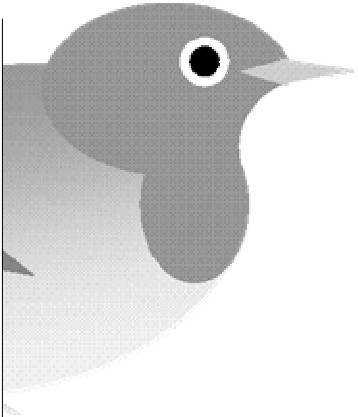
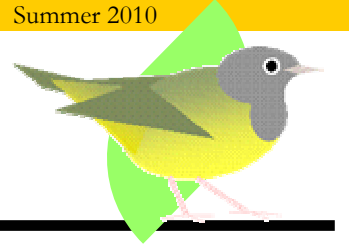


COA BULLETIN



2010 SUMMER BIRD COUNT JOE ZERANSKI, COMPILER

If you have not yet taken part in a Summer Bird Count, you have missed a wonderful birding experience. Many birders find the SBC to be an enjoyable warm weather adventure that sharpens their birding skills in company with their fellow birders and produces valuable scientific data at the same time. Take advantage of this opportunity to find a good variety of our nesting birds and enhance your ability to recognize their vocalizations and note their individual behavior by participating in a Summer Bird Count this June. As you canvas your assigned areas you can become reacquainted with popular avian favorites and, from time to time, find unexpected treats.

In addition, the SBC is a unique opportunity for birders to help shed light on the changing dynamics of our all important breeding bird populations. The SBC is an early warning system for declining species. Its data is a basis for developing conservation programs to protect birds and their habitats, especially important for our threatened and endangered species.

This year please do join in. Below are the Connecticut Summer Bird Counts, their dates, and the compilers. Plan to contact a nearby compiler.

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Barkhamsted Summer Bird Count June 26 & 27, *Compiler: David Rosgen* (121 Laurel Way, Winsted, CT 06098-2534; dave@whitememorialcc.org), Area covered: Colebrook, Winchester, Hartland, Barkhamsted, and New Hartford, plus the northeast quarter of Torrington and the northern quarters of Harwinton and Burlington.

Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count June 12 & 13, *Compilers: Thomas W. Burke* (235 Highland Road, Rye, NY 10580; tom.burke@rsmi.com), *Gary Palmer* (34 Field Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807; gejlpalmer@yahoo.com), Area covered: in Connecticut (65% of area)- Greenwich and Stamford, and western Darien and New Canaan, and in New York (35% of area)- Armonk, Bedford (in part), Port Chester, Rye, and White Plains (in part).

Hartford Summer Bird Count June 12 & 13, *Compiler: Jay Kaplan*, (71 Gracey Road, Canton, CT. 06019; jaybrd49@aol.com), Area covered: Bloomfield, East Hartford, Farmington (in part), Hartford, Manchester (in part), Newington (in part), Rocky Hill (in part), South Windsor, Wethersfield, and Windsor.

SUMMER BIRD COUNT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Litchfield Hills Summer Bird Count June 12 & 13, *Compiler: Robert J. Barbieri (124 Hoffman St. 1st floor., Torrington, CT. 06790)*, Area covered (in whole or in part): Cornwall, Goshen, Kent, Litchfield, Morris, Sharon, Torrington, Warren, and Washington.

New Haven Summer Bird Count June 12 & 13, *Compiler: Steve Mayo (27 Tuttle Court, Bethany, CT 06524; rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net)*, Area covered: (15-Mile diameter circle) Branford (western), East Haven, Milford, New Haven, North Haven, Orange, West Haven, and Woodbridge (in part).

New Milford/Pawling Summer Bird Count June 19 & 20, *Compiler: Angela Dimmitt (PO Box 146, Sherman, Ct. 06784; angladimmitt@aol.com)*, Area covered (Connecticut, 1/3 of area): Sherman, New Fairfield, New Milford (west of route 7), and portions of Brookfield & Danbury; and (New York, 2/3 of area) Patterson, Pawling, Putnam Lake, Carmel, southern Wingdale, and Poughquag.

Storrs Summer Bird Count June 19 & 20, *Compiler: Steve Morytko 288 Varga Road, Ashford, Ct., 06278; (smorytko@yahoo.com)*, Area covered: Andover, Ashford, Chaplin, Coventry, Mansfield, Tolland, Willimantic, West Willington, Willington, and Windham.

Woodbury-Roxbury Summer Bird Count June 6, *Compiler: Russ Naylor (44 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798)*, Area covered: Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Middlebury, New Milford, Newtown, Roxbury, Southbury, Washington.

COA WORKSHOP BIRDING BY EAR ON JUNE 6

The next COA workshop will be held June 6, at Bent of the River Sanctuary in Southbury. Ken Elkins and other volunteers will lead the workshop. Birders of all levels and ranges of experience and expertise are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Palm warbler
Photo by Mike Ferrari

The workshop will begin at 7:00am . The Sanctuary is located at 185 East Flat Hill Road, Southbury. No reservation is necessary . Participants will group themselves by level of interest or experience.

Learn about lots of other birding opportunities by visiting the COA Birding Events Calendar at <http://www.ctbirding.org/calendar.htm>.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Milan Bull, Committee Chair

Stratford Long Beach West:

The recent storm and flooding have dramatically eroded the beach, especially where the Piping Plovers and Least Terns have nested. Currently, there is a much narrower beach strand which may force beach walkers closer to sensitive areas. The temporary road installed to facilitate cottage removal is in place and we are interested to see if this will have any impact on plovers moving across the spit. As of 4/26 only one pair of Piping Plovers are in evidence on Long Beach West, which has had as many as eleven pairs nesting here in the past.

Sandy Point

This sand peninsula was also affected by the recent storm. Last year was a poor year here for nesting Least Terns (0) as well as Common Terns and Black Skimmers (0) which had nested here in the past. The reason for the lack of nesting birds is unclear but may have been due to flooding or predation.



Piping plover photo by Hank Golet

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for plover and tern monitoring at Long Beach in Stratford and at Sandy Point in West Haven. This project is in addition to the regular, annual DEP/USFWS plover monitoring program. This project at two of Connecticut's IBAs is being coordinated through the Connecticut Ornithological Association, which would like to find volunteers to visit the beaches at least weekly and monitor bird activity, as well as human use and disturbance issues and the presence of dogs, cats or other disturbance/predation threats to these state and federally listed birds. Please contact Milan Bull at the Connecticut Audubon Society if you would like additional details or are interested in participating mbull@ctaudubon.org (203)259-6305, ext. 111

Purple Martins

As a part of the Northeast Purple Martin Working Group, we are trying to document active Purple Martin colonies in Connecticut. Currently, we know of 13 active colonies statewide. We have data on most of the established ones. If you know of any new colonies please let us know. For a great web cam on a Westport colony (inside and outside the gourd) go to: www.gazebophil.com

COA ANNUAL MEETING ROUNDUP

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED; AWARDS PRESENTED

PHOTOS BY STEVE BROKER

Please thank and support these COA

Raffle donors:

Dr. Robert Askins
The Audubon Shop &
Jerry Connolly
Barnes and Noble
Bob Braunfield
Shawn Carey
Paul Carrier
Buzz Devine
Ellington Agway
Paul Fusco
Greg Hanisek
Hawthorne Agway,
Somers
Manchester Agway
Mansfield Supply
Hardware
Anders Ogren
Roaring Brook Nature
Center
Tom Sayers
Sunrise Birding &
Gina Nichol
Mark Szantyr
Thompson's Feed,
Mansfield
Luke Tiller
Tolland Star Hardware
Scott Weidensaul
Willard's Lumber,
Mansfield
Jim Zipp



It wouldn't be a COA Annual Meeting without the Award Winners cake.

The 2010 COA Annual Meeting was held at Middlesex Community College in Middletown on March 20. It featured presentations by State Ornithologist Margaret Rubega on chimney swifts; Luke Dempsey, the author of *A Supremely Bad Idea*, speaking of his experiences birding in the U.S.; and an amusing and challenging panel about Connecticut's rare birds by COA's own Greg Hanisek and Mark Szantyr.



Mark Szantyr and Greg Hanisek

New Directors

The membership elected these new directors for the term ending 2013:

Milan Bull (Fairfield)
Carolyn Cimino (Waterford)
Tina Green (Westport)
Steve Mayo (Bethany)
Steve Morytko (Ashford)
Lisa Wahle (Chester)

Ken Elkins, who chaired the Annual Meeting, was elected Vice-President. The traditional raffle was a notable success, and many thanks go to all of the donors of prizes as well as to Tom Sayers for his tireless efforts in obtaining them.

Award Winners

COA President Patrick Comins presented the 2010 Mabel Osgood



Roy Harvey, Dori Sosensky, and Patrick Comins

President's Award

The President's Award this year was given to two individuals who have worked long and hard to make sure that COA members and the general public have a chance to know the true extent and breadth of Connecticut's bird population.

Dori Sosensky was honored for her service to COA on its Board of Directors, the Electronics and Refuge Relations Committees, and the rare bird alert, and for her institution of the rarity phone tree. She was also recognized for her creation of the butterfly garden at Lighthouse Point Park, an effort that resulted in Connecticut's first sighting of a calliope hummingbird.

Continued on page 6→



GRISWOLD AIRPORT PROPERTY ACQUISITION NEAR - COA MAKES \$2500 DONATION

Message from COA President Patrick Comins:

Dear Connecticut Birders:

I'm pleased to inform you that the COA Board of Directors voted to contribute \$2,500 towards the efforts to protect the Griswold Airport Property adjacent to Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison. The COA is pleased to be able to support this effort and especially would like to thank the people, businesses and organizations who donated items for our raffle at the annual meeting, proceeds from which are making this contribution possible.

As you may know, the citizens of Madison voted in January to allow the town to bond for the majority of the purchase price of the property, but \$2,000,000 in private donations through the Trust for Public Land and Audubon Connecticut are required to ensure that the 127 units of housing will not be built on the land and that the most ecologically important areas of the property will be permanently protected as natural habitat for birds and other wildlife.

We are letting you know about the COA's donation in hopes that you will also be able to contribute whatever you can to the effort. In addition to the COA's contribution, the Hartford Audubon Society has donated

\$1000, the New Haven Bird Club has donated \$1000, and Audubon Connecticut is donating \$5,000 from the IBA small grants program, as well as a commitment to work with TPL and the Town to ensure that this transaction can proceed.

Please see the below message from TPL about the importance of this property and how you can help to close the deal and ensure that the property is preserved as a town park rather than a high intensity residential development. So many of you have played a key role in these efforts over the years, from attending Planning and Zoning Commission meetings to working on the referendum campaign. Please consider doing what you can to make sure we make it all the way to the goal line, and know that you helped to protect this important buffer to the tidal marshes of Hammonasset.

Message from the Trust for Public Land:

Next to Hammonasset State Park, on the shores of the Hammonasset/ Hammock River estuary, lies Griswold Airport - or rather, the land where the airport once was.

This site is now a tranquil but essential buffer for the wildlife and plants that thrive in the estuary's coastal forests, prime

wetlands, and salt marshes - a globally important rest-stop and feeding place for migrating birds. At 42 acres, the land is big enough to offer open spaces for the public to play alongside the natural areas.



TPL, Audubon CT, and other partners are close to saving this invaluable and irreplaceable natural resource - but we have to raise all the funding by May 4th, 2010. If we don't, the land will be developed into 127 housing units, causing irreparable damage to the natural ecology and severely impacting the natural water filtration of the Hammonasset River and Long Island Sound.

The Madison community voted to dedicate funds to the project from a local bond measure and a further \$1.3+ million has been raised from generous supporters towards the purchase cost of the land.

Please help TPL raise the last \$675,000 needed to save this future coastal park on the Griswold Airport Land.

Secure link for online donations:

<http://tinyurl.com/2u988of>

Please be sure to choose **Griswold Airport** under the "Gift Designation" tab.

You can also mail your donation to:

TPL
33 Union Street
4th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
Attn: Patti Murray

Make sure to write **Griswold Airport** in the memo section of your check.

Thanks for your support!

Photos on this page by
Patrick Comins

GOOD NEWS FOR CONTE REFUGE IN LWCF, BUT YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

PATRICK COMINS, COA PRESIDENT

Last month, we learned that \$6 million in funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge was included in President Obama's FY 2011 budget. We have recently learned that our two senators have also put in requests for LWCF funding for Conte. Please take a moment to contact your senators **and** representatives and thank them for their support of the Conte Refuge. Please request that they continue their support at the \$6M level to ensure that Connecticut receives the money needed to protect land at the mouth of the Salmon River.

To find who your congressional representative is, and for contact information please see: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/CGAFindLeg.asp> or <http://www.votesmart.org/>.

The \$6 million will help us protect 106 acres of pristine forest in the Salmon River Division in Connecticut, 497 acres of prime grassland and floodplain forest in the Fort River and Westfield River Divisions in Massachusetts, 1,035 acres of prime forest and wetlands in the Pondicherry and Mohawk River Divisions in New Hampshire and 606 acres of boreal bird habitat at the Nulhegan Basin in Vermont -- all part of the Connecticut River Watershed.

COA ANNUAL MEETING AWARDS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

Also honored with the President's Award was Roy Harvey, whom President Comins called "the electronic face of our organization." Roy began the current open format listserv we know as CTBirds, and faithfully maintains it and summarizes it for the Daily Digest of CT Birds. He also served on the COA Board for many years, and is still a valuable member of the Electronics and Membership Committees.

Betty Kleiner Award

The Betty Kleiner Memorial Award for excellence

in scholarship, literary achievement, and/or graphic design was presented this year to Mark Szantyr for his outstanding contributions to the COA literature.



Mark Szantyr

President Comins pointed to a large stack of issues of the *Connecticut Warbler*, each one containing an article or artwork done by Mark. Mark's skill and

delight in explaining the identification challenges of geese, gulls, and juncos is unmatched, and his artistic talent has enhanced our publications since their inception.

Congratulations to all of the recipients of the 2010 COA Awards!

For a complete list of award winners over time, see the COA Awards page online: <http://www.ctbirding.org/mabel.htm>



Annual Meeting speakers Luke Dempsey (above) and Margaret Rubega



COA BULLETIN GOES ELECTRONIC

At its December 7, 2009 meeting, the COA Board of Directors voted to move to electronic distribution of the *COA Bulletin* as the primary delivery method. This decision will result in decreased use of paper, lower printing and mailing costs to the organization, and speedier delivery of the newsletter to the membership.

Information about this transition was sent to all members with the Annual Meeting mailing in February.

If you did not have a chance to respond to that announcement, or have changed your email address, or wish to receive the Bulletin in a paper format, please contact Membership Chair Larry Reiter at reiter.mystic@AT'snet.net or 32 West Mystic Avenue, Mystic, CT 06355



Yellow-crowned night heron
Photo by Mike Ferrari

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 August 1 2010, to:

Denise Jernigan
COABulletin@cox.net

618 Hopewell Road
South Glastonbury, CT 06073

Download a pdf version of the COA Bulletin at www.ctbirding.org

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<i>Vice President</i>	Ken Elkins, 43 Park Street, Shelton, CT 06484
<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

COA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

<i>Conservation</i>	Milan Bull
<i>Finance</i>	Fred Schroeder
<i>Membership</i>	Larry Reiter
<i>Workshops</i>	Randy Domina
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	Ken Elkins
<i>Connecticut Warbler</i>	Greg Hanisek
<i>COA Bulletin</i>	Denise Jernigan
<i>Rare Records</i>	Jay Kaplan
<i>Refuge Relations</i>	Milan Bull
<i>Science Advisory</i>	Milan Bull

Visit COA on the web
at www.ctbirding.org

CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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