

# MENUNKATUCK *January*

THE NEWSLETTER OF MENUNKATUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY, A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

## ***Hammonasset Committee Sees Ideas Adopted***

The Hammonasset Committee of Menunkatuck Audubon Society has seen its ideas adopted by officials at Hammonasset Beach State Park.

The most significant of these ideas is the shorebird pool that has been dug between the parking lots near the Nature Center at Meig's Point. The phragmites filled area has been restored cleared and a new culvert installed to permit tidal flow. After vegetation grows up around the new pool, the state will install one or two viewing/photo blinds overlooking the pool. Menunkatuck will be providing funds for the blinds with Birdathon money.

Another important achievement is the installation of an observation platform at the end of Willards Island. The platform provides an excellent view of the marsh and river. The state was so impressed with the observation platform idea that it has made plans to install a total of 16 at various locations in the state parks.

Already platforms have been put up at Great Island in Old Lyme and at Rocky Neck State Park. Another of the platforms will be erected at the end of Cedar Island at Hammonasset.

The state also approved for Menunkatuck to clear several one-fifth acre sites on Willards Island. By removing some of small cedars and other small shrubs, the plan is to allow native grasses to reestablish themselves.

Menunkatuck is working with the state to identify other areas of the park for potential restoration.

Charlie Rafford and Roland Clement have instrumental in working with the state officials on these projects.

One of the original projects of the Hammonasset Committee was the installation of three Sanibel tripods for Osprey nesting. This year two had active nests and five birds were fledged.

Also, Charlie Rafford installed predator guards on  
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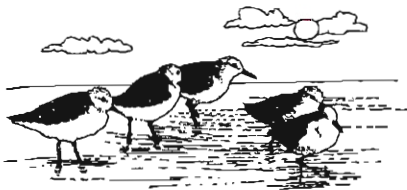
## ***Trip Leaders are Needed for 1995 Birdathon***

The Seventh Menunkatuck Birdathon will be held on Saturday, May 6, 1995 and once again, volunteers are needed to be trip leaders.

"Last year's Birdathon saw a small increase in the number of participants," Jerry Connolly, Birdathon chairman stated. "This year we are looking for even more to go out, if even for only a couple of hours. To do this we need to have more trip leaders."

Jerry pointed out that the money raised at the Birdathons is used for Menunkatuck's projects, including our activities at Hammonasset.

If you can help as a trip leader, call Jerry at the Audubon Shop in Madison (245-9056).



### ***Hammonasset Committee***

(continued)

the nest boxes that Menunkatuck put up throughout the park. He recently checked all of the boxes and reports that there were only three or four boxes that did not have nests in them.

## **Nominations Set for February Election**

The Nominating Committee of Menunkatuck Audubon has met and developed a slate of candidates for open offices for the February election. The candidates are:

President - Jerry Connolly,  
Vice-President - Henry Ferris,  
Treasurer - David Tesin,  
Recording Secretary - Roberta Silbert, Corresponding Secretary - Susan Yurkus, and

Board of Directors - Brad Garber, Pauline Garber, Dennis Riordan, Cindi Kobak, Charlie Rafford, and Shirlie Rafford.

Other nominations may be made from the floor at the February meeting.

The Nominating Committee consists of Roberta Silbert, Shirlie Rafford, and Pauline Garber.

## **Menunkatuck Supplies Audubon Adventures to 36 Classrooms**

Menunkatuck Audubon Society is supporting the implementation of *Audubon Adventures*, an educational program for elementary students, 36 classrooms in the area. Students in two classes in Branford, four in East Haven, 9 in Hamden, and 21 in New

Haven will be learning about the environment this school year with this highly acclaimed program from the Educational Department of National Audubon.

Birdathon funds are used to support *Audubon Adventures*.

# **Rare Bird Alerts**

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

**254-3665**

**Stephen Collins  
to Speak in  
January**

1995  
**Calendar**

Dr. Stephen Collins will be the featured speaker at Menunkatuck Audubon Society's next meeting on Wednesday, January 11, at 7:30 PM at the Guilford Community Center.

Dr. Collins' topic will be *World in Wetlands*. He will discuss the ecology of freshwater wetlands – swamps, bogs, and freshwater marshes. His talk will be accompanied by slides.

Professor emeritus at Southern Connecticut State University, Dr. Collins last spoke at Menunkatuck in 1992 on *Forest Ecology*.

The February meeting will feature Julio delaTorre, well-known author who will present *A Fresh Look at Owls: Their Life and Behavior*.

Julio is an extremely engaging and entertaining speaker. Combining an animated style with his owl calls, he captures an audience's attention immediately.

Julio last spoke to Menunkatuck three years ago and packed our old meeting place. Be sure to arrive early to ensure a seat.

Both meetings are open to

January 8, 1995  
*Beginner Bird Walk at Hammonasset* John Gaskell

January 11, 1995  
*World in Wetlands* Dr. Stephen Collins

February 8, 1995  
*A Fresh Look at Owls: Their Life and Behavior* Julio delaTorre

March 8, 1995  
*Monthly Meeting*

March 26, 1995  
*Beginner Bird Walk at Hammonasset* John Gaskell

April 12, 1995  
*Topic not selected* Noble Proctor

May 6, 1995  
*Seventh Birdathon*

May 10, 1995  
*Monthly Meeting*

June 14, 1995  
*Monthly Meeting*

**Indoor meetings are at the Guilford Community Center.  
Call John Gaskell at 669-1862 for details on his bird walks.**

the public and refreshments will be served.

The Guilford Community

Center is on Route 77 in Guilford, half a block from the Guilford Green.

# Announcements

**Menunkatuck Audubon Society** is pleased to announce a new **scholarship** program for graduating area high school students.

The scholarship, in the amount of \$500, will recognize achievement in the study of the natural sciences, stimulate further development of the individual, and facilitate further education.

High school students in New Haven, East Haven, Branford, North Branford, Guilford, and Madison are eligible for the scholarship.

Guidance counselors at the area high schools have the necessary forms to submit to the Scholarship Committee. The deadline for application is April 15, 1995.

The Scholarship Committee is headed by Henry Ferris with Elaine Nye, John Gaskell, and

Charlie and Shirly Rafford.

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The **Long Island Watershed Alliance** will hold its annual Long Island Sound Conference **Citizens' Summit '95** on Saturday, February, 4, 1995. The conference will be held at SUNY Maritime College, Fort Schuyler, NY.

Among the activities planned are a plenary event with Frances Flanagan of Alliance for Chesapeake Bay. Scheduled workshops include Fish and Wildlife Outlook, Volunteer Roles in Wetland Restoration, Volunteer Roles in Oil-spill Prevention and Cleanup, and Getting on Local Boards and Commissions.

For registration information write LISWA, P.O.Box 313, Cos Cob, CT 06807-0313; phone

(203) 629-1248; or fax (203) 622-0016.

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Patty Pendergast is the new coordinator of the **Audubon Council of Connecticut**. She has asked Audubon members to write to Governor-elect John Rowland to urge him to provide for \$15 million in bonding for the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Fund in his new budget.

This fund is used to purchase land to be added to the state parks and forests. With the decline in real estate values, this is an excellent time to acquire land.

Make your letters short and to the point. Send them to: Governor-elect John Rowland, Room 209, The State Capitol, Hartford, CT 06106.

## Menunkatuck Welcomes New Members

Menunkatuck Audubon welcomes the following new members to the chapter:

**Branford:** Rangarajan Aravino, Judith Bell, Mr Douglas A Ertelt, Patricia Jessey, Mr Phillip M Stillman

**East Haven:** Lisa Alter, Richard Pellegrino

**Guilford:** David M A Johson, Phyllis Lynch, Betsey Schwammberger, Peter Staples

**Madison:** Ms Dianne E Berg, Jayne H Elston, Earl J Riordan,

Howard M Whitfield

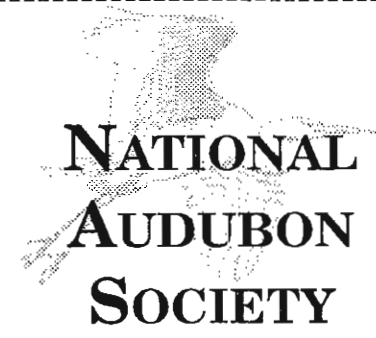
**New Haven:** Mrs Mary E Blanford, Marilyn A Corey, Rosemary Sirico, Ms Judith B Talbot

**West Haven:** Mr Edward L Cleary

### Menunkatuck Audubon Society

President:.....Dori Sosensky  
 Vice-President:.....Jerry Connolly  
 Recording Secretary:.....Roberta Silbert  
 Treasurer:.....David Tesin  
 Corresponding Secretary:.....Helen Rahmann  
 Directors:.....Pauline Garber  
 .....Elaine Nye  
 .....Charlie Rafford  
 .....Shirley Rafford  
 .....Dennis Riordan  
 .....Susan Yurkus

Audubon Council Delegate:  
 Program:.....Jerry Connolly  
 Wildlife/Conservation:.....Charles Rafford  
 Fund-Raising:.....Barbara Nugent  
 Education:  
 Membership:.....Dennis Riordan  
 Newsletter:.....Dennis Riordan  
 Town Reps  
 Branford/Guilford:.....James Balano  
 Madison/Clinton:.....Henriette Kulisch



### 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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