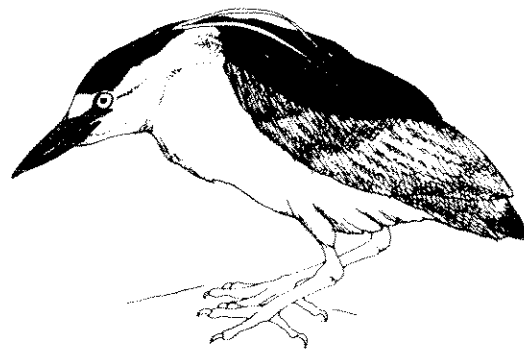


# Menunkatuck Audubon Society Newsletter



Vol. 10, No. 3

May, 1991

## Outdoor Programs 1990-1991

### May 4, 1991, Saturday      Birdathon

Question -How can you help clean up Long Island Sound, help an endangered species and have fun all at the same time?

Answer - By participating in and/or sponsoring Menunkatuck's 1991 Birdathon.

The last two years' successful Birdathons raised over \$6,500 for the Northeast Regional Audubon Office and the Faulkners Island Tern Project. This year all funds will remain in our area as the Regional Office's share will be dedicated to Audubon's Long Island Sound Campaign. The Northeast Regional Audubon Office has designated Long Island Sound as a top priority and has hired a staff person to work on the project. The Faulkners Island Tern Project based on the small island visible from the Guilford and Madison shore, concerns itself with the breeding success of the Common and locally endangered Roseate Tern.

Pledge and participation forms have been mailed to members. Anyone who can help with the planning, with recruiting sponsors, or with any questions may call Dori Sosensky at 468-0357 or Susan Yurkas at 453-5664.

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.

## President's Message

Our conservation efforts dominate this springs activities. The Conservation Committee placed nesting platforms and boxes throughout Hammonasset State Park. Special thanks are due to Vice-president Charlie Rafford for all his work not only building the boxes but for coordinating the effort with Park Supervisor, Mark Rickert. Thanks also to former President Joe Musco for his help in building and placing the boxes and to the 20 hearty souls who helped erect the Osprey platforms. Maps of Hammonasset showing the location of the nesting boxes and Osprey platforms will be in the next issue of the Newsletter.

The 3rd annual Birdathon is coming Saturday, May 4. Everyone should have received the Participation/Pledge form in a separate mailing. If you have not received the form or have any questions please call me at 468-0357. Funds raised will support the Faulkner's Island Tern Project and National Audubon's continuing effort to help clean up Long Island Sound.

I would like to welcome Rachel Lawson who joins the board as recording secretary and Susan Yurkus who joins the board as a director.

Spring Migration is upon us! Good Birding to all!

- Dori

### Next Newsletter Deadline

**May 28, 1991**

**Send material to:**

**Dennis Riordan**

**94 Cleveland Road**

**New Haven, CT 06515**

## Sky Calendar

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| April 28 | Full Moon  |
| May 5    | Eta Aquarids Meteor showers, after midnight out of SE at 10-40 meteors per hour. |
| May 6    | Saturn south of Last Quarter Moon  |
| May 17   | Venus north of Crescent Moon   |
| May 18   | Mars north of Moon   |
| May 19   | Jupiter north of First Quarter Moon  |
| May 28   | Full Moon  |
| June 14  | Happy Birthday Emilio and Alessandro!  |
| June 15  | Venus, Jupiter and Mars near Crescent Moon                                       |
| June 21  | First Day of Summer!   |
| June 27  | Full Moon  |

**Menunkatuck Audubon Society** is a chapter of National Audubon Society. The newsletter is published bi-monthly in January, March, May, July, September, and November by the Society. Mailing address:

**MENUNKATUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY  
C/O SHORELINE OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER  
730 COUNTY ROAD  
GUILFORD, CT 06437  
President: Dori Sosensky (468-0357)  
Editors: Dennis Riordan and  
Mary Riordan (387-2167)**

## Late Spring Planet and Star Gazing

VENUS, JUPITER, and MARS will put on a marvelous show for us throughout May, June, and July. All three planets are coming closer together in the nighttime sky. From May 17 to 19, Venus, Jupiter, and Mars will form a neat line across the western sky with the crescent Moon passing each planet in turn over three evenings. By June 15, all three planets will be clustered together in a tight trio with the crescent Moon nearby.

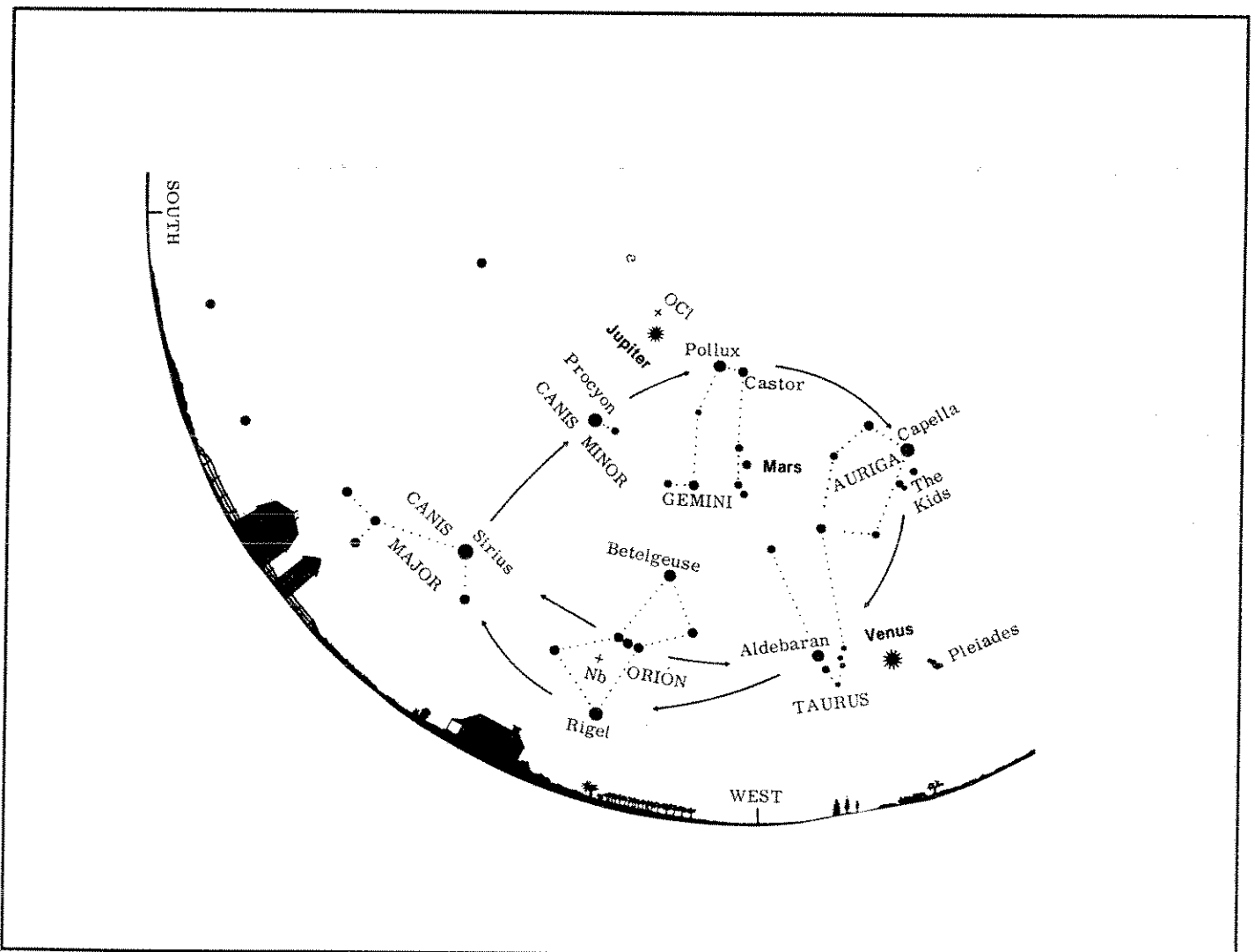
The excitement is not only seeing these three planets in close proximity, but also watching Venus and Mars as they move toward Jupiter in

the coming weeks. The brightest nighttime object after the Moon is our sister planet Venus. The "Evening Star" dominates the western sky. Next brightest is Jupiter, shining in Cancer the Crab. Reddish Mars has faded significantly since its opposition in November and is moving through Gemini the Twins. Use the diagram below to aid in your viewing.

Let's not forget SATURN! The ringed planet rises earlier each spring night in Capricorn the Sea Goat. Check out Saturn near the Moon on the dates listed in the Sky Calendar.

The spring constellations of Virgo the Maiden, Bootes the Herdsman, and Leo the Lion dominate the night sky. Happy viewing!

Submitted by David M. Tesin



# LYME INVITATIONAL WILDLIFE ART SHOW



Featuring 20 nationally acclaimed wildlife artists  
exhibiting the best in traditional and contemporary  
wildlife art

## JUNE 8 & 9, 1991

10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Opening Reception Saturday June 8, 5 - 7 P.M.

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LYME ART ASSOCIATION GALLERY

LYME STREET OLD LYME, CONN.

Exit 70 off I-95 Admission \$3.00

BENEFIT POTAPaug AUDUBON SOCIETY CONSERVATION PROJECTS

## Nest Boxes at Hammonasset

The Conservation Committee of the Menunkatuck Audubon Society in cooperation with Mark Rickert, Hammonasset Park Supervisor, and the State Department of Environmental Protection, has been refurbishing, replacing, and adding bird nesting sites at Hammonasset State Park in Madison. The new Tree Swallow boxes around several marsh edges and the three new Osprey platforms are the most easily seen. Additional boxes for Chickadees, Titmice, Wrens, Flickers and Owls were placed on Willards Island and in other wooded areas. The Purple Martin House at the Swan Pond will be cleaned and another house added. Next year, Menunkatuck plans to build more platforms and boxes as well as to maintain and manage current sites.

The Osprey platforms are an Army Core of Engineers tripod design. They were relatively easy to build and erect (especially with a group of people to carry and hoist the legs). All necessary holes can be dug with a shovel. Each leg has a metal section to prevent predators climbing up the poles. One leg has supports upon which one places removable stairs so access to the platform is relatively easy. During nesting season some of the supports are removed to prevent predation.

A bird sightings log will be placed near the Meig's Point Nature Center early this spring. The log will help birdwatchers know what birds have been seen recently and where in the Park they have been seen. Using the site numbers on the map, birders and other interested visitors to the Park can also note nest



It was a blustery day when these members of Menunkatuck Audubon erected one of the new Osprey platforms at Hammonasset State Park.

ing activity in the log. Funding for the nest sites and the birder's log provided by Menunkatuck's Charles Workinger Memorial Fund.

Anyone wishing more information on the nesting sites or on the design of the Osprey platforms may call Charlie Rafford at 669-7850.

## Yale Ornithology Library

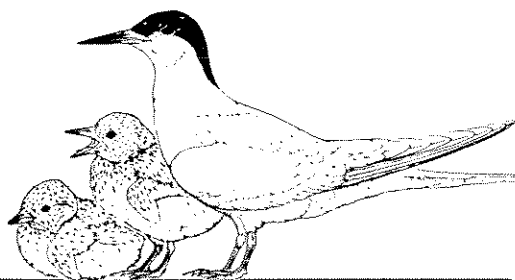
Al Mueller, Librarian at the Ornithology Library at Yale University has informed us that the library welcomes visits from any of our members who would be interested in consulting the source material that they have available.

The library has over 5500 titles offering information about bird habits, behavior, distribution, ecology, evolution, identification, physiology, populations, and conservation in many areas worldwide. Atlases, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and bibliographic guides to ornithological literature are among the titles. There is an extensive collection of ornithology journals in English and foreign languages as well as reprints of other materials.

Books are loaned to members of the Yale community only, but may be consulted by others. Copying is available at \$.05 per page. Assistance in answering questions and using the collections is available from Al Mueller.

The library is located on the third floor of Bingham Lab, 21 Sachem Street behind Peabody Museum. It is open Monday through Friday from 8:45 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

**Your contribution to the  
Menunkatuck Birdathon  
helps support**



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FERN · PROJECT · GUILFORD, CT

## AUDUBON IN THE AMERICAS

## AUDUBON NATIONAL CONVENTION

**July 21-27, 1991**

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- Learn more about Audubon's international role in protecting forests, wetlands and wildlife.
- Explore the natural history of the Rockies on a variety of unforgettable field trips and tours.
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**HOUSEHOLD  
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**OPENS JUNE 1, 1991**

**Household Hazardous Waste  
Collection Center**

at the Regional Water Authority  
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven  
just off I-95 Exit 46

**Open Saturdays,  
June 1-Oct.26, 1991  
9 A.M. to Noon**

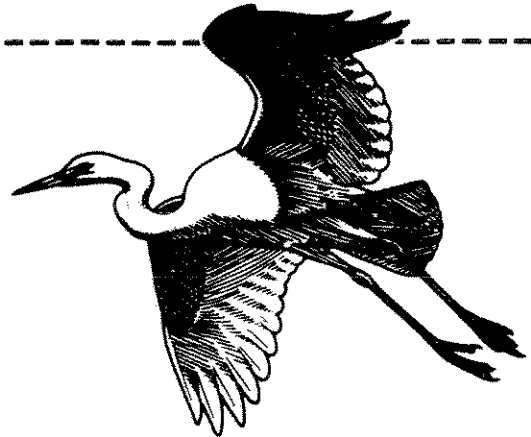
For information on household products you  
can bring to the Center, call

**HAZWASTE Central  
624-6671, ext.343**

**RARE BIRD ALERTS**

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

**254-3665**



**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, Colorado 80322-1001

**LOCAL CHAPTER**

**Menunkatuck Audubon Society**

**D 63**

Local Chapter Code  
7XCHA

## Menunkatuck Audubon Society

<b>President:</b>	Dori Sosensky	<b>Wildlife:</b>	David O. Hill
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Charles Rafford		Sally Richards
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Rachel Lawson	<b>Conservation:</b>	Unfilled
<b>Treasurer:</b>	David Tesin	<b>Fund-Raising:</b>	Mary Briggs
<b>Corresponding Secretary:</b>	Joanne Starr		Dori Sosensky
<b>Directors:</b>	Dave Buell	<b>Education:</b>	Joe Musco
	Jerry Connolly	<b>Membership:</b>	Mary Riordan
	Shirley Rafford	<b>Newsletter:</b>	Dennis Riordan
	Mary Riordan		Mary Riordan
	Dennis Riordan	<b>Town Reps</b>	
	Susan Yurkus	<b>East Haven:</b>	Dori Sosensky
<b>Audubon Council Delegate:</b>	Ray Brink	<b>Branford/</b>	
<b>Program:</b>	Dori Sosensky	<b>Gulford:</b>	James Balano
	David Tesin	<b>Madison/</b>	
<b>Adopt-A-Park:</b>	Mike Pochan	<b>Clinton:</b>	Henriette Kulisch

**May 7, 1991**

**Connecticut's Notable Trees**

**Glenn D. Dreyer**

Glenn D. Dreyer, director of the Connecticut College Arboretum and author of Connecticut's Notable Trees, will share information about the Connecticut's largest and most interesting trees. See the largest tree in the state (a sycamore), Connecticut's three national champions, and the many New England record holders.

All indoor programs are held at the CL&P Building on New Road, Madison, just off the Hammonasset Connector at 7:30 p.m.

MENUNKATUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY  
C/O SHORELINE OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER  
730 COUNTY ROAD  
GUILFORD, CT 06437

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