



In Focus



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

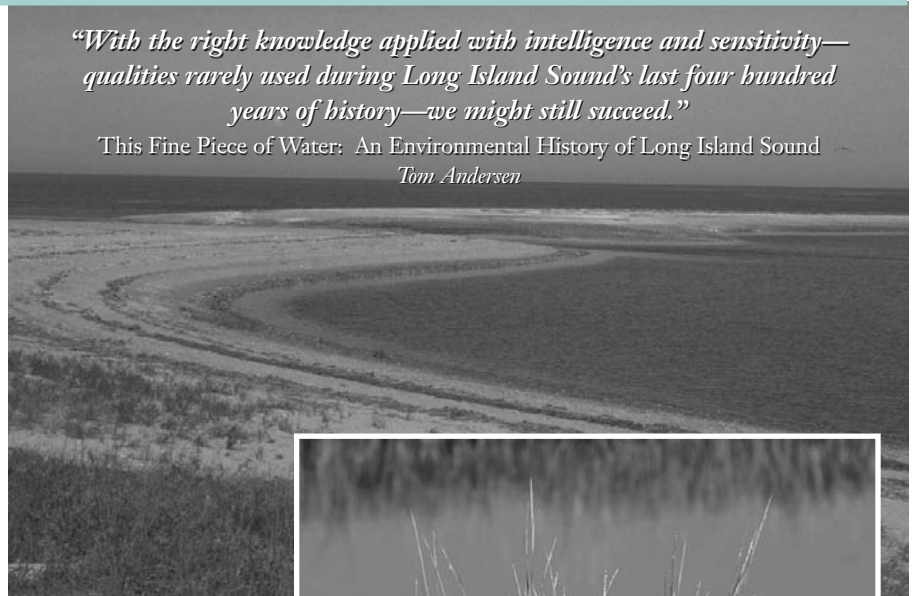
LIFELINE TO AN ESTUARY IN DISTRESS

Long Island Sound is one of our preeminent natural resources. We frolic in its waters, feast on its bounty, delight in its birds and other wildlife, live and work within its reach, and bask on its shores. We take sustenance from its singular essence. The Sound is also a vast economic engine that pumps more than \$5.5 billion into the regional economy each year. Like a dear old friend, the Sound has always been there for us. But it's a friend who has fallen on hard times—who won't ask, but urgently needs our help.

Since passage of the Federal Clean Water Act in 1972, significant progress has been made in restoring and protecting the Sound. Yet, despite more than \$1 billion in restoration and cleanup efforts over the past 30 years or so, the Sound is still in trouble. In fact, never before has the Sound been at the center of so many issues—dwindling shellfish populations, ongoing pollution from sewage treatment plants, contaminated stormwater runoff, increasing pressure for industrial/commercial use, and accelerated shoreline development.


“With the right knowledge applied with intelligence and sensitivity—qualities rarely used during Long Island Sound’s last four hundred years of history—we might still succeed.”

This Fine Piece of Water: An Environmental History of Long Island Sound
Tom Andersen



According to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), during summer 2005, the area of the Sound experiencing dissolved oxygen levels below water quality standards was the second largest on record (1991-2005).

Because the remaining sources of pollution facing the Sound are extremely diffuse, solving these problems presents more challenges than ever. An extensive public education effort is needed to foster individual action in our own back yards to address nonpoint source pollution. Grassroots action is also needed to compel strong leadership by elected officials at the federal, state, and local levels to improve water quality and protect habitat.

In response to the challenges still facing the Sound, Audubon Connecticut, Audubon New York, and Audubon's National Policy Office in Washington, D.C. joined forces last year to launch a coordinated Long Island Sound Campaign to address the fundamental challenges of water quality restoration and habitat protection—two key areas where improvements will result in the most significant benefits to people, birds, marine organisms, and other wildlife. Already this partnership is bearing fruit. Read on to find out about our efforts to restore water quality and protect the Sound's habitats. 

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**Audubon
Connecticut
Mission:**

Further the protection of birds, other wildlife and their habitats through science, education, advocacy and conservation, for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.



Message from the Executive Director



A CONSERVATION CONUNDRUM

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The plethora of energy proposals impacting Long Island Sound—including dozens of proposed cables, pipelines, and the Broadwater proposal for a floating liquefied-natural-gas (LNG) facility—has intensified my deliberation on the matter of energy use in this country. Energy use has a direct bearing on the environment, the economy, and national security.

The United States consumes more oil and natural gas than any other country. It is the largest emitter of CO₂ in the world (a major green-house gas and a critical factor in global warming). Global climate change is an urgent concern—greenhouse-gas levels are now 27 percent higher than at any time in the last 650,000 years. U.S. oil production peaked in 1970, and today we have only 2 percent of the world's in-ground oil reserves. America is inescapably dependent on oil and gas from Middle East countries, Russia, and Venezuela—some of the most politically unstable regions on the globe!

Yet, our country lacks a cogent energy policy that includes conservation—a foible with ramifications that reach into the pocket of every American, affect the quality of the air we breathe, and even threaten the health of the Long Island Sound. Could it

be that the absence of political leadership necessary to adopt better conservation policy is the result of a lack of resolve by the American public to actually conserve energy?

SUVs and pickup trucks are the largest segment of the American auto market (48 percent of all 2003 sales.) However, the ten most fuel-efficient car models sold in the U.S. comprise only 2 percent of total passenger vehicles sold. Given the public's seeming preference for gas-guzzling vehicles, it is no wonder that the current federal energy strategy is to pump as much fossil fuel from the ground as possible—with no thought to tomorrow—even if it means wreaking havoc on the environment.

America's voracious use of, and increasing demand for, electricity has resulted in calls for greater use of coal and nuclear power—despite the fact that “clean-coal” alternatives are still in development and expensive, and no one has devised a cost-effective way to house nuclear by-products for the 10,000 years those materials remain reactive and dangerous.

President Bush has stated that national security and the American economy are best served if we reduce our dependence on foreign sources of oil and other hydrocarbons. These fuels are finite, and experts agree that world production of fossil fuels will peak and decline in our lifetimes. As oil becomes scarce, its price is certain to increase, and we will face a traumatic and difficult conversion of America's energy system to new forms. In

view of this, it is dismaying that the 2005 Energy Bill signed into law by President Bush barely addresses conservation and contains *no* provisions to improve motor vehicle fuel efficiency.

To add to the difficulties, states and local governments have had their authority removed to regulate LNG facilities, such as the one proposed by Broadwater in the middle of Long Island Sound—Connecticut's most important bird habitat and open space.

Clearly, Americans will pay higher prices and government will continue to support polluting technologies until we adopt an energy-conservation ethic and demand more from our political leaders by way of conservation and the development of non-polluting energy alternatives.

Audubon is helping to lead the way in advancing an energy-conservation ethic. We have demonstrated the efficiency and affordability of non-polluting geothermal heating and cooling of buildings through the use of geothermal technology at our 16,500 square foot Audubon Kimberlin Nature Education Center in Greenwich. We urge other organizations and individuals to also consider leading the way by example. As individuals, all of us can demonstrate sound energy conservation practices with regard to the fuel efficiency of the vehicles we drive and the homes we live in. Would the Broadwater facility be needed at all if Americans were better at conserving energy? ♣

REDUCE NITROGEN IN THE SOUND! ...CAN YOU HEAR US NOW?

Clean water is essential for supporting healthy bird and other wildlife populations. By far, the most pressing water quality problem in the Sound is excessive nitrogen discharges from sewage treatment plants and stormwater runoff. Excess nitrogen depletes dissolved oxygen in the bottom waters during summer months, harming marine life. For this reason, ensuring continued progress in reducing nitrogen loading is a key objective of Audubon's effort to restore and protect the Sound.

In 2005, Audubon took the lead in lobbying for reauthorization of the Long Island Sound (LIS) Restoration Act in Congress. This critically important Act was first established in 2000 to provide funding for nitrogen reduction projects that seek to restore and maintain the environmental health of the Sound. The Act was set to expire at the end of 2005. On December 16, 2005, Congress reauthorized the Act for the next five years, providing up to \$200 million for water quality improvements in the Sound.

The reauthorization was designed to ensure that federal funds will continue to be available in Connecticut and New York to support needed infrastructure investments designed to reduce nitrogen loading and improve oxygen levels. Senator Joseph Lieberman and Representative Rob Simmons led the charge to secure passage of this legislation, along with all the members of the bistate, bipartisan Long Island Sound Caucus.

Since the original LIS Restoration Act was passed in 2000, Connecticut has used the funding to help reduce nitrogen loading in the Sound by more than 25 percent from 1993 levels. Continued federal funding is essential to ensure we meet our nitrogen reduction target of 58.5 percent by 2014.

TROUBLE BREWING?

Congress has continued its strong commitment to cleaning up the Sound, and

New York City recently signed a historic agreement to cut nitrogen loads to the Sound by close to 60 percent by 2017. However, the President's proposed budget, released in February, sells Long Island Sound short.

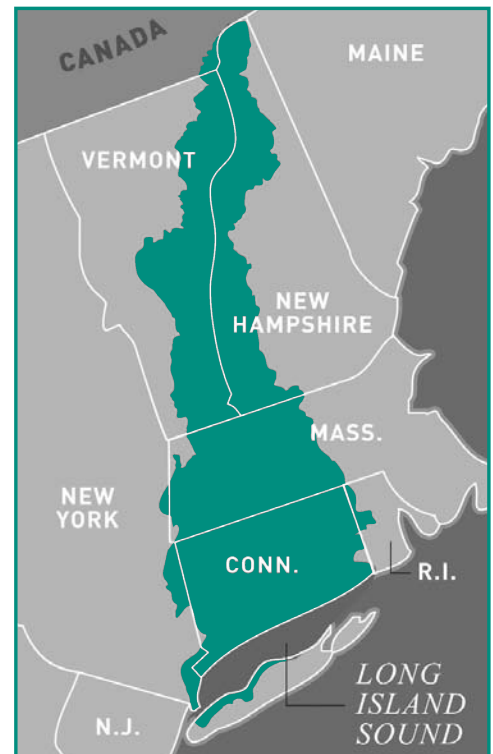
In his draft budget, President Bush cuts funding for the Sound from the \$1.8 million appropriated last year to only \$466,900 this year. The President also proposes \$5.3 million in cuts to the National Estuaries Program, which will further threaten efforts to clean up the Sound and 27 other estuaries. Audubon will be working with the Connecticut and New York Congressional delegations in a concerted effort to restore funding for these critical programs as the federal budget process moves forward.

Closer to home, the State of Connecticut also appears to be taking a step backward. Since 2003, lawmakers have been raiding the Connecticut Clean Water Fund (CWF) and using monies slated for municipal clean water projects to balance budget deficits.

In 2003, the General Assembly approved a rescission of \$18 million. In 2004, legislators approved a \$60 million rescission, leaving the program in the red. In 2005, the General Assembly voted not to provide any bond funding at all for the CWF. For the next two years, the General Assembly has authorized \$20 million each year—far short of the \$100 million DEP anticipates it needs to maintain the state's historic progress toward cleaner water.

Lacking adequate funding for planned nitrogen upgrade projects, the Connecticut DEP proposed increasing allowable "limits of nitrogen" by more than 1.5 million pounds per year over levels set in a 2002 general permit. Increasing the allowable limits for 2006 is in direct conflict with the 2003 Long Island Sound Agreement.

Audubon Connecticut testified against this move, calling on DEP to continue as a leader in reducing nitrogen



THE LONG ISLAND SOUND:

- ▲ Watershed originates in Canada and covers 16,820 square miles in six states
- ▲ Contributes an estimated \$5.5 billion to the regional economy annually
- ▲ Is home to 10 percent of the U.S. population (28 million people) located within 50 miles of its shores
- ▲ Supports 30 Important Bird Areas located on the Sound and its shores in Connecticut and New York
- ▲ Is a significant ecoregion, on par with the Chesapeake Bay and the Florida Everglades

levels. Despite our opposition, DEP Commissioner McCarthy approved the increase. On January 4, Tom Baptist testified at a DEP hearing on priorities for clean water projects, pointing to the need to restore funding for this critical program. Audubon will be in the forefront at the Capitol during the 2006 session, working with our elected officials to see that the necessary funding is restored for Connecticut's Clean Water Fund.

You can help by letting your voice be heard—talk to your local legislators and let them know that now is not the time to start backing away from the Sound. 🐦

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In Focus

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GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS ON HABITAT PROTECTION

Restoring and protecting key habitats within the LIS ecosystem to ensure that they can continue to support healthy bird and other wildlife populations is a major focus for Audubon. To this end, Audubon Connecticut and Audubon New York have taken a leadership role in advancing federal legislation to create a Long Island Sound Stewardship program. The legislation, currently pending in Congress, would authorize up to \$25 million annually to protect sites around the Sound that are important for their ecological significance or open space and recreational value. Congressional action is expected in early 2006, and Audubon will continue efforts to secure its passage. Check "What You Can Do for the Sound," below, to learn how you can help!

On the home front, Audubon is working to protect 17 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) along the coast, through conservation planning and stewardship action. See page 6 to learn more about this effort.

Audubon is also involved in a series of local land conservation issues that have significant potential to impact the Sound. Communities in which Audubon is currently working include Bridgeport, Stratford, Guilford, and Madison. Look for more information on these efforts in the coming months.

ENERGY PROPOSAL THREATENS THE SOUND'S HABITATS

And just when we really don't need another obstacle to wildlife



habitat protection, we've got one. Broadwater Energy, a joint venture between multi-national giants Shell and TransCanada, is proposing to develop a liquefied-natural-gas regasification (LNG) and storage facility in the Sound. The Broadwater facility would be the first of its kind in the world—nearly ten stories tall, four football-fields long, 180 feet wide, and extending about 100 feet above the surface of the water.

The facility would be anchored entirely in New York waters—nine miles from shore

...continued on page 5



What You Can Do for the Sound

The next few years are critical to the future of Long Island Sound, and the challenges are considerable. Success in this effort requires a strong grassroots effort at the state and national levels. And you can help! Here's how:

- ▲ Join the Audubon Connecticut Activist Network and receive updates and alerts about key issues facing the Sound. To register, send an e-mail to jpalacios@audubon.org
- ▲ Use the knowledge gained from the Activist Network to call and write your elected officials, write letters to your newspaper editor, and participate in public hearings to help influence key policy initiatives designed to restore and protect the Sound.
- ▲ Check out Audubon at Home at http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/ to learn how to minimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides around your home. Adopting these simple tips can help reduce a major source of nonpoint source pollution to the Sound.
- ▲ Stay up to date on our activities to restore and protect the Sound by visiting our website at <http://audubonct.org>.

HABITAT PROTECTION

...from page 4

and eleven miles from the Connecticut shoreline. It will receive shipments every three to four days from large tanker ships and require installation of more than 25 miles of new undersea pipeline. A large “no boating” and “no fishing” area would be designated in the portion of the Sound surrounding the platform, limiting public access to these waters.

Audubon Connecticut submitted pre-file comments on the potential environmental impacts of Broadwater to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). FERC is the lead agency conducting environmental reviews of this proposed floating industrial complex.

Executive Director Tom Baptist testified in opposition to the proposed Broadwater project at a joint FERC/Coast Guard hearing and before Governor Rell’s Long Island Sound LNG Task Force. Key issues raised in Audubon’s testimony include the lack of information available to support a realistic assessment of the impacts of the facility on birds, other wildlife, and habitat, and the need to fully explore alternatives to the LNG facility, including energy conservation. In February, Broadwater submitted a formal application with FERC, and Audubon will be reviewing the draft Environmental Impact Statement to ensure that our concerns are addressed. ♣

SANCTUARY ON THE SOUND GETS A NEW LOOK

Audubon’s Oneida Sanctuary got all spruced up, thanks to the hard work of the Executives for Conservation (E4C) who raised funds for the restoration and recruited friends and family members to the effort. Moms, dads, and kids rolled up their sleeves for hands-on work at the three-acre sanctuary in the heart of downtown Greenwich. This small upland sanctuary, which had become choked with invasive plants and fallen limbs and debris, overlooks a tidal marsh that borders Long Island Sound.

E4C works with Audubon Greenwich to connect business leaders and their families with nature through a variety of social, educational, and interactive programs. The Oneida Sanctuary restoration project included a new bench looking out over the marsh, a split-rail fence around the property, a street sign, debris and invasive-plant removal, native-species plantings, and the installation of a beautiful marshland interpretive sign depicting the birds, plants, and other wildlife to be found in this unique habitat.

The finished project provides visitors greater access to this little gem of a nature sanctuary, offering views of the tidal marsh and Long Island Sound and providing improved habitat for the coastal wildlife that lives there. For more information on Audubon Greenwich and E4C contact, Madeline Dennis, Center Director at (203) 869-5272 or mdennis@audubon.org. ♣



Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 9, Pack 9 help with Oneida Sanctuary cleanup in Greenwich. From left to right: Wolfi Hofer, Alec Hofer, Liam Menten-Weil, Sean Broderick, and scout leader and Audubon Greenwich board member Camille Broderick.

Audubon Centers and Sanctuaries in Connecticut

National Audubon has had a presence in Connecticut dating back to 1941 with the establishment of the Audubon Center in Greenwich as the first National Audubon Society Nature Education Center in the country. Over the years, the National Audubon presence in Connecticut has grown to include three Audubon Centers, four major sanctuaries, and a number of smaller sanctuaries, protecting 4,500 acres.

EAST HARTLAND

Audubon Leopold Wildlife Sanctuary

GREENWICH

Kimberlin Nature Education Center
Caldwell Sanctuary
Gimble Sanctuary
Steeplechase Sanctuary
Read Sanctuary
Fairchild Wildflower Garden
Wood Duck Swamp Sanctuary
Oneida Marsh Sanctuary

GUILFORD

Audubon Guilford Salt
Meadows Sanctuary

SHARON

Audubon Center in Sharon
Audubon Miles Wildlife Sanctuary

SOUTHBURY

Audubon Center at Bent of the River

Chapters in Connecticut

Members of the National Audubon Society can participate in their local chapter, if there is one in their area, or in another chapter of their choice. Each chapter offers a wide variety of events and activities that are open to members and the general public. Contact Jennifer Palacios at jpalacios@audubon.org or (203) 869-5272 to learn how to get in touch with your local chapter.

Audubon Greenwich
Darien Audubon Society
Housatonic Audubon Society
Lillinonah Audubon Society
Litchfield Hills Audubon Society
Mattabesek Audubon Society
Menunkatuck Audubon
Naugatuck Valley Audubon Society
New Canaan Audubon Society
Potapaug Audubon Society
Quinnipiac Valley Audubon Society
Saugatuck Valley Audubon



IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS OF LONG ISLAND SOUND

by Patrick Comins,
Director of Bird Conservation

The Important Bird Area (IBA) Program and the Long Island Sound Campaign are the pillars of Audubon Connecticut's conservation program. These two core programs intersect at Connecticut's coastal IBAs. Connecticut currently has 27 recognized IBAs, 16 of which are located on Long Island Sound or its tidal rivers.

IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS ON LONG ISLAND SOUND

1. **Barn Island Wildlife Management Area**, Stonington**
2. **Charles Island and Silver Sands State Park**, Milford
3. **Connecticut College Arboretum**, Waterford and New London
4. **Cove Island Park**, Stamford
5. **East Rock Park**, New Haven
6. **Falkner Island unit of Stewart B. McKinney NWR**, offshore of Guilford
7. **Great Captain's Island**, Greenwich
8. **Greenwich Point Park** and nearby islands, Greenwich
9. **Hammonasset Beach State Park**, Madison**
10. **Lighthouse Point Park**, New Haven
11. **Mamacoke Island** and adjacent coves, Waterford
12. **Menunketesuck and Duck Islands** and surrounding tidal flats, Westbrook
13. **Milford Point/Wheeler Marsh/Mouth of the Housatonic River**, Milford
14. **Quinnipiac River Tidal Marsh**, North Haven, New Haven, Hamden
15. **Salt Meadow Unit of Stewart B. McKinney NWR**, Westbrook.
16. **Sandy Point**, West Haven

**Globally Important Sites

The beaches, islands, undeveloped uplands, tidal marshes, bays, tidal rivers,



and waters of the Long Island Sound estuary provide essential habitat for:

- ▲ At least two bird species of global conservation concern (Piping Plover and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow)
- ▲ One federally threatened (Piping Plover) and one federally endangered (Roseate Tern) bird species
- ▲ Several species classified as threatened, endangered, or of special concern by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
- ▲ Numerous Audubon WatchList species, Partners in Flight high-conservation-priority species, and other species considered of conservation concern
- ▲ Thousands of migratory shorebirds, raptors, waterfowl, seabirds, and land birds.

CONSERVING OUR COASTAL IBAS

Connecticut's first IBA conservation plan is nearing completion. Conservation planning is a critical component of the IBA Program, providing landowners, stakeholders, and conservation groups, including Audubon, with a blue print for the conservation of each site.

Working with the City of Stamford, Audubon, and other key stakeholders, the Maguire Group has completed a public review draft of Connecticut's first IBA conservation plan

for Cove Island Park. The GE Foundation and the Jeniam Foundation provided funding for this plan. According to the draft plan, invasive species and potential loss of habitat are the biggest issues facing this 83-acre urban site that provides an important migratory stopover and wintering habitat for hundreds of species of birds each year.

The good news is that there are a number of opportunities to greatly enhance habitats at the park to protect and enhance the value of this site for birds. The City of Stamford has already secured \$400,000 in state bond funds and completed a design to transform an old stump dump within park boundaries into a bird sanctuary. The transformation of the new sanctuary is scheduled to be completed this spring.

In the coming year, Audubon will initiate the IBA Conservation Planning Process at additional coastal sites, including New Haven's Lighthouse Point Park, Mamacoke Island in Waterford, and the Falkner Island Unit of Stewart B. McKinney NWR in Guilford, as well as at additional inland sites.

To review a copy of the draft Cove Island Park Conservation Plan, contact Patrick Comins at pcomins@audubon.org. For more information on Connecticut's IBA program see our new IBA web page at: <http://iba.audubon.org/iba/viewState.do?state=US-CT>. 🐦



by Sandy Breslin, Director of Governmental Affairs

February kicks off a busy season for Audubon Connecticut's policy program. The state General Assembly began its "short" (February-May) session on February 8, and Congress resumed business after its long holiday recess. Here's a quick look ahead at our top issues:

CLEAN WATER FUNDING

The state's Clean Water Fund provides grants and loans to municipalities to improve water quality by constructing or modernizing sewage treatment plants, upgrading combined sewer outflows, and repairing leaky pipes. However, since 2003 the legislature has been raiding the \$50 million per year (on average) promised to the fund to balance the budget. As a result, Connecticut is already falling behind on its commitment to reduce nitrogen discharges into Long Island Sound, a major source of the hypoxia that plagues the western Sound each summer. Audubon has made restoring funding to this critical program a top priority.

LONG ISLAND SOUND STEWARDSHIP ACT

Audubon is spearheading support for the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act leg-

islation in Congress. The act will authorize up to \$25 million per year to protect important recreational and ecological sites around the Sound.

INVASIVE PLANTS

Invasive species are second only to development in the threat they pose to native wildlife and their habitats. Audubon will be working to:

- ▲ Establish a statewide ban on the sale of key invasive plant species
- ▲ Obtain funding for the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council to support educational programs for homeowners and land managers.

IN ADDITION...

Audubon will be supporting efforts in the Connecticut General Assembly to:

- ▲ Increase funding for open space land acquisition and implement the Community Reinvestment Act (P.A. 05-228)

- ▲ Reduce light pollution statewide
- ▲ Phase out the use of pesticides at middle and high schools
- ▲ Improve and strengthen the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act.

At the federal level, Audubon will be supporting:

- ▲ Continued funding for State Wildlife Grants
- ▲ Land and Water Conservation funding for the Silvio O. Conte and Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuges in Connecticut
- ▲ Defending the Endangered Species Act
- ▲ Safeguarding the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling.

Your involvement makes all the difference in the success of these efforts. Please see the "What You Can Do..." box on page 4 to learn how you can get involved. ↗

DON'T MISS THE SECOND ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE FLOCK!

The Second Annual All-Audubon Day is set for Saturday March 18, 2006 at Dolce Heritage Conference Center in Southbury from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is the one opportunity each year for all members of the Audubon family in Connecticut to gather and exchange information, ideas, and experiences, so please mark your calendar and plan to attend!

This year's agenda is shaping up to be an exciting one. We will be hearing presentations on the first completed conservation plans for Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Connecticut—Station 43 in South Windsor, Cove Island Park in Stamford, East and West River Marshes in Guilford, and the Audubon Center at Bent of the River in Southbury.

Steve Kress, National Audubon's Vice President for Bird Conservation, will be our captivating keynote speaker. He will talk about creating natural habitats for properties large and small—the topic of his latest book due out in April. Preview copies of the new book, entitled *The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds: Creating Natural Habitat for Properties Large and Small* will be available for sale and signing.

There will be workshops on adopting an IBA; the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), which provides funding for habitat management efforts; and exciting new hi-tech directions for Audubon Adventures. The popular open-mike session will round out the program, and for the first time, an excellence award will be presented to an outstanding Audubon volunteer. The registration fee for this event is \$25. There will also be an optional post-event guided walk at the IBA at the Audubon Center at Bent of the River.

For additional information, contact Carolyn Hughes at (203) 264-5098 or Jennifer Palacios at (203) 869-5272. ↗



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AUDUBON AWARDS CHAPTER GRANTS

With funding from the National Board, Audubon Connecticut awarded grants to two Chapters for collaborative projects that advance the Audubon mission in the state. The two \$1,000 grants were awarded to:

▲ **Riverbound Farm Sanctuary:** Quinnipiac Valley Audubon Society will develop and install four interpretive signs along the trails at their 23-acre Riverbound Farm Sanctuary in Cheshire. The completed signs will identify the habitat found at each location and provide information on the plants and animals most likely to be found there. The signs will enhance educational opportunities at the sanctuary, and complement Audubon Connecticut's education mission.

▲ **Lighthouse Point Park Bird and Butterfly Garden:** The Menunkatuck Audubon Society, New Haven Bird Club, City Parks Department, and Connecticut Butterfly Association will collaborate on installing new bird and butterfly gardens at Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven. The park is an Audubon Important Bird Area due to its significance as a migratory stopover for land birds and raptors. The new gardens will enhance bird and wildlife habitat in this popular urban park.

CHECK IT OUT!

NEW AND IMPROVED

AUDUBON CONNECTICUT PRESENCE ON THE WEB

If you care about protecting birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, Audubon Connecticut is your source for up-to-date information. Our website now has a new look and a boatload of new information about the work we are doing to protect our great natural heritage. The main page features major upcoming events and the latest news. Click on "Centers" to learn more about the centers and sanctuaries Audubon manages in Connecticut, or on the "Chapters" link to learn if there is a chapter in your area. On the "Birds and Science" page, learn about the Important Bird Areas in Connecticut, explore links to Audubon-supported research and reports, find out about fun bird-related volunteer opportunities...and more. On the "Issues/Action" page, learn about the important policy work Audubon is doing at the state capitol and in Washington D.C. Find fact sheets on key issues and discover a host of "how tos," including how to connect with your elected officials and how to join the Audubon Activist Network.

Bookmark this site <http://audubonct.org/> and visit often, making it your personal tool for learning about the key conservation issues facing birds, wildlife, and their habitats in Connecticut. If you have ideas for useful tools or information you'd like to see on the site, contact Carolyn Hughes at chughes@audubon.org with your suggestions. We'd love to hear what you think! ↖

<http://audubonct.org/>

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE? HAVE YOU REMEMBERED AUDUBON IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN?

A century ago, Audubon was formed to "save wild birds." Since that time, Audubon has broadened its mission to protecting birds, other wildlife, and their habitat for generations to come. We achieve this mission through education, science, conservation, and advocacy. Here in Connecticut, we are making tremendous strides in achieving the Audubon mission. With your help, we can do even more to open new eyes to nature!

You can support Audubon in Connecticut with a bequest from your will, living trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy. Each individual has unique needs and should consult an advisor for help with choosing the correct type of gift. For more information on Audubon planned-giving options, please go to the special section of our website: <http://www.audubon.planyourgift.org/index.php> or contact Wayne Mones at 212 979-3033 or wsmones@audubon.org

For those choosing to create a bequest that will have lasting benefits for our natural heritage, the following wording is a sample of how to include Audubon Connecticut in your plan.

"I bequeath to the National Audubon Society, Inc. a not-for-profit corporation, chartered under the laws of New York State, with its principal offices located at 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003, the sum of \$ _____ (or ___% of my residuary estate) for the unrestricted conservation and environmental protection purposes conducted by its Connecticut State Office."


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