



## SWEP ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT REPORT

### CONNECTICUT AUDUBON SOCIETY



March 20, 2015

Dear Melody and the SWEP Organization,

Thank you so much for the generous grant you provided to the Connecticut Audubon Society's *Science in Nature* school education program. *Science in Nature* is a hands-on program aimed at strengthening science test scores and environmental awareness by exposing students to science concepts not easily taught in the classroom. The primary audience for this program is second through eighth-grade students from low-income districts who would not otherwise have access to off-site, field-based programs. Students investigate weather, climate, geology, adaptations and wetland ecology in the outdoors at our 150- acre Larsen Sanctuary in Fairfield, using a variety of science tools and technologies.

CAS piloted our *Science in Nature* environmental education with 525 Bridgeport, CT public school students from Barnum and Park City Magnet Schools in the 2012-2013 academic year. We are now implementing *Science in Nature* throughout the state, with an emphasis on Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven.

The grant of \$1312.00 from SWEP allowed us to purchase many of the scientific materials we needed to conduct *Science in Nature* in our pilot program and continue to use today, specifically 10 anemometers and over a dozen compasses.

Below, please see some photos of students using the very materials you helped us to purchase, and most importantly, helped to make science a hands-on and exciting experience for students for years to come.

Should you wish to see *Science in Nature* in action, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With deep gratitude,

Michelle Eckman  
Director of Education  
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