

# Hartford Audubon Society records 2001.17

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Friends of Wood Memorial Library and Museum

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Friends of Wood Memorial Library and Museum
<b>Creator:</b>	Hartford Audubon Society
<b>Title:</b>	Hartford Audubon Society records
<b>ID:</b>	2001.17
<b>ID [aspace_uri]:</b>	/repositories/21/resources/676
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1902-2023
<b>Physical Description:</b>	11 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Hartford Audubon Society records document the activities of the Hartford Audubon Society (HAS), formerly known as the Hartford Bird Study Club. The records are a mix of physical materials, held at the Wood Memorial Library in South Windsor, and digital materials held in cloud storage by HAS.

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Hartford Audubon Society records (2001.17), Wood Memorial Library and Museum, South Windsor, CT.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Hartford area residents founded the Hartford Bird Study Club on May 18, 1909, after recognizing that there was a widespread local interest in birds.

From its beginnings, the Hartford Bird Study Club was active in field ornithology. Members began hosting guided walks in 1911 and kept meticulous records of bird sightings, some of which they published in scientific journals. The club first participated in the Christmas Bird Count in 1909.

The Club also began hosting lectures on birds and conservation in 1909.

Club members started bird banding in the 1920s. Frederick T. Bashour and E. Alexander Bergstrom led a large-scale bird banding program in the 1940s-1960s.

In 1949, the Hartford Bird Study Club incorporated as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. This enabled it to accept donations of land for wildlife sanctuaries and grow its endowment.

In 1965, the Club changed its name to the Hartford Audubon Society, Inc.

Today, the Hartford Audubon Society (HAS) continues to contribute to conservation, education, and research. HAS manages four wildlife sanctuaries: Station 43 (South Windsor; a Special Focus Area of the Silvio Conte NFWR), Greenstone Hollow (East Granby), Lewis Farm (Suffield), and Tobacco Valley (Windsor). In addition, it provides financial support for bird conservation, education, and research in Connecticut, such as through its Mini Grants program, and participates in state-level conservation dialogue. HAS continues to hold guided trips, both locally and throughout the Northeast; as of 2023, it has held over 3,300. It also continues to host speakers at its monthly meetings. HAS maintains its founders' friendly spirit of competition through a variety of bird counts and competitions, which likewise support research and conservation. HAS publishes a quarterly newsletter, *The Crest*.

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## Scope and Contents

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The Hartford Audubon Society records document the activities of the Hartford Audubon Society (HAS), formerly known as the Hartford Bird Study Club. The records consist of administrative records and reports, financial records, minutes, land and preserve records, program records, newsletters and pamphlets, education and conservation records, field notes, historical sketches, information technology records, photographs, and ephemera.

The records are a mix of physical materials, held at the Wood Memorial Library in South Windsor, and digital materials held in cloud storage by HAS.

Series 1. Administrative records (1909-2023) consists of board of director records, officer records, annual reports, membership records, organizational documents, legal records, policies and procedures, and administrative correspondence.

Series 2. Financial records (1925-2023) includes accounting records, financial documents, and Finance Committee minutes.

Series 3. Member meetings (1909-2023) includes member meeting minutes (1909-2023), information about the annual meeting and banquet (e.g., planning materials, annual awards), and minutes from the study group (2022).

Series 4. Preserves (1950-2023) contains information about current and former HAS preserves.

Series 5. Programs (1911-2023) contains annual program booklets (1911-2023), other program information, Programs Committee records, and trip reports.

Series 6. Publications (1902-2023) includes publications issued by HAS, including checklists of Hartford County birds (1929, 1954) and the Crest newsletter (1958-2023). It also includes a 1902 publication by John H. Sage, a club member.

Series 7. Conservation, research, and education (1981-2023) documents HAS' support of conservation, research, and education in Connecticut, including through partnerships, donations, and the Mini Grants program.

Series 8. Bird counts and competitions (1934-2023) contains records of HAS' various bird counts and competitions, including the Christmas Bird Count, Summer Bird Count, Spring Census, Big January, Daylight Savings Bird-a-thon, and the Big Sit.

Series 9. Field notes (1909-1997) includes historical field notes from HAS members. These include the Book of the Immortals, a ledger outlining club members' year lists of birds from 1909-1934; the "Record of all species actually seen in the Hartford region within 20 miles of Old State House," a card file describing notable bird sightings in Hartford County, including significant unpublished records, from the nineteenth century through 1996; and the field journals of Albert Morgan (1910-1911, 1929-1944), Walter Charsky (1926-1997), and Elliot Dodge (1948-1951).

Series 10. Organizational history (1909-2022) contains historical information about HAS and HAS members.

Series 11. Information technology (2001-2023) includes documentation for technologies that HAS uses, as well as IT Committee minutes.

Series 12. Photographs (1925-2023) includes photographs taken by HAS members.

Series 13. Artifacts and ephemera (1916-2022) contains HAS ephemera.

Series 14. Book and archival collections information (1953-2023) includes information about the HAS library and archival collections, both of which are currently housed at the Wood Memorial Library.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Friends of Wood Memorial Library and Museum

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P.O. Box 131

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[archives@woodmemoriallibrary.org](mailto:archives@woodmemoriallibrary.org)

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### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use. Recent administrative and financial records may be restricted. Particularly fragile items may be restricted for preservation purposes.

### Conditions Governing Use

Requests for permission to publish should be directed to the Wood Memorial Library archives staff. It is the responsibility of the researcher to identify and satisfy the holders of all copyrights.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

The Wood Memorial Library also holds a collection of several hundred bird books and periodicals deposited by the Hartford Audubon Society. These can be found in the library catalog: <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/fwml/search/collection/823437>.

John Hall Sage, author of *The Birds of Connecticut* (CT State Geological and Natural History Survey, 1913), was the Hartford Bird Study Club's first honorary president and a trip leader. UConn's BRC Library holds Sage's specimen collection: <https://biodiversity.uconn.edu/>. Sage's personal papers are housed in UConn's Archives and Special Collections: <https://archivesearch.lib.uconn.edu/repositories/2/resources/841>.

George T. Griswold, one of the Hartford Bird Study Club's most active early members, donated his field notes (1911-1954) to the University of Connecticut. They can be found in the Biodiversity Research Collections (BRC) Library: <https://biodiversity.uconn.edu/>. Griswold's field notes elaborate on some of the sightings described in the HAS field notes.

Eugene W. Schmidt, another early leader of the Hartford Bird Study Club, donated his collection of bird specimens to the New Britain Institute in 1915. Schmidt's specimens, which corroborate some of the field notes in this collection, are now held by the New Britain Youth Museum: <https://www.newbritainyouthmuseum.org/>.

MK has uploaded some of the HAS historical field notes to the eBird database (Cornell Lab of Ornithology): <https://ebird.org/region/US-CT-003?yr=all&m=>.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Hartford (Conn.)
- South Windsor (Conn.)
- Audubon societies
- Ornithology--Societies, etc.
- Ornithology--United States--History
- Field notes
- Photographs
- Minutes

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series 1. Administrative records, 1909-2023

#### Subseries 1.1. Board of director records, 1994-2023

Title/Description	Instances
Board minutes, 1994-2023	
1994-2003	HAS 3
2003-2005	HAS 3
2005-2007	HAS 3
2007-2009	HAS 3

2007-2008	HAS 3
2010-2011	HAS 3
2011-2018	HAS 3
1998-2023	Digital archive
Board information, 2019-2023	Digital archive

### **Subseries 1.2 Officer records, 2017-2022**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Officer and committee duties, 2017	Digital archive
Leadership roles and responsibilities, 2019	Digital archive
President records, 2020-2023	HAS 5; Digital archive
Vice president records, 2019-2021	HAS 5
Secretary records, 2022	Digital archive

### **Subseries 1.3. Annual reports, 2020-2021**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Annual reports, 2020-2021	Digital archive

### **Subseries 1.4. Membership records, 1960-2023**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Record of dues paid, Circa 1960-1990	HAS 6
Membership application brochures, Circa 2000-2023	HAS 5
Membership database, 2019-2023	Digital archive
Membership Committee materials, 2019-2023	Digital archive

### **Subseries 1.5. Organizational and legal documents, 1909-2016**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Rules of organization, 1909	Digital archive
Articles of association, 1949	

	Digital archive
Tax exemption, 1949-2009	
1949	HAS 5
1971	Digital archive
1993-2009	HAS 5
Certificate of incorporation, 1971	
	Digital archive
Bylaws, 1961-2016	
1961	Digital archive
1971	HAS 3
2003	Digital archive
2004	HAS 3; Digital archive
2016	HAS 3; digital archive
Bylaw committee, 2007-2008	
	HAS 3

### Subseries 1.6. Policies and procedures, 2010-2019

Title/Description	Instances
Policies and procedures, 2010-2019	Digital archive

### Subseries 1.7. Administrative correspondence, 2011-2022

Title/Description	Instances
Correspondence, 2011-2022	HAS 5

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## Series 2. Financial records, 1925-2023

Title/Description	Instances
Treasurer's journal, 1925-1957	HAS 7
Finance Committee minutes, 2004, 2020-2022	

	Digital archive
Annual financial reports, 2004, 2009-2021	Digital archive
Financial documents and records, 2020-2023	Digital archive

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### Series 3. Member meetings, 1909-2023

#### Subseries 3.1. Member meeting minutes, 1909-2023

Title/Description	Instances
Hartford Bird Study Club minute book, 1909-1916	HAS 2
Minute book, 1960 May - 1972 May	HAS 2
Minutes of the Hartford Audubon Society, Inc., 1985 Dec - 1993 Dec	HAS 2
Minutes of the Hartford Audubon Society, Inc., 1993 Dec - 1994 May	HAS 2
Member meeting minutes, 2003-2005; 2008-2023	Digital archive
Member meeting minutes, 2005-2018	HAS 3
Member meeting sign in book, 2017-2023	HAS 3

#### Subseries 3.2. Annual meeting and banquet, 2004-2023

Title/Description	Instances
Annual awards, 2004, 2020-2023	Digital archive
Banquet information, 2009, 2021, 2023	Digital archive

#### Subseries 3.3. Study group minutes, 2022

Title/Description	Instances
Study group minutes, 2022	Digital archive

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### Series 4. Preserves, 1950-2023

**Subseries 4.1. General information, 1974-2023**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Preserves correspondence, 1974	HAS 7
Sanctuary steward notes, 1999	HAS 7
Preserves Committee minutes, 2023	Digital archive
General property information, 2009-2023	Digital archive

**Subseries 4.2. Station 43, 1950-2023**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Preserve information, 1950-2023	HAS 7; Digital archive
Station 43 Committee notes, 1999-2000	HAS 7
History of Station 43, 1999	HAS 7

**Subseries 4.3. Greenstone Hollow, 1990-2023**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Preserve information, 1990-2023	HAS 7; Digital archive
Greenstone Hollow Committee minutes, 2012-2022	Digital archive
Annual reports, 2012-2021	Digital archive

**Subseries 4.4. Tobacco Valley, 1991-2022**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Preserve information, 1991-2022	HAS 7; Digital archive

**Subseries 4.5. Lewis Farm, 1963-2023**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Preserve information, 1963-2023	HAS 7; Digital archive

**Subseries 4.6. Former preserves, 1973-2011**

Title/Description	Instances
Idlenot Farm, 1973-2011	
Preserve information, 1973-2011	HAS 7; Digital archive
Guest book, 1974-1978	HAS 7

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## Series 5. Programs, 1911-2023

### Subseries 5.1. Program handbooks, 1911-2023

Title/Description	Instances
Program handbooks, 1911-2023	HAS 12
Program handbooks, 1954-1955, 2015-2020	Digital archive
Program handbooks inventory, 2002	HAS 12

### Subseries 5.2. Program information, 1981-2022

Title/Description	Instances
Wildlife Series, 1981-2020	HAS 3
Program handouts, 1984-2009	HAS 3
200 Centuries of Birds in Connecticut program planning and artwork, 2007	HAS 3
All trips and trip leaders since 1912, compiled by Fred Nowak, 2022	Digital archive
All speakers since 1980, plus 1955, compiled by Fred Nowak, 2022	Digital archive

### Subseries 5.3. Programs Committee, 2007-2021

Title/Description	Instances
Centennial Planning Committee records, 2007-2008	HAS 3
Programs Committee records, 2019-2021	Digital archive

### Subseries 5.4. Trip reports, 2003-2012

Title/Description	Instances
2003-2004	

Digital  
archive

2007-2012

HAS 3

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Series 6. Publications, 1902-2023****Subseries 6.1. Pamphlets, 1929-2020**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Checklist of the Birds of Hartford and Vicinity, 1929	HAS 9
Checklist of the Birds Seen in Vicinity of Hartford, Connecticut, 1954	Digital archive
Checklist and Records of the Birds Seen in the Vicinity of Hartford, Connecticut, 1964	HAS 9
Checklist and Records of the Birds Seen in the Vicinity of Hartford, Connecticut, 1974	HAS 9
Checklist of the Birds of the Northeast, 2020	HAS 9

**Subseries 6.2. Newsletters, 1958-2023**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Newsletter of the Hartford Audubon Society, Inc., 1958-1987	HAS 1
1958-1969	HAS 1
1970-1987	HAS 1
The Crest: Newsletter of the Hartford Audubon Society, Inc., 1987-2023	
1987-2021	HAS 1
1999-2023	Digital archive
Crest CDs and floppy disks, 1998-2007	HAS E8

**Subseries 6.3. Publications by HAS members, 1902**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Spring Migration: Average Dates of Arrival of Birds within Fifteen Miles of Hartford, Conn., by John Hall Sage, 1902	HAS 9

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**Series 7. Conservation, research, and education, 1981-2023**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
National Audubon Ecology Camps partnership with HAS, 1981-1990	HAS 5
Donations to conservation and research, 2004-2022	
Barn Island, 2004	Digital archive
Requests for funding from HAS, 2006-2007	HAS 5
Lombardo Farm, 2021	HAS 5
Sophia Marler research, 2022	Digital archive
CLCC, 2022	Digital archive
Meadowood, 2022	Digital archive
Mini-Grants program, 2018-2023	Digital archive
Urban Conservation Treaty, 2023	Digital archive

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**Series 8. Bird counts and competitions, 1934-2023****Subseries 8.1. Christmas Bird Count, 2004-2022**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Records, 2004-2007, 2014-2022	Digital archive

**Subseries 8.2. Summer Bird Count, 2014-2022**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Records, 2014-2022	Digital archive

**Subseries 8.3. Spring Census, 1934-2022**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Records, 1934-1983; 2005; 2012	HAS 3
Records, 2022	

Digital  
archive**Subseries 8.4. Big January, 2017-2023**

Title/Description	Instances
Records, 2017-2019	HAS 3; Digital archive

**Subseries 8.5. Daylight Savings Bird-a-Thon, 2020-2023**

Title/Description	Instances
Records, 2020-2023	Digital archive

**Subseries 8.6. Big Sit, 2014**

Title/Description	Instances
Records, 2014	HAS 3

**Subseries 8.7. Other, 2021**

Title/Description	Instances
CT Bird Atlas, 2021	Digital archive

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Title/Description	Instances
The Book of the Immortals: Record of First Dates of Observation by Members of the Hartford Bird Study Club [ledger of first sightings of birds each year by all club members, 30 mile diameter of Hartford City Hall], 1909-1934	HAS 10
Albert Morgan field notes, 1910-1944	
1910	HAS 9
1911	HAS 9
1929-1934, 1943-1944	HAS 9
1935-1942	HAS 9
Walter Charsky field journals, 1926-1997	
1926-1949	HAS 8
1950-1952	

	HAS 8
1953-1954	HAS 8
1955	HAS 8
1955-1957	HAS 8
1958-1959	HAS 8
1960-1964	HAS 8
Southwest U.S., 1967	HAS 8
1965-1970	HAS 8
1970-1977	HAS 8
1982-1987	HAS 8
1988-1991	HAS 8
1992	HAS 8
1993	HAS 8
1994	HAS 8
1995	HAS 8
1996	HAS 8
1997	HAS 8
Record of all species actually seen in the Hartford region within 20 miles of Old State House (15 prior to 1960), compiled by Robert Beldron (from 1935-1961), Hilda Amidon (from 1961-1965), and other HAS members, 1935-1996	HAS E8
Hooded Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, and Little Blue Heron reports by Frank Bruen, 1939	HAS 9
Elliot Dodge field notes, 1948-1951	HAS 9
"Early Bird List" (first of the year sightings by all club members), 1995	HAS 9

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## Series 10. Organizational history, 1909-2022

Title/Description	Instances
Newspaper clippings about HAS and HAS members, 1909-2011	HAS 5; Digital archive
A Century of Birding in the South Windsor Meadows, by Jean Klein, 1999	HAS 9

Wood article about HAS history, 2020	Digital archive
History of Fred Nowak's HASLibrary website, 2022	Digital archive

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### Series 11. Information technology, 2003-2023

Title/Description	Instances
Website pages and photos, printouts and floppy disk and CD copies, 2001-2003	HAS 11
Website copy (printout), 2017	HAS 11
Automation project, 2018-2020	HAS 11
IT information, 2020-2023	Digital archive
IT Committee minutes, 2020	Digital archive

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### Series 12. Photographs, 1925-2003

Title/Description	Instances
Historical photographs of HAS members, Circa 1925	Digital archive
Wildlife Series: color film and slides by outstanding lecturers-photographers, 1968-1976	
Gull, by Robert Resconsin, 1968	HAS 6
Bald Eagle, 1969-1970	HAS 6
1970-1971	HAS 6
Lewis Farm Sanctuary, 1971-1972	HAS 6
Gannets, 1972-1973	HAS 6
Penguins, 1973-1974	HAS 6
1975-1976	HAS 6
Photographs by Jeff Feldman, 2003	HAS 11
Birds of Connecticut photographic slides, Undated	HAS E7

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### Series 13. Artifacts and ephemera, 1916-2022

Title/Description	Instances
Ephemera, 1916-2022	HAS 5
Hartford Bird Study Club stamp, Circa 1920	HAS E8
Station 43 Connecticut Natural Area plaque, Nature Conservancy and Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Undated	HAS E7

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### Series 14. Book and archival collections information, 1953-2023

Title/Description	Instances
Checkout record of books in HAS collection [from former library at HAS office], 1953-1969	HAS 11
Book collection notes, 1969-1978	HAS 11
"Hartford Audubon Books Coming to a New Home to Roost," Windows on Wood, Vol. XI No. 3., 1999	HAS 11
Directions for internet access, 2002	HAS 11
Archival summaries, 2008	HAS 11
Finding aid copy, 2023	Digital archive
Memo book - book collection index, Undated	HAS 11
Card files for books in HAS collection, Undated	HAS 11
Book and archival materials overview, Undated	HAS 11

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