

# Connecticut Audubon Society Coastal Center at Milford Point

1 Milford Point Road, Milford, CT 06460 • For more details or information, please call 203-878-7440

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## NATURE BABIES

Children ages 3-5 with a parent or adult guardian.

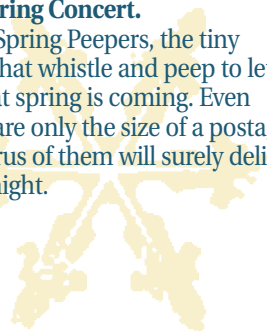
6 Wed. (see dates below), 10:30-11:30 a.m. Fee (includes 1 child and 1 adult): \$10 CAS Members; \$15 Non-members.

### March 5: Springing into Spring.

The first day of spring is almost here! How are things changing at the beach? Let's take a walk around the Coastal Center and look for some signs of spring. How do plants and animals get ready for spring? Bring your green thumb and plant your own seeds.

### March 19: Spring Concert.

Learn about Spring Peepers, the tiny brown frogs that whistle and peep to let you know that spring is coming. Even though they are only the size of a postage stamp, a chorus of them will surely delight your ears at night.



## Expanding to Meet the Growing Demand!

 By Frank Gallo, Director, Coastal Education

It's been an exciting year. 2007 Summer Camp was a huge success with all-time-high enrollment! 189 kids dipped into our tide pools, mucked in our marsh, tagged horseshoe crabs and explored our beaches, a 61% increase over 2006 and triple the 60 children enrolled in 2005. "Beach Bums," a pilot program for 4 and 5-year-olds in 2006, proved so popular in 2007 that we expanded our 3-week program to 10 weeks. It nearly filled to capacity under the guidance of head teacher Diana Robert. Diana joins us again in 2008 with more exciting plans. Our oldest campers enjoyed day trips around the state: scaling Mohawk Mountain, exploring cranberry bogs, finding rare orchids, turtles, frogs and other wildlife. They also participated in Citizen Science research, tagging horseshoe crabs and banding birds, and canoed the 840-acre Wheeler Salt Marsh. New travel themes are planned for 2008, plus expanded offerings for younger campers including afternoon sessions for Grades K-1.

Amy Zvonar joined us from Georgia as a Summer Camp teacher. Her artistic and programming talents helped create an exciting and

successful program. Amy is now our seasonal teacher/naturalist, so you may see her at the Coastal Center or in your classroom this year. Our canoe trips continue to be popular. Nearly 75 people joined us for relaxing, guided tours of the Wheeler Salt Marsh where Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, Glossy Ibis and Willets were conspicuous and are breeding successfully nearby. Black Skimmers may have attempted to breed near the mouth of the Housatonic River (we saw six adults this summer). Even though no young were observed we're hopeful for next summer.

Purple Martins returned after a long absence. Our new Purple Martin box attracted several young martins this summer who built two nests, but there was no evidence of fledglings. It's an admirable first attempt and bodes well for 2008. Our Tree Swallow boxes, erected this spring by Wilcoxson Junior Girl Scout Troop 7102, are in prime locations facing the marsh and ready for tenants next spring.

A wonderful Barn Owl nesting box was obtained from CT DEP and erected this

spring. Barn Owls are an endangered nesting species in Connecticut. Fortunately, one or two pairs have nested in our area and been seen feeding in the marsh; now we can provide an attractive, safe nesting location. A second box is planned this spring. Thanks to CT DEP and colleagues Miley Bull and John Laiacone for helping make this project a success. Our new Native American school program is so popular that we now offer it as a birthday party theme and a weekend community program. We're adding more sessions this spring and encouraging teachers to book early. Birthday party offerings now include "Native American Lore" and "Dino Dig." We now offer 10 different birthday party themes; several are available for in-your-home parties. Our Animal Teaching Collection now includes a Bearded Dragon and Red-eared Slider.

We always have "to do" projects for individuals, scouts and other groups. Volunteers are always needed -- to help maintain our many bird feeders this winter, for example. Please call Louise Crocco if you are interested.

# Connecticut Audubon Society Birdcraft Museum

314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06824 • For more details or information, please call 203-259-0416

## Youth Programs

### Nature Nursery

Children 2-3 years old accompanied by actively participating adult.

Tuesdays, 10-10:45 a.m.

Dec. 11, 18, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5.

### Winter Wonders

Explore the changes in our 6-acre Birdcraft Sanctuary as winter arrives. We'll discover the colorful coats animals are wearing, the foods they like to eat, and where they make their homes during the winter season. Program includes a story, a craft to do together, or an outdoor exploration or museum visit. Please wear appropriate attire and footwear. Single program fee (includes 1 child and 1 adult): \$10 CAS Members, \$14 Non-members. 7-program series fee (includes 1 child and 1 adult): \$63 CAS Members, \$91 Non-members.



### Preschool

Children ages 3-5 who are toilet-trained and able to attend without an adult.

Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m.

Dec. 11, 18, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5.

### Winter Wonders

Explore the changes in our 6-acre Birdcraft Sanctuary as winter arrives. We'll discover the colorful coats animals are wearing, the foods they like to eat, and where they make their homes during the winter season. Program includes a story, a craft, or an outdoor exploration or museum visit. Please wear appropriate attire and footwear. Single program fee: \$10 CAS Members, \$14 Non-members. 7-program series fee: \$63 CAS Members, \$91 Non-members.



### Grades K-2

Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m.

Dec. 11, 18, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5.

### Mystery of the Misplaced Animals

Not too long ago some very special animals were visiting their cousins here in Connecticut and now need to find their way home to their own habitat, the place where they like to live. Grab your passports and join us as we become zoologists and search the world for each animal's habitat. We'll visit a desert in North America, a rain forest in South America, a barrier reef in Australia, a savanna in Africa, a forest in Europe, a mountain in Asia, and the cold snowy slopes of the Antarctic. Along the way we'll learn why animals live where they do, what they eat, and the unique features that help them survive. By the end of our explorations we should have all our misplaced animals safely home. Single program fee: \$10 CAS Members, \$14 Non-members. 7-program series fee: \$63 CAS Members, \$91 Non-members.

## Family Program

Sat., Feb. 2, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

### What's that Skull?

It starts with a box of unlabeled skulls. We challenge you to put your detective skills to work and identify the different animals' skulls! Learn the unique characteristics that will help you tell a raccoon from a fox and an owl from a heron. You really can tell what they eat by the shape of their teeth. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Fee: \$7/person (family maximum \$21) CAS members, \$11/person (family maximum \$33) Non-members.

## Special Holiday Event!

Christmas High Tea at Birdcraft Museum

Sat., Dec. 1, 4-6 p.m.

Please join us for a holiday tea with luscious desserts! Start your holiday shopping at CAS Birdcraft Museum, where you'll find a great selection of unique presents for everyone on your list. Get into the holiday spirit! The tea is our gift to you, but donation checks will be gratefully accepted! Call 203-259-0416 for more information.



## Holiday Tree Farm

November 23-December 23.

Come visit our 12-acre holiday tree plantation, nestled within the lovely 75-acre H. Smith Richardson Wildlife Preserve in Westport. You can cut your own Christmas tree (Douglas Fir, White Spruce, Blue Spruce) or select one of our pre-cut trees (Fraser Fir, White Pine, Balsam Fir). Also available: holiday wreaths, roping, tree stands, swags, and firewood bundles. Use our saws or bring your own. (We don't wrap the trees so bring plenty of cord.) A portion of all sales benefit Connecticut Audubon Society's conservation, education and advocacy programs.

**Hours of Operation** (starting November 23):  
Weekends 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday noon-4 p.m.

**Directions:** Take I-95 to Exit 18. From the south, turn left at the end of the ramp; from the north, turn right at the end of the ramp. Head north on Connector toward Route 1. At second light, turn right onto Greens Farms Road. Go 1.5 miles then turn right onto Sasco Creek Road. The farm is .10 miles on the left.

