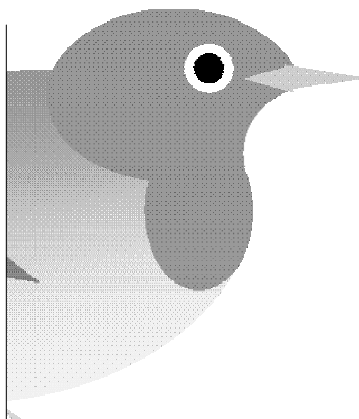
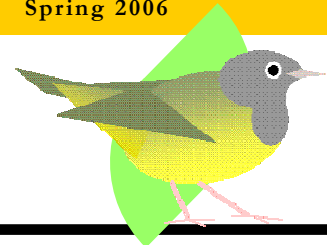


# COA BULLETIN



## From the editor:

I received a number of favorable comments on the new layout and some suggestions for improvements that are reflected in this issue. Thanks for the input.

Regards,

Andrew Dasinger

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## 22ND COA ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 25, 2006

The Connecticut Ornithological Association invites you to attend its 22nd Annual Meeting on **Saturday, March 25, 2006**, at Middlesex Community College in Middletown, CT. As in past years, the on-campus site will be Chapman Hall (for map and directions, visit [www.mxctc.commnet.edu](http://www.mxctc.commnet.edu) or call: 860-343-5800). To save on printing and postage costs, no separate announcement will be mailed to membership.

**Note: This Bulletin will be your only printed announcement.**

Plan to arrive between 8:00 and 9:00 AM for registration. We will begin with a message from COA President Miley Bull and an introduction to the day's events by COA Program Chairman Jerry Connolly. Our speakers for the day include:

- Michael Male and Judy Fieth, natural history filmmakers and producers of a highly regarded series of bird DVDs,
- Tim Gallagher, Editor in Chief of *Living Bird* published by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, and author of *The Grail Bird*,
- Louis Bevier, Assistant Editor for *Birds of North America*, and Editorial advisor to the *Connecticut Warbler*, and
- Dr. Richard Prum, William Robertson Coe Professor of Ornithology at Yale University, and Curator of Birds at Yale-Peabody Museum.

Speaker bios and descriptions of their talks are on pages 3 and 4.

The cost for the meeting is \$10.00 for advance registration (received by March 19); walk-in registration on the day of the meeting is \$15.00. A hot and cold buffet lunch is available for \$12.00, and must be paid for in advance. **The Program of Events can be found on page 2. The registration form is on page 7. Please send your check & registration form to COA Director: Renee Baade, 46 Obtuse Rd., Newtown, CT 06470**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT BY MILAN BULL

There is a lot of good news for COA members and birders in general this year.

First of all, the DEP Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy has been accepted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This plan, encompassing the full length and breadth of Connecticut's wildlife, will act as a blueprint, enabling Connecticut to apply for Federal funding in the form of State Wildlife Grants. These grants will fund key bird (and other) conservation projects in Connecticut and will boost our conservation initiatives across the state. COA helped provide input and recommendations to the Strategy, which was designed and implemented by a lot of hard working people at DEP. Congratulations to all.

Secondly, where could you find Tim Gallagher, Cornell Ivory-billed Woodpecker team member, and author of *The Grail Bird*; Michael Male and Judy Fieth, award-winning film makers specializing in birds; Dr. Richard Prum, Professor of Ornithology at Yale University; as well as our own Louis Bevier, *Connecticut Warbler* Editorial Board and Editor of the *Atlas of Breeding Birds of Connecticut* all together in the same room? At what may become one of the best ever COA Annual Meetings. The Mabel Osgood Wright Award, exhibits, marketplace, raffles and auction all will combine to make this a very special event. I encourage all to pre-register early.

Finally, I hope all of you have had a chance to enjoy what has been a remarkable winter from both the rarities and weather perspectives. From Snowy Owls to Townsend's Solitaires, a Spotted Towhee, and Pink-footed Geese and a host of others, this has been a winter to remember, great birds and the weather to enjoy them.

Let's hope it continues, and I'll see you at the Annual Meeting.

All my best,  
Miley

## ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 8:00–9:00   | <b>Registration/COA Marketplace</b>   |
| 9:00–9:10   | <b>Welcoming Remarks</b><br>Milan Bull, COA President<br>Jerry Connolly, Program Chairman   |
| 9:10–10:10  | <b>Adventures in Bird Filming</b><br>Michael Male & Judy Fieth  |
| 10:10–10:30 | <b>Business Meeting</b> (overview of the state of COA and elections of officers and board members)  |
| 10:30–10:50 | <b>Break—COA Marketplace</b> (socialize, purchase COA raffle tickets, and check out vendors)  |
| 10:50–11:50 | <b>Hot on the Trail of the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker</b><br>Tim Gallagher   |
| 12:00–1:00  | <b>Lunch at Founder's Hall Cafeteria</b>  |
| 1:00–1:15   | <b>Mabel Osgood Wright Award Presentation</b>   |
| 1:15–2:15   | <b>Ten Years Later: Report Card for Predicted New State Birds</b><br>Louis Bevier   |
| 2:15–2:30   | <b>Break—COA Marketplace</b>  |
| 2:30–3:30   | <b>What Do Birds Look Like to Other Birds? Bird Color and Bird Vision</b><br>Dr. Richard Prum   |
| 3:30–4:00   | <b>COA Raffle and Silent Auction</b><br>The ever-popular raffle will conclude our day with many prizes, including avian artwork and valuable birding equipment donated by artists and vendors. Raffle tickets will be available throughout the day. |

## COA ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKERS BIOS AND PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

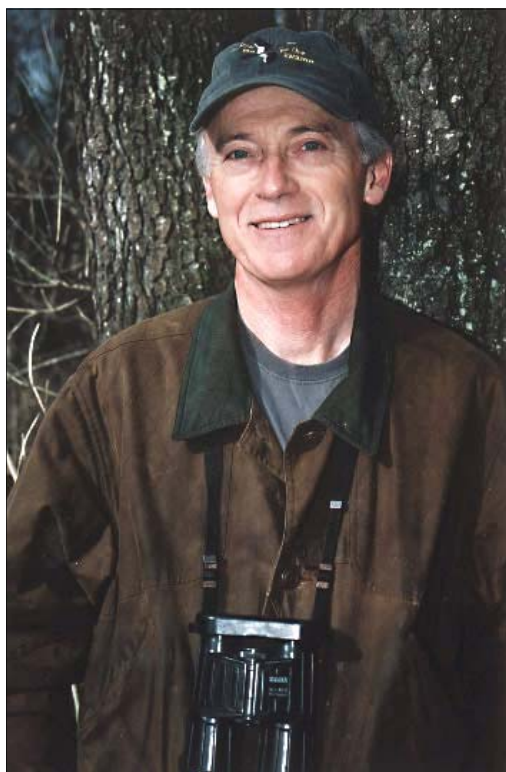
### Michael Male and Judy Fieth

#### ADVENTURES IN BIRD FILMING

Michael Male and Judy Fieth rank among the world's most prolific and talented film makers on the subjects of birds and natural history. The couple's numerous television credits include films for NOVA, NATURE, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, and The BBC, as well as segments of David Attenborough's award-winning LIFE OF BIRDS for PBS.

Their labor of love is a self-produced series of DVDs on the birds of North America. So far their efforts have yielded three finished films: WATCHING WARBLERS, WATCHING SPARROWS, and WATCHING WADERS. To anyone with an interest in birds, these works are an absolute treat!

Michael and Judy will present a lively program on the joys, surprises, and discoveries as well the trials and tribulations of filming and recording birds. In addition to presenting scenes from the aforementioned bird series, they will feature new footage of their soon-to-be-released WATCHING WARBLERS WEST.



### Tim Gallagher

#### THE GRAIL BIRD

On April 28, 2005, Cornell Lab of Ornithology announced the rediscovery, after 61 years, of one of North America's most spectacular birds. The story instantly swept beyond the birding community and into mainstream national news. Tim Gallagher and Bobby R. Harrison's sighting in early 2004 was the second of seven reported sightings over the next year. Gallagher, who had already been working on a book about the Ivory-billed, finished his book THE GRAIL BIRD during this time.

Tim will present a program on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Copies of THE GRAIL BIRD will be available for purchase and signed by the author.

Tim Gallagher is a lifelong bird fanatic. An award-winning writer and photographer, he is editor in chief of LIVING BIRD, the flagship publication of the renowned Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

## Louis Bevier

### TEN TEARS LATER: REPORT CARD FOR PREDICTED NEW STATE BIRDS

In 1996, four well-known Connecticut birders: Noble Proctor, Miley Bull, Mark Szantyr, and Louis Bevier got together to predict the next "state birds" (species occurring in CT for the first time). How'd they do?

Louis Bevier was born in southern California where he began watching birds in the 1960s. His interest in geographic variation and distribution among birds was formed in this region of diverse topography and flora. He moved to Connecticut in the 1986, completing an atlas on the breeding birds of that state and acting as Secretary of the COA's Avian Records Committee for several years. In 1995 he moved to Philadelphia, where he worked as assistant editor for *The Birds of North America*, continuing that work after moving to Maine in 1999. He continues to serve on the editorial advisory board for the *Connecticut Warbler* and leads part-time for Field Guides.



## Dr. Richard Prum

### WHAT DO BIRDS LOOK LIKE TO OTHER BIRDS? BIRD COLOR AND BIRD VISION



The colors of birds are produced by a combination of pigments and optical nanostructures. Together, these mechanisms create the amazing diversity of avian hues. Unlike humans, birds can see four color "channels"- red, green, blue, and ultraviolet/violet. Ultraviolet colors that are invisible to people are common in the plumages of birds. But what do these colors look like to birds? We cannot know, but using spectral measurements of bird colors and models of avian vision, we can create research tools that allow us to explore the ways in which ultraviolet wavelengths contribute to avian color recognition. In summary, this talk will answer the questions, "Can billionths of an inch determine which male gets a mate?", "Can a gull at the beach tell who is wearing sunscreen?" and "How could birds look any more amazing than they do?"

Richard O. Prum is the William Robertson Coe Professor of Ornithology at Yale University Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and Curator of Birds at the Yale Peabody Museum. His interest in birds began in elementary school in Manchester, Vermont, where he started leading weekly bird walks in 7th grade. In high school, Rick did "block busting" in the Northeast Kingdom for the first Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas. After attending Harvard, Rick did graduate research at the University of Michigan on the phylogeny, lek behavior, and evolution of manakins. After a Chapman Fellowship at the American Museum of Natural History, Rick joined the faculty of the University of Kansas. He came to Yale in 2004.

## RECOVERY WING FUNDRAISER

The Recovery Wing, Inc. of Southington, CT announces that it will hold its first Benefit Dinner and Auction at the Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville, CT on Thursday, March 2, 2006 from 6:30 – 10:30 pm.

This fun and entertaining evening will begin with a champagne toast, a meet-and-greet with Jayne Amico of Southington, the founder of the Recovery Wing, and a Silent Auction for some of the numerous donated items. Food offerings will include carving and pasta stations, as well as hors d'oeuvres such as Crab Rangoon and Mozzarella en Carrozza. Beer, wine, dessert, coffee and tea will be served; a cash bar is also available. The meal will be followed by a Live Auction and raffles for the larger donated goods and services. The Emcee for the evening will be announced. Tickets are \$50 and may be obtained by calling 860.276.8433.

The Recovery Wing is a 501 (c) (3) private, non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the rehabilitation of orphaned, sick or injured migratory songbirds, and their preservation. Founder Jayne Amico is state-and federally-licensed to care for migratory songbirds in need of rehabilitation. The Recovery Wing's special focus is on species which are declining (e.g. chimney swifts) or which require specific food, habitat or other specialized care during rehabilitation (e.g. hummingbirds, killdeer and woodpeckers).

The organization receives no federal, state or foundation assistance, and is funded solely by donations from the public. The Recovery Wing is the largest rehabilitation facility in Connecticut focusing solely on migratory songbirds. In 2005, about 70% of the more than 300 songbirds admitted were released back into the wild.

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## SECOND ANNUAL ALL AUDUBON DAY

Audubon Connecticut, the state office of the National Audubon Society, is inviting all Audubon friends and members to the **Second Annual All Audubon Day**. Scheduled for Saturday, March 18, 2006, 8:30 AM–3 PM at the Dolce Heritage Hotel and Conference Center in Southbury, Connecticut, All Audubon Day is an opportunity for anyone interested in birds and their environment to learn more and become involved.

Noted ornithologist, and Vice President of Bird Conservation for National Audubon Society, Stephen W. Kress will present his new book Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds and will speak about creating natural habitats for birds on properties large and small. Participate in an open mike session on issues affecting birds, wildlife and habitat, learn more about Important Bird Areas in Connecticut and join sessions on Audubon Adventures, Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, or adopting an Important Bird Area.

The registration fee is \$25 and includes a light breakfast, lunch, all sessions and an afternoon hike at the Audubon Center at Bent of the River in Southbury, CT. Call Jennifer Palacios at 203-869-5272 ext 231 to register or for more information. All Audubon Day is sponsored by the Dolce Heritage Hotel and Conference Center.

## CONNECTICUT LEAPFROGS OTHER STATES FOR BREEDING BIRD SURVEY COVERAGE

From *Memorandum to Cooperators*, Winter 2005/2006, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Breeding Bird Survey

“This year, six states experienced an increase in route coverage by five or more routes. They were **Connecticut**, Idaho, Illinois, Nevada, Texas, and Georgia. Especially notable were Georgia and Texas who increased coverage by 10 and 16 routes respectively, and **Connecticut** who doubled their coverage from the previous year. Those accomplishments earned **Connecticut** and Texas a place alongside South Carolina as the only three states to move up to the highest coverage bracket this year, 76-100% of all routes covered.”

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talent!

### A PRECARIOUS PLACE FOR A NEST

Ayreslea Denny of Norfolk, CT, provided this note on an unusual nesting situation she observed for a Hermit Thrush. On August 19, 2005, she discovered a Hermit Thrush incubating 3 eggs.

While the late nesting date is unusual in itself, more remarkable was the location of the nest. It was in the middle hump of a logging road that her son-in-law had been driving over to take firewood out of the woods! By September 3rd, there were three babies.

As this example and Paul Carrier's cartoon illustrate, birds are well adapted to survive both the difficulties sometimes encountered when nesting on the ground as well as the hazards of leaving a nest at high elevation without the power of flight. Wood Ducks sometimes nest as high as 50 feet.



*You first- No, you first!*

## COA ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Early Registration: \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$10/person (pre-pay only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (must be received by 3/18; registration at the door: \$15/person)

Hot & cold buffet lunch: \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$12/person (pre-pay only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please **print** name(s) as you would like it (them) to appear on name tag:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Send check payable to COA & registration form to: Renee Baade, 46 Obtuse Rd., Newtown, CT 06470

## COA MEMBERSHIP FORM

### JOIN COA FOR THE BEST OF BIRDING IN CT

New Member  Renewal  Gift

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address\* \_\_\_\_\_

COA is always in need of volunteer help. If you are interested, please check the areas below that you would like to know more about::

Computer skills  Events  Field trips  Finance  Workshops  Science

#### Membership Category:

Student  (\$15)

Individual  (\$25)

Family  (\$35)

Contributing  (\$50)

Donor  (\$75)

Benefactor  (\$100)

Lifetime  (\$1000; payable in 3 annual installments)

Send this form with your check or money order to:

Connecticut Ornithological Association

314 Unquowa Road

Fairfield, CT 06430

\* COA does not release its membership list to other organizations

Dues are tax deductible as allowed by law

The COA Bulletin is the quarterly newsletter of the Connecticut Ornithological Association, published in February, May, September, and December. Please submit materials for the next issue by March 31, 2006, to:

Andrew Dasinger

Dasingerfamily@cox.net

21 Beechwood Lane

South Glastonbury, CT 06073,

or

Larry Reiter

Reiter.mystic@snet.net

32 West Mystic Ave.

Mystic, CT 06355

Download a pdf version of the COA Bulletin (in color!) at:

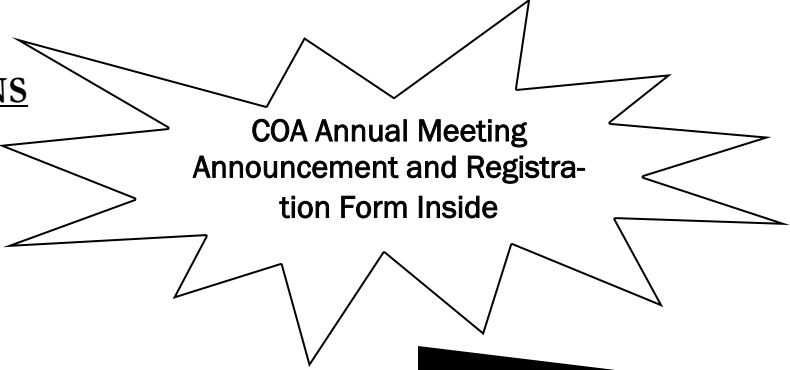
<http://homepage.mac.com/reiter.mystic/COA/FileSharing23.html>

## COA OFFICERS

*President* Milan Bull, 2325 Burr Street, Fairfield, CT 06824, 203-259-6305 x113  
*Vice President* Steve Mayo, 27 Tuttle Court, Bethany, CT 06524, 203-386-6979  
*Treasurer* Fred Schroeder, 215 Lonetown Road, West Redding, CT 06896, 203-938-9165  
*Secretary* Steve Broker, 50 Hidden Place, Cheshire, CT 06410, 203-272-5192

## COA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

*Conservation* Ben Olewine  
*Electronics* Dori Sosensky  
*Finance* Fred Schroeder  
*Membership* Roy Harvey  
*Nominating*  
*Program* Jerry Connolly  
*Connecticut Warbler* Greg Hanisek  
*COA Bulletin* Andrew Dasinger  
*Rare Records* Dave Provencher  
*Refuge Relations* Dori Sosensky  
*Science Advisory* Milan Bull



COA Annual Meeting  
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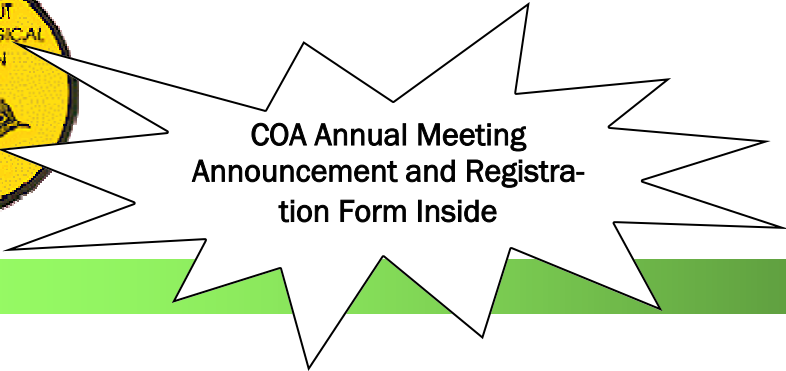


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at [www.ctbirding.com](http://www.ctbirding.com)

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