



**PROPOSAL FOR SCENIC ROAD DESIGNATION, ROUTE 202, WASHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**  
*Prepared by the Town of Washington Conservation Commission*  
August 6, 2008

**Statement of the Highway Segments or Areas to be Included**

Scenic designation is requested for the approximately 4.9-mile segment of Route 202 between its junction with Mount Tom Pond Passway (to the east of the Washington/Litchfield town line) and the junction with the southern portion of Christian Street in New Preston center.

**Description of Natural and Cultural Resources and Features of Scenic Interest**

As detailed in "Addendum A," which includes maps from the U.S Forest Service, the Litchfield Hills Greenprint, the Town of Washington's *Natural Resource Inventory Report and Recommendations* and *Plan of Conservation and Development*, the highway segment proposed for scenic designation abuts and affords scenic views of multiple, overlapping natural and cultural scenic resources, which individually and collectively comprise a significant public viewshed of exceptional quality and regional importance.

- Mount Tom Pond, a scenic 56-acre lake that is immediately adjacent to, and entirely within view of, of Route 202.
- Mount Tom State Park, one of the oldest parks in the Connecticut public park system, which is comprised of approximately 232 acres which substantially comprise Mount Tom itself, which sits 1,350 feet above sea level and forms the visual backdrop for Mount Tom Pond, as viewed from Route 202.
- Shepaug River Valley viewshed, which extends southwest from Route 202, just west of Mount Tom, and affords long views of the river valley and distant ridgelines.
- The Macricostas Preserve and abutting preserved lands, which form a 368-acre tract of public open space, which encompasses and protects significant portions of the scenic viewshed along the northern portion of the proposed scenic road segment.
- Numerous parcels of active farmland, including extensive areas designated as prime farmland soils and soils of statewide significance, which directly abut Route 202 and provide a pastoral foreground to the scenic ridgelines located north and south of the highway.
- The Waramaug Rock ridgeline, which is substantially protected by permanent conservation easements and forms the southern boundary of the Connecticut portion of the federally-recognized Highlands Region.
- Meeker Swamp and numerous tributary watercourses
- A relatively large unnamed, road-front pond, which abuts Route 202 and serves as

scenic foreground for views of the Lake Waramaug Pinnacle to the north

- Frontage along East Aspetuck River, a Class A/B River
- Views of New Preston Falls, a scenic waterfall formed by the East Aspetuck River in New Preston center, which lies within view of Route 202 and is separated from the roadway by preserved land that is available for public recreation
- Numerous unspoiled, well-preserved examples of 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and earthy 20<sup>th</sup> century residential and agricultural vernacular architecture
- Intersections with town roads that have scenic resources that have been documented in the Washington Plan of Conservation and Development and/or protected through municipal scenic road designation, including Romford Road, Couch Road, Whittles Road, East Shore Road)
- A route that runs along a large, regionally significant stratified drift aquifer

### **Description of Existing Land-Use**

The land abutting the segment of highway proposed for scenic designation falls principally within the Town of Washington's Farming and Residential District and contains a mix of agricultural and open space uses, together with scattered low-density residential uses. A small number of parcels abutting the proposed scenic road segment are situated within the spatially compact New Preston and Woodville Business zoning districts, however all such parcels are small—typically under 2 acres in size—and are subject to strict zoning regulations, including a provision that permits a maximum of 25 percent lot coverage, which effectively prohibit the kind of suburban-style commercial development that might otherwise spoil the scenic resources along Route 202.

### **Photographs of Outstanding and Representative Scenery**

Please see "Addendum B" for a map of photo stations and the individual photographs referenced thereon.

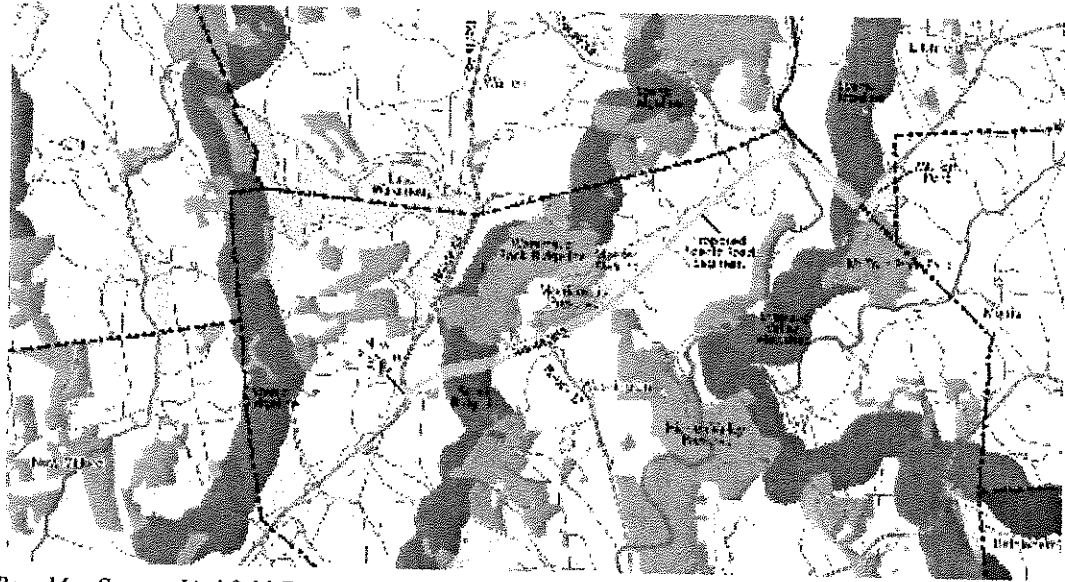
### **List of properties on the National or State Register of Historic Places**

Please see "Addendum C," which provides detailed information on historically significant architectural resources along the proposed scenic road segment noted by the Connecticut Historical Commission and presented in its publication, "Historical and Architectural Resource Survey of Washington, Connecticut." Photographs of these and other non-listed historical architectural resources are included in "Addendum B."

### **Additional Information**

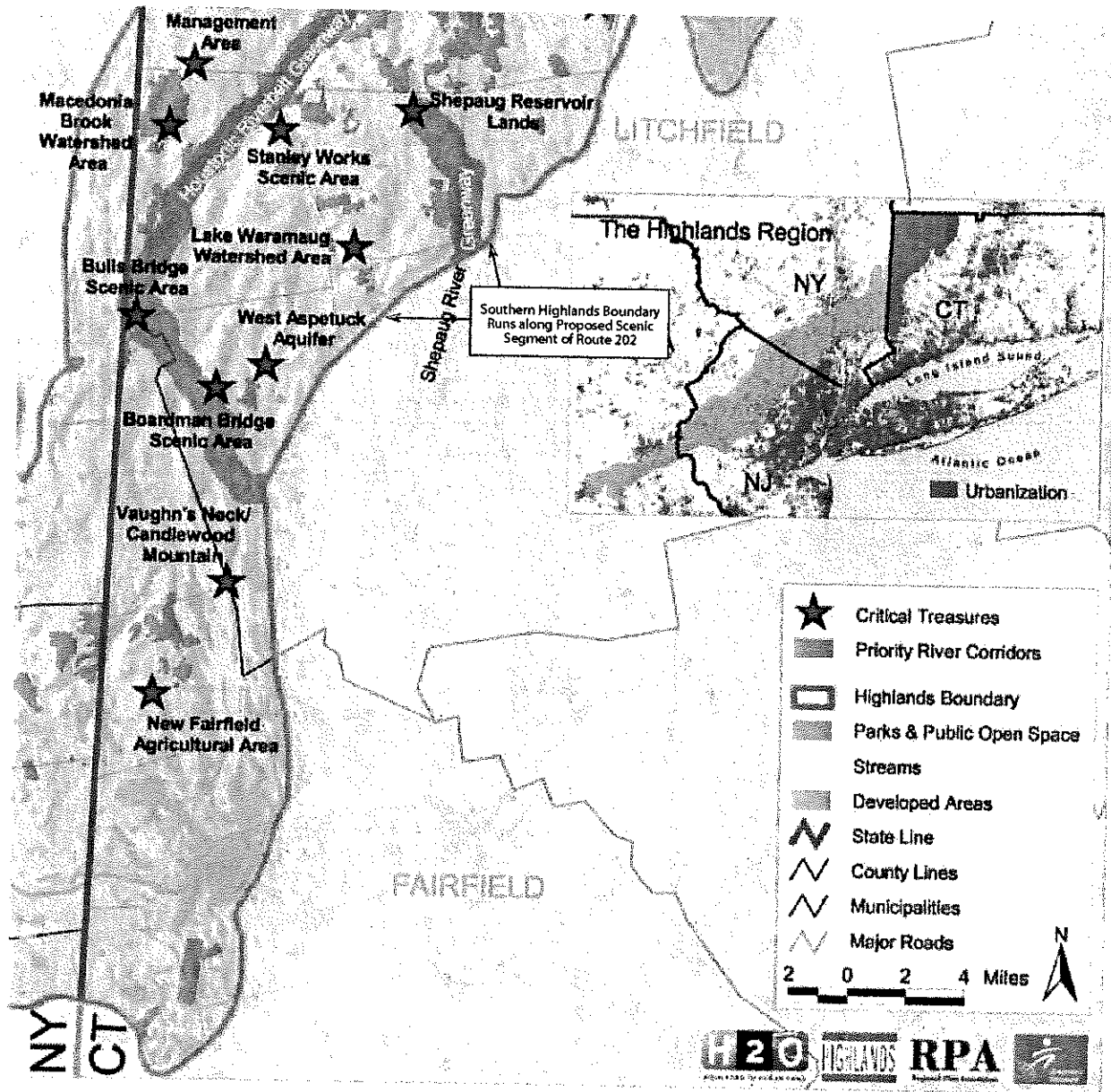
Please See Addendum D, which includes additional information about natural and scenic resources found along the proposed scenic road segment, together with Addendum E, which contains letters supporting the requested scenic designation.

## **Addendum A**



*Base Map Source: Litchfield Greenprint / Trust for Public Land, 2008*





# TOWN OF WASHINGTON

BRYAN MEMORIAL TOWN HALL  
POST OFFICE BOX 383  
WASHINGTON DEPOT, CONNECTICUT 06794



## Pre-File Testimony

Susan Payne, Chairman, Conservation Commission of Town of Washington, Party to Docket 378

### **Personal Background of Susan Payne**

1. I reside at 35 South Street, Washington, CT, where I have lived since 1966.
2. I have been active in cultural resource preservation since the early 1970s:
  - a. I was the first chairperson (1976-1981) of the Town's Historic District Commission, established in 1976.
  - b. I was employed by the Institute of American Indian Studies (formerly named the American Indian Archaeological Institute) from 1976-1991; I served as its Executive Director for a number of years.
3. I have been an active land preservationist in Washington and the region for almost twenty years:
  - a. Board member of Steep Rock Land Trust 1991-2007; chairperson of its Land Acquisition Committee until 2007 and now serving as a committee member
  - b. Co-chairman of the Ad Hoc Conservation Committee (1995-2000) who produced the Town of Washington's Natural Resource Inventory Report and Recommendations (2000) and the Town's Open Space Plan (2003)
  - c. A member of the Town of Washington's Conservation Commission since its establishment in 2000 and chairperson since 2002
  - d. Board member of Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust since 2001; currently chairperson of its Land Acquisition Committee
  - e. Active participant in the Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative, a partnership of land trusts and community leaders committed to strengthening local conservation efforts and protecting more land of regional significance across Northwest Connecticut.
  - f. Development Director of the Roxbury Land Trust since 2002 where I guided the highly successful *Save Our Farms Campaign* that purchased 3 historic farms (800 acres) with matching grants from the State's Open Space Acquisition Fund.
4. **The Conservation Commission (CC) has had a Cell Tower Committee since 2001.**
  - a. Since last fall CC has sought accurate technical information from SBA regarding the two proposed cell tower sites on the historic Tanner Farm, which is contiguous to the Washington town line on the town-designated scenic Rabbit Hill Road in a densely settled neighborhood.
  - b. At its April 1, 2009 regularly scheduled monthly meeting, the CC unanimously adopted the resolution to oppose Docket 387.
5. **Resolution of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Washington to oppose the Connecticut Siting Council application under Docket 378 on the grounds that the proposed facilities will have severe adverse environmental, agricultural and scenic impacts on an extensive natural and rural landscape of local, regional and State significance. Among the areas that will be impacted are:**
  - a. The 470-acre Meeker Swamp/Macricostas Preserve Ecosystem
  - b. Migratory paths, stopovers and habitats of state listed species
  - c. Headwaters of Bee Brook and Shepaug River located on Rabbit Hill, which flow into Meeker Swamp and the Macricostas Preserve.
  - d. The Town of Washington's largest aquifer is located below these proposed facilities

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- e. Critical habitat area as listed in the Town of Washington's Natural Resource Inventory.
- f. Site A is on 422a farmland on which the development rights have been sold and on which the construction of this type of structure and related outbuildings has been deemed to be a prohibited, commercial non-agricultural use by the Department of Agriculture.
- h. Connecticut Office of Policy and Management Preservation Area of Conservation Priority 2.
- i. Areas of Archaeological sensitivity researched by the Institute for American Indian Studies in 1986-1987.

## **6. Impact on the 370-acre Macricostas Preserve on RT 202 in Town of Washington:**

- a. In 1999 238 acres of Meeker Swamp were purchased in partnership with the Town (\$500,000/taxpayers' dollars), the State's Open Space Acquisition Fund (\$500,000 matching grant) +\$500,000 in private donations. It was determined that Steep Rock Land Trust should own the property because it had the staff and expertise to manage the property in conjunction with its contiguous permanently protected holdings.
- b. The 470-acre Macricostas Preserve that is highly visible on RT 202.
- c. The conservation values of the Macricostas Preserve include
  - o Protecting the Town's largest aquifer and wetlands which form the headwaters of Bee Brook, a tributary of the Shepaug River
  - o Protecting an extensive diversity of flora and fauna and state-listed species
  - o Protecting a sweeping natural, wild and traditional New England landscape
  - o Protecting a rural landscape with numerous historic houses and archaeological resources
  - o Protecting the rural character of the area (which is the top priority in the Town's 2003 Plan of Conservation and Development )
  - o Protecting Waramaug's Rock (elevation 1250 feet that provides 360 degree, uninterrupted, natural viewscape over Lake Waramaug, Washington, Warren, Kent and beyond)
  - o Providing some four miles of hiking trails open to the public

## **7. Summary – Request Denial of Docket 378**

Since the mandate of the Connecticut Siting Council is "balancing the need for adequate and reliable public utility services at the lowest reasonable cost to consumers with the need to protect the environment and ecology of the state and to minimize damage to scenic, historic, and recreational values" and to act in the best interests of the citizens of the State, the Conservation Commission maintains that either of the proposed sites will have a tremendous and far-reaching, negative impact on a. the environment and the rural, scenic and historic character of the area, b. the active, historic agricultural farmland, c. the grand and sweeping, scenic views from Macricostas Preserve on RT 202 (Pending application by the Conservation Commission with DOT for scenic road designation; DOT will attend the June 3 meeting of the Commission), d. from Jack's Corner and Rabbit Hill Roads in Warren, e. and from the magnificent Waramaug's Rock and the Pinnacle in Washington Depot to mention only a few, and on property values.

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Although we know that the FCC and, hence, the CSC are not concerned with adverse health impacts, there is an extensive body of scientific research that attests to the dangers of RF emissions. The proposed sites are in a densely settled neighborhood and not far from the Washington Montessori School on RT 202, to say nothing of the Tanner dairy farm. Therefore, on that basis alone, the Siting Council should deny the applications on the basis of the need for precaution.

Last but not least, we are not convinced that either of these proposed towers would improve cell tower service on RT 202 which is quite seamless at this time. In fact, the last tower site that was approved (2007) on Mountain Road in Washington seemed unnecessary at the time it was proposed because the chairman of the Siting Council was talking on his cell phone during the *site visit* of the Council. Therefore, we urge the Council to thoroughly investigate the claim that there is any gap in coverage on this application.

In conclusion, the Conservation Commission of the Town of Washington respectfully requests that the CT Siting Council deny Docket 378 and uphold its mandate *to protect the environment and ecology of the state and to minimize damage to scenic, historic, and recreational values* since the Commission believes there is adequate cell coverage along RT 202 with the existing 3 tower sites.

Signed,



Susan Payne, Chairperson  
Conservation Commission

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this day, an original and fifteen copies of the foregoing Susan Payne Pre-Filed Testimony on Docket 378 was served on the Connecticut Siting Council by first class mail, and a copy of same was sent postage prepaid to:

Carrie L. Larson, Esq., Pullman & Comley, LLC  
90 State House Square, Hartford, CT 06103-3702

Christopher B. Fisher, Esq., Cuddy & Feder LLP  
445 Hamilton Avenue, 14th Floor, White Plains, NY 10601

Kenneth Baldwin, Esq., Robinson & Cole LLP  
280 Trumbull Street, Hartford, CT 06103-3597

Hon. Mark E. Lyon, First Selectman, Bryan Memorial Town Hall  
P.O. Box 383, Washington Depot, CT 06794

Hon. Jack Travers, First Selectman  
Warren Town Hall, 7 Sackett Hill Road, Warren, CT 06754

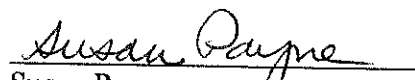
Ray and Mary Ellen Furse, 26 Jack Corner Road  
Warren, CT 06777

Gabriel North Seymour, Esq., Gabriel North Seymour P.C.  
200 Route 126, Falls Village, CT 06031

Bruce Coleman, President, CROWW  
P. O. Box 2426, New Preston, CT 06777

Hon. F. Philip Prelli, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture  
165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

Diane Dupuis, Chair, Cell Tower Committee  
Conservation Commission, Bryan Town Hall  
P. O. Box 383, Washington Depot, CT 06794-0383

  
Susan Payne

Date: May 14, 2009

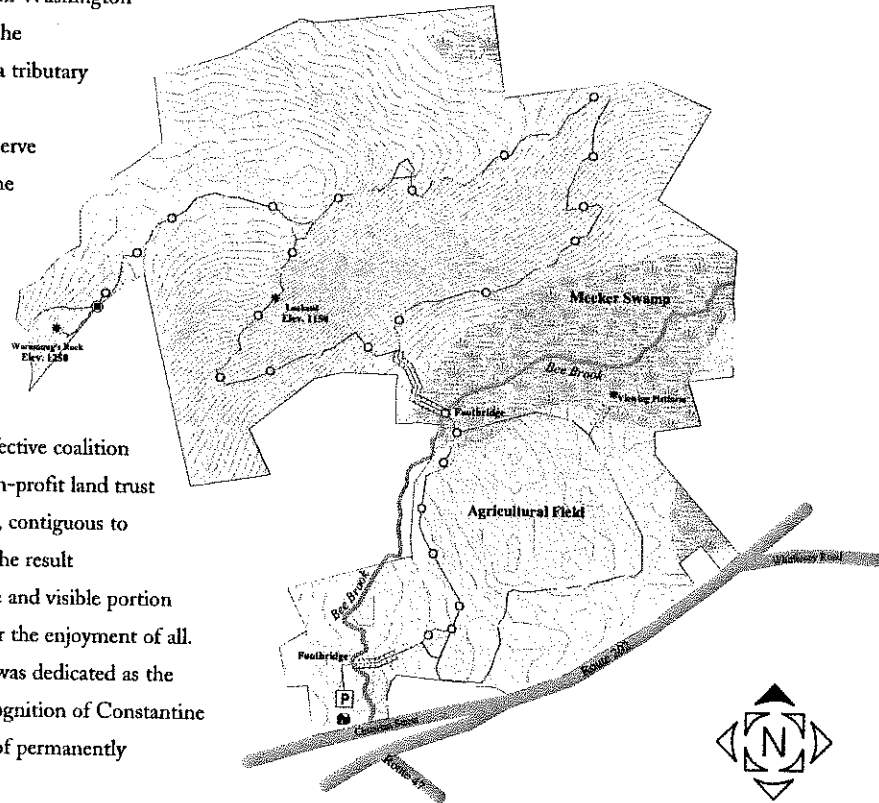
# MACRICOSTAS PRESERVE

STEEP ROCK ASSOCIATION



The 368 acre Macricostas Preserve, commonly known as "Meeker Swamp" is composed of a rocky ridgeline above farmland and precious wetlands. While it fosters an unusual diversity of flora and fauna, its natural beauty is perhaps its greatest asset to all who pass by. Just north of the junction of routes 47 and 202, this highly visible land not only helps protect our rural character, but important natural resources as well. Chief among them are prime farmland, one of the largest aquifers in Washington and wetlands which form the headwaters of Bee Brook, a tributary of the Shepaug River.

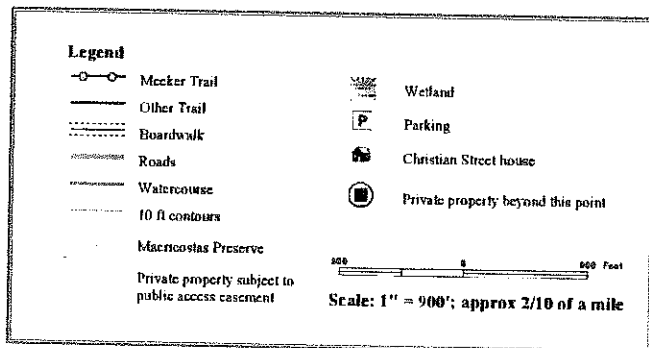
This wonderful preserve has been saved thanks to the Connecticut DEP's Open Space Grant Program, a grant from the taxpayers of the Town of Washington, and private funds raised by the Steep Rock Association. This effective coalition of the State, Town, and non-profit land trust purchased a 238 acre parcel, contiguous to other protected holdings. The result is the preservation of a large and visible portion of the Town's wilderness for the enjoyment of all. On July 14, 2001 this land was dedicated as the Macricostas Preserve in recognition of Constantine "Dino" Macricostas' vision of permanently protecting this land.



The Meeker Trail (Yellow Blazes) begins behind the red house at 124 Christian Street, crosses Bee Brook, then follows an edge of the agricultural field to a boardwalk. The boardwalk leads you through Meeker Swamp to the base of the loop trail. Both directions of the loop trail offer a moderately strenuous climb to the ridge above. A section of the Meeker Trail leads to Waramaug's Rock, the pinnacle overlooking Lake Waramaug. Steep Rock holds a Public Access Easement on this private property, which allows the public to share this magnificent view. In the fall of 2006, a viewing platform, funded by the Village Improvement Society, was built at the edge of the open water of Meeker Swamp at the north end of the agricultural field.



For safe and respectful recreation, please follow the rules printed on the other side of this map.



For more information, visit our website at [www.steeprockassoc.org](http://www.steeprockassoc.org) or call the office at 860-868-9131.

Washington Depot, CT 06794  
P. O. Box 279  
Steep Rock Association

One of the oldest land trusts in Connecticut, the Steep Rock Association is a non-profit corporation governed by a volunteer board of trustees. To maintain over 36 miles of trails, manage three large reservations and monitor dozens of conservation easements, we are entirely dependent on individual contributors and a modest endowment. If you would like to contribute and become a member, please send a check, payable to Steep Rock Association, Inc. to:

**SUPPORTING STEEP ROCK**

*View across Macricostas Preserve.*



**MACRICOSTAS PRESERVE RULES**

The Macricostas Preserve offers tranquility and beauty for people and varied habitats for wildlife. Please respect it as a setting for passive recreation, reflection, and peace. Help us protect the natural beauty and integrity of the reservation by not removing or destroying plants or wildlife.

Please note: there are no sanitary facilities or waste barrels in the reservation.

The 55 acre agricultural field is leased to a local farmer. Please stay on mowed perimeter trail.

- Motorized vehicles are prohibited.
- No hunting
- No alcoholic beverages
- No bikes
- Fires are not permitted.
- No camping
- Do not litter. Please carry out what you carry in.
- Dogs must be under owners control.

**Winter Trail Rules**

- Cross-Country Skiers: Please set tracks on one side of the trail only.
- Hikers, Snowshoers and your dogs: Please respect ski tracks by keeping to the other side of the trail.

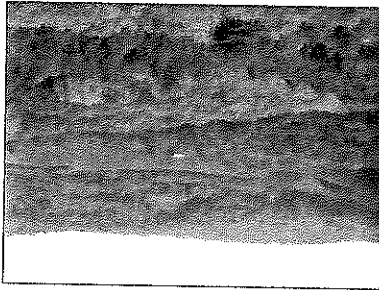


*View across Meeker Swamp*

Steep Rock Association  
P. O. Box 279  
Washington Depot, CT 06794



fanfare that sometimes surrounds such efforts today, these ten individuals quietly established a public land trust long before the idea of land protection became common. Since then, many landowners have given additional tracts to the Steep Rock Association.



*View from Hidden Valley Pinnacle.*

Today the reservations are an extraordinary natural resource valued for their wild beauty, seclusion, and recreational and educational opportunities. Steep Rock's holdings now comprise over 2,426 owned and 2,348 leased acres, most of which lie along the glacially carved, rock-strewn Shepaug River. Except for a brief interruption in Washington Depot, the reservations extend almost the full length of the township and include three main sections:

- Steep Rock, 974 acres just southwest of Washington Depot.
- Hidden Valley, 650 acres just northeast of the Depot, and the
- Macricostas Preserve (or Meeker Swamp), 370 acres north of the junction of routes 47 and 202.

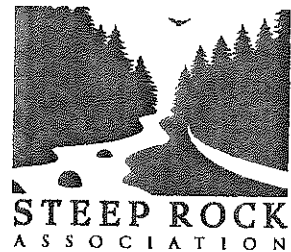
**HISTORY**

In the Spring of 1889, just as he was about to break ground on his own country house in Washington, Connecticut, the architect Ehrick Rossiter discovered that the wooded hillside in his dramatic view to the west were slated for clear cutting. For him, there was only one thing to do. Using the money intended for the house's construction, he bought the threatened land from the timber company and saved forever the hundred acres that now form the heart of the Steep Rock Reservation. During his 36 years of ownership, Rossiter built carriage roads and small river crossings, and invited his friends and fellow townspeople to enjoy the wild beauty of this section of the Shepaug River Valley.

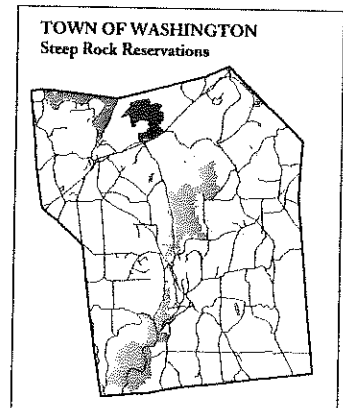
In 1925 Rossiter donated the land, which included the Steep Rock overlook, to a group of trustees, thus ensuring its preservation. Four years later the trustees purchased the area known as the Clamshell, and in doing so preserved the view from Steep Rock. With little of the

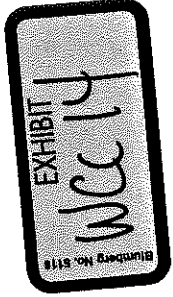


*Aerial view of Steep Rock Clamshell*



**MACRICOSTAS PRESERVE**





**19** Migratory birds flying north in the spring and south in the fall need stopover sites to rest and refuel for their long flights. Here the dense thicket, wetlands and wooded areas beyond provide shelter as well as adequate food to replenish fat reserves.

**20** Though there are many American Woodcock in the Preserve, these well-camouflaged birds are difficult to spot because their mottled coloring looks like dead leaves. They are chunky, long-billed birds with large, bulging eyes located near the top of their heads. A Native American myth says that God made the woodcock from leftover parts of other birds. Woodcock prefer this wooded, lowland habitat because



American Woodcock

they can forage for earthworms in the rich, moist soil. They nest on the forest floor using low shrubs or grasses for cover. An amazing sight in the spring at dusk is the male aerial display that takes place in small clearings and fields.

**21** If you look carefully in this area, you will see many moss-covered bricks on the ground left over from Abel Bristol's 19th-century Bricks & Drain tile yard. The clay was dug from Meeker Swamp.

**22** The viewing platform is the last stop on the interpretive part of the trail. After enjoying the view go back to the farm road and walk in either direction around the field to return to the parking area. We hope you have enjoyed your walk and will come back again. You may keep this brochure or return it to the box for others to use.

## WELCOME TO THE INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

The trail is roughly two miles round trip and there are 22 stops along the way. The numbers in the guide are keyed to numbers on the posts. Please stay on the trail. Follow the yellow blazed "Meeker Trail" to the end of the boardwalk (1-17), walk back to the farm road, turn left (north) towards the viewing platform and look for stops 18-22. You may wish to pause on one of the trailside benches to absorb the beauty of the Preserve and discover the diversity of plants and animals within these unique ecosystems.

**1** These wet and dry meadows are typical of abandoned agricultural fields in different stages of succession (the predictable changes a plant community will undergo if left undisturbed). In time, larger woody shrubs will tend to crowd out smaller plants, and eventually the cleared land will revert to forest. These changes influence food and cover, which in turn impact animal populations. The successional habitat before you is very important to a variety of animals, birds and butterflies. Some stay down in the vegetation and are difficult to see, but others, like **Northern Orioles** and **Eastern Kingbirds**, perch out in the open. Another obvious bird, the **Willow Flycatcher**, often sits on a small shrub where it announces its presence with its explosive "fizz-bew" call.



Monarch Butterfly

**2** In warmer months, butterflies like the **Pearl Crescent** can be seen taking minerals from the sandy soil at each end of the bridge. Additionally, the largest and most spectacular of the **Damselflies**, the **Ebony Jewelwing**, can often be seen perched low above the water upstream, its large black wings and iridescent green body shining in the sun. A **Monarch** butterfly mimic, the **Viceroy**, usually has a territory just at the bend. The best way to see him is to wait for another butterfly to fly by, and watch him dart out to drive off the invader.

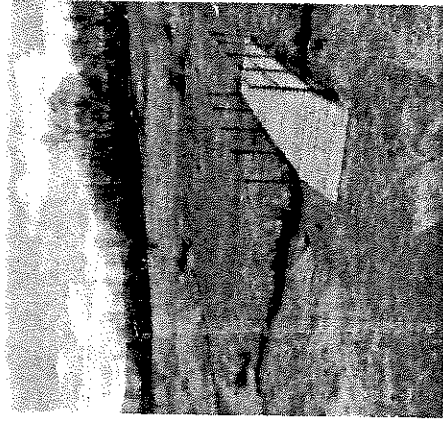
**3** Rock piles can provide sheltered entrances for burrows used by such mammals as **woodchucks** and **foxes**. Note the lichens attached to the rocks; lichens are food for various rodents, snails, slugs and other invertebrates. The meadow in front of you contains one of the most diverse plant communities in the area, but it is under serious attack from **Reed Canary Grass**, an invasive species that forms a dense mat of roots that forces out native vegetation. Steep Rock is investigating methods to manage it.

**4** The **Eastern Bluebird** suffered a serious decline in the 1950s because of habitat destruction, insecticides and competition for nesting cavities by two introduced species, the **European Starling** and the **House Sparrow**. Nest boxes placed in suitable habitats, such as the ones here and in the fields to the south, help combat decline. These boxes are checked throughout the nesting season for **Bluebirds** and for the **Tree Swallows** that keep mosquitoes under control. Data from these inspections are sent to the CT Bluebird Restoration Project. At the western edge of the meadow is a wetland dominated by cattails, a preferred nesting material for **Red-winged Blackbirds**. Muskrats are fond of cattails as a food source.



Tree Swallow

## INTERPRETIVE TRAIL



Produced by  
The Washington Garden Club  
Conservation Committee  
2008



5 The **Shagbark Hickory** on the western side produces nuts eaten by squirrels and chipmunks, and **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** often drill holes to feed on the oozing sap. Bats sometimes hide behind the wide strips of peeling bark. On the east side are **Box Elder** trees, the only maple with compound leaves. This species is restricted to limestone-rich areas such as the **Macrocostas Preserve** and is the dominant tree in the grove. **Evening Grosbeaks** and other strong-billed birds eat the winged seeds.



Milkweed

6 This stand of **Milkweed** is very important to **Monarchs** and other butterflies. While several butterfly species will take nectar from the milkweed flowers (you might see **Tiger Swallowtails**, **Black Swallowtails** or a number of smaller species called **Skippers**), milkweed leaves are the sole food source for **Monarch** caterpillars and the only place where the females will lay their eggs.

7 This shrubland habitat consists of dense, woody vegetation and provides important cover for wildlife such as **Rabbits** that forage in open fields and escape to the dense thicket for protection. **Birds** nest in the trees and shrubs and, along with other wildlife, take advantage of the buds, catkins, seeds, berries and an abundance of insects for food. Paradoxically, this cover also shields predators stalking their prey. In this area, non-native **Multiflora Rose** competes with native shrubs like **Viburnum**. The invasive rose will win the competition without some careful intervention by land managers. The visible brush piles have been left in place to offer added cover for small animals.



Chipmunk

8 A major threat to the biodiversity of this preserve is the spread of non-native invasive plants. They grow rapidly and produce large quantities of seeds that are easily dispersed. They are aggressive competitors and once established, like the ever-present **Multiflora Rose**, will dominate the vegetation. Other examples of invasive plants along this farm road include **Oriental Bittersweet** vines, **Winged Euonymus** (**Burning Bush**) and **Garlic Mustard**. Farther on, **Purple Loosestrife** is gaining a foothold in the wetlands.

9 Stone walls such as these replaced earlier split-rail, zigzag fences and fencing made from stumps, and were used until barbed wire became prevalent in the 20th century. **Garter Snakes**, **Weasels**, **Eastern Chipmunks**, **House Wrens** and others find shelter in these walls.

10 The dead trees, snags and stumps along the trail's edge provide food, nest sites and shelter for many species of birds, mammals, insects, reptiles and amphibians. The higher tree branches offer **hawks** and **owls** perches from which they search for rodents. Fallen branches and woody debris provide wildlife with lower perches and escape routes. As wood rots, mosses, lichens and fungi find nutrients and a hospitable surface for growth and are themselves a food source.

11 Fieldwork conducted in 1987 by the Institute for American Indian Studies indicates that this area was used by different groups of **Native American hunter-gatherers** for thousands of years. It is quite possible that the well-known sachem of the area, **Chief Waramaug**, and his followers used this rich wetland.



Cooper's Hawk

12 The plants, shrubs and trees found in this forest habitat form a riparian (riverside) buffer, filtering excessive nutrients and sediments before they reach **Bee Brook** below. The brook is an important corridor for wildlife; raccoons, although mostly nocturnal, are sometimes seen along its edges searching for frogs, crayfish and salamanders.

13 An area where two habitat types meet, such as forest and field, is known as an ecotone. Here, species that are distributed through each habitat can coexist. As a result, ecotones are good places to observe wildlife, especially birds.



Joe-Pye Weed

14 **Meeker Swamp**, located over Washington's largest aquifer, is home to a diverse number of birds, mammals and insects. Additionally, it constitutes an important stopover for such migratory waterfowl as **Hooded Mergansers** and **American Black Ducks**. Here, **Beavers** have created pond areas for food supplies and protection from predators. The dominant grass is the invasive **Reed Canary Grass**, and the shrubs include **Red Osier Dogwood** and various species of willows. Some of the wetland flowers are **Joe-Pye Weed** and **Cardinal Flower**, the latter a preferred nectar source of the **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**.

15 Watercourses such as this part of **Bee Brook** provide habitat for a wide range of insects, reptiles and amphibians. During the spring and summer months, small blue damselflies called **Bluetts** can be seen on and around the bridge, and huge dragonflies called **Darner**s patrol the stream. At various times of the year, one may encounter **Green Frogs**, **Bullfrogs** or **Pickered Frogs**. With luck, one may catch sight of a **Red-spotted Newt** hunting in the watery shadows beneath the bridge.

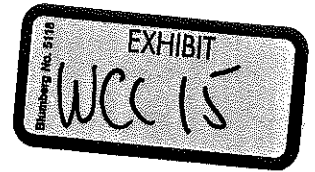


Red-spotted Newt

16 This drier portion of the shrub swamp is a transitional zone between the upland area and the more open waters of **Meeker Swamp**. The water-tolerant flora include **Red Maples**, **Tussock Sedge**, **Sphagnum Moss**, **Skunk Cabbage**, **Jack-in-the-Pulpit**, **willows** and **Spicebush**. Several species of ferns thrive in the cool, wet soil and provide cover for **frogs** and **salamanders**. It is an important habitat for turtles and attracts many species of birds because of the abundance of food like berries, insects and mice.

17 The dominant tree at the edges of **Meeker Swamp** is the **Red Maple**, which often grows on sedge-formed hummocks. It is able to tolerate fluctuating water levels and a range of soil types. Swamps provide many ecosystem services: they filter and purify water, reduce flooding by slowly releasing water accumulated quickly during rainstorms, and provide critical habitat to wetland flora and fauna. This is the end of the boardwalk section of the Interpretive Trail. Retrace your steps to the farm road, turn left and find stops 18-22 on the way to viewing platform.

18 It is easy to spot deer trails and deer browse throughout this thicket. The overpopulation of **White-tail Deer** has changed the ecology of the northeast in the last few years. Deer eat over six pounds of bark, twigs and buds daily, which has a negative affect on the understory. Overbrowsing destroys native wildflowers, shrubs and saplings, and non-native invasive plants (that deer don't eat) take their place. Insects that depend on native plants are on the decline as are the songbirds that feed on the insects.



# The Steep Rock VISTA Spring 2009

## How Do We Use Your 36er Dollars?

*by Natalie Dyer*

The \$36 you contribute to us to take the 36er Challenge benefits you and Steep Rock. Hiking the trails offers great exercise in a spectacular setting and it gives us funds to use for trail maintenance.

Keeping more than 36 miles of trails in the three preserves in good condition is a challenge in itself. Steep Rock's trail system consists of old town roads, the railroad bed, logging roads and carriage paths. There are old hiking, horseback riding and bicycle trails built before Steep Rock was begun in 1925. Most of the trails are on steep slopes and are very susceptible to erosion. The trails committee oversees 25 trail monitors who keep us informed of problems on their assigned trails. We keep a list of the trails that need attention and decide which ones are suitable volunteer projects and which ones Clark Gifford our Land Manager should tackle. A few years ago Steep Rock bought a tractor a backhoe and other tools. Now we can accomplish most of our trail maintenance with our own staff and equipment.

In 2008 we used the 36er funds in several areas in Hidden Valley and Steep Rock. In Hidden Valley we installed culverts to redirect water, placed gravel in washed out areas and repaired the canoe launch in the main parking area just south of the Shepaug. This short section of the trail is heavily used, not just as a launch for canoeists but also by other visitors to Hidden Valley. It's a lovely spot to get close to (sometimes in!) the river before or after a hike. Log steps were installed in the eroded trail, then filled with gravel. There's no longer any danger of tripping over or damaging exposed roots when walking down to the river. See the photo on page 2.

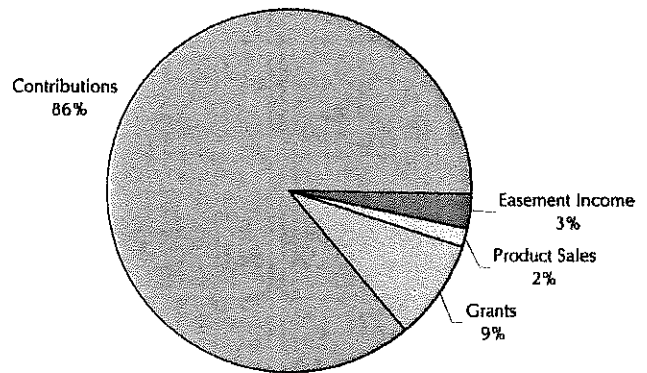
In Steep Rock we repaired trails near the Holiday House by filling in ruts and washouts.

We're delighted to see so many people using the trails in the preserves. Let's hope they sign up for the Steep Rock challenge to keep themselves and the trails in good condition.

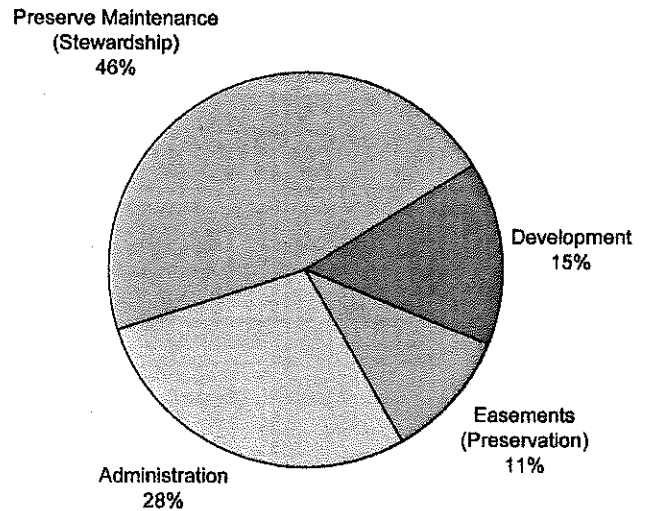
## Please Become a Member of Steep Rock!

We're halfway through our Annual Membership Drive and we need your support! Did you know that we receive no funding from the town or the state? 86% of our operating budget depends on your financial support. We need your help now. Mail your contribution to Steep Rock Association, PO Box 279, Washington Depot, CT 06794.

### Source of Funds

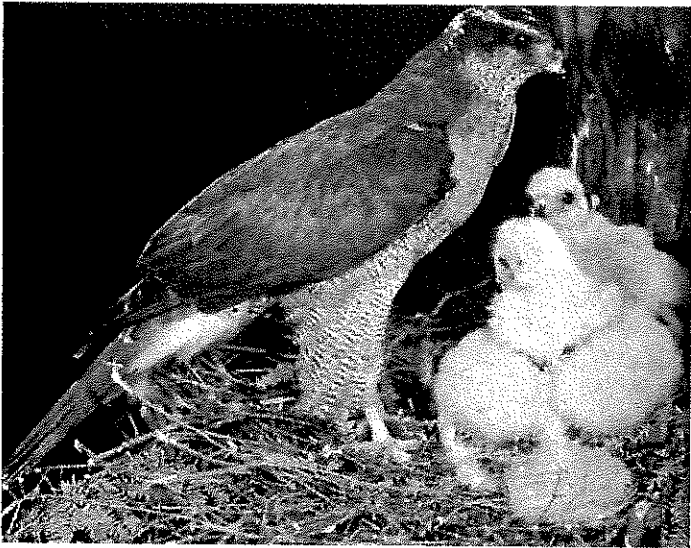


### Use of Funds



## Spring Equals Goshawks Here We Go Again!

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The Goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*) that live in Hidden Valley and Steep Rock are year round residents, but don't become aggressive until spring.

These extraordinary birds deserve protection and our respect. We're fortunate that our preserves provide the habitat that is suited to their needs.

The birds begin their courtship and nestbuilding in early April, earlier if the winter has been mild. The Hidden Valley Goshawks have nested in the same general area, on the top of the ridgeline along the west side of the river, often called the Bee Brook area, for many years.

For the last two years another pair has been nesting in Steep Rock, along the upper portion of the yellow trail.

During their mating and subsequent nestbuilding, the hawks may only circle high above your head. When there are eggs in the nest they not only circle but call out warnings. When the eggs have hatched and there are fledglings in the nest, the birds, usually the female, will swoop down on unsuspecting intruders (hikers!) with every intention of attack, emitting a piercing call the whole time. The birds will swoop repeatedly, back and forth along the trail, until the intruder is driven away from the area. We've dubbed this activity "dive bombing", and it's a frightening experience.

Some say the birds will attack the highest part of the intruder. i.e. your head. If you carry a stick raised above your head, perhaps even put your hat on the stick, you may have some added protection. Your best protection from attack is to stay away from the posted area once you see we've posted the entries.

## Shepaug River Update Project on Schedule

---

*by Randy Bernard*

Don Carver of the Waterbury Bureau of Water has kindly provided the following update.

**Shepaug Reservoir:** The new gate valves have been installed in the gate chamber and the programming for them is under way. The stainless steel weir has been installed at "Peter's Dam". Final grouting of Peter's Dam will take place this spring and USGS will be calibrating the gauging station soon. The SCADA system screens have been installed in the Water Treatment Plant.

**Wigwam Reservoir:** The new pipeline has been completely installed from the new pump station to the Treatment Plant. All of the taps at the Treatment Plant have been completed. Work on the new pump station has continued throughout the winter with the large diameter piping located inside the station completed. Work on the concrete structure is currently under way.

The project is on schedule and hopefully the weather will cooperate and it will be finished ahead of schedule.

We'll be celebrating the completion of the work and water releases at this year's Steep Rock Picnic. The date is September 12, noon until 2 pm. Mark your calendars and join us that day for good food and good fun.



*36er Dollars at work. Canoe launch trail restoration. Land Manager Clark Gifford and Waddy Davidson prepare the ground before placing logs in position.*

## Announcing Member Hikes Starting May 2

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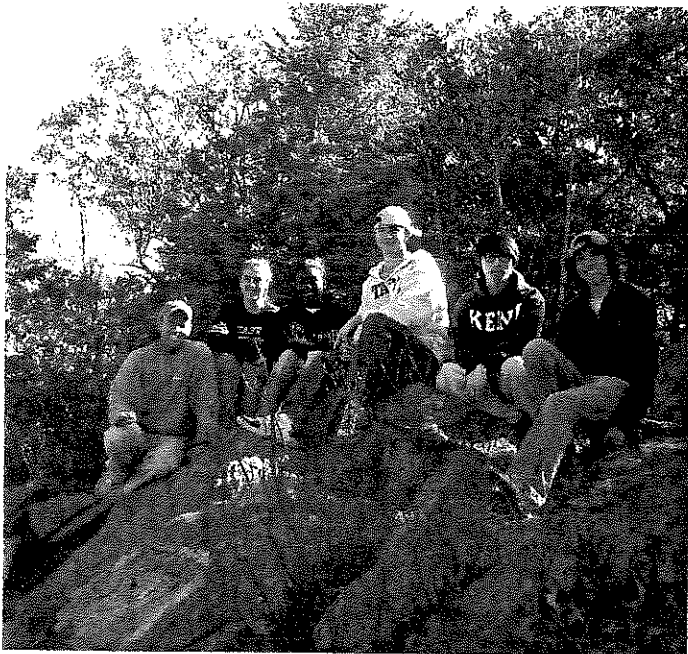
We are pleased to announce the start of Member Hikes. On the first Saturday of each month, beginning Saturday, May 2, join Steep Rock's Land Manager Clark Gifford for a hike in one of the three preserves. It is a good chance to get outdoors and hike trails you may not have been on before. If you are a member of Steep Rock and are interested in taking part, send an email to Clark at [srlandmanager@gmail.com](mailto:srlandmanager@gmail.com) with "Member Hikes" in the subject line and your name in the body of the email. In the week prior to the hikes, Clark will contact you with the meeting location and a description of the hike.

## Taft Community Service Day

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Last fall, on October 20, five students and their instructor helped us cut back the growth at the top of the pinnacle in Hidden Valley. The students' work was a continuance of the project we began in 2004 when we opened up the view to the south.

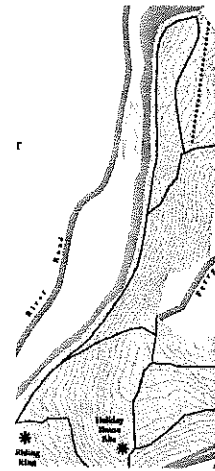
At that time we removed many small scrub oaks that had grown up over the years. We also cut back some invasive plants, mostly barberry, that were beginning to take hold. Our objective is to create a more permanent opening and to encourage expansion of the existing patches of mountain laurel.



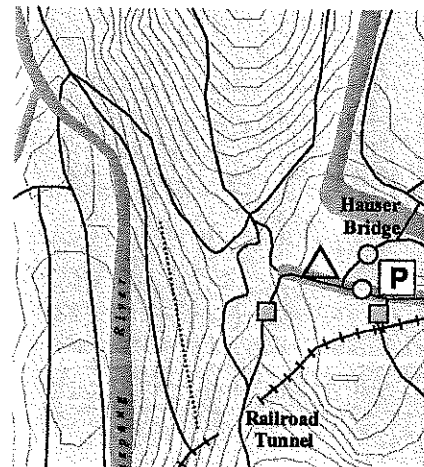
*Steve Palmer, instructor, Sarah Perda, Ebony Easley, Jack Dowling, Hi Joe Kim and Max Kachur rest on the highest point of the Hidden Valley Pinnacle after 5 long hours of work.*

## Two New Connector Trails in Steep Rock

---



Take the trail that heads north from the main Steep Rock parking lot at the riding ring. It follows the river upstream and it used to dead end at its northern most point. The new section loops back higher on the ridge, heading south, and joins the trail that leads back to the parking area. It is shown here next to the dashed line.



The new trail goes from the railroad bed, south of the tunnel, downhill to the river. It connects to the trail along the river in the Clam Shell area. The trail is shown on the Steep Rock map and is flagged on the ground. Construction is underway and we hope to complete the work by the time warm weather is here for good. It is shown here next to the dashed line.

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**Picnic Saturday, September 12**

We're having our picnic and  
celebrating our river!  
Look for your invitation in August.

**Washington Horse Show  
September 19 and 20**

Two days this year.



*Hooded Merganser at Macricostas Preserve.  
Photograph by Peary Stafford n March.  
He saw four pair that day.*

**Steep Rock Association**

Telephone 860-868-9131 FAX 860-868-5034

[www.steeprockassoc.org](http://www.steeprockassoc.org)

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Mary Hawvermale, Administrative Assistant

**[www.steeprockassoc.org](http://www.steeprockassoc.org)**

Our website has been updated with many more  
photographs, articles, links to other environmental  
organizations and much more. You can find the trail  
maps there, too and past editions of newsletters.



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# The Steep Rock *VISTA* Spring 2007

## **Stephen C. Reich Bridge Dedication**

On what began as a rainy foggy New Years Day, more than 100 people came to the dedication of the Stephen C. Reich memorial bridge in Steep Rock's Hidden Valley Reservation. The rain stopped just before the ceremony began. In what proved to be a moving and bittersweet ceremony, Sheila Anson, Trustee and Secretary of the Steep Rock Association, was the master of ceremonies. Ray Reich spoke on behalf of the entire Reich family.

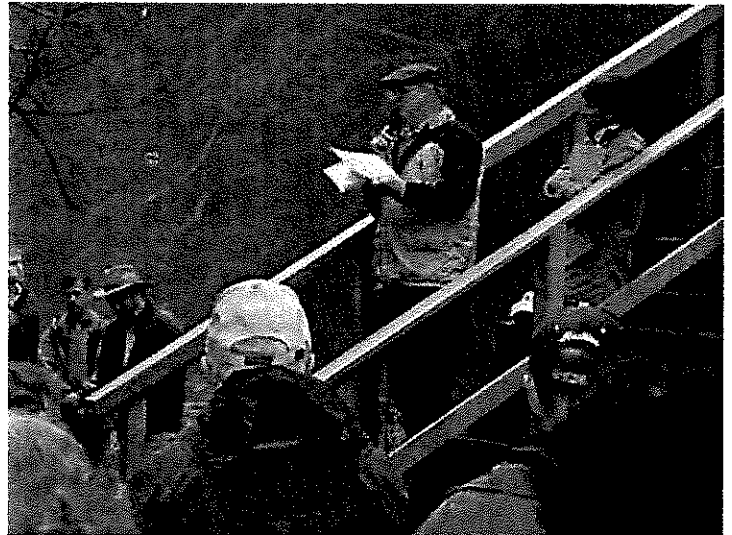
The first bridge built on this spot was built with timbers felled in the reservation by John Marsh and Mike Alex and was replaced in 1985 by a wooden truss bridge. In October 2005, that bridge was completely washed away by heavy rains. Record rainfall amounts fell, over two days, close to the levels recorded in the 1955 flood. The bridge was critical to the trail system in Hidden Valley, linking the two major areas of the Reservation.

When the Reich family learned the bridge was lost and Steep Rock would undertake a fund raising effort to replace it, they generously offered some of the funds were contributed to the family in Stephen's name.

The fiberglass bridge, more than 100 feet long was built by O&G Industries and completed in late 2006.

## **Bridge Paid For! Fund Raising Successful**

We are enormously thankful to the Reich family and all the individuals who contributed so generously to this worthy cause.



*Ray Reich, speaking at the Stephen C. Reich Memorial Bridge dedication on New Year's Day 2007. Steep Rock Trustee Sheila Anson, on the right, was master of ceremonies.*



*Steep Rock President Mike Jackson, Chairman of the Board and past president John Millington, and Honorary Trustee and past president Bob deCourcy get a lift from Trustee Jim Brinton. The fire department provided the ATV to transport folks to the dedication of the bridge.*



*Guests at the dedication of the Stephen C. Reich Memorial Bridge, New Years Day, 2007.*



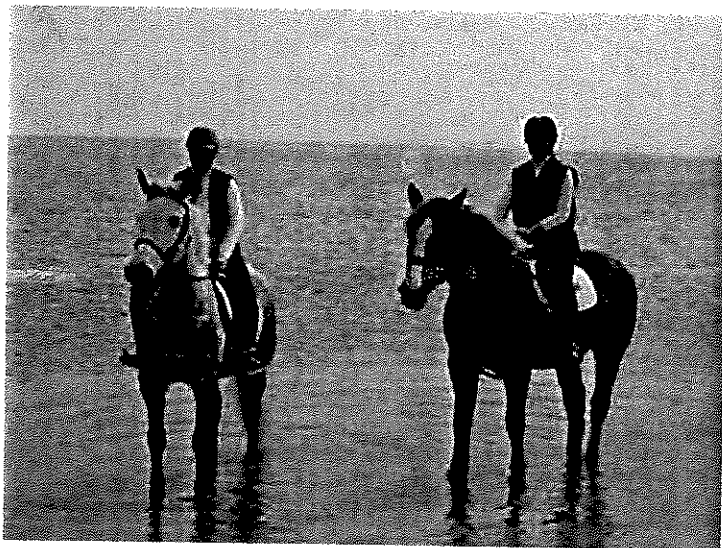
## Riders Revive Washington Horse Show

A group of enthusiastic women who regularly ride their horses in Steep Rock and Hidden Valley are planning to hold a Washington Horse Show on September 23, 2007. As in the past, the show will donate its profits over and above the costs of running the show to Steep Rock. The women, led by Margie Starr and Sue Judge, both of Woodbury, see this as an opportunity to thank Steep Rock for the pleasure it brings them.

The last Washington Horse Show was held in 2003, and many people have asked if and when it could be reestablished. The basic format of the show will remain the same, namely to provide area riders, children and adults, the opportunity to compete in a beautiful setting.

There will be a few additions to the show. A program will be available with photographs and articles from past horse shows. Businesses will have an opportunity to purchase advertising space in the program, and individuals may contribute by sponsoring classes in the show. Lunch will be offered for a modest price and served under a tent and there will be a raffle of items donated by area merchants. Steep Rock will have a display on the grounds, with maps and hats for sale.

For more information or to volunteer to help with the show call Susan at 203-266-0266, or Marguerite at 203-263-4714.



Washington Horse Show Co-Chairs Susan Judge, left, on her horse Bella and Marguerite Starr, right, on her horse Angus. They both ride often in Steep Rock and occasionally, as in this photograph, ride along the CT shoreline.

## Macricostas Bird Walk

Steep Rock Trustee Peary Stafford will lead a bird walk at the Macricostas Preserve on Sunday April 29, beginning at 9 a.m. Meet at the parking lot behind the house at 124 Christian Street. Space is limited to twelve participants and registration is required. Please call the Steep Rock office to reserve a spot. 860-868-9131



Red Bellied Woodpecker

### Steep Rock Association

Telephone 860-868-9131 FAX 860-868-5034  
www.steepprockassoc.org

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## Staff Changes at Steep Rock

### Amanda Branson Accepts Position at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

Administrative Assistant Amanda Branson left Steep Rock recently to begin a new job as Museum Events Coordinator at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Ridgefield.

Amanda first worked for Steep Rock as a summer intern in 1997.

When she finished college in 2002 and returned to the area to pursue her career as an artist, she came back to work at Steep Rock part time, becoming our Administrative Assistant. Amanda handled the Annual Appeal, created our archive, organized the office and the files, and was our staff photographer. She will be greatly missed, but we wish her well in her new job.

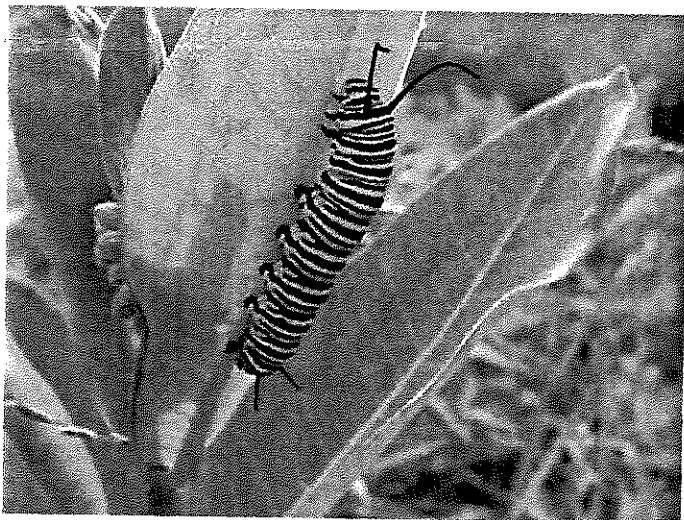
### Mary Hawvermale Assumes Administrative Assistant Job

In mid February, Mary Hawvermale began as Steep Rock's new Administrative Assistant.

Mary has lived in Bethlehem since 1981, on the farm her Grandparents bought in 1929. She has a Masters Degree in Biology. Her thesis topic was identification of Finback Whales in the Gulf of Maine.

Mary has had a varied career, working for a local Veterinarian, as a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, running her own businesses, and teaching and working at the Washington Montessori School.

Mary is Vice President of the Bethlehem Land Trust. She is a strong believer in protecting the rural character of our area. Mary writes, "I have spent many hours hiking and horse back riding through the Steep Rock Reservations and I'm very happy to be working for such a great organization."



Monarch butterfly larva at the Macricostas Preserve.

## Butterfly Garden

By Peary Stafford, Steep Rock Trustee

It's not very well known that the wet meadows and fields at the Macricostas Preserve are prime habitat for a wonderfully diverse group of butterflies. Not just the familiar Monarchs that dote on the milkweed and depend on it for their livelihood; there are also Swallow-tails, Tortoiseshells, Ladies, Hairstreaks, Checkerspots, Anglewings and Skippers, to name just a few. But getting a look at some of these beautiful insects is quite another story, and it can take a lot of patience walking the paths before you come across them. When you do, it can be pretty darn frustrating when they take off just as you get your eyes on them.

So don't be surprised this spring when you see a new blast of color as you drive into the parking lot. We're building a butterfly garden just to the right of the driveway where by June there should be Butterfly Bush, Butterfly Weed, Spirea, Pepperbush, Verbena and lots of other flowers, all designed to pull different species into a more concentrated area that is accessible for all to see. With any luck, butterflies nectaring at these plants will be sufficiently diverted by the available food that they'll stick around for a while.

Eventually, we hope to have a sign with photos of some of the more common species to help in identification. But that's down the road a bit. We have to take the pictures first!



Peary Stafford, Natalie Dyer, Clark Gifford, and of course, Natalie's dog Buffum, take a rest from tilling the soil at the new butterfly garden at the Macricostas Preserve.



## Steep Rock Wins Award at CLCC Conference

Steep Rock won the award for Land Acquisitions of Substantial Size at Connecticut Land Conservation Council's 24th Annual Conference, held this year on March 31.

In the last two years, we have protected more than 761 acres of land by means of gifts in fee and conservation easements. In 2005, 444 acres were protected, including an easement of 150 acres adjacent to our 368 acre Macricostas Preserve. In 2006, 317 acres were protected, including easements on 24 acres bordering Mt. Tom State Park, and 165 acres adjacent to the Steep Reservation.

Land now protected by Steep Rock totals 2426 acres owned in fee and 2129 acres preserved with conservation easements for a total of 4555 acres.

**Please Become a Member of Steep  
Rock.  
We're Halfway Through our Annual  
Membership Appeal and We Need Your  
Support!**

Send Your Contribution To:

Steep Rock Association  
PO Box 279  
Washington Depot, CT 06794

## Conservation Tax Incentives End in 2007

Legislation, passed in 2006 as part of the Pension Bill, included enhanced tax incentives to protect land.

The incentives:

- increased the charitable deduction limit from 30% to 50% of adjusted gross income (AGI) for donations or bargain sales of qualified conservation contributions;
- increased the charitable deduction limit to 100% of AGI for eligible farmers and ranchers (i.e., those who receive more than 50% of their income from farming or ranching), so long as the contribution does not prevent future agricultural use; and
- allows the taxpayer to carry forward the deduction for 15 years (rather than five years).

As always, every conservation easement must clearly identify the purposes of the easement and the resources to be protected. Any reserved rights must be consistent with the protection of the conservation values of the property. The land trust accepting the easement, the Steep Rock Association for example, must have the

commitment and the resources to enforce the terms of the restriction.

Landowners interested in preserving their land are reminded that these provisions expire at the end of

[www.steeprocksassoc.org](http://www.steeprocksassoc.org)

*Visit us there. There are photos, information about Steep Rock, and links to other environmental organizations.*



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# The Steep Rock *VISTA* Fall 2006

## President Signs Bill Expanding Conservation Tax Incentives

On August 17, 2006, President Bush signed the 2006 Pension Reform Bill, legislation that included a provision that provides wonderful new incentives to protect land.

The provision, which expires at the end of 2007, will:

- increase the charitable deduction limit from 30% to 50% of adjusted gross income (AGI) for donations or bargain sales of qualified conservation contributions;
- increase the charitable deduction limit to 100% of AGI for eligible farmers and ranchers (i.e., those who receive more than 50% of their income from farming or ranching), so long as the contribution does not prevent future agricultural use; and
- allow the taxpayer to carry forward the deduction for 15 years (rather than five years).

These new rules apply to gifts of real property interests (typically, a conservation easement) to public agencies or nonprofit conservation organizations exclusively for conservation purposes. As before, conservation purposes include the conservation of land areas for outdoor recreation and education, scenic protection, habitat and ecosystem protection, preservation of historically important lands and/or certified historic structures, and other public benefits.

The new provisions will apply to donations made during calendar years 2006 and 2007. These changes provide added incentive for landowners to donate or make bargain sales of conservation easements to land trusts and conservation organizations.

As always, every conservation easement must clearly identify the purposes of the easement and the resources to be protected. Any reserved rights must be consistent with the protection of the conservation values of the property. The donee land trust, the Steep Rock

Association for example, must have the commitment and the resources to enforce the terms of the restriction.

## Trustees Elected

Mark Averill, Natalie Dyer, John Potter and Steve Solley were reelected to the Board after one year off. Steep Rock's by-laws state that Trustees may serve two consecutive three year terms but then must go off the Board for one year. During their year off the Board, they were all active volunteers: John and Steve were members of the Preservation and Forestry Committees; Mark helped on the Stewardship Committee and he's invaluable at the Picnic; and Natalie stayed on the Trails Committee, overseeing all the volunteer trail monitors and organizing volunteer workdays.

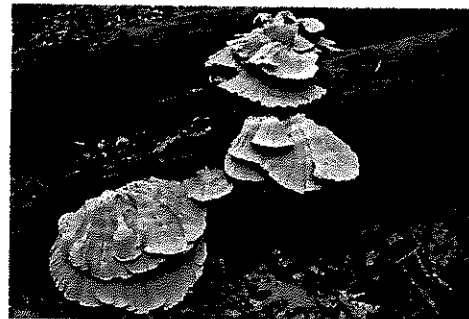
Lars Andersson, Bill Coleman and Peary Stafford are the new Trustees elected to the Board.

Lars Andersson, an investment banker at JP Morgan, lives at Gunn Hill Farm, New Preston and New York City with his wife and three children. Lars is a strong believer in protecting open space, agricultural lands, forests and the rural character of our area.

Bill Coleman writes: "We have been in town since March 1988 and have enjoyed it ever since. When my kids were younger they hiked all through Steep Rock, when they were not swimming on the Shepaug summer swim team. I am a retired attorney in Brooklyn New York and Steep Rock has been one of my refuges from the hectic professional life".

Since arriving in the area 20 years ago, Peary Stafford has particularly enjoyed the natural elements of the Steep Rock reservations, especially its birds and insects. Peary says he looks forward to actively participating in protecting its beauty and wildlife. He can be found most any day walking the trails with his binoculars and camera in hand. Peary is the author of the charming and informative "Salamanders In Love" article on

page 2 .



*Laetiporus sulphureus* in Steep Rock

# Salamanders in Love

or

## Salamandr'Amour

By Peary Stafford, Steep Rock Trustee

Try this the next time you're enjoying your dinner or a glass of wine on a rainy April night: put on a pair of boots, grab your rain gear and a strong flashlight, and head off for the hemlock forests of Steep Rock. Once there, get out in the rain and stare into a pond for an hour or so. If the time is right and you're discreet with the light, you might just get a glimpse into the intimate world of salamanders in love.



The smell of homemade Chicken Cacciatore was wafting through the house and I was considering the Heineken chilling in refrigerator when the phone rang. I knew it would be Betsy Corrigan (a fellow Steep Rock Trustee) and almost dreaded the call. "You wanna go?" came the question across the line, and I knew I had to say yes. She and I had been exploring the vernal pools of Steep Rock over the past few weeks and that afternoon we'd talked about hoping the rain would continue into the night. As it had done just that I knew I had no excuse for copping out so I said "Sure!" with an enthusiasm not entirely heart-felt. My wife, BK, shrugged acquiescence and turned off the stove; we pulled on our rain jackets and stepped out into the rainy night. The aroma of that chicken dogged me all the way to Steep Rock.

As I dodged various migrating amphibians on our way into the preserve any patrolling policeman would surely have thought me more than one sheet to the wind. Fortunately, no police lights appeared; rather it was the lights of John & Betsy's car that rose in the mirror as they came down the dirt road behind us. When Betsy and I had inspected the pool near the railroad bed the day before, we found Wood Frog eggs and what looked like Jefferson Salamander eggs, but

none of the eggs of the far more common Spotted Salamander and we were trying to figure out why. Maybe the conditions hadn't been just right and the Spotted had not yet bred? Was the dry weather of this spring deferring the normal timetable? We weren't sure but perhaps this evening's rain would bring all the right elements together and tonight would be the night.

Spotted Salamanders (*Ambystoma maculatum*) are one of the species in a group of amphibians called Mole Salamanders; so named because they spend the vast majority of their adult lives underground, eating worms, larva, centipedes, arthropods and other delicacies. About the only time they emerge from the burrows that they borrow from small rodents or from under the fallen logs that they favor in the upland woods is when the first warm rains of March or April arrive and soak through the earth. It's then that they bestir themselves and move back to the vernal pool they were born in; sometimes forming mass migrations of hundreds of animals. They've only one thing on their mind at this point – the reproduction of their species – and that's what we were hoping we'd be privy to tonight.

I know it all seems a bit voyeuristic but Betsy has been studying vernal pools for a long time without seeing this ritual and I, a recent arrival to the vernal pool set, had certainly never seen it. Hell, I'd never even seen a Spotted Salamander! Besides, it's not as if the salamanders would care!

There was no give in the rain during the short walk from the cars to the pool, and my mind drifted back to the goodies waiting for me back home. When we got to the pool it looked like I might be back there enjoying them sooner than I had thought. The strong beams of our lamps revealed a few caddisfly larvae and diving beetles but nary a salamander. Even with the rain plinking the surface of the water, it was remarkably clear, allowing us to see every detail of the leaf litter bottom.

But we hadn't come out into this unpleasant night to see leaf litter and I was seriously considering decamping when quietly, John said, "There's one" and we followed the beam of his light to the bottom of the pool. There in all his glory, lying on the masses of leaves, was a male Spotted Salamander. Almost eight inches long, he was a slender black beast made up of a stack of segments like tiny doughnuts; almost like a stretched-out amphibian Michelin man. Shiny brilliant yellow spots adorned each segment the entire length of his body as well as his legs, head and tail. The contrast of the yellow spots with

# Members of the Steep Rock Association

## Fiscal Year October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006.

The Steep Rock Association is a land trust founded in 1925 by Ehrick Rossiter when he purchased the 100 acres of land that included Steep Rock itself. Steep Rock has always relied on contributions from friends to help defray the costs of managing the land we own. This financial support is crucial to our operating budget. We are most grateful to the following members for their support during our last fiscal year .

Joe & Ruth Abdella	Joe & Ruth Bilotta	Joel Confino & Lisa Alter	W. Russ Elgin
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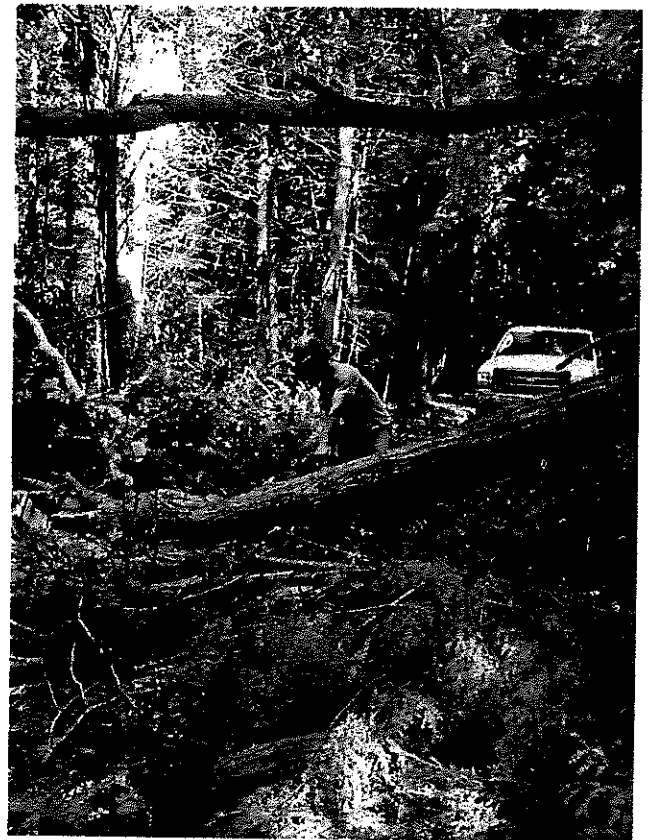
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*Clark Gifford, Steep Rock's Land Manager, removing a downed tree from the railroad bed in Hidden Valley.*

## Stephen Reich Memorial Bridge Donors

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Please consider making an additional donation to help us rebuild the Hidden Valley Bridge over the Shepaug River in memory of Stephen Reich. Construction has begun and will cost \$138,000. We have not yet reached that goal.

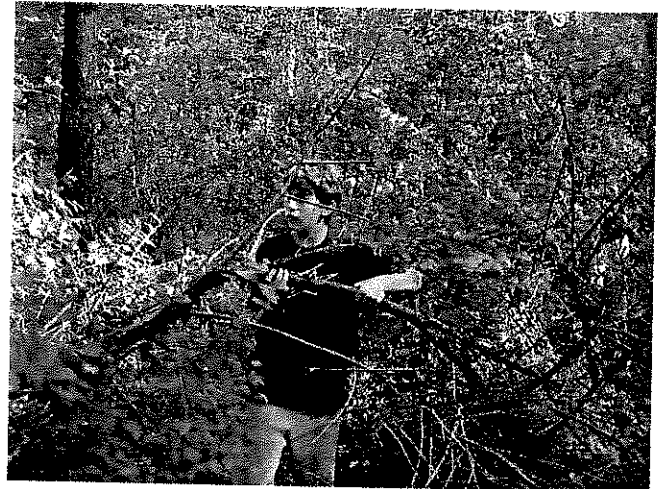
## CT Land Conservation Council

The Connecticut Land Conservation Council was formed this year by the merger of two entities you might be familiar with - the Land Trust Service Bureau and the Land Conservation Coalition for Connecticut.

The Council's mission is to advocate for land preservation, stewardship and funding, to help strengthen the long term health and viability of the land conservation community. CLCC can more effectively advocate critical issues at the State Capitol as one entity, joining forces with state land trusts, municipalities and other environmental groups.

The Council will provide education, training, technical assistance to land trusts and other organizations on Connecticut-specific topics.

More information is available from Sarah Pellegrino at the Nature Conservancy office in Middletown, 860-344-0716, ext. 320. Email: spelle-



*More than fifty Gunnery sophomores camped out in Steep Rock in September. This annual event, led by faculty advisor John Alter includes working on a stewardship project. These students are removing invasive honeysuckle shrubs.*



## Salamanders, cont.

As our lights played across the bottom of the pool we discovered another salamander partially hidden beneath a decomposing oak leaf, then another over to the right and so on and so on until it became apparent that there were probably about 15 salamanders just in the small part of the pool that we could observe. Their beautifully patterned bodies stood in stark contrast with the drab leaves on the bottom of the pool.

These salamanders, unlike frogs, fertilize their eggs internally, but they don't pass the sperm from the male to the female via copulation; no, it's far cooler than that. The male, who arrives in the pool first, awaits his intended in the near-freezing water. When she arrives he deposits a white glutinous droplet capped with sperm (a spermatophore) on the vegetation at the bottom of the pool. If she is sufficiently enticed, the female then lowers herself on the spermatophore, takes it into her cloaca, and the deed is done. I know, I know, but it seems to work for them.

We'd been standing there for almost an hour watching these guys and the other biota of the pool when it became apparent that the salamanders were beginning to form up into little groups; two here, three there, as many as six about ten feet away. Above I mentioned the loaded words "sufficiently enticed" regarding the receptivity of the female. This enticement process is seriously bizarre (but well-documented by other salamander voyeurs) and it rapidly became apparent that it was underway in our pool. Salamander foreplay was abounding; one would put a snout under the other's leg and roll it over or one would climb over the top of another and slide down the other side or start at the back and swim to the head then back to the tail. Every sort of contact you could imagine was taking place in that pool. In fact, it was difficult to tell just how many salamanders were now involved in the group that had held six just a moment ago. They had become a whorl of squirming black and yellow salamander skin. To make things even more confused (and amusing), as these are air breathing critters, every so often one of them would break off from the frenzy and pop up to the surface for a gulp of air, returning immediately to the writhing mass below.

Soon we noticed that one of the pairs had separated and the male had moved off to the side. As we watched, his tail formed a hump near the base and he began to move it slowly side-to-side. After about twenty seconds of this he quit, swam a short distance away and there it was – a tiny white pellet

on the leaf below. We stood transfixed, as the female sauntered over to the spot and with little fanfare settled on the spermatophore. She in turn moved slowly side-to-side and when she left about a minute later the white spot was still there but the smile on her face told us the sperm cap was inside her. We had witnessed a remarkably cool event, something few people have ever seen, but an incredibly important cog in the most important process of any organism; reproduction of its species.

Raising my gaze from the pool I realized that my drenched baseball cap was draining in a thin rivulet down my back and that in fact, I was rather miserable. Betsy admitted to being in a similar condition and we all agreed to leave the lovers in peace. We walked back to the cars, Betsy picking up and examining various toads on the road, and all of us chattering about the astounding ways that nature adapts to conditions, finding ways to accomplish its needs over all kinds of obstacles. We said goodnight and headed home.

*Editor's note: Steep Rock's reservations are open to the public from sunrise to sunset. Exceptions may be made when Trustees or other professionals wish to conduct research that necessitates work during evening hours.*

### **Steep Rock Association**

Telephone 860-868-9131 FAX 860-868-5034

[www.steeprockassoc.org](http://www.steeprockassoc.org)

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## Annual Membership Drive

Steep Rock's Annual Membership Drive began October 1, the beginning of our fiscal year.

Please renew your membership now, and if you're not yet a member, please join us. You may have already received our Appeal letter with an enclosed return envelope. If not, you may use the form at left to send in your donation.

Our dedicated board of trustees and core of volunteers work hard to stretch our dollars, as does our modest staff, but we need more help. With rising insurance costs and increasing operating expenses, we count on our members to help us keep Washington's beautiful natural places safe and secure.

This year's budget is over \$250,000, and we must rely on gifts from members for more than two thirds of that amount. We thank you for your past support. With your help we can continue to fulfill our mission of preserving and protecting open space.



*Children at the petting zoo at this year's picnic.*

## Hats & Maps For Sale

We now have stunning hats for sale for \$15.00. The hats feature our new logo on the front panel and show our website address on the back.

Trail maps of the three reservations are still available too. A set of three maps costs \$8.00.

Maps are for sale at the office, the Hickory Stick Bookstore, and the Gunn Library. The hats are available at the office.



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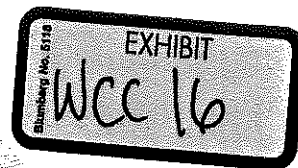
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# HIDDEN VALLEY RESERVATION

STEEP ROCK ASSOCIATION

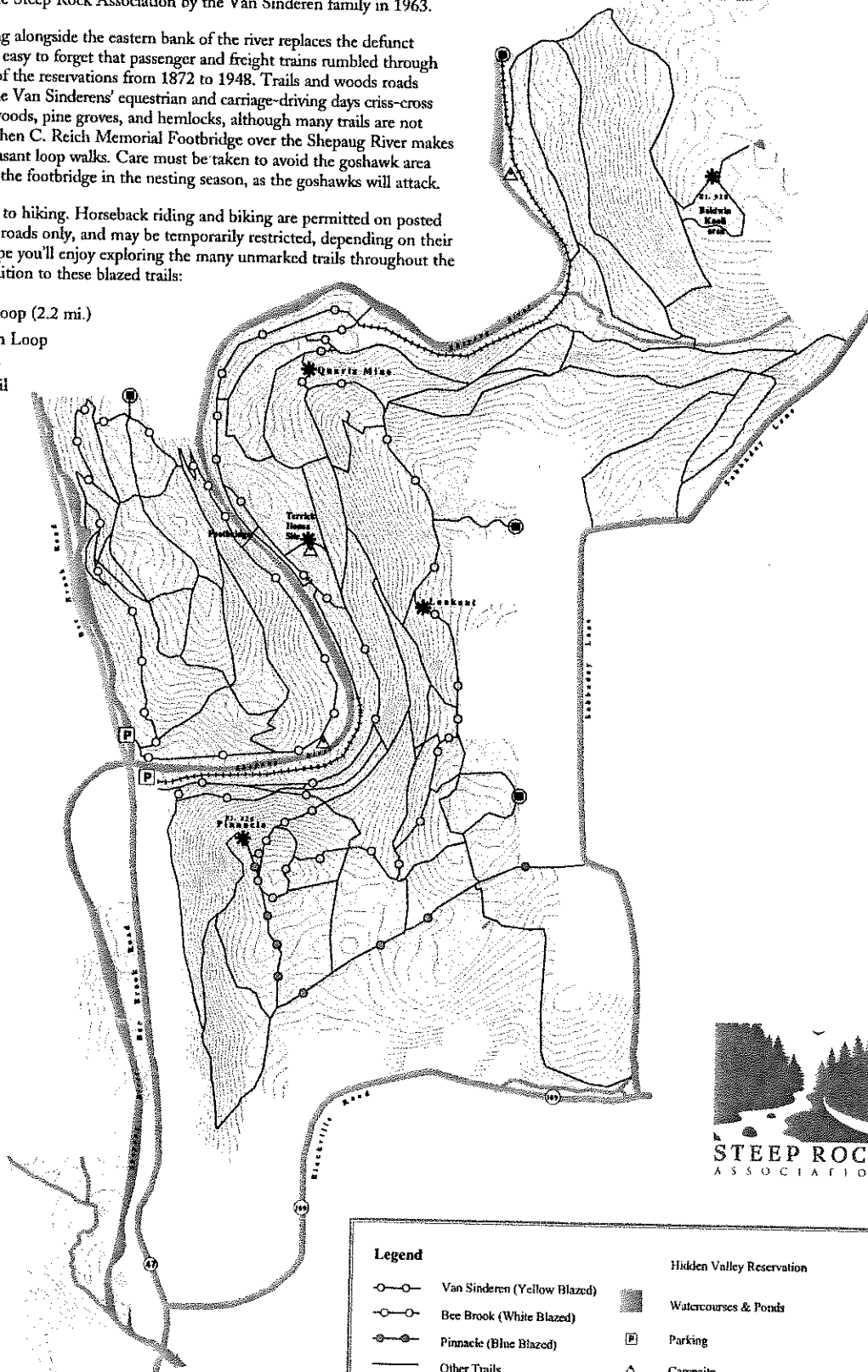


The section northeast of the Depot is known as Hidden Valley, a 650-acre tract characterized by densely wooded hillsides cascading into the meandering river below. This section also includes a rocky high point and small meadows, accessible by hiking trails. Hidden Valley was donated to the Steep Rock Association by the Van Sinderen family in 1963.

The level trail lying alongside the eastern bank of the river replaces the defunct railroad bed. It is easy to forget that passenger and freight trains rumbled through the entire length of the reservations from 1872 to 1948. Trails and woods roads remaining from the Van Sinderens' equestrian and carriage-driving days criss-cross this tract of hardwoods, pine groves, and hemlocks, although many trails are not marked. The Stephen C. Reich Memorial Footbridge over the Shepaug River makes possible many pleasant loop walks. Care must be taken to avoid the goshawk area north and west of the footbridge in the nesting season, as the goshawks will attack.

All trails are open to hiking. Horseback riding and biking are permitted on posted trails and carriage roads only, and may be temporarily restricted, depending on their condition. We hope you'll enjoy exploring the many unmarked trails throughout the reservation, in addition to these blazed trails:

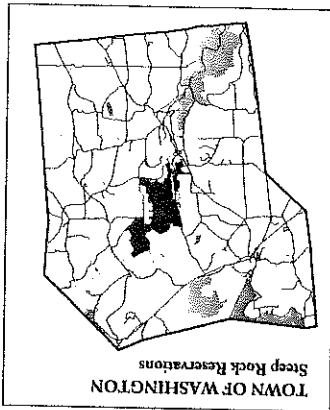
- Bee Brook Loop (2.2 mi.)
- Van Sinderen Loop (3.5 mi.) and
- Pinnacle Trail (.9 mi.)



Legend		Hidden Valley Reservation	
	Van Sinderen (Yellow Blazed)		Watercourses & Ponds
	Bee Brook (White Blazed)		Parking
	Pinnacle (Blue Blazed)		Campsite
	Other Trails		Private Property Beyond This Point
	Old Railbed		
	Road		
	10 - Ft Contour		

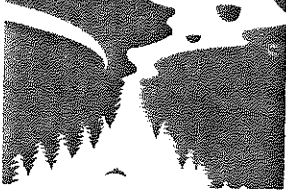
Scale: 1" = 900'; approx 2/10 of a mile

For safe and respectful recreation, please follow the guidelines printed on the other side of this map.



## HIDDEN VALLEY RESERVATION

## STEEP ROCK ASSOCIATION



### HISTORY

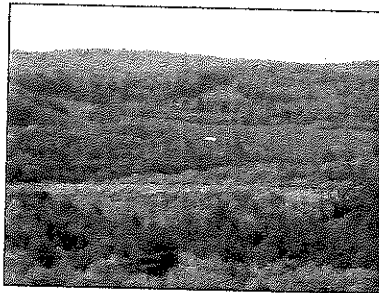
In the Spring of 1889, just as he was about to break ground on his own country house in Washington, Connecticut, the architect Ehrick Rossiter discovered that the wooded hillsides in his dramatic view to the west were slated for clear cutting. For him, there was only one thing to do. Using the money intended for the house's construction, he bought the threatened land from the timber company and saved forever the hundred acres that now form the heart of the Steep Rock Reservation. During his 36 years of ownership, Rossiter built carriage roads and small river crossings, and invited his friends and fellow townspeople to enjoy the wild beauty of this section of the Shepaug River Valley.

In 1925 Rossiter donated the land, which included the Steep Rock overlook, to a group of trustees, thus ensuring its preservation. Four years later the trustees purchased the area known as the Clamshell, and in doing so preserved the view from Steep Rock. With little of the



Aerial view of Steep Rock clamshell.

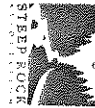
fanfare that sometimes surrounds such efforts today, these ten individuals quietly established a public land trust long before the idea of land protection became common. Since then, many landowners have given additional tracts to the Steep Rock Association.



View from Hidden Valley pinnacle.

Today the reservations are an extraordinary natural resource valued for their wild beauty, seclusion, and recreational and educational opportunities. Steep Rock's holdings now comprise over 2,426 owned and 2,348 eased acres, most of which lie along the glacially carved, rock-strewn Shepaug River. Except for a brief interruption in Washington Depot, the reservations extend almost the full length of the township and include three main sections:

- Steep Rock, 974 acres just southwest of Washington Depot,
- Hidden Valley, 650 acres just northeast of the Depot, and the
- Macricostas Preserve, 370 acres north of the junction of routes 47 and 202.



Steep Rock Association  
P. O. Box 279  
Washington Depot, CT 06794

- Hidden Valley offers tranquility and beauty for people, and varied habitats for wildlife. Please respect it as a setting for passive recreation, reflection and peace. Help us protect the natural beauty and integrity of the reservation by not removing or destroying plants or wildlife.
- Please note: there are no sanitary facilities in the reservation.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited.
  - No hunting.
  - No alcoholic beverages.
  - No loud noise or music.
  - Dogs must be leashed at all times.
  - Horseback riding is permitted according to posted signs, except when or where seasonally prohibited.
  - Tent camping is by permit only, in designated sites. Call 868-9131 for a reservation, two weeks in advance.
  - Fires are permitted only in the provided grills. Ground/camp fires are prohibited.
  - Do not litter, please carry out what you carry in. There are no waste barrels.
- ### Mountain Bike Rules
- Stay on the designated trail and please obey seasonal postings. In Hidden Valley, follow the yellow blazed trail to the railroad bed, to the property line barway and then back. No bikes allowed on the west side of the river.
  - Do not speed! Speed limit is 15 mph.
  - Dismount when approaching horses.
  - Always yield to people on foot.
  - No more than four riders in a group.
- ### Winter Trail Rules
- Cross-Country Skiers: Please set tracks on one side of the trail only.
  - Hikers, Snowshoers and your dogs: Please respect ski tracks by keeping to the other side of the trail.

### STEEP ROCK RULES



View across Macricostas Preserve.

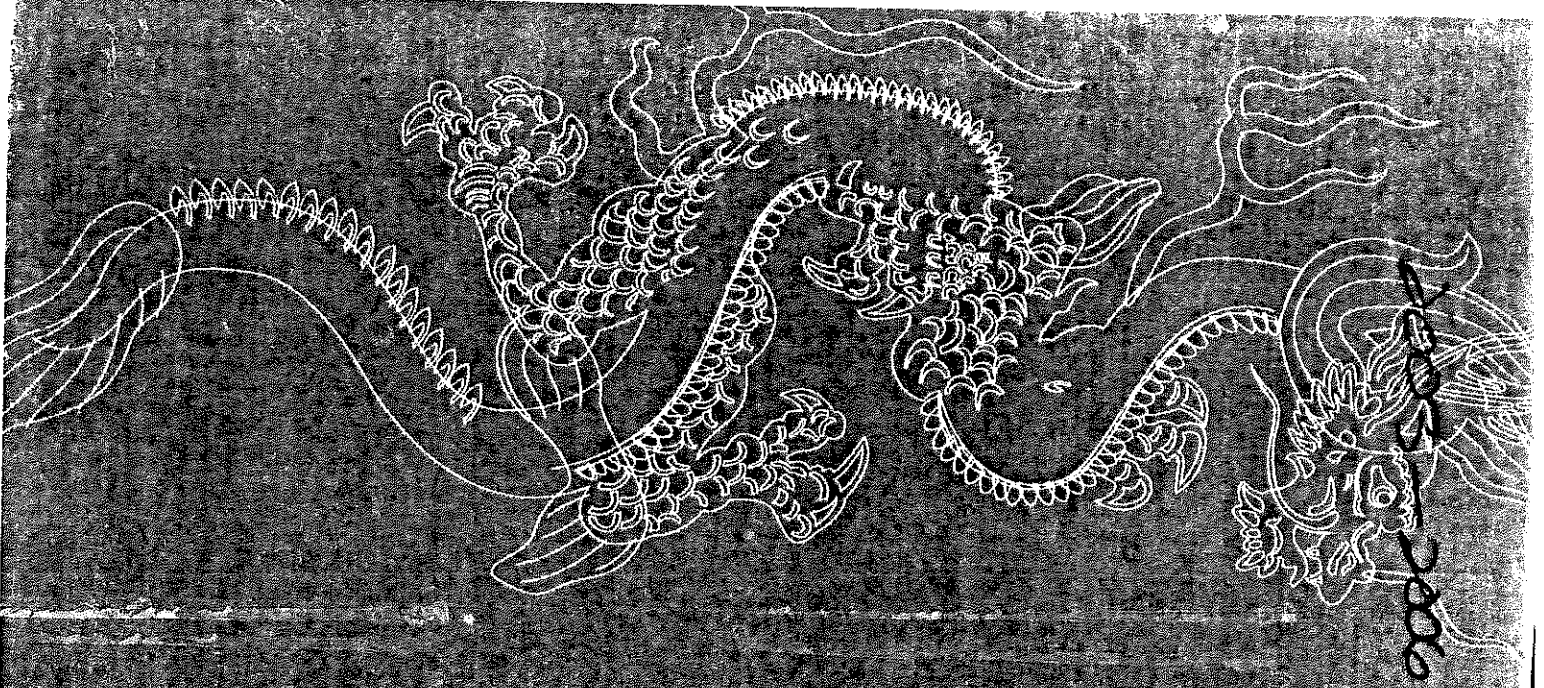
### SUPPORTING STEEP ROCK

One of the oldest land trusts in Connecticut, the Steep Rock Association is a non-profit corporation governed by a volunteer board of trustees. To maintain over 36 miles of trails, manage three large reservations and monitor dozens of conservation easements, we are entirely dependent on individual contributors and a modest endowment. If you would like to contribute and become a member, please send a check, payable to Steep Rock Association, Inc. to:

Steep Rock Association  
P. O. Box 279  
Washington Depot, CT 06794

For more information, visit our Web site at [www.steeprockassoc.org](http://www.steeprockassoc.org) or call the office at 860-868-9131.

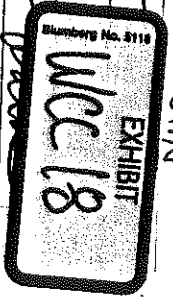




2000

redwren June 3 2003

— RNV —  
 Chestnut sided warbler  
 gold crown  
 in above on dove for  
 down + back



Hummerbird on branch +  
 tapping / sucking on tree

— RNV —  
 Nests in Pepper's hut via sign of  
 hawk. Goldfinch, Woodpecker —

Went at the cedar (tapping)  
 a couple of dozen

Red wing blackbird — Blue Heron

— RNV —  
 Red pole charges caught across  
 the yard (west to east)

— RNV —  
 Mule deer WMBRUE! — morning  
 drive again  
 100% nest of grosbeaks  
 100 cedar woodpecker

undergo hatching

in the in milk garden

6/10 3-4 days in nest

have feathers - seems ready to fly

some still no today

5 HOUR GET 4 guys - 4 eggs (05/8)

NO ~~PART~~ ADULTS were in

THE NEST?? BABIES (2) STILL

POORLY ADULT ATTACKED

TSQUARED ATTEN I WENT TO

CAREER.

DID COURSEWORKS WRADE?

AMIT TCU HOW MANY BABIES

IN NEST. 2 ~~SEEM~~ REMAIN

PREMATURE, SNEEZING.

ONLY ONE ADULT PRESENT

- LAST YEAR 3 ADULTS.

6-7 one lonely baby guy

remains in nest in small

tree. Learning leaning day

don't see any adult birds,

6/8 <sup>4pm</sup> NEST IS empty. I go to

check it + set like I wanted my parent.

later I see young guy on a cedar

branch. Adult guards.

still later I can see

solitary fledglings in the bushes

over the stand wall. Parent

nowhere.

A dozen birds with crow/raven

in lower branches of tree on

the date.

6-7 returned check birds 2

minutes 2-yrp + 1 oride horn

the now. They take minutes

down to lower bushes. He cares for help but none comes. after 5-10 minutes he rises

up to a lower level & they  
continue to peck him.

Finally the crow takes off with  
the man in pursuit.

pm Baby Jay in a paler  
semi hidden in flowers  
eaten

~~2/25~~

Such a short tail will  
attract one wing, then  
the other but will work  
other more next.

Alert when parent flies  
or calls.  
Have not seen feeding

Just check lots of wing movement  
- a hop. Take off short flight  
downhill to white birds. Then  
out + another short flight to the  
tree wall + then gone.

Seems the Redwings are in  
the brush/mud & have just

over the wall. Parent still  
very present + guarding.  
Baby has hatched infection  
again.

egT more warning of a

crow? No of babies nests  
over the stone wall towards  
the garage.

quite thorough the yard.  
Disinterested  
bad track

Quiet with yep gene; think  
having heard from as well  
as phrases;  
Several more time?

egT: Can again again again

Fiddlers follows in the yard

play word frogs!



6/13/76

Peewees busy at CFT's

Great blue heron predated

Shrike - downy Blue Bird.

Cat birds ckgury nestling

occasional Jay, nestling

owls feeding 1/2 day long

loud 30 minutes.

food, horse, purple Finch

Jay at the feeder

lots of Red winged black birds

or crossbills.

TURTLES! wood? on yard

smaller at Hochbergs.

3' snake gnawer of rope!

= Middle-blue bird - Hudson crossbill

great day cool sunny

lots of black birds + most - failed

apartake.

7:30pm Swamp

Heron STATION CAN (Bird)

owls AT nest BLACK BIRD

comfy, BARN SWallows

BEAVER!

yellow?? warbler

-0: on

6/17 Heron Yellow Warbler - Swan

Fuller chickadee etc other

side of swamp.

about 10:30 Fox hunting at night.

Whyparulls?? crossbills

- owls by diagonal from nest

to feeder -

Rain returns.

6/18 owls ground feeding

crossbills

owls from the yard

led behind 9 or juvenile??

6:20 BARN owls in

front by drive way

so loud!!

Crossbills downy 2-4

lots of bird activity lawn +

Heron patch of sun.

Hummers

Hummingbird Catbirds

Mixed Red bellied crossbills

Robins nesting again.

2 owls feeding



76-23 pair  
Tons of Marshhawks

Orioles very protective after  
the jump.

2 juvenile ♂ Red Bellies fought  
on chimney - for hole?  
owls join in.

Owls singing - calling

ATS out.

lots of yellow bellied

RRRARRRRT RRRARRRRT  
TONE ITS NOT A BIRD DONE  
in by a cat.

lots of small water lilies

Hummingbirds daily swoop.

093 - July 1st

Heat wave

Rosebreasted grosbeak 3 males  
everyday.

Indigo buntings.

WOODPECKER, MISSING front right  
I think left foot.  
skin over stump orange/red.

-Nuthatch on or on environment.

3rd wood turtle in 3 weeks.

Songbirds fly over head.

WOOD warblers w/out calls.

2 Great Blue herons in swamp.

1/2 movement Orioles + ♂ GOSPELERS.

1/3 Red bellied feeding together  
in front tree.

Old squirrels nest, again

SPRUCES CUNEBATA + ROSA FLORIDA

7-11-79 West, hammers, sharpies

usual at feeder

79 common redpoll (Ears)

They crowded kinglet  
golden

7-9-7-15 mostly are very quiet  
in AM. with hummer / catbird  
more songs in the evening.

Robber very active.

Still 3<sup>+</sup> goshawk daily goldfinch

redwinged, grackles

Hummer birds  
5 west blue Heron daily swamps  
bright over head

goldfinches few purple nuthatches  
juncos / downy woodpecker

7-15-79

Swain hawk near + log

Coppers. Hummingbirds  
many peepers green juncos other  
jays.

Are juncos one bird. Tons of much  
goldfinch resting / watching.

They sparrows. Occasional goshawk.

Red wings + other blackbirds. More

bird songs lots of juncos

Robber feeding second hand. Very  
punctate. went after dove when  
on rock. In they wait for life?

Hummer. Today's rose breasted woodpecker  
at feeder

-9/15

Helped carry red bellied

in the woods

Something about the horse workings of seat.

Hummingbird feeder, Goldfinch

Sharpie through the yard up + weeds up w/ p. may.

lots of hawks.

-SIT rain continues daily for weeks

Many interesting audits.

And better than (long) many small habitats

lots of birds small pickovers

→ still many small birds  
hummingbird dead

Chlorophane Goldfinch. Jays etc

best-fork from Fedon's across

the yard

much rain very fresh & clean  
on side. you rain last week

lots of baby peepers

dragon / house flies

Widow perched in window

little dragonfly sparrow

Just went on the main today. + stores  
in kitchen through  
cellars of mushrooms.

8/18 ♀ Sharpie or usual fish

from through north garden - sparrow  
+ chick by the back road from  
up + behind path.

nest? in old tree

hummingbird pairs

X ribbon snake by grape rock.

lots of red dragonflies yellow legged  
meadowhawk

2 spotted skimmers.

→ 8/20 juncos cool + dry  
the leaves here began to fall  
1st the white birch

hummingbirds + lots of dragonflies  
small white juncos mya acta //

Backlog a small brown cat has  
when presence in the garden  
window above my alc began  
than winter itself.

He has returned every morning  
except when the fog was on  
we can observe him daily

he is small white about 1/2 inch  
long  
his body is compact a half 3-4"

He is active through the day mostly  
from spot to spot cleaning  
anywhere. He has large ears  
and a blunt nose.

Very sharp distinct teeth when  
he gnaws

he will turn head up to  
see / peep then back around  
repeating

He works on the screen usually  
my one foot spread but  
only two feet

Some times in a figurt corner  
+ some times extended.

he runs down the screen for  
take off at dusk. At first  
time he is almost enough to  
sound.

his breathing is rapid

we think he is gathering  
water to raise his sperms  
can't. Jehals are uninterested  
in the fall + fertilize their eggs

in the spring. Hope he  
combines in the woods!

25 heard great hoened owl  
in the woods + down the  
spring. Scented wood tick!

Two warblers a blue crown warbler.

~~Two warblers a blue crown warbler.~~  
and hawk scolding  
me and flies out of the woods  
wards the barn. (8 am)

The heron combines to  
sneak then flies off  
wards the wet through  
the woods. All then  
goes quiet.

lots of Hawks. Sharp-shin, Red  
wings, Crows.

Picked up a Green Heron.

Goldfinch are quiet.

Thousands of crickets, happens

8/31 cool Fall like Day.

hundreds of large dragonflies.

hobby robbers. (I think he does!)  
up to the woods on a great day

at 12 sharp he's missed 3

between birds daily goldfinch robbery

Wrens (robber) robbers just chasing  
up everything.

huts falling leaves falling.

Should be a spectacular fall.

Just a wonderful day to be on  
Robert Hill.

full week of cool sunny days

9.9 Robert's was more visits

SEPT 10 THE WEST WOOD

WOODPECKERS A PLUNTRY

FUCKER, + BURR BACKED  
ONE TIME TROD.

NEW NERVOUS SEEN REFINED

A FIRST OF THEM

STREET TAKED

JAYS IPSET

OWL RAPID WHO'S

MERRY HUMMING BIRDS. JAYS RETURN

WIPING IN FEDERS. WOODS ARE  
NOW MORE NOISY.  
HAWKS.

Butterfly - Aphrodite influence  
Larks + Cowbird make flight.

1 many water + butterfly mesh. Perhaps  
it is egg laying time.

double long legs water

9/13 STAFFIE PRESENT THE  
DEVE.

Downy, Red breasted Hummingbirds  
Jays, Crows, Goldfinch.

9/27 10's of Hawks/Woods  
(GT. BUSH)

little family of Cardinals  
4 2 dark phoebe-ish

1 Red 1 Red Blotch  
feeding over  
darker → lighter red.

9-10/1 cold again.

Jay family at feeders S-C  
old juv. NOTUS BEARD.

GREACCERS? 23 on tree tops part  
2 days.

Reminds of work by the bridge

~~181 MARYHART RED FOX (7/16/18)  
Dogs from drive around garage.  
The car's wheels part for days.~~

→ 11/05

Blue Jay family S-to again  
one blue jay in center - led  
the lowest most complicated  
one like a nutcracker?  
just fine I have ever heard  
such a complicated variable  
& beautiful song.

more birds have returned  
woods since winter again.

Red Tail doubly in the woods  
& through the yard.

Chipping-injection

Shapiro on 302 by Nooker

cool sunny today (2 birds already)  
slow to ~~the~~ collect season.

10/14 lots of jays + woodpecker

The Cardinal family again & Spun  
purple red breasted

Pitohui calls. Goldfinch have  
mated lots of nutcracker twice  
chickadees + doves.  
constant Red Tail through the  
woods

10/15 Blinded

Burned Jul 5 - 4 birds  
returned - my calls.  
1st night after winter  
everywhere all!

(can through words)

word pictures



70s today before  
10/22 - Juncos extremely ahead of  
cold front + snow.

10/23 12:11" snow gone by  
afternoon,

Pileated, Owl,

Very cold 30's day time

Tracks everywhere. Fishers?  
Hummers.

Best American bird day (cold windy  
dry)

100 Sparrows - different sorts

+ types of juncos

30-50 + crows down the ridge  
marks -

10/25 Frost again.

more crows on the wire  
100 + flying south on  
202. front turning tan.

So many juncos + sparrows  
nutcracker red-wings

very windy.

10:26 warm! 100's gray rain  
coming.

☉ Bright sunnier. Tons of juncos

Down! 70-30 with gust + clouds  
on the sweep by the water.

Just catch em but nice warm days!

9/11/3 warm summer ~~75°~~ 75° 11.0

again today.

Perlet red top on the road  
in headlights last night. a sign?  
seen in hospital, kidney  
failure. Pray for Brown!

Wanted through the yard today  
each full. Rode under the hair  
line here. (visible, witness)

UN SPUTS - over the hawks  
supposed to be present again  
tonight. hope we can see  
one.

LOTS of gup today. They like  
e. sweet.  
Constant road blocked (making  
noise?) in wood shed.

why constant crying. can she  
sing 500 n?

11/4 Rain again

from getting better. Are you  
today  
found tomorrow

200 rhinos of Animal Hospital

Warm week

1-8 1000 hunchbacks - quackles?  
in trees around the house  
flying south?

old fant 30's very windy

ban have + feeling better eating  
still not quite herself.

11/27 turned Owl calls.

Rabbit live on back lawn

scat on well small  
sore

idiana till today

Phetsal through words.

→ 12/10

Edward 12/5-6  
Quiet no cayses (breasts)

SHARPIES EXT + FERN + THOU  
YARD

THOUS Bluejays crows. doves  
downy, red bellied chickadees  
whitethr. hairy sparrows  
TAXS OF JUNCOS

Been tranquility cased against  
we put for a week.  
2/10 Seals calm again

Where are the juncos?  
mentioned by juncos?

1/3 Jays. And Nor' Eastern (1/12)  
views of ice.

1/5 30+ juncos + small birds  
at juncos feeder.

yard dotted w/ small birds.

actually a mix of goldfinch  
with the juncos. They  
had been gone for awhile.  
+ small sparrows  
weefer just clear cold  
day. 2+ inches of ice  
on the drive

GADJINGH ~~Best Ground~~ ~~left~~  
sparrows tree spreads  
snows.

2/16 Tracks thru woods  
from swamp up?  
Coyote? (1-2-3?)  
mountain lion?  
difficult to discern. small had been  
named (stepped on after tracks made).

will replace later (unfamiliar)

Rain Rain Rain 12/17

Stacie swapped through in a  
circle + back to the front

→ 12/23  
Rain warm ice

Saw a fisher Martin bird had picked up

small oak hq pairs.

lots of wood peckers

5-7 Crows

5-7 Jays

Red Bellied (Small Chushtoes)

12/26 Warm for winter. Fog and  
windy the night.

12/27 Cardinal at the feeder.  
lots of activity today

5 Crows / Ravens

Again + again  
wrens 408

1/6 - cold returning old nest due to  
2 yellow bellied sap siphon  
found of goldfinches + small birds

→ 1/9 20° cold front moved in

Red Tail on top of trees this morning  
coyote tracks in fresh snow. out of  
sighting on stone wall that heads  
away will

lots of crows

lots of birds on the snow.  
jill worn bright red in  
clear blue morning snow.

-8° 1/10 this early warm  
busy feeder

→ 1/14 35° wind chills  
female cardinal 1/13

family of crows  
young no doves today

→ 1/22 snow 5" very soft very  
cold stop  
coyote take down the  
between the house + gate.

fox tracks. coyote tracks. update  
cassper  
out earlier cell / patch on drive

20° draftwind + strong winds

Shoreline bands of downwind down after  
a piece? wing extended.  
Unmistakable small head.  
cheapest landing ever.

new moon.

Crows jump + the usual suspects.

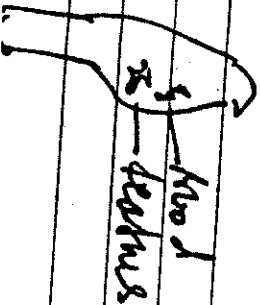
Pileated calling

12/28 swallows

- lots of green tracks.

very cool sharpie neurons,

1st on branch low out 1/2  
windward gray back white tipped  
tail. Head turned round  
+ flew off to branch behind  
wood shed. Forward feather  
bleed on breast ruffled feather



Then off with Christmas tree  
full of presents. No catch.

He to ~~the~~ off to low branch  
the old further towards deck.  
Great little moment.

12/28 Fox Rabbit caught

Raccoon Skunk Deer  
on the bridge

Box tracks cross park daily  
Star wish one night.

12/31 Magnificent Red Fox this morn  
leaps from drive round garage.

Scat at door | Injunctives on  
Snow? Don't remember catch

under the bush by the door?

Nicks gone under from  
most fresh.

fill cold bitter daily in leaves  
or almost gone in 100 years.

Wahwah Season

no range with huge red tail.

all (fresh) success occasional done  
too cold) 5 crows, jump  
ed bellied, downy,  
cardinal

nicks like (bush + tree holes and)  
late this year

to walk in the woods FOX  
+ ~~the~~ a small hole is 1 crypte  
reps in the woods

the ground trail  
very converge just above beyond  
the same wall

look like <sup>young</sup> parents come down.  
Maybe leaves. large wing  
open. well traveled path.

Followed low trails behind higher  
and up behind De Leo's and  
over again

Lifts at acrobatic.  
Shows in a depth (2 inches) and  
soft it is difficult to distinguish  
the low path.  
? Are there any help out birds?

24 Pileated calling through up  
the yard (pink) (territory calls) (to)

25 Pileated 4 times  
None within territory calls.

the snow tire stream

210 1st Robin in summer  
lots of Pileated calls.

411 3 Downys

2 or 1 or all together

Wiley or Territory?  
on tree limb edge of woods  
usual to see 3 together  
try together etc.

3 Fox tracks? again  
what about just a couple  
where are the bluebirds?

where are the bluebirds?

no fox (house mouse) this year

average - mouse issue?  
possible tracks behind garage

lupinus should wake up soon...

snail about 10" deep still  
affects when ground feeds (reworked)  
again.

2 bluebirds late afternoon  
by the pond

Crows Hawks.

2/5 3 Downys, Hairy, Red breasted

Crows + the usual.  
Red tail jay by.

cold but again. Should be the  
last of it...

the clear + cold lots of squirrels  
gold finch, juncos.  
no doves.

lots of spiny song down the drive  
lots of bluebirds + goldfinch singing

\* Eastern Woodchuck at night  
warning call + responds to  
my call is in interaction  
low front sidewalk. location.

2/7 woodcock call this am?

gold finch feeding yellow early this  
year



2-18 - 2-20 warmer high 30's

July Keated. Still no  
mym.

lots of woodpecker goldfinch

coopers titmice

no chipmunks. 3/20 drive free

[The first chipmunk 3/20 noon =  
could wear

2-28 SD's may for the next  
few.

Over bird calls blue birds  
still no tracks of alone.

Small still sleep on the ground  
through the forest edge

are beginning to melt away.

2-29 - 3-1

High 40's Sunday 60 on Monday.

River flows sprout with fish  
scuba the pile of seagulls. large

pile near middle stone wall. smaller  
pile by heavier ledge. water now

pile further east.

What I thought to remember

Tracks are in fact on other side  
over the current leading to the  
mountain at Cross Joseph.

They live in the own bank next

Was there earlier on the original?  
pile that was there on Sunday.  
yellow-whitish rubbery water

2 mallards <sup>pairs</sup> by the ledge

1st red winged blackbird (3:1)

Skunk cabbage are left upon  
Sunday, Wednesday it was  
sprawled everywhere.

Amhere to hear ~~the~~ stream  
over birds and other  
new spring calls.

Nothing popping up in the garden  
but the lawn has finally begun  
to melt.

Soon it will be time for  
Salamanders migration.

Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk

one daily. No falcons in city or suburbs.

Levert's drive into Cluist - Joseph's Doves, Treaske.

ring today + chilly

2 Sunbys + ~~western~~ again. 11  
Narcissus up by the ~~Flodden~~

Two birds returned to the yard  
and 2/3 birds gone in the house.  
1 young adult (♀?)

5 of dipwinks, black birds calling  
one in the lawn?

hills of geese

documented 3/16 birds Pennington

visitors have begun to sprout.  
mywhere now

3/5/16 DAVE COLD


Have the Blue started moving?

ESIMON MUD SEASON.

3/7 COLD RETIREMENT

Redwinked in swamp.

Success, CATERDEAR NUTCRACK  
Doves + Honey Doves + Redbreast  
CRACKNUT

 OOO  
ORCHARDERS?

WALK THRU THE SWAMP LOTS of WATER  
SPROUT. MURKIN - SPACERS  
+ OTHER TREES

Nooks like above in mud. PHOTOS  
LOTS of ~~renew~~ activity  
(snow melted)

3/8-9 SNOW SNOW SNOW  
couple waders but no real sticking  
on the roads

cold again. Geese return!

3/11 FROGS in the ponds. 50°

RED WINKERS BUCKLEBILLS ARE  
STARTING TO MOVE

WADERS coming alive with song

SNOW CARD 30'S  
very unusual past couple of days.

SUPREME IS INTERESTING  
VENUS WARE SPUN AN CLUSE  
+ BRIGHT  
create good night.

FOX SXT + deer have? in the  
path to the gravel road  
WACKESTER got 4" snow  
3:17

TRACKS - DEER TRACKS + COYOTE.  
HARD TO TELL IF DEER WAS  
CRASSED BY COYOTES OR  
SEPARATE INCIDENTS.

4 - APPROX COYOTES FOUND STRAY  
HAIRS. Blood spots faint  
+ muddled around chipmunk  
w/ sn in hole.

CHUCKER something down  
from owl camp all through  
huck ground + huck into  
the woods.

down attack.  
light + snow fell all day.  
Temp's dropped.

3:18 1<sup>ST</sup> RED FURCH  
RECEIVED

SNOW AGAIN (END DAY)

3:19 BACK - I SURPRISE  
a hawk behind the stone wall  
between the logen + garage.  
Flush it out (from 3-6 feet  
away) with chipmunk in its  
talons. Flys out low + off down  
the drive.

too large for shagone, smaller  
than red tail?  
possibly red shouldered?  
top first to note. remember flush  
of red + chipmunk.

3:20 BEE SAW RIVER OTTER THIS A.M.

3:21 JOSEPH SAID GREAT BLUE HERON.  
recessed found the house  
surprised by blake at night.  
Dead in a dug shallow nest?  
under the oil pipes in the morning.  
small wallow outcandy at  
10pm.  
died in the morning.

lots of hawk activity  
trees full of redwinged  
parula's activities.  
robins on the way to school

22 better cold - windy 20's

6 (+) hens + large Tom thru  
we yard down showered to  
the Swamp 1 pm.

letting to the vet

20's hummer down Redwings / ~~tree~~

23 tons of stacks birds swarms  
here and there REPER.

initially 60° - this is probably

4 cool again rainy clouds

15 warm now there are tracks  
some where

1st October!!  
PAIR on GARDEN LIGHTS.

robins on the lawn.

20's increased on pond!!

robins swarming still no REPER  
maybe tonight.

are there the jump now?

are there building the warble

in the center of the yard.

clouds return from

REPER AS NIGHT!!

327 FEED CATERPILARS WITH  
CARLS ON THE POND.

ABOUT 40 +  
WARM 70° day

3-28 FEBRUARY!

ROBINS ALL AROUND YARD +  
NIGHT PROA.

Flicker + Pilgered!! WESTWOODS  
(AS USUAL) RED BLENDED.  
WINDY COOLER DAY.

CREWS HAVE THEY MOVED THE  
JAYS AWAY?

PHOENIX all around THE HOUSE  
BUILDING ON GARDEN LIGHTS?

\* RUBY OTTER!! saw me by the  
3-200 again Pain - gentle road path

drought conditions 10 behind of the  
for this time of year

Nuthatches up all around

still 29° at night  
Salamanders living?

Goldfinch have turned bright  
yellow.

Common Red poles earlier w/ a  
fawn.

Tong of larch & spruce still.  
WOT a jag in site

2 cold rainy gray damp, snow -  
freeze 2/18 3/18

NORTHERN FROST comes back  
28° TWS A.M.

SI FEMALE ROBINS!!  
Doren on yard

a Red bellied coming

COLD FROST ice returns on  
swamp + pond.

4/7 Small Am. 6 S<sup>o</sup> Abertons  
Duckies back. Brown headed chickadee  
at White Memorial.

4/8 Pileated, Red breasted  
pair of Phoebe

5 jump on tree tops.

ducks, Chickadees Gold finch

Downy, Nuthatch. Doves

lots of eggs on pond

WIND  
FROST



Sparrow

At least 4 different egg  
nuthatches near rille / main side.  
first this A.M. again.

1st yellow on doff 2nd still stalks  
pulling open.  
4/8 on

Phoebe have started their nest  
using mud on the light on the  
quince

Many more frog eggs on the surface of the pond.

Small new ones begin to open

Many more gold chicks

5 red winged ♂ one with very large red stripe with w/ small + more yellow.

rain coming?

Purple finch ♂ ♀ morning ready 2:30 after noon.

♀ beautiful western sky

♂ turkey buzzards red winged

new ones in the park (Pete?)

Red bellied goldfinch (Pete?)

FROG EGGS NEST BUDS 4.9

today more mud built + length from the pond.

one works, one with ches.

AFTER ONE TRIP OF MUD THE BUDS PICKS UP 2" BLADE OF GRASS/STICK AND PUTS ON NEST. USES FEET TO SECURE.

THE 2ND COMES + REMOVES IT + FLIES OFF.

ABLE TO TRY 2 WATER IN TREE. DISAPPEARS WHO BUILDS?

KNOW GOOD 1/2" base of mud + moss continues to be made.

4-10 - MOST ALMOST FINISHED moss tufters

PAVE: TONS OF FEEL EGGS TADPOLES 4-12-15. stream more eggs

still no guys Scrows control the area

Pain → 4/10

could egg in phoebe nest? NO

1/16-17 saw NO geys  
scarcely a robin.

NO vesper sparrow?  
is it the crow?

its it red winged blackbird +  
brown headed.

with a few ' government house  
with word peckers with a few  
straw cardinals on drive.

its a turkey buzzard?

we had the 100 robins this spring  
a pair of red breasted AT THE FEEDER.

the birds coming in the woods.  
FEEDERS OPEN ABOUT 20-60

robins LAST week  
2 blue jays?

Robt vicky are UP no flowers  
yet.

Hawks (nesting) took the  
extra crows by crows.

just a red winged blackbird  
this bird female + baby heard  
out

MAZING CROW

3 sets of warbler wither + baby  
haver woodpecker woodpecker  
many birds at the nest + 3 different  
number birds 2 birds of crows  
long tailed grackles warbler +  
tommy  
in the mangrove swamp



5 found again  
1st of the adfrackle are up.

if in the small overgreen?  
in or??

US northern Cardinals + junco finch  
redwing's cardinal finch purple  
we cardinal does have at goldfinch

down birds open hussan only by  
a purplehead bird at others are  
re.

2 down birds but things are  
it comes with  
in double done set of goldfinch

drops all over the lawn  
lots starting fruit-tilled but  
fewer  
we's just starting to unfurl.

we begin on her nest. no eggs  
or remaining.  
we are the phoebes?

4/27 where is the down? empty nest  
phoebes?

four through the yard

down bird on her nest. (bin)

quartz!!

Wes designated it's  
warm sunny great clouds.

lots of singing in the morning.  
usual suspects

4/28 saw no robin eggs  
+ no phoebes

4:30!! ~~bird~~ <sup>oride</sup> ~~bird~~ worms

1st Red wing breasted sparrow

House Finch purple finch have taken  
over the phoebe nest on the porch  
yellow!! been from there for a couple  
of days. in + out of nest  
of birds bigger than I stands guard

3 Sapsuckers | envifly

SD + Goldfinch

red winged blackbird -  
squirrels

101 sapsuckers? hairy size

rust buds on the trees  
for sapsucker (shadblow)

Does house destroyed in's out at 100's  
quilt 15 left,  
its at midlets

- 2 Cardinals, house finch  
chase purple. house finch

Only one purple did the  
will get the note?

Use finch taken over nest on  
vln. fly + defend for her.

Shrike (2) at feeders.  
wup finch pair but not on  
egg still think its  
condoned.

lots of wood thrush calls.

- progs Peppers  
American that long till

loper? much longer  
how the yard + pack  
again mixed catferry - 1

5:3 House Finch 2 weeks over -  
Early

3 quails. Hurry's the front (early)  
♀ pulling grass (striped grass)  
near the garden - jugs off with  
hel jell!

Robins left on nest in days.  
Abandoned?? Poor start up to 2  
weeks before laying eggs

2 ♂ quail hawks birds. 1 lone boy  
Takes of red winged Goldfinch  
around cowbirds, grackles + blackbirds

2 jays full on pickin' table

lots of ♀ gold finch foray  
\* note nest book - 3 week. h. 1 and 1

loads on hickory nut withing  
in field.

he most vobets ever in lawn.  
Just a beautiful carpet  
of vobets everywhere.  
most all narcissus are open.

now's hickory begins to open  
opens in low. many many dandelions  
mudrup flowers.

we remember to plant different  
varieties of narcissus in the  
orch + garden along stone wall  
and plant the hickory.

a many orchids...

5 Tomatoes in the tree tops  
among lots of wood duck.

whisker crabs returned  
on hicks

5.6 Tomatoes again in  
morning.  
Gusbeck

they are one Duroche  
and the copper nail the  
partner? in + out of garage

nothing on robin's nest  
but house finch is sitting  
on hers.

Tomorrow hissing bird  
count w/ journal with  
in Sharon. why about a dozen  
out of 100's

loopy burred, hairy, downy  
deep redness, gold finch.

pair of robins on tree trunk  
lawn - daily where do they  
fly? Farming on the dike stamp still

Robbers are making a nest  
out in the garage on the  
right over the car.

Will have to leave the garage  
doors open for breeding  
season  
watching ♂ build + ♀ guard  
from pine tree

3:50 PM WINTERWREN SINGING

~ the down to Jim McVey's  
many birds were on the  
roast + from low off.

They flew wild last night  
plumaged birds on their  
way with drop rest, eat.

Alabama Bird Count

off at warblers

black-headed blue

black & white

black-capped yellow

of small finches

part of a pair of chipping  
inching

red start. Red tails wood thrush

Not yellow the color. just an  
interesting bird. beautiful head and  
eyes

5:59 CAT SKIPS GREEN RAILS  
good friend. Black-capped  
sore throat. Overbirds  
lots of very white birds with so  
many red tails. Crows drive  
them off.

5:10 AM 8:9

Virginia Warbler, Common Yellowthroat

Yellow warbler, Chestnut-sided warbler

Bay-breasted warbler, Black-chested warbler

Deerles, goshawk, catbirds nesting

Great blue heron lots of magpies

Flower on yellow throat.

Pairs of house wren fighting.

Male construction singing.

11 Pileated Catfish  
Nostril Great Blue Perched  
high on dead tree limb over  
sp of Swamp. Hackberry side  
near birds  
BT HOT HOT over 80° 97 in air.  
Small tail  
Red breasted woodpecker 3(?) holes  
in log. hole up north open  
by. Time at 4:15 much more than  
lie were  
ones sleeping / leaning down near  
wax  
hole in tree tops  
of birds like crazy  
noise  
upward full black swallow tails

Red breasted woodpecker  
Red winged Black  
Red breasted woodpecker  
Red winged Black  
Red breasted woodpecker

Common Yellowthroat  
Chestnut sided (Tons) Arching - curving

5:15  
Orides (at night) chestnut sided  
warblers, yellow throats, streak blue  
lemon girdle, 4 to 5 jays

Robins! | SCARED OFF THE NEST!!  
yellow, black nosing  
TONS OF FEATHERS

PIRATED TUNNY  
Butter fly & BUTTS ARE COMMON  
BACIC BUTTERFLY WOULD THIS TAKEN  
over every thing!!

NOTHUS SCAES IF BEHIN HERD  
CAND BENDS. 6 OR THEM.  
2 MALES 4 FEMALES.

WHT 80's - 90°  
SPERM IS SUPPOSED TO COME ATTEN

~~FIRST~~ HUMMINGBIRD!  
RED AZEARS IN BLOOM. WHITE

The Queen has the Black-headed Grosbeak

Rain last night humidity is damp often.

lots of birds this A.M. aspires, Red-tailed

out to see Woodcock fly.

5/22- Rain, clouds, Humid, Cool pop

things in + out of nest by the mouse. no one sits, no eggs still.

we have egg on nest in the drive

mother very happy in the garden we think seems to have abandoned the nest?

the bird egg?? need a ladder. mended cans

lots of the cat growl-headed on beads.

lots of cat birds, Veerys

+ Oven birds + Thrush.

Grosbeaks + tons of Goldfinch.

lots of downy woodpecker. milk thistle + Sidalcea falls. more Black from yellow.

Grass still not cut but lots

if wild flowers in the way

transperked but the PS + some others. made a little shade garden by the cat wing.

5/23 - seed + started flowers on Rhode islanders that had Pines left on. like left years Rhode + aralia.

White Azalea slow to flower. Marching blossoms on new growth.

Humming birds know my wing + manage them

- towards pond.

28 ducks diving their usual  
rutting round round the  
perch.

work. Lots more planning today

Beautiful wetland  
venue for the drive  
New Birds, 1 Jerry's + Cat Birds  
- least 3' dr early

we wild storks / jays / cold  
still the egg / egg in  
Admin nest on drive.

YES WARMER / calling all  
egg in the swamp.  
no COLD + raining

I BIRDS, overbirds, jays,

Beloved! and the usual  
acknowledges / god of fields

9/5/30 29+30 beautiful

Stomach Clear Days. Cool  
morning.

New pair of Blue herons nesting  
in garage on old nest?

lots of sniffer flies.

(more SEATTLE) grass all again  
cross has still not been cut  
American wild flowers every-  
where. cold + rainy stormy  
→ 10/2

Mothers have reclaimed nest on  
the perch  
usually an afternoon of sun.

Lawn finally cut down. lot of  
wild flowers where cut but not  
supposed to be.

Egg are gone from the Laine nest on  
the perch  
Garter snake my perch.

fresh log after seat on the wall



Grasshoppers, Goldfinch still lots  
if redwinged, sparrow hawk +  
other birds' birds

Spawblers make a special  
daily/nightly

lots of warblers song. Ovenbirds  
song

5  
Emily (?) or Kell looks on  
in on South Street  
wales/?? with putred cat  
in my tail on individual  
cat right!

if ~~swell~~ shells on garage floor  
the pines outside?  
lots above the drive  
lots of song but birds in hand!

owls in garden

ouse lunch always together  
w/ speak of one families  
the nest?

lots of  
red winged birds the window in kitchen  
sharp stumped on the ground for 20-  
minutes then flew off.  
pair of owls in garden again

more finch, downy wood pecker  
blue birds + gold finch  
old rainy day again. AM

There on her roof.  
usual warblers, cat birds

Crows have been quiet all week

Rarely a red tail

Robins, purple red bellied warblers  
five year.

12:30 pair of Baltimore Orioles return  
to the near garden + near house(?)

Red winged displaying lots of red  
w/ skinning at the feeder

Ticker! on the rock + in the yard.

7/6/17

Many sweeter weather  
 steady stream of birds  
 those flocks, Grosbeaks, Red  
 headed + usual assortment of  
 black birds,  
 lots of garden snakes  
 mounded in the yard. Voles  
 own chipmunk's too  
 note scot again on dove  
 left berries ready to ripen,  
 and is very low have to  
 get it out this year.  
 ticks Cat birds  
 Cassin's Red tail  
 in criss Great Blue Heron  
 aka does  
 Cleveland frogs Hummingbirds  
 1/ large green tree frog !!  
 1 AND 6-18 -> 2 grs

thing has taken the wind  
 up all the much better  
 squirrels come in.

6/20 Feedings!

criss teaching territory??  
 for their new barn

Planches gave lots of those fresh  
 baby chickadees.

thing + Red bellied A plenty  
 beautiful summer day.

Garden is over run of clover  
 + wild flowers they used.  
 snakes in the front garden.  
 no wonder the grass is down

41 bird festival!

Cardinals Jays Grosbeaks  
 busy breasted flycatcher  
 blue jay House sparrow chickadees  
 Gold finch Red winged black birds.

most black winged skimmers  
 dragon flies  
 bees have returned.

-3 all the above + down  
we saw nut water. done  
with a deer

though on the flowers  
is at on grasshopper

in my night, near a full moon.  
I want come in last night.

had full of birds  
I heard calls

sheep grasshopper grass grasshopper  
it water down heavy bed behind  
diver

been to wet in the morning of. sent home  
at a good luck, to show full moon  
just like. Same as last episode.

though the deep beam is not getting  
in, not each day but the in  
red, not her normal red when  
burden her belly is swollen

My spine comes more. I  
is of birds surround - at student <sup>part</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>body</sup>  
I have on my runway + usch  
the. Same as grasshopper. Still <sup>part</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>body</sup>

free. When you dismount, I will  
side down like. I'll be with me  
bird movement outside on my leg.  
no her head, birds

4/11/00

Body passed away 12:30 pm in my arms.

Buried soon in Baby Blanket in a pink  
bag with hair

and beneath the Blooming Berry Bush

GOD bless your sweet soul +

Baby Blanket has DUMMIES with

balloons <sup>on</sup> just for fun!

rainy day today just after Bear

passed the sky was crying. Sad

sad heart. Will always love + miss

her sweet face + self. Born on the

top window Born on the beams

Born on the painty rack

Born in the ceiling looking down

while she watches for mice  
happy little pink tail. Stayed true  
after white life. Always 1/3 of her  
after water are

1/3 with arms out of coat +

for poor her daughter, charlotte  
partner in crime.

3 cats left how well their  
riddle under changed?  
steel raining. salt rain cat bot

1 room does not feel right. Bathroom  
with a big spirit presence,  
in her her little pants scratches  
the guest + complaining to come out  
in + not that in, dragon like.  
just lived the room. evergreen forest

holding walking sneezing in the  
night. about 5 cries in 1/2 hr  
up + pivoting down between front  
we wall + the swamp.  
after breaking howling in the den  
3rd my meow.  
about 1 shrub. Unbelievably loud  
30-4 am.  
nobody set up + crack the window  
the howling stops.  
I said he'd never heard such a  
loud. whole night as well.

old rainy days. One glances day  
always cool nights.  
The pond is dark 71 lower  
then it this low.

Chen says a bear was at  
her feeder Sat. night.  
last night I drove in + saw  
a fence reason of a frog.

She hurried off into the brush +  
when I hit the top of the  
drive the garage was on light  
was on. Carefully moving.

but blacked out went to  
walk past the mid point on  
the sidewalk. kept staring at  
the garage/barn area.

light's!  
tone of not water fighting.  
The red wares had with colorful  
in the hay's swamp....

Humming birds +  
howling hind bees.

TSNG at SSS (values). Very large  
one in the center garden but  
No vob.

21 lots of different birds here.

Occasional swallow tail, lots  
doves, downy woodpecker - skimmers,

one hawk, many of the usual  
warblers,

at least 1 goldfinch chickadee

of course white throats  
redpolls, yellow at the feeder  
red bellied. Hummingbirds

only saw bear at feeder last Saturday.

whether in the woods keeps  
like birds. top

going to let cats out. Planted 2

event day when just before the  
can do what it wants.

Running up again. Water to my pool  
about 5' down. distillate

fast light can. must see if water

space is interrupted  
front seen the shadows.  
Chase just ~~off~~ incident in the area.

Can't see them that look like  
occasional ~~prose~~ beats.

Have one or two from the young.  
rough say how the elders.  
About 3-4 young same Selders(?)

Flack at about 20 with hatch. Highest  
how through. Quite a racket  
(if some goldfinch.) stopped at  
the feeder when all through  
the woods

Squirrels release the feeder.  
Can't see with keep them full by  
the bushes. Last week of seed  
will put the feeder in its spot.

Feeder opening for squirrels in  
the woods ready for tonight.

with hatch back down go in waves  
CATS OUT FOR 15 min.

NON-HUMMINGBIRD:  
EAT NO PROBLEM

Running out til 8. Blacky 58

know...

The 3rd year rain becomes  
 steady/constant but still  
 a little better out.  
 2 Hummingbirds sit  
 together on the old wood  
 from the butterfly bush,  
 I have wide Peter on the tree  
 swarms.  
 Peter and no viles / wiles  
 + few cupwings.  
 The 2nd year for Bee Balm  
 very obvious has come back  
 finally no spines on the thistle (Spine)  
 (early) Goldfinch + plenty  
 200+ feet Hummingbird in  
 a noble garden eaten sunflower  
 seeds, lot of thistles + dandelions  
 (eaten) was to eat the flowers  
 Fred hit wire - cannot see it.

These rest in garage  
 will take down for day this week  
 or when seeds are finished.  
 Hummers are very into the thistle  
 this year. first time.  
 Goldfinch on fighting looking  
 its vesting time.  
 They are beautiful when they  
 bob in the garden especially on  
 the yellow clustered daisies (?)  
 funny to watch them weave.  
 Entry has gone out + come  
 right back in.  
 Hummingbirds hummingbirds  
 chase ahead the ~~fast~~ swift birds  
 like like hummingbird bees.  
 Pairing in the garden!!  
 Hilly birds fabulous. even some  
 exchange referred.

LEAPED FROG - Bay SAETG =  
 lots of small Peter chry.  
 422 cord nigh 60's, green  
 yellow warbler on rock garden flower  
 422 Peter Hummingbird



1988 Judy's Sun

lots of Indigo Buntings, Hummingbirds  
owls, Goldfinches, Titmouse  
occasional catbird.

never present cecil pickers.  
Red winged at feeder! where did  
the colony move to?

Dawngs,

Swallows again  
lots of small pickers 1/16"  
lots of in a couple of weeks!

8-13

SE on Patm / cord  
DADS return one ST on THE  
TEEP + Blackey uticera on IT  
QUIT even more!

Naked, Pickers

Nakes in basement Big Bees  
IT in eyes

CASSIN Ar, Jay otherwise  
my united BIRDS, TI WICE  
the leaves good Em CH

Deer

have seen 2-3 LEOPARD FRAGS  
the GARAGE

GTS ARE CAMEO DOWN  
one more since BOB PRISON  
NO MAYBE PICTURE \$

BAT is much more they  
go in out but BUDY is A  
PAIN to bet in Always  
the LAST occasional CATBIRD

LOTS of Hummingbird BIRDS  
+ Hummingbird Bees (MATHS)  
HIRSUS still NOT OPENED

holes turned up ice creaky,  
lawn mower fixed  
Robins (?) rebuilt nest in

small evergreen nut did not  
lay eggs in it Strange summer  
? second nest for phosphor

green, red, yellow, brown, purple  
what washrooms  
Black yellow swallow tails

tons of WANTS  
Dragon Bugs, Dawngs, BATS  
carrots, grass HAPPY

9/1 tons of Rain, cool  
shades in the HOUSE were too

walk in the SUN and THAT  
everything is new with us 11 down



3 pm. Heron on other side  
of road in stream fully  
in view left we very  
close 8-10 ft. want to get  
rounded wing height  
falling landing. Oct 10-12  
left together round bend  
into reeds + stream.

Penobscot Jay will be NOW.  
WIND observations - Home Day 1/2

USP =  
Jay - 8  
same first  
stroke -

Blue heron  
321  
w/ leg

heron husband comes by  
thinks foot is wrapped in  
fishing line. Thinks he seen  
the leaf / toes worse.  
Am very happy to see  
one or several rounded creature

Why spurs wings + heron

walks onto bank of stream.  
We agree to water heron  
+ hope to catch on Friday  
+ cut fishing line off bird  
+ release w/ help from  
Jay will.

Heron Day 3 Heavy rain

NOT SO CERTAIN THE LEG IS  
NOT BROKEN.  
Heron on grassy slope  
w/ leg askew

W/ leg

seems tired, tried to give it time  
per the heron suggests on only  
succeeded in scaring the bird  
further with the huggles  
flap of wings dragging leg

Does not seem happy. Jay  
could come Friday but don't  
want get in touch w/ stroke

thick understory has trails  
+ water courses

Deer tracks  
They follow down by water's  
edge + cngs around the yard  
to barn

Must put up with bird  
Dusky brown coming by the  
barn.

Unusual hawk. Cng like a  
kitten. Smaller than red tail  
through yard + down to swamp  
barn then swamp. Still cngs.  
Large swamp ground

Plads + grassy openness.  
Just many grasses last night

5 tracks in a tree on  
Palm Winkalwing (ship)

Gardner here (the dog)  
3 Adms in cng 4-<sup>2</sup> family of  
Blue Yng between  
ms of patches

Great catkins children  
hit wire just north  
less everywhere snakes

leaves - sugar maple have  
been red for weeks. Type of nuts  
gathered by squirrels + chipmunks

(<sup>part</sup> rear AT rears)

inside hilly the swamp.

flowers have - demand large circle  
are water to immense.

The woods down to the swamp are  
all small evergreen. I can't get  
near it

9-10-81

the describing all peripherals:

9-7 GREAT Blue Heron on  
road on bridge - PARROT

seems like he has a broken  
foot. Lets us come close w/  
car. Small traps of wings  
into stream. 4:30 - 6:30

west side

9-8-81's got heron close to road  
in water  
(on west side)

to see if they will handle.

Rain would continue  
probability will be rescued +  
perhaps realized unless stocks  
have another plan.

3 PM Haven moved mud down stream  
3 PM Haven up bank toward road  
into stream !!

making water, eliminating fishing??

no person blew me off (just think to  
and I well very positive, will  
hole out on highway re-animals:  
blood cells - Pict color around  
birds - thinks just a sprain!  
e Saw hen stand on leg. Moved  
e After into swamp.  
e agree wait another day of  
it let the bird live in nest  
ess of captivity and that we  
e seen drinking + perhaps eating

maybe all the bird roosts in nest?

had could it walk had 40' of it  
had infection from a break of it  
super seem clear, bird is almost

3 PM BIRD GONE! This Am.  
Late in Day 3 PM Back to  
where it was.

Knee very sudden can not  
stand on leg though it has  
more meat.

only with decide to capture  
catching bird and ward.  
in other side of the stream.

net but net hits head.  
taped back - put in sleeve.

very thin very very weak.  
did not make it through the  
net - EP.

when I spoke to the lady I told  
her the woman was very tip.  
he told me had weak to feel  
reflexive aggressive capture was  
the right time.

See Great Blue heron  
in water in by the bay where  
it met the bridge. It was  
Bath the water. It was  
Stain + bones but passed on  
the morning  
I stave early spring  
I'll forget Birthday  
3.12 Thank a fly  
guys back

LOTS OF JAYS

→ 9/21 Rain + high winds from hurricane

→ 9/25 Bright beautiful  
and days of tree frog on house  
= Pigeon and Squirrel  
= whoo's the next night.  
Water jays feed sparrows.  
15 jays?

Goldfinch nothing from  
of leaves down.

Amount of ~~water~~ ~~in~~ ~~down~~ ~~crack~~  
The pool + clouds a wall in  
out of summer we 8 little ones.

lots of woodpeckers

9.20 Clear blue day  
beautiful. time to put the  
feeders back up full.  
Caterpillars everywhere.

The Summers little had under  
the front porch is much  
larger 3-4" still hanging.

Green Frog

Open clear again then more rain and

→ 10/1 cost clear

WITH IT TWICE ~~CHICKADEES~~!  
and 1 ~~SNAIL~~!  
some TAYS

Red Pigeon Woodpecker ♀ daily  
still snakes around

→ 10/10 Usual SUSPICIOUS AS ABOVE  
Occasional cardinal + dove -  
which hunted sparrows on the drive  
mostly of the 10.10 11.09

Smacks were 1/2 colored  
Jimmy fell so much rain that  
I had to get out of the  
where is the or  
Combined on the feeder  
drink

10/17 yellow mixed warblers.  
freezing cold gray lots of birds  
at the feeder goldfinches

Plotted for a w.  
And found out.

10/19 Success! rain cold

was more than many of  
usual yellow mixed warblers  
or DMH?? on seed heads  
= REAT

21 Cardinals came doves,  
10 Cardinals, sparrows  
two birds, 100's in the swamp.  
up goldfinch all over seed heads

few of rds. Towels on the drive.  
don down driveway + opening one  
in the yard.  
Smacks were full color.

where are the ladybugs? is it for  
cost??

10/20  
They're here, here, ladybugs  
remain today, quickly seep up  
the door

DEER ON THE DRIVE, LOTS OF TRACKS  
LOTS OF BIRDS, MOST LEAVES ARE  
DOWN. AMAZING HOW MUCH  
MORE CAN BE SEEN.

elmer called. The bear was back  
about 250 lbs. This the  
worst left Tues or wed

He asked were deer. They are  
developing the former cell tower  
piece. Used to be more than  
of deer  
no nuts in the woods now then

lucky ducks slower Scape in apples  
acorns in woods.  
Scape the bear should tolerate  
in  
been cold but still robust  
a fire yard here.

27 warm day clear  
GEESE GOING CRAZY  
30 TONS OF Doves - GOURMET  
100's of BUCKS IN THE  
SWAMP ONLY  
SUSP. SUSPECTS REWARD  
IONS OF GROUND FEEDING DUCKS  
very wet Day rain with  
55°

Storm winds (11.5) &  
- 10 gusts 12 WEEKEND WIND DOWN  
180's

all winds again  
Euler Hawks this year  
up makes lakes some wild  
SUNSHINE (Bakes UP  
30 hrs am.

round small water? dead-crooked  
in window yellow cap + wrap (blackberry white)  
? squirrel at the end of drive

the Scape many more deer by here for  
scares wild.  
sometimes round the house each night.  
Scape Hider.

11/11 thru got dry FEATHERS BY FEEDER  
11/12 1st snow AFTERNOON 30°  
11/13 Blot of white in the night.

Pile DOWN AT THE FEEDER  
of Peckrested TONS OF YUCKS  
Peckrested feeders ground feed  
Chms says catches out of lawn.  
very cold & windy 20's  
water to keep -  
wood delivered tomorrow.

→ 12 to SNOW TODAY  
Warmer than usual no snow  
since 11/13 cold night warmer  
Scape few hawks sharpie  
through the yard.  
leaves piles, jays? / shoves

usual suspects  
deer (Rabbits in yard?)  
spout 10-15 piles.  
jaws tracks will tell.



strange loud whistle in the  
 night. Leptus to my call  
 several nights this past week  
 but no who's  
 I caught one plenty. As one  
 the deer.  
 Duberstein came for visit  
 → 12/17  
 • Crows in the yard  
 • more feathers (big + smaller)  
 • red tailed hawk <sup>warmer</sup> ~~warmer~~ cold again  
 • still no snow 12/14 → bitter + windy  
 weekend.  
 • snow just beginning to here.  
 positional work again?  
 no guys. or occasional  
 small birds. Sparrows, doves, juncos  
 odd night bird sounds  
 like a chick / tweet strange  
 out of water bird. more  
 and s?? red a better flashlight

12:00 SNOW! 3" last night  
 BUTTER COLD single flight  
 windy. Heat went off  
 LAST NIGHT  
 PRO COLD for SPINERS  
 juncos downy's Woodpecker  
~~Redpoll~~ ~~chickadee~~? Goldfinch  
 Red Tail all night perched on a limb  
 back to the house. must be looking  
 for ground walkers.  
 at Sparrows kept from tail to feet.  
 12/21 still single disjunct Sparrows  
 one back.  
 WHEAT REVERNS, THEN RAIN  
 12/22 + 12/23.  
 Saw fox tracks before the snow  
 melted.  
 → 1/2 - warm / warm / cold / warm  
 CARDINAL downy occasional juncos  
 SPINERS.  
 DOWNY Ad: STAR  
 GENIE: ?



3 crows high in tree thru  
snaps thru to front

4 small but very vibrant red  
= mated about pecker. ♂

Strawberry drangreed. Brightest  
we ever seen  
young of pair? Much smaller (3")  
slight cap of male. morning

9/11 10:30

115 snow live begins

slow to ice forming  
unfrozen way

ice not slippery.  
doves, chickadees, juncos, downy  
sparrows

-117-

rain warm and snow melted 110° near 3:00

then dusting of snow. cold returns

73 at dump. Only came out ♂

Wrens, sparrows, doves, chickadees

very once. Crows! ~~interact~~ (Finches??)

owl at water saved made words

we not seen red mated woodpecker  
a while. Snow again from  
1st front

oo

Strange strange weather  
rain, ice, some snow, great ice  
falls so thick no visibility!  
on 202.

Birds roosting on wood piles.  
What with feathers (downy)  
seen. Doves? Hawk, owl's?  
What is it/are they??

118 too cold for squirrels,  
snow 1" last night. Temp's  
plunged to 15° of crows  
back day of cardinal late day

another visit from the small ♀  
red mated + size of downy  
red mated male up.

zillions of juncos  
Doves are roosting in the wood shed

119 Winter cold few ps - 0  
23

0 Buzzard's Titwren, junc  
winds  
post of snow.

Dozens of juncos. Juvenile ♂ cardinal  
hit wire, downy, gold finch, sparrows  
(no house wren, junco this year)  
juncos

5 feeders up 2 sweet blacks  
150 today still too cold or too  
deep for squirrels.  
Suns very bright + fluffy  
Blue jay, chickadee

under capture all day. bitter cold  
2/5 deer caught, rabbit tracks.  
warming up today  
more suns and tomorrow.

6 Greenling wren !!  
3+ inches again. Cardinals goldfinch  
downy red breasted juncos hit wire  
chickadee song sparrows doves, first of  
the sparrows's tree sparrows  
ok of bluebirds + a couple robins  
on the wire very cold again

called feeders w/ black oil. Fresh wind  
+ temp drop causing tomorrow  
sparrows - tree

chipmunk red cap - rakes  
snow

Canada white loon / lapin  
red breasted nuthatch has eye stripe  
white plain eye

1/27 FREEZING - w/ wind chills  
bitter wind too cold for feeding  
fox / hares crossing down  
the yard to swamp.  
circle round the pond  
lots of sparrows, house finch today

1/28 Robins 30 +  
-4. This Am. more cold wind.  
Some suspects as yesterday

1/29 - 31 snow again  
fox tracks hob cats? coyotes w/ snow.  
squirrels, juncos hawk maybe hawk -  
w/ft through the swamp. fell  
through in . . .

Deavers through about 10 mg  
 been stopped by way through  
 bunch of them. Now snow  
 all can't tell how recent.  
 Skunk cabbage surfacing  
 through the snow. Can  
 see the first bush of red tips  
 near tubery  
 20° sunny.  
 It's at deer-park + below  
 by the Sunday night.  
 2 warm squares dead out feeders  
 warming up  
 6 - 5<sup>30</sup> 2/5 -  
 nose stuck on muscle feeder  
 census tomorrow  
 ones chickadees  
 all snow mostly gone warm + windy  
 yellow goldfinch ♀ 11  
 50<sup>15</sup> downy chickadees, red breasted  
 neds  
 100<sup>15</sup> Reception top of Westkyllie  
 downy Starling! SITS + Nests  
 48 DEF TO LOW BROWN  
 485 477A,

then OFF DOWN THE SWAMP  
 SNOWGLOBE SNOW.  
 Turkey tracks in remaining  
 snow. - 50°! warm  
 2-17 cooling down again  
 14 + turkeys through the  
 yard 2 very bright but large  
 100's big front leathers  
 1 younger w/ a lump.  
 Spore. Spore's yesterday!  
 a robin?  
 lots of downy + red breasted  
 w/ the usuals snow almost all  
 gone from my yard.  
 218 pm snow + ice (5 inch - 1 inch)  
 cold front coming in  
 219 SD Robins (black head)  
 quite in with field.  
 bitter cold 10°  
 2-20 20 turkeys on the FEEDERSON  
~~the 2 were found the one w/~~  
 lump are NOT free. Is this a  
 different group  
 # 100000 OF TONS BUT W/ THE FEEDERSON  
 HANGING FEATHER



2 birds sparrows  
? song sparrows

1 yard feeder corner

2 doves 1 very smart 1 7 chudacos  
2 juncos 2 robins 20 vireos 5, 2 downy  
red breasted (syrniscus) 1 thrush  
1 corvids 1 song sparrow 1 goldfinch  
1 d-crowned black bird 1 tree sparrow

1 chipping vireo

1 great horned owl every night  
1 ph. Saw wood ducks in swamp.

1 bobcat at Sheparys this week  
Saw 1 of them here.

2/21

1st snow overnight 10-2

2 cardinals 1 cardinal blue, 3 jays  
2 down juncos several tree sparrows  
• juncos chasing the cardinals part of  
swamp not too far away, no  
incident when below feeder in the  
snow

Several cardinals later in the day

Out again at night. Coyotes? Fox?  
Some have half way on the ground.  
Where are the pileated? Must go  
tracking

2/28 Still no snow.

2 FOXES THROUGH THE YARD  
MATTERLY Doves of there's  
CORVIDS Hawk 2x +

HOSE TURTLE, CAROLINA WREN  
WAS THE SWEETAKES,

CROWS, CARDINALS, Doves, chickadee  
house finch goldfinch juncos ptarmigan  
More song sparrows.

can heard red winged blackbirds  
Doves IF wood peckers Downy hairy  
A Flicker? red breasted  
owl at night →

Snow morning N<sup>or</sup> Easter

Heading our way today  
expecting high winds + fog +  
snow  
filled the feeders Squirrels  
not around 3pm

3-1  
Sunbegan around 5pm

8+ inches of snow, still snowing  
10 min.

Continued for those fresh, 7 crans  
downy, quacos, ht wile, muthatris  
no dands yet

A small flock of house finch 3 of  
a feeder at one time!  
IS IT THE THIRST?

SNOW SHOWER - SNOW GREASE SNOW  
OFF + ON ALL DAY

2 + DIGGITS!

another 2-3 inches by  
morning.

Bright clean sparkly fluffy  
SNOW!

WASH I almost have for later

Perfect cross country day!

mainly hunting + baiting  
3-3 for down. (multiple animals)

3-3 TRACKS.

TOOK A WALK DOWN IN FRONT  
OF THE HOUSE TO SEE WHAT WAS  
NO LAST DIGGITS.

Followed a large coyote tracks (wires)  
up into wangled by turkey tracks

up the sille through the water without  
Green across the top forward (wires)

C + Josephs Then as walked  
back down towards the swamp

more tracks leading up to the  
moulder. He sat down for awhile,

and the snow was melted then  
melt through the swamp to the

order. I could/would not follow  
any further (to our common wall)

then I went back to see where  
the tracks originated. At one

point Beard/Raccoon tracks 3-4  
animals with the stream/swamp

bits were turkey + other unrecognizable  
but different. Tracks. Seems

at least 2 other units

at least 2 other units

o blood, no feathers. Was he  
following tracks to show nest?

Re-filled feeders.

3 house finch 2 ♂ 1 ♀  
3 downy 2 ♀

2 towhees.

od boy on 202 lost weight

small one. Must be old of

we are making cat like tracks.

Waters will jump in the back

3 pure finches. Cattle, meadow  
lots of other things, perhaps  
possum + skunk.

wey turned tracks in the  
out side



1 hummer ♂ cat and rabbit.

they went wild in the chipmunk  
system. Scenting + digging out  
the snow. They must be waiting  
I still haven't seen one!

Two Chasing Red Tail off  
hind the bank

Several different Spring songs in  
the morning. Hear the redwinged  
blackbirds!

3-7 Cardinals in the  $\Delta$  feeder.

20+ birds in the yard. 7 crows  
birds go after the crows +  
drive them off.

crows feeding each other in tree.

3-12 Tracks of 3/3 WOLF!

- More snow structures. SAD ICE  
snow Tuesday.

more snow Friday and Sat  
SAT AM. REED

lots of meleys, FOX AGAIN.

Account men, Redwing Gen Nest  
bird. Juncos, Gold Finch

House Finch, Redbreasted, Hairy

Downy Woodpecker, Song Sparrows,  
Crows, Doves, Crows, Cardinals.

30 birds daily  
Juncos look like must 11:15 in the  
brush.

PUT AT Cleverness + bread on  
picnic table →



7 hours in the yard. Running  
now leader of feeder.  
None on main table.  
They do summarize the smaller  
birds.

4 CARDINALS BACK TOGETHER  
FROM FEEDER TO BUSH  
WAVE THE CHIMPUNCA TIDE.  
SILENCE NO CHIMPUNCA!!  
ST. NARRANS SPOUTS UP  
BY THE LY HAUST FAN  
MADE GOOD IN THE GODSMAL.  
OTB OF DANNY'S  
THOSE FIRST, CARDINALS  
IN TODAY. SOME NOTHING

20+ HENS THROUGH THE  
PARD. BACK GOES WILD!  
THAN RED WINGED BLACKBIRDS  
THAN CROWS  
Red winged on table w/ many  
chickens; blackbirds pale off.  
Crows bill heads w/ segments + skin  
by off!

44 AMT PM TURKEY E  
ARE OF RED STAIRS?  
HAWKS.

23/24 <sup>of</sup> TURKEYS (CARDINALS (CROW))  
daily visit + have red wings  
Cardinal wren singing  
blue jay am.  
house finch, juncos wrens  
GRACKLE this am. 05/11/3/4.

23/24 Wrens + ODD TOWN IN FIVE  
DISPERSE THEM EVEN THROUGHOUT

3/21 2 GREAT BLUE HERONS FLY  
OVER!!

3/22 ROOFCOCK ??  
Cardinal wren bull spiny song  
GRACKLES, PENWINGED COOPER,  
CROWS, 32 TURKEYS, BLUEJAY

DAILY CARDINAL PAIR  
JUNCOS FIGHTING/WATMUT?

1:30 PM BLUE WALKER + TAKES ME  
OUT. WILD CRYOTES ??

FOR OWNERS: WOLF TRACKS BY  
POND SUMMER SKYS WENT UP  
ABOUT 100 LBS.

HOUSE FINCH PAIRS

SILENCE NO CHIMPUNCA



STONKS. warmer today  
 snow due again tomorrow  
 GREYS AUGUST AS FREE  
 FROM SNOW.  
 3/23 STREET GETS HEREUSESELF  
 SNOW BEGINS TO COME  
 buy 9-3-4 wethers.  
 - CALDIMAS AS USUR. D  
 RECALLED THE LEADERS.  
 = DOWN 2 SINCE THE WINTER =  
 TIME TO BUY BIRD HORSES  
 24 5-24 5<sup>PM</sup>  
 FU DAY. A SNOW OVERNIGHT 40'S  
 SMALL GIRLS AND REDWINGED  
 PRACKLES CROWS, 4 TOWNS  
 HEN CARDINALS, CARDINALS,  
 MEN, HORN LARK Doves  
 WINGS, DOWNY REDWINGED,  
 ANY SPARROWS  
 still no chipmunks  
 2) SQUIRRELS 3 WUST  
 ? COYSTES + wet field winds?

snow melts quickly, full moon  
 gets at midday of summer  
 the yard warming + afternoon  
 2 hours (hundreds) of blackbirds  
 on the ground +  
 Hitchcockian in the trees.  
 3/28  
 bus hears "wolf" cries last  
 night.  
 Pudding rain all day + night  
 will be the silverwings run  
 tonight?  
 - rain again end of week  
 warmer temps predicted.  
 More ducks  
 3/29 POND NOTED 1ST WETHERS  
 WARMING UP TODAY  
 CLEANER BIRD HOUSES.  
 SNOW NO CHIPMUNKS  
 4/31 warm again found  
 1ST FROGS IN POND /  
 PEPPERS AT NIGHT

yellow goldfinch, lots of  
house finch juncos

parakeets of a couple of weeks  
just green shafts coming up.  
lots of all over windows.  
densely leaves

Warm rains coming

Salamanders will run  
the trap twice daily  
lots of turkey buzzards this  
week.

Jump one rare visitors  
where one purches?

No deep in pond. So much of pond  
has been reclaimed by earth  
water diverted from its old  
Stream bed

2 Days of heavy rain. Grasses  
redded. 2 large smart wigs  
Cuscuta Stream from old  
pond will have new stream  
beds appear + barn.

Reported Stream but  
found it already swaled

Juncos still here

2 red bellied (pair) on the feeder  
lots of small birds.

no Carolina wren since the  
feeder also were finished

Pond is full of frogs about  
SD w/ mating calls  
Salamanders must have moved

4/4 Barns stopped

a dozen house finch,  
many juncos

since 30+ juncos in the  
yard  
Pledge is back!

Parrots on the drive.  
Warm all week.

4/4. Just a few juncos remain.  
lots of house finch.

this early and the pond culture in  
the woods great bird house  
branch for group of red winged blackbird  
to feed this day

a few more squirrels. Still 1/2 chipmunks

Clear Sky last night. Cool blue day today

Diaper's in the garage  
Plains in the yard

The garden is starting to pop.  
Lots of bee hives, Narcissus

Prep with some hedges but  
no open flowers yet.

Add fresh mulch by gut  
yellows.

Must be a hundred (tree?)  
The pond is filling up with  
but the water is murky

in. Must look for salamanders  
egg!

Florks have been back a couple  
weeks.

BRANT HORNS COVERED! ERBETS  
and Turkeys

UCLES 3! BRIGHT! COWBOL

We landed on tree in the yard  
2 great blue herons

us or wood ducks

Q. of the yard people became me.

Observed in the west woods  
CIRCULARS 80' day! (YATER)

4 NARCISSES speak very loud  
7 by day and

Another bunch warm day 70's!

Turkeys return this early AM.

White-throated sparrows

lots of woodpeckers, 2 young TOWNS  
grackles, redwings, and os.

more fresh. Gold finch.

- no juncos fresh anymore. are  
they gone? NO, still A FEW

cleaned up winter mess in the

gardens. Plants looking good  
for nesting areas.

10<sup>5</sup>

TURKEYS ONLY 4:00 PM  
collect sleeping 46-23

3/4 NARCISSES AROUND

12th Group of Yellow Warblers  
1st sp. very friendly coming  
close to observe me.  
All humming. the birds fit the sounds

8 Normans - but species encountered  
+ saw birds singing + cross.  
Some of the usual small birds  
+ bill cardinals  
10 Jays - STILL NO NEST in  
the small tree

Coppers(?) plucked above on the  
mesh tree (gold + white)  
Juncos saw  
would nebbas  
A Goshawk will arrive.  
and is turning over

Some about the bushes. the song  
may in the grassy. a hand  
- open up?

as of Bee Eater! Dipped out from  
like one hovers very high  
I have fruit trees open.

289  
Pair of Great Blue Herons

Small birds in the early am. before  
Great birds take over.  
Am not filling the feeder this  
morning. Perhaps they will  
move on.  
- feed use Sunflower though.  
Goshawks should be refreshing  
soon.  
And was lost another bird.

I don't see any eggs at all!

Yellow Birds in TREES  
There's on the garage roof.

Steps filling the feeder (waste etc.)  
too many blue birds.

The Great will of workable...

And remains still no chick number...

May 15th small break in the  
rain + rain year

S.1 visit w/ Chrys.

Swallows have arrived. Were  
from 100 flying round the  
surround. Mallards, geese on nests,  
holly hawks (2),  
bobolinks (2)

2 Yellowlegs feeding (we are  
up wind) from then  
cross + swim to the other  
side. Geese chasing behind.

Cold sunny/partially sunny day.

SS 1st Octipunct: 1/1 (cold)  
under the Gust! (days  
w/est!

Phoebe on roof! 1st time!

Still first great morning when  
will spruce ever come?

Gold, House Finch structure feeding again.  
Jay today, red winged.

Phoebe on nest by deck again!

2 nests!  
1st DRYM FLY (34)

Love the Sarah!

→ S/G A noelaster came up  
the coast, some rain, very cold  
lots of clouds + wind.

2 ROBINS STAYING ON THE ROCK  
A.M.: Flicker

Only 2 crows...  
3 Jays daily  
lots of redwings, juncos + their  
ice.

Tons of Gold + House Finch.

S/G Fair 1st Geese Back

SPM 10 blue jays, wren!  
at feeder on ground

Phoebe no bread stack, it in  
the leaves in the edge of the woods

Still CAT BIRDS!  
Hummingbird birds!

Watched the cat birds alive the  
well, yellowish nuthatch, several  
then dashing in the woods  
+ ♀

1. Vegetation

First thought.

Slit orchids! Lots of Myrica.  
Sagebrush in the tree tops.

2. Overland via lawn.

Warblers in the bushes.  
Overland? by pond (why?)

Bullfrogs!

3. Overland Solitary Sandpiper

in the pond. Poking around the

weed, been here for 2 days

Thought I got a good look before

it flew off quickly before

slurp.\*

Just a great bird day!

S-15 overcast. Big rains last night

Solitary Sandpiper + 2 wood ducks  
in the pond! wrens.

The woods are alive with song!  
Red-shoulders in full bloom.

Crows, blue jays (several daily)  
cardinals, gold finch, a chipmunk

5-16 Evening:  
Grassbeaks

Red-shouldered woodpecker &  
A Downy + blue jay all together!

A Blackish-brown w/ yellow  
red winged?

Spotted w/ s. Red black  
8pm cardinal on the edge  
of grassbeak

common yellow throat?

5-19 Yellowthroat Parula Warbler

Grassbeak + wren, cat birds, robin,  
leak sparrows

Common yellow throat?  
Crows

SP20 AT LAST! A 3rd nest  
in the chadodendrons!

Small black white red bird  
lapping in the leaves

warbler? poliochry red start

vespy nest with reds, 200  
owls, cardinals

Sp1 brought blue green egg  
in nest for Sam. were left

there last night must be  
cat birds!

NEAR 2 eggs + worm on nest

inside Sp2's nest materials  
quite a hole full

Common yellow throat

♀ dove all day into the nest  
long the sheared strips of the

butterfly brush wood

SP22 - worm on nest cold rainy

SP23 3 owls gathering nesting  
materials or cardinal on tree

feeder  
blue bird

Beautiful bird morning + sun

♀ OWL closed by male outside.  
Darker nest 1st from water →

Cardinals + blue jays

owls were resting materials  
gathered by owls. ♀

Old bay ♀ catbird on nest all AM.

12:45 ♀ CAT BIRD - JAYS + OWLS  
4 eggs in the nest.

5:15 COW + DUCK  
EGGS ON NESTS BOTH SITES TUESDAY

owls jays, catbirds, red winged  
house finch, CHADODEN



2e chardunks are active (3)

which are taken over gold  
in town for

10 belved used peckers.

Hand feeding? Sparrows only  
fly off the nest.

in eating warbler!

osprey sided warbler!

my bird!

All down the drive -

Ray PHOENIX in the GARAGE?  
25 - dropping a plenty

Now easter arrives to up  
a chill

But gold finch in the feeder

4. Cots muddled + sloppy

old, cold, cold for days

on end.

for sweaters, socks.

1 stone + give place 9 area

SPR FINALLY! weather.

FOSS - all day. Spent the day  
in the garden.  
Cardinals andles

Daisy purchases caging bar food, now  
in the air.

Hummingbird, cardinals andles Sparrow,  
another cat bird nest on the drive.

Green frogs at the pond.

Heavy thunder + lightning tonight -  
The house shook.

Sarah + Mike off to prison She is  
purch a beauty. ♀

lots of new perennials today.

I need these 3 trees down  
in the hick + many more.

She still have just end narcissus?

Heis have not moved (purple rock!)  
very few of hardy garden flowers  
any where, lights or not

must avoid the soil,  
what a beta will get periodically  
garage  
jays cardinals and blue jays  
house finch  
woods full of weevils calling  
must be dozens!! everywhere.  
will flourish + weevils!  
wee finches present.  
BUDFINCH seem to be PESTED  
II BY THOSE FINCH.  
IAR FEWER THIS YEAR THAN  
YR. Cleared out - the ste hope that  
ups  
MEDNAR & SIT ON GREEN FEEDER  
WARM AT LAST  
4 of eggs still for AT birds  
Arches sitting high. must leave  
range open. how will they fly  
if? Can they land on my car  
or tree? I can't remember  
Goldfinch feeding jays seed around  
the finch.

6-5 ROBES leave the  
nest. one jump off to  
rafters

6-9. BABY CATBIRDS Behave  
tattered. FIRE EYES!! egg  
ROBES TOTALY GONE <sup>SIT</sup>  
6-5 CAT BIRDS FEED BY <sup>along</sup>  
BOTH.  
Very HOT TODAY! RAC IN GARAGE  
HOT HOT HEAT! ENDUST + DRY  
NO RAIN DL 6/11 then 31!  
in an hour.

All bushes down  
Wisher CAT Bird returned to nest -  
puffed out all feathers low wide  
pecked + pushed bushes up open  
beaks under her when set down  
to wait out ferocious storm.

Small nest on drive has not had  
a bird on it since that day  
when it stopped to walk. too high  
to see if eggs are in.

Proches in deck nest about to leave.

Grant Snapping turtle on drive + into rhododendron garden. Police with a general stake leaving it will desert + leave eggs.

Must check out blueberry bushes. Some thing was laying in that dirt.

The nest blueberry over! on farthest bush. Have to move front bushes.

Hears rain today full downy down to bedrock again.

A very small + very vocal wren has come to find good set of house in the small house + bird feeder. Singing day + night has a note that was brown + quick. A house wren. Jitters.

lots of chipmunks now large green frog by Rhododendrons

down to out of control water everywhere. Trees full out now have to get them cut down.

Some thing keeps digging up plants up - Deer + chipmunks

Go! last wave continues 6/13

Phony proches on deck.

These birds? nest in front door lights?

These birds tried to get into wrens house - saw wrens. lots of loud clacking but wrens get in. I chased away.

Jitters Orioles, Jays lots of Proches's humbirds birds. Puffins, Hees, Bubbles, by bees

An unusual bird today



larger than sparrow  
can not find it in books.

eat to waking everything  
blissom.

Baby pucker's close to leaving nest

we baby cut birds are sitting  
+ dantly fastid.

eat more normally.

shows it helps the most I have  
ever seen.

3 birds sit in nest. no more.

o baby captures gone.

bad rain + thunder storms  
hope the baby birds are OK.

all rain -  
6/17 - 6/20 heat wave returns 6/24

• Cat birds begin new nest <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~area~~

• 3 baby pukes by at 11:00  
night perch as I walk by.

• still nesting in the new nest -  
house wren reshaping?

• very protective of house tree  
wrens on the drive

• robins for

• bird feeder stand snapped in  
2 - wind? rain? hear?

• lbs put new strands up.  
one w/ bird bath.

• Spunko

• Vicky got 2 snakes  
• 2 inches of ants

• bats in the attic

• dragon flies

• white faced hornet silhouette  
• baby losing tons of hair

• Rufous sided towhee regular  
visits to cages

• tons of blue jays

- More cardinals return and start feeding in back yard. Still come to garden.
- Snake hole by the small rock.
- Chippingmunk returned to bushes families of nuthatches.
- " finches
- most house finches gone now.
- Gold finch returned to their feeder.
- Large Squeaking turtle hies to lake/nest in the hole under my basket with help.
- I have to put it away at end of garden stake. Tons of snags + snags again. Smaller left alone, off it went.
- DAB in the garden.
- Garden Finches at the Pond.
- Hill tons of tons of fireflies humming bird.
- If all - all butterflies get
- Skip Suckers

- The afternoon <sup>after</sup> the fledglings left the nest. Had to check for ants + got scolded by catbird. Nest sat on tree limb + erected at one. Now I know they stay in the near bushes for a few days after they leave the nest. Hope I don't scare them.
- New nest begun. Waking again on it tonight. Woke at 6:20. 1 1/2" on base tonight.
- 1st ~~loss~~ frame now building up.

→ July 4th Great birding day!  
 baby plovers born again in garage  
 Cardinals + Mocking of + in garden  
 Grosbeaks house finches gold finches  
 Kingbreasted hairy downy woodpecker  
 Sapsuckers Titmice (with white front)  
 Ring-billed Gull of the New catbird nest  
 A Jay tries to get in. (Nuthatches on the window in the morning)

All birds gone for days now from nest.

cat bird feedings in the yard  
long at present.

House when sings all day long.  
The house appears empty.

Butterflies black now - return  
no swallowtails yet.

Suppose beetles 1st time. Not having  
them in w/ plants? Not having  
ants very bad this year, also  
possum living.

Red winged black birds return  
for many birds  
in orchards.

Have't seen the tanager in lately.

one of the have eaten almost all  
the ~~spatch~~ hibiscus.  
cat comes a plenty - will nip  
yet.

Watched downy curlew.

Shippers, downy curlews, swimmers  
still lots of iguana eggs.

Only seen 2 snakes since kitty  
was out.

Pygillies starting to open. 4-5  
different plants.

Green frogs. The pond is very bad.  
The whole ecology is ruined w/  
silt + whatever from the dryness  
of manure in the stream bed.  
Must address this. The pond  
is down a good 4 feet from the  
same line of last year.

Ants still found occasional  
visitors in the eggs.

Lots of Daisy's black-eyed susans

Made home's garden bigger. It looks  
pretty. Same w/ other gardens.  
Penny's garden enlarged this year.



So many things came up as  
I remember.

Went on top of rabbit hill. Nothing  
seen the near yet...

Was a chickadee.  
Very birds + juncos

7/10  
Tons of grasshoppers + cardinals only

Cardinal or w. Redwings?  
Cardinal ♀ w/ tiny head Redwings

feeding small bird near the feeder.  
Which was the one you took

here to the basement?

Phoebes in the garage nest.

Hands right w/ you at nest  
est - seen about 10 ft

Swallow tails yet  
lots of other butterflies

7/12 2 ♀ caracaras with catapulas

14 - 1/2 h long start 1/4 h old → yellow

must feed unsprayed apple tree  
leaves

my 7/12 saw 3" long cat

blue green, red eyes. blue belts

blue bunnies 2 ♂ + ♀ or why

feeding the other one

Then again the next day.

Robe have returned

7/21 1st swallow tails ✱

lots of hummingbirds

Openers over run in week again.

All the phoebes have hatched

swapped in garage one

but living in the garage.

Crabs after hawk.

maybe covers rrrrrr.



grasshoppers & crickets hairy green  
velvet, gold & white pupa  
hummingbirds yellow.

some snakes.  
small leopard frog in garden

no birds yet.  
green frogs of the pond

lots of skimmers

<sup>off</sup> caterpillars: lost 6-8 w/ sure they  
only one still yellow spiders.

humidity gone for a bit

As Very hot + humid summer hot days

caterpillars to remain  
now 3-4 inches long 1/2" wide

shed their skins by crawling out  
skins remain attached in  
spider web to branches  
conspicuous shed.

dark green after molt, then  
lighter turquoise color.

As they grow thru 4 red eyes  
from rust color + from there  
are 6

feet like hoppers. last pair like  
pincers; 4 pairs of 2.  
small grasshopper feeding pairs.

head retracts when sleeping  
remains a constant size

rust feeding at night  
general swarms at all feeding

head soft if get too close.

very hard to detach from  
branches now that they  
are so large.

hibiscus open (8/4)

lots of butterfly flies. Not as many swallow tails this year - need parsley?

Cardinalis urens.

lots of small green frogs by the barn. Caterpillars remain. voracious!

Adonir or more larksongbird notes daily

downy woodpecker, yellow throated sapsucker, gold finch, chickadee with other

Copier's through the yard. Sparrow

song of Mockers heard.

Cold front blew through when

Snakes by tree canopy + front oak pipe? few frogs.

8/9 - hot + humid weather continues

black + yellow swallow tails but

not as numerous as in other summers

caterpillars 3-4" long

should be getting ready to

colon.

8/11 1st cocoon! a medium size caterpillar has begun in the middle of a row of patches of apple leaves very thin fibers joined to leaves + a ~~dot~~ apple at handle.


8/17 the cocoon today w/ 0 benefit of leaves as the others

8/25 more than 1/2 have cocooned and 25% were a trail 1/2 way up the pantry doors  $\approx$  then

Concerned on the side of  
the dog food tray box.  
Raccoons on feeder? but  
pale to the ground.

Small sparrows like birds  
return.  
monster heat wave (100°  
on Sat.) has finished  
hulkem. cool fall like  
clouds in air.

Where are the fads?

Small frog on drain  
 green w/  
grey patch.

Robcats run at night.

? hummingbirds light

usual suspects.

8320-9.2

eastern Swoosh owl at night  
same location this morn + swamp.

Coyotes/Robcats? distinct howling.  
still in fads. Small petrel

5 med-large green frogs.

Hummingbirds, cardinals

goldfinch, one quail now. Small

garden snakes. Few chipmunks /

squirrels.

Just 2 *Cercopithecus* cat piliars

are working. How still today.

"Some caterpillars cocoon for  
at plus jump hear loud  
cannibalism inside.  
will keep it separate from

what develops.

May 5 N.O. Catrina - hurricane  
degrades quality some govt  
not aware.

coll clear weather

9.3-9.21

HUMMID HUMID D HUMMID  
DROUGHT. POND 71 down  
to a puddle.

One monarch on tree branch

MD tracks.

W/ sub-squawk pickereels.

Black! Black! Squeaks his  
toad to the end. Squeak goes  
out - takes him off + brings  
him in. Big Black Bear sits  
in the path 20' away.  
Feeds to the ground.

ensure all feeders.

Full moon 2 AM  
harkens strange light into  
halls. Axes! 18

lots of Jays in the trees.

waves down / tickles bark.

Pond - ~~2~~ <sup>2</sup> ~~rock~~ <sup>summit</sup> almost dry!

Prey said to leave if left  
dry if out. Natural selection  
if that tracks have rust  
likely hurried to stay wet  
during the drought.

Mules through out the lawn.

22 Jays 11 Squeak out  
small hawk through the yard

→ 10/9 W/S of disjuncts  
vales through the yard

condor flying through.  
purses  
bleated on line

Beaver's been back but we haven't seen him

Some snakes. lots of pickerals

Pond down to a puddle.

0/7+9 HUGE Down PAYS.  
(will continue all week...)  
3+4

The pond is back full to early summer height.

Record rain 12.5" over week

→ 11/2"  
Pondlog weighed out. Fish sticking down.

most rain in over 100 yrs.

Start of overgrowth in CT  
thruge overhills.

Then wild winds 35+ mph.  
over 2+ days.

lots of birds

Robins, Jays, chickadees  
Hawks

Small warblers

Redstarts? Bush of yellow  
under way

rough 1 → 22  
upland fal. 7

wind from South is more strong.  
wonder what happens in fall  
migration is??

→ 10P 3/4 the  
warblers? more wild weather -  
more rain cold  
now eastern lines down (11/2" +  
stagnant in  
creations)

goldfinch, small sparrow's jaws  
back last week. no feeding up  
still ahead of bear.

• scap with napoleos in the drive.  
• v-birdy scap caught on stove call.  
• Goldfinch nibbling on seed heads  
• Purple reweaves.

• Snow hawks - copper + red wings?  
• Jays, cardinals around  
• first frost this Am.

26 → 28th (last many hours)  
30 within today. If it was  
pens of any size.

The bear has been back again  
again. Graded, swapped a  
few spits back at slower,  
we must be very careful.  
This is an aggressive bear.

THATUP HAVE SEEN WITHOUT  
2 CURS  
DEEDS - CURS IN A TREE,  
SPEED EVERYONE TO REMOVE  
FEED + SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

5 of smaller birds juvs  
old + wasser (juvs)

U. Start on drive again  
hired again hair  
one from home  
washed on 14-12" — 6-8"

114 Walk in water on  
SIDEWALK.

SIDEWALK LEAVES BLOWN??

Saw some hawk SOART  
Broadwinged? / young red tail?  
white under sides?

118 Still Quite warm 60's  
small flocks of birds on  
the drive - multi-fur-bearing -  
= redish neck  
= yellow under tail  
grey crested birds heel size.

112 Red tail in tree on drive.  
still warm.  
Bear still hanging round.

113 After spaint = still looks

118 Cold roughly 30°! + downy /  
mudcrack's big low across 47-1

112 cold all week warm SD-60 days  
small brownish? rain today.

2/12/5

5th Pileated flew over  
my head. Rowing like  
hardware on wood. Grey AS  
it flew

Snow on ground 2" - more  
easter me migrant.

S<sup>th</sup> on T-Day, 11/24 20<sup>th</sup> 5

Tracing in woods only  
Deer, rabbits, squirrels

100 rabbits, on tree for days,  
just put this up 11/24

Today will say seed + put  
up again. Hope the birds  
are sleeping.

12th H. Hall down the swamp  
of rabbit? Found up from  
ground landed in tree.

10-20 mch from camp from  
woods - red tail swamps  
in, should keep off of his  
prey.

Appl of red tails?  
on water up.

Dark snow on foreground

D. J. Freezing. last teens  
morning. Air easter  
blew off the shore. No cold  
snow.

feeders back up,  
had our bear hams  
resting spot.

(Drew of white cardinals.)  
12/8-9 14/11 snow

12/8-9 14/11 snow  
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12/8-9 14/11 snow  
12/8-9 14/11 snow



12/22 - Jays + red squirrels  
hauled all the usual  
suspects.

12/27. Rain + warm weather -  
40's furs past week.

Red Squirrels near the house.  
Some young (squirrels?) in in

the chimney behind my bed.  
30 + birds at a time at the  
feeders.

Moms B' day today was her son.  
Dinner for Sandy. Secure the cats!

Cardinals - redstarts

Small almost gone. warm wet.  
12/31. Small storm!

11-12 nuthatches crows, nuthatch  
white chickadees - Juncos!!!

Small red bellied nuthatch today.  
re home the suet cages.

great jacking 3-4 inches at snow

Coyote ate skunk my front well

fox tracks + coyote tracks in the  
woods

2-3 foxes?

fox tracks my pond + side  
of the drive.

tracks for fox tracks up the  
walk trail to the access road.  
coyote + fox towards wood/rows  
tree piles.

hopes chasing squirrels in the  
wood. must have been a  
busy night. in the back yard.

big snow storm coming tonight.  
they were house in the  
woods!! x x x x

1/3 My extra jumps heavy wet  
Snow since Lepus last night  
muddy water's broken to top ground.

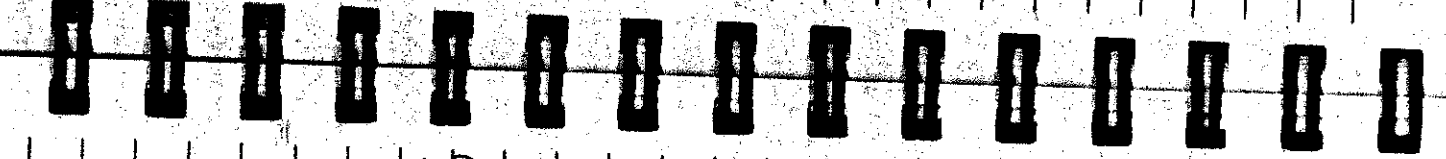
I went + pulled up of the azaleas  
since have broken already

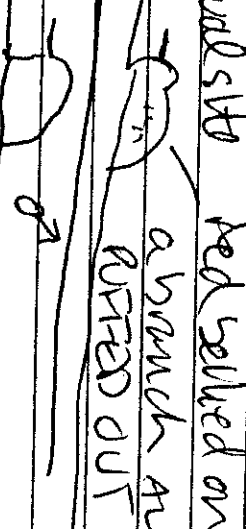
very bad for garden mister  
about 30 small squirrels in fire yard.  
rotted all the feeders

purple or hover just 1 can't  
tell. May be depends since  
number

small birds feeders on seed loads

especially wearing gloves  
 I just rip out again. good  
 source. It's warm so the  
 and in heavy + wet 32°(?) -  
 5th guess! Austria does  
 further future sparrow's  
 oh (gold + horse) downy  
 red secured doves  
 20+ doves fly over head  
 animals. lots of horse junk  
 BY FOX! Scat sign on wall  
 some makes kill scat -  
 smell like stunk.  
 ordered why the statues  
 event. there it wasn't the  
 3+ rabbit the fox killed



handles? leave piles of feathers  
 under feathers grey w/ white  
 tips doves? in black berry  
 bushes.  
 band owls nesting 1 trunk  
 warm Spain 40s-50s this week  
 sparrow from winter  
 IFS From SD's to single digits  
 ice stream moved up last  
 night, then snow SD with  
 winters.  
 2 doz + birds at the feed  
 cardinal ♂ doves juncos  
 to wire with water sparrow's  
 Austria does. house <sup>sparrow</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>house</sup>  
 - pair of red tails on the drive  
 - pair of pivoted words by  
 pond + swamp  
 universal to red sealed on  
 a branch the  
 RUTTED OUT  


Bitter cold Nicker wind tears

→ 2/11

Hottest January ever 30-10° days.

All the snow completely melted.

3 WDS singing - tenney? weaver for a while on the dark leaves!

Scat rec'd early. Red Bellied - when.

11 1st chipmunk!

11 evening Buzzard! equisthorax now continues all night through

morning at least a foot of snow

1 mesh  
eders full + crowded. snow too up for black.

It's almost all snow since 2/11

single digits

wood. Much came up out of the

woods. Lots were singing in the

woods. Lots were singing in the

2/25 1st Red winged blackbird

lots of singing this am.

Red bellied hairy downy

juv's, gold finch, junco, sparrow

lots of chipmunks

2/28 weaver (bitter cold week)

3/1 another hospital day for the

drive through a red first ever.

3/2 6" - snow hit day

Blowy snow - ice - fluffy

snow. Another hanging on.

3/7 quail passed with the light

3/11 Mavis hoars Owl cry at

3/14 3/28 over other crosses

the road in front of me  
- pair of ducks flush in a tree  
- 3/29. Feathers crack in hand,  
peep?

though it was a wild  
winter; the mammals

came up early, were open  
till mid April.

Bear through the yard from

up to Vermont killed 380+ lbs

meat of a. took with feathers

to the ground. Very little

rain. a soil is all dried out

no jump. 7 crows, 102 plus

no jump from only 2

2 downy N. stars

ed sparrow's down from dove

ves (chickadee) destroying grass

check spotted blue warbler



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
FRANKLIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



391 ROUTE 32  
NORTH FRANKLIN, CT 06254  
TELEPHONE: (860) 642-7239

April 8, 2009

Ms. Elizabeth Corrigan  
Town of Washington  
Conservation Commission  
Bryan Memorial Town Hall  
Washington, CT 06793



re: proposed Rabbit Hill cell tower, Warren

Dear Ms. Corrigan:


Your request was forwarded to me on 4/8/09 from Dawn McKay of the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Natural Diversity Data Base. They have records of a state threatened butterfly; Sedge Skipper (*Euphyes dion*) and two species of special concern, the Bronze Copper butterfly (*Lycæna hyllus*) and the Wood turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*) occurring in the vicinity of this project.

The Bronze Copper butterfly is associated with wetland habitats. If any wetland habitats are to be altered, it may affect this species. The Sedge Skipper is associated with open sunny marshes. If work will not affect any open sunny marsh area, it will not affect the Sedge skipper.

Wood turtles require riparian habitats bordered by floodplain, woodland or meadows. They hibernate in the banks of the river in submerged tree roots. Their summer habitat includes pastures, old fields, woodlands, powerline cuts and railroad beds bordering or adjacent to streams and rivers. This species has been negatively impacted by the loss of suitable habitat. Your application did not indicate how the clearing would be done nor the time of year.

If Wood turtle habitat exists on the proposed site and will be impacted by your project or wetland habitats will be altered, the Wildlife Division recommends that a herpetologist and invertebrate biologist familiar with the habitat requirements of these species conduct surveys between April and September to see if they are present. A report summarizing the results of such surveys should include habitat descriptions, invertebrate, reptile and amphibian species list and a statement/resume giving the biologist' qualifications. The DEP doesn't maintain a list of qualified biologists. A DEP Wildlife Division permit may be required by the biologist to conduct survey work, you should ask if your biologist has one. The results of this investigation can be forwarded to the Wildlife Division and, after evaluation, recommendations for additional surveys, if any, will be made.

Standard protocols for protection of wetlands should be followed and maintained during the course of the project. Additionally, all silt fencing should be removed after soils are stable so that reptile and amphibian movement between uplands and wetlands is not restricted. Please be advised that the Wildlife Division has not made a field inspection of the project nor have we seen detailed timetables for work to be done. Consultation with the Wildlife Division should not be substituted for site-specific surveys that may be required for environmental assessments. The time of year when this work will take place will affect this species if they are present on the site when the work is scheduled. Please be advised that should state permits be required or should state involvement occur in some other fashion, specific restrictions or conditions relating to the species discussed above may apply. In this situation, additional evaluation of the proposal by the DEP Wildlife Division should be requested. If the proposed project has not been initiated within 6 months of this review, contact the NDDB for an updated review. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at [Julie.Victoria@ct.gov](mailto:Julie.Victoria@ct.gov), please reference the NDDB # at the bottom of this letter when you e-mail. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,   
Julie Victoria, Wildlife Biologist  
Franklin Wildlife Management Area  
391 Route 32  
N. Franklin, CT 06254

cc: NDDB - 16848

Conservation Commission  
Town of Washington  
Bryan Plaza  
Washington Depot CT 06794



The Connecticut Siting Council  
Ten Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051  
April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009

RE: DOCKET #378

Dear Council Members,

The Washington Conservation Commission has received a letter from the Department of Environmental Protection regarding Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files for the area delineated by the application on the above captioned docket for one of two sites on Rabbit Hill Road in Warren. This letter from the DEP notes that the state threatened butterfly Sedge Skipper and two species of special concern, the Bronze Copper butterfly and the Wood turtle occur in the vicinity of this application. The DEP's Wildlife Division recommends that a herpetologist and invertebrate biologist familiar with the habitat requirements of these species conduct surveys between April and September to see if they are present and a report be issued. Please see the attached letter for further details.

This letter serves as formal request that the Siting Council execute its responsibilities "to protect the environment and ecology of the state" and order an immediate environmental impact study on this environmentally sensitive area. We request a delay on the hearing date until such time as a full, and proper environmental review has been completed. Washington was not aware of the wetlands 50 feet off site B, which are headwaters to our Meeker Swamp, until we read the formal application to the Siting Council. This information was not included in the last minute application to town, in fact no site evaluation was included for site B. We formally requested of the Siting Council a 60 day municipal review under Connecticut General Statutes Section 16-50i, for what we consider a new site (site B) so that we might be able to conduct proper municipal review. To date we have not had all of the town commissions participate in a full review nor has the council told us why such a review period should not be granted. As information on this location unfolds we hope that there will not be a continued rush to hearing, but rather a steady and considered review of the site as mandated by Connecticut state statutes section 16-50i.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Dupuis".

Diane Dupuis  
Conservation Commissioner