



“The Mattabesec Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society, is committed to environmental leadership and education for the benefit of the community and the earth’s biodiversity.”

MAS Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 21 at 7 p.m.** at the deKoven House. Proposed changes to MAS bylaws will be on the docket for this meeting. A copy of our Bylaws with proposed changes follow in this issue. 

Meadows and Grasslands in Connecticut

June 7, 2022 — by *Andy Rzeznikiewicz, manager of Connecticut Audubon’s northeastern Connecticut sanctuaries.*

Bobolinks are found in large grasslands (hay, pasture, airports), of at least 10 acres in size usually. Fields with hills tend to have more birds; they usually nest on the top of the hill or the side in the thick grasses.

If you’re in the right area, it’s an easy bird to locate. The males will sit on the top of a clump of grass or nearby tree or shrub and sing, defending their territory from other males; the males also sing while flying low over the grassland.

The songs are distinctive. The Cornell Ornithology lab’s website says: “Each male has 2 song types, each composed of 25-50 notes in a fixed sequence, lasting about 3.5 seconds.”

The male Bobolink is striking and unusual — black with white on the back and yellow on the back of the head. The female is buffy-colored with streaks on the back, crown and flanks. The female looks like a large sparrow. The birds arrive in Connecticut around the first week of May. Early in the nesting season it is common to see several males together chasing each other to establish nesting territory. The males will mate with more than one female in a season. In late summer, Bobolinks form flocks of up to 100 birds, usually found in weedy uncut fields. To nest successfully, Bobolinks must have fields that are not only big, they also have to be left unmowed well into the summer. In general, the safe date for mowing is August 1. Earlier safe dates can be set but that requires specific knowledge of the



A female Bobolink in Pomfret


Photo by Gilles Carter

field and the local Bobolink population.

Connecticut Audubon, for example, has observed Bobolink fields in the northeastern part of the state for 20 years and is confident that July 15 is a safe date for farmers there. But without similar long-term observations, August 1 is a better bet.

Nature preserves of course are often managed specifically with Bobolinks in mind and are mowed later in the year.

Topsmead State Forest in Litchfield is an excellent place to find Bobolinks. The Bafflin Sanctuary at the Connecticut Audubon Society’s Center at Pomfret is another good spot, particularly the field where Day Road and Wrights Crossing Road intersect, and the field along Bosworth Road. Although eBird shows more locations it also gives a good indication of how sporadic nesting areas are (note that the Harlem Valley in neighboring New York seems to be a hot spot for Bobolink).

Conservation status: Bobolink is listed as a species of special concern in Connecticut. Globally, it is listed on the IUCN Red List as “least concern” (a relative categorization that is not the same as no concern). The Bobolink migrates up to 12,000 miles to Argentina for the winter. While there they are killed by farmers who don’t want them eating their crops. It is remarkable that we actually still have any left. 

2022, Connecticut Audubon

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Upcoming Field Trips

50th Christmas Count Report

Field trip report

Invite to birdwatcher study

Bylaws with proposed changes noted

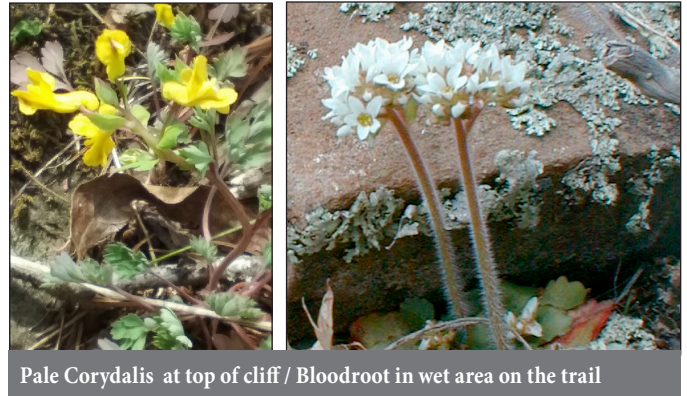
Upcoming Field Trips

April 19, 2025 (Saturday 8 a.m.)

Wildflower Walk

Discover early-blooming wildflowers in the fractured basalt trails of Giuffrida Park, Meriden. Flower assortment is different each year, depending on recent temperatures and weather. Meet at 8:00 a.m., Cromwell Stop & Shop plaza parking lot, in the lot at the side of Mattress Firm. Call Larry Cyrulik for more information at 342-4785 or 635-1880. Preview at Wildflowers link:

<http://www.audubon-mas.org/pages/wildflowers.html>



Pale Corydalis at top of cliff / Bloodroot in wet area on the trail

Special MAS 50th-Anniversary Trips: Town-by-Town

April 26, 2025, 8 a.m.

Haddam –

Haddam Meadows

Join avid birder Elena Coffey for an exciting early spring bird walk at Haddam Meadows State Park.

If you need binoculars to borrow let Elena know ahead of time. Follow Island Dock Road to large parking area by boat ramp. Text or call Elena at 860-305-1965. Hard rain cancels event. Rain date Sunday 4/27 same time and place.

May 3, 2025, 8 a.m.

Cromwell –

David Titus Memorial Warbler Walk

Meet Larry Cyrulik at the River Highlands State Park parking lot, Field Road, Cromwell. We'll be looking for neo-tropical migrants—warblers: Pines, Blue-wings, Ovenbirds, and more, as well as other recent Spring arrivals like Rose-breasted grosbeak, Baltimore oriole and Scarlet tanager. The trail starts along the railroad line, past part of the golf course, then onto the cliff trail above the CT River (to seek out Worm-eating warblers), and then back through the woods.

For more information, contact Larry at 860-342-4785 or 860-635-1880. (No need to pre-register.)

May 10, 2025, 7:30 a.m.

Portland –

Bird Walk at Helen Carlson Sanctuary

Join Elena Coffey for a bird walk at Mattabesek Audubon Society's Helen Carlson Sanctuary. This birding hotspot was donated to MAS in 1976 by local resident Helen Carlson to preserve it forever. Shortly thereafter, with a grant from the Rockfall Foundation in Middletown, MAS worked with students from Long Lane School to create a nature trail and boardwalk through the wetland and adjacent forest. In 1978, the trail was opened to the public, and the site was dedicated to Mrs. Carlson. For about 20 years, MAS maintained the nature trail and boardwalk and followed a plan to nurture the cranberry plots in much the same way as was done

during the days of commercial production. This included regular flooding and draining, mowing, and periodic sanding to rejuvenate plant production.

A family of beavers moved into the sanctuary about the year 2000, raising the water level and completely changing the ecosystem. The continuous high water caused by the many dams constructed by the new residents virtually wiped out the cranberries and other acid-loving plants that colonized the site. The boardwalk rotted and had to be discontinued, and other parts of the trail became impassable. The site is now an open water marsh with emergent water plants and home to many different species of birds and animals.

Hard rain cancels. There is no rain date. Parking available near the MAS sign in the open area under the evergreens, South Road, Portland, CT. Wear waterproof boots, bring bug spray. If you need a pair of binoculars to borrow, let Elena know ahead of time. Call or text: Elena Coffey at 860-305-1965

May 17, 2025, 8 a.m.

Middlefield –

Coginchaug Greenway Walk

Join us for a 1 1/2 mile walk in the recently established Coginchaug Greenway. Meet at 8:00AM in the parking area of the Coginchaug Greenway off of Strickland Road in Middlefield to start the walk. We will pass through pasture and grasslands and then into the wooded hills of the Durham Meadows State Wildlife Preserve and then down to the banks of the Coginchaug River. Passing through grasslands, orchards, forests and wetlands will hopefully enable us to see a variety of bird species ranging from Bobolinks, Redwing Blackbirds and Meadow Larks in the grasslands to Orchard and Baltimore Orioles as well as a variety of migrating warblers in the wooded areas to wetland birds and ducks near the Coginchaug River.

There may be spring flooding so wear rubber boots or shoes that can take a little sloshing in mud and puddles. The walk will be led by MAS board member Michael Good (Michaelgd@AOL.com), let him know if you need binoculars or have questions.

May 24, 2025, 8 a.m.

Durham –

White's Farm / Durham Meadows

Join us for a 1 1/2 walk through one of the premier birding hotspots in Connecticut at Fredrich White Farm in Durham. Meet at 8:00AM at the White's Farm parking area to start a walk through grasslands, wetlands, river banks and swamplands. We hope to see grassland birds such as Bobolinks and Meadow Larks as well as migrating warblers, vireos and a variety of raptors ranging from Kestrels to Northern Harriers to Red Shouldered Hawks and Vultures. We often see a variety of swallows and swifts along the river and may spot Wood Ducks and other migrating ducks as well as Swamp Sparrows in the flooded areas.

There may be spring flooding so wear rubber boots or shoes that can take a little sloshing in mud and puddles. The walk will be led by MAS board member Michael Good (Michaelgd@AOL.com), let him know if you need binoculars or have questions.

June 7, 2025, 8 a.m.

East Hampton / Colchester –

Airline Trail

Meet Mattabesek Audubon Society secretary, Sharon Dellinger, for a nice, flat walk along the Airline Trail. This walk is also part of Connecticut Trails Day. Spring is in the air and birds will be singing. We will identify birds by ear, and hopefully many by sight. Prior hikes during this time have found many Red-eyed Vireo, along with American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Worm-eating Warbler, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee among others.

Contact Sharon via text 860-803-1626 or by email rsdell@comcast.net to let her know you will be joining. Let her know if you need to borrow a pair of binoculars as MAS has several pairs for birders who need them for our events. Meet at Airline South Trail parking area Bull Hill Road, Colchester CT. Rain date 6/8 same time and place.

September 27, 9 a.m., 2025

East Haddam –

Golet Farm

Join Deborah Evans, MAS board member, on a hike through Golet Farm Preserve. This 32-acre parcel of land was donated to the East Haddam Land Trust by Thomas Smith. It's meadows, trees, and wetlands provide a wonderful habitat for birds. Its wetlands offer places to study amphibians, insects, and other wetland wildlife. Interior meadows and woodlands provide quiet respite. Wildflowers abound in the meadow closest to the Golet Farm Preserve parking area off Great Hillwood Road, and along wooded trails. Golet Farm Preserve connects with Heritage Park, the site of the East Haddam Senior Center, across Great Hillwood Road. To the west, Golet Farm Preserve borders Oak Grove Senior Housing property. To the south, it borders Town-owned land ant East Haddam Elementary School property. We will bird in

place in the garden area where we will hopefully see Kinglets and Warblers. We will continue onto the trail loop which is about 1 mile long.

Please let Debbie know if you will be attending the hike by emailing her at evans57@msn.com. Binoculars can be borrowed if you let Debbie know ahead of the event. Meet at the parking area on Great Hillwood Road (next to 26 Great Hillwood Road home) East Haddam, CT.

October 11, 2025, 8 a.m.

Middletown –

Sparrow Crawl

Join Larry Cyrulik in a visit to the old field adjacent to the soccer parking on Long Hill Road, then to Middletown Nature Gardens (off Randolph Road), and lastly, to Durham Meadows fairgrounds. Five species of sparrows may be noted, including the elusive White-crowned sparrow, as well as other fall migrants.

Meet at Middletown's Long Hill Road soccer field parking lot. Call Larry for info 860-342-4785 or 860-635-1880. (No need to pre-register.)



MAS Officers:

President: . . . Alison Guinness
Recording Sec.: Sharon Dellinger
Treasurer: . . . Elaine Payne

2024 Committee Chairs:

Conservation: Larry Cyrulik
Publicity: . . . Alison Guinness
Sanctuary: . . . Rodrigo Pinto

Wingbeat: Pat Rasch <pat_rasch@mac.com>
Rare Bird Alert: 203-254-3665

On the web: www.audubon-mas.org

The deadline for items to be included in the Summer/Fall issue is July 26, 2025. *Issues are now delivered via an emailed link only.* To receive a link to upcoming issues, please send your email address to <pat_rasch@comcast.net>, please include **WINGBEAT** in the message title. Issues may also be downloaded from our website home page. Please send any items to be included in upcoming issues to Pat Rasch, 24 Elm Road, Cromwell, CT 06416, or email to <pat_rasch@comcast.net>

The Board of Directors meets 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at deKoven House, 27 Washington Street, Middletown, however, April 2025 meeting will be on Tuesday, April 15.



deKoven House
27 Washington Street
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

www.audubon-mas.org

Non-Profit Organization

REPORT: The 50th Annual MAS Salmon River Christmas Bird Count, December 15, 2024

On behalf of the entire Mattabesek Audubon Society's Board I would like to thank everyone who participated in the 50th Annual Salmon River Bird Count on Sunday, December 15th. The 11 teams in the field enjoyed a beautiful day with no precipitation and minimal winds. It was chilly in the morning with a low of 10 degrees and a high temperature of 36 degrees in the afternoon. Doreen Jezek (co-compiler) and I met a few times to complete our compiling duties. We submitted our final data to National Audubon Society on January 13th. We had a total of 42 participants (12 watching their feeders at home). One must assume that the weather and the number of participants plays a significant role in the number of birds and species that are seen. We had the 3rd highest number of species in the history of our count with 84 species on count day and 2 added during count week (American Pipit and Chipping Sparrow sent in by Tom Baptist). The highest species count ever was in 1990 (89 on count day and 2 during count week), followed by 2001 (88 on count day and 2 during count week). We had 4 Red-headed Woodpecker, which to my surprise wasn't the highest ever. That occurred in 1994 with 5 individuals seen. This year we had the highest ever counts of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (38), Pileated Woodpecker (21), Common Raven (56), Winter Wren (10), Savannah Sparrow (23), Common Grackle (683), Barred Owl (8) and Dark-eyed Junco (1515).

There is always great anticipation in the days leading up to count day. What team is going to come up with the bird of the day, the greatest number of species, or have that unique interaction with wildlife? Dave Rathbun and Dave Carey (Team 1) added the first ever Snowy Owl near Goodspeed Opera House! My team (7, which included Steve Broker, Roy Dellinger, Doreen Jezek, Dan & Trudy Rottino) had the highest number of species of all the teams with 55 species seen. Debbie Evans, Sydney Caisse, and Tom Baptist (Team 11) found a Long-eared Owl in Moodus by recognizing that a stand of white pines would be a great spot for this species. Upon

closer inspection, they noticed whitewash on the tree trunks and owl pellets on the ground. Within moments the owl flew out, circled the trees and re-perched in the same pines. Now that's a great and unique experience with this elusive species! There have only been 5 Long-eared Owls in the history of the Salmon River Count. This was the first time one was seen since 2012.

Looking to the future, the longevity of this count depends on every one of us sharing our enthusiasm for birding with others, especially younger generations. MAS Board will be holding a retreat at Sacred Heart on the Lake, in Higganum, on Saturday, March 1st. One of the main focuses of that meeting will be to plan for the future of our chapter. How can we ensure future generations will carry the baton when we are no longer able? Although this year's Christmas Count was a great success, its sustainability is tenuous. We must ensure our mission of "environmental leadership and education for the benefit of the community and the earth's biodiversity" long outlives our current members. This is no small task. It takes a village! 🌿

Sharon Dellinger, secretary MAS, compiler Salmon River Christmas Bird Count



Red-headed woodpecker - Elena Coffey



Winter Wren - Elena Coffey



Long-eared Owl - Debbie Evans

FIELD TRIP REPORT **Let's Go A-Ducking (3/15/2025)**

*They've got the urge for goin'...
They've got the wings to go...*

Joni Mitchell

0830 The ponds along Industrial Park Road

Cloudy, the breath of “almost spring” in the form of a light mist, wind-less. Leaden puddles on either side of the roadway, the black ribbon littered with trash. Valiantly, the cattails surround the edges of the ponds, the shallow waters harboring vegetative tidbits vital for those feathered denizens, the ducks.

A quick glance over one of the ponds: a pair of ducks cozy up to one another, surreptitiously paddle adjacent to the cattails and disappear before being identified. Mute swans lower necks in obvious display. Several Ring neck ducks cavort on the surface, diving occasionally.

Crossing to the opposite side of the roadway and several Canada geese, surprised, speed away from the near bank. Scanning the surface of the pond reveals a panoply of waterfowl like circus performers in the big top, the pond's surface acting as the center ring. Multiple performers swim and dive, or fly a short distance and alight with a heavy splash sending ripples towards the banks.

The variety of ducks is gratifying: Gadwalls, Ring necks, Green wing teal, Bufflehead, Northern Shoveler, Blacks, Mallards, Pintails; all dressed in their particular raiments.

Traffic on nearby I-91 and the Industrial Parkway scurry along with their self-absorbed destinations in mind. The ducks are self-absorbed also: it is called survival.

0945 North Farms Reservoir

Mute swans collect like a flotilla of galleons with white sails fully raised; a pair of Canada geese stand along the shore, heads bobbing methodically. In the distance is an island that once harbored an eagle's nest, abandoned now, looking forlorn.

Scanning, scanning...a few Ring neck ducks (and Ring bill gulls). Then an odd thing: three swan carcasses within close proximity to one another, heads hung down below the surface of the water in postures of prayer, never to rise again.

1020 Broad Brook Reservoir

The sky opaque, the waters grey-blue, the verdure of the white pines crowding the shoreline. Storm-thrashed limbs thrown perfunctorily down onto the forest floor.

Stepping around puddles and trampling underfoot the brown paste-like soil to get to the edge of the reservoir, setting the scope into position and readily finding a large flock of Ruddy ducks. There were Hooded mergansers and their cousins the Common merganser. They swirled around each other like feathered cinnamon rolls.

Overhead, a methodically winging Great blue heron, its destination small rookery at the farther end of the reservoir beyond the roadway that split the waters at an angle.

Moving to another vantage point, stepping over and around pine slash. Several Ringneck ducks, dancing and diving, moved parallel to the shore past a Mute swan couple investing in their future progeny by building a nest. Appearing as if by magic from the bristling cattail and spotted alder were a pair of Wood ducks.

One last look. Following a decaying asphalt road, stepping into tick-infested understory to get positioned near a narrow wedge of water and...wonderful! A Horned grebe in winter garb was busily diving, surfacing and exploring. A lingering gaze through the scope, to impress the image upon one's memory before moving on.

Now the back side of Broad brook, where the road split the waters: another raft of Ruddy ducks oblivious to the darting traffic and the trash strewn along the shore of the reservoir. One is reminded of Mikhail Sholokov's plaintive lament: *Man is poisonous. He's unclean, he fouls the earth like a toadstool.* 🍄

2 participants, 12 duck species, 30 bird species total.



Broadbrook Reservoir




Thanks to George Landis for this photo of Red-bellied and White-breasted nuthatch.

Invitation to participate in brain health study

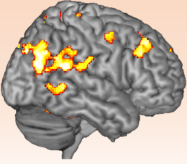
Judy Zhu and her team from University of Toronto/Rotman Research Institute are working on neuroplasticity and lifespan learning. Currently doing outreach across Canada, and the US with a short online study, they are examining how birding and citizen science activities contribute to cognitive and brain health.

The study is open to anyone 18+, takes ~15 minutes, and requires no prior birding experience. Participants can choose to enter a raffle for a gift card, or one of several pairs of binoculars from our sponsors.

At the population level, we're exploring how trends in species prevalence correlate with geographic trends in how people perceive and categorize birds. At the smaller scale, we have a line of neuroimaging research looking at beneficial changes to brain structure and function that result from decades spent learning about birds. More details about



Which of four birds at right matches this bird?
And the which is the "odd one out"?



Our group researches how birders' brains differentiate species like this House Wren from other possibilities (1. Marsh Wren, 2. House Wren, 3. Lincoln's Sparrow, 4. Winter Wren). Check out:

www.birdingstudies.com

for our newest **online study** (~15 min, laptop/desktop required)— it's open to all, from beginners to experienced birders. Be a part of our next research report!

🎟️ Participants can enter raffle for binoculars giveaway 🎟️

the study as well as links to past publications and articles can be found at the study website, www.birdingstudies.com. Audubon Magazine carried an overview of this research:

<https://www.audubon.org/magazine/spring-2023/yes-birding-does-change-your-brain> 

MATTABESECK AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

BYLAWS

(As amended by the Board of Directors on October 21, 1974; May 11, 1976; May 10, 1988; June 13, 1988; July 24, 2002; May 18, 2005; May 19, 2010; May 20, 2015; Feb. 17, 2021; **May 21, 2025**)

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Qualifications. Any person interested in the purposes of the Mattabeseck Audubon Society, Inc. (hereinafter called the "Corporation") is eligible for membership.

ARTICLE II: MEETING OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the members shall be held as directed by the Board and published in the Wingbeat and on the Mattabeseck website.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the members shall be the regular meeting held in the month of May. The election and installation of the Board of Directors shall be conducted at this meeting.

Section 3. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the members may be called by the President or pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Notices of Meetings.

- (a) How given. Notice of all regular and special meetings of members shall be given by or at the direction of the President or Secretary or the officer or person calling the meeting to each member by notice in the Wingbeat and published on the Mattabeseck website no less than seven (7) days before the date of the meeting.
- (b) Contents. Each notice of a regular meeting of members shall state the place, day and hour of the meeting. Each notice of a special meeting shall, in addition, state the purpose for which the meeting is called.

Section 5. Quorum. The members entitled to vote, present in person or by proxy, at a meeting of members shall constitute a quorum for such meeting.

Section 6. Place of Meetings. Meetings of members may be held at such time and place within or without the State of Connecticut as shall be stated in the notice of the meeting or on the website.

ARTICLE III: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Number. The Board of Directors shall consist of five (5) to twelve (12) persons.

Section 2. Term of Office: Election Qualification. Directors shall be elected at the **appropriate** annual meeting of members. **The term of office of each director shall be for three (3) years; a director may be elected to a subsequent three (3) year term. No individual may serve for more than six (6) consecutive years as a director, except, an individual who, after six (6) years service on the Board is elected to an office, may serve at the pleasure of the board. TO: The term of office shall be three (3) years with subsequent three-year terms at the pleasure of the board.** Only members in good standing of the corporation are eligible for election to the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Duties of Directors.

- (a) The Board of Directors shall have the control and general management of the activities, property and affairs of the Corporation.
- (b) Except as herein provided, the Board of Directors may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of their meetings and the management of the corporation as they may deem proper and as shall not be inconsistent with the Certificate of Incorporation, these Bylaws and the laws of the State of Connecticut.

Section 4. Meetings.

- (a) Regular Meetings. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once a quarter. Such regular meetings shall be held at such times and places, within or without the State of Connecticut, as the Board may determine.
- (b) Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the Board shall be held immediately after the annual meeting of the members. Election and installation of officers will be conducted at the annual Board meeting.
- (c) Special meetings. Special meetings of the Board may be called at any time by the President or upon the request of a majority of the Board.
- (d) Quorum. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

Section 5. Notice of Meetings.

- (a) How Given. Notice of all regular or special meetings of the Board shall be given by or at the direction of the President or Secretary to each member delivering such notice to him/her personally, electronically or by mail,

addressed to the last known residence of the Director, unless the Director shall have filed with the Board a written request that notice intended for him/her be sent to some other address, in which event, it shall be mailed to the address designated in such request. Notice shall be given at least two (2) days prior to the date designated for a general meeting and at least three (3) days prior to the date designated for a special meeting.

- (b) Contents. Notice of a special meeting shall contain a description of the business to be transacted or the purpose of such special meeting. Notice of a regular meeting need only contain the date, time and place of such regular meeting.

Section 6. Removal. Any Director may be removed at any time from his/her position as Director by a majority vote of the entire Board of Directors. Such removal shall be voted, however, only at a special meeting of the Board called for this purpose. Such removal may be either with or without cause **as determined by majority vote.**

Directors are required to attend board meetings. If a Director fails to attend three consecutive board meetings, that board member is automatically removed from office.

Section 7. Vacancies. If the office of any of the Directors shall become vacant by reason of death, resignation, disability, retirement, disqualification, removal from office, or for other cause, the remaining Directors shall, by majority vote, elect a successor for the unexpired term of such Director.

Section 8. Voting. Except as otherwise provided herein, a majority vote of the Directors constituting a quorum shall be required to decide any question.

ARTICLE IV: 0

Section 1. Name and Number.

- (a) Officers of the Corporation shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.
- (b) The Board of Directors, from time to time, may create such other offices as, in its discretion, it may deem necessary and proper for the carrying on of the business of the corporation.

Section 2. Powers and Duties.

- (a) President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the members. At each annual meeting of the Board of Directors, he/she shall present a report on the state and condition of the affairs of the Corporation. He/she shall sign contracts and agreements in the name of the Corporation. He/she shall see that the books, reports, statements and

certificate required by statute are properly kept, made and filed according to law. He/she shall enforce these Bylaws and perform all the duties incident to his/her office and such other duties, as from time to time, may be required of him/her by the Board of Directors.

- (b) Vice President. The Vice President shall act as President in the absence of the President, shall assist the President in the carrying out of his/her duties, and perform such other duties as, from time to time, shall be required of him/her by the Board of Directors.
- (c) Secretary. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and of all meetings.
- (d) Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have custody of the Corporation's funds and shall disburse the funds as may be ordered by the Board. He/she shall keep an account of all monies received and expended for the use of the Corporation, and shall report same to the Board at their regular meetings, or as requested. He/she shall prepare an annual report on the financial condition of the Corporation for distribution to the members at the annual meeting of the members.

Section 3. Qualification and Election.

- (a) Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors from among the membership of the corporation.
- (b) Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors.
- (c) Officers shall serve the same as directors or until his/her successor may be elected and shall serve as members of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Removal. Any officer may be removed with or without cause by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at a special meeting of the Board of Directors called for that purpose.

Section 5. Vacancies. In the event of resignation, retirement, disqualification, death, disability or removal from office, for any cause whatsoever, of an officer of the Corporation, the vacancy so created shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. The person so elected shall hold office until the next annual meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Compensation. No compensation shall be paid to officers as such, for services rendered to the Corporation in the furtherance of its purposes or in the management and conduct of its affairs in accordance with the Certificate of Incorporation. However, the Board of Directors shall have power in its discretion to contract for and pay to officers rendering unusual or exceptional services to the Corporation special compensation appropriate to the value of such services.

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

Section 1. Nominating Committee.

- (a) The Board of Directors, on or prior to the Board Meeting in March of each year, shall appoint a Nominating Committee. The names of the members of the Nominating Committee shall be made known to the members of the Corporation and suggestions for nominations for the Board of Directors may be submitted to the Committee by any member of the Corporation.
- (b) The Nominating Committee shall nominate candidates for directors to be elected at the May annual meeting of members. Its report shall be presented to the membership at the annual meeting.
- (c) Nothing herein contained shall prevent nominations of individuals from the floor at the time of the election at the annual meeting.

Section 2. Special Committees. The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may appoint Committees whose term of office will be determined by the length of the assignment to be completed.

ARTICLE VI: COMMITMENTS

This Corporation shall not enter into any commitments binding upon the National Audubon Society without written authorization by the National Audubon Society, nor shall the National Audubon Society, without written authorization by this Corporation, enter into any commitments binding upon this Corporation.

ARTICLE VII: DISCONTINUANCE

This Corporation may terminate its status as a Chapter of the National Audubon Society, and the National Audubon Society may terminate the status of this Corporation as a Chapter of the National Audubon Society, pursuant to procedures set forth in the Audubon Chapter Policy adopted by the National Audubon Society's Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII: INDEMNITY OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 1. Treasurer's Bond. In the discretion of the Board of Directors, a bond may be required of the Treasurer, provided the cost of such bond shall be paid by the Corporation.

Section 2. Banking Authority. All checks, drafts, demands for money and notes of the Corporation shall be signed by the Treasurer, the President or the Vice President.

Section 3. Principal Office. The principal office of the corporation shall be in the Town of Middletown, County of Middlesex and State of Connecticut, or in such other place as may be designated by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed or new Bylaws may be adopted (a) at any regular or special meeting of the members, at which a quorum is present or represented, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members entitled to vote, or (b) by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting of the Board, provided that, in each such instance, notice of the proposed alteration, amendment or repeal be set forth in the notice of such meeting. 