

THE CT AUDUBON'S FAIRFIELD REGION'S

FIELD NOTES

A LOOK INSIDE OUR NATURAL SPACES



Welcome to the first edition of our Field Notes Newsletter.

Thank you for being dedicated followers of The Connecticut Audubon's Fairfield Region. With your support, we provide year-round programs at our two facilities, the *Birdcraft Museum and Sanctuary* and the *Fairfield Nature Center*, that inspire people to join us in protecting CT's birds, other wildlife, and their habitats.

We hope to see you this summer and share this newsletter to show how your contributions are being put to work.



EDUCATION
FOR ALL AGES



ENGAGEMENT IN OUR
COMMUNITY



DISCOVERY OF OUR
SURROUNDINGS

Fairfield Nature Center

2325 BURR ST. FAIRFIELD, CT



EXPLORE THE TRAILS

The Larsen Sanctuary boasts seven miles of walking trails featuring streams, ponds, forest, and fields with diverse plant and animal wildlife. It also includes the mile-long Edna Strube Chiboucas Special Use Trail.

Be sure to follow these rules while on the trails:

- Wear walking shoes
- No pets
- No bikes or motorbikes
- No collecting of anything
- No littering
- No smoking



THE BIRDS OF PREY COMPOUND

Our aviary has been getting an upgrade! With help from our generous donors, including the Town of Fairfield, we have been able to renovate the enclosures, for our six resident birds of prey, so they meet state and national standards.

Closed

The compound remains closed to the public but will be completed by the end of summer. Stay tuned for details on our Grand Re-opening in September. We look forward to welcoming you back.



THE NATURE STORE

We are excited to partner with Sound Coffee to bring you high-quality, ethically sourced coffee.

Visit our nature store to pick up a bag and browse merchandise from other local artisans and vendors.

We also offer bird seed, feeders and many more items to provide for your backyard feathered friends.

Store & Building Hours:
Monday - Saturday
10am - 3pm



Birdcraft Museum & Sanctuary

314 UNQUOWA RD. FAIRFIELD, CT



Birdcraft Museum & Sanctuary is our downtown oasis nestled between the Fairfield train station and I-95. This refuge was the first private songbird sanctuary in the United States, established in 1914 by Mabel Osgood Wright through a generous land donation from Annie Burr Jennings. It continues to be an inclusive place of education for all and a safe nesting spot for birds.

Birdcraft Sanctuary became a registered National Historic Landmark in 1993 and is included in Fairfield's new "Cultural District".

Museum open Tues, Thurs, & Sat from 10am - 3pm.
Trails open year-round from dawn to dusk.



Birdcraft Family Days: Summer Shorebirds Sat. 7/26 - 11am - 2pm For kids up to age 10

Every other month, we host a drop-in family friendly event with craft making and scavenger hunts to explore a new species of birds.

This month, we are celebrating American Oyster Catchers, which can be spotted on our local beaches.

[**Purchase tickets here**](#)



Duck Carving and Decoy Show Free event Sat. & Sun. 8/9-8/10 10am - 4pm

We are excited to host a decorative bird carving exhibition featuring award-winning artists. Stop by to watch the artists create museum-quality sculptures while kids enjoy crafting a decoy of their own. Registration is not required.



Conservation Conversations Recap

We introduced a series of adult lectures this spring.

The Connecticut River Conservancy gave a presentation called "Healthy Rivers, Healthy Habitats and You!" This guided discussion taught us that building riparian buffers, such as trees, shrubs, or grasses adjacent to waterways, helps filter the air, control erosion, and provide a habitat for wildlife.

Fairfield Flocks Together



Make Music Day Fairfield

Thank you to Fairfield Theatre Company and the Town of Fairfield's Office of Community & Economic Development for an inspiring Make Music Day Fairfield.

Harpist, Louisa Rojas, brought her powerful voice to perform a collection of jazz and blues ballads at Birdcraft to celebrate the summer solstice on June 21.

Did you like what you heard?

Follow Louisa for more

Project Limulus

CT Audubon's Fairfield Region partnered with Sacred Heart's Project Limulus tagging horseshoe crabs at Stratford Point to better understand the distribution, movement, longevity, and mortality of crabs in Long Island Sound.

Horseshoe crabs are a near-threatened species, and overharvesting by bait fishers and the pharmaceutical industry has led to a dramatic decline.

If you find a horseshoe crab with a white disc, please call 1-888-LIMULUS (1-888-546-8587) to report the tag number, location (specific beach), date you found the crab, and if the crab was alive or dead.

Please return live crabs to the water.



Take Action

Make a Pollinator Bath

Bees and other pollinators are essential to our flowers, fruits, and vegetables.

Creating a pollinator-friendly garden means more than just planting flowers; they also need a place to collect clean water for nourishment. A pollinator bath is a simple water feeder that is easy to make and care for in your home garden.



Add rocks or stones to a shallow ceramic or glass dish



Fill with just enough water so the tops of the stones sit above the water line. This gives the bees and other insects a safe place to perch.



Place in a shady area near plants



Change the water daily and clean the bath once a week

