



## **Press Release**

**For Release Oct. 14, 2007**

**Contact:** Mara Neville  
203-259-6305 ext. 103

### **Our "Big Sit" Bird-spotting Team was a BIG Success! 101 Bird Species Were Spotted at Milford Point in 14 Hours – Setting New Connecticut State Record!**

**October 14, 2007, Connecticut Audubon Society Coastal Center at Milford Point** -- Today a "Big Sit" team of bird watchers spotted 101 different species between 4:45 am and 6:30 pm at Milford Point – beating Connecticut's previous State Daytime record of 93 species and earning 2<sup>nd</sup> place honors in the entire country!

No "Big Sit" team in Connecticut has ever exceeded 100 species in the event's 15-year history. The "Big Sit" is an international bird-spotting and fundraising event, this year involving bird spotters in 49 states and countries. The goal is to spot as many different birds species as possible without leaving your seat/spot – which is a 17-foot circle. Our 2007 "Big Sit" team "perched" themselves on the platform at Milford Point, just a short walk down the beach from our Connecticut Audubon Society Coastal Center at Milford Point -- and arguably one of the best spots in Connecticut for birding.

Our record-breaking "Big Sit" team consisted of one Connecticut Audubon Society staffer and three members of the B.W. Surf Scopers. Among the species spotted by "Big Sit" team members Frank Gallo (Connecticut Audubon's Director of Coastal Education) and B.W. Surf Scopers Frank Mantlik and Patrick and Jim Dugan were: Great Cormorant, American Bittern (3), Yellow-crowned Night Heron (3), Snow Goose (6), 12 species of ducks including Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail (3), Common Eider (1), Black Scoter, White-winged Scoter (3), **11 species of diurnal raptors including two Bald Eagles**, 15 shorebirds including American Golden Plover, Whimbrel, Western Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Marsh Wren, Swainson's Thrush, American Pipit, plus 8 sparrow species including White-crowned, Salt marsh, Sharp-tailed, and Bobolink.

Thanks to everyone who donated funds and who came out to Milford Point to cheer on our "Big Sit" team. All funds raised will help support Connecticut Audubon Society's conservation, education and advocacy programs.

**For more information contact:**

Connecticut Audubon's Frank Gallo at 203-878-7440 or [fgallo@ctaudubon.org](mailto:fgallo@ctaudubon.org)

Connecticut Audubon's Mara Neville at 203-259-6305 ext. 103 or [mneville@ctaudubon.org](mailto:mneville@ctaudubon.org)

The "Big Sit" web site: [www.birdwatchersdigest.com](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com)