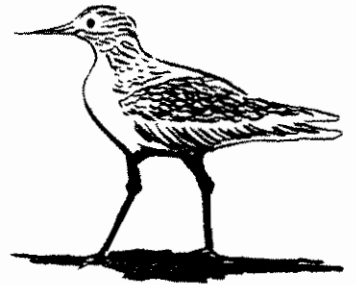


# Notes and Niches

news of Menunkatuck

July/August 1983



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Volume 2 Number 3

From the President.....

For those of us who are not adept at "picking the birds out of the trees", bird songs provide a useful, perhaps indispensable means of discovering even the smallest and best hidden birds. Beginning in May, foliage obscures all but the biggest, bravest and brightest birds and if one wants to see the shyer, smaller varieties, such as the warblers, one needs to be able to extend one's sphere. One of the two bluebird pairs found in Guilford this spring was discovered by a jogger who first heard the familiar song of the pair marking out its territory, and following the song found the bluebirds.

The task is not so difficult as it might at first seem. It's fun to begin by tracking dooryard birds - following their song as they move about your yard - and once familiar with those that breed in your neighborhood, it becomes easier and easier to distinguish the songs of the passing migrants. Phonetic devices such as "drink your tea" to represent the song of the rufous-sided Towhee, and readily purchased recordings of bird songs make the task of identification even more manageable. Before long one can lie in bed in the morning and distinguish the lovely songs of a dozen familiar birds in what was once an indeterminate cacophony of sound.

Virginia Corbière



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Your editor apologizes for the long gap between newsletters, but two and one half weeks in May were spent in a long-awaited trip to England. Despite the weather (it rained some every day, but nobody seemed to notice it much), I visited some wonderful birding areas. It was rather like starting all over again as a rank beginner, but with the aid of a good guide book and some superb conservation birds, I did manage to identify lots of entirely-new-to-me birds.

DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!!

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Tuesday, September 14 8 PM  
Watch for details and announcement of speaker.

BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY: October 22 Mary Briggs, Chairman

...and don't forget the

SHARON AUDUBON FESTIVAL

at the Northeast Audubon Center, Route 4, Sharon, from 8:30 am  
to 5:00 pm. Fee. See Audubon Update for program details.

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AUDUBON CLUB BIRDATHON

On May 21st and 22nd, Sally Richard, Dan Cinotti, Paul Eushach, Michael Abt, Mark Bloomer and Jean Wetherspoon participated in the 4th annual G.H.S. Audubon Club Birdathon.

One hundred and ten species were identified in the Guilford-New Haven-Milford area. Highlights included Eastern Bluebird (nesting), Pileated Woodpeckers (nesting), Little Blue Heron, American Oystercatcher, 15 Warbler species, and both Yellow- and Black-billed Cuckoos.

Approximately \$400 was raised to support the Falkner Island Tern Project. At this time, Sally Richards, director of Little Harbor Laboratories, reports 1500 Common Tern nests and 120 Roseate Tern nests. It is of interest that there are only 2,000 surviving Roseate Terns.

One final note - two of our Guilford High School graduates and Birdathoners, Bill Schew and Michael Abt are on Falkner Island for the summer, working on this important project.

Dan Cinotti, Education Chairman

## NEW NATURE PROGRAM OFFERINGS

The Branford Land Trust is sponsoring a new NATURE EDUCATION PROGRAM, open to all interested adults. Fees are: \$25.00 for Branford Land Trust members, and \$28.00 for non-members. Classes meet at the Branford Land Trust House, School Street, Stony Creek. The fall offerings are:

### BIRDS OF FALL

Learn where to find and how to identify the fall migrants, especially the hawks and waterfowl. Class Size Limit: 15  
Time: Thursday Sept. 8 and Thursday Sept. 15, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, and Saturday Sept. 10 and Saturday Sept. 17, 7:00 am - 12:00 noon.  
Teacher: Milan Bull, Director of Education, CT Audubon Society

### WILD MUSHROOMS

Learn to identify the safe and delicious ones! Class Size Limit: 20  
Time: Wednesday Sept. 28 and Wednesday Oct. 5, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, and Saturday Oct. 1 and Saturday Oct. 8, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Teachers: John and Nina Gambardella, experienced mushroom stalkers.

### GEOLOGY OF CONNECTICUT

Mineralogy and landform geology, with visits to some mineral collecting sites. Class Size Limit: 20  
Time: Tuesday Oct. 18 and Thursday Oct. 20, 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm, and Saturday Oct. 23, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.  
Teacher: Tom Rochovansky, Associate Director, The Nature Center for Environmental Activities, Westport, CT.

### REGISTRATION

- Birds of Fall
- Wild Mushrooms
- Geology of Connecticut

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Branford Land Trust, P.O. Box 254, Branford, CT 06405

You will receive a confirmation with directions and any special instructions. The Land Trust reserves the right to cancel a class if the enrollment is too small. For more information, call 488-8924.

Why don't you offer a course in \_\_\_\_\_  
I would like to teach a course. I am experienced in \_\_\_\_\_

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NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION, AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 2, OFFERS  
INSPIRING SPEAKERS, SPECTACULAR SCENERY, MEMORABLE VACATION

An impressive array of speakers has been lined up for the society's national convention, August 28 - September 2, at Estes Park, Colorado. Two key congressional chairmen will speak: Senator Robert T. Stafford, Republican of Vermont, whose Committee on Environment and Public Works has jurisdiction over the Clean Air and Clean Water acts, and Representative John B. Breaux, Democrat of Louisiana, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation and the Environment. Another speaker from the capital will be U.S. Forest Service Chief R. Max Peterson.

Wildlife will be stressed. Nathaniel P. Reed, who was Assistant Secretary of the Interior during the Nixon and Ford administrations, will moderate a panel on grizzly bear management. Roger Tory Peterson, father of modern techniques for field identification of birds, will talk about the evolution of birding field guides. And--in conformance with the convention theme, "Think Globally, Act Locally"--there will be speakers from other lands. One is to be Prof. Wangari Maathai, chair of the National Council of Women of Kenya, whose topic will be: The U.S. as Seen by the Developing Countries.

And, as in the past, there will be sessions aimed at helping chapter officers to carry out their functions more effectively and environmental activists to learn more about issues and techniques for

influencing legislation and public opinion.

Time for Relaxation, too

In addition to being instructive and inspiring, the convention will be fun. The site is the YMCA of the Rockies, in a vacation-like setting on a scenic mountainside. During between-session breaks, at social hours at the Y, and on field trips you'll have opportunity to see old friends and make new ones; to compare notes with other Audubon activists and chapter leaders; and to share with them enjoyment of the Rocky Mountains' birds, animals, wildflowers, and magnificent vistas.

Time is Growing Short

Ten pre- and post-convention trips are offered, ranging from backpacking to art and photography workshops, a bike tour, and rafting through a spectacular canyon. Time is growing short for ensuring a place on these trips. If you have mislaid the trip and registration material that was published in the February Audubon Action or need further information, write or call National Audubon Convention, 4150 Darley Avenue #5, Boulder, Colorado 80303; (303) 499-0219.

Air Fare Bargain is Available

You can get a special reduced rate on your roundtrip flight to Colorado. Just fill out and mail the attached form. ###

CONTINENTAL AIRLINES - OFFICIAL CARRIER  
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CONVENTION - ESTES PARK, COLORADO  
AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 2, 1983

SPECIAL FARE TO DENVER VIA CONTINENTAL AIRLINES FOR CONVENTION ATTENDEES

Special arrangements have been made with Continental Airlines to provide National Audubon Society Convention attendees substantial savings in air travel. This special fare is available within the continental United States and only through Boulder Travel King in Boulder, Colorado. Reservations can be made by calling LuAnne Overfield at (303) 499-2242 or by mailing the reservation application below to Boulder Travel King, Basemar Center #24, Boulder, Colorado 80303.

1. This special fare is a waiver of the seven day minimum stay requirement for the "super saver" airfare for attendees and their immediate family. The 14 day maximum stay requirement is still in effect. If other special fares are lower than this fare, Boulder Travel King will confirm reservations at the lowest rate available.
2. Your roundtrip reservations must be made and tickets purchased from Boulder Travel King by July 28, 1983. Seats at the "super saver" rate are limited; please book early to insure obtaining a seat at this special rate.

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AIRLINE RESERVATION APPLICATION - NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CONVENTION

Please return to: LuAnne Overfield  
Boulder Travel King  
Basemar Center #24  
Boulder, CO 80303

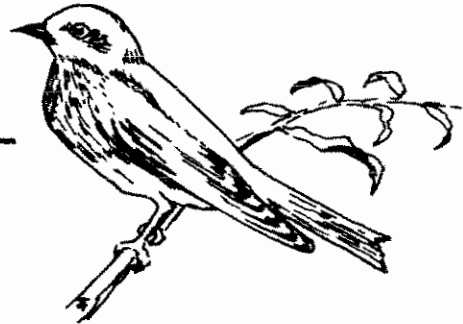
Please include the names of everyone requesting travel arrangements and ages of children.

Names: _____ _____ _____ Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (    ) _____	Form of Payment: Check _____ Credit Card _____ Card Name: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Card No: _____ Departure City: _____ Date of Arrival: _____ Time you need to arrive in Denver: _____ (Free chartered buses leave for Estes Park at 1:00, 2:30, and 4:00 p.m. on August 28, and at 1:00 p.m. on August 29.) Date of Departure: _____ Time you need to depart from Denver: _____ (Free chartered bus will leave Estes Park at 1:30 p.m. on September 2. It is not advisable to book a flight before 4:00 p.m. if using this service.)
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## BLUEBIRDS

BLUEBIRDS...

Laura Morrell reported that 38 boxes - 33 in Guilford, 5 in East Haddam - were placed by Menunkatuck Audubon. An additional 9 boxes were put up by other individuals. Two successful nestings have been confirmed; one in a box and one in a hollow tree. Hopes are high for next year since bluebirds scout desirable locations in the fall.



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### FROM THE SHORE

The Least Tern/Piping Plover Recovery Program of the Connecticut chapter of The Nature Conservancy is aimed at protecting Connecticut's colonies of these birds.

Since these birds nest on bare sand, their nest sites are extremely vulnerable. Under the direction of biologist Julie Zickefoose, a program of posting, patrolling, and public education is underway.

Known nesting sites in 1982 include areas in Stratford, Milford, Guilford, Clinton, Westbrook, Old Lyme and Groton.

Once a site is settled, it will be posted with 12" x 12" yellow signs bearing this legend:

BIRD NESTING AREA  
If the birds are disturbed, parents  
may leave the nest, subjecting eggs  
and young to exposure and possible  
DEATH  
These birds are protected by law  
PLEASE  
STAY AWAY FROM NESTING AREAS

Volunteers for posting and/or patrolling any of these colonies are encouraged to call Julie Zickefoose, Box 84, Hadlyme, CT 06439, (526-3178).

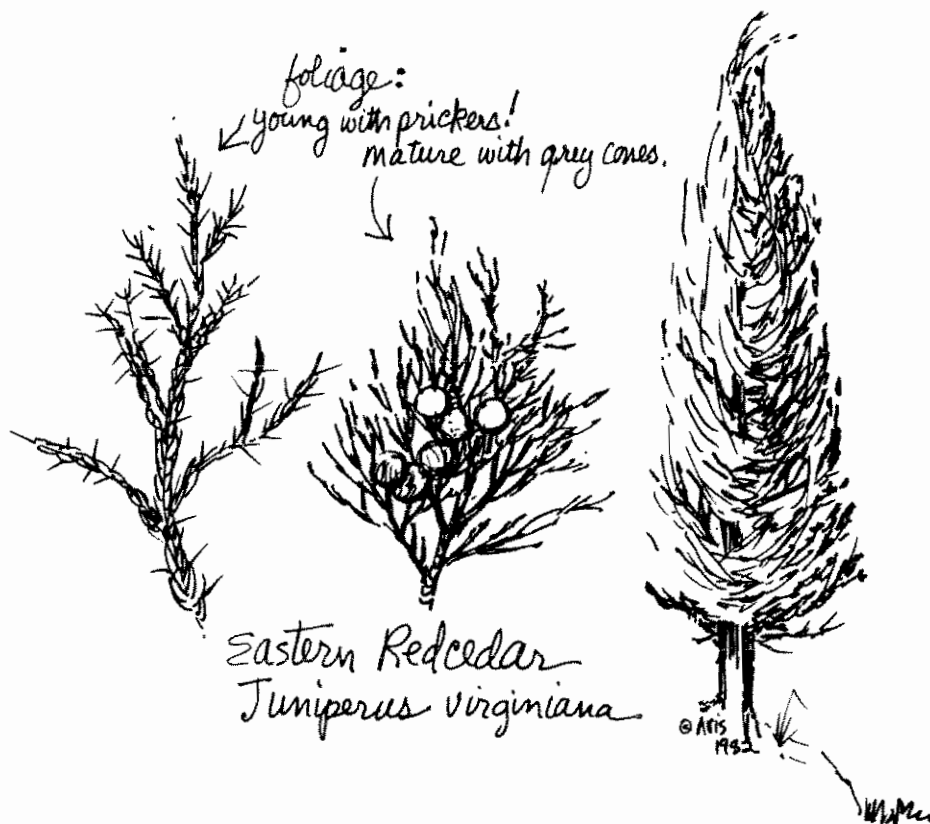
Donations are both welcome and tax-deductible, and may be made to the Student Internship Program, c/o Susan Cooley, The Nature Conservancy, Box MMM Wesleyan Station, Middletown, CT 06457 (344-0716)

The other minus of cedar is that it is the alternate host for Cedar-Apple Rust, which appears as hard brown growths on the cedar. These erupt into orange gelatinous masses on the cedar twigs in early summer. The spores from these masses spread to apple trees here, causing a rust on fruit and leaves. This poses no problem to the commercial apple growers as they have an effective spray that keeps it under control. The rust causes no known damage to the cedar.

Since Red Cedar covers less than 1% of the land area of Connecticut and because of its many uses by wildlife and man and its many other interesting facets, it should be protected and preserved. How can this be done? Simply by letting it grow and by removing any competing trees that may interfere with its growth.

These are observations gleaned from working with Cedar during the past 40 years.

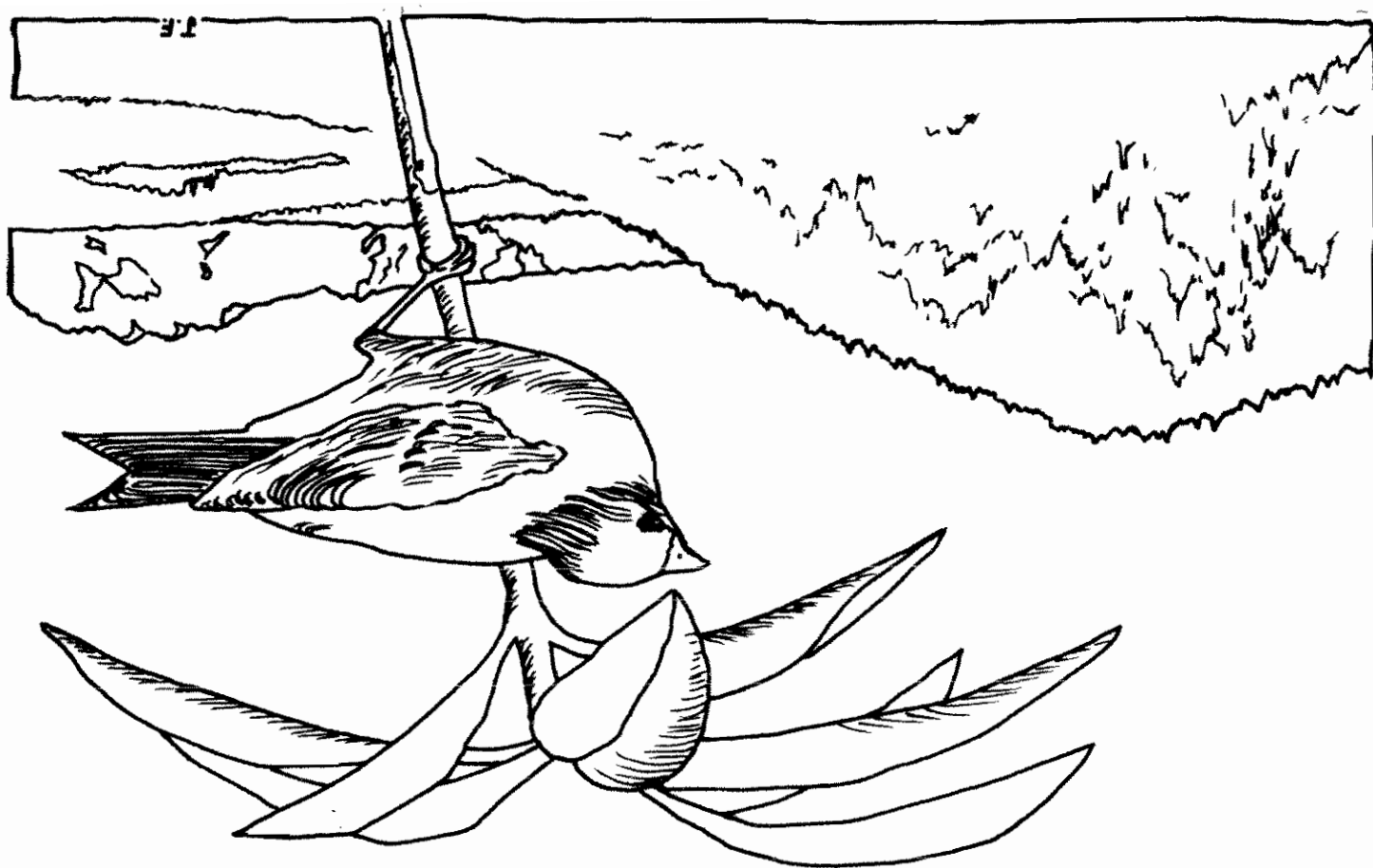
MICHAEL POCHAN - Forester



## ONE OF CONNECTICUT'S MOST USEFUL TREES

The RED CEDAR - *Juniperus virginiana* - which dots the Connecticut landscape with a somber green in the winter season is a tree of unusual merit and one worthy of being nurtured and protected. Here are the reasons why...

- 1) It is one of only a half dozen coniferous evergreens that are native to Connecticut. It is therefore a most welcome guest to an area that is 90% deciduous hardwoods. Cedar helps liven up the landscape during the drab winter months and adds a touch of variety with its variform growth habit of developing into all sizes and shapes.
- 2) It is a food supply for over 50 different kinds of birds, including the most attractive of birds, the Cedar Waxwing. Although the main source of food are the bluish berries produced in abundance on individual trees, buds and insects found on the tree also add to the bird food supply. The soft feathery-like outer bark of the cedar is a favorite lining for the nests of many birds.
- 3) Some 15 animals depend on cedar for all or part of their food supply. Our native white-tailed deer browse on the buds and twigs of the tree when other sources of food are difficult to come by. During the evening deer have been noticed browsing on the twigs cut during a cedar harvesting operation. After browsing, the deer will bed down for the night on top of the branches and twigs.
- 4) As Cedar grows to maturity it develops into our most valuable forest product - durable posts and poles that find a ready market within the state. The larger material is sawn into lumber for cedar chests, closet lining, best grade pencils and thousands of items in the gift and trinket line. The sawdust and shavings from cedar processing operations are used as bedding in dog houses. The slabs and edgings make the finest kindling for starting wood fires.
- 5) Cedar's growth habit of coming up in open fields, usually as a first invader, commends itself in soil stabilization and erosion control. This is enhanced by an extremely long tap-root.
- 6) Silviculturally, cedar is of great interest because it can grow under varying soil conditions and exposure. It can be found growing in extremely wet sites, up the sides of exposed dry and high cliffs, and, if kept clear of competing vegetation, can grow up to three feet in diameter and over 200 years in age.
- 7) Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) is a truly remarkable tree with many pluses and very few minuses. Its biggest minus is that it cannot stand competition from neighboring trees. It must reproduce in open fields from which competition is eliminated. Very rarely can cedar be found coming up under a forest canopy. After cedar starts in a field, the ingrowth of hardwoods will gradually eliminate cedar from the area. To keep cedar alive and growing well, competition of other trees must be removed.



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GUILFORD, CT., 06437

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