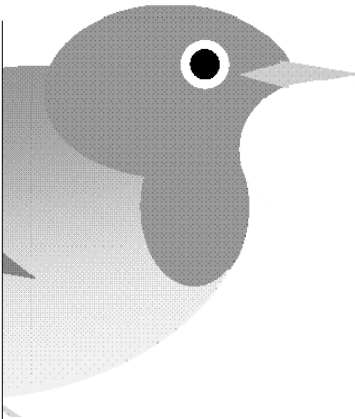
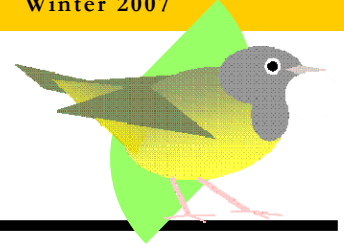


COA BULLETIN



THE 108TH NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Connecticut Christmas Bird Count 2007-2008 Schedule

Compiled by Stephen P. Broker

Contact compilers directly for information on participating in a specific count.

* confirmed by compilers

Saturday, Dec. 15, 2007

***Hartford, CT (HA-CT):** Compilers: Jay Kaplan, 71 Gracey Road, Canton, CT 06019 jkaplan@thechildrensmuseumct.org, (H) 860-693-0157, (W) 860-693-0263, and Steve Davis, 860-242-2135

***New Haven, CT (NH-CT)** Compiler: Chris Loscalzo, 67 Wepawaug Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525 closcalz@optonline.net 203-389-6508

***Storrs, CT (ST-CT)** Compiler: Steve Rogers, 75 Charles Lane, Storrs, CT 06268 climbroggers@charter.net 860-429-1259

***Woodbury-Roxbury, CT (WR-CT)** Compiler: Ed Hagen, 47 Sycamore Avenue, Woodbury, CT 06798 elhagen55@hotmail.com 203-263-0618

Sunday, Dec. 16, 2007

***Greenwich-Stamford, CT (GS-CT)** Compilers: Brian O'Toole, 203-869-5272; Gary Palmer, 34 Field Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807. Direct e-mail to Brian O'Toole, otoole29@yahoo.com

Lakeville-Sharon, CT (LS-CT) Compiler: Bob Moeller, P.O. Box 1119, Sharon, CT 06069, bob.moeller@snet.net, 860-364-5936

***Litchfield Hills, CT (LH-CT)** Compiler: Raymond E. Belding, 1229 Winsted Road #30, Torrington, CT 06790, hoatzin1@optonline.net, 860-482-4046

***Napatree, CT-RI** Compiler: Shai Mitra, Biology Department, College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10314 mitra@mail.csi.cuny.edu

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108TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

***Oxford, CT (OX-CT)** Compiler: Roy Harvey, 32 Wanda Drive, Beacon Falls, CT 06403, rmharvey@snet.net, 203-888-5757

Quinnipiac Valley, CT (QV-CT) Compiler: Wilhelmina (Billie) Smith, 203-265-5295 wrst@aol.com (Quinnipiac Valley Audubon Society)

***Salmon River, CT (SR-CT)** Compiler: Joe Morin, 8 West Street Terrace, Cromwell, CT 06416 morinjor@aol.com, 860-635-2786; Contact: Alison Guinness, 418 Tater Hill Road, East Haddam, CT 06423, 860-873-9304

***Westport, CT (WE-CT)** Compiler: Jim Hunter, 19 South Bulkley Avenue, Westport, CT 06880, Wstkingbrd@aol.com, 203-858-3968

Saturday, Dec. 22, 2007

***Barkhamsted, CT (BA-CT)** Compiler: David Tripp, Jr., 53 Country Lane, Canton, CT 06019-3407, dtrippjr@comcast.net, 860-693-6524

Sunday, Dec. 23, 2007

***Stratford-Milford, CT (SM-CT)** Compiler: Steve Mayo, 27 Tuttle Court, Bethany, CT 06524, smayo@sikorsky.com, 203-393-0694

Saturday, Dec. 29, 2007

***New London, CT (NL-CT)** Compiler: Robert Dewire, 9 Canary Lane, Pawcatuck, CT 06379, rcdewire@snet.net, 860-599-3085

Sunday, Dec. 30, 2007

Old Lyme-Saybrook, CT (OL-CT) Contact: Potapaug Audubon Society, P.O. Box 591, Old Lyme, CT 06371 Barbara Barron, President, bbarron687@gmail.com

Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008

***Pawling (Hidden Valley), NY-CT (HV-NY)** Compilers: Carena Pooth, 22 Brothers Road, Poughquag, NY 12570, carena@prodigy.net, 845-724-3236; Angela Dimmitt, 48 Candlewood Mountain Road, New Milford, CT 06776, angeladimmitt@aol.com 860-355-3429

Still in planning stages:

Edwin Way Teale, Trail Wood, CT (EW-CT) Compiler: Sam Higgins, Hammond Hill, Hampton, CT 06247, msamh@charter.net 860-455-0063



HOW TO “CAPTAIN” A CHRISTMAS COUNT PART 2: BIRD CALLS BY STEVE MAYO

Last year’s Christmas Count article reviewed several general tactics for a successful day in the field. We’ll focus this year on one aspect of CBC preparation. A familiarity with bird calls will help you cover areas quicker, tally more birds, and alert you to potential rarities. The ability to make fast, accurate identifications will ensure that fewer birds “get away” because of brief (or no) glimpses. So take some time to gain experience with flight calls, chip notes, partial songs and other winter season vocalizations.

Don’t get hung up on written descriptions of calls. Birds don’t call out in American English, and it is difficult to put a bird sound to the written word. After some study, you may want to take notes and come up with your own unique written descriptions of vocalizations. Use something that is meaningful to you. Some of the following written descriptions are from popular field guides (Sibley, 2000; Peterson, 1980). Others are de-

rived from what I think vocalizations sound like.

It’s really helpful to support your field observations by studying recordings. Recordings will help you gain familiarity with the common local birds as well as the rarities. There are two outstanding sources for bird recordings. First is a CD-Rom titled *Flight calls of Migrating Birds, Eastern North American Landbirds*, by William Evans and Michael O’Brien. Second is the extensive online sound and video library found at *Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, MaCaulay Library* website. Try to choose recordings that were made in the Northeast. And of course, avoid songs that are associated with the breeding season (for now, at least). It’s best to edit your own practice tape, CD or file that is free of the clutter of extra species. It’s CBC time; you can skip the territorial songs of the wood warblers. Once you have some recordings and some local birding sites, you can begin.

(continued, next page →)



DO YOU THINK? - CAN IT BE?

HOW TO “CAPTAIN” A CHRISTMAS COUNT (CONTINUED)

1. Start with the fundamentals. Nail down the common birds. Sparrows and Finches are a good place to start. White-throated and Song Sparrows are found in thickets and feeders in all Connecticut Count Circles. The White-throated has a sharp metallic chip note, *chink!* It also has a quiet, lisping *tseet* call. Learn them both. The Song has a nasal, husky *chemp* or *jimp* call note. Compare these with the tinkling chip notes of the Northern (Slate-Colored) Junco. The Junco also has a buzzy *jeet* or *tzeet* flight call note. Next check out some other common “finches”. The House Sparrow has a burry, husky *birdep* call note. The call note of a House Finch is softer, higher and more musical, *fillp* or *churrup*. The Goldfinch has an unmistakable musical *po-TA-to-chip* flight call and a rising, whiny, *tiwiii* call note. The Northern Cardinal can also be encountered in both thickets and at feeders. It can sing in winter, but especially review its very short high pitched *tick* or *chink* call. Compare it to that of the sparrows.

Study the common birds of the woods and woodlots. Separating the Black-capped Chickadee from the Tufted Titmouse takes some experience. The latter has a more whiny, aggressive-sounding call. Listen carefully to as many Downy Woodpeckers as possible. Once you’ve memorized that *pik* note, you will be ready when you encounter the



less common Hairy Woodpecker. It has a higher, bolder *peek* note. The Red-bellied woodpecker has very recognizable vocalizations, including a *querrr* flight call and loud *chug* or *chuck-chuck* calls. The call of the Northern Flicker is a descending *keew* or *keeuck*. Finally, with little effort you should be able to tell the “little toy-horn” *yenk* of the Red-breasted Nuthatch, from the lower *yank-yank* of the White-breasted Nuthatch.

2. Branch Out. If you’re familiar with just the previous fifteen birds, you’ve become a valuable CBC participant. Now consider studying vocalizations of some of the less common CBC species:

- Common Raven – A long hoarse, croaky *aurrgh* or *crawwk*
- Fish Crow - Nasal *caa caa*
- Brown Creeper - A single, very soft, high-pitched *see*. Compare with Golden Crowned kinglet and the louder, longer call of the Cedar Waxwing.
- Carolina Wren – Scolding *chideddedded* and a low *didid*. Also, the *tea-kettle* and *cheery-cheery-cheery* songs can be heard in winter.
- Winter Wren – Distinctive *kip* or *kip kip*, higher, softer than that of Carolina Wren.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet – A high pitched *zree* or *see-see-see*
- Ruby crowned Kinglet – A short, scolding, scratchy *jit* or *jidit*
- Eastern Bluebird – A musical, low, melodic *jeew* or *churr* flight call, similar in tone to its song.
- American Robin – Sometimes a chicken-like *tu-tu-tut* and in flight, a descending *sreel*.
- Gray Catbird – a quick, cat-like *me-ew* or *re-ah*
- Mockingbird – A common call is a short, loud *chak* or *chek*
- Cedar Waxwing – A high-pitched trilled whistle *sreeee*
- Yellow-rumped Warbler – A short, medium pitched, *chip* or *chep*

(continued, next page →)

HOW TO “CAPTAIN” A CHRISTMAS COUNT (CONTINUED)

- Eastern Towhee – A bold *chewink*, compare with the shorter Northern Cardinal call
- American Tree Sparrow – Tinkling, musical *tsii* or *teedl-eet*
- Savannah Sparrow – High, thin *tsit* or *seep*
- Swamp Sparrow – A chip, not as metallic as that of a white-throated
- Brown Headed Cowbird – flat rattling *kekekek*
- Red-winged Blackbird – *kek* or *chek*
- Common Grackle – A low *kek* or *kak*, lower and than that of a Red-winged Blackbird.
- Pine Siskin – A whining, rising *zrheee*, *zrheeeah*
- Purple Finch – distinctive *dit dit*

Coastal Counters have an opportunity for even more variety and can study the vocalizations of birds such as American Pipit, Snow Bunting, Eastern Meadowlark, House Wren and Pine Warbler.

Extra Credit. Are you already an expert at recognizing all these calls? Do you have some extra time? There is always hope that winter finches may be coming from the North so you can make some last-minute preparations. Consider these:

- Evening Grosbeak – High-pitched, scratchy *chreep* or *churup* similar to that of a House Sparrow.
- Pine Grosbeak - Several whistles, *po peew peew*
- Red Crossbill - There are several regional types to the North, and calls are difficult to describe. Some flight calls sound like *jhee-ut*, or *jhee* or *kyip*
- White-winged Crossbill – A variable-pitch chatter, *dididid- zheu -zheu*
- Common Redpoll – A long series of rattling *chirp*, *chirp jureet* or *chet-chet-chet* sounds.



CONNECTICUT BIRDER'S LISTS 2007

The number of species a person has recorded reflects a person's birding efforts and accomplishments and reflects those areas where he or she has been active. Many birders meticulously keep various lists of the birds they have seen. In a sense of fun and competitiveness publishing these totals also allows birders to compare their lists with that of others.

We will update and publish list totals for the period through 2007. The list categories include **State Lists, Yard Lists, State Photographed Birds, County Lists**, and Lists for up to three **Towns**, as well as your **2007 state totals**. Most of these categories contain spaces for "best birds".

New list totals are to be submitted by interested birders using the form below by January 10, 2008. These new list totals will be found on COA's web site in later January 2008. Electronic submission forms can be found on COA's web site [<http://www.ctbirding.org> Birder's Lists] under *Birder's Lists*. Only species can be added that have been submitted on this submission form.

Brian Otoole
 Joe Zeranski
 COA Lists Committee

Given Name <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/> Surname <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>	
Town Residence <input style="width: 200px;" type="text"/> State(if not Ct) <input style="width: 80px;" type="text"/>	
LIST TOTALS	
Connecticut	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> Best Bird <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Yard List	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> Best Bird <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Ct Photo	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> Best Bird <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
County Lists	
Fairfield	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> Best Bird <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Hartford	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> Best Bird <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Litchfield	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> Best Bird <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Middlesex	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> Best Bird <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
New Haven	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> Best Bird <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
New London	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> Best Bird <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Tolland	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> Best Bird <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Windham	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> Best Bird <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Town # 1	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> Town Name <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Town # 2	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> Town Name <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Town # 3	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> Town Name <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Best Bird <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/> Best Bird <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/> Best Bird <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>	
COA LISTS SUBMISSION FORM <i>for Lists Totals Through 2007</i>	
mail by 1/10/08 to: Ct Lists 613 Riversville Road Greenwich, Ct 06831 <i>for a electronic form go to</i> http://www.ctbirding.org Birder's Lists	
2007 Ct List <input style="width: 60px;" type="text"/>	

SAVE THE DATE—2008 COA ANNUAL MEETING

When: Saturday, March 29, 2008

Where: Middlesex Community College, Middletown, CT

The COA Annual Meeting Committee is planning another memorable event filled with engaging speakers, satisfying refreshments, merchandise from the COA marketplace, and, of course, opportunities to meet with other birders from the region. Details along with the registration form will appear in the next issue of the COA Bulletin.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

COA is accepting nominations for the 2008 Mabel Osgood Wright and Betty Kleiner Awards. Since 1991, the Mabel Osgood Wright Award has honored the recipient's significant impact on the study and conservation of Connecticut Birds. The Betty Kleiner Award was established in 2007 to recognize an outstanding article or submission to the *Connecticut Warbler*. Submit nominations prior to January 15, 2008, to COA, 314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06824. Or, send an e-mail to Steve Mayo (rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net). All submittals will be forwarded to COA's awards committee.

GIVE A GIFT OF COA MEMBERSHIP

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 06824

* 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 February 6, 2008, to:

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32 West Mystic Ave.

Mystic, CT 06355

Download a pdf version of the COA Bulletin (in color!) at www.ctbirding.org

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<i>Science Advisory</i>	Milan Bull

Visit COA on the web
at www.ctbirding.org

CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

314 Unquowa Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
www.ctbirding.org

