



Steve Post alongside one of the oldest Groton trees, a red oak on Tollgate Road by the Groton Bible Chapel

NEW TREE WARDEN APPOINTMENT

Congratulations to **Steve Post**, Supervisor of the Roads & Streets Division, on the completion of Tree Warden School in the Fall and appointment as the Town's designated Tree Warden. Tree Wardens are responsible for the trees and shrubs along public roads and in public spaces (other than those on state property or under jurisdiction of a parks commission), and they approve the planting, pruning, and removal of all relevant trees. The State requires each municipality to appoint a tree warden with public safety being among their chief concerns.

NATURE CALLS

The capped **Flanders Road Landfill** Site was included in this year's CT Audubon Society's 121st Christmas Bird Count. This national event involves groups of volunteers traveling site to site within a 15-mile radius counting and identifying all the birds that they see on one day. Groton's count was led by Glenn Williams who compiles data for ornithologists and conservation biologists. The present site of the transfer station represents the largest grassy area in the circle that extends from Fisher's Island to Gales Ferry and East Lyme to Mystic.



According to Mr. Williams, they identified one notable bird, the Eastern Meadowlark, shown above right. "This used to be a common nester and regular winter bird in Connecticut. It is a grassland species and it has become rare as grasslands disappear." The other grassland bird they found is the Savannah Sparrow, below.



Numerous raptor were present. Williams said, "hawks and vultures are sure daily birds as the area provides a great habitat." Numerous Field Sparrows were also observed which are a shrubby overgrown field nester that lingers through winter.

Remember... when shoveling snow to pile snow on the LEFT side of your driveway and clear some space at the base on the RIGHT to avoid your hard work from being backfilled by plows.

Their priority is clearing the road for safe passage.

