

## *Amphibian monitoring programs are updated*

The past year has seen significant progress in efforts to determine the status of amphibian populations. Two programs that members of the Menunkatuck Audubon Chapter are directly involved in are 1) calling surveys of frogs and toads for the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program (NAAMP), and 2) systemic surveys of amphibian species distributions for the Connecticut Amphibian Monitoring Project (CAMP). The distinction between the two programs is that the NAAMP calling surveys are designed to spot declines in populations of individual species, whereas CAMP will focus on detecting declines in amphibian species diversity.

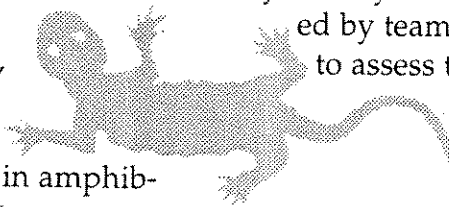
In its pilot year of Connecticut's participation in the NAAMP frog and toad calling surveys, 8 of the 10 native species were found. No leopard frogs or Eastern spadefoot frogs were heard at any of the

forty survey sites. Because of the late start in organizing and recruiting, only 4 of the 15 designated routes were surveyed. It is hoped that all 15 routes will be surveyed in 1998 and for many years thereafter. Recruitment of volunteers is still in progress for those routes not covered this year.

Although there are a sufficient number of volunteers at this time to do the calling surveys of the Madison-Guilford-Branford route, there is a need for more volunteers to participate in the CAMP species diversity surveys. Three surveys each year will be conducted by teams of volunteers

to assess the diversity and relative abundance of amphibian

communities associated with the wetland habitats within 2.5 km quadrats, which in our area is centered at Madison Lake and Hog Pond off Route 79. CAMP plans to kick-off the statewide monitoring program  
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## **Amphibians**

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to collect long term (15+ years) scientific data on Connecticut amphibian populations in the spring of 1998. Training workshops and informational sessions will be provided for volunteers and other interested parties during the winter of 1997-98. Sign-up sheets will be available at the monthly meetings of Menunkatuck

Audubon, or you can contact Gary Cline at 387-9474 or 785-5934 to volunteer.

Finally, there are two upcoming conferences on vernal pools in Connecticut focusing on both the current status of the science, and the policy and resource management of these unique ecosystems. The conferences are organized and sponsored by the Connecticut DEP-Wetland Management Section and the Center for Coastal and Watershed Systems at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. The Menunkatuck Audubon Society is providing additional sponsorship for speakers, Leo Kenny and Ken Goodale, who will discuss "Trends in School-based Future Research." More information on these vernal pool conferences can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Submitted by Gary Cline

# **Our Hidden Wetlands**

**VERNAL POOLS IN CONNECTICUT  
Science, Policy and Resource  
Management for the New Century**

**Saturday, November 15, 1997, 9:00 – 4:00**

Focusing on...

Structure and Function of Vernal Pools  
Evaluating and Monitoring Vernal Pools  
Status and Health of CT Vernal Pools  
Future Research Needs

**Saturday, January 17, 1998, 9:00 – 4:00**

Focusing on...

The Latest Research on Vernal Pools  
Using this Research to Develop Better Policies  
Current State Regulations and Policies  
Alternatives to Current CT Policies

For more information contact

- ◆ Evan Preisser, at 203-432-5603 ◆
- ◆ Doug Hoskins, at 860-424-3903 ◆

## **Rare Bird Alerts**

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

**254-3665**

## November- January meetings are scheduled

The next three indoor meetings of MAS will feature topics from South America through Connecticut to the Canadian tundra.

On November 12, Sam Fried will present a slide show/lecture entitled *The Amazon Basin—Life in the Equadorian Rainforest*. Sam is a frequent speaker at Menunkatuck meetings and always presents an interesting and well-regarded show.

On December 10, Dr. Peter Pellegrino will present *Living Seashore— An Interactive Guide to the Invertebrates*

*of Long Island Sound*. Dr. Pellegrino is professor of marine biology at Southern Connecticut State University.

Bob MacDonnell recently went on a tour to Churchill, Manitoba and will share his experiences with MAS on January 14, 1998. Bob's talk is titled *Northern Exposures—A Birding Photographer's Guide to Churchill*.

# 1997 Calendar

November 12, 1997

*The Amazon Basin—  
Life in the Equadorian Rainforest*

Sam Fried

December 10, 1997

*Living Seashore—  
An Interactive Guide to the Invertebrates  
of Long Island Sound*

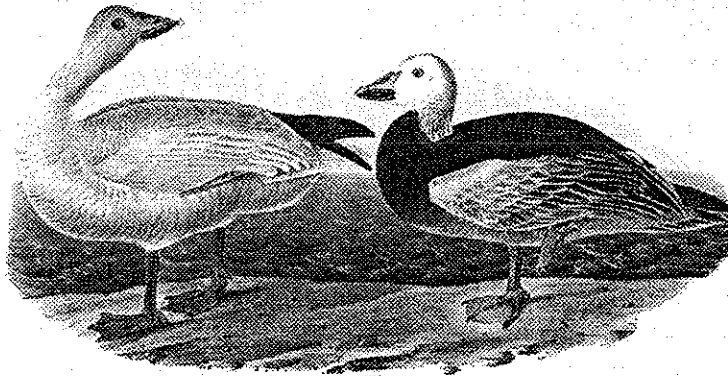
Peter Pellegrino

January 14, 1998

*Northern Exposures—  
A Birding Photographer's Guide to Churchill*

Bob MacDonnell

Indoor meetings are at the Guilford Community Center and begin at 7:30 P.M.



Snow Goose

Indoor meetings are held at the Guilford Community Center on Route 77 at 7:30. Refreshments are served and the public is welcome.

## Menunkatuck Welcomes New Members

Menunkatuck Audubon Society Welcomes the following new members:

**Branford:** Ceale Adler, Roberta L Blake, Paul Cipriani, S Rost

**East Haven:** Lu Ann Taylor

**Guilford:** Michael Mc Niff

**Madison:** Ms Lorriane Degrand, Mark Haage, Larry Johnson, Scott Roxbrough

**New Haven:** Ms June Jarvis, John F Lamoreux, Tracy L Triplett

# Announcements

## NAS WatchList

National Audubon Society launched a new WatchList web site located at [www.audubon.org/bird/watch/](http://www.audubon.org/bird/watch/). The site is an informative, user-friendly and visually compelling presentation of the WatchList, compiled by Partners in Flight (PIF).

The WatchList site features approximately 100 web pages of WatchList related information. Specifically, each WatchList species holds its own page complete with a brief species account, breeding/wintering

distribution map, a color photograph of the featured species, and an outline of primary threats.

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## Drink Coffee Save the Rain Forest

When our North American birds migrate to Central and South America to spend their winters, they find fewer trees in which to settle, as they are being cut down to grow coffee in "sun plantations." Coffee had been traditionally grown in the shade of overhanging trees,

but nearly half of the region's trees are now gone.

The American Birding Assn. and Thanksgiving Coffee Co. have combined to create the first shade-grown coffee project. Together they can verify that Song Bird Coffees come only from shade-grown farms, under forest canopy that provides great bird habitat. Birders can make a powerful impact by buying this coffee.



## 1997 Birdathon donations exceed \$2500

Donations to the 1997 Birdathon continue to come in. the total now exceeds \$2500. Donations to the Birdathon were made by the following people:

- |                                 |                               |                           |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Melinda Alcosser                | Henry Ferris                  | Bill McDonough            | Janet Shoemaker                     |
| Rita Amaio                      | Drothy Fink                   | Barbara Melotto           | Marian Sole                         |
| Rose Amendola                   | Steve and Joanne Foisey       | John Merritt              | David Strong                        |
| Carl Bodnar                     | Brad Carber                   | Ross Miller               | Ann Szczesny                        |
| Jane Brown                      | Mary Rena Gleason             | John Mills                | Robert Szponda                      |
| Linda Cahill                    | Elizabeth Harvey              | Barbara and Joseph Nugent | David Tesin                         |
| Michelle and Michael<br>Calini  | John and Betsy<br>Himmelman   | Patrick and Elaine Nye    | Virginia Thompson                   |
| Marsena and William<br>Campbell | Arthur and Alice Howe         | Ed and Harriett Owen      | William and Mary<br>Thompson        |
| Harold and Virginia<br>Cantrell | Marjory Jacobs                | Ruth Owen                 | Ken Threlli                         |
| Elizabeth Capobianco            | Mark Janke and Chris<br>Towne | Viiginia Pettigrew        | Valley Shore Water Fowlers,<br>Inc. |
| Liza Carroll                    | Jacqueline Kay                | Anita Porto               | Nick and Charlene Weted             |
| Liza Cleveland                  | Khaki and Black               | Sarah Richards            | Mr. and Mrs. Robert<br>Williams     |
| Mr. and Mrs. John Cole          | Cindi and Bill Kobak          | Thcinas Riley, Jr.        | Ronald and Patricia<br>Williams     |
| Carolyn Conley                  | Cindi and Bill Kobak          | Dennis and Mary Riordan   | Donald and Jane Woolford            |
| Clare Conover                   | Joan and Steve Kobak          | Earl Riordan              | Nancy Zukowski                      |
| Lorraine DiMartino              | George Lemieux                | Jim and Gillian Rose      |                                     |
| John Dudley                     | George Lemieux                | Daniel Ryan               |                                     |
|                                 | Cary and Carol Leemon         | Susan Schumann-Skehan     |                                     |
|                                 | M.S. MacGruer                 | William Scully            |                                     |
|                                 | Gani Manelli                  | Robert Sisson             |                                     |

## Audubon Adventures is in 49 area classrooms

Menunkatuck Audubon is again coordinating and helping to sponsor Audubon Adventures in 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classrooms in our chapter's area. This year 49 classrooms will receive Audubon Adventures through Menunkatuck Audubon and an additional 6 classes through the Branford Land Trust.

Audubon Adventures is a curriculum enhancement program used to teach students science, environmental topics, respect for nature, and to practice language and communication skills. The program supports the teaching standards recommended by the National Academy of Science and the National Research Council. The classroom packets include a Teacher's Resource Manual; an Audubon Animal Adventure video, co-produced by National Audubon Society and The Disney Channel; access to NAS experts via the Internet; student newspapers, five editions annually, filled with quizzes, stories, puzzles, essays and interactive assignments. This year's topics include Wetlands, Migration, Amphibians, and Nature in Our Neighborhoods. A special edition will be sent in time for Earth Day.

In addition, Bill Yule, a local naturalist, has graciously offered to lead nature field trips for participating classes. This is a wonderful opportunity for teachers and students to receive hands-on experience in our local ecosystems and to learn how to apply their Audubon Adventures lessons to the natural world around them.

Classrooms registered to receive Audubon Adventures for the 1997-98 school year include:

*Worthington Hooker Elem. School, New Haven*

Two 4th grades - teacher Pat Rhine

*Ferrara Elem. School, East Haven*

One 3rd grade - teacher Carolyn Lombardo (sponsored by Ferrara PTO)

*Mary T. Murphy Elem. School, Branford*

One 3rd grade - teacher Sally Fern (sponsored by a donation from Marcia Bate)

Five 4th grades - teachers Carolyn Butler, Laura Beatty, Nancy Ryan, Sue Hayes, Kathy Tobin (all sponsored by Menunkatuck)

*ry R. Tisko Elem. School, Branford*

4th grades -

teachers Lucille

ssetti, Ann

Goldfinger,

Charlotte Kardaras, Colleen McDonald (all sponsored by Tisko PTA)

*Walsh Intermediate School, Branford*

Six 5th grades - teachers Rita Peck, Paul Dworak, Trish Evenwel, Rudy Gostelli, Sarah DeCaprio, Regina Beausejouer (all sponsored by Branford Land Trust)

*J. Milton Jeffrey Elem. School, Madison*

Seven 4th grades - teachers Nancy Hebert, Doreen Shirley, Connie Piccione, Sarah Benedetto, Mary Ouimet, Michael Grisbane, Stacey Daly

Six 5th grades - teachers Lynne McPeake, Sarah Houpert, Melissa McCann, Bill Bruecker, Katherine Hart, Greg Phassenbeckler (all sponsored by Jeffrey PTO)

*Academy Elem. School, Madison*

Four 4th grades - teachers Sharon Lehr, Sandi Brand, Gerry Pliska, Lynn Kauffman

Four 5th grades - teachers Mary Anne Steele, Fred Muzer, Bob Fitzgerald, Yvonne Marquis

(all sponsored by Academy PTO or by Menunkatuck)

(Continued on page 6.)



## Thank you to the following area businesses for their support of the 1997 Birdathon.

The Audubon Shop  
Belles and Beaus  
Cycles of Madison  
Down to Earth  
Hair Concepts  
Hammonasset Chrysler-  
Plymouth  
Hammonasset Service  
Center  
Head Start Haircutters  
Khaki and Black

Madison Meat, Deli and  
Bakery  
Page Hardware  
Pepper's General Store  
for Animals  
Perfect Parties  
R.J. Julia Booksellers  
Thistles  
TwoEms  
Village Pizza  
Walker-Loden

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### **Audubon Adventures**

*(Continued from page 5.)*

*Robert H. Brown Middle  
School, Madison*

Twelve 6th grades - teachers

Barb Francese, Amy

Acquavita, Deborah Wynn,

Betsy Johnson (all sponsored by Brown Pro)

*Foote School, New Haven*

Two 3rd grades - teachers

Margaret Smith, Wendy

Chen

One 5th grade - teacher Judy

Brennan (all sponsored by

Foote PTO or Menunkatuck)

All of Branford's 4th and 5th grade public school classes will

be receiving Audubon Adventures this year in addition to all of Madison's 4th, 5th and 6th grade public school classes!

I'd like to thank the Branford Land Trust and their Audubon Adventures coordinator, Joan Jenkins, for their continued efforts to offer this wonderful educational material to classes in Branford.

A heartfelt thanks to Barb Francese for her help in contacting all the 4th, 5th and 6th grade teachers in Madison and working with me to sign them on. No small task.

And a great big thank you to all the sponsors! We couldn't do this without you. (Each Audubon Adventures classroom kit costs \$35.00 per year. Please support your schools' PTOs and PTAs. They do great work.)

If you know of a 3rd - 6th grade classroom in our area that would like to participate in Audubon Adventures, or if you would like to sponsor a classroom, please contact me at 457-1699.

Submitted by Cindi Kobak  
Education Chair



Menunkatuck Audubon Society  
PO Box 214  
Guilford, CT 06437

# MENUNKATUCK

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

October **1997**



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## **NEXT MEETING:** **SAM FRIED** **THE AMAZON BASIN-LIFE IN** **THE EQUADORIAN RAINFOREST**

*Wednesday, November 12, 1997*  
*7:30 PM*  
*Guilford Community Center*  
*Route 77*  
*Guilford*

*Are you on our mailing list?*

*If not, send in this form with \$10.00  
to cover costs to be sure that you are  
informed about our activities.*

Please add me to your mailing list.  
Enclosed is \$10.00 to cover the costs  
of the newsletter.

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