



National Audubon Society Turns 100 – History with a Future

The National Audubon Society, the nation's largest bird conservation organization, turned 100 in January 2005. Picture the year of Audubon's founding, 1905; Theodore Roosevelt was President, milk cost about 10 cents a gallon, and Albert Einstein published his Theory of Relativity.

In the world of high fashion, people donned hats adorned with heron and egret plumes, and many even wore elaborate millinery creations containing entire bird bodies. In response to the plunder and subsequent decimation of plume bird colonies, several local Audubon Societies agreed to take aggressive action and form a united front to protect birds and their habitat throughout the nation.

On January 5, 1905 they officially incorporated to form the National Association of Audubon Societies for the Protection of Wild Birds and Animals, later shortened to the National Audubon Society. During its first several years, the fledgling Audubon organization racked up an impressive list of accomplishments. Audubon's early accomplishments include the passage of the Audubon Plumage Law (1910); the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1913); plus the establishment of its first two bird sanctuaries (1924) - the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay, New York, and the Paul J. Rainey Sanctuary in coastal Louisiana.

The Audubon Center in Greenwich began making history on the day of its inception in 1941. A donation of 281 acres of land was made at that time by the Clovis family to the National Audubon Society for a center for educational and scientific purposes. This established the very first nature center owned by the National Audubon Society. Gifts of land over the decades now protect a total of 646 acres of prime habitat in this backcountry corner of northwest Greenwich and its various sanctuaries.

Nearly 200 species of birds and 35 species of mammals have been recorded at the Audubon Greenwich. The diverse habitats also provide opportunities to study the natural world in a variety of settings, along eight miles of trails that traverse this outdoor learning laboratory.

Audubon continues to take up the torch for avian conservation, monitoring bird populations and sounding alarm bells through Audubon chapters, *Audubon* magazine and its diverse network of nature centers. This national network of community-based nature centers and chapters, engages millions of people of all ages and backgrounds, in positive conservation experiences, educational programs, and advocacy on the behalf of areas sustaining important bird populations.



Atlantic Puffin by John James Audubon

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The Mission of Audubon Greenwich is to motivate people to conserve, restore, and enjoy nature, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, through *education, land stewardship, science, and public policy advocacy.*

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AUDUBON CENTER IN GREENWICH

Open: 7 days a week 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 613 Riversville Road, Greenwich, CT 06831
Phone: 203.869.5272 **Fax:** 203.869.4437
e-mail: greenwich_center@audubon.org
web: <http://greenwich.center.audubon.org>
Admission: Members FREE;
 Non-members: Adults \$3;
 Children/Seniors \$1.50

Nature Icons © Audubon 2004

2004 Christmas Bird Count Report

By Gary Palmer, Board Member, Audubon Greenwich and Brian O'Toole

This year's Christmas Bird Count for our Greenwich-Stamford area was held on Sunday, December 19, 2004. The weather was overcast, with the temperature in the 30s with light winds. Happily, rain showers held off until evening after all our field work was complete. We had 69 people participating in the field parties and 22 more at feeder/backyard counts.

115 species were found in total for this count. This was more in line with our average of 112 over the last 20 years, after excluding the 2003 count of 99 species, which was so affected by weather conditions and not a typical count result. A total of over 26,500 birds were counted for the day. Thirty-nine species of the 115 species were recorded from the backyard feeder watches and 1,246 individual birds were counted at the feeders alone.

The 2004 count was a pleasant relief from the count of 2003 when we had a blinding snowstorm for almost all of the day. Our coverage last year was spotty at best due to very low visibility, thus the results were of little significance for comparative purposes.

New high counts recorded at the 2004 count were for Wild Turkey, Red-throated Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Monk Parakeet, Winter Wren, Cedar Waxwing and Rusty Blackbird. Other very high counts were Common Merganser, Common Loon, Great Blue Heron and Pileated Woodpecker. The Eurasian Wigeon was back again for the sixth winter (we missed it in 2003 due to the weather) as was the Lesser Black-backed Gull for the 11th consecutive year. Low counts were American Wigeon and Tree Sparrow, and we missed Greater Scaup for the first time since 1933.

Good finds were Blue-winged Teal, 2 Northern Gannets, Great Egret, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Northern Shrike, Common Raven and Sora. Other good species that once were uncommon continue to be more or less regular in recent years. Those included Bald Eagle, House Wren, White-crowned Sparrow and Eastern Phoebe. Numbers of American Crows were low this year.

We want to thank all the citizen scientist volunteers who participated in the count both in the field and at bird feeders. A hearty thanks also goes to all the kitchen volunteers for the great meal consumed as we compiled our data back at the Greenwich Center.



High counts for 2004:

- Wild Turkey
- Red-throated Loon
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Monk Parakeet
- Winter Wren
- Cedar Waxwing
- Rusty Blackbird

"Teacher Naturalist" Training Classes

March 29, 31, & April 5, 2005

Each year, Audubon Greenwich's Education Department Staff refreshes and re-trains our team of Volunteer Teacher Naturalists for the coming season of educational programs. This is your chance to jump on board for this exciting teaching opportunity. Each time you lead a group out on the trails, you are becoming a part of their nature learning experience. You will make a difference in a young person's life and you will learn a lot, too. This kind of magic happens everyday we host a class at Audubon Greenwich. Come be a part of it. To join our team of dedicated Teacher Naturalists, call Jeff Cordulack, our Education Program Manager at 203-869-5272 x239.

SUMMER CAMP 2005

**EXPLORE • EXPERIMENT
CREATE • DISCOVER**



AUDUBON EXPLORERS (K-5th):

Two themes:

“WET AND WILD” will focus on water and the creatures who need it to survive while we explore our pond, vernal pools, lake, and stream.

Grades K-3: July 5-July 8 or July 18-22/August 1-5

Grades 4-5: July 5-July 8 or August 1-5

“NATURE DETECTIVES” searches the trails for plants, rocks, and animals.

Grades K-3: July 11-15 or July 25-29/August 8-12

Grades 4-5: July 11-15 or July 25-29

O.T.T.E.R. (Outstanding Teens Training in Ecological Research):

Long hikes, experiments and research are all part of this experience.

Grades 6-8: July 18 - 22 or August 8 - 12

- Registration starts March 1st
- Fee: Audubon Members - \$250; Non-members - \$285
- For more information, call Jeff Cordulack
(203) 869-5272, ext 239 or via email: jcordulack@audubon.org



Be alert! Use caution during the first warm night-time rains in early spring! Spotted salamanders, red-spotted newts, spring peepers, wood frogs, green frogs and other amphibians emerge from their winter hiding places searching for a place to mate and lay their eggs. They often must cross our roads to get to these ponds and spring-time pools, and many, unfortunately, don't make it. Please pay attention and avoid hitting migrating amphibians.

 Audubon
ADVENTURES



Kids Art Exhibit

**Celebrate National Audubon Society's
Centennial and Audubon
Adventures' 20th Anniversary!**

Draw, paint, and create a picture of a
bird found in your community.
Your artwork could be featured in
Audubon's national online gallery!

- Open to ages: 8-10, 11-13, 14-17.
- Entries are due by March 11th. Selected entries will be chosen locally to be featured on Audubon's national web site at www.audubon.org.
- Entry forms, rules and entry requirements are available from our website: www.greenwich.center.audubon.org or call us at 203-869-5272.

New IBA Sites in Connecticut

In 2004, Audubon Connecticut announced 12 new Important Bird Areas (IBAs) located in 16 towns throughout the state. IBAs are sites that provide essential habitat for one or more species of birds and include sites for breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds. IBAs may be a few acres or thousands of acres, but usually they are discrete sites that stand out from the surrounding landscapes. IBAs may include public or private lands, or both and they may be protected or unprotected. The IBA program helps birds by setting science-based priorities for habitat conservation and promoting positive action to safeguard vital bird habitats.

Seven of these sites were announced earlier in 2004 and are located along the Connecticut coast. The sites announced include some of the best-known state birding destinations. These sites are also some of the most critical bird habitats in the state. Several of the locations serve as critical rest stops for thousands of migratory shorebirds on their long annual journeys. Some are nesting areas for birds of global conservation concern. Still others provide nesting and feeding areas for state-threatened herons and egrets. All of the sites include state property under the management of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

The seven new coastal IBA sites are:

- Barn Island Wildlife Management Area in Stonington
- Charles Island, Silver Sands State Park, and Walnut Beach in Milford;
- The East and West River Marsh Complex in Guilford and Madison;
- Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison and Clinton;
- Milford Point/Wheeler Marsh/Mouth of the Housatonic River in Milford and Stratford;
- Menunketesuck and Duck Islands and surrounding tidal flats in Westbrook;
- The Quinnipiac River Tidal Marsh Wildlife Management Area in North Haven, New Haven, and Hamden.

Barn Island, Hammonasset and the East/West River Marsh Complex are considered of Global Significance because of nesting populations of the Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow. This small and secretive brown bird is classified as a globally vulnerable bird species due to its limited nesting range and

exacting habitat requirements. Proper management in these three IBAs will play a crucial role in the survival of this species worldwide.

Five additional Connecticut IBAs were announced this past December, all of which highlight the importance of grassland and scrubland habitat. Without proper management, these critical scrub and grassland habitats would revert to forests as the forests mature over time. The birds and other wildlife that depend on scrub and grassland habitats would disappear from these areas.

The five newest IBA sites are:

- The Connecticut Audubon Society's Bafflin Sanctuary in Pomfret;
- Good Hill Farm Preserve on the Woodbury/Roxbury town line;
- Naugatuck State Forest (East and West Blocks) in Beacon Falls and Bethany;
- Northwest Park in Windsor;
- Topsmead State Forest in Litchfield.

These twelve new sites join the fifteen previously recognized IBAs in the state including the Audubon Center in Greenwich, Great Captain's Island, and Greenwich Point Park. Audubon Connecticut is also pleased to announce the receipt of a \$35,000 grant from the Jeniam Foundation to be used for the creation of conservation plans at announced IBAs. For more information on IBAs, please see www.audubon.org/bird/iba. For details on IBAs in Connecticut, contact Patrick Comins, Audubon Connecticut's Director of Bird Conservation, at 203-264-5098. Our special thanks go to Patrick for making this all happen!



Some Connecticut IBAs are considered of Global Significance because of nesting populations of the Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, classified as a globally vulnerable bird species.

PHOTO BY PAUL FUSCO

Sign up for E-Advocate and Speak Up for Connecticut Wildlife

Join Audubon's E-Advocate email list for timely action-alerts on what you can do to help with key legislation affecting Connecticut's environment, birds, other wildlife and their habitats.

This is a free, no-obligation list open to anyone regardless of their Audubon membership status.

To join, simply send a blank email to: AudubonActCT-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or contact Audubon Connecticut's Director of Governmental Affairs, Sandy Breslin, at 203-264-5098.

AUDUBON AT HOME

LOVE YOUR LAWN DAY: Sunday, March 13 - 2:00 pm-4:30 pm

Suburban Safari - Presentation & Book Signing

2:00 pm-3:00 pm

Join Hannah Holmes as she tells stories of what she learned from researching her book, *SUBURBAN SAFARI: A Year on the Lawn*. Pre-registration requested.

Followed directly by:

Safe & Beautiful Lawns for All!

3:15 pm-4:30 pm

Join Bill Duesing and Dr. Barry Boyd to learn about pesticides, the soil food web and how you can also turn a lawn into the envy of the neighborhood.

Pre-registration requested.

For more information try www.organiclandcare.net.



Soil Food Web Diagram

Pesticides in Our Lives

- Lawn pesticides cause the deaths of an estimated 7 million birds each year.
- Commonly used pesticides are found in surface and ground water throughout the country.
- Herbicide use is growing at a particularly rapid rate, with homeowners using over 50% more than they did 20 years ago. Homeowners apply an estimated 78 million pounds of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides per year to their homes, lawns, and gardens. And, this does NOT include applications made by pest control and lawn care professionals.
- According to the most recent data reported by the EPA (1999), 74% of a total 103.9 million U.S. households use some type of pesticide, 58 million households use insecticides, and 40 million use herbicides.
- In a recent study of pesticide exposure among children living in a major U.S. metropolitan area, traces of garden chemicals were found in 99% of the 110 children tested. Concentrations were significantly higher in children whose parents reported that they used pesticides in their gardens.

For more information on safe lawn care:

- www.audubon.org/bird/at_home
- www.organiclandcare.net
- www.grassrootsinfo.org
- www.thebestcontrol.com

CONTACT US FOR AUDUBON'S FREE GUIDE TO HEALTHIER PEST CONTROL

Weekly Events by Email

For a free weekly email announcement of special events and programs at Audubon Greenwich, simply send us a blank email to: audubongreenwichnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Spring 2005 Public Program Calendar

Please register for all programs by calling 203-869-5272. Programs meet at the Kimberlin Nature Center at Audubon Greenwich unless otherwise indicated. Adult program fees are \$3.00 for members/\$5.00 for non-members. Children and Seniors are \$1.50 for members/\$3.00 for non-members. Programs are free of charge to volunteer Teacher Naturalists.

MARCH

Saturday, March 5
FIELD TRIP: Visit the Wolf Conservation Center. 2:00 -3:30 pm

We will enjoy a short presentation about wolf ecology and we will have a chance to meet, greet and howl with real wolves. **Pre-registration required. \$10 per person.** Group may meet at the center in South Salem, NY or carpool from Audubon at 1:30 pm. All ages.



Sunday, March 6
STORYTIME. 1:30-2:30 pm
Nature stories suitable for children ages 3-6. **Pre-registration required.**

Saturday, March 12
E4C Breakfast - Baby Animals. 9:00-10:30 am

A family breakfast for Executives for Conservation participants and guests. Please call Jeff at x239 for details.

BIRD CLASS: Nest Box Basics. 2:30-3:30 pm
Registration required. See page 10.

Sunday, March 13
BIRD WALK: Tod's Point. 8:00-10:00 am

Join Cynthia Ehlinger of the Bruce Museum for a walking survey of the late winter bird life of the open waters, shores, thickets and woodlands at Greenwich Point. Group will meet at the Seaside Center. **Pre-registration required.**

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Safe & Beautiful Lawns for All! 3:15-4:30 pm

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Saturday, March 19

BIRD WALK: Marshlands Conservancy. 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Come explore this coastal sanctuary in Rye, NY with talented National Audubon Society birder, Aaron Virgin. This site boasts a unique combination of upland fields, woodlands and salt marsh. **Pre-registration required.** Please call Jeff at x239 for details. Ages 8 and up.

Sunday, March 20
STORYTIME. 1:30-2:30 pm

Nature stories suitable for children ages 3-6. **Pre-registration required.**

Friday, March 25

NATURE HIKE: Full Moon Walk. 7:30-9:00 pm

Come explore the magic world of a moonlit natural landscape and the animal life inhabiting it. Please wear soft quiet outer clothing layers and a bring a flashlight. However, we will mostly use the moon to light our way. **Pre-registration required.** Ages 8 and up.

Saturday, March 26

BIRD CLASS: Beginning Birding. 9:30 am-12:00 pm
Registration required. See page 10.

BIRD WALK: Woodcock Watch. 6:30-7:30 pm

Join us for a brief slide show and a walk outside. We will look and listen for the spectacular spring courtship display performed by these woodland members of the sandpiper family. Ages 5 and up. **Pre-registration required.**

SPRING NATURE MOVIE SERIES: 2:30-3:30 pm

Family-friendly and educational movies. Included with admission to the center.

- Sunday, March 27
- Sunday, April 10
- Sunday, April 24
- Sunday, May 22

Sunday, March 27
MOVIE TIME. 2:30-3:30 pm
Family friendly and educational!

APRIL

Saturday, April 2
MORNING BIRD WALK: Audubon Greenwich. 7:00 am
Join us! See page 10 for details.

First Annual All-Audubon Gathering. 9:00 am-3:00 pm

A special day for all Audubon folks to gather, get to know each other, and learn about the exciting things happening with Audubon statewide. See page 9 for details.

Sunday, April 3
STORYTIME. 1:30-2:30 pm
Nature stories suitable for children ages 3-6. **Pre-registration required.**

Saturday, April 9
MORNING BIRD WALK: Audubon Greenwich. 7:00 am
Join us! See page 10 for details.

NATURE HIKE: Vernal Pool Survey. 2:00-4:00 pm
Join us for a hike on Old Pasture Trail to look in woodland vernal pools for egg masses of wood frogs and spotted salamanders. Ages 8 and up.

Sunday, April 10
BIRD WALK: Important Bird Area - Cove Island Park. 8:00-10:00 am

Join Cynthia Ehlinger of the Bruce Museum, for birding in this unique coastal preserve in Stamford. The group will meet at the site. **Pre-registration required.** Ages 8 and up.

MOVIE TIME. 2:30-3:30 pm
Family friendly and educational!

Wednesday, April 13
MORNING BIRD WALK: Fairchild Wildflower Garden. 7:00 am
Join us! See page 10 for details.

Saturday, April 16
MORNING BIRD WALK: Audubon Greenwich. 7:00 am
Join us! See page 10 for details.

BIRD CLASS: World of Woodpeckers. 9:30 am-12:00 pm
Registration required. See page 10.

Sunday, April 17
BIRD WALK: Central Park, New York City. 9:00-11:00 am

Birding in the Big Apple! Join premier National Audubon Society birder, Aaron Virgin for this annual spring spectacle and a visit to Pale Male's nest. **Pre-registration required. Group size limited.** Birders may carpool from Audubon Greenwich at 7:30 am or meet at the steps of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, ready to start birding at 9 am.



STORYTIME. 1:30-2:30 pm
Nature stories suitable for children ages 3-6. **Pre-registration required.**

Wednesday, April 20
MORNING BIRD WALK: Fairchild Wildflower Garden. 7:00 am
Join us! See page 10 for details.

Wednesday, April 20
SANDHILL CRANES - A Special Presentation. 7:30-9 pm
With an intimate lens, photographer and author Michael Forsberg documents the tall gray birds from the Alaskan tundra, to the arid High Plains, to Cuban nature reserves and suburban backyards. With an eye for beauty, an ear to those for whom cranes matter most, and an uncommon persistence, Michael will share the discoveries he made during a five-year journey across North America. Copies of his book will be for sale.

Saturday, April 23
MORNING BIRD WALK: Audubon Greenwich. 7:00 am
Join us! See page 10 for details.

BIRD CLASS: Wood Warblers. 9:30 am-12:00 pm
Registration required. See page 10.

Sunday, April 24
MOVIE TIME. 2:30-3:30 pm
Family friendly and educational!

NATURE HIKE: Full Moon Walk. 8:00-9:30 pm
Come listen to and search out the amphibian calls of the night and watch migrating neo-tropical birds cross the full moon. Bring a flashlight, although we will mostly use moonlight to light our path. Ages 8 and up. **Registration required.**

April 26th - John J. Audubon's Birthday

Wednesday, April 27
MORNING BIRD WALK: Fairchild Wildflower Garden. 7:00 am
Join us! See page 10 for details.

Saturday, April 30
MORNING BIRD WALK: Audubon Greenwich. 7:00 am
Join us! See page 10 for details.

NATURE HIKE: Family Pond Exploration. 10:30 am-12:00 pm
We will learn how to look for and avoid harming amphibian egg masses and then sample the pond waters for the wonderful variety of aquatic life in Indian Spring Pond. All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

MAY

Sunday, May 1
NATURE HIKE: Wildflowers of Audubon Lane. 10:30-12:30 pm
Come enjoy spring wildflowers. Experienced plant enthusiast, Marsha Coyle will help us brush up on our plant identification skills in the woodlands. We will meet at the site. **Pre-registration required.**

Sunday, May 1
STORYTIME. 1:30-2:30 pm
Nature stories suitable for children ages 3-6. **Pre-registration required.**

Wednesday, May 4
MORNING BIRD WALK: Fairchild Wildflower Garden. 7:00 am
Join us! See page 10 for details.

Saturday, May 7
MORNING BIRD WALK: Audubon Greenwich. 7:00 am
Join us! See page 10 for details.

BIRD CLASS: Birding By Ear. 9:30 am-12:00 pm
Registration required. See page 10.

Wednesday, May 11
MORNING BIRD WALK: Fairchild Wildflower Garden. 7:00 am
Join us! See page 10 for details.

Saturday, May 14
E4C Breakfast - Horses. 9:00-10:30 am
A family breakfast for Executives for Conservation participants and guests. Please call Jeff at x239 for details.

Saturday, May 14
International Migratory Bird Day's ANNUAL BIRD BREAKFAST. 6:30-9:00 am

Birding and breakfast. What could be better? See page 10 for details.

Sunday, May 15
SPRING INTO AUDUBON: Wildlife Festival



11:00 am-5:00 pm
A full day of wildlife and nature programs including live animal presentations, guided hikes, fun games, good food and a variety of crafts. See special insert in this newsletter for additional details.

STORYTIME. 1:30-2:30 pm
Nature stories suitable for children ages 3-6. **Pre-registration required.**

Wednesday, May 18
MORNING BIRD WALK: Fairchild Wildflower Garden. 7:00 am
Join us! See page 10 for details.

Saturday, May 21
MORNING BIRD WALK: Audubon Greenwich. 7:00 am
Join us! See page 10 for details.

BIRD CLASS: Courtship and Nesting. 9:30am-12:00 pm
Registration required. See page 10.

Sunday, May 22
MOVIE TIME. 2:30-3:30 pm
Family friendly and educational!

May 27th - Rachael Carson's Birthday

Saturday, May 28
NATURE HIKE: The World of Turtles. 2:00-3:30 pm
We will look at the internal and external anatomy of turtles and walk to Mead Lake to search out basking or hunting turtles and turtle nesting areas. Ages 5 and up.

Sunday, May 29
STORYTIME. 1:30-2:30 pm
Nature stories suitable for children ages 3-6. **Pre-registration required.**

"State of the Birds" Report Reveals America's Birds Are In Trouble

The National Audubon Society has released the first national "The State of the Birds" report documenting the health and abundance of North America's birds. Appearing in the October issue of Audubon Magazine, "The State of the Birds" paints a disturbing picture. Almost 30 percent of North America's birds are in "significant decline." The overall state of the birds shows:

- 70% of grassland species are in statistically significant declines
- 36% of shrub-land birds are declining significantly
- 25% of forest bird species are declining significantly
- 13% of wetland bird species are declining significantly
- 23% of bird species in urban areas are declining significantly

According to the "State of the Birds," these declines are abnormal. Not part of the natural cyclical rise and fall in bird populations, "statistically significant declines" are due to outside factors such as loss of native grasslands, overgrazing, development of wetlands, bad forest management, invasive species, pollution, and poor land use decisions.

"Like the canary in the coal mine warning the miner of danger ahead, birds are an indicator of environmental and human health," said Audubon President John Flicker. "Birds signal that we are at risk next." Flicker went on to say, "People created these problems and people can solve them if we act now." For the full release on the State of the Birds Report go to www.audubon.org/bird.



PHOTO BY GEORGE JAMESON

E4C – Executives for Conservation – Programs for Young Families

Audubon Greenwich's "Executives For Conservation" (E4C) group connects business leaders and their families to nature through a variety of educational & social events. Though the group is open to all, typical members live in the greater Greenwich area, are 30-50 years old, have young children aged 2-12, and have an appreciation for plants and animals that inhabit our region. Recently, the E4C group has funded the restoration of Audubon's Oneida Sanctuary (a salt marsh area next to Bruce Park in Greenwich) and has sponsored parent/child hikes and cocktail receptions for couples.

The core of E4C's programming focuses on its Family Discovery Breakfasts series, held the second Saturday of every odd-numbered month. These programs often feature a naturalist educator, sometimes live animal presentations or special hikes in nearby preserves.



The themes for our next Family Discovery Breakfast are

- Baby Animals on March 12
- Horses on May 14

For more information on E4C and its activities, please contact one of the Co-Chairs, Jonathan Ochsner at 203-246-2519 or Bryan Stepanian at 203-863-2305.

Naturalist Field Trips

Audubon Greenwich is pleased to host walks with these skilled naturalists. It is a great opportunity for people to sharpen their naturalist skills. Whether you are a parent, teacher, or want to become a volunteer Teacher Naturalist for Audubon, bring along a friend and enjoy the fresh air while learning about Greenwich's natural history. See the newsletter calendar on pages 6 and 7 for complete program details, times and fees, when applicable. Call now to reserve your space.

- **MARCH 13**
Coastal Birds of Tod's Point, Greenwich, CT
- **MARCH 19**
Owls & Salt-marshes at Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, NY
- **MARCH 26**
Woodcock Walk at Audubon Greenwich, CT
- **APRIL 9**
Vernal Pool Survey at Audubon Greenwich, CT
- **APRIL 10**
Cove Island Park - An Important Bird Area in Stamford, CT
- **APRIL 30**
Pond Day at Audubon Greenwich, CT
- **MAY 1**
Wildflower Walk at Audubon Lane, Greenwich, CT
- **MAY 22**
Birding and Visit to Pale Male's Nest & Central Park, New York, NY

Pale Male Nest Restored in NYC

Many of our Audubon friends are familiar with Pale Male, the well-known red-tailed hawk in Manhattan. Pale Male and his mate first constructed an original nest on a 12th floor window ledge of luxury Manhattan apartment building on Fifth Avenue and 74th Street in 1993. Since then, 23 chicks have been raised at this location.



PHOTO © WWW.PALEMALE.COM

Building residents complained that the nest was a health and safety hazard, and in early December 2004 the building's management removed the nest. In mid-December with advice and assistance from the National Audubon Society, contractors reinstalled the anti-pigeon spikes that had supported the nest and installed a new nest cradle to prevent the nest from falling. Pale Male's supporters were on hand to witness the installation. "It's the miracle on 74th Street," said New York City Audubon Society Executive Director E. J. McAdams. The grassroots support for Pale Male and his mate Lola has changed the hearts of the building.

"People called us from all over the world to help," said National Audubon President John Flicker. "Pale Male inspired and motivated nature lovers everywhere. We are grateful to the owners of 927 Fifth Avenue for working with Audubon to find a positive solution." Pale Male and Lola have recently been seen on the nest and will have hopefully rebuilt by the time you are reading this newsletter. Audubon Greenwich will be leading a bird walk this spring through Central Park with a stop along Fifth Avenue to look for Pale Male and Lola. See calendar on page 6 for details.

For the status of Pale Male's nest, visit www.palemale.com.



Pale Male with chick

PHOTO © WWW.PALEMALE.COM



Audubon CONNECTICUT

FIRST ANNUAL All-Audubon Gathering

Saturday, April 2 - 9:00 am-3:00 pm

A special day for all Audubon folks to gather, get to know each other, and learn about all the exciting things happening with Audubon statewide.

This exciting day will be filled with informative speakers, time to network and share experiences, a tour of the Kimberlin Nature Education Center and an opportunity to join our naturalists in the field.

The event is open to all members of Audubon in Connecticut, all State and Center Board members, all Chapter leaders, volunteers, and all staff.

For more information, please call Jeff Cordulack at 203-869-5272

\$20 registration fee

THANK YOU!

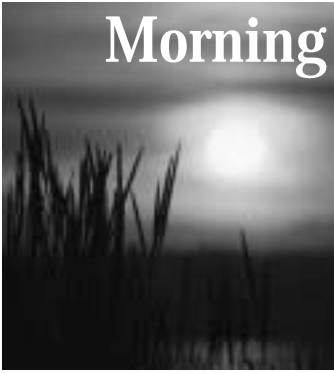
Audubon would like to send a sincere thank you to our good friends who donated wish list items posted in the last issue of our newsletter. Items we received by donation or have solved by other means include:

- Flatbed scanner
- Tank covers & lights
- 25 Audubon prints
- Map/poster cabinet

WISH LIST

New or used, your donation of a wish list item is greatly appreciated. Call Madeline at 203-869-5272 Ext. 226 if you can help.

- carport awning
- framing services
- video camera
- glasses & plates, counter top silverware rack
- binoculars
- A new PC
- taxidermy specimens
- A pick-up truck to replace our old one
- portable projector screen (5'-6')
- televisions for classrooms



Morning Bird Walks

Every Wednesday & Saturday – April 9 to May 21, 7:00 am

Don't miss these glorious mornings and the opportunity to see the spectacle of the spring bird migration. Ted Gilman will lead bird walks for the public two times per week at two different Audubon sanctuaries. Saturday walks will meet at the Kimberlin Nature Center at 613 Riversville Road. Wednesday groups will meet at Fairchild Wildflower Sanctuary on North Porchuck Road. Whether you are a beginning birder or a veteran, these walks are for you. To inform Ted that you are joining him or for more information, please call 203-869-5272 x230. No charge.

Saturday Bird Study Series

- Beginning Birding 101 - March 26
- Woodpeckers - April 16
- Warblers - April 23
- Birding By Ear - May 7
- Bird Courtship & Nesting - May 21

Renowned naturalist and birder Ted Gilman will teach a spring series of birding classes for people who wish to improve their knowledge on specific bird topics. Join him for one or all of these wonderful classes.

The classes are held on the above Saturdays from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm. These classes are for adults. Mature children with an active interest in birding are also welcome. Pre-registration required. Fee: \$12 members / \$15 non-member.

Also join us for

- Nest Box Basics - March 12, 2-3:30 pm

Annual Bird Breakfast and Bird-A-Thon

on International Migratory Bird Day

SATURDAY MAY 14

Bird Walks: 6:30 - 8:00 AM

Breakfast: 8:00 - 9:00 AM



A day to focus on the need to conserve birds and their natural habitats. Be a part of thousands of other bird watchers across North and South America who are holding events in observance of International Migratory Bird Day.

Join us for the colorful flood of newly arrived neo-tropical migrant birds. Then enjoy bird-sighting reports and a hearty breakfast with other members of our Audubon Family. Consider making a pledge to the Bird-A-Thon.



Pre-registration required.

Call Ted at 203-869-5272 x230

Breakfast \$5/person

See flyer insert in newsletter for details.

Art Exhibits Coming to Audubon



Orchard by Peter C. Stone

• Art Exhibit during March and April

Peter C. Stone, a prolific artist and author has layered lush watercolors with translucent washes to evoke the soft light and tranquility from the New England coasts to the Canaan Mountains and the Berkshires. His luminous textured oils will include several previously unexhibited pieces from his recent book, *Sanctuaries*. "His colors dance and shimmer," Fearless Reviews has written, "the images entice the eye and invite exploration. The longer one studies these paintings, the more one sees, and the clearer ones mind feels."

(Peter C. Stone is represented in Connecticut by The White Gallery, Lakeville.)

• Art Exhibit during May and June

Watercolorist Carol Pessin's lovely botanicals are painted with sumi ink in the Japanese brush painting Sumi-e style. Her work reflects her love of nature with a colorful vibrancy particular to the artist. Ms. Pessin's exhibit will open May 2. For more information on the Opening Reception for this exhibit, call Margaret Robbins at 869-5272.

Nature Store News - Spring 2005

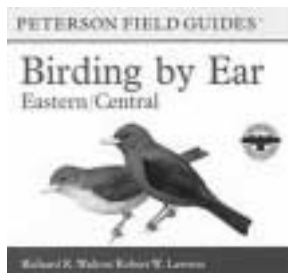
Margaret Robbins, Office & Store Manager

Spring is a great time to feed wild birds and for family fun in the outdoors.

Not only will you have the pleasure of seeing the birds in breeding plumage, but you'll be able to see the juveniles of many species. It's also the perfect time to put out nest boxes. We offer the best in bird feeding and nesting merchandise and advice. Sharpen your birding skills with birding CD's and computer identification software!

We have the latest in educational toys and gifts including the complete line of Fundana fold and go bandana games and the Firefly Lantern to hold those amazing insects. Our toys and books make wonderful gifts and we offer gift-wrapping all year long.

The Nature Store is open every day from 9:00 am-5:00 pm.



WELCOME TO NEW AUDUBON MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the many new members who joined Audubon Greenwich since December.

Every member makes a difference.

GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Please join today and consider a \$35 gift membership for a friend. Membership offers an opportunity to explore the wonders of our natural environment.

Members will receive:

- Free admission to the Audubon Greenwich sanctuary and most National Audubon Society centers nation-wide
- *Audubon* - the National Audubon Society's magazine
- *In Flight* - this quarterly newsletter presents Audubon Greenwich news and events
- Free and reduced program fees all year long
- A 10% discount in our Nature Store
- Special travel opportunities

To become a member, or to give a gift membership, visit www.greenwich.center.audubon.org and download our membership form and mail it to us with your payment, or call us at 203-869-5272 for a membership form. Thank you for your support!

AND DON'T FORGET...

A full day of family nature programs

Spring Into Audubon Wildlife Festival



nature walks



games



good food



crafts



live animal presentations

SUNDAY, MAY 15 – 11:00 AM-5:00 PM

– See insert for details –

SPRING 2005

Natural History Notes

By Ted Gilman, Education Specialist

The first rising “peep” of a spring peeper on a chilly March afternoon; the return of our eastern phoebes to their traditional porch, bridge or rock face nesting ledges with their sharp chip and “phoebe” calls and jaunty, wagging tails; massive male snapping turtles in Mead Lake squaring off in shallow water and grappling like two Sumo wrestlers to determine dominance; the first spring meeting of honeybee and pussy willow blossom renewing the ancient contract between plant and pollinator; the gentle evening tremolo calls of a male screech owl courting his mate in the early spring twilight; the brilliant yellow cheeks and black throat of a black-throated green warbler working its way through early emerging maple leaves, and emitting sharp chip notes and its “zoo-zee-zoo-zoo-zee” on a chilly April morning; the rich



smell of the earth after an April rain; discovering once again the delicate pink-and-white striped petals of spring beauties catching their moment in the sun before the May explosion of leaves blocks off the life-giving sunlight; wide-eyed juvenile gray squirrels taking their first peeks out of their tree hole home high above the forest floor; the soft, multi-toned harmony of trilling male American toads at Indian Spring Pond; the image of a stately great blue heron slowly soaring and flapping its way north across an April sky; the flute-like tones of a wood thrush at dawn announcing its renewed claim to the wooded hillside above Mead Lake, after its flight to Costa Rica and back for over-wintering; the peeps of robin hatchlings announcing that another season of creating new generations has begun...

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