

What's Up with the Barn?

Earlier this winter, many of you were no doubt wondering what was going on with the Bauer Park Barn! Equipment working, dumpsters filling up, piles of lumber and other material under tarps, and sections being demolished were all adding to the question.

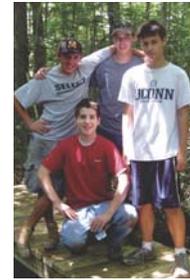
Well, by now it should be clear: *The barn is here to stay!* Although the appearance is slightly different now that it's done, it is still in character with the history and aesthetic of Bauer Farm. The original barn was rebuilt and remains the same. The addition on the east side, or the side closest to Copse Road (which looked like a continuation of the original), was removed due to its poor condition and to allow for better sight lines along Copse Road. There is now a shed or lean-to attachment on the west end. The interior layout has not changed; it will be used for storage, especially for antique items and equipment, and will allow for easier viewing of the structure as well as additional classroom space.

Power has been added for lights, and a new floor has been installed. All of this is due to the generosity of several groups and individuals. Without their help and perseverance, this project would not have been possible. The grant was generously given by the Summer Hill Foundation. Contractor Gulick and Spradlin, LLC., is noted for house and barn restoration. The Madison Rotary and Lions Clubs joined forces to become the sponsors for the project and receive the grant for the construction portion. The Bauer Trust provided a grant for the power to the Town, which was applied for by Beach and Recreation Director Scot Erskine, and the Beach and Recreation Commission offered its continued support throughout.

Special thanks must go to Peter Gulick from Gulick and Spradlin and Mike Johnson from the Summer Hill Foundation; without their dedication and help, we would not have been able to achieve our goal to restore the barn and save a piece of Madison's history.

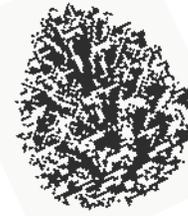


Can you tell the difference between a red fox and a gray fox? ...page 8



How many Eagle Scouts does it take to build a bridge? Just one...and some good friends! ...page 2

Mud Season is the sweetest season at Bauer Park...ask anyone who's taken a Sugaring class! ...page 5



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New Boardwalk Provides New Pond Access on Woodland Trail, thanks to Eagle Scout

On your next trip to Bauer Park you might want to take a quick walk around East Pond. A new bridge and boardwalk have been built which allow access to the north side of the pond. The new path splits from the Woodland Trail, crosses the stream and then follows the high bank of the pond before reconnecting with the the Woodlands Trail. The invasive undergrowth surrounding the banks of the pond were removed permitting great views. The trail and bridge were built by members of Boy Scout Troop 494 as a part

of Paul Thomas's Eagle Project. The bridge and boardwalks were constructed on June 28th with help from Mark DeCillis, Cody Noonan, and Jack Thomas. Over 25 members of BSA Troop 494 cleared the trail on August 22. The Pardee Foundation of Madison generously donated the funding for the project. Branford Building Supplies gave building advice and a discount on the materials. Holly Johnson played a vital role in the construction of the trail and bridge by offering direction and guidance throughout the project. The Lions Club also offered help.



Bauer Park Programs, Spring 2010

The full listing of Bauer Park Educational Program offerings and information is also available at <http://www.madisonct.org/bauerpark.html>. Bauer Park is at 257 Copse Road. If you would like to be added to the Bauer Park e-mail announcements list, please include your e-mail address when registering for programs; it will not be shared with any other organization.

GENERAL PROGRAMS

GET READY FOR BLUEBIRDS!

Sunday, 4/25

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Bluebirds start nesting in Madison in March and April. Indoors we will learn about what these lovely songbirds need to raise a family. See a video of babies hatching and growing in the nest box. Nest box plans are available. Then tour the Bauer Bluebird Trail to see the birds in action. Learn how to become a bluebird nest box monitor as part of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology citizen science program.

Children 5 years and older are welcome if accompanied by an adult.

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Program #402071A

Fee: \$5/person or \$15/family

SKETCHING IN THE FIELD AT BAUER PARK

Mondays, 5/10 and 5/17

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Experience the relaxation of and delight in picking a favorite spot in the fields and forest of Bauer Park and sketching it! For beginners and experienced artists. Susannah Graedel, botanical artist, will be on hand to offer field sketching guidance. Sketch a single flower or a broad landscape. Different habitats each day. Come one or both Mondays. Bring a sketch pad and whatever you like to draw with: pencils, pens, and/or paints.

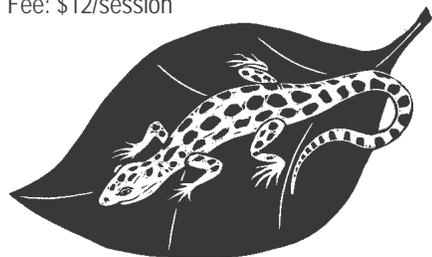
For adults.

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Session A: 5/10 - Program #301063A

Session B: 5/17 - Program #301063B

Fee: \$12/session



BIRDING BY EAR FOR ADULTS

Saturday, 5/22

7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Bird songs and calls let us know which birds are courting and nesting all around us in the spring. Learn to use these sounds to locate and identify our local birds. Once a song has led you to its singer, you will easily remember it. Binoculars and field guides provided, or bring your own.

For adults and high school students.

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Program #301051D

Fee: \$5/person or \$15/family

POND AND STREAM CRITTERS

Saturday, 5/22

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Explore the ponds and stream at Bauer Park to see who lives there. Countless species of tiny animals are hunting and being hunted in the watery depths. Using nets we will hope to find creatures such as dragonfly nymphs, tadpoles, spiders, fish, leeches and maybe an eel or two.

We will examine them under the microscope to discover their marvelous, intricate structures.

For adults and children 5 years and older.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Program #301000A

Fee: \$5/person or \$15/family

THE 8th GREAT SNAKE & FROG HUNT

Saturday, 6/5

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Join a herpetologist on a hunt for turtles, frogs and snakes. Learn about reptiles and amphibians then discover where and how to search for these elusive creatures.

All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Instructor: Chuck Annicelli

Program #301000B

Fee: \$5/person or \$15/family.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

MINI-EXPLORERS

Come join in the fun of exploring! We will learn about nature and science through activities such as hiking, singing, games, reading and making crafts. Indoor/outdoor programs – dress for the weather.

For Preschoolers ages 3-5, accompanied by an adult.

Instructor: Donna Dione

Program # 301057

Fee: \$8/class

Hop into Spring

Friday, 4/9

Session A: 10:00 - 11:00 am

Session B: 1:00 - 2:00 pm

It's spring and time for the cottontail rabbits to sneak out of the thickets looking for tasty plants in our yards and gardens. Have fun learning some rabbit facts and meeting a pet rabbit!

Magnificent Moths & Beautiful Butterflies

Friday, 5/14

Session C: 10:00 - 11:00 am

Session D: 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Moths and butterflies are some of the prettiest creatures on earth. Learn how to tell the difference between moths and butterflies and explore why these flying beauties are important members of the insect world. The class will include a "butterfly hunt" and an insect craft.

Pond Dippers

Friday, 6/11

Session E: 10:00 - 11:00 am

Session F: 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Have you ever wondered what critters live in the pond at Bauer Park? Join us for some pond dipping with nets, and you'll have the chance to observe some freshwater creatures up close. Please wear clothes and shoes/boots that you don't mind getting a little wet and muddy.

KIDS' DAYTIME PROGRAMS

NATURE'S TREASURES

Wednesdays

Join us as we share stories and songs, play games and find treasures outside to create crafts. Nature themes such as pond life, gardening, frogs, fish, worms and more will be explored. Come join the fun! Please come dressed to go outside.

For children in Pre-K and Kindergarten.

Instructors: Shari Lariviere

Program #305051

Fee: \$10/class

Session A: 4/7 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Session B: 4/7 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Session C: 4/21 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Session D: 4/21 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Session E: 5/5 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Session F: 5/5 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Session G: 5/19 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Session H: 5/19 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Session I: 6/2 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Session J: 6/2 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Session K: 6/9 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Session L: 6/9 12:00-1:30 p.m.

NATURE DETECTIVES AT BAUER PARK

Tuesdays, 3/30, 4/6, 4/20, 4/27

Session A: 9:00 - 10:30 am

Session B: 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Each week, junior scientists will explore a different ecosystem at Bauer Park. We'll visit the forest, meadows, ponds and streams, searching for signs of spring. Each class includes a story, craft and outdoor exploration. Adult care-givers are welcome, but not required, to attend.

For children in Pre-K and Kindergarten.

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Program #301021

Fee: \$40

KINDERGARTEN ENRICHMENT

Discover a fun way for your kindergartner to spend the other half of the day. Each class includes a story, game, craft and outdoor exploration. Adult care-givers are welcome, but not required, to attend.

For children currently in kindergarten.

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Program #401064 Fee: \$10/class

Awesome Amphibians

Thursday, 4/1

Session W: 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Session X: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Amphibians venture out during the first warm rains of spring. Learn about the habits and habitats of frogs and toads, salamanders and newts, then go in search of these secretive creatures.

Fairy Houses and Wizard Castles

Monday, 4/19

Session M: 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Session N: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Come hear a story, create your own fairy or wizard, then go on a hunt for nature's treasures. Find the perfect spot in the woods, and use natural materials to build your own special home for magical visitors.

Bubbleology

Monday, 6/14

Session U: 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Learn the science of bubbles: how they form, why they're round and why they pop! We will make bubble prints, bubbles with our hands, and giant outdoor bubbles, then go looking for bubbles found in nature.

1st & 2nd GRADE NATURE LOVERS

Thursdays, 4:00-6:00 pm

Come and enjoy Bauer Park. We will share a story about nature, create a craft and play games together. Be sure to come prepared to go outside!

For children in Grades 1 and 2

Instructor: Shari Lariviere

Program #301080

Fee: \$12/class

Session A: 4/1

Session B: 4/22

Session C: 5/6

Session D: 5/20

Session E: 6/3

Session F: 6/10

3rd & 4th GRADE EXPLORERS

Thursdays, 4:00-6:00 pm

Come and enjoy Bauer Park. We will share a story about nature, create a craft and play games together. Be sure to come prepared to go outside!

For children in Grades 3 and 4

Instructor: Shari Lariviere

Program #301080

Fee: \$12/class

Session G: 4/8

Session H: 4/29

Session I: 5/13

Session J: 5/27

OCEANOLOGY CLUB

Mondays, 4/19 - 6/14 (no meeting 5/31)

3:30-5:00 pm

Explore our local marine environment in this new club for students in grades 5 and up. From our home base at the Surf Club, we will study fish populations, water chemistry, plankton, seaweeds, beach topography and more, using standard oceanographic materials and methods. Students will collect and analyze data, learn to identify local species, and assess human impacts on Long Island Sound.

For middle school and high school students.

Location: Surf Club

Club Advisor: Julie Ainsworth

Program #301066A

Fee: \$80

BIRDS, BEES & BUTTERFLIES - APRIL VACATION CAMP

Monday - Thursday, 4/12 - 4/15

9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Our time will be spent hiking, collecting specimens from pond and field, bird watching with our binoculars, and creating our own art projects. We will also be playing predator-prey and doing experiments from the Project Wet program. Please bring a snack to enjoy out near the pond. Ages 7-12.

Instructor: Cynthia Riegler

Program #301021C

Fee: \$56





March Madness? At Bauer Park, it's *Maple* Madness!

Across New England, a sure sign that spring is on its way, is the appearance of buckets hanging from maple trees collecting sap. Bauer Park is no exception. During late February and early March, look for sap buckets on the east side of Copse Road.

Across the street, the Bauer farmhouse is framed by large sugar maples, trees that the Bauer brothers may have used to make maple syrup. Each winter, classes on maple syrup production are offered for all ages at Bauer Park. Preschoolers and kindergarten students learn what it means to "tap" a tree, sing songs about sap, and get to taste the difference between sap and syrup. Families learn how to identify maple trees in winter, where to safely drill a hole into the tree, and how to turn the sap they collect into syrup at home. Students in the after-school nature clubs monitor the sap buckets throughout the season, which usually lasts for about six weeks. More classes are added each year, as these programs have proven to be increasingly popular.

In order for sap to be running, temperatures must be below freezing at night, and above freezing during the day. When this occurs for a few days in a row, it's time to tap. A sugar maple or red maple must be at least 32 inches in circumference (about 50 years old) to be safely tapped. A 2-inch deep hole is drilled on the south side of the tree, then a spile or spout is inserted in the hole. Sap dripping out is collected in a bucket hanging from the spile. Sap is about 3% sugar, so in order to make syrup, water must be boiled off until it is 67% sugar. Therefore, one gallon of sap only yields 3 oz. of syrup, a 40:1 ratio!

Students from Bauer's syruping classes are encouraged to take home some sap to make their own syrup. Once you've tasted homemade maple syrup, you'll never buy artificial syrup again!

Important May Workshop on Asian Longhorned Beetle Identification!

Calling all land stewards, birders, hikers, and forest enthusiasts!

The CT Agricultural Experiment Station and Menunkatuck Audubon are offering a free training workshop on early recognition of the invasive Asian longhorned beetle, which kills trees by boring into the heartwood. Early detection is critical to saving our forests from an infestation. Favored host trees include maple, horsechestnut, willow, elm and birch. Locating this invasive beetle now is critical in Connecticut so it can be controlled while the infestation is still small.

This three-hour workshop will train you to become the first line of defense against this frightening scourge to hardwood forests.

Workshop date: Saturday, May 8

Time: 9 AM - 12 PM

Place: Bauer Park, Madison

Workshop includes a PowerPoint introduction, followed by a walk to identify host trees, then an indoor quiz/Q&A session. Dress accordingly for outdoor session. Refreshments will be available.

This workshop is limited to 25 participants, so registration is required.

To register, contact Cindi Kobak at 203-457-1699 or bilcinkob@comcast.net



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A History of Pine Decline in Connecticut

Extract of a report by Emery Gluck, Forester, Cockaponsett State Forest, based on a small, 2-acre timber harvest on the Chester/Haddam Town line intended to promote the germination and spread of pitch pine.

It has been estimated that Connecticut has lost 95% of its Pine Pitch sand plains to gravel pits and development. The remnant is succeeding to trees such as white pine, which is shading out the pitch pine. The absence of severe fire and other disturbances have led to the dearth of pitch pine seedlings. Only 4 of Cockaponsett's 16,400 acres contain pitch pine. Pitch pine scrub oak barrens have been identified as one of Connecticut's 13 most imperiled ecosystems. The Division of Forestry is assisting in the restoration of the Pitch pine scrub oak barrens at Hopeville Pond State Park Natural Area using fire (see photo at right) and by harvesting competing white pine. There is a mature stand of pitch pine across the road from the current harvest, just south of the now defunct Chester Landfill. At this site, hardwoods were harvested and the ground was scarified by a log skidder during a pitch pine cone seed year in order to create the requisite conditions for seed germination. There are only a few seed-bearing pitch pine in the area currently being treated.

Pitch pine was known as candlewood, as its resinous knots could sustain a flame and could be made into a torch. Candlewood Hill in Haddam and Candlewood Mountain in New Milford were probably populated by the pine. Candlewood Lake was named after Candlewood Mountain.

Pitch pine in southern New England was an important source for ship building materials such as tar and pitch prior to the American Revolution. Tar was used along with oakum to caulk wooden ships and as a preservative for the ship's rigging. Tar was produced by burning pine logs, stumps, dead



Above, Foresters use fire to encourage growth of new seedlings. At right, an early postcard depicts a healthy stand of pitch pine along the Connecticut coast.



wood and branches in outdoor kilns. The bottom of the kilns were lined and sloped so that when the tar was exuded it was funneled to a collection barrel or trough. Tarkiln Road in Voluntown, on the Rhode Island border, probably derived its name from this plant-based industry. Simsbury land records reportedly contain a parcel of land called the "Tarkiln lot." Pitch, which is concentrated tar, was used as a protective covering for ships' hulls, as it hardens when it is spread out.

Pine sap, called crude gum or raw turpentine, was originally collected by cutting an internal compartment, or "box," into the tree and then spooning the sap out into a container. One of the earliest conservation laws prohibited "boxing" someone else's pitch pines without their permission. Spirits of turpentine was the aromatic product produced by distilling raw turpentine, while rosin was the dense, waxy residue left over from distillation. Rosin was used for making adhesives, sealants,

coatings, fluxes, printing inks, emulsifiers and chewing gum. Turpentine is used in solvents, cleaners, antiseptics, insecticides, flavors and fragrances and synthetic resins.

The demand for these products led to the decimation of Pitch pine in southern New England. North Carolina, with its abundance of Longleaf pine and slave labor, quickly became the leader gum and tar production. Legend has it that North Carolina was nicknamed the Tarheel State because when General Corn-wallis and his army crossed the Tar River in North Carolina, there was so much tar on the shore that they got tar on their boots. It could also have been that many of the residents had tar on their boots from working in the tar industry.



Pitch pine cones, shown both closed and open.



▲ You know it's spring at Bauer when "Daffodil Hill" bursts into bloom. It's just one of many assets at Bauer Park that contribute to a lasting legacy of community stewardship and created by dedicated volunteers of all ages--in this case, the Girl Scouts. Thanks, girls!

VOLUNTEER

The Bauer Park Advisory Committee and the Beach and Recreation Department are constantly coming up with ways to maintain, improve and promote all that Bauer Park has to offer. Many hands make light work, and we could really use extra hands, minds and hearts--just one morning a year, a few days each season, or year round! No specific skills are necessary... just a love for Bauer Park! Look below for opportunities to put that interest to work. Drop us an email and we'll contact you when the group is meeting!

The Garden Committee meets every 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm at the Bauer Park classroom. This committee oversees the Community Garden, and assists with the maintenance of the orchard, blueberry patch and ornamental gardens, helping to keep the Bauer landscape beautiful and bountiful. There are also plenty of opportunities to plan, organize or just help with talks, potluck suppers and other events that put the "community" in our community gardens.

The Harvest Festival Committee meets every 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm at the Bauer Park classroom. This committee organizes the events and fundraising associated with the Harvest Festival, our most visible event and a really fun day! Help with overall planning, soliciting donations and sponsors, initiating new games, programs and speakers...Join the camaraderie this group finds in creating this annual, family-friendly event. This year's festival is October 16th.

Monthly Volunteer Maintenance Parties happen once a month on Saturdays from 9 am to 11 am. No need to preregister; just show up! We meet at the Bauer Park classroom.

- **April 10th** - Weeding and mulching the native plant garden and butterfly garden.
- **May 1st** - Planting Sunflower seeds south of the farmhouse for our summer screen.
- **June 5th** - Woodland trail maintenance. Help clear the winter's debris from the eastern hiking trail.

Future projects will be announced in the summer newsletter and on the Bauer Park website.

The Bauer Park Newsletter is always looking for contributing writers, photographers or artists... or anyone who just likes driving (to simply help with distribution).

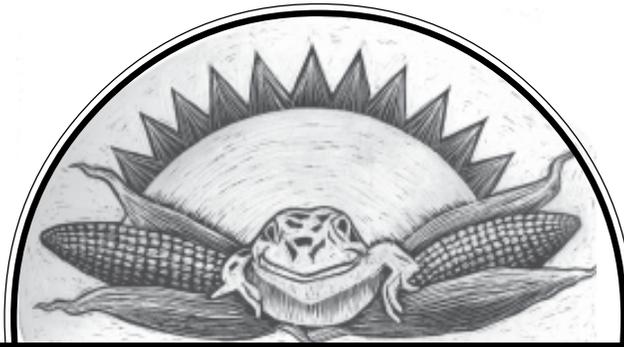
Greenhouse Management volunteers help maintain the new greenhouse and plan events to help inspire its wise use.

Trail Stewardship: Love to take walks in the park? Work outside? Like to see better trails? This is the group for you!

For any of the above groups contact:
Heather Atwater: heathsail@sbcglobal.net
or Carrie Gazda: Gazdac@madisonct.org



red fox



gray fox

The Bauer Bushel

A P A G E F O R K I D S !

••• which fox is it? Red Gray

Habitat: A mixture of forest and open fields, especially the transition zone or “edge” between these habitats. Often inhabits suburban and urban areas.

Weight: Ranges from 8 to 15 pounds, 10 to 11 pounds is average. Males are slightly heavier than females.

Length: 39 to 43 inches. Males are generally larger than females.

Food: Mice, voles, woodchucks, rabbits, chipmunks, fruits, insects, birds and eggs, carrion, garbage, amphibians, and reptiles.

Identification: Elongated snout, pointed ears and a long, bushy tail carried horizontally. Coat is typically orange-red with black feet, a white-tipped tail, white underside, and black backs of the ears.

Range: From northern Canada and Alaska across most of North America except Pacific coast, the great plains, the southwestern desert and the extreme southeastern U.S.

Reproduction: Breed from January through March and, after an average gestation period of 51 to 53 days, give birth to a litter averaging four or five pups. May dig its own burrow but usually improves an abandoned woodchuck burrow.

History in Connecticut: In the early 1700s, native red foxes inhabited mixed forest and open areas. In the 1750s, the European red fox was introduced to eastern coastal areas of the U.S. and likely interbred with the native species to produce a hybrid (mix). The hybrid fox is now considered to be the only red fox type in Connecticut.

Habitat: Deciduous woodlands, thickets and swampy areas.

Weight: Ranges from 7 to 14 pounds, 10 to 11 pounds is average.

Length: 32 to 45 inches. Males/Females about equal in size.

Food: Rabbits, mice, voles, chipmunks, squirrels, fruits, insects, birds and eggs, carrion, corn, amphibians and reptiles.

Identification: Somewhat stout with shorter legs; coat is mostly grizzled-gray. Sides of neck, back of ears, a band across chest, inner and back surfaces of legs, feet, sides of belly and under surface of tail are all reddish-brown. Cheeks, throat, inner ears and most of underside are white. Upper part of tail, including tip, is black.

Range: From extreme southern Canada throughout the U.S., except in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and most of Washington; ranges into Mexico and Central America.

Reproduction: Tends to breed two to four weeks later than the red fox. Usually does not use an underground den but, instead, dens in dense brush, cavities in stumps and trees, rock crevices or under out-buildings such as barns and sheds.

History in Connecticut: In the middle 1700s, Connecticut was home to both native gray and red foxes. The gray fox inhabited more dense woodlands. With the abandonment of farmland during the 1800s and subsequent regrowth of woodlands, the gray fox population has increased during the past 100 years.

Interesting Facts

• It is not unusual to see a red fox during the daytime because they prefer open habitats and are not strictly nocturnal. Gray foxes are not observed as frequently due to their reclusive nature and more nocturnal habits. Gray foxes tend to be active from the late evening hours until dawn. They will readily climb trees, jumping from branch to branch while hunting or for protection.

• The red fox may partially bury, or cache, excess food and mark it with urine. Foxes are important predators of prolific prey species like mice and rabbits.

• The voice of the red fox varies from a short, sharp yap or bark, followed by a “yap, yap,” to a combination of screeches, yells, and long howls. The gray fox has a voice similar to the red fox, but barks or yaps less often than the red fox and its voice is louder.

• Most foxes have more than one den and will readily move their young if disturbed. Both adults care for the pups, who stay in the den for four to five weeks. At about 12 weeks, the pups are weaned and join the adults in hunting, learning to catch food on their own. They leave the family in the fall and usually breed during their first winter.

• The silky, dense fur of the red fox is more valued than the fur of the gray fox, which is coarse and thin.

• In Connecticut, disease and cars cause many fox deaths. Adult foxes have few predators; coyotes probably don't tolerate foxes within their territories. Studies have found that red foxes only occur in the gaps between the larger territories of coyotes. The relatively recent expansion of coyotes throughout Connecticut may have displaced red foxes from much of their prime habitat.