. Visit famed High Island, Bolivar Flats, Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, King Ranch, Sabal Palm, Santa Ana, Bentsen, and the Edward’s Plateau. Jay and Andy are known for their expert knowledge of Texas birds. Fee: $3,898. With member discount: $3,498.

**Warbler Extravaganza: Magee to Pelee**  
May 12 – 21, 2020  10 Days!  
Magee Marsh, on the south shore of Lake Erie, is a prime stopover for North American warblers. Every spring thousands of birders and photographers flock to this location to witness the spectacle of large songbird concentrations preparing to migrate across the Great Lake. Point Pelee National Park, on Lake Erie’s north shore, is one of the most important migration highways in North America. It’s located within the true deciduous forest region commonly called Carolinian Forest, in Canada found only on a narrow belt along Lake Erie’s north shore, featuring plants and animals that are rare or absent elsewhere in Canada. The Point is perfectly situated as a migrant trap and in springtime can boast as many as 260 species, with a single-day high of 170! Trip via our luxury van from Connecticut. This is a perfect trip for birders of all levels! Leader: Matt Bell. Fee: $3,498. With member discount: $3,098. The tour is limited to seven participants.

**Mount Auburn: Warbler Mecca**  
May 15 – 17, 2020  Three Days!  
This is absolutely the best place on the East Coast to see and hear large numbers of migrant warblers during the peak of spring migration! Birds are often at eye level, offering excellent views and photographic opportunities. Mt. Auburn, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was founded in 1831 by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society as a “garden cemetery,” a concept since copied by many communities across the country. The stupendous variety and scale of the trees alone is not to be missed, providing an oasis that birds find irresistible. Migration at its best in a setting that is unrivaled! Fee: $865. With member discount: $665. Leader: Jim Sherwonit.

**Hunt for the Elusive Spruce Grouse**  
May 18 – 21, 2020  Four Days!  
Enjoy an escape to clear mountain waters, lakes abundant with native trout,
and the brightest star-filled nights you’ve ever seen—all in the beautiful woods of Maine. Visit the places where Frederick Church painted landscapes of Mount Katahdin. Get away and roam among the moose, carnivorous pitcher plants and sundew, orchids, and birds unique to this northern habitat. The big target is Spruce Grouse but should also include other hard-to-find species like Black-backed and American Three-toed woodpeckers. Leader: Andy Griswold. Fee: $1,198. With member discount: $998.

**Connecticut Lakes**

**June 4 - 7, 2020  Four Days!**
The Connecticut Lakes region is the wild area at the northern tip of New Hampshire, the center of the North Country’s moose habitat where the Connecticut River is born. Birds may include Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker, Canada Jay, Mourning Warbler, and Boreal Chickadee. Stay at a peaceful lakeside lodge and hike to the headwaters, straddling the river where it begins its journey south. Leader: Jim Sherwonit. Fee: $1,198. With member discount: $998.

**Maine’s Whales and Puffins**

**July 9 - 13, 2020  Five Days!**
Maine is one of the most beautiful states on the East Coast. With its rocky shores, dense forests, and access to the ocean, it gives nature lovers a wide range of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. This trip allows participants to experience much of what Maine has to offer, with a puffin cruise, whale watch, forest walks, ocean strolls, and amazing views. Explore the beauty of Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park, one of the most picturesque parks and home to Cadillac Mountain, where watching sunrise and sunset is unequalled. Revel in the scenic beauty of historic towns and hidden coves. Leader: Jim Sherwonit. Fee: $1,798. With member discount: $1,498.

**Southeastern Arizona Desert Bloom**

**July 22 - 30, 2020  Nine Days!**
Late July welcomes the summer rains and is prime time for finding hummingbirds. As many as 15 species, including White-eared, Violet-crowned, Berylline, and Plain-capped Starthroat have been found on past trips. This is also the time for Mexican rarities, such as Aztec Thrush. These are but a few of the many species we’ll search out as we journey through this lovely, varied landscape, which draws birders from all over the world. Leaders: Jay Hand and Andy Griswold. Fee: $3,298. With member discount: $2,898.

**Monhegan Island: Migration Hotspot**

**September 19 - 22, 2020  Four Days!**
Join leader Jim Sherwonit on a relaxing tour of Monhegan Island at the peak of migration. Off the coast of Maine, Monhegan serves as a stopover point for birds caught out over open water. With no roads and no cars on the island, participants stroll along the many trails while searching for what arrived overnight and enjoying eye-level looks at many species of the warblers, tanagers, and flycatchers. In the fall, nature and beauty are at their apex on Monhegan. Stay at a lovely island inn and don’t miss the blueberry pie! Fee: $1,198. With member discount: $998.

**Block Island Weekend Escape**

**October 2 - 4, 2020  Three Days!**
Revel in the wilds of Block Island, Rhode Island, after summer tourists have left the beaches and town. Often a magnet for wayward birds, “Block” will delight travelers with its island architecture, wild flowers, and natural beauty. This is our most popular weekend trip! Leaders: Andy Griswold and Matt Bell. Fee: $898. With member discount: $698.

**Cape May**

**October 8 - 11, 2020  Four Days!**
Without a doubt one of the top ten birding spots in the country, Cape May is
where every fall hundreds of thousands of migrating birds funnel into the southern tip of New Jersey and birdwatchers come from all over the world to enjoy not only the diversity of hawks, shorebirds, and warblers, but also the scenic beaches, meadows, and lively historic town. Something for everyone!
Leader: Jim Sherwinit. Fee: $1,298. With member discount: $998.

**Southern Utah’s National Parks**
**October 11 – 18, 2020** Eight Days!
Witness first hand some of the amazing panoramas and breathtaking backdrops that you have always imagined. Visit the top national parks of the West, including Zion, Bryce Canyon, and Arches, to name a few. Zion holds some of the most rewarding adventures in all of Utah (if not the country), and Bryce is home to the world’s largest collection of hoodoos (odd-shaped pillars of rock). Explore and enjoy the birds, plants, and animals that call this region home. October is a great time to visit Utah after the summer crowds and heat. Leader: Matt Bell. Fee: $3,725. With member discount $3,225. Optional Great Basin Extension.

**Jekyll Island, Georgia**
**October 18 - 25, 2020** Eight Days!
Located six miles off the Coast, Jekyll Island is one of Georgia’s sea islands known as the “Golden Isles.” This barrier island is connected by causeways through extensive salt marshes, channels, and winding rivers. The coastal islands are characterized by moss-draped live oaks, pines, and sandy beaches. The state mandates that no more than 35 percent of the island will ever be developed, an action that preserves much of the natural habitat of a true barrier island: its ecology, geologic history, and importance as an ecosystem. There’s an abundant year-round bird population on Jekyll, which, as part of the Atlantic flyway, is host to many other species during spring and fall migration. Leader: Andy Griswold. Fee: $2,498. With member discount: $1,998.

**Hiking Great Smoky Mountains National Park**
**November 5 – 10, 2020** Six Days!
Explore the peaks of Tennessee’s breathtakingly beautiful Appalachian Mountains featuring spectacular waterfalls and endless vistas. Follow wooded trails in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, home to over 200 bird species. Immerse yourself in autumn colors as you hike through high-country meadowlands along the Appalachian Trail. Participants should be fit enough for all-day exploration and hiking over hilly terrain. The Great Smoky Mountains are perhaps the most imposing set of peaks in the East, showcasing large tracts of rugged wilderness and old-growth forest of astounding biodiversity. The “smoky” name stems from the range’s ever-present mists. Leave the planning and driving to us as you enjoy this guided group hiking experience with great accommodations and delicious food. Leader: Rami Haxhi. Fee: $2,198. With member discount: $1,798.

**Sea Turtles and Cape Cod Exploration**
**December 4 – 6, 2020** Three Days!
In December, Cape Cod is a fabulous place to visit and explore when tourists are few and the region takes on a more relaxed feel. Unfortunately, at this time of year Kemp’s Ridley, Green, and Loggerhead sea turtles are often stunned by the cold water and end up stranded along the beaches. Participants learn about these fragile marine reptiles at Massachusetts Audubon’s Wellfleet Sanctuary. We’ll scour the beaches of Cape Cod Bay for turtles, take part in numerous nature-related activities, and be magically absorbed into the wilderness of grass-topped dunes, empty beaches, and ceaseless crashing waves. Expect the rare and unusual. Leader: Jim Sherwinit. Fee: $898. With member discount: $698.

For Detailed Itineraries: 860-767-0660
**Day Trips**

(Day Trips include transportation from a central meeting spot)

**Coastal Birding Holiday**

Wednesday, December 11   11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Join Andy Griswold, EcoTravel Director and expert birder, for an annual favorite as your birding group searches for early winter migrants and coastal birds from Madison to Groton. After this pre-holiday adventure, your group will stop for dinner at one of the fine eateries in the area. Bring a friend to help kick off the holiday season! *Meal is not included in price.* Members $75/Nonmembers $85.

**Block Island Day Trip**

Saturday, January 4   8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Enjoy Block Island, Rhode Island, and the birds that inhabit it at a time of year when you have the place to yourself. The tourists may have left, but the seasonal birds remain. Focus on winter specialties and the occasional pelagic bird. Travel by ferry from Point Judith and spend the day taking in the island's birding hot spots, varied habitats, and stupendous ocean vistas. Leader: Andy Griswold. Fee: Members $155/Nonmembers $165. All ferry fees included.

**Harlequins of Newport**

Thursday, January 30   9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Harlequin Duck, the fashion plate of the winter seas, is a rare sight in Connecticut, but nearly guaranteed at Sachuest Point in Rhode Island, where a large percentage of the dwindling North American population spends the winter. Look for Harlequins and other winter ducks at the point, and take a tour of additional spots around Newport. Stop for dinner at a favorite local eatery before heading home. Meal is not included in price. Leader: Jim Sherwonit. Fee: Members $85/Nonmembers $95.

**Milford Point Shorebirds**

Saturday, February 1   8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Milford Point supports an amazing diversity of winter ducks. From different parts of the point you’ll see ducks and other waterfowl, have a chance to learn your gulls, and might even spot Snow Buntings or a Harbor Seal! Stops at other birding sites can be expected. Make sure to be on the lookout for the out-of-the-ordinary! Leader: Jim Sherwonit. Fee: Members $75/Nonmembers $85.

**Birding the Rhode Island Coast**

Wednesday, February 12   9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Spend the day cruising the Rhode Island coast, visiting Charlestown Breachway and Napatree Point. Take the opportunity to see this summertime destination without the tourists. These two locations are always full of birdlife. Leader: Andy Griswold. Fee: Members $85/Nonmembers $95.

**Leap Year Big Day**

Saturday, February 29   8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

With one extra day in the year, why not spend it birding! Explore coastal locations in a bid to see as many species as possible. Visit locations such as Milford Point and Hammonasset Beach State Park in search of wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, hardy songbirds, and more. Leader: Andy Griswold Fee: Members $85/Nonmembers $95.
Birding the North Fork
Wednesday, March 11  7 a.m. -- 6 p.m.
Enjoy a trip to the North Fork of *Long Island, New York*, to see the spectacle of large numbers of wintering waterfowl as they begin to move north. On the ferry ride across, keep an eye out for alcids, gulls, and more. If you've always wanted to explore Eastern Long Island, you don't want to miss this opportunity! There might even be a stop at one of the local vineyards. Leader: *Andy Griswold*. Fee: Members $155/Nonmembers $165. All ferry fees included.

Peabody—Behind the Scenes
Thursday, March 26  9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Eleven Million! That is the number of specimens and items in the collections of Yale Peabody Museum in *New Haven*, including items in anthropology, zoology, paleontology, entomology, ornithology, botany, and historical scientific instruments. It takes 21 curators to oversee this exceptional collection, which offers crucial keys to the history of Earth and in some cases the only surviving traces of animals, plants, and cultures that have become extinct. Get a behind-the-scenes look at the ornithology collection. Leader: TBD. Fee: Members $75/Nonmembers $85.

Woodcocks at Dusk
Thursday, April 16  2 p.m. – 9 p.m.
As spring approaches, a magnificent display begins. The American Woodcock is a shorebird that breeds in thickets and nearby clearings. Around sunset the males begin a unique display, launching nearly 200 feet into the air with calls and flight displays. Search for arriving migrants while waiting for sunset and the show to begin! Leader: *Andy Griswold*. Fee: Members $75/Nonmembers $85. Starting point is in *Essex*.

Early Spring Migrants
Thursday, April 23  6 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Late April is the beginning of the intense migration period when birds head north to summer haunts. With favorable weather and winds, some species get a head start and we plan to greet them! Visit places known for their great diversity of migrants to see them in nuptial plumage and listen to their spring songs. Trip departs from *Essex*. Leader: *Matt Bell*. Fee: Members $75/Nonmembers $85.

New York’s High Line
Saturday, May 2  8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
The High Line is a public park built on a historic freight rail line elevated above the streets of Manhattan’s West Side. The line was built in the 1930s as part of a massive public-private project that lifted freight traffic 30 feet in the air, removing dangerous trains from the streets. The gardens of the park are a sight to behold and should be starting to sprout their colors. Leader: *Jim Sherwood*. Fee: Members $95/Nonmembers $105.

Fishers Island: Spring Migration
Thursday, May 7  9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Spring is an excellent time of year to witness arriving migrants on this secluded *New York* island. Lying at the eastern entrance of Long Island Sound, Fishers Island is a connecting link between Rhode Island and Long Island that offers stopping places for a variety of songbirds on their journey north towards the boreal breeding grounds. Leader: *Matt Bell*. Fee: Members $95/Nonmembers $105. Meeting place is *Westbrook* or *New London*. Departure and return times may change depending on the spring ferry schedule.

Annual Lyme Loop
Friday, May 8  6 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Travel through *Lyme* and Nehantic State Forest in search of neotropical migrants. The habitats of the state forest includes wetlands, streams, and ponds—all excellent places for the morning chorus of warblers, vireos, and other songbirds. Focus will be on learning bird songs. Leader: *Andy Griswold*. Fee: Members $75/Nonmembers $85.
Wood-Warblers of Cockaponset State Forest
Wednesday, May 13 6 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Cockaponset State Forest, named after an Indian chief who’s buried in the Ponset section of Haddam, is the second largest forest in the state forest system, encompassing over 16,000 acres. The forest offers great habitat for migrating songbirds and provides for a busy morning of warblers, vireos, thrushes, and more. Leader: Andy Griswold. Fee: Members $75/Nonmembers $85.

Beginner Birding at Nehantic State Park
Saturday, May 30 7 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Nehantic State Forest in Lyme is a fabulous place for beginners to be introduced to spring birding. This forest is a well-used stopover for migrating songbirds who will be showing off their colorful plumage and cheery songs. Learn some of the skills needed for identifying birds by both eye and ear! Leader: Matt Bell Fee: Members $75/Nonmembers $85.

Breeding Birds of Boston Hollow
Saturday, June 6 6 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Boston Hollow is both a geologically and biologically significant location within Connecticut. Located near Ashford, this ancient fault provides habitat for many migrants that typically breed farther north, including up to 17 species of warblers! Come explore the northeastern portion of the state as we search for migrant breeders and learn more about the geologic history of Connecticut. Leader: Matt Bell Fee: Members $85/Nonmembers $95.

For Gift Certificates: 860-767-0660