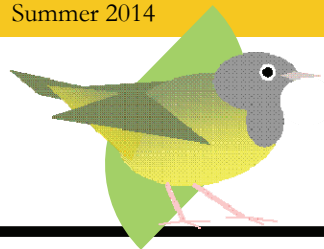


COA BULLETIN



2014 SUMMER BIRD COUNT BY PATRICK COMINS, CO-COMPILER

Even if you are new to birding, there is an easy way to help contribute to the knowledge of birds and their distribution in Connecticut. Our nesting birds are out there just waiting for you to find them on the Summer Bird Count. An extra pair of eyes can make a difference! Anyone can help discover interesting birds and contribute to our understanding of Connecticut's changing bird populations and their environment. Even if you are a novice, your eyes and ears can be an asset in a field party and there is no better way to gain experience than by joining experienced birders in the field. Please contact your local compiler and sign up today to join in.

Barkhamsted SBC : June 21-22

Contact: Dave Rosgen

ctbluebird1020@gmail.com

Greenwich-Stamford SBC: June 7-8

Contact: Gary Palmer 203-661-4897

gejpalmer@yahoo.com

Hartford SBC: June 7-8

Contact: Jay Kaplan

jaybrd49@aol.com

Litchfield Hills SBC: June 7-8

Contact: Dave Tripp

dtrippjr@comcast.net

New Haven SBC: June 7-8

Contact: Steve Mayo 203 551-1707

rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net

New Milford/Pawling (NY) SBC: June 21-22

Contact: Angela Dimmitt

angeladimmitt@aol.com

Storrs SBC: June 14-15

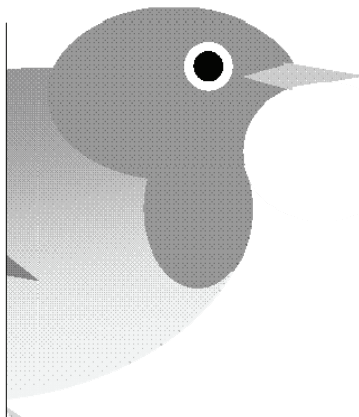
Contact: Steve Morytko

smorytko@yahoo.com

Woodbury-Roxbury SBC: June 1st

Contact: Russ Naylor 203 263-2502

Or kelkins@audubon.org



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It was an extraordinary year for sightings of Little Gull. In just one day (April 5), FIVE were seen in Stratford. This photo was taken by Keith Mueller in Southport.

COA ANNUAL MEETING ROUNDUP

PHOTOS BY STEVE BROKER

Please thank and support these COA Raffle donors:

Audubon Shop/
Jerry Connolly
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John Marshall
Margaret Rubega
Jean Schroeder
Sunrise Birding/
Gina Nichol
Mark Szantyr
Lisa Wahle
Sara Zagorski
Jim Zipp



Speakers for the 2014 COA Annual Meeting : (L to R) Kevin Karlson, COA President Tina Green, and Pete Dunne. Kevin spoke about "Birding by Impression," and Pete explained the "Twenty-five Things that Changed Birding." This year's meeting attracted the highest -ever number of participants.



Chris Rimmer, of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, spoke about the threats facing the Bicknell's Thrush, both on its breeding grounds in northern New England, and in its winter habitat in Hispaniola.

COA ANNUAL MEETING ROUNDUP

PHOTOS BY STEVE BROKER, DENISE JERNIGAN, BOB DIXON

Tom Baptist is the 2014 recipient of the Mabel Osgood Wright Award. The presentation of the Wright Award was made by Patrick Comins. Tom is the founding Executive Director of Audubon Connecticut, the author of *Connecticut Birds*, and a tireless advocate for conservation in our state. A more detailed account of this award will be published in the *Connecticut Warbler* soon. (Broker photo)



(Left) A young birder in attendance at the 2014 COA Annual Meeting examines Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History specimens from the Ornithology Collection. The study skins were brought to the meeting by Yale University doctoral candidate Jake Musser. (Jernigan photo) **(Right)** The COA Raffle once again included many wonderful contributions from generous donors. (Dixon photo)

COA ANNUAL MEETING ROUNDUP

PHOTOS BY STEVE BROKER

Kathy Van Der Aue (COA Vice-President and Chair of Mini-Grants Committee) presents Frank Gallo with a mini-grants award for the Coastal Center at Milford Point (Connecticut Audubon Society).



Paul Cianfaglione is the winner of this year's Betty Kleiner Award for his article detailing the results of the 2012 Hartford County Grassland Bird Survey, published in the January 2013 *Connecticut Warbler*, Volume 33, No. 1. Paul recruited members of the Hartford Audubon Society to conduct an important baseline breeding survey of Upland Sandpiper, Grasshopper Sparrow, Horned Lark, Bobolink and other severely threatened grassland species. The study included threats and disturbances of these rare species, the serious challenges of development offsets, and speculation on the future of these rare birds.



COA WORKSHOP SCHEDULE



Willow Flycatcher photo by Mark Szantyr

Flycatcher Workshop

Saturday, May 24th, 2014 at 7:00 am
Hartman Park and Nehantic State Forest, Lyme

This workshop focuses on how to identify the flycatcher species frequently found in CT, including the members of the Empidonax group. We have an initial outdoor discussion followed by a walk on the trails. Meet at the parking lot for Hartman Park on Gungy Road in Lyme.

The workshop is free and open to the public. However, advance registration is necessary and the workshop is limited to twenty participants.

Leaders: Glenn Williams and Chris Loscalzo.

Contact Chris Loscalzo at loscalz@optonline.net and 203 389-6508.

Vireo and Thrush Workshop

Saturday, May 31st, 2014 at 7:30 am
Mohawk Mountain State Park/Mohawk State Forest, Cornwall/Goshen

Learn how to identify the thrushes and vireos in the state. We visit a location where there are nesting Hermit Thrush and Blue-headed Vireo so that participants learn to differentiate the songs of these species from Wood Thrush and Red-eyed Vireo. The other species of thrush and vireo found in CT are discussed as well. Meet at the park entrance on Route 4 in Cornwall, four miles west of Goshen.

The workshop is free and open to the public. However, advance registration is necessary and the workshop is limited to twenty participants.

Leaders: Greg Hanisek and Kathy Van Der Aue.

Contact Chris Loscalzo at loscalz@optonline.net and 203 389-6508.



Hermit Thrush photo by Mark Szantyr

Long-legged Wader Workshop

Saturday, August 2nd, 2014 at 8:00 am
Salt Meadow Unit, Stewart McKinney NWR, Westbrook

This popular workshop is held at a new location this year. Attendees learn about the various herons, egrets, and ibis that are found in CT. We have an outdoor discussion first followed by a walk along the trails, looking out into the marsh. This marsh is known to be one of the best places in the state to see Little Blue Heron. Bring water, bug spray, and sunscreen. Meet at the Salt Meadow Unit parking lot on Old Clinton Road in Westbrook. The workshop is free and open to the public.

Leader and contact person: Chris Loscalzo at loscalz@optonline.net and 203 389-6508.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS : SAVE THESE DATES!

Shorebird Workshop

Saturday, August 23rd, 2014 at 8:00 am

Audubon Coastal Center at Milford Point, Milford

Sparrow Workshop

Saturday, October 18th, 2014 at 7:30 am

Silver Sands State Park, Milford

Sea Duck Workshop

Saturday, November 22nd, 2014 at 8:00 am

Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison

COA AWARDS 2014 MINI-GRANTS

KATHY VAN DER AUE, MINI-GRANTS COMMITTEE CHAIR

COA is pleased to announce the award recipients of its 2014 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.” This year we received applications to fund many worthy projects, but four stood out as providing the most direct benefit to Connecticut birds. The grants went to:

- ◆ \$575.00 to Naugatuck Valley Audubon for materials and equipment to attract a Purple Martin Colony
- ◆ \$700.00 to Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center to replace binoculars used in their education programs
- ◆ \$225.00 to the bird banding program at Bent of the River where they are studying grassland birds
- ◆ \$1,000.00 to Roaring Brook Nature Center to construct raptor enclosures.

Last year one Mini-grant went to Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation of Ashford to build a raptor enclosure. Right, a picture of the enclosure that was completed with the help of a COA Mini-grant. [Photo courtesy of Mary-Beth Kaeser]



WELCOME TO COA'S NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Stefan Martin (Stamford); Lynn Jones (Stratford); Angela Dimmitt (New Milford)

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

THE CONNECTICUT WARBLER, VOLUME IX, NUMBER 2 (APRIL 1989)

Snow Geese Struck Down By Thunderstorm, by Milan G. Bull

On March 24, 1988, a fast-moving weather front passed over lower Fairfield County, Connecticut, bringing heavy showers, thunder, lightning, and strong gusty winds. It was a prime example of a severe spring thunderstorm.

At about 8:00 p.m., as the worst of the storm was passing over Fairfield, . . . on the top of Mill Hill, at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Morgan, a lightning bolt struck a utility pole, knocking out their power. At 8:30 p.m., Mrs. Morgan was returning home from a meeting, and as she was turning into her long driveway she noticed . . . what appeared to be a long string of white plastic bags . . . strewn across her drive and into the woods. As she drove around the "bags," Mrs. Morgan observed that they were actually dead birds and so returned with her husband and a flashlight to collect them. Being dark, windy, and rainy and the birds much larger than expected, the Morgans retreated and left the clean-up until morning.

The following morning, Mrs. Morgan telephoned the Fairfield police for help. When the police arrived, they found 17 Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*), all dead except one. The birds were lying in a nearly straight line, about five feet apart. The line of dead geese was nearly 100 feet long and extended from a neighbor's property across the road and the Morgans' drive and into their woods. Mrs. Morgan felt that neighborhood dogs might have carried off one or two additional birds, and at least one other had been partially eaten by some animal during the night. Thus the total number of birds involved may have been as high as 20.

On March 28th, Dr. George A. Clark, University of Connecticut ornithologist, delivered one of the specimens to the Pathobiology Laboratory at the UConn Cooperative Extension Service, for autopsy. An April 7th diagnosis indicated 'trauma from falling, but cause of falling uncertain.'

The position of the dead birds on the ground suggests that the entire line of migrating geese fell as one. Perhaps the fall was caused by severe wind shear from which the geese could not recover.

Possible "Red-Shafted" Northern Flicker in Woodbury, Connecticut, by Mark Szantyr

Shortly after first light on 4 September 1987, while banding passerines at the Van Vleck Sanctuary of the Flanders Nature Center in Woodbury, Connecticut, Michael Harwood, Angela Dimmitt and I noticed the occurrence of a fair migration of Northern Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*). . . At approximately 0730 hours, while I was banding one of the many Gray Catbirds (*Dumatella carolinensis*) caught that day, Dimmitt noted that one of the passing flickers had red wing-linings. My quick check confirmed that one of four flickers passing overhead indeed had red and not yellow wing-linings. I made comparison to the other three birds in the group and was able to rule out light conditions as the cause of the perceived red color. The bird was observed for about ten to fifteen seconds as it made its way westward beyond the treeline.

The bird was identified as a Northern Flicker by the undulating flight style typical of woodpeckers and by the white rump patch extending up the lower back of the bird. This allowed us to rule out other possible with red underwings. We cannot exclude the possibility that the flicker in question was a "Yellow-shafted" X "Red-shafted" hybrid or an aberrant-plumaged "Yellow-shafted" Flicker, but the red color did appear typical of "Red-shafted" Flickers I have seen in western portions of the United States.

There have been at least a few reported sight records for this western subspecies in Connecticut, but to date I know of none that have satisfactorily documented. It would be of interest to search the literature for any well-documented occurrence in the eastern half of the country or for the easternmost hybrid nesting locations from which such birds might originate."

[Editor's note: Birds of North America Online describes the Yellow-shafted Flicker of eastern North America and the Red-shafted Flicker of western North America and the "long, narrow hybrid zone on the Great Plains that parallels the rain-shadow of the Rocky Mountains and crosses the Canadian Rockies to reach southern Alaska. This hybrid zone has been of great interest to ornithologists and evolutionary biologists for more than a century." Mark Szantyr writes today "that in the intervening years I have become aware of how prevalent red feathering can be on otherwise typical Yellow-shafted Flickers and how difficult it is to separate true Red-shafted from intergrades without excellent views. Though the bird that passed overhead was distinctly red-shafted, I must now differ to it being a Northern Flicker, showing red-shafted characters in the flight feathers." See also the current (March/April 2014) issue of *Birding* and the article "Puzzling Flickers: Understanding Introgession" that addresses these issues. SPB]

COA OFFICERS

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<i>Vice President</i>	Kathy Van Der Aue, 762 Mill Hill Road, Southport, CT 06890
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<i>COA Bulletin</i>	Steve Broker
<i>Rare Records</i>	Jay Kaplan
<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, 2014 to Stephen P. Broker
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