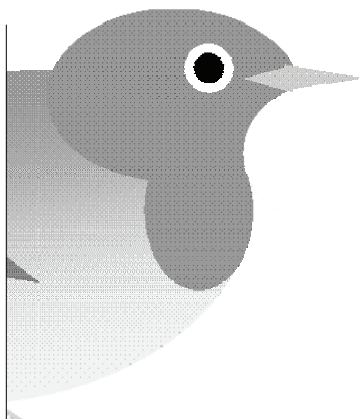
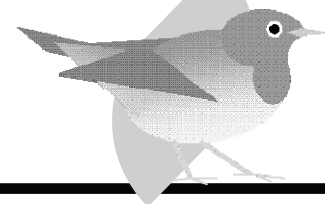


COA BULLETIN



THE 109TH NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Connecticut Christmas Bird Count 2008-2009 Schedule

Compiled by Stephen P. Broker

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

* confirmed by compilers

Sunday, Dec. 14, 2008

***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

***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, 860-635-2786; Contact: Alison Guinness, 418 Tater Hill Road, East Had-dam, CT 06423, wjguinness@snet.net, 860-873-9304

Saturday, Dec. 20, 2008

***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, Wood-bridge, CT 06525 closcalz@optonline.net 203-389-6508

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109TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

***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. 21, 2008

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

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

***Westport, CT** (WE-CT) Compilers: Jim Hunter, Wstkingbrd@aol.com; Luke Tiller, 33 Irmgard Lane, Wilton, CT 06897, 212-725-6611, luke.tiller@gmail.com (contact L. Tiller for information) [rain/snow date = Sunday, December 28, 2008]

Sunday, Dec. 28, 2008

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

***Stratford-Milford, CT** (SM-CT) Compiler: Steve Mayo, 27 Tuttle Court, Bethany, CT 06524, rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net, 203-393-0694

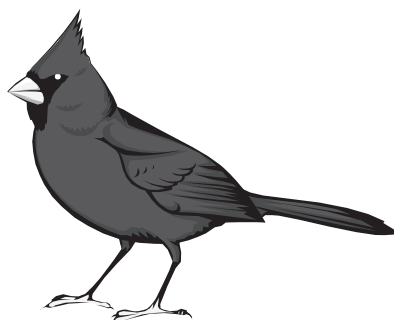
Thursday, Jan. 1, 2009

***Pawling (Hidden Valley), NY-CT** (HV-NY) Compilers: Carena Pooth, 22 Brothers Road, Poughquag, NY 12570, carena@prodigy.net, 845-724-3236; Angela Dimmitt, P.O. Box 146, Sherman, CT 06784, angeladimmitt@aol.com 860-355-3429

Saturday, Jan. 3, 2009

***Edwin Way Teale, Trail Wood, CT** (EW-CT) Compiler: Sue Harrington, 28D Anton Road, Storrs, CT 06268, hoo-poe@sbcglobal.net 860-429-6257

***New London, CT** (NL-CT) Compiler: Robert Dewire, 9 Canary Lane, Pawcatuck, CT 06379, robert-dewire9@comcast.net, 860-599-3085



25 YEARS AGO IN THE CONNECTICUT WARBLER

Compiled by Stephen P. Broker

From Volume III Number 4, October 1983:

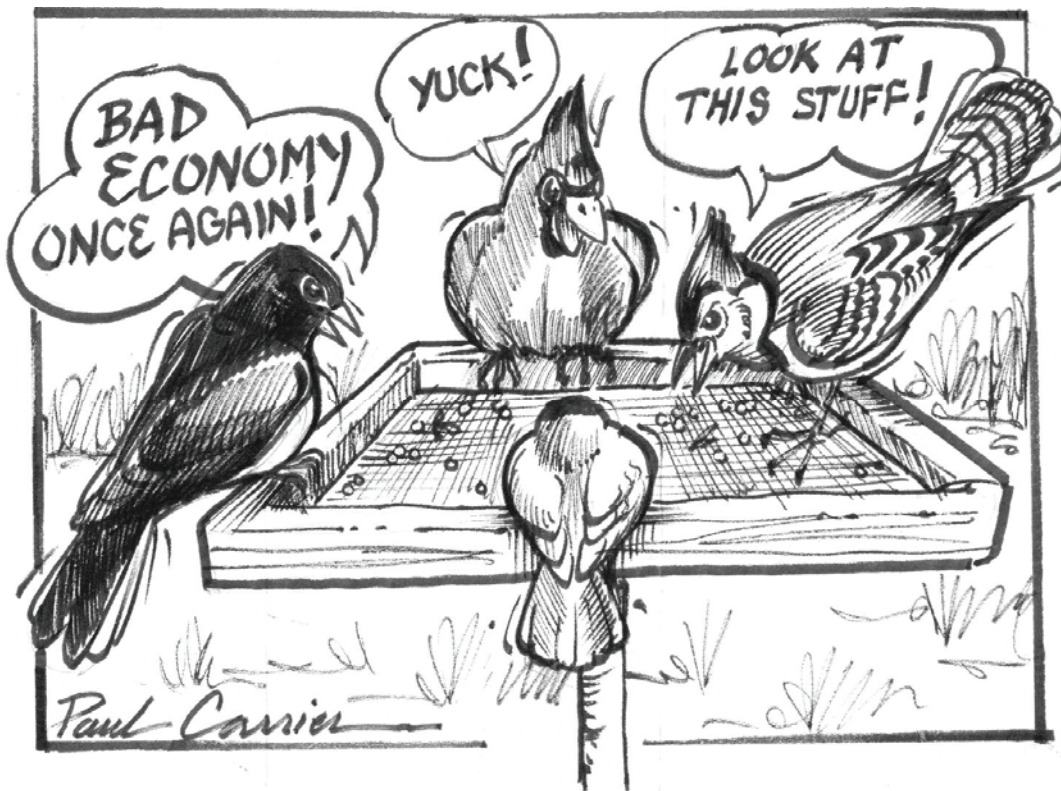
Harlequin Duck in Norwalk – “As our seventeen-foot canoe came within thirty feet of the rock [East White Rock], the cormorants began to hoist their wings and disperse in all directions. Rounding the corner of the rock and heading toward the sandy landing point we sighted a duck sitting contentedly on the sand less than twenty feet away. The bird was a full plumaged, male Harlequin (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). As I reached for my camera the bird waddled off the beach, skittered over the surface and flew out of sight. For the next week and a half it was sighted consistently by a number of people. Most of the time it was in the presence of a female Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*).” By Peter Marra.

Connecticut Field Notes, Summer: June 1 – August 31, 1983 – “The Wild Turkey was confirmed as a breeding species in two blocks of the Hamburg Quadrangle and one block of the Moodus Quadrangle (all in East Haddam) (Clay Taylor). . . .

Further proof that Conn.’s Upland Sandpipers “require” the drone of airplane engines for successful breeding was furnished at Bradley International Airport, where 2 young were observed on June 12, and 12 birds were seen on Aug. 21 (Paul Desjardins). . . . The best bird of the summer was a **South Polar Skua** photographed off Bridgeport from the Port Jefferson ferry on Aug. 19 (Ray Schwartz). By Jay Hand & Jim Mockalis.

Identifying the Gulls of New Haven – “Do you break out in a sweat when you try to separate gulls for identification? Do you patiently wait near a flock of Bonaparte’s Gulls until someone comes along to point out the Little Gull? Stop this nonsense. Spend this month learning your gulls. This article is not going to tell you how to separate a third year Thayer’s Gull with an inferiority complex from a super thyroid Rock Dove. This article starts with the basics.” By Fred C. Sibley.

(continued, next page →)



25 YEARS AGO IN THE CONNECTICUT WARBLER

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

Christmas Counts of Owls in Connecticut – “We compiled owl census data from ten Connecticut CBC stations which had been active for 30 years or longer; Bristol, Greenwich-Stamford, Hartford, Litchfield Hills, New Haven, New London, Oxford, Storrs, Waterbury and Westport. For each of these stations we recorded the number of owls of each species observed, number of observers and parties, party hours and party miles from the following sources: *Audubon* (1941-1946), *Audubon Field Notes* (1947-1956), and *American Birds* (1957-1980).

“Owls most commonly reported included Screech Owls [*Otus asio*] at 9 of the 10 stations and on 52% of all counts; Great Horned Owls [*Bubo virginianus*] at 7 stations and on 30% of counts; and Barred Owls (*Strix varia*) at 7 stations and on 38% of all counts. Less commonly reported owls included Short-eared Owls (*Asio flammeus*), Long-eared Owls (*Asio otus*), Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*), Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*), and Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*), all five being recorded on 20% or less counts at four stations only. The rarest owl recorded on Connecticut’s CBCs was a Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) observed in 1959 at New London. The observers were able to get within 25 feet of this owl for positive identification.” By Bettina McKay, Dwight G. Smith and Noble S. Proctor.

SAVE THE DATE—2009 COA ANNUAL MEETING

When: Saturday, March 21, 2009

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 2009 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.



BOY ARE THESE BINOCULARS GOOD!

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB WINTER FIELD TRIPS



(Note: for additional information on New Haven Bird Club field trips, visit their web site at <http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org/calendar.htm>)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2009, 8:00 AM

First Wednesday Walk : Sherwood Island St. Park, Westport

On this mid-week trip we explore an excellent birding spot on Long Island Sound. We will look for loons, grebes, goldeneye, and other sea ducks. The fields are a good spot to check for Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, and sparrows. (Directions: Take Rt. I-95, Exit 18. Drive past booths and meet in the large parking lot on the right, toward the back of the circular entrance road.). Contact-Kris Johnson: 203.288.3087, krisjohnson99@snet.net

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2009, 7:30 AM

Milford Birding Tour

Join us as we visit the many birding hotspots in Milford. We will be looking for waterfowl, rare gulls, birds of prey, and wintering shorebirds. Our stops include Mondo Ponds, Caswell Cove, Milford Point, Silver Sands State Park, and perhaps another location or two. Meet at the commuter lot on Schoolhouse Road (Exit 35 on I-95. Go left at end of ramp if coming from the north. If coming from the south, parking lot is at the foot of the ramp. Leader-Chris Loscalzo: 03.389.6508, closcalz@optonline.net

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2009, 8:00 AM

Hammonasset State Park, Madison

Today we make a mid-winter excursion to this year-round CT birding hotspot. We will be looking for sea ducks, gulls, larks, Snow Buntings, longspurs, and any rarities that might arrive. In the past two years, several rarities from the West have turned up, including Lazuli Bunting and Western Tanager. We will check out a variety of habitats in the park, including the campgrounds area. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot at Meig's Point. Leader-Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508, closcalz@optonline.net

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2009, 8:00 AM

First Wednesday Walk : Hammonasset State Park, Madison

Enjoy a mid-week field trip to one of the area's best birding locations. We will look for sea ducks and a range of other water birds, as well as grassland species and any rarities that might occur. Meet at the park entrance at 8:00. Contact-Kris Johnson: 203.288.3087, krisjohnson99@snet.net

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009, 8:00 AM

Connecticut River Valley and Eastern Shore

Meet at the entrance to Hammonasset State Park (I-95 Exit 62) in Madison. We'll search the shore from Madison to the Connecticut River Lower Valley for wintering shorebirds and hawks as well as the trip specialty, eagles. Please bring a spotting scope if you have one. Co-leaders-Arne Rosengren: 203.248.2903 & Nancy Rosenbaum: 203.288.8997, nancy.rosenbaum@sbcglobal.net

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2009, 7:00 AM (Snow date: Sunday, February 22, 2009, 7:00 AM)

Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast

This all-day trip includes stops at Sachuest, Beavertail State Park, Moonstone Beach, and Trustum Pond, all outstanding Rhode Island birding locations. We should see grebes, loons, scoters, scaup, Purple Sandpipers, and lots of Harlequin Ducks. We'll look for alcids, gannets, and rare gulls and waterfowl. Dress warmly-it's cold and windy on the coast. The walk at Sachuest Point is a bit strenuous in places. Bring lunch and a spotting scope if you have one. Meet at the commuter lot at Exit 55 of I-95. Leader-Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508, closcalz@optonline.net

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2009, 8 AM

First Wednesday Walk: Sikorsky Airport and Great Meadows Marsh, Stratford

Join us as we visit this fine birding area. We may visit Long Beach and Frash Pond in addition to the airport area and the marsh. We will look for seabirds such as Long-tailed Duck and scoters, as well as raptors and shorebirds. Meet at the far end of the parking lot at Sikorsky Airport on Rt. 113 in Stratford. Contact-Kris Johnson: 203.288.3087, krisjohnson99@snet.net

HARTFORD AUDUBON WINTER FIELD TRIPS



(Note: for additional information on Hartford Audubon field trips, visit their web site at <http://www.hartfordaudubon.org/terms.htm>)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2009

New Year's Day

Get a jump start on your Big January with this new trip as we race around trying to get as many new species as we can for the day. We will start at Hammonasset Beach State Park, and work our way eastward with stops in Clinton, Westbrook, Old Saybrook and then north to Essex. Bird the whole day or as long as you want and remember to dress warmly and bring a lunch. Carpooling is encouraged on this trip. With the new parking regulations at the main entrance of Hammonasset State Park, we will now meet at the Meigs Point Nature Center inside the park at 8:00 AM or earlier. More info will be available closer to the trip. Leaders: Adrian and Beth Nichols

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2009

Station 43 Beginners Walk II, South Windsor

This will be a cold one, but don't let that discourage you from coming. We award a blue nose to anyone showing up if the temp is below 10 degrees. Coffee hour is usually one hour earlier when it's that cold. Bald Eagles, Rough-legged Hawk and Northern Shrike await us on this winter jaunt. Please note we meet at 9:00 AM at the corner of Newberry Rd and Main St.

Leaders: Roger Preston and Jon Ward

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2009

Trustom Pond NWR and other Rhode Island Shore Points

Trustom Pond always has a high diversity of dabbling and diving ducks, often holding species like Eurasian Wigeon, Redhead and Canvasback. Other areas on the Rhode Island shore are also quite good, so we will plan on visiting them depending on what's being reported. Meet at the Glastonbury commuter lot at 7:00 AM for carpooling. Directions: Go eastbound on Route 2 from Hartford, take exit 5D (Rte 3). Next, take Putnam Blvd. exit. Go right on Putnam Blvd to Main Street, then left on Main Street. Commuter lot is on the right. Bird the whole day or as long as you want and remember to dress warmly and bring a lunch. Leader: Andrew Dasinger

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2009

Lower Connecticut River Valley

Doing a Big January? Last year we had a record 71 species! This is an all day trip, searching the river valley from East Had-dam to Old Saybrook and all points between. Remember to dress warmly and bring a lunch. On this trip we usually see Bald Eagles, Loons, Scoters, Long-tailed Ducks and much more. Meet at the Commuter Parking Lot off Exit 6 (Chester), Route 9 at 7:45 AM to leave the parking lot by 8:00 AM. Carpooling is essential for this trip, so please consider riding with a fellow birder. Leaders: Adrian and Beth Nichols

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2009

Western Connecticut Tour

Has your Big January slowed down? Then join us on this new trip as we follow Carl Ekroth's spring route. We will meet in New Haven and then head over to Sherwood Island in Westport and work our way eastward with stops in Bridgeport, Stratford, Milford, West Haven and finally back to New Haven. Bird the whole day or as long as you want and remember to dress warmly and bring a lunch. Carpooling is essential for this trip, so please consider riding with a fellow birder. Meet at the Long Wharf Information Center in New Haven at 8:00 AM or earlier. Leaders: Adrian and Beth Nichols

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2009

Northwestern Connecticut Tour

Is your Big January list frozen in place? Then join us on this late winter excursion to the Northwestern Hills. For this trip we will be paying close attention to the latest bird sightings and weather in hopes of finding some rarer species. We will meet somewhere in the Hartford area and then commute to the White Memorial Conservation Center, in Litchfield. Bird the whole day or as long as you want and remember to dress warmly and bring a lunch. Carpooling is essential for this trip, so please consider riding with a fellow birder. The starting time and place will be made available closer to the trip. Leaders: Adrian and Beth Nichols

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2009

Missed Species Trip

Still need a few species to finish your Big January? Then this is for you as we search the river valley from Chester to Old Say-

HARTFORD AUDUBON WINTER FIELD TRIPS (CONT'D)

brook and then head west toward Stratford, stopping at hotspots along the way. We will be paying close attention to the latest bird sightings and weather. Be sure to e-mail the trip leader your species wish list before the start of the trip. Bird the whole day or as long as you want, remember to dress warmly and bring a lunch. Meet at the Commuter Parking Lot off Exit 6 (Chester), Route 9 at 8:00 AM. Carpooling is essential for this trip, so please consider riding with a fellow birder.

Leaders: Adrian and Beth Nichols

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2009

Hammonasset Beginner's Bird Walk II

One of Connecticut's best birding spots, Hammonasset Beach State Park was recognized as an Important Bird Area (IBA) of global significance in June of 2004. A unique location of tidal marsh, grassland, deciduous forest, Black Pines and cedars, beach and estuary habitats creates a significant migratory stopover area for many species. This trip will offer beginners a great location to sharpen their skills. Meet at the Meigs Point Nature Center in the park at 8:00 AM.

Leaders: Adrian and Beth Nichols

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2009

Station 43 Beginners Walk III, South Windsor

The ice should be mostly gone as the birds begin to return just in time for this walk. We may also have a few leftovers from winter. The water levels will be even higher, so don't forget your boots. Meet at the same spot; the corner of Newberry Road and Main Street at 8:00 AM.

Leaders: Roger Preston and Jon Ward

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:

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 www.ctbirding.org

COA OFFICERS

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<i>Secretary</i>	Steve Broker, 50 Hidden Place, Cheshire, CT 06410, 203-272-5192
<i>Treasurer</i>	Fred Schroeder, 215 Lonetown Road, West Redding, CT 06896, 203-938-9165
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	Jack Wells, 103 Sheephill Road, Riverside, CT 06878

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<i>Finance</i>	Steve Oresman
<i>Membership</i>	Roy Harvey
<i>Workshops</i>	Randy Domina
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	Jerry Connolly
<i>Connecticut Warbler</i>	Greg Hanisek
<i>COA Bulletin</i>	Andrew Dasinger
<i>Rare Records</i>	Jay Kaplan
<i>Refuge Relations</i>	Dori Sosensky
<i>Science Advisory</i>	Milan Bull

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