



*Spring
1997*

P.O. BOX 33, POMFRET CENTER, CT 06259



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Duck Marsh Project

During 1996, the Trust developed for public use a parcel of open space (101 acres) naming it the Duck Marsh located on Wrights Crossing Road in Pomfret. This parcel offers exceptional opportunities for the observation of a wide variety of waterfowl. To make it conveniently accessible to the general public, an observation platform and an observation blind were constructed on strategic areas of the parcel along with a graveled parking area so that vehicles would not have to park on the roadside. Much to our satisfaction, those interested in observing birds and waterfowl not only from the local area, but from Massachusetts and Rhode Island, are frequenting this project in increasing numbers. To broaden its usage, the Connecticut Audubon Society has been invited to incorporate the Duck Marsh in it's Pomfret program.

The final plan for this project includes an obervation facility off Holmes Road on the hill overlooking the marsh, where the public can conveniently observe wildlife activity throughout the wetlands. Work will commence this spring in carrying out this plan.

Environmental Education Center

The Connecticut Audubon Society and the Wyndham Land Trust have begun to explore the idea of using the "1895 Barn", located on Day Road in Pomfret, to meet the needs of their environmental education mission in the Quiet Corner of Connecticut.

Several years ago a group of graduate students from the Conway School of Landscape Design reviewed the Audubon properties in Pomfret with the aim of generating proposals and plans for their use, one of which focused on the barn. We are following that study by visiting

with potential users of barn space and developing "wish lists" for the facility. As a first step, initial discussions with an architect took place in Mid-February of this year.

Both organizations have confirmed a common interest that the barn not lose it's character as a beautiful, historic structure that, for over a century, has served the local agricultural needs. One special feature we wish to utilize is the rooftop cupola.

Trust Receives Properties

Tucker Parcel

A major parcel of land located in Pomfret Landing on Cotton Road has been recently received by the Wyndham Land Trust. The approximately 93.4 acre tract, which supports an abundance of wildlife and plants and is rich in local history, was owned by Charles Tucker of Maryland, who purchased it some years ago with intentions of retiring in Pomfret.

Some 18 acres qualify as prime farm land currently under cultivation. Red oak is well established in the woodlands along with maple, hickory, ash, black birch, and a fine stand of white pine. A small stream runs through the property.

Hope K. Williams Parcel

The Trust has received a fine four acre woodlot as a gift of the Hope K. Williams Estate. It lies on the south side of New Sweden Road in Woodstock and is covered by mixed hardwoods.

Internship Program

The Trust will be sponsoring a graduate student internship this summer for purposes of doing a biological inventory on the Cedar Swamp parcel in Thompson. This project will be a joint effort with the Nature Conservancy.

The Not So "Quiet Corner" — Windham County

- 438 operating farms in 15 towns
- 35,000 acres used for farming
- Main industry is agriculture - dairy, poultry, orchards, vegetables, greenhouses, vineyards, horses, buffalos and maple syrup.
- No. 1 in Connecticut milk production within New England Marketing Area with 55 operating dairy farms.
- 200,000 + acres of county is forested out of a total of 330,240 acres

From the Steward's Bookshelf

There are two real favors which one person can do another in this world: One is to provide a job, and the other is to tell of a good book. Although there is much to be done, the Wyndham Land Trust with its limited budget, is not in a position to offer jobs. We can, and do, however, mention good books from time to time. What follows is an annotated list of recent works dealing with Connecticut wildlife. The reader may wish to call our attention to other titles.

Askins, Robert A. 1990. **Birds of the Connecticut College Arboretum: Population Changes over Forty Years.** Bulletin No. 31, Connecticut College Arboretum, New London. 43 pp.

The Connecticut College Arboretum is one of very few places where coincident changes in bird populations and vegetative cover have been studied over very long periods of time. Such changes, covering a 35 year period are described. The current status and seasonal abundance of the birds of this 435 acre protected area are also presented.

Bevier, Louis, ed. 1994. **The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Connecticut.** Bulletin No. 113, State Geological and Natural History Survey of Connecticut, Hartford. xvii, 461 pp. H/C.

The results of the 1982-1986 breeding bird survey are presented. For each species there is an illustration and a map showing breeding incidence. Brief accounts of status, habitat, and survey results are followed by a discussion.

Billings, Gene. 1990. **Birds of Prey in Connecticut.** Rainbow Press, Torrington, xvi, 461 pp.

Introductory material covers raptor biology in general and there is a short chapter on flight which describes the thermals, and the coastal and deflection updrafts so important in hawk migration. Species accounts include information on habitat, nesting and occurrence within the state. A guide to finding raptors includes vantage points from which to watch the fall hawk migration.

Devine, Arnold "Buzz", and Dwight D. Smith. 1996. **Connecticut Birding Guide.** Thompson-Shore, Inc., Dexter, Michigan. xiii, 569 pp.

A guide to 84 birding sites accessible to the public, it includes maps, directions, site descriptions and lists of birds to be expected.

Klemens, Michael W. 1993. **Amphibians and Reptiles of Connecticut.** Bulletin No. 112, State Geological and Natural History Survey of Connecticut, Hartford. xii, 318 pp. H/C.

For each species there is a paragraph on identification followed by notes on general and regional distribution, life history and ecology and conservation status, all accompanied by a map. Color plates illustrate both the animals and their habitat.

Manter, Jerauld A. 1975. **Birds of Storrs, Connecticut and Vicinity.** 2nd. ed. The Natchaug Ornithological Society, Storrs. 86 pp.

Status, dates of occurrence and breeding records of birds within about a ten mile radius of Storrs are given. There is a brief, interesting account of the development of Ornithology as an academic discipline at the University of Connecticut. A new edition is in preparation.

Petersen, Richard C. and Robert W. Fritsch II. 1986. **Connecticut's Venomous Snakes: The Timber Rattlesnake and Northern Copperhead.** Bulletin No. 111, State Geological and Natural History Survey of Connecticut, Hartford. 48 pp.

A fine account of the distribution, status, and natural history of these two animals in Connecticut, it makes a strong argument for their rational treatment and conservation. Careful study of the color photographs and drawings should ensure correct identification.

Rosgen, Dave and Gene Billings. 1996. **Finding Birds in Connecticut: A Habitat Based Guide to 450 Sites.** Rainbow Press, Torrington. vii, 640 pp.

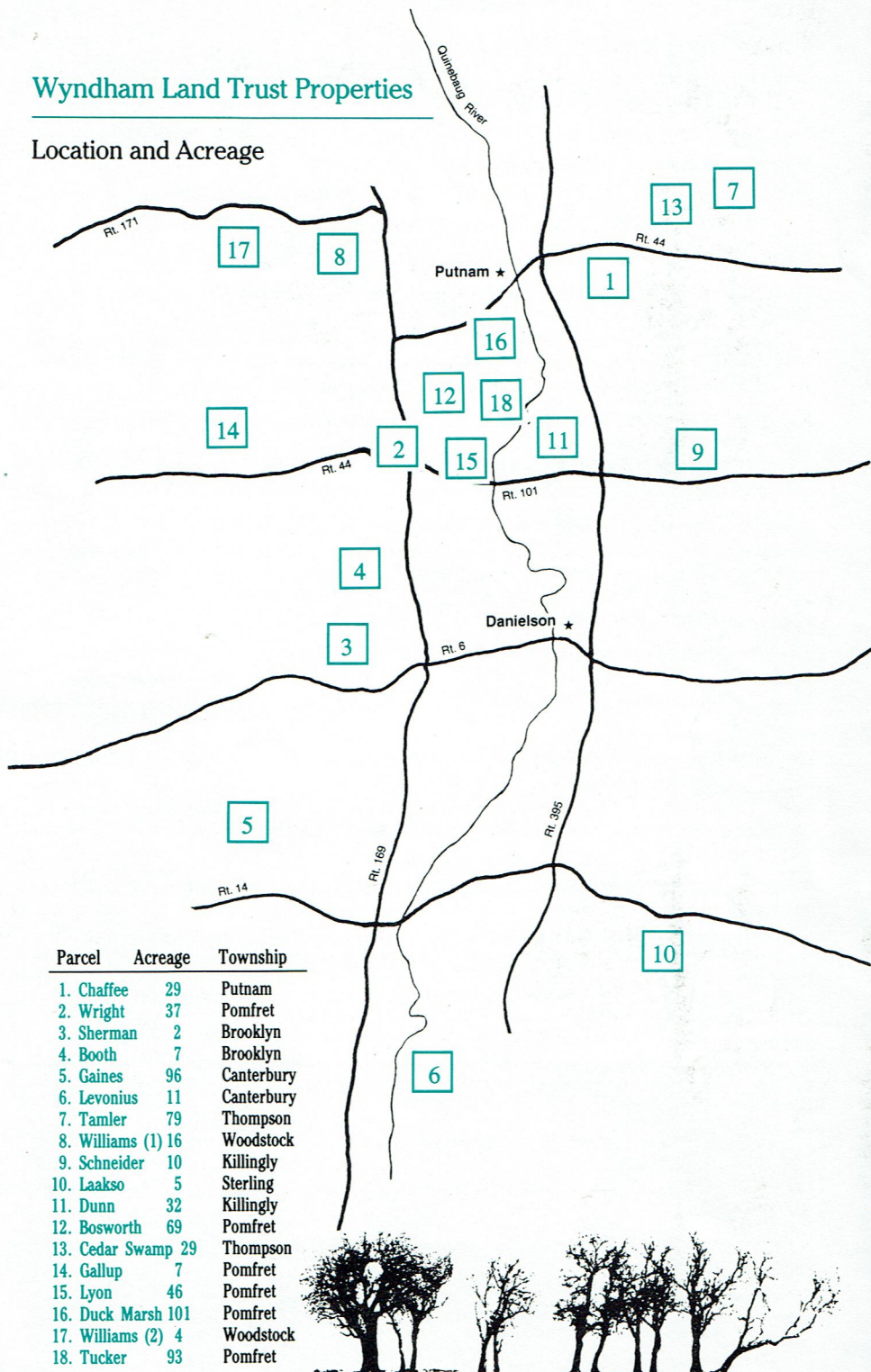
Organized by county, this habitat-based guide gives directions to, and brief descriptions of, 450 birding sites accessible to the public.

Zeranski, Joseph D. and Thomas A. Baptist. 1990. **Connecticut Birds.** University Press of New England, Hanover, New Hampshire. xxiii, 328 pp. H/C.

*Current status, seasonal occurrence and historic population shifts are given for 380 species. This is the first such compilation since the 1913 publication of **Birds of Connecticut** by Sage, Bishop, and Bliss, long out of print.*

Wyndham Land Trust Properties

Location and Acreage



Parcel	Acreage	Township
1. Chaffee	29	Putnam
2. Wright	37	Pomfret
3. Sherman	2	Brooklyn
4. Booth	7	Brooklyn
5. Gaines	96	Canterbury
6. Levonius	11	Canterbury
7. Tamler	79	Thompson
8. Williams (1)	16	Woodstock
9. Schneider	10	Killingly
10. Laakso	5	Sterling
11. Dunn	32	Killingly
12. Bosworth	69	Pomfret
13. Cedar Swamp	29	Thompson
14. Gallup	7	Pomfret
15. Lyon	46	Pomfret
16. Duck Marsh	101	Pomfret
17. Williams (2)	4	Woodstock
18. Tucker	93	Pomfret





WYNDHAM LAND TRUST

