

COA Bulletin



ROLAND C. CLEMENT, 1912 – 2015 FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF COA



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Roland Clement at Chatham, Massachusetts,
June 1, 2009. Photo by Steve Broker



Roland C. Clement, Self-Portrait.
A dedicated and talented watercolorist,
Roland derived great pleasure from
drawing and painting in the field and in
his “studio” at home. Many of his art
works focused on his interpretation of
birds in their natural habitats.

Roland C. Clement, Founding President of the Connecticut Ornithological Association (1984-1986), died at his Hamden, Connecticut home on March 21, 2015, age 102 years. In addition to his central role in the formation and early guidance of COA, Roland was an important contributor to numerous international and national conservation organizations. He served with the National Audubon Society from 1958 to 1977, first as membership secretary, then as staff biologist, then staff ecologist, and as Vice-President prior to his retirement from NAS. He was an extraordinarily articulate and effective communicator of scientific information to the general public. COA is planning further tributes to Roland's contributions to ornithology, conservation, and environmentalism in future publications of the *COA Bulletin* and *The Connecticut Warbler*.

COA ANNUAL MEETING ROUNDUP Photos by Steve Broker



Scott Whittle, co-author, with Tom Stephenson, of *The Warbler Guide* (Princeton University Press, 2013). Their presentation – “The Overlooked ID Points that Make Identifying Warblers Easy.”



Tom Stephenson sharing the stage with Scott Whittle. “The Warbler Guide enables you to quickly identify any of the 56 species of warblers in the United States and Canada.”



Norman Smith captivated the audience with his talk, “Snowy Owls to Saw-whet Owls.”



“The Psychology of Bird Identification” was the title and topic of David Sibley’s presentation at the 2015 COA Annual Meeting.



Above & right: Book signings!



COA ANNUAL MEETING ROUNDUP



Frank Gallo introduced the recipient of the 2015 Mabel Osgood Wright Award, David Allen Sibley. The text of Frank's introduction is published in *The Connecticut Warbler* (April 2015).



Frank Gallo holds up Mark Szantyr's beautiful depiction of Greater White-fronted Goose, Pink-footed Goose, and Barnacle Goose. Each of these species was accepted as occurring in the Lower 48 States first in the State of Connecticut, thanks to the careful research of the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut.



Tina Green, immediate past President of COA, presents the Betty Kleiner Award to Andrew Dasinger. Andrew's cover art for the April 2014 issue of *The Connecticut Warbler* "captures 2013's most exciting find, the state's first documented Brown Booby." Brown Booby photo by Larry Flynn.

COA ANNUAL MEETING ROUNDUP

COA AWARDS 2015 MINI-GRANTS

KATHY VAN DER AUE, MINI-GRANTS COMMITTEE CHAIR



Left to Right: Grace Krick (A Place Called Hope); Ken Elkins (Audubon Center at Bent of the River); David Winston (Friends of Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary); Art Gingert (American Kestrel nest box program); Nina Levenduski (Menunkatuck Audubon Society).

COA is pleased to announce the award recipients of its 2015 Mini-grant program, which was established “to help fund and support within the State of Connecticut those initiatives which specifically benefit the avian wildlife of our state.” This year, we are supporting six projects of diverse nature.

- \$522.22 to A Place Called Hope, Rehabilitation and Education Center for Birds of Prey, Killingworth, toward construction of a step-down aviary.
- \$500 to Audubon Center at Bent of the River for conifer replacing and deer fence protection.
- \$250 to Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary for the purchase of grass plugs for dune grass restoration.
- \$500 in support of materials for Art Gingert’s American Kestrel nest box program.
- \$500 to Menunkatuck Audubon Society toward the purchase of binoculars for kids’ programs at Barnard Nature Center at West River Memorial Park, New Haven.
- \$750 for Friends of Sherwood Island State Park for the purchase of Purple Martin gourds.

COA ANNUAL MEETING ROUNDUP



Tina Green, President of COA from 2013 to 2015, presented certificates and photographs to five recipients of this year's President's Awards. From left to right: Fred Schroeder (retiring Treasurer of COA after 10 years of service); Jack Wells (retiring Assistant Treasurer of COA, 10 years of service); Ken Elkins (President of COA from 2011 to 2013); Renee Baade (COA board member); Charlie Barnard (member of COA).



The Connecticut Ornithological Association welcomes Jason Rieger to the board of directors. Jason resides in Wallingford, Connecticut. He describes himself as a lifelong wildlife enthusiast. Jason's active birding began a few years ago with his son, Anthony, now age 13. Jason is a member of the New Haven Bird Club.

COA ANNUAL MEETING ROUNDUP



COA board member Jan Collins (L) and COA Secretary Denise Jernigan at the Annual Meeting Raffle Table.



COA board member Sara Zagorski and Mary Wells selling raffle tickets and offering generous good cheer.

Please thank and support these COA Raffle donors:

- Audubon Connecticut
- Birds and Beans/Bill Wilson
- Robert Braunfield
- Alan Brush
- Paul Carrier
- Connecticut Audubon Society Eco Travel
- Linda Dixon
- Robert Dixon
- The Fat Robin (Jim & Carol Zipp)
- Paul Fusco
- Tina Green
- A.J. Hand
- Greg Hanisek
- Hardy Boat Cruises
- Ernie Harris
- Denise Jernigan
- Chris Loscalzo
- Manchester Agway
- Frank Mantlik
- Michael Moccio
- Sean Murtha
- Plainfield Agway
- Roaring Brook Nature Center
- Susanne Shrader
- Sunrise Birding (Gina Nichol)
- Mark Szantyr
- Tim Thompson
- Kathy Van Der Aue
- Sara Zagorski



Katie Rice seeks a winning raffle ticket from Sara Zagorski.



David and Renee Baade.

2015 SUMMER BIRD COUNT

JOE ZERANSKI AND PATRICK COMINS, CO-COMPILERS

Joe: “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 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 form 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 contact information for the coordinators/compilers. Plan to participate!”

Joe and Patrick: “The Summer Bird Count is now in its 24th year. It is our largest summer citizen science effort, and it provides valuable insight to the status of our breeding bird species and non-breeding June visitors to Connecticut. Last year, 184 count day species were recorded. There were 251 observers in 146 parties. Volunteers tallied 1409 party hours, with 1341 being daylight hours and 68 night hours. A total of 101,552 individual birds were recorded. We remind all that any evidence of nesting by state-endangered (E), threatened (T), or special concern (SC) species should be reported to the COA Natural Diversity Database (NDDP) Project. This ensures that the best available information can be taken into account in land-use decisions. [Eds note: the quote immediately above is adapted from Joe Zeranski and Patrick Comins’ article, “2014 Connecticut Summer Bird Count”, published in the October 2014 issue of *The Connecticut Warbler*.]

FIRST WEEKEND OF JUNE (SATURDAY, JUNE 6 & SUNDAY, JUNE 7):

Greenwich-Stamford SBC: Coordinator: Tom Burke tom.burke@mcgladrey.com

Area covered: In Connecticut (65% of area): Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Stamford. In New York (35% of area): Armonk, Bedford, Port Chester, Rye, White Plains.

New Haven SBC: Coordinator: Steve Mayo 203-393-0694 rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net

Area covered: Branford, East Haven, Milford, New Haven, North Haven, Orange, West Haven, Woodbridge.

Woodbury-Roxbury SBC: Coordinators: Russ Naylor 203-841-7779 and Ken Elkins kelkins@audubon.org [NOTE: SUNDAY, JUNE 7 ONLY]

Area covered: Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Middlebury, New Milford, Newtown, Roxbury, Southbury, Washington.

SECOND WEEKEND OF JUNE (SATURDAY, JUNE 13 & SUNDAY, JUNE 14):

Hartford SBC: Coordinator: Jay Kaplan 860-693-0157 jaybrd49@aol.com

Area covered: Bloomfield, East Hartford, Farmington, Hartford, Manchester, Newington, Rocky Hill, South Windsor, Wethersfield, Windsor.

Litchfield Hills SBC: Coordinator: Dave Tripp, Jr. dtrippjr@comcast.net

Area covered: Cornwall, Goshen, Kent, Litchfield, Morris, Sharon, Torrington, Warren, Washington.

Storrs SBC: Coordinator: Steve Morytko smorytko@yahoo.com

Area covered: Ashford, Chaplin, Coventry, Mansfield, Tolland, Willington, Windham.

THIRD WEEKEND OF JUNE (SATURDAY, JUNE 20 & SUNDAY, JUNE 21):

New Milford-Pawling (NY) SBC: Coordinator: Angela Dimmitt angeladimmitt@aol.com

Area covered: In Connecticut (33% of area): Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford, Sherman. In New York (67% of area): Carmel, Patterson, Pawling, Poughquag, Putnam Lake, Wingdale.

FOURTH WEEKEND OF JUNE (SATURDAY, JUNE 27 & SUNDAY, JUNE 28):

Barkhamsted SBC: Coordinator: Dave Rosgen ctbluebird1020@gmail.com

Area covered: Barkhamsted, Burlington, Colebrook, Hartland, Harwinton, New Hartford, Torrington, Winchester.

2015 SUMMER BIRD COUNT

Participants in the Summer Bird Count use extensive knowledge of the habitat preferences of birds to locate, identify, and count species. Here are some representative photographs of habitats in several of the Summer Bird Count circles.



Above: Greenwich Point, Greenwich.
Photo by Annette Cunniffe.
Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count.

Left: North Stamford Reservoir, Stamford.
Photo by Kathy Gellman.
Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count.

2015 SUMMER BIRD COUNT



Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Stamford, Connecticut. Photo by David Winston.
Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count.



Anniversary Holly Grove, Greenwich Point, Greenwich.
Photo by Annette Cunniffe. Greenwich-Stamford SBC.



Glastonbury Meadows, Glastonbury.
Photo by Andrew Dasinger. Hartford SBC.

2015 SUMMER BIRD COUNT



Quarry site at West Rock Ridge State Park, Woodbridge, Connecticut.
Photo by Steve Broker. New Haven SBC.



Brownstone bridge adjacent to Trowbridge Drive, East Rock Park, New Haven. Photo by Steve Broker. New Haven SBC.



Wimisink Marsh, Sherman, Connecticut.
Photo by Angela Dimmitt. Pawling-New Milford SBC.



Lynn Deming Park, power line cut, New Milford, Connecticut. Photo by Jim Dugan. Pawling-New Milford Summer Bird Count.



Hay fields at University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut.
Photo by Chris Elphick. Storrs Summer Bird Count.

Twenty-Five Years Ago in
The Connecticut Warbler
Compiled by Steve Broker

Volume X, Number 2 (April 1990)

Editorial, by Jay Kaplan

"It has now been over one year since I assumed the responsibility for compiling the field reports for *The Connecticut Warbler*. It is an enjoyable assignment, and at the conclusion of each report I have a better feel for when and where rarities, vagrants, late migrants or early arrivals may occur within our State. Over time, one may develop a sense of certain trends within the State's avifauna. Are certain species extending their range? Are there others whose future should be of special concern?

My job is relatively simple as I merely provide a summary of the many field reports submitted to the "Warbler." Yet, as I compile the field notes for each issue, I am faced with the same nagging concerns. Do field reports submitted at the conclusion of each season offer an accurate portrayal of our State's birdlife? . . . Our State gets great coverage on weekends but what of birds that choose weekdays to migrate through the State? Areas like Milford Point and Hammonasset Beach State Park are well covered, but should a Boreal Owl show up in Canaan or Union, would anyone ever find it? There is much to be said for birding new areas.

[Ed's Note: Jay Kaplan served as Vice-President of COA from 1993 to 1995 and as President from 1995 to 1997. He also is the longest serving board member of COA, with terms in the 80s, 90s, 00s, and 10s. For many years, Jay has been Chair of the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut. He is Director of the Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton, Connecticut.]

The 1989-90 Christmas Bird Count, by Stephen P. Broker

"The 1989-90 National Audubon Society sponsored CBC was an excellent one for rarities and new species in Connecticut, with the most notable sightings being the first photographically documented observation of Townsend's Solitaire in the state . . .and the second authenticated sighting of Painted Bunting.

Townsend's Solitaire, found on the Woodbury-Roxbury count in an old field successional Redcedar grove, was observed by many birders for several weeks thereafter. It was most predictably found in a small stand of tulip poplars, at times in the company of a flock of Eastern Bluebirds. As the bird was well photographed, it will advance from the state's hypothetical list to the list of authenticated species. Townsend's Solitaire winters well west of the Mississippi from southern Canada through the United States and into northern Mexico, but it is known to be casual in winter to the Northeast.

Painted Bunting, first seen in October at the backyard feeder of a family residing in Old Lyme, was eventually reported to the birding community and was picked up during Count Week for the Old Lyme-Saybrook count. The bird, a full adult plumaged male, was as easily found a staked out bird as one could imagine, living in an azalea behind the house and flying out to a glass plant stand and feeder at appointed early morning and late afternoon hours. Painted Bunting winters from northern Florida through portions of the Caribbean and Mexico, south to Panama. It occurs casually north to the Northeast, making this Connecticut record a significant but not fully startling one. The homeowners who graciously endured the daily arrivals of numerous birders to see Painted Bunting have our great appreciation."

COA WORKSHOPS

- Combined COA/NHBC/Connecticut Botanical Society Bird/Plant Workshop, Naugatuck Valley State Forest, Naugatuck, Saturday, August 1 at 8:00 A.M.
- Shorebird Workshop, Coastal Center at Milford Point, Milford, Saturday, August 15 at 9:00 A.M.
- Raptor Workshop, Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven (Fall Migration Festival), Sunday, September 20 at 9:00 A.M.

See the Connecticut Ornithological Association website, ctbirding.org, for complete details.

COA OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Kathy Van Der Aue, 762 Mill Hill Road, Southport, CT 06890
<i>Vice President</i>	Stephen Broker, 50 Hidden Place, Cheshire, CT 06410
<i>Secretary</i>	Denise Jernigan, 618 Hopewell Road, South Glastonbury, CT 06073
<i>Treasurer</i>	Paul Wolter, 8 Sybil Creek Place, Branford, CT 06405
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	Jack Wells, 103 Sheephill Road, Riverside, CT 06878

COA CHAIRPERSONS

<i>Annual Meeting</i>	Tina Green, Kathy Van Der Aue, Lisa Wahle
<i>Conservation</i>	Patrick Comins
<i>Finance</i>	Paul Wolter
<i>Membership</i>	Larry Reiter
<i>Avian Records</i>	Jay Kaplan
<i>Research</i>	Tom Robben
<i>Workshops</i>	Chris Loscalzo
<i>Connecticut Warbler</i>	Greg Hanisek
<i>COA Bulletin</i>	Steve Broker
<i>Christmas Bird Count Compiler</i>	Steve Broker
<i>Summer Bird Count Compilers</i>	Joe Zeranski & 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, 2015 to:

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