



Audubon CONNECTICUT



## Leading Bird Conservation

*Working together for birds, nature, and people*

**Black-and-white Warbler**  
PHOTO CREDIT: SEAN GRAESSER

# WHO WE ARE

## The Most Influential Conservation Organization in Connecticut, for Birds and Other Wildlife

Through land stewardship, science, education, and advocacy, we work across the state to preserve habitat and protect bird species that are of state, national, and global concern; and we identify and support Important Bird Areas (IBAs), a hallmark of Audubon's efforts worldwide.

## A Partner Addressing a Wide Range of Environmental and Human Health Concerns

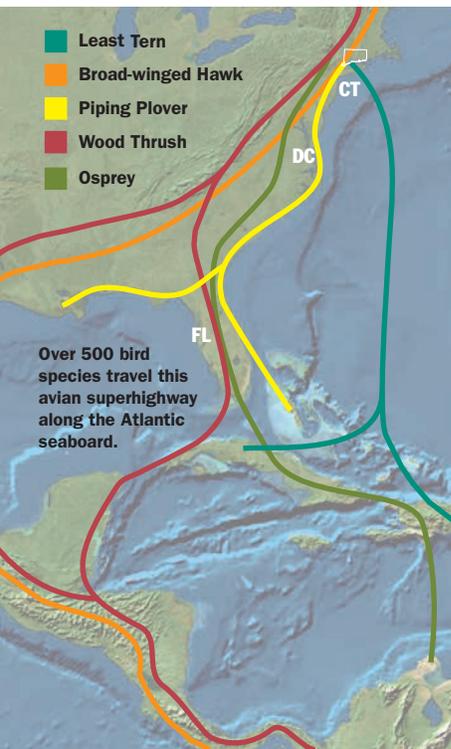
It begins with birds, but our mission connects people to a much wider range of issues, such as preventing air and water pollution, reducing pesticide use, promoting land conservation, and reducing the impact of global climate change on birds, wildlife, and people.

## A Leader in Setting a Course for Environmental Sustainability in Connecticut

Through creative public-private alliances, by engaging diverse audiences, and by understanding how to invest in a sustainable future, we are charting a new course for Connecticut. Taken together, our approach to conservation is good for the environment and the economy.

## The Connecticut State Office of the National Audubon Society

The strength we derive as part of the National Audubon Society enables us to contribute to a broader conservation strategy—one that recognizes the need to conserve wildlife on a wide geographic scope.



## THE ATLANTIC FLYWAY

### Connecticut's Connection to the Hemisphere

Each spring, millions of migratory birds return from wintering grounds in the Caribbean and Latin America to their nesting areas throughout the United States and Canada. These ancient paths, known as the Atlantic, Central, Mississippi, and Pacific Flyways, span the Western hemisphere from north to south, and link Audubon's conservation work with its partners in other countries.

Through the Atlantic Flyway Initiative, Audubon is teaching public and private landowners innovative conservation techniques such as how to retain upland buffer areas around wetlands and how to harvest farmlands and manage forests in ways that create better nesting habitat. Through initiatives like these, and with flyways as the focus of the National Audubon Society's new strategic plan, Audubon is leading the way to a brighter future for birds, wildlife, and people.



## By the Numbers: 2015

- **11** new Important Bird Areas identified
- **16** Schoolyard Habitats and 10 park sites enhanced as part of our Urban Groves program
- **60** teachers trained to use schoolyards as outdoor classrooms
- **67.5** percent of the 40 private forest landowners we assessed took action to make their forests healthy for birds and other wildlife
- **116** Piping Plover chicks fledged by 62 nesting pairs (the highest number of pairs since the 1980s) and 62 American Oystercatchers chicks fledged by 49 breeding pairs (the highest productivity rate ever recorded in Connecticut)
- **\$2 million** secured in federal investment through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, allowing for permanent protection by the Conte Refuge of 1,674 acres of critical habitat in the Connecticut River Watershed

# FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS

## Shorebird Conservation

Thanks to the efforts of staff, strategic partnerships, and dedicated volunteers, 2015 resulted in tremendous success in conserving shorebirds in Connecticut, including tying the highest recorded productivity rate for Piping Plovers with 116 fledged chicks.

## Urban Oases

Our program gives people the tools and guidance to make urban and suburban landscapes part of the conservation solution by reducing pesticide use and incorporating wildlife-friendly plantings at home, work, school, and public spaces. Working with community groups and local partners, Audubon Connecticut's Urban Oases program in New Haven led to the Elm City being designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as one of the first Urban Wildlife Refuges in the United States.

## Audubon Centers

Through Audubon Centers in Greenwich, Southbury, and Sharon, we provide on-site programs for children and families; we take care of valuable habitat for birds and other wildlife; and we develop regional conservation programs that connect people to nature—as we have done for almost 75 years.

## Healthy Forests for the Birds

Since 2014, this program has engaged over 80 private landowners in sustainable forest management on behalf of birds...and people. Our site assessments and educational workshops have influenced the management of 100,000 acres. Judging by the high percentage of landowners who take action after receiving our detailed property and management assessments, it is clear that together we are helping to create bird-friendly forests for imperiled species across the state.

# POLICY AND ADVOCACY

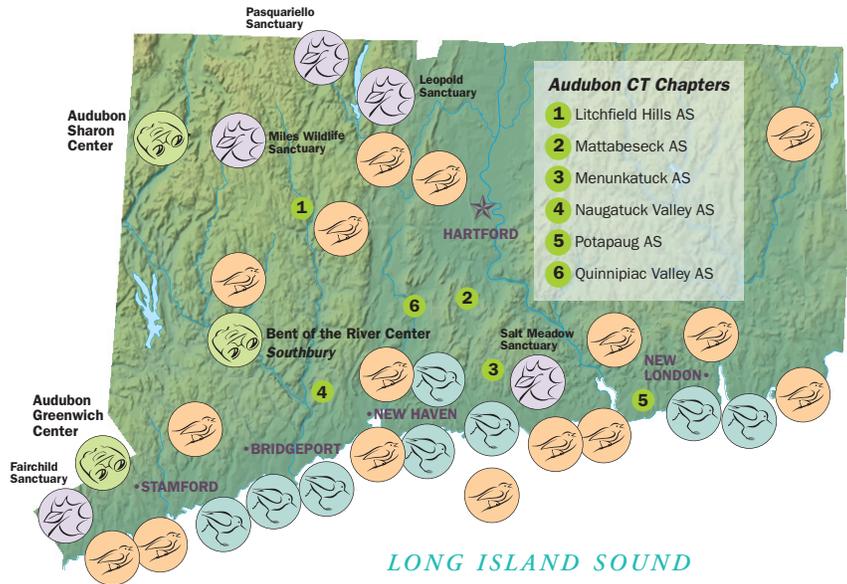
Audubon Connecticut is an advocate for birds and wildlife protection. We are an influential voice on a national level in Washington, D.C., with the legislature in Hartford, Connecticut, and at the municipal level throughout the state, fighting for laws and policies that further our mission.

# CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

Our goal is to bring people closer to the natural world to become stewards of their community and to have more fulfilling experiences with the environment in which they live.

Audubon's three Centers and five major Sanctuaries include over 4,600 acres of land that Audubon owns and manages. These special places provide opportunities for on-site, outdoor education programs, trails for birdwatching or nature walks, and places where communities can gather to learn, share knowledge, and take action on behalf of birds and other wildlife. We have nature education Centers in Southbury, Greenwich, and Sharon and Sanctuaries across the state, including the Salt Meadows Sanctuary in Guilford.

With over 10,000 members, six active Audubon Society chapters serving towns throughout Connecticut, and an army of more than 2,000 volunteers, Audubon's impact is recognized across Connecticut. Whether we are putting up nesting poles for Osprey, monitoring songbird and raptor populations, or advocating for more bird-friendly public policies, the Audubon community is a powerful network for birds, wildlife, and people.



## MAP KEY

-  **Selected Important Bird Areas**
-  **Selected Coastal Program Work Sites**
-  **Audubon Centers**
-  **Sanctuary**

## A FEW OF CONNECTICUT'S PRIORITY BIRD SPECIES

Forest	Grassland & Shrubland	Coastal
Black-throated Blue Warbler	American Kestrel	American Oystercatcher
Canada Warbler	American Woodcock	Clapper Rail
Cerulean Warbler	Blue-winged Warbler	Least Tern
Ovenbird	Bobolink	Piping Plover
Scarlet Tanager	Grasshopper Sparrow	Red Knot
Wood Thrush	Prairie Warbler	Saltmarsh Sparrow



**Audubon** CONNECTICUT

A STATE PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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