



Audubon GREENWICH *In Flight*

Spring into Audubon



“Spring into Audubon” this May at Audubon Greenwich was a big success. 150 visitors showed up for kid’s nature crafts, bee keeping and bird banding demonstrations, live mammals and reptiles including a magnificent snapping turtle, and great barbecue food from Jeff’s Cuisine.

Also on the day was our big bird breakfast with 65 birders. Pictured above from the event are ornithologist John McNeeley who flew his magnificent Andean condor with a 9-1/2 foot wing span across our field and staff educator Ted Gilman with birders on a bird walk.

General Assembly Ends on a High Note

By Sandy Breslin, Director of Government Affairs, Audubon Connecticut

Thanks to your help, the 2004 General Assembly ended with success for the majority of Audubon Connecticut’s top 2004 legislative priorities! Here’s a quick summary of our top priority legislation below.

Successful Efforts

Invasive Plants - SB 547 AAC Fines for Banned Invasive Plants adopts the list of invasive and potentially invasive plants put forward by the Invasive Plants Council that was created last year, and bans sale of 81 plants. Invasive plants are the 2nd greatest threat to wildlife habitat after development. The bill represents a compromise between environmental and nursery industry advocates.

Inland Wetlands - SB 445 AAC Jurisdiction of Municipal Inland Wetlands Agencies restores wildlife as a factor in wetlands commission decision-making. A compromise between DEP, environmentalists, the Home Builders Association and affordable housing advocates.

Endangered Water Company Lands - SB 371 AAC Water Company Lands creates incentives for private water companies to conserve their non-watershed lands. Compromise between environmentalists and water companies. SB 465 AAC Water Supply Abandonment allows the Commissioner of Public Health to protect reservoir lands from being abandoned and sold if their water supply may be needed in the future.

Family Farms/LIS - SB 589 AAC Preservation of the Family Farm creates incentives to support family farms and requires the state to give purchasing preference to Connecticut grown



Audubon GREENWICH

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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Macario Nicholas	CARETAKER

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 Store News

By Margaret Robbins, Office & Store Manager

The Audubon Nature Store is ready to help you enjoy the long-awaited warm days of summer!

We have wonderful activity books to help families explore and learn about the natural environment around them. Going on vacation? We have guidebooks that show you the best places to view the area's flora and fauna and how to identify them. One way to enjoy the incredible colors of summer is to invite birds into your yard with our wonderful selection of feeders, houses and birdbaths. To really enhance your visual experience, treat yourself to one of our quality nature optics starting as low as \$24.99! As always, we have a large selection of premium birdseed to keep your feeders stocked.

We've been working hard over the long winter months to bring more quality merchandise for your enjoyment. Audubon Nature Store has an expanded gift department featuring work from Salt Marsh Pottery, Michael Aram housewares and Bovano of Cheshire. When you need that special gift, we're ready to help with beautiful, nature-inspired gifts from Salt Marsh Pottery, Michael Aram, Michael Michaud, Bovano of Cheshire to name just a few of our lines.

Our children's department is a perfect place to shop for birthdays and other special events. From educational and fun toys to the best selection of nature-themed books for ages 1 - 15 and amazing puppets from Folkmanis; you'll find exactly what you need to make any child happy.

Be sure to stop in to see our latest gallery show - original watercolors by local artist Carol Pessin. You can also purchase her beautiful hand-painted all occasion cards in the nature store.

To help make your life even easier, we now offer gift-wrapping for a small fee. One-stop shopping, beautiful quality gifts for adults and children, excellent customer service - the Audubon Nature Store has it all! You can shop seven days a week from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. We hope you visit us soon!

Deer Management Program Completes First Year

By Tom Baptist, Executive Director, Audubon Connecticut

The effort to reduce the population of white-tailed deer at the Audubon Greenwich sanctuary on Riversville Road successfully completed its first year. Audubon is reducing the deer population in order to restore the biological health of the sanctuary and this year's effort represents significant progress toward that goal. Working with the Greenwich Sportsmen and Landowner's Association (GSLA), a total of thirty deer were killed by bowhunters, and none were wounded and unaccounted for.

At its June 1 meeting the Board of Directors voted unanimously to expand the deer management program to include the 136-acre Fairchild Wildflower Garden. The board cited as major factors in its decision the significant damage to understory vegetation caused by excessive deer browsing and the positive experience working with the GSLA. Audubon's decision to reduce the deer herd is also based on a study that revealed that deer are negatively impacting the forest ecosystem on Audubon land in Greenwich. According to the study by Kenichi Shono of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, deer are undermining the value of the sanctuary as a biological reserve for plants, birds and other animals by consuming more than 60 tons of vegetation each year.

The hunt began November 3 and concluded January 31. Sixteen men and women bowhunters spent 347.4 hours during the season, averaging 11.6 hours of hunting for every deer killed. Of the thirty deer killed, twenty-eight were does and two were males (one male was antlerless). All meat from deer

harvested on the property, approximately 1,000 pounds, was donated to the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County.

Reducing deer numbers will ensure the overall health and well being of the deer, and will ensure sustainability of wildflowers, other herbaceous and shrub species, and a full complement of the native forest bird community, and healthy population levels of other wildlife. Currently, deer densities at the sanctuary far exceed the level found to sustain healthy habitat diversity. The hunt will resume in September of this year.

Successful implementation of the deer management plan will result in the maintenance of a healthier ecosystem, reduction of health risks from deer tick-borne diseases, and a decrease in the number of deer/vehicle accidents in the area. Audubon selected bow hunting as the preferred hunting method to minimize safety concerns relating to hunting with rifles and shotguns.

Sixteen members of the Greenwich Sportsmen and Landowner's Association (GSLA) participated in the deer hunt. The marksmen and women exercised discretion and ethics in taking only shots that were lethal, thus minimizing the risk of wounding or maiming deer. Audubon is grateful for their concern for the ecological health of the sanctuary and for their contribution of time and energy. The GSLA emphasizes training and ethical methods in all of its hunts and requires the 12-hour National Bowhunter Education Foundation course and marksman proficiency testing of all its members, as well as a formal application and interview for membership, before being permitted to hunt on Audubon land.



Clean-up at Oneida Sanctuary

Audubon Greenwich's new group, Executives for Conservation, initiated a four month clean-up of Oneida Sanctuary, our march land property in town. Also helping out were scouts from Troop 9, Pack 9 from left to right Wolfi Hofer, Alex Hofer, Liam Menten-Weil, Sean Broderick and scout leader Camille Broderick. Executives for Conservation is chaired by Jonathan Ochsner and Bryon Stepanian.

Welcome to our Center Director



Please join me in welcoming Madeline Dennis as Audubon Greenwich's new Center Director. Madeline comes to us from the Flat Rock Brook Nature Center in Englewood, New Jersey where she served as Executive Director for 13 years. Before that she was the Director of the

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, a hiking trail maintenance organization. She comes to us with an outstanding knowledge of nature center and non-profit management, and she has a strong background in land stewardship and volunteer administration.

Madeline says "I feel a positive sense that Audubon Greenwich is on the verge of exciting new things. I hope to be an agent for connecting Audubon with the Greenwich community as well as the growth of our excellent environmental programs." Madeline is an avid birder and hiker. She looks forward to meeting the members of Audubon Greenwich to share her interests in environmental protection and enlightened conservation. Watch for her out on the Audubon trails!

Thanks to our friends

Thanks to Sam Bridge Nursery of Greenwich for their support of our 'Audubon At Home' table at Spring Into Audubon. They loaned us native shrubs to demonstrate backyard habitat improvement ideas and donated beebalm seedlings to give to families to enrich their own backyard habitats for butterflies and hummingbirds. Thanks also to Peter Crumbine and Sempra Energy for their kind donation, Divine Grapes for sponsoring An Evening of Birds, Art, Wine and Countryside, Emmanuel Dupuy d'Angeac of AOC Wines in Old Greenwich for hosting Audubon Wine Week April 19-24. Patriot National Bank for co-sponsoring the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce reception, high school volunteers Taylor Trepanier, James Burdick, and Jonathan Tipke.

Summer is Here... Come to Nature Day Camp

Are your kids looking forward to a summer of discovery, mystery, and adventure? Do they enjoy exploring outdoors? Enroll them in Summer Nature Day Camp at Audubon Greenwich. Space is limited and filling fast, so enroll today!

Who: Grades K-8

What: Outdoor hikes, exploration, and nature art led by experienced naturalists

When: 9:30am-2:30 pm, Monday-Friday, June 28 through August 6

Cost: \$250 members, \$285 non-members; financial assistance avail.

Register: By mail, fax, or in person, 613 Riversville Rd., Greenwich, CT 06831 • fax: (203) 869-4437

Audubon Explorers (grades K-5)

Choose from two themes: Wet and Wild or Nature Detectives.

Wet and Wild campers explore our pond, swamp, stream, and lake to discover their hidden and obvious wonders. *Nature Detective* campers search the trails for plants, animals, rocks, and other land-dwelling treasures.

One-week sessions: Mon-Fri, June 28-August 6

OTTERs - Outstanding Teens Training in Ecological Research (grades 6-8)

Investigate the mysteries and adventures of our world through your own research project!

One-week sessions: Mon-Fri, July 12-July 16 and August 2-August 6

For more information contact Kim Kuta, 203-869-5272 ext. 235, kkuta@audubon.org, or visit <http://greenwich.center.audubon.org>.

Audubon Connecticut celebrated the inspiring leadership of Katie O'Brien with a ceremony on May 16 dedicating in her honor a ten-acre wildflower meadow at the Audubon Center in Greenwich. Katie has been a leader in National Audubon



Society for more than twenty years and currently serves on the Board of Directors of Audubon Connecticut. She was joined at the celebration by her husband, Donal, former chair of the Board of National Audubon Society, her family and members of the Audubon CT board and staff.

Teacher Naturalists Educate 4,000 students

Audubon Greenwich could not teach the 4,000 school children we teach each year here at the Nature Center without our 30 dedicated teacher naturalist volunteers. This school year from fall 2003 through spring 2004 our Teacher Naturalists (TNs) taught students from Pre-Kindergarten through 4th grade and from 17 different school districts. Our largest number of students come from Greenwich and North Castle. The TNs teach 8 different and seasonal outdoor lessons and do it with enthusiasm and a deep love and commitment to the natural world. Thanks to this year's TNs; Ellen Blum, Camile Broderick, Sue Carson, Virginia Case, Anne Clarke, Sam Connor, Mary Jo DiSesa, Andrea Dorian, Debby Etheridge, Ann Flinn, Lisa Forrow, Hamilton Freeman, Stefany Grossman, David Johanson, Dick Lawrence, Bobby Littlefield, Ruth Newberg, Nancy O'Hanlon, Sally Sawyer, Gladys Sherak, Terry Sinha, Barbara Specht, Irma Volk, Lindy Weaver, and Jill Yolen.



Become a Teacher Naturalist

Would you like to share your interest in the natural world with local children? If you have one or more mornings or afternoons available each week in spring and fall, you can become a volunteer Teacher Naturalist at Audubon Center in Greenwich and learn to connect children with nature. We provide comprehensive training with field courses in nature studies and teaching techniques. TNs lead small groups of children outdoors on the center grounds in 8 different seasonal lessons. Initial training begins this fall. To find out more about becoming a Teacher Naturalist at Audubon Greenwich, go to our web site www.greenwich.center.audubon.org or call Kim at 203-869-5272 Ext. 235.

Camille Broderick receives Audubon award

Camille Broderick, Audubon Greenwich Teacher Naturalist and Board member is this year's recipient of the National Audubon Society's Charles H. Callison Award. This award is given to one outstanding Audubon volunteer nationwide each year and was presented to Camille in May at the National Audubon Society Board (NAS) meeting in Utah. In photo from left to right: Carol Browner, NAS Board Chair, and NAS President John Flicker. Camille has volunteered here since 2000 and is also a member of the Education Committee and the Planning Committee. She brings an enthusiasm, dedication, creativity, and generosity of spirit to Audubon Greenwich. She has a deep love of the natural world and is a talented and inspiring teacher naturalist for our children's programs. We are extremely lucky to have her. Congratulations, Camille.



Summer 2004 Public

All programs are \$5 non-members, \$3 members unless otherwise indicated. All programs meet

JUNE

Saturday June 12, All Day Summer Bird Count

Help us count all the breeding bird species at Audubon Greenwich as our part of the Greenwich/Stamford summer bird count. If you are interested in participating for part or all of the day, contact Ted Gilman at 203-869-5272 Ext. 230. Free.



Saturday June 19, 2 PM - 3:30 PM

The Delicate World of Ferns

Come on a walk at Audubon Greenwich to see and learn about the variety of native ferns and the structures, habitats and special ecology of these delicate plants of the meadows, swamp and forest.

Saturday June 26, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Audubon Cries “Wolf”

The Wolf Conservation Center of South Salem, NY will be bringing their Arctic Gray Wolf “Atka” to visit for an awe-inspiring up-close encounter with this marvelous predator,

followed by a presentation on wolf ecology and their perilous history, and interactive workshops for adults and families.

\$20 adult non-members,

\$15 child non-members,

\$16 adult members, \$12 child members. Advanced registration is required; call 203-869-5272 Ext. 228.



JULY

Thursday July 1, 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Fireflies - Nature's Fireworks

Come outside at night at the Audubon Center and learn the mysteries and marvels of these early summer living lanterns.

Saturday July 10

Annual Butterfly Count

10 AM Orientation session to learn butterfly identification and the count procedures
10:30 AM – 5:00 PM Butterfly Counting in the field.
If you are interested in counting for any part of the day, contact Ted Gilman 203-869-5272 ext. 230.

Saturday July 24, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

The World of the Chipmunk

Join us as we take a closer look at the lifestyle and adaptations of our small, striped neighbors.



Saturday July 31, 10AM – 11:30 AM

Beginner's Birdwalk

Join us for a beginner's walk to develop skills in observing birds and using binoculars and bird identification guides.

AUGUST

Saturday August 7, 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM

The Summer Insect Orchestra

Learn about daytime and night-time insect 'musicians' in local woods and fields as we explore Audubon Greenwich at night.

Saturday, August 14 and Sunday, August 15 All Day

Sharon Audubon Festival, Sharon, CT

A wonderful mix of natural history programs for children, adults and families led by leading naturalists from the region. Call the Sharon Center at 860-364-0520 for details.

Saturday August 28, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Hints of Autumn Migration

We'll watch for early migrating butterflies, songbirds, and raptors and learn about the raptors and the hawk migration which is just starting and how you can help us count the hawks this fall.

c Program Calendar

t at the Kimberlin Nature Education Center at Greenwich Audubon unless otherwise indicated.

Summer Sanctuary Series with Gary Palmer

Join board member Gary Palmer and Audubon staff for a 1-1½ hour discovery walk on a few of Audubon Greenwich's beautiful sanctuaries and a couple of town sanctuaries too. For adults and children. \$5 non-members, \$3 members.

Friday, June 18 -

Hemlock Gorge, Greenwich

8:30 AM. Meet at Audubon Greenwich.

Explore the shadowy hemlock world of this 37-acre Byram River Gorge.

Thursday, July 15 -

Caldwell Sanctuary of Walden Woods, Greenwich

8:30 AM. Meet at Caldwell on Bible Street.

Audubon's 22 acre gem with boardwalk and trails crossing the Strickland Brook.

Saturday, July 17 -

Great Captain's Island, Greenwich

10 AM. Meet at the Town Ferry. We'll walk along the shore of this Greenwich island and view the egret nests at the most important egret rookery on Long Island Sound. Come back on the 12:30 pm ferry or bring lunch and return later. Bring binoculars, sunscreen, insect repellent.

Additional ferry fee: \$2 Greenwich residents with beach pass, \$8 non-Greenwich residents.



Thursday, July 22 -

Cove Island Park, Stamford

8:30 AM. Meet at Audubon

Greenwich. Patrick Comins, Audubon Connecticut's Director of Bird Conservation, will lead us on a walk at this Stamford-owned park, one of 15 recognized Important Bird

Areas in the state. We may see terns, oystercatchers and egrets, and it is a good

butterfly spot. We'll also visit the SoundWaters Environmental Education Center.

Thursday, August 5 -

Fairchild Wildflower Garden, Greenwich

8:30 AM. Meet at Fairchild Garden on North Porchunk Road. Our walk will take us through the meadow of late summer wildflowers and butterflies at this 135 acre preserve of wetland habitats and shady gorges.

Pre-registration is required. Call 203-869-5272 Ext. 228 for details and to register.

SAVE THESE UPCOMING FALL DATES

Saturday, Sept. 18 and Sunday, Sept. 19 • 10 am - 4 pm.

Hawk Watch Weekend

Our annual fall festival for the whole family

Live birds of prey, childrens' programs, nature walks, and more.

Saturday, October 23 • 6:00 pm

Wonder of Nature Dinner

Flower Power – Sixties Chic

Joni and Kevin Kimberlin, Event Chairs Deborah and Charles Royce, Vice Chairs

For advance reservations for tables, tickets and/or journal please call 203-869-5272 x 234



Job openings at Audubon Greenwich

Education Program Manager

Audubon Greenwich is seeking an education program manager to develop and implement school and public programs, to supervise education staff and volunteer educators and to set priorities and policies for education services. Requirements include masters degree in education, natural sciences, environmental studies of similar program, or a bachelors degree in similar subjects with a minimum of three years experience. Must have demonstrated experience in designing, implementing and evaluation education programs and teaching experience with children and adults in formal and informal settings. Excellent organizational, written and verbal communication skills, and computer literacy, Must be knowledgeable about natural history and environmental topics. Salary commensurate with experience. Housing may be available.

Hawk Watch Consultant

Audubon Greenwich is seeking a seasonal Hawk Watch consultant five days a week to identify and count hawks from the end of August to mid-November 2004 at the Quaker Ridge hawk watch site in Greenwich Connecticut. Assist visitors with bird identification and general birding questions during this hawk migration period. Record, post and analyze data. Requirements include excellent hawk identification skills, ability to work primarily outside, good written communication skills, and computer literacy. Salary commensurate with experience. Housing may be available.

To apply for either job, send cover letter and resume to Madeline Dennis, Center Director, Audubon Greenwich, 613 Riversville Road, Greenwich, CT 06831, or fax to 203-869-4437, or email MDennis@audubon.org.



Audubon 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

Admission: Members FREE; Non-members: Adults \$3;
Children/Seniors \$1.50



Audubon celebrated George Bent's 95th birthday in May with a party in Kiernan Hall and tour of the George Bent Apple Orchard at the Center. Pictured with George is Tom Baptist, Audubon CT Executive Director. Over the years, George has been an inspiration to many as we strive to fulfill our environmental mission. Happy Birthday, George, and best wishes for many more.

THE STATE BIRDATHON

On May 15 and 16, Audubon Connecticut, under the leadership of Aaron Virgin, held its inaugural Birdathon. Several teams of birders scoured the hillsides, meadows and waterways for a single purpose — to count as many bird species by sight or song within a 24-hour period and to raise money doing it! In all, 133 species were tallied resulting in over \$14,000 raised to support our science-based educational programs throughout the state. The staff of Audubon Sharon and members of the Housatonic Audubon Society covered several key areas in the Northwest Corner. In fact, some species, including Acadian Flycatcher, Hooded Merganser, Raven, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were only spotted at Audubon Sharon. Highlights by the Audubon Greenwich team included two Barred Owls, several Clapper Rails, and a lone Purple Sandpiper along Long Island Sound.



Highlights by the Audubon Greenwich team included:
*Two Barred Owls
several Clapper Rails
and a lone Purple Sandpiper along Long Island Sound*

GE Elfun Volunteers from GE Commercial Finance pitched in for a volunteer field day at the IBA in Audubon Greenwich in March. Fifteen GE Volunteers spent the day repairing the deer enclosure on the property and helping to clean up trails. This was the 7th volunteer project completed by GE Elfun Volunteers at an IBA in Connecticut in the last 2 years.



Audubon Greenwich is a great place for a party or meeting

Members are able to rent the Audubon Greenwich facilities for a party, meeting or workshop. What a great place to hold your event ! Various rooms in the new Kimberlin Nature Education Center are available, such as the Kiernan Hall, terraced areas, large and small classrooms and the Barn. Our facility is for small groups under 140. Renter arranges for caterer and program separately. The fee ranges from \$1,000 for non-profit groups to \$2,800 for corporations and private individuals. Members can also book a classroom for a child's birthday party and our education staff will lead a fun one hour party program for a group of 15 or the renter can have up to 30 children and book their own independent program. Birthday party fees range from \$350 to \$650. Our facility is becoming very popular. If you are interested, please call us at least one month in advance. For full details and rental policy, go to our web site www.greenwich.center.audubon.org or call Liz at 203-869-5272 Ext. 224 for birthday party information and Madeline at 203-869-5272 Ext. 226 for information on other rentals.

Join the Audubon Team – Volunteer

There are many ways to get involved that will satisfy your interests and help us provide our community with an outstanding resource for conservation and education. Those opportunities available for high school students and groups are indicated. Weekdays, weekends and/or evenings. Volunteer according to your own availability.

Center Greeters – Be a host at our wonderful new Kimberlin Education Center. Greet visitors and answer questions, hand out trail maps and program brochures, answer phones, gather feedback. Weekends. Adults.

Teacher Naturalists – Our volunteer teachers work with school groups and other organizations to conduct programs and guide young explorers on our trails. Extensive training is provided starting this fall. Weekdays. Adults.

Nature Store Assistant – Process sales, assist customers, receive inventory, set up merchandise displays. Adults and high school students. Weekdays and weekends.

Trail Tamers – Assist staff with trail upkeep, control of invasive plants, footbridge repair, litter removal and native plant garden work. Adults, high school students, and groups. Weekdays.

If you have other ideas or talents, please call us to discuss them. For more information on volunteering at Audubon Greenwich, contact us at 203-869-5272 or send us an email at greenwich_center@audubon.org

General Assembly Ends on a High Note

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agricultural products. An amendment extends the Long Island Sound moratorium and assesses fees for energy lines crossing the Sound to be split between the Department of Agriculture and the DEP.

Marine Protection Areas - HB 5643 AAC A Marine Protection Area and the Recommendations of the Long Island Sound Task Force requires the state's new Energy Advisory Board to consider the findings of the LIS Task Force and Study Group in establishing energy policy, and to evaluate and report to the Environment Committee any and all information relating to LIS that would be useful in planning for and managing energy transmission lines in the Sound.

Other Bills of Interest to Audubon Activists that Passed

Clean Cars - SB 119 (now Public Act 04-84) AAC Clean Cars seeks to reduce automobile emissions by adopting California emissions standards by 2008.

Global Warming - SB 595 AAC Climate Change requires the state to develop a plan to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, as well as report, register and inventory greenhouse gases in the state. In addition, the state is required to give purchasing preference to environmentally favorable products and to develop a list of such products.

Shell Fish Beds - HB 5241 AAC Shellfishing Violations and the Use of Power Dredges to Restore Shellfish Beds mandates the state to adopt federal model ordinances, requires permission from the DEP Commissioner for any use of state-owned shellfish beds other than aquaculture, and restricts the use of power dredges.

Energy Transmission Lines - HB 5418 AAC Electric Transmission Line Siting Criteria requires creation of a buffer area around residential neighborhoods, schools, day care facilities, play grounds and camps, and consideration of EMF impacts along any proposed route.

Bills Successfully Opposed

CT Environmental Policy Act – HB 5243 sought to restrict the amount of money spent on environmental impact evaluations required under CEPA to 20% of the state's overall proposed investment in the project. The sponsor allowed the bill to die in Committee.

Wetlands Exemptions - HB 5610 AAC Municipal Exemptions from Inland Wetlands Permits sought to exempt certain municipal road projects from Inland Wetlands review. After explaining that administrative actions at the local level can address this issue without creating a blanket exemption, the bill's sponsor agreed to withdraw this legislation.

Open Space Land Swaps – HB 5648 AAC the Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land allows the Town of Wallingford to use land acquired under the Municipal Open Space and Matching Grants program for recreational ball fields in return for providing equivalent open space. As originally proposed, legislation would have created a process whereby the DEP Commissioner could allow such land swaps in all municipalities.

Recreational Fishing - SB 551 AAC Recreational Fishing in Connecticut, though billed as an effort to protect the rights of sport fishermen, is actually part of a nationwide effort to restrict the ability of Environmental Protection agencies to close certain areas to fishing in order to protect fish stocks. The Senate sent the bill back to the Environment Committee where it died.

We couldn't have done it without your phone calls and emails of all our activists. Thank you so much for your help protecting birds, other wildlife and their habitats throughout our state. If you aren't yet an Activist, sign up to receive timely emails about important events or issues regarding CT's environment, and information about what you can do to help. This is a no-fee, no-obligation list open to any interested individual regardless of Audubon membership. To join, just send a blank email message to: AudubonActCT-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or contact Sandy Breslin, Director of Governmental Affairs at 203-264-5098.

For free weekly e-mail announcements of



events send a blank e-mail to: [<audubongreenwichnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com>](mailto:audubongreenwichnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

SUMMER 2004

Natural History Notes

By Ted Gilman, *Education Specialist*

Scorpio and Sagittarius glowing low in the southern night sky; the flash, crash, rumble, pouring rain and gusts of wind of lively summer thunderstorms, and the multicolored rainbows that follow; a mother wood duck cruising the north end of Mead Lake with her flotilla of ducklings following along behind; spicebush swallowtail butterflies and bumblebees drinking in the super sweet nectar of sweet pepper bush flowers at the edges of forest wetlands; catbirds, robins and other songbirds feasting on the summer harvest of highbush blueberries, blackberries and raspberries; wood frog tadpoles racing against time and their shrinking vernal pools to transform into little frogs to emerge and begin their air-breathing lives on the forest floor before the pools dry up; a young red-tailed hawk



vigorously exercising its wings on the edge of its nest, in preparation for its first flight and a life on the wing; a milkweed plant hosting its varied insect community of beetles, monarch butterflies and bugs – all sporting a protective color combination of orange and black to warn predators away from their nasty taste; firefly beetles adding their own evening flash patterns to our nation's birthday fireworks; the laughter and excited voices of children enjoying natural history day camp; new buds slowly forming on trees and shrubs to prepare next spring's leaves and flowers before this season's leaves succumb to the shortening days of fall; a small touch of brilliant red in a staghorn sumac leaf in August hinting at the flood of color soon to come...

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