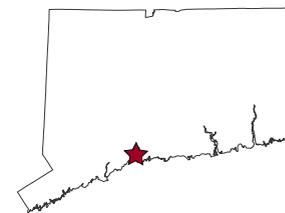


# Restoring Migratory Bird Habitat

## *The Long Beach Cottage Removal Project*



### **The Long Beach Cottage Removal Project**

Situated on a critically important barrier beach in Connecticut, sit forty-one cottages. These structures are the remnant of a summer community that leased property from the Town of Stratford, Connecticut for many years. The cottages are now abandoned and rapidly deteriorating.

The Southern New England-New York Bight Coastal Program received nearly \$1 million dollars of Recovery Act Funds to restore wildlife habitat on Long Beach. Plans to remove the cottages involve demolition and restoration of the site for wildlife habitat and passive recreational uses including fishing, hiking, wildlife observation, and continued beach access.

This project has strong support from our conservation partners. Town residents voted in favor of selling Long Beach West to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge provided funding is available and there is a final agreement in terms and price. The removal of the cottages will clean up a vandalized and unsafe area and restore the barrier beach. Located in an urban area, this beach has the potential to become even more important as a natural place for the community to enjoy while also providing important wildlife habitat.



USFWS

*One of the forty-one abandoned cottages on Long Beach.*

### **Critical Habitat Restoration**

This area along the coast is the most important nesting habitat remaining in Connecticut for the federally threatened Piping Plover. Removal of the cottages and restoration of the area as nesting habitat for these beach-nesting birds will greatly benefit this species. This project will also enhance nesting habitat for state threatened Least Tern and state species of concern American Oystercatcher while simultaneously improving the adjacent intertidal salt marsh and restoring habitat for Clapper Rail and Black Duck. This site has been recognized as an Audubon Important Bird Area and provides the intact coastal habitat



Jack Rogers

*American Oystercatcher with chick.*

essential for stopover, breeding and wintering habitat for a wide variety of migratory birds. This site also supports five species of state-listed rare plants and nesting diamondback terrapins.

### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

The funding under the President's Recovery Act will enable the removal of dilapidated cottages and restoration of natural conditions on Long Beach West. In addition to providing an economic boost to local communities, the project will support the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's ongoing efforts to conserve fish and wildlife resources and quality outdoor experiences for future generations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service received \$34.7 million in ARRA



Jerry and Marcy Monkman

*Coastal habitat.*

funding for youth employment, energy efficient retrofitting, infrastructure improvements and habitat restoration within its 13-state Northeast Region extending from northern New England south to Virginia.

### **Thanks to Our Partners**

Without the assistance of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Connecticut Audubon Society, Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound, Connecticut Ornithological Association, SoundKeeper, The Nature Conservancy, Town of Stratford Conservation Commission, Protect Your Environment, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Trust for Public Land, and the Town of Stratford leadership, the Long Beach Restoration Project would not be possible.

### **For additional information or questions contact:**

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May 2009