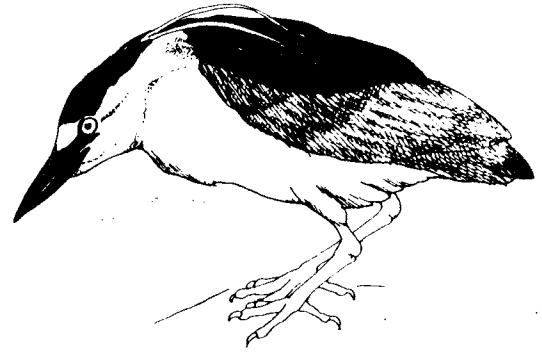


# Menunkatuck Audubon Society Newsletter



Vol. 13 No. 2

April, 1994

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## Indoor Programs 1993-1994

May 3, 1994

Tropical Rainforests

Carl Rettenmeyer

Dr. Rettenmeyer is director of the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History. His talk will describe why Connecticut's residents should want to protect the tropical rainforests. His particular emphasis will be on the relationship of Connecticut's birds to the rainforests as neotropical migrants.

## Attention!

### New Meeting Place

Indoor programs are held at the Madison Depot, Madison at 7:30 p.m. The Depot is on the corner of Route 79 and Old Route 79, across from the Madison Police Station. Take Exit 61 off of I-95 towards Madison. Turn left at the first traffic light, and turn left into the Depot parking lot.

## Outdoor Programs 1993-1994

May 7, 1994, Saturday

Birdathon

Menunkatuck Audubon's major fund-raising event will send beginner to expert teams out into the field for this birding extravaganza. Call 453-5664 or 245-9056 (days) for more information.

May 22, 1994, Sunday

Hammonasset State Park—Beginner Bird Walk

Other Outdoor Programs will be announced at meetings and in the newsletter. If you cannot attend indoor meetings and would like to participate in outdoor programs, please call Dori Sosensky at 468-0357.

## Menunkatuck Welcomes New Members

Menunkatuck Audubon Society welcomes the following new members to the chapter:

**Branford:** Maxine H Barry, Mr Peter Borgemeister, John Holland, Ms Hollace F Hopkins, Mr John B Kirby, Mrs Nancy B Knapp, Mrs Elizabeth D Palmer, Ms Christine Payne, Robert T Reilly, Mr Robert E Reynolds, Donald Robinson, Jane Struzinsky, Louis J Thaisz, Francis E Whalen

**Clinton:** Judith Postemsky

**East Haven:** Mr John A Esposito, Amy Labarre, Margaret Mc Garry

**Guilford:** Elizabeth Bixby, Mr & Mrs Gustaf R Bodi, Pamela S Brown, Gertrude W Corwin, Mr & Mrs Robert E Eber, Julian W Jakubson, Ethan Nader, Maxine Wilensky, Mr Donald Woolford

**Madison:** Hamilton Dewees, Janice Disesa, Mr John Durano, Glenn W Falk, Denisse C Gravina, Jeanne Ledoux-stewart, Isabel Morais, Stan Park, Mr James M Troy

**New Haven:** Eric Aasheim, Mr Michael J Bennett, Mrs Mary E Blanford, Joseph Buggy, Mr Charles Calefy, Mrs V A Coleman, Mrs J Dickson, David Dubois, Dr Karen Goldsmith, Mr Bernard Hanson, K C Lassen, Brian K Lavoie, Mr Maynard Mack, Etelka V Miller, Mr Kris S Osyczka, Franklin Robinson, Scott Robinson, S Selfridge, Peter Spoervi, Elmer Sulkowski Jr

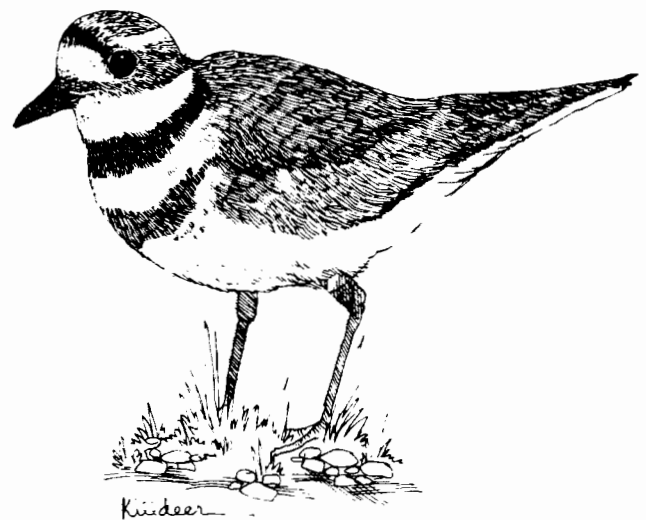
**Stuart, Florida:** Patricia T Walker

## Madison Green-up, Clean-up Is Scheduled For April 30

Madison will have its tenth annual town-wide clean-up day on Saturday, April 30. Each year the anti-litter campaign has grown. Last year over 600 volunteers were estimated to have participated. They removed eight tons of litter, debris, and junk from roadways, nature trails, parks, ponds, and public areas. One and one-half tons of that total was able to be recycled.



The coordinators for the 1994 clean-up are Susan Frey 245-0603 and Rick Gedney 245-2172. Call them with your questions or comments.



### Next Newsletter Deadline

May 21, 1994

Send material to:

Dennis Riordan

94 Cleveland Road

New Haven CT 06515

**Menunkatuck Audubon Society** is a chapter of National Audubon Society.

Mailing address:

**MENUNKATUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY**

P.O. BOX 214

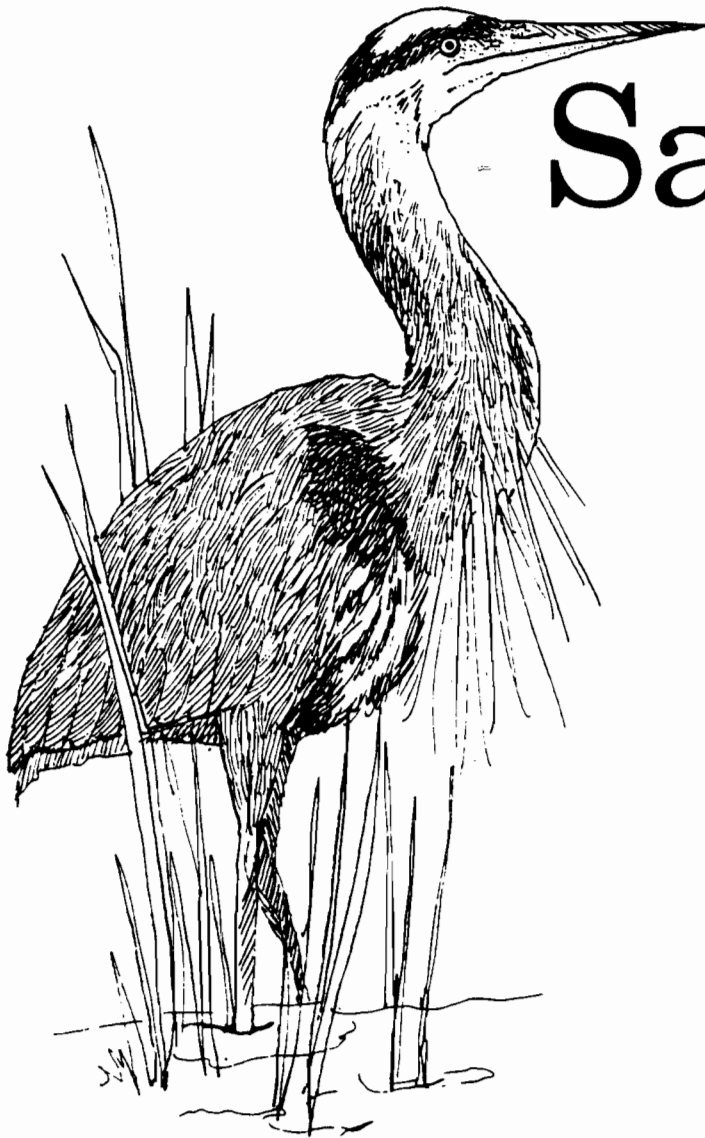
GUILFORD, CT 06437

President: Dori Sosensky (468-0357)

Editor: Dennis Riordan (387-2167)

Internet: DennisR11@aol.com

# Menunkatuck Birdathon Saturday May 7



For Details  
Call Jerry Connolly at  
The Audubon Shop  
245-9056 (days)  
or Susan Yurkus  
453-5664

## Troubled Waters: Atlantic Fish in Peril

### Majestic Tuna in Steep Decline

**Atlantic Bluefin, a prized fish, is down 90 percent**

The population of western Atlantic bluefin tuna, one of the most magnificent creatures of the sea, has been plummeting for two decades. But persistent pressure from activists may have finally helped put the fish on the way to recovery.

Because of mismanagement and overfishing, the population of adult Atlantic bluefin tuna off the East Coast has dropped 90 percent, while fishing pressure has increased about 2000 percent to meet skyrocketing demand for the fish in Japan. A single adult bluefin can weigh up to 150 pounds

and bring \$30,000 wholesale in Japan, where it is a prized raw dish.

The international Atlantic tuna commission, which regulates the tuna fishery, has bowed repeatedly to the commercial fishing industry and failed to significantly reduce the tuna catch despite continued warnings from its own scientists. But constant letter-writing and lobbying pressure from Audubon and other activist organizations, and the continued decline in tuna numbers, helped convince the commission to finally act. In November, the commission announced it would impose a 50 percent reduction in the catch over the next two years.

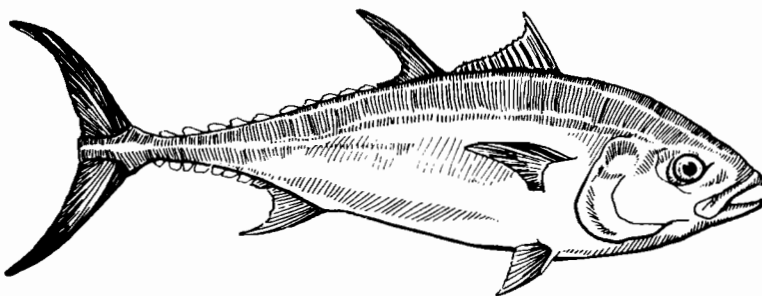
Although conservationists support a quicker

## Audubon Television

The giant Atlantic bluefin tuna is the subject of the newest World of Audubon Television Special, premiering in May on TBS Superstation. *Hunt for the Giant Bluefin* looks at the great commercial appeal of this magnificent species and the consequences for its survival.

Air times are: May 22 at 10:00 p.m., May 23 at 12:05 a.m., May 28 at 9:05 a.m., and May 30 at 2:05 a.m.

### Bluefin Tuna



Among the largest fish in the sea, an adult bluefin tuna can weigh up to 1500 pounds and reach a length of 12 feet. In the western Atlantic, the bluefin population has dropped precipitously from an estimated 225,000 in 1970 to 22,000 in 1990 because of poor management and overfishing. The efforts of activists and recent action by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna could help slow the decline.

Illustration by Doreen Curtin ©1994. Reprinted from *Audubon Activist*, January/February, 1994.

timetable, they lauded the reduction, saying it is a first important step toward the bluefin's recovery. Audubon has also called for the addition of the Atlantic bluefin to Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Such a listing would allow uniform monitoring of international trade in bluefin tuna.

The Atlantic bluefin can grow up to 12 feet long and is among the largest fish in the world. It can swim up to 50 miles an hour and migrates long distances.

*Marilyn England*

Marilyn England is grassroots coordinator of Audubon's Living Oceans program.

## **Still Waters Off New England**

### **Years of overfishing have decimated its groundfish**

Once among the most productive fishing areas in the world, the waters off New England and eastern Canada have been devastated by overfishing. Populations of commercially valuable groundfish such as cod and flounder have steadily declined. Haddock, once the most abundant of these bottom dwelling fish, now accounts for only two percent of the total catch, and the species may never be able to fully recover.

The groundfish decline has cost the New England economy billions of dollars in lost jobs and revenue. The overfishing has taken an alarming toll on the once-fertile Georges Bank ecosystem off Massachusetts. Spiny dogfish and skates, considered "trash" by the commercial fishing industry,

have proliferated as groundfish have declined, indicating a radical shift in species composition on Georges Bank.

These alarming trends prompted conservationists to sue the National Marine Fisheries Service to come up with a recovery program for groundfish. In response, the New England Fishery Management Council, one of eight councils that manage U.S. fishing stocks, submitted a package of proposals in August to stem the decline. The proposal would, among other things, limit the number of days fishing boats can take to the seas and increase the mesh size in fishing nets to allow more juveniles to escape. The proposals are awaiting approval of the National Marine Fisheries Service and could be in place in March.

The goal of the plan is to reduce the fishing mortality rate by half over the next five to seven years. Although conservationists welcome the efforts to restore the fisheries, they say the proposals do not go far enough. They support further reductions in the fishing fleet and more ambitious recovery goals. They also say the recovery plan will require strict enforcement to stop overfishing.

*Ken Hinman*

Ken Hinman is executive director of the National Coalition for Marine Conservation  
Reprinted from *Audubon Activist*, January/February, 1994.

### **RARE BIRD ALERTS**

**Taped messages on recently sighted birds in our area**

**254-3665**

Thank You to

**Royal Printing Service  
588 Boston Post Road  
Guilford, CT 06437  
453-5887**

for their assistance with the printing  
of the materials for the  
1994 Birdathon

## Menunkatuck Audubon Society

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**Branford/** James Balano  
**Guilford:**  
**Madison/** Henriette Kulisch  
**Clinton:**

## National Audubon Society

### Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$20 is enclosed.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society.*

Send this application and your check to:

**National Audubon Society**

Chapter Membership Data Center

P.O. Box 51001

Boulder CO 80322-1001

\_\_\_\_\_**LOCAL CHAPTER**\_\_\_\_\_

**Menunkatuck Audubon Society**

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