



Roseate tern

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# Stewart B. McKinney

## National Wildlife Refuge

**Represented by Members of Congress:**

- Senator Christopher J. Dodd (D)
- Senator Joseph I. Lieberman (D)
- Rep. Robert Simmons (R-2nd)
- Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-3rd)
- Rep. Christopher Shays (R-4th)

**Contact**

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The refuge is administratively complexed under Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

**Management Activities**

- Provide technical and financial support through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to help landowners protect wetland habitat in Connecticut
- Manage waterbird colonies to protect common terns, roseate terns and long-legged waders
- Support research projects on roseate terns, piping plovers, long-legged waders, diamond-backed terrapins and intertidal communities
- Restore wetlands to benefit wildlife
- Provide environmental educational opportunities on refuges units and in local communities

**Purpose**

The refuge was established as a breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife, for research, and for education.

**Public Use Notes**

- Visitor contact station
- Interpretive nature trails

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

1 800/344 WILD  
<http://www.fws.gov>

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**Highlights**

The refuge established two new units, Menunketesuck Island (4.6 acres) and Peach Island (2.6 acres) and added another 16 acres to the Salt Meadow unit.

The refuge will host a Youth Conservation Corps program in the Stratford and Bridgeport area.

Removing about 160,000 cubic yards of fill reclaimed over 42 acres of salt marsh and restored the natural tidal influences, increasing the size of the largest unditched tidal high marsh in Connecticut. The first waterfowl hunting season was a success. The refuge designed a public access concept.

The Calf Island unit hosted the refuge's inaugural overnight environmental education program for the YMCA of Greater New York. Accomplishments include a rehabilitated dock, a joint Calf Island Conservancy and refuge brochure that details projects and volunteer opportunities, and construction of two new kiosks. Over \$52,000 of renovation work on the main pavillion has begun.

The Salt Meadow unit serves as the refuge headquarters. The refuge

and Potapaug Audubon Society jointly produced a brochure detailing projects and volunteer opportunities. The refuge has \$47,000 available to begin making improvements outlined in the new public access concept.

The Falkner Island unit supports one of the last colonies of federally endangered roseate terns and 97% of nesting common terns in the state. The refuge has \$150,000 available to rehabilitate the jetty, pier and boathouse.

Outer Island unit hosts environmental education and research through a partnership with the state university. The Friends of Outer Island assisted with removing excess infrastructure. The refuge will use \$125,000 this year to rehabilitate the solar energy energy system.

Friends groups at the Salt Meadow, Falker Island, Outer Island, Milford Point, Great Meadows, Calf Island and Sheffield Island units continue to support refuge activities.

Black-crowned night-heron predation of roseate and common terns impacts these protected populations.