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PERMIT NO. 167

MENUNKATUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY
c/o SHORELINE OUTDOOR
EDUCATION CENTER
730 COUNTY ROAD
GUILFORD, CT 06437

Welcome to all new members!

January

OFFICERS

President:	James K. Balano	488-4977
V. President:	Joe Musco	669-7482
Secretary:	Nini Munro-Chmura	453-3077
Treasurer:	Charles Hofrichter	663-1611

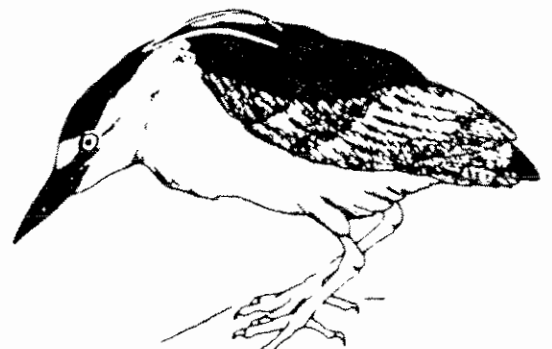
1988

RARE BIRD ALERT TAPES

Information on what has been recently sighted in our area.

Phone 254-3665

MENUNKATUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER


EDITOR: Joanne K. Starr 457-0127
 MAILING: Judy Owsiany
 LABELS: Lois Meyers
 PROOFING: Marianne Reynolds
 TYPING: Heather Moher
 Dawn Starr
 Nancy Smith

JOIN THE NEWSLETTER CREW!

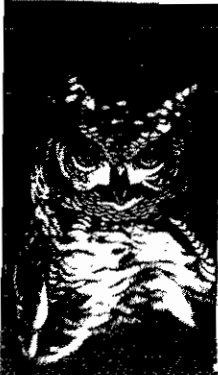
We can offer you... an interesting and challenging way to spend only 2 to 4 hours a month and make a worthwhile contribution to the Audubon Cause...

We need people who can do any of the following (prior experience is not always essential; on-the-job training is available)



BASSET BROWN  **THE NEWS HOUND'S** **Owls** **TRY 'N FIND**

Words that remind us of owls are hidden in the block below. See if you can find: EYES, OWL, TALONS, NEST, NIGHT, GREAT HORNED, HOOTS, GREAT GRAY, BEAKS, WISE, FOREST, BARRED, PYGMY, HUNTER, SILENT, FEATHER, SCREECH, EAR TUFTS, CLAWS.



C L A W S W E Y E S T N E S T
 S F S C R E E C H Y A B H T S
 I E A R T U F T S R L A U B P
 L A X N G R E A T H O R N E D
 E T M B W I S E O O N R T A J
 N H N I G H T D W O S E E K U
 T E F O R E S T L T P D R S M
 G R E A T G R A Y S P Y G M Y

from The Mini Page by Betty Dehann © 1987 Universal Press Syndicate

The Radon Threat

Is the threat of radon gas a dead issue? Has it been a case of much ado about nothing? Does the apparent confusion from differing reports mean there is no consensus on its hazard to health? Make no mistake. The threat is real, it is here and will stay for the foreseeable future.

We have become a society demanding quantitative results in our contact with the world. How many calories in this or that? How much wool or nylon in this clothing? How much nicotine, tar, caffeine, lead? An immediate problem with identifying the radon threat is that it is not noticeable to us, its threat is long-term, and it does not lend itself readily to measurement. Tests can show a certain concentration of radon at a specific time, in your cellar; but if you don't live in your cellar, what then is the threat? If a certain concentration is said to be equal to smoking 1/2 a pack of cigarettes a day, does that mean one whiff, or a whole day's worth of breathing?

The simple answer to all these questions is: don't! Don't subject yourself or your family to the inhalation of radon in any amount if you can avoid it. Measurements are only relative, as the threat is cumulative, and its effects will vary from one person to another.

Radon gas is radioactive, even if it is in a very low concentration.

While it doesn't seem likely at present that there will be Federal funds to help private individuals alleviate local radon problems, you can help yourself by first writing to the Department of Environmental Protection in your state for information on the radon threat, and then taking advantage of one or more of the methods suggested in the literature they will send you to test the level of radon and minimize your contact with it. In other words, at present it is a do-it-yourself project that any thoughtful person who values the future health of his family will heed.



Just For The Fun Of It

DECORATING WITH PINECONES

HINTS:

- 1) Pinecone varieties you can use are Ponderosa, Scotchpine and Hemlock.
- 2) Bleach some pinecones for contrast in your creations

Ideas

- 1) Cut a heart, circle or christmas tree border in wood or sturdy cardboard and glue hemlock cones on. Then hang with a pretty ribbon.
- 2) Make a cascading spray of bleached and nonbleached cones of various species. Wire cones together and tie with a bow.
- 3) Top a bleached cone of a scotchpine or similar variety with statice, small cones or tiny balls or statice and dried flowers to create a tree ornament.

These creations do not require special skills and the cones might be picked up on a woodland walk.

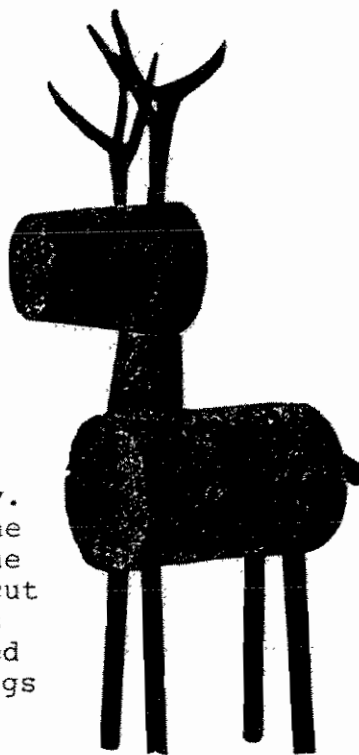
CRAFT IDEAS

Walnut Creations

Walnut Roosters can be made from painted walnuts. Cut out wings, head and tail from pieces of scrap paper and then attach them to the walnut shell.

CORK ANIMALS

Cork Sheep and Reindeer can be made quite simply. Use the corks for the head and bodies. The sheeps ears can be cut from scraps, stickes and twigs can be used for the reindeers legs or antlers.



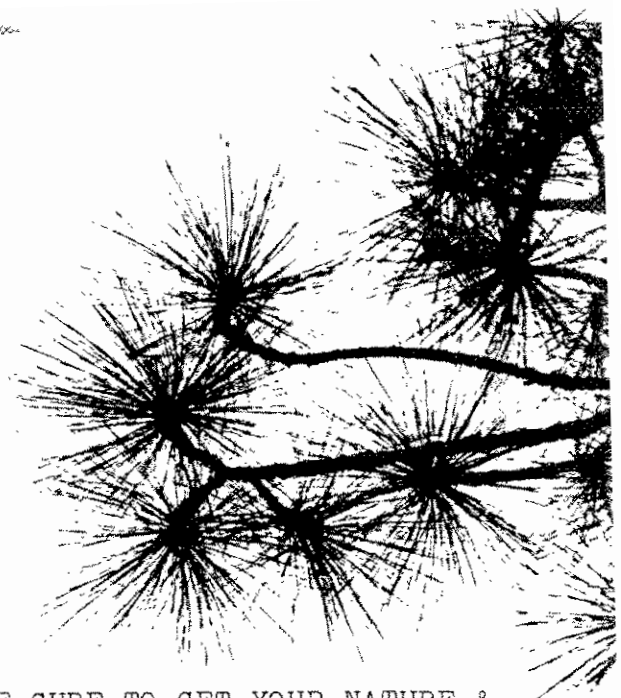
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SEE AMERICA IN Connecticut

Walks through West Wood Trails
with Nini Munro-Chmura. The
pace will be moderate to easy
through wooded terrain. Meet
at Bishop's Apple Orchard
Route 1 - Guilford at 1 pm:

Feb. 28, 1988
March 13, 1988
April 17, 1988

Rain will cancel walks but
snow will not. Call 453-3077
for further information from
Nini.



BE SURE TO GET YOUR NATURE &
BIRD AUDUBON CALENDAR -
at the Menunkatuck Audubon
Society Meetings.

Facts About America's Forests

Our early colonists were amazed by the variety of trees they found in North America.

Settlers to Massachusetts had never seen hickory trees. This is not hard to comprehend when we are aware of these facts. There are more than 1000 species of trees in the United States, while all of Europe excluding the U.S.S.R. has only 85 species. Germany has 60, France 34, England 29. England has no native gums, hickories, sassafras, tuliptrees or buttonwoods. Visitors from England are often awed by the beauty of the America's dogwood, redbud, locust when in full flower. The America's forest has no truly representative section because our country is so vast. Every forest region has several species unknown to the five regions.

Some say the American forests saved British colonization of America by providing the first cargo of manufactured forest products brought to England.

Source: Trees for Tomorrow
American Forest Products
Industries, Inc.

WINTER TREES

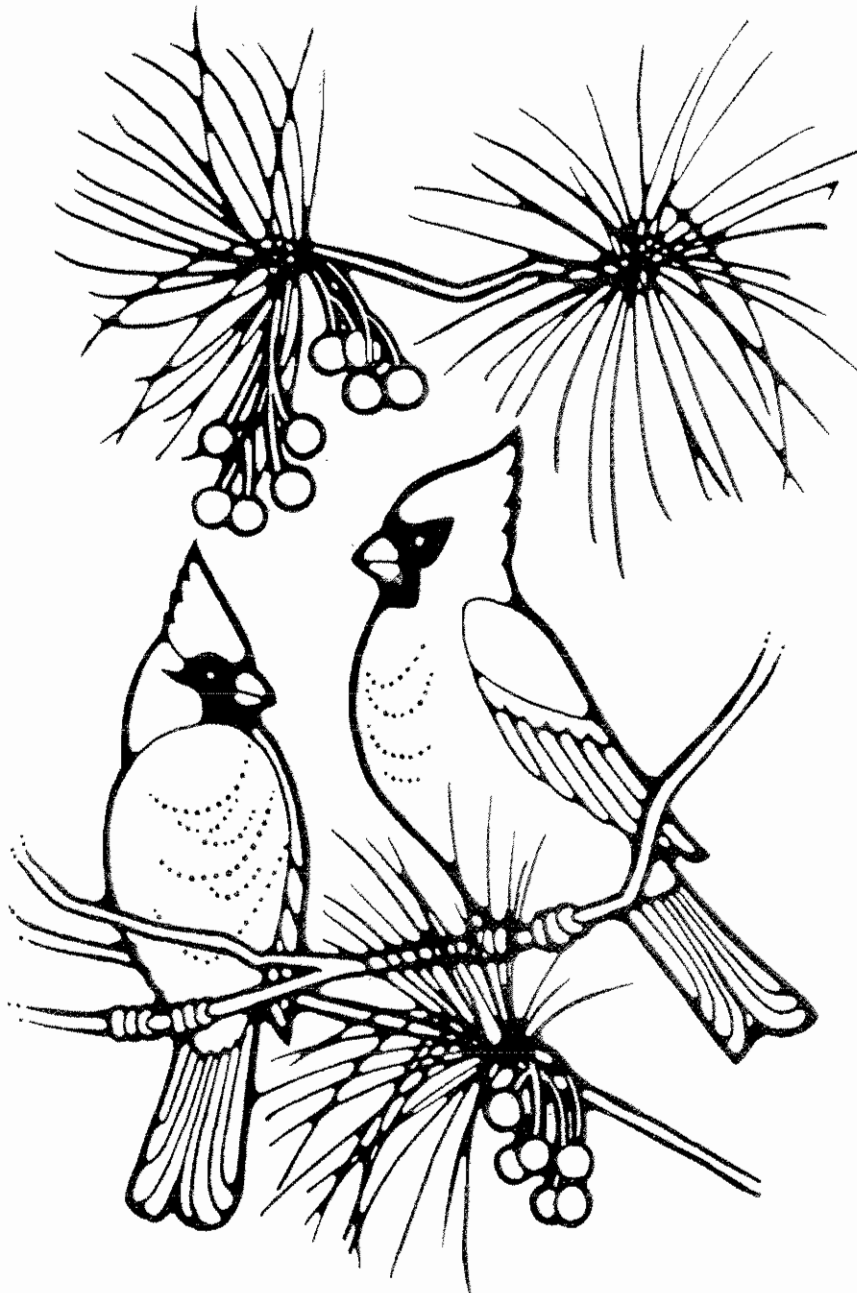
Date: January 17, Sunday
Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Place: Branford Land Trust House
Age: Junior High thru Adults
Cost: Members \$8.00
Nonmembers \$10.00

In some ways trees are easier to recognize in winter than in summer. Lauren Brown will show us how to look at buds, bark and twigs. The afternoon starts with a lecture at the Land Trust House and continues in the field. Please dress warmly and wear appropriate foot gear for the weather.

WINTER WONDERS

Date: January 18, Monday
Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Place: Stony Creek Quarry Preserve
Age: 6 to 8 year olds
Cost: Members \$3.00
Nonmembers \$5.00

Come test your observation skills. The woods in winter are a wonderful place full of clues to the animals whereabouts. We will be looking at the trees and perhaps find some insects. Please dress warmly and wear boots, we will be outside the entire time.



COLOR Me Beautiful

NATURES DYES

Try dyeing cotton cloth, wool or linen. Collect these materials and crush them and experiment with dyes. Read books or material concerning natural dyes.

Tea-pale ecru to reddish brown
Coffee-browns
Onionskin-red or yellow
Beets-reddish purple
Blackberries-blue
Spinach-yellow green
Sumac-brownish red
Dandelion roots-light purple
Sassafras roots-pretty pink
Pokeberries-strong purple
Golden rod flowers-dull yellow

R. K. S.

PLEASE NOTE

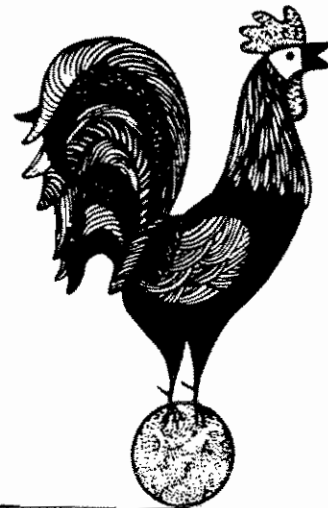
Our meeting place is now at the CL&P building on New Road in Madison, off I 95 and the Hammonasett Connector.

Should You Let Your Pet Lick Its Wounds?

Saliva speeds healing of your pet's skin wounds.

If you've been tempted to stop your dog or cat from licking minor skin cuts, scratches or sores, heed this new research finding: Your pet is not simply cleaning its wounds but actually aiding the healing process.

Scientists at Vanderbilt University have found that the saliva of mammals contains epidermal growth factor (EGF), which stimulates the generation of new cells that create new skin. This growth factor also encourages small blood vessels to form near the wound, speeding the rate of healing.



Publications from the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service

This service offers many publications at incredibly low prices on agricultural policies, bees, mushrooms, conservation, house plants, plant diseases, berries, greenhouses, fruits, soils, trees, and water, just to name a few. Why not write or phone your local office and ask for the catalog of Extension publications?

Middlesex County Extension Service

1066 Saybrook Rd., Box 70
Haddam, CT 06438

(203) 345-4511

New Haven County Extension Service

670 Wintergreen Avenue
Hamden, CT 06514

(203) 789-7865

New London County Extension Service

562 New London Turnpike
Norwich, CT 06360

(203) 877-1608

GALLS

Galls are swellings or deformities which appear anywhere on a plant even their roots. Many organisms such as insects, mites, fungi, nematodes, and bacteria may produce them.

Although there are 2000 species of gall makers in America, you can make some generalizations. The adult gall making organism usually attacks a specific region of a particular species of plant. The gall produced will also look like every other gall produced by that species. Naturalists sometimes first identify the galls on a plant and then find it easier to identify the species of plant. For example, if you see a conspicuous ball-like swelling on the stem of a goldenrod, you can safely call the plant Canada goldenrod even if the plant is dead.

Identifying galls is a fascinating activity. Wherever plants grow you are likely to find them. If you would like to be sure of success the first time you search for galls, look on an oak tree. Oaks are not only common but 800 of the 2000 American galls can be found on oaks. Other good places to look are willows, poplars, roses, blackberries, raspberries, cherries, asters and goldenrods. Plant galls offer unlimited opportunities for investigation and discovery.

Source: "The Curious World Of Plant Galls"
Ficher, Richard B.,
Audubon Nature Bulletin G. N. v.
Series 32 No. 3

Easy Herbs to Grow at Home

Now's the time to start a windowsill herb garden. Plant seeds in 2-inch pots, and follow watering directions on the package. (The next step is transferring the herbs to your garden; in June I'll tell you how much sun and water your plants will need.) Here are my five recommendations for first-time herb-growers:

Basil. Slightly sweet, rich flavor. Use in dishes that call for zucchini, tomatoes and eggplant, or mix into pasta sauces and salads.

Chervil. More subtle than parsley, with a mild, meadow-fresh flavor. Excellent in

cold soups, egg dishes and sprinkled over broiled fish.

Mint. Delicious aroma, refreshing taste. The best garnish to be found for fruit salads, ice cream and sorbets and for summer drinks like lemonade.

Sage. Strong and spicy; use sparingly with roast chicken, lamb and fish.

Tarragon. Queen of the herbs—sweet and fragrant. Excellent with fish, steak, chicken and vegetables and salads.

For more information on growing and ordering herbs, write to Frieda's Finest, P.O. Box 58488, Los Angeles, CA 90058; or call 213-627-2981.

"HELLO, AUDUBON HOTLINE?"



Don't be scooped. Keep up with environmental issues. Find out when decisions are being made in the nation's capital and what you can do to help.

The Audubon Hotline is ready to take your call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A recorded message gives you background information and current status of Audubon's priority issues. The message is updated every week. The Hotline lets you know when sounding off will do the most good.

AUDUBON
HOTLINE

(202) 547 9017

An exciting year

Menunkatuck Audubon Society meetings and speakers for 1988 are listed below:

January 5	John Ebersole	-	Astrophotography
February 2	Joel Meisel	-	Connecticut - Winter & Spring Election of Officers
March 1	Film Festival and Pot Luck Supper		
April 5	Dr. George Whitney		Herpetology
May 3	Dr. Charles Remington	-	Butterflies
June 7	Kay Kudlinski	-	The Rachael Carson Story

EAGLE WATCH & SHEPAUG DAM - January 23, 1988
If you plan to go on the Eagle Watch, please call Jim Balano, 488-4977 or Joe Musco - 669-7482. Car pooling is desired. The group will meet at the Guilford parking lot off I-95 at Exit 58 at 8 a.m. ----- Only thirty people will be allowed entry to the observation area.

ELECTIONS

You have the opportunity to fill some of the board positions or fill the role of an officer in the Menunkatuck Audubon Society.

The following positions are available:

Vice-President
Program Chairman
Conservation Chairman

Volunteers are also welcomed.

Be sure to let us hear from you soon!

JOIN THE FUN!

