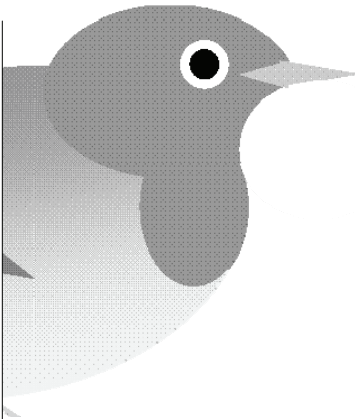
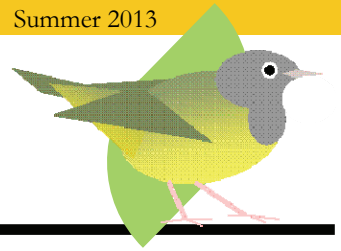


COA BULLETIN



2013 SUMMER BIRD COUNT BY JOE ZERANSKI, COMPILER

If you have never participated in an organized birding event you may feel that you are not experienced enough to contribute. But you are wrong. There are Summer Bird Count birds out there just waiting for you to find them. Some species are rare, and others are probably missed entirely and go unrecorded annually in spite of being present. A single pair of eyes does make a difference. Birders, regardless of their degree of experience, not only contribute to the group's general effort but often add new species. The point is that anyone [that is, **you**] can help discover interesting birds and contribute to our understanding of Connecticut's changing bird populations and their environment.

Over the last decade a total of 233 SBC species were recorded statewide. On the average, about 191 species have been seen annually while 152 of these were recorded in all ten years. Thus 39 non-annually occurring birds were also present. Naturally some of these are fairly common while others were quite rare with only a very few individuals noted. Alert observers discovered these most elusive species: King Eider, Manx Shearwater, and Northern Gannet remain as all-time count period birds only.

Last year 41 species were represented with fewer than ten individuals each and thirteen of these were represented by a single individual. Firsts for the decade were Surf Scoter, Horned Grebe, Dickcissel and a count period Black Tern. But another 26 species seen on earlier SBCs were missed during the last decade. There are numerous rarer species which were found all too infrequently due to lack of coverage. Last year (2012) was a particularly bountiful year with great weather and many observers. Forty species recorded statewide high totals while only two species had their lowest totals – Monk Parakeet and Blue-headed Vireo. Count period species were Dunlin and Black Tern. All these are potential additions to future SBCs.

Each of Connecticut's regional SBCs locates species which are considered rare. On many occasions during the last decade these regional count totals were represented by species with no more than a single bird found. Last year alone, one regional count found 20 species which were only represented by single individuals. So many species reported are due to the presence of a single bird, which means that an observant birder can make a real difference in the numbers of species found. These species would have been missed altogether if not for vigilant observers.

There are still unfound, yet quite reasonable, species out there waiting for an alert observer to pick them up and add them to our regional and state totals. By getting out and helping to census a SBC area you can make a difference. This is the year for you to join in. Contact your local compiler and sign up today to join in. Each has groups which are very comfortable for newer birders. It will undoubtedly open more, exciting adventures in your birding life.

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A freshly-bathed European Starling tries to compete for attention with migrating warblers. Tough assignment!
Photo by Bruce Finnan

**PLEASE SEE PAGE 6 FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF SBC COUNT AREAS
AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR CAPTAINS**

COA Workshop Schedule

COA Flycatcher Workshop

Saturday, May 25, 2013 at 7am. Rain date: Sunday, May 26th, 2013

Hartman Park, Lyme CT

Learn how to identify the flycatchers of CT by sight and song. We will review the songs of the Empidonax flycatcher group, as well as the common flycatcher species such as Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewee, Eastern Kingbird, and Great Crested Flycatcher. We will begin with a sit down session at the picnic area where we will review the field marks and songs of the flycatchers, then we will hike the trails to see what we can find. We will visit nearby Nehantic State Forest and perhaps another location or two. Leader: Dave Provencher. Contact person: Chris Loscalzo, at 203 389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net.

COA BirdLog Workshop

Sunday, June 2, 2013, Time to be determined

Audubon Center at Bent-of-the-River, Southbury CT

Join us as we learn how to use the BirdLog app for your iPhone, iPad, or Android. BirdLog allows birders to enter their observations directly from the field. You can keep track of the birds as you go, and then submit the checklist to eBird with one click. BirdLog is fully integrated with your eBird account, allowing access to your personal locations for data entry, as well as the full suite of eBird hotspots, and it allows you to create new locations using your smartphone's location services. If you want to record what you see in the field, this is the app to do it. After we've reviewed how to use the app, we'll go onto to the trails to practice what we learned. Leaders: Ken Elkins and John Marshall. Contact person: Chris Loscalzo, at 203 389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net.

COA Long-legged Waders Workshop

Saturday, July 20, 2013 at 8:00am

Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington CT

Learn how to identify herons, egrets, and ibis. Learn how to differentiate between similar species, such as juvenile Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Learn about their feeding and nesting habits and where to find them in Connecticut. The workshop will be geared towards beginner and intermediate birders. Meet at the gravel parking lot opposite the Marsh Viewing area, just north of the boat launch. We'll spend some time discussing the different waders, then go out on the trail to see what we can find. Barn Island WMA is located at the end of Palmer Neck Road in Stonington. Bring bug spray, sunscreen and water. Leader and contact person: Chris Loscalzo at 203 389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net.



Cattle Egret at Portland Fairgrounds
by Bill Asteriades

COA Shorebird Workshop

Sunday, August 18, 2013 at 7:30am

Milford Audubon Coastal Center, Milford CT

Learn how to identify the many shorebirds that nest along our coast or stop by during fall migration. Learn how to differentiate between Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Black-bellied and Golden Plover, Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitcher, the various "peeps" and other shorebird species. The workshop will begin indoors, in the meeting room at the center. Then, the group will go to the beach and marsh to see what they can identify. The trip is organized so that the outdoor session coincides with high tide. Leaders: TBD. Contact person: Chris Loscalzo at closcalz@optonline.net or 203 389-6508.

COA Raptor Workshop

Saturday, September 14, 2013 at 9:30am. Rain date: Sunday, September 15, 2013

Location: to be determined

Learn how to identify raptors, including eagles, vultures, buteos, accipiters, and falcons. Watch for raptors in flight as they pass over an excellent CT hawk watch site on their fall migration. Contact person: Chris Loscalzo at closcalz@optonline.net or 203-389-6508.

COA Sparrow Workshop

Saturday, October 19, 2013 at 8:00am.

Sherwood Island State Park/

Audubon Christmas Tree Farm, Westport CT

COA Sea Duck Workshop

Saturday, November 23, 2013 at 8:00am.

Stratford Point, Stratford CT

AUDUBON ALLIANCE BEGINS 2ND YEAR WITH ENTHUSIASM AND CHALLENGES

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY SCOTT KRUITBOSCH



Least Terns

The Audubon Alliance for Coastal Waterbirds (AAfCW), a partnership between Audubon Connecticut, the state organization of the National Audubon Society, and Connecticut Audubon Society, an independent conservation organization founded in 1898, continues in 2013 for its second season after a successful launch last year. Connecticut has vitally important avian breeding and migratory stopover habitats along Long Island Sound that need our protection more than ever as the species that occupy them continue to decline in number and continued pressure is put on these areas by human development, invasive plants, off-leash dogs, beach stabilization projects, predators, pollution, and more. AAfCW seeks to provide monitoring and survey efforts, beach stewardship, and public outreach through a variety of forms including social media, brochures, presentations, workshops, and direct interaction with beachgoers.

Our primary focus is on four species - the Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Least Tern and Common Tern. AAfCW works closely with the United States Fish & Wildlife Service as well as the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to routinely monitor over a dozen sites in the state and are ready to assist at a moment's notice anywhere in Connecticut. We also work to help long-legged waders such as the Great Egret or Yellow-crowned Night-Heron by monitoring and helping to maintain offshore islands, coastal marshes, and other nesting areas. We monitor all other Connecticut shorebird species through projects such as the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences' International Shorebird Surveys.

The 2013 season brings about new challenges and an increased need for our efforts as Hurricane Sandy drastically altered Connecticut's coast. Habitat that was favorable in the past may not be any longer while a beach that was not previously utilized for a bird like the Piping Plover may be this year if the species deems it acceptable breeding territory. We are working hard to identify the changes brought about by the storm in terms of habitat quality and usage along with the distribution of our nesting shorebirds and terns along this modified shoreline so that we can focus our efforts where the need is the greatest.

Last year AAfCW deployed more than 80 volunteers along with a field staff of several technicians to monitor these birds, speak with the public, and help educate communities on the importance of sharing the beach with these imperiled birds. In 2013 we are about to surpass 100 volunteers and hope to add more before the end of the year, and we need your help today! We are seeking assistance for beach monitoring and surveying, public outreach at events such as fireworks displays, removing string fencing at the end of nesting season, fall International Shorebird Surveys, and more - if you are a Connecticut birder we can find a way for you to contribute wherever you are and on whatever schedule you can. Please email us to volunteer at ctwaterbirds@gmail.com or visit our blog at <http://ctwaterbirds.blogspot.com> for more information, documents, photos, and constant updates. Thank you!

=====

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Piping Plover eggs

COA ANNUAL MEETING ROUNDUP

PHOTOS BY STEVE BROKER

Please thank and support these COA Raffle donors:

Anonymous (2)
 Robert Braunfield
 Paul Carrier
 Patrick Comins
 Linda Dixon
 Robert Dixon
 Patrick Dugan
 Paul Fusco
 Patrice Favreau & Jan Collins
 Hank Golet
 AJ Hand
 Greg Hanisek
 Hawthorne Agway in Somers/Enfield
 Manchester Agway
 Frank Mantlik
 Keith Mueller
 Dorie Petrochko
 Roaring Brook Nature Center/Jay Kaplan
 Tom Sayers
 Sunrise Birding & Gina Nichols
 Mark Szantyr
 Vortex and Fat Robin Shop
 Wild Birds Unlimited
 George W. Zepko
 Jim Zipp



Speakers for the 2013 COA Annual Meeting on March 23 included (L to R): Marshall Iliff, eBird Project Manager, the Birdchick blogger (Sharon Stiteler), and Dr. Stephen Kress, V-P of Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society. Their respective programs covered "Bird Migrations through the Lens of eBird," "Today's Office," and "Restoring Endangered Seabirds: Lessons from Puffins and Terns," offering a full range of informative and entertaining presentations. Over 160 participants enjoyed the programs, the lunch, the raffle, and the chance to chat with birding friends.



Milan Bull presents the Mabel Osgood Wright Award to Dennis Varza (L), in recognition of his long and valuable service to COA and to the Connecticut birding community. One of the original founders and contributors to the *Connecticut Warbler*, Dennis has been tireless in his collection and recording of important bird sightings and data from the Southport area, forming an invaluable body of information of benefit to scientists and bird conservation. Complete details of this honor will be published shortly in the *Warbler*.

COA ANNUAL MEETING ROUNDUP

PHOTOS BY STEVE BROKER

Incoming COA President Tina Green (R) introduces the meeting's speakers. Kathy Van Der Aue of Southport was elected Vice-President, and new Board members for the 2013-2016 term are Keith Mueller of Killingworth, Tom Robben of Glastonbury, and Paul Wolter of Branford. Paul Carrier was awarded the Betty Kleiner prize for excellence in publication in recognition of his many contributions of artwork and literature to the *Connecticut Warbler* and the *COA Bulletin*.



The Annual Meeting Raffle Crew (L to R: Mary Wells, Sara Zagorski, and Jan Collins, Chair) were kept busy selling tickets for the many items donated by generous members and friends of COA. Some of the items pictured below included original artwork, high-end optics, framed photographs, private bird walks and workshops with experienced birders, books on birds and birding, and bird feeders, bird boxes, and bird seed. Door prizes were also raffled off to all registered participants.



2013 SUMMER BIRD COUNT CONTACTS

Barkhamsted SBC : June 22-23.

Contact: Dave Rosgen
ctbluebird1020@gmail.com

Greenwich-Stamford SBC: June 8-9.

Contact: Tom Burke 914 967-4922
Tom.Burke@mcgladrey.com

Hartford SBC: June 8-9.

Contact: Jay Kaplan 890 693-0263
jaybrd49@aol.com



Bank Swallow Nests
 photo by Bill Asteriades

Litchfield Hills SBC: June 8-9.

Contact: Dave Tripp
dtrippjr@comcast.net

New Haven SBC: June 8-9.

Contact: Steve Mayo 203 551-1707
rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net

New Milford/Pawling (NY) SBC: June 15-16.

Contact: Angela Dimmitt [not May 30-June 10]
angeladimmitt@aol.com

Storrs SBC: June 22-23

Contact: Steve Morytko 860 680-5728
smorytko@yahoo.com

Woodbury-Roxbury SBC: June 1-2

Contact: Russ Naylor
 203 263-2502



Yellow-billed Cuckoo photo by
 Rick Gravin



Bobolink photo by
 Bruce Finnan

COA AWARDS 2ND ANNUAL MINI-GRANTS

COA is pleased to announce the 2013 recipients of its Mini-grant program which was established "to help fund and support initiatives within the state of Connecticut which specifically benefit the avian wildlife in our state." Because of the outstanding and worthy nature of this year's project requests, the Award Committee recommended, and the COA Board approved, an additional \$1000 to be dispersed for this round. The award recipients are:

- ◇ Litchfield Hills Audubon Society- \$500.00 to restore rotted bluebird boxes and add more
- ◇ Menunkatuck Audubon Society- \$350.00 to purchase sound equipment to attract Purple Martins to existing "apartment"
- ◇ Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education- \$700.00 to build a new 16' x 20' aviary to house three owls
- ◇ Charlotte Weston- \$200.00 for banding nets and a pair of pliers for bird banding studies
- ◇ Tom Sayers- \$500.00 to build and install 10 kestrel boxes
- ◇ Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary- \$250.00 to replant dune grass on dunes wrecked by Hurricane Sandy

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO IN
THE CONNECTICUT WARBLER
 COMPILED BY STEPHEN P. BROKER

THE CONNECTICUT WARBLER, VOLUME VIII, NUMBER 2 (APRIL 1988)

Editorial, by Betty Kleiner

"It is with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment that we publish in this issue of *The Connecticut Warbler* the new official Connecticut State Checklist of Birds. This list comprises all species that have been officially documented within the State of Connecticut. It is the result of the effort of many people to research and compile an accurate, complete and up to date list. Many hours were spent pouring over old records, journals and documents in order to verify the 377 species listed herein. These species have been officially recognized and authenticated by the leading ornithologists in our state.

"The basis for this checklist was the Sage and Bishop list compiled in 1913. This list has been updated and revised extensively to reflect sightings and additional information gathered since its publication. The order of the listing was revised in accordance with the latest AOU checklist."

[Ed. note: The current state checklist consists of 431 species, an increase of 54 species recognized in our state in the last 25 years. SPB]

First Documented Record of Le Conte's Sparrow in Connecticut, by Jay Kaplan and James Moore

"[We] recorded the first documented Connecticut sighting for Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) during the Barkhamsted Christmas Bird Count held 27 December 1987."

". . . the authors entered an approximately four acre parcel of open field that, during the summer months, serves as community garden plots for residents of the town of Canton. During the winter season, the area is overgrown with the remains of vegetable plants gone to seed, as well as common 'weed' plants including goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*), asters (*Aster sp.*) and a wide variety of other seed plants. This affords a good winter food supply for seed-eaters such as Tree, Song and White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos. At 11:00 AM (EST), the authors entered the field in search of feeding sparrows. While we were counting Tree Sparrows, a smaller sparrow with a bright orange face suddenly appeared some ten yards from Kaplan. . . the field marks were there: dark crown bisected by a cream colored median stripe, a bright orange face with gray ear patch, buff-orange throat and upper breast, white lower breast and belly, dark streaks along the flanks. The bird flew close to the ground and landed on a small shrub some twenty yards away at the edge of the field. Kaplan's camera was locked inside Moore's car . . . and Moore was out of sight. So with his eyes firmly on the bird, Kaplan shouted loudly for Moore who, after what seemed like hours, but in reality was under a minute, appeared from the woods at a run. Retrieving the camera, while the bird obligingly remained in the shrub, Moore was able to observe the bird for ten minutes. While Moore verified the sighting, Kaplan photographed the bird using Kodachrome 64 film, a Canon AT1 camera with 400mm Sigma lens at a speed of 1/250 second. Twenty minutes after the initial sighting, the bird flew into the woodland border separating the field from swamp and subsequent efforts to relocate the bird were unsuccessful.

"The bird remained in the field until 9 January 1988. It was observed by approximately 100 individuals and extensively photographed by a number of competent observers.

"*Addenda*: There is a moral, of sorts, to this sighting. It is true that birds show up in unusual places and this sighting demonstrates that unusual birds can and will appear in the most unlikely places and at unexpected seasons. . . Therefore, it is crucial to bird a wide variety of areas within the State at all seasons in order to learn as much about our avifauna as possible."

[Editorial note: community gardens at Allen's Meadows in Wilton, in Woodbridge, and in other towns have been birded extensively in recent years with some stunning discoveries of rare sparrows and other species being made. SPB]

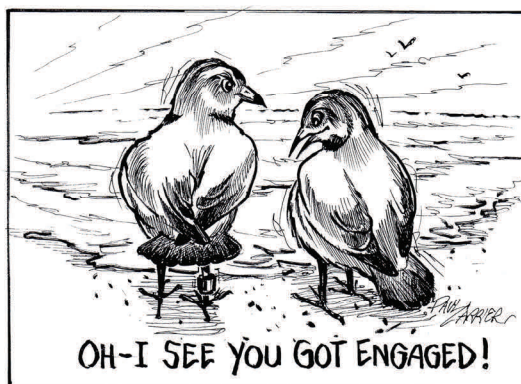


Illustration by Paul Carrier, winner of this year's Betty Kleiner Award for excellence in publication for the COA.

COA OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Tina Green, 188 Imperial Avenue, Westport, CT 06880
<i>Vice President</i>	Kathy Van Der Aue, 762 Mill Hill Road, Southport, CT 06890
<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>	Fred Schroeder
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<i>Christmas Bird Count Compiler</i>	Steve Broker
<i>Summer Bird Count Compilers</i>	Joe Zeranski and Patrick Comins
<i>Great Backyard Bird Count</i>	Patrick Comins

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 15, 2013 to:

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