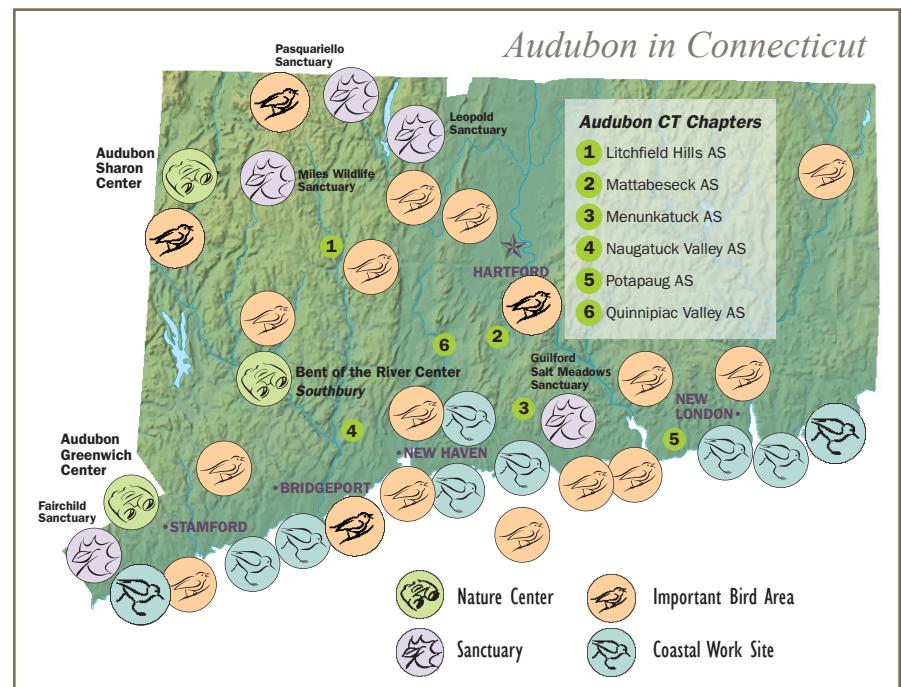




Audubon GREENWICH 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Audubon Greenwich encompasses 686 acres on 7 sanctuaries in Greenwich, including the Main Sanctuary & Kimberlin Nature Education Center at 613 Riversville Road. The Center opened in 1943 as National Audubon Society's first environmental education center. We are part of the [Audubon Connecticut network](#)—with two sister centers in Sharon and Southbury, active chapters, and numerous conservation focus areas around the state.

We are a leader in place-based nature education, offering programs for all ages. The Center also coordinates the statewide [Bird-Friendly Communities](#) (BFC) initiative. As a unique and trusted force for conservation, Audubon Greenwich made great strides in 2016 with vital support from volunteers and donors. To learn more, visit greenwich.audubon.org.



This map is a general overview of Audubon Connecticut, not a representation of the network in its entirety.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT



This year we completed several improvement projects that make our sanctuary more accessible and enriching for a broader audience. As a result, the number of VISITORS to our Center DOUBLED in the last 6 months. Highlights include:

- Restoration of our teaching pond, named “**Georgie’s Pond**” after the late Georgie Ashforth, with new accessible ramps, teaching platforms, and an education pavilion
- A new **NATURE PLAY AREA** and a mile-long **ACCESSIBLE NATURE TRAIL**
- Restoration of the historic **Ketay-Asnes Barn**, which will be available for programs & rentals in Spring 2017

HABITAT CONSERVATION



As the hub for Audubon’s BFC initiative, we engage people in simple actions that help birds thrive in human environments and make communities healthier for people too. In 2016, we worked to restore bird-friendly habitat at our sanctuaries as well as in parks, schools, and yards from Greenwich to New Haven. We engaged many people in the process, including:

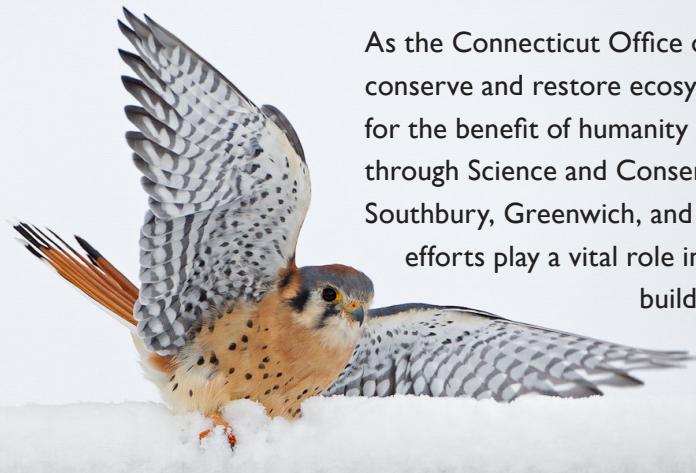
- 46 TEACHERS** trained to use the outdoors as a living classroom
- 2,000 STUDENTS** learning science in their Schoolyard Habitats
- 1,012 VOLUNTEERS** involved in habitat restoration in underserved neighborhoods, providing “Urban Oases” for both people and wildlife

EDUCATION PROGRAMS



We grow our conservation community by engaging thousands of people through our adult, family, and children’s education programs. Our offerings range from internships, school & scout programs and Summer Nature Camp to public lectures, festivals, and events. Participation in our programs in 2016 was excellent as we connected with:

- 3,000 STUDENTS** in school day, after-school, pre-school, and scout programs, and summer camp
- 4,000 PEOPLE** in public programs, festivals, and outreach events
- 13 INTERNS**, from high school to post-graduate students, who gained experiences in education, conservation, and communications



As the Connecticut Office of the [National Audubon Society](#), our mission is to conserve and restore ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. We accomplish this through Science and Conservation; Environmental Education at our Centers in Southbury, Greenwich, and Sharon; and state and federal Policy Initiatives. These efforts play a vital role in supporting conservation in the [Atlantic Flyway](#) and building upon Audubon's far-reaching network.

To learn more, please visit [audubonct.org](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Working Together to Build a Bright Future

BIRD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES—In 2016, the BFC program experienced excellent growth, creating 4 new Schoolyard Habitats (SYHs)—bringing the total to 16 Audubon SYHs in Connecticut. We established 6 new Urban Oases (healthy, restored habitats for birds and city-dwellers) and led the effort to designate New Haven as a National Urban Bird Treaty City. We worked with 113 teachers at workshops and our annual SYH Leadership Summit, and through these programs provided thousands of students with nature-based curricula and environmental awareness.

COASTS—The 2016 shorebird season was a great success. We had an all-time record high of 63 breeding Piping Plovers, which produced 87 fledged chicks for a productivity rate of 1.38 chicks per pair. We also had a record high of 63 pairs of American Oystercatchers, which produced 53 fledglings for a productivity rate of .84 chicks per pair—the second highest ever for both the total of chicks fledged and productivity rate in the state. Through our participation in the Audubon Alliance for Coastal Waterbirds, we also helped generate more than 4,000 volunteer hours devoted to priority species and conservation.

FORESTS & SHRUBLANDS—Our work to protect and sustainably manage forests, shrublands, and other working lands continued to be a priority in 2016. We completed 34 field assessments and provided best management recommendations through our “Forest for the Birds” project—bringing our total to 114 assessments with 125,000 acres under influence. Our participation in the American Kestrel nest box program for more than 25 years led to the species being taken off the Connecticut Threatened Species List

this year. We also banded 49 bird species and 394 individuals who rely on shrubland habitats, and recognized 12 new [Important Bird Areas](#) (IBA) in Connecticut—including 5 landscape-scale forest blocks comprised of private, land trust, and state lands.



As we work to broaden our impact as the most influential bird conservation organization in the state, Audubon Connecticut will continue to concentrate on key issues that matter to birds, other wildlife, and people in 2017.

- » We will further implement Audubon's 2016-2020 Conservation Strategic Plan by engaging diverse communities, measuring our results, and strengthening our network through increased use of social media.
- » We will protect more habitats and educate more people through our Bird-Friendly Communities, IBA, Coasts, Forests, and Center programs and initiatives.
- » We will deepen our scientific work through expanded bird banding and species & habitat monitoring with our volunteer army and key organizational partners.
- » And, we will work even harder to protect key state programs that face unprecedented budget cuts, while pursuing new avenues for open space funding and seeking permanent protection of Plum Island—a key habitat for birds in Long Island Sound.