



Bird Conservation Award Goes to Wildlife Division's Paul Fusco

The Connecticut Ornithological Association (COA) recently presented the Mabel Osgood Wright Award to Wildlife Division Creative Media Specialist and Photographer Paul Fusco. The award recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to the knowledge, study, and conservation of birds and was named after Connecticut Audubon founder Mabel Osgood Wright.

Paul has had a position with the CT DEEP Wildlife Division for over 33 years. He has written articles on birds and bird conservation, providing stunning images and informative essays, for *Connecticut Wildlife* magazine during the last 20 plus years. Recently, some of the articles have focused on wildlife viewing with the goal of introducing others to Connecticut's watchable wildlife. Paul leads annual migratory bird walks at the Wildlife Division's Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area, sharing his vast knowledge of birds to eager participants. He also has been assisting with the publication and design, along with photographs, of the Connecticut Audubon Society's State of the Birds Annual Report since 2006.

Over the years, Paul has conducted numerous bird surveys, including annual Audubon Christmas Bird Counts and waterfowl surveys. He has participated in ruffed grouse, grassland birds, neotropical migrant, bald eagle, and wetland callback surveys. Paul also monitors the Connecticut coast for shorebirds and has assisted with protective measures, such as fencing and signage, for state-listed piping plovers and least terns.

COA chose the perfect individual to provide the Mabel Osgood Wright Award as Paul has dedicated much of his adult life to the study, documentation, and conservation of birds.

- Written by Laura Rogers-Castro, DEEP Wildlife Division



L. ROGERS-CASTRO

Some of Paul's recent articles in *Connecticut Wildlife* have focused on wildlife viewing in Connecticut with the goal of introducing and educating others on the great diversity of wildlife and habitats within the state.

New Marine Fishing Regulations for 2022

There were only a few changes to Connecticut's Saltwater Fishing Regulations for 2022. All of the information can be found online at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/Saltwater-Fishing-Guide/Species-Regulations>. New regulations are listed below.

Summer Flounder (Fluke)

- Minimum length: 18.5 inches (NEW!)
- Daily creel limit: 4 fish per angler
- Open Season: May 1 - October 9 (NEW!) Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing Sites the minimum length is 17 inches

Scup (Porgy)

- Minimum length: 10 inches (NEW!)
- Daily creel limit: 30 fish per angler
- Open Season: Open Year Round
- Party/Charter Vessel Bonus Season: For paying passengers only: 50 fish per angler from September 1 - October 31
- Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing Sites the minimum length is 9 inches (NEW!)

Black Sea Bass

- Minimum length: 16 inches (excluding tail fin filament - tendril) (NEW!)
- Daily creel limit: 5 fish per angler
- Open Season: May 19 - December 1, except May 19 - December 31 for Party/Charter Vessels (NEW!)
- **Party/Charter Vessel Bonus Season:** For paying passengers only: 7 fish per angler from September 1 - December 31. Daily logbook reporting required by Party/Charter Vessel operator for trips taking Black Sea Bass