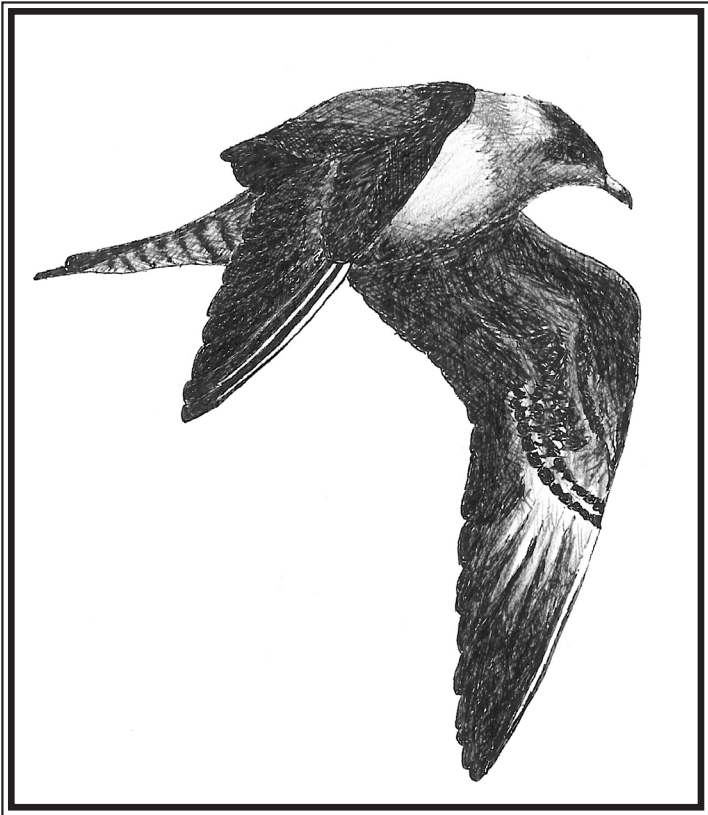


THE CONNECTICUT WARBLER

A Journal of Connecticut Ornithology



Volume 35 No. 2

April 2015

Pages 33-80

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CONTENTS

- 33 **Mabel Osgood Wright Award**
- 37 **Twentieth Report of the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut**
Jay Kaplan and Greg Hanisek
- 47 **The Acceptance of Trumpeter Swan Onto the Connecticut State List**
Frank Gallo
- 55 **Notes On Behavior, Status and Distribution**
- 58 **Connecticut Field Notes**
Greg Hanisek
- 70 **2014 Fall Hawk Watch**
Steve Mayo
- 80 **Photo Challenge**

ON THE COVER

Long-tailed Jaeger

Andrew Dasinger has become something of a specialist on depicting birds of Long Island Sound. Some of his other cover efforts include Razorbill and the state-first Brown Booby. This issue's dynamic immature Long-tailed Jaeger follows the unexpected observation of one last September near the mouth of the Housatonic River. See details in the 20th Report of the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut.

MABEL OSGOOD WRIGHT AWARD

2015: David Allen Sibley

Frank Gallo presented the following at the 31st annual meeting of the Connecticut Ornithological Association on March 21, 2015.

It's my great pleasure to introduce today's recipient of the Mabel Osgood Wright Award. As many of you know, Mabel Osgood Wright was an ornithologist, author and pioneer in bird conservation. She founded the Connecticut Audubon Society and its Birdcraft Museum, and among her many other accomplishments was the author of the 1895 publication, "Birdlife: A field book of two hundred song, game and waterbirds." I encourage everyone to peruse this wonderful book; it is available in its entirety online. You'll see that its 317 pages contain details on the identification of birds, their range, and other important features typically found in modern field guides.

It isn't surprising, then, that previous recipients of this Award have included such Connecticut ornithological greats as Roger Tory Peterson and Yale Bird Collections Manager and Ornithologist, Fred Sibley.

I have always been fascinated by how lives become interconnected in unforeseen ways; as it turns out, I went to school with Joan Walsh, the wife of this year's recipient, and worked for the recipient's father, Fred Sibley.

In 1979, I needed a job. Through the urgings of Noble Proctor, my professor at Southern Connecticut, I met Fred Sibley one morning at Yale's Stony Creek Field Station. He and Jeff Spendelow, also at Yale, were starting the Falkner Island Tern Project and needed help. When I pulled up (and this will surprise no one) Fred Sibley was shoulder deep in a vat of formaldehyde fishing out whale parts; he dried off his arm, shook my hand, stuck me in a Boston Whaler and sent me to Falkner's Island five miles off the coast to meet Jeff. I was nineteen. I ended up stranded there on the Island for

three days, but that's another story. I did, however, get the job, and I came to know Fred's son David.

I'm not sure that everyone realizes that David Sibley, author of the landmark, *Sibley Guide to Birds*, is from Connecticut. Many, however, know him well and may recall him as a rather soft-spoken youth, birding Connecticut, and later the country with the likes of Tony Bledsoe, and especially his good friend Ray Schwartz.

I grew to admire David, not just for his incredible birding skills and intellect, but for his willingness to share his knowledge with others, and especially because of his attitude towards birding. Even now, after all these years, he will stop and spend an hour happily drawing and studying a Robin if the opportunity presents itself.

I remember, when I was a young birder, being obsessed with seeing the next new species. When birding became a game of collect-the-whole-set. See a bird long enough to identify it, then move on to the next bird. When frustration would surface for lack of finding a Lapland Longspur in a flock of Snow Buntings, rather than enjoying the Snow Buntings. Many of us have been there, and know that at this stage, often identifying the robin isn't a problem, but if asked the color of their outer tail spots, that would be. David (who might ask first where you saw your robin) can tell you that the tail spot color is dependent on where the robin comes from - and he has no problem spending hours watching Snow Buntings.

Let me jump ahead now to August of 2000. Jerry Connolly, and several other friends and I were on a birding trip to southern Arizona. Jerry brought with him an advanced copy of the new *Sibley Guide to Birds*, written and illustrated by David Allen Sibley, due out in October. All of us were excited to get a chance to use the guide in the field. We arrived at Tom Beaty's Guest Ranch in the Huachuca Mountains to observe hummingbirds. For years, we'd all struggled with the identification of female hummingbirds.

We also had with us, the newest edition of the National Geo-

graphic Guide. We sat down and started using both guides to try to ID the 10-12 species of hummingbirds visiting the feeders. Within minutes, the Geo guide was tossed back in the car. As my Australian Partner Vanessa would say, "The Sibley Guide was the Go!" In short order, we were able to work out the identification of even the trickiest female hummingbird with confidence. David had captured them perfectly.

In 2000, the bar was raised; and a new level of bird field guide was born in the US, grown from the roots of what Peterson had planted 66 years earlier. For the first time, all the birds were illustrated in flight, and all facing the same direction. Four species could be compared side by side. It was practical, well thought out, organized and well illustrated. The illustrations looked like the bird in the field, not a caricature, nor with detail too fine to see. It worked. For the visual learner it was perfect. And, it was honest. Groups of subspecies unidentifiable in the field were grouped as regional forms. As much as we all want to put a name to everything, it reminded us, that sometimes it's not possible.

How does such a wonderful guide come into existence? Through a lifetime of careful observation and study. It is my experience, that many of the best birders are artists. Artists learn to see detail and need the patience to sit and observe their subject. As a young birder David, had spent countless hours birding with his father and family and pouring over his copy of the Peterson Field Guide to Birds.

Later, as a professional bird tour leader, he often found himself explaining plumage differences and other ID features that were simply not presented in the plates or the text of existing field guides. He became more and more interested in improving what the Peterson Field Guide had started.

To accomplish his goal, he spent 15 years traveling the country, studying, watching and sketching birds, and another 6 years writing text and painting.

And, 105 years after Mabel Osgood Wright's book was published, his field guide became an instant classic. A year

later, he provided the birding public with a guide to Bird Life and Behavior. Also a best seller, it is one of the most accessible books about North American ornithology. His Birding Basics book, concise, insightful, and beautifully illustrated, is far from a beginner's book; it is simply one of the best books written for anyone interested in really learning birds.

His contributions to the Hawk identification guide: Hawks in Flight, introduced a whole generation to the concept of the holistic identification of birds. He even branched into the world of tree identification with A Sibley Guide to Trees.

Last year, after many more years of work, the second edition of Sibley Guide to Birds was published to much deserved acclaim, and is considered by many to be North America's best birding guide. Currently, David's work is focused on revising the Eastern and Western Field Guides (due out in spring 2016), revising and updating the eGuide, which will be out later this year, and working on a new set of titles coming soon in the Folding Guide series.

Between publications, David shares his extensive knowledge in various online blogs about North American birding and other natural history topics. And, through his Conservation Print Series and Charity Auctions, he continues to contribute significantly to bird conservation. I just learned, and am pleased to report, the Sibley Guides raised over \$23,000 in funds for bird conservation in 2014 alone.

Today we are honored to have Connecticut's own David Sibley with us. I can think of no one more worthy to receive the Mabel Osgood Wright Award. So, it is my great pleasure, on the behalf of the Connecticut Ornithological Association, to present the 2015 Mabel Osgood Wright Award, to my friend, David Sibley.

TWENTIETH REPORT OF THE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE OF CONNECTICUT

By Jay Kaplan and Greg Hanisek

The state on-line checklist and review species lists have newly been updated to reflect the latest changes in taxonomic order made in the most recent American Ornithologists Union (AOU) supplement. It has recently come to committee members' attention that there have been occasional discrepancies between the printed checklist used by the Connecticut Ornithological Association (COA) and that found on the COA web page and ARCC records. This is due mainly to periodic changes by AOU in the taxonomic order. Going forward, there will be a standardized review of the state checklist, annually at ARCC meetings, and prior to the COA annual meeting, so that the online and printed versions of the list are consistent. At our most recent meeting, the Connecticut rare breeding birds list was also reviewed and updated, as it had not been updated for some time. The new list is now posted on the COA web site.

In the last report (see the Nineteenth Report of the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut, Vol. 34 No. 2), the addition of four birds brought the State List to 435. This year, another bird has been added to the list – Trumpeter Swan. It should be noted that this Trumpeter Swan is the first "official" state record for this species. Previous reports were received prior to this species being added to the Connecticut State List. For additional information on the history of this species in Connecticut, and why it came to be added now, see the article elsewhere in this issue.

As discussed in previous reports, the Avian Records Committee welcomes the opportunity to view what are termed "historical" records, including records that may be 100 or more years old. Frank Gallo continues to work on a 1937 Townsend's Solitaire record. This would, if accepted, constitute the first of seven state records. Louis Bevier, a former

committee secretary, is working on two old specimen records of Long-tailed Jaegers.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The committee has accepted the resignation of member Jake Musser, who will be leaving in June to take a post-doctoral position in Germany. The committee thanked Jake for his participation and for opening Yale's Peabody Museum as an ideal meeting place, a practice that we hope will continue into the future. With this resignation, the committee stood at ten active members and bylaws allow for 12. The committee moved that Tina Green of Westport and Bob Dixon of Sterling be added as members. At its March meeting the COA Board confirmed the nominations as per ARCC bylaws. Members, in addition to the authors, who voted on records in this report were Nick Bonomo, Frank Gallo, Julian Hough, Frank Mantlik, Jacob Musser, Dave Provencher, Phil Rusch, Dave Tripp and Glenn Williams.

STATE LIST AND REVIEW LIST

The state list now stands at 436 species with the addition of Trumpeter Swan. The committee depends on observers to submit their reports of species on the Review List (they are species marked with an asterisk on the COA Checklist plus any species new to the state). The most recent State List and Review List can be viewed on the COA Website at www.ct-birding.org. Submit written reports along with documentary material to Jay Kaplan, ARCC chairman (address below).

FORMAT

This report continues the format of previous reports. In the case of accepted records, only observers who submitted reports are listed, with the original finder listed first followed by an asterisk. Observers who submitted a photo are acknowledged with ‡ following their names. Hyphenated numbers (e.g. 02-01) preceding the observers are the ARCC file numbers. For reopened files, an "R" follows the numbers. The species are listed in order according to the American

Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Checklist. Multiple records of a particular species are listed chronologically. Months of the year are shortened to their first three letters.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

TRUMPETER SWAN (*Cygnus buccinator*) One was found on 19 Jan 2014 at Konold's Pond in Woodbridge and remained there to at least 19 April 2014 (14-18 Frank Gallo*‡, Vanessa Mickan). A number of recent observations of this species have been rejected on the basis of origin questions. An article elsewhere in this issue explains the series of events and decisions that led the committee to finally accept this species, making it Number 436 on the state list.

TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula*) A female was found 22 Feb 2015 at Captain's Cove Marina in Bridgeport (15-08 Tina Green*‡, Frank Gallo‡, A.J. Hand‡, Frank Mantlik‡). Although there are at least five records, this is the first one documented since 2000. As is usually the case, this one was found with others of its genus, primarily Greater and Lesser Scaup, but also Redhead, Canvasback and Ring-necked Duck. With most harbors frozen and slush ice in Long Island Sound, the open water in the cove offered shelter for a wide variety of waterfowl as well as opportunities for many birders to see this Eurasian species. It was still present in early March, sometimes seen in rafts of scaup off St. Mary's-by-the-Sea in the nearby Black Rock section of Bridgeport. It's worth noting that the 2000 bird was seen 19-20 Feb in Black Rock Harbor.

WHITE IBIS (*Eudocimus albus*) An immature was present in Old Lyme from 3-23 Aug 2014 (14-12 Sue Joffray,* Hank Golet‡, Greg Hanisek‡, Frank Mantlik‡). The bird was mobile but best seen from a marsh in the Hawk's Nest community off Route 156. Appearances have increased in the 21st Century; of 11 documented records, nine are from 2006 to the present.

WHITE-FACED IBIS (*Plegadis chihi*) One was found on 17 May 2014 at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison



*A.J. Hand photo
Connecticut's first Tufted Duck since 2000 showed off some less frequently seen features in this image from its extended stay in Bridgeport during early 2015.*



*Hank Golet photo
Connecticut's 11th White Ibis, a juvenile, appeared at a salt marsh in Old Lyme in August 2014.*



Russ Smiley photo

This White-faced Ibis made a long stay at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison during spring and summer 2014.



Frank Mantlik photo

This flashy adult male Painted Bunting was photographed in October 2014 at Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Stamford, and it was still being seen in late March 2015.

with sightings through at least 1 Aug (14-10 Patrick Comins,* Glenn Williams, Phil Rusch, Russ Smiley‡). This sighting fits the pattern of primarily May-Jun appearances along the coast, most of them at Hammonasset. While none of the sightings involved more than one individual, photos of a bird seen on 4 July raised the possibility that it might be a different individual, based on the amount of white around the eye. The committee considered that possibility through photos in a separate ARCC file (14-11) but considered evidence for this being a different individual inconclusive. An expert later said it appeared just one individual was involved.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*) Two adults were seen by numerous observers riding the New London-Orient, N.Y., ferry on 3 Jan 2015 (15-03 Frank Gallo,* Frank Mantlik). The trip was part of the New London and Orient Point, N.Y., Christmas Bird Counts. The birds' presence in Connecticut waters was confirmed by GPS in Google Maps on an iPhone. This ferry route has proven the best way to see this primarily pelagic species in Connecticut waters. The report included sketches by Gallo.

MEW (COMMON) GULL (*Larus canus canus*) A basic-plumaged adult was found 3 Jan 2015 on the Housatonic River below Shepaug Dam in Southbury (15-01 Nick Bonomo*‡). This bird, seen by numerous observers, appeared at the same location that hosted one from 30 Jan to at least 2 Feb 2014. Photos indicate the same individual was involved in both sightings. Based on features such as bill and wingtip pattern, it conformed to the nominate subspecies *canus* – often called Common Gull. This subspecies, breeding in Europe and western Asia, is the form most often seen in the Northeast. It represents the fourth state record.

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*) One was seen at Batterson Pond in Farmington on 14 May 2014 (14-17 Paul Cianfaglione*). Mid-sized terns present a difficult and sometimes under-appreciated identification challenge. Arctic Tern is especially tough because it offers almost no opportunities for Connecticut birders to study it on our home turf. It breeds to

the north and migrates offshore. The observer took advantage of his familiarity with the bird on its breeding grounds to present an excellent, detailed description that separated his tern from similar species using plumage, structure and flight style. The occurrence during an easterly storm during the species' northbound migration fit perfectly into the time frame and weather conditions when this species might be encountered. This is a fourth state record, and the first since 1999.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) One was seen in Long Island Sound off Milford and Stratford on 3 Sept 2014 (14-14 Frank Mantlik*‡, Greg Hanisek). The observers were conducting a Long Island Sound Bird Study cruise aboard MV John Dempsey, a Connecticut DEEP research vessel conducting water quality sampling. Mantlik spotted a jaeger flying west at about 1:44 p.m. and was able to obtain a series of digital images. Given the difficulty of jaeger identification, often involving birds at sea at great distances, final decisions are increasingly based on photo evidence. When Mantlik was able to examine his images, he suspected the bird was a Long-tailed Jaeger and sent them to three seabird experts who are not members of ARCC. All agreed that the images best depicted a Long-tailed Jaeger. Plumage features indicate it was probably a dark juvenile, but distance makes ageing difficult. The date fits the late August-early September time frame for migrating Long-tailed Jaegers in the Northeast and Great Lakes.

THICK-BILLED MURRE (*Uria lomvia*) An adult in basic plumage, picked up grounded in Putnam on 10 Feb 2015, was taken to Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education in Ashford (15-05 Linden Bowen‡). One in basic plumage was studied at length on the water and in flight on 12 Feb 2015 from Meigs Point at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison (15-06 Frank Gallo*‡). One flew by Stratford Point in Stratford on 12 Feb 2015 (15-07 Patrick Comins). These three closely spaced reports came during a widespread movement of this species tied to a series of northeast storms. When the bird in rehab appeared on a Facebook page, Gallo

went to Hammonasset with this seldom-seen state rarity in mind and was quickly rewarded for his effort.

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*) An adult male appeared at a feeder in Brookfield on 8 Jul 2014 (14-16 William March *†). It was seen only on the day it was discovered, but the observer reported it to Margaret Robbins of Wild Birds Unlimited in Brookfield, who notified ARCC and forwarded the photo. An adult male found on 27 Oct 2014 at Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Stamford was seen through at least mid-March 2015 (14-15 Patrick Dugan*, Frank Mantlik†). The bird was present for a few days after its discovery but then disappeared until re-found by Dugan on 22 Dec 2014. Adult males were also seen at Cove Island in Dec 2010 and Nov 2011.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

RED-NECKED STINT (*Calidris ruficollis*) Two were reported together on 16 & 24 Jul 2014 at Sandy Point in West Haven (14-13). This Old World sandpiper, a very rare species in most of North America, belongs to a group that presents difficult identification problems. Two together would be unprecedented. The three previous records of single birds provided the requisite amount of feather detail needed to eliminate other confusion species, specifically worn alternate-plumaged Sanderling, a pitfall in early summer. The report did not cover several key identification points and relied heavily on noting that the birds matched field guide illustrations. While straightforward comparisons to illustrations work for many birds, in the case of difficult species groups much more detailed studies are needed to separate similar species. Short of identifiable photos, the best way to document a rarity is with detailed field notes, including simple sketches, taken before a field guide is consulted.

SANDWICH TERN (*Thalasseus sandwicensis*) One was reported on 12 Sep 2013 at Menunketesuck Island in Westbrook (13-23). The observer reported a tern with a yellow-tipped black bill but didn't supply other important supporting

descriptive details. Committee members agreed he had most likely seen a Sandwich Tern but noted that misidentifications have been made based on other terns showing pale bill tips at certain times of year. The committee encourages observers to provide as complete a description as possible and not rely on a single feature, regardless of how diagnostic it seems. In this case reference to the species' black legs, shaggy crest and large size compared to expected *Sterna* terns would have allowed for easy acceptance.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus henslowii*) One was reported on 19 Oct 2013 at Bauer Park in Madison (13-21). The observation was very brief and did not allow for study of the underparts, a key feature in separating this rare and very secretive species from other similar *Ammodramus* sparrows. As is often the case when a record is not accepted, the committee felt that for various reasons documentation was insufficient, rather implying an error by the observer.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The committee thanks Louis Bevier, Marshall Iliff and Tom Johnson for comments on the jaeger photos and Peter Pyle for comments on molts of White-faced Ibis.

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ARCC BREEDING BIRD REVIEW LIST

At its March 1, 2015, meeting the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut discussed, revised and approved the review list of rare and potential breeding species. The list, included below but also on www.ctbirding.org (the COA website), is designed to encourage birders to report evidence of nesting for any of the listed species. Species marked with an asterisk (*) have not yet been proven to have nested successfully in the state but are considered potential breeders. The bold-faced birds are new additions to the list. Removed from the list were Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon and Golden-crowned Kinglet.

<p>Blue-winged Teal Green-winged Teal Ring-necked Pheasant Pied-billed Grebe Black Skimmer Tri-colored Heron Cattle Egret White-faced Ibis* Mississippi Kite Northern Harrier Sharp-shinned Hawk Northern Goshawk Black Rail King Rail Common Gallinule American Coot Sandhill Crane* Wilson's Snipe Laughing Gull* Eurasian Collared Dove* Barn Owl Long-eared Owl Short-eared Owl Northern Saw-whet Common Nighthawk</p>	<p>Red-headed Woodpecker Merlin* Olive-sided Flycatcher Loggerhead Shrike Horned Lark Sedge Wren Golden-winged Warbler Prothonotary Warbler Nashville Warbler Mourning Warbler Kentucky Warbler Northern Parula Yellow-throated Warbler Yellow-breasted Chat Clay-colored Sparrow* Vesper Sparrow Henslow's Sparrow White-throated Sparrow Blue Grosbeak Dickcissel Boat-tailed Grackle Red Crossbill Pine Siskin Evening Grosbeak</p>
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THE ACCEPTANCE OF TRUMPETER SWAN ONTO THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIST

By Frank Gallo

The first contemporary Trumpeter Swan in Connecticut was found in August 1993, on a small pond near the Danbury Mall in Danbury. It carried a patagial wing tag, #227, that was traced to a breeding/ reintroduction program in Ontario, Canada (See Table A). Since its first occurrence, Trumpeter Swans have made several appearances in the state, and have been an annual visitor since 2010. Birders have wondered when, if ever, Trumpeter Swan would be added to the State List. That day has arrived.

For many years, the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut (ARCC) had reviewed periodic reports of Trumpeter Swans, but was unable to accept these records for a variety of reasons. Some were found to have escaped captivity, most were of uncertain origin, and those of known provenance were tagged birds released as part of the Ontario, Canada, introduction program. But those did not meet the criteria for acceptance as an introduced exotic under American Birding Association (ABA) rules, at the time. Therefore, the species could not be added to the State List.

Trumpeter Swans have been actively introduced (or reintroduced) into the Northeast through organized breeding programs for more than 25 years. According to the ABA, in "... the Eastern U.S. and Canada - wild hatching (was) confirmed in IL (2006), IA (1998), MI, MN, MO, OH, NE, NY (1993), SD, WI (1989), and Ontario (1990)". However, these populations were considered established only recently. Ontario accepted its first record in 2007, but New York did not except one until 2013. Controversy exists as to whether or not Trumpeter Swans are native to the Northeast and had ever bred here during pre-colonial times (See ABA web page). This is significant, because rules for acceptance by the ABA differ for reintroduced native species and introduced exotics. Because the ARCC felt enough evidence exists to cloud the status of

Trumpeter Swan as an indigenous northeastern species, it chose to treat it as an introduced exotic. Until recently, populations had not met this ABA standard for acceptance as an introduced species (See ABA webpage). However, in July of 2014, the ABA relaxed these standards. (See ABA webpage).

At the most recent meeting of the ARCC, March 1, 2015, the committee voted on a Trumpeter Swan record (2014-08), a bird that appeared in January 2014, for the fifth year in a row, at Konolds Pond in Woodbridge. In reviewing this report, the committee looked at Trumpeter Swan information previously compiled by Nick Bonomo, and at other states' acceptance records and other information compiled by Phil Rusch and me from all the northeastern states. (Table B). Given the acceptance as established breeders in both Ontario and finally, New York, and as Trumpeter Swan now fits the ABA's revised criteria for an established exotic, the committee felt it was appropriate to add Trumpeter Swan to the State List.

The Tale of the Missing Member of the Pair

As an interesting aside, while I was researching Trumpeter Swans in our area, I discovered a pair that had been frequenting Upper Lake in Yaphank, on Long Island, New York since 2009 (Table 1.)



Table A: Connecticut Trumpeter Swan Occurrence Dates

Date/ (ARCC Record #)	# of Birds	Location	Observers	Comments
21 & 22+ Aug 1993 (96-27)	1	Danbury	Judy Moore, Jim Bair and others; original observer not recorded.	In a small pond near Danbury Mall. Wing tag #227. Origin; tagged in Ontario, Canada.
17 May 1999 (99-22)	1	Stratford	Andrew Brand, Frank Gallo, et. al.	Birdseye Boat Ramp
Dec 00 and Jan 01 (01-12)	1	Litchfield	Dave Tripp, Greg Hanisek, Mark Szantyr†	Shown to have escaped from captivity
Mar & April 2007	7	Deep River Hadlyme & Chester	Bill Yule et.al. Ebird: Many observers	One, 10-18 March on CT River - Hadlyme/Chester. 18-22 March, two different birds at Cedar Lake, Chester; 6 April, Four more at Pratt Read Reservoir, Deep River. All seven were tagged in Ontario. The first three were seen in Barneveld, N.Y., Jan 2007
28 Mar - 1 April 2010 (10-02)	2	Stratford	Brian Webster*, Frank Mantlik†, Brenda Inskeep†, Charles Barnard.	Cranberry (Bog) Pond
12 Dec 2010	1	East Haddam	Unconfirmed Ebird report: Joe Pulliam	Andrew's Marina by East Haddam Bridge. Not reviewed by ARCC.
21 Mar to 2 Apr 2011 (11-19)	2	Woodbridge	Frank Gallo*†	Konolds Pond.
5 Feb 2012 until at least 15 Mar 2012 (12-07)	2	Woodbridge	Paul Wolter*, John Marshall*, Mark Szantyr†, Steve Broker†	Konolds Pond. Considered same pair as previous record (11-19)
6-7 Jan (2), 11-13 Jan (1), 15 & 20 Jan (1); 16 & 20 Mar 2013 (1)	2/1	Woodbridge	Ebird: Many observers	Konolds Pond. Considered same individual(s) as previous records (11-19) & (12-07)
19-23 Jan, 30 Jan - 9 Feb, 15-20 Feb; 2 Mar - 9 April 2014 (14-18)	1	Woodbridge	Frank Gallo*†, Vanessa Mickan	Konolds Pond. Considered remaining member of the pair from previous records at this location. First accepted CT record.

Table B: Trumpeter Swan Status in the Northeast

State/ Province	Year Accepted onto the State/ Provincial List	Details
Ontario, Canada	The Ontario Bird Record Committee added Trumpeter Swan to its list in 2007.	Added to breeding list in 2007 by proclamation. No specific record
New York	The NY Bird Record Committee added Trumpeter Swan to its list in 2013.	First bred in NY in 1995.
Connecticut	The ARCC added Trumpeter Swan to its list in 2015	19 Jan - 9 April 2014 record
Massachusetts	The MA Bird Record Committee added Trumpeter Swan to its supplemental list in 2008.	# 04-12. 10 March -30 March 2004
Rhode Island	Recent record pending review by the committee	11-21 May 2014, Providence
Maine	Recent record pending review by the committee	8-15 April 2011, Biddeford
New Hampshire	Listed as extirpated.	The only reference for this species in NH is from Belknap (1792)
Vermont	The VT Bird Record Committee added Trumpeter Swan to its list in 2014	26 May 2014 record
New Jersey	The NJ Bird Record Committee added Trumpeter Swan to its List in 2014	2015-048 Trumpeter Swan 15 Dec 2013 – 6 April 2014 Assumpink WMA:
Maryland	The MD Bird Record Committee added Trumpeter Swan to its list in 1998	Added by proclamation. No specific record

Table 1. Trumpeter Swan Occurrence Dates:

Upper Lake, Yaphank, Long Island, New York (NY) # within () equals number of birds seen on those dates.

Year	Date	# of Birds	Location
2010	Mar. 28 - April 1	2	Cranberry Bog
2011	Mar. 21-30	2	Konolds Pond
2012	Feb. 5-12 & Feb. 16 - Mar. 10 & 14-15	2	Konolds Pond
2013	Jan. 6-7 (2) & Jan 11-13 (1),15 & 20 (1); Mar. 16 & 20 (1)	2/1	Konolds Pond
2014	Jan. 19-23 & Jan. 30 - Feb. 9; Feb. 15-20; Mar. 2 - April 9 (Mar. 2 - April 9 had a few small breaks.)	1	Konolds Pond

There was a pair in Connecticut at about the same time. They were first found in 2010 at Cranberry Bog Pond in Stratford, and later at Konolds Pond, in Woodbridge (Table 2), one of which went missing in January 2013. Looking at the Yaphank dates, I noticed that in early January 2013, one of their pair had also gone missing; eBird reports went from two to one bird. This suggested that these were likely the same pair. Intrigued, I did a bit more digging.



Frank Mantlik photo

This pair of Trumpeter Swans, shown here in March 2010 at Cranberry Pond in Stratford, appear to have split time between Connecticut and Long Island, N.Y.

Table 2. Trumpeter Swan Occurrence Dates:

Cranberry Bog Pond, Stratford, and Konolds Pond, Woodbridge, Connecticut (CT) # within () equals number of birds seen on those dates.

Year	Date	# of Birds	Location
2010	Mar. 28 - April 1	2	Cranberry Bog
2011	Mar. 21-30	2	Konolds Pond
2012	Feb. 5-12 & Feb. 16 - Mar. 10 & 14-15	2	Konolds Pond
2013	Jan. 6-7 (2) & Jan 11-13 (1),15 & 20 (1); Mar. 16 & 20 (1)	2/1	Konolds Pond
2014	Jan. 19-23 & Jan. 30 - Feb. 9; Feb. 15-20; Mar. 2 - April 9 (Mar. 2 - April 9 had a few small breaks.)	1	Konolds Pond

When I compared the NY dates to those for the CT pair, I noticed two things. The dates for NY and CT did not overlap (Table 3), and that on January 7, 2013, two birds had been on Konolds Pond, but on January 11, only one was reported. There was a window, from 8-10 January, where the birds were unaccounted for in either place, or so I thought.

Table 3 Combined Dates

Year	New York (Italic) & Connecticut (Bold)	# of Birds	Location (# of birds)
2010	Jan.18-19, 29-31; Mar. 4-10; Mar. 28 - April 1; Dec. 4 & 24	2	NY/CT
2011	Jan. 5 & 30, Feb. 13 & 19-24; Mar. 21-30; Dec. 21-23	2	NY/CT/NY
2012	Jan. 2-8; Feb. 5-12 & Feb. 16 - Mar. 10 & 14-15	2	NY/CT
2013	Jan. 6-7(2); Jan. 11(2/1); Jan. 11-13, 15 & 20 (1) Jan. 25-27; Feb. 1-5 & 17-18; Mar. 16 & 20	2/1	CT(2)/NY(2/1)/CT(1) NY(1)/CT(1)
2014	Jan. 19-23 & Jan. 30 - Feb. 9, Feb. 15-20; Mar. 2 - April 9 (Mar. 2 - April 9 had a few small breaks.)	1	CT(1)

I knew, from reading an eBird post, that one of the members of the NY pair had met with misfortune, but I knew none of the details, only that there was "...a sad story about these birds and hopefully this individual will one day be reunited with its mate." I contacted the author of the post, Derek Rogers, a Long Island birder. He informed me that one of the birds had been shot by a hunter, and was kind enough to put me in touch with Luke Ormond, another local birder, who had been keeping track of the swans.

The dates showed that in order for the birds to be the same pair, the injury would have to have occurred between January 7 and 11, 2013. So, I wrote Luke asking, "Would you happen to know the exact date the Swan was shot? Was it between January 7-11, 2013?" His reply read, "On January 11th, 2013 it was reported on LIbirds (Long Island Birds Listserv) that one of the two trumpeter swans which have over-wintered on Upper Lake in Yaphank was shot by a shotgun. Anthony Graves looked into the matter further and has learned that the bird (sex unknown) was brought to a rehabber (in Hampton Bays) and appears to have only suffered a broken wing and is expected to make a full recovery - but not for some time. The other Trumpeter Swan apparently was last seen flying off the lake with a flock of Canada Geese and has not been seen on the lake in several days. It is the optimistic hope that these birds will both end up back at their breeding grounds come spring and once again be re-united." (Author's Note: Sadly, the injured bird did not survive.)

Konolds Pond eBird Reports read as follows:

2013-01-07	2	Russ Smiley	Checklist
2013-01-11	1	Jesus Tirado	Checklist

Only one bird has been seen at Konolds Pond since January 11, 2013, (with the possible exception of single report on January 13 - which I feel is in error, given that several others saw only one bird that day), and all other reports fit the necessary pattern. It seems clear that these are the same birds and that they were shifting between Long Island and Con-

necticut as conditions warranted. (The single pair member has not returned to NY.) One member of this pair, however, arrived at Konold's Pond on January 19, 2014 and is now the first accepted Trumpeter Swan record for Connecticut. This seems a fitting tribute to the pair.

I would like to thank fellow members of the ARCC committee, especially Phil Rusch, Greg Hanisek, and Nick Bonomo; Derek Rogers, and Luke Ormond for their help with the New York Records; Sally Brown, Steve Broker; and the many generous Connecticut birders who responded to my email queries for information. We are blessed to have such a wonderful birding community in Connecticut.

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Frank Gallo,
ARCC Member
335 High Street
Milford, 06460

NOTES ON BEHAVIOR, STATUS AND DISRIBUTION

A Lingering Ovenbird



*Paul Keating photo
This Ovenbird visited a Fairfield yard on the late date of Jan.
10, 2015.*

This little fellow was sitting outside my front door in Fairfield on Jan. 10, 2015 on a bitter cold night at about 10:30 p.m. where it was seen by my daughter as she came in for the night. It did not fly away but tried to evade us by flying several yards at a time, but it seemed somehow wounded or weak. After a few minutes we were able to catch it in a cardboard box and bring it in from the cold. We put the box and a towel in a large clear plastic bin and called it a night.

The next morning I checked on the bird and it was perched on the edge of the cardboard box and seemed quite chipper. I took the plastic bin outside, snapped a photo and lifted the lid off the bin. In a matter of seconds it took flight in what appeared to be a strong, healthy way and disappeared into the southeast sky. A friend believed this to be an Ovenbird of the warbler family.

Editor's Note: The friend, Mike Warner, passed along this report to The Warbler. Although Ovenbirds are rare in winter at this latitude, there are two documented records of this species successfully overwintering in Connecticut.

Paul Keating

Fairfield

The Invasion of the Red-necked Grebes

Red-necked Grebe is not a bird one expects in Northwest Connecticut, other than during migration on some of our larger lakes and reservoirs. In my many years as director of Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton, we have had exactly one Red-necked Grebe brought to us. This occurred in 1979, when an individual was frozen into the Farmington River in New Hartford during a sudden freeze. The bird was uninjured and was released into another section of the river, where there was ample open water.

Imagine my surprise on Feb. 28, when within a 30 minute span two Red-necked Grebes were brought into the Nature Center. The first was found along a roadside in Burlington not far from Nepaug Reservoir. The bird was in full adult plumage and appeared to be in good health. The second bird was found, inexplicably, in a Torrington backyard. This bird, in typical winter garb, was also uninjured. The birds were not thin and were active, even calling loudly when handled.

When put together in a large carrier, the birds viciously attacked one another and had to be immediately separated. Both birds had a nice swim in my bath tub and were fed bait

fish, which they readily ate. The bird in breeding plumage even showed its disdain by flaring out its head feathers, a behavior I would not have expected in late February.

The next day I drove to the Connecticut coast in West Haven and released the birds into Long Island Sound. They pattered across slushy shallows into open water and immediately began to swim and dive.

Jay Kaplan

Canton

An Early – But Definite – Golden Eagle

Sept. 17 and 18 are early dates for a migrant Golden Eagle in Connecticut, but one was confirmed passing over the state on those dates in 2014. The eagle, equipped with GPS, was being tracked by the Tennessee Wildlife Agency Golden Eagle Project. It was detected over Aton Forest in Norfolk on Sept. 17 and over New Milford the next day. According to project data, the second-year female was trapped and equipped with monitoring equipment on Feb. 6, 2014, in northwest Alabama.

eBird data

CONNECTICUT FIELD NOTES

Fall Season, August through November 30, 2014

By Greg Hanisek

Autumn 2014 unfolded without any dramatic weather events, and as usual birds were heading south, wandering north or staging in good numbers. It was an especially good fall for shorebirds and terns, with noteworthy concentrations at Shell Beach marsh in Guilford and Sandy Point in West Haven. The hawk watches noted very heavy flights of Pine Siskins and Purple Finches, but the rarer irruptive northern finches were either scarce or absent.

Three **Greater White-fronted Geese** for the season were on the low side by recent standards. An Oct. 19-20 movement of Snow Geese included 200 over Uncasville on Oct. 20 (SBe). Now annual, a **Barnacle Goose** found Nov. 5 at Broad Brook Pond in Somers was present through the season (JM et al.). Reports of 14 **Cackling Geese** (a high number) included four flyovers on Oct. 19 at Boothe Park hawk watch in Stratford (SK). The season's first **Eurasian Wigeon** appeared on Oct. 8 at Mondo Ponds in Milford (WB). Blue-winged Teal made a noteworthy arrival on Sept. 15, when nine each were seen at Shell Beach in Guilford (PCo) and at Southport Beach in Fairfield (TG), followed by

12 on Sept. 20 at Konold's Pond in Woodbridge (CL) and 16 at Bishop's Pond in Meriden on Oct. 9 (KM). Two Ring-necked Ducks were a bit early at Konold's on Sept. 20 (CL), and 200 were at Saugatuck Reservoir on Oct. 22 (BR). A female **Harlequin Duck** was off Ash Creek, Fairfield, on Nov. 19 (JL). A major movement of Black Scoters on Nov. 1 brought 23 to Cornfield Point in Old Saybrook (TG), 13 to Mansfield Hollow Dam (MSz), 11 to Batterson Pond in Farmington (PCi) and five to Bantam Lake in Litchfield (MDa). Bantam Lake also held a Surf Scoter on Nov. 6 (MDa), and another was on Barkhamsted Reservoir on Nov. 9 (DTr, FZ)..



*Russ Smiley photo
This Barnacle Goose, a species now annual in
Connecticut, visited Broad Brook Pond in Somers
during the second half of November 2014.*

Slowly building evidence suggests the state's Ruffed Grouse population may be rebounding. Of special interest this season were reports on Nov. 7 in East Haddam (RMi) and on Nov. 19 in Old Lyme (JPF), far from the species' Northwest Corner stronghold. Ten **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** were off Old Saybrook on Aug. 14 (PG), and four were near Duck I. off Westbrook on Sept. 1 (EB), the only tube-noses reported this season. An immature Great Cormorant was early on Sept. 4 at the Connecticut R. mouth in Old Saybrook (FMa). A Northern Gannet was first noted off Old Saybrook on Oct. 4 (NB), with a high count of 36 off Stratford on Nov. 1 (FMa).

The most-expected heron

inland, other than the inland breeders, is Great Egret. That was apparent in early August with reports from various observers in Washington, Collinsville, Avon and Durham. On Aug. 18 at Riverside Park in Hartford, 11 were joined by a single Little Blue Heron (PCi). Two juvenile Little Blues were inland in Wilton the same day (MW), and the now regular staging at Plum Bank Marsh in Old Saybrook produced a count of 22 on Sept. 15 (JOg). An impressive gathering of six heron species on Aug. 21 at Sherwood Mill Pond Preserve in Westport included 100+ Snowy Egrets (TG). Single Snowys were well inland at Wethersfield Cove on Sept. 5 (PCi) and at Riverside Park, Hartford, on Sept. 15 (PCi). Single

Cattle Egrets were found on Oct. 26 at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison, hereafter HBSP, (RS); on Nov. 11 in Southbury (AL) and on Nov. 15 at Seaside Park, Bridgeport (NB). This is now a typical time frame for this increasingly scarce species. Stratford Marina held 35 post-breeding Yellow-crowned Night-Herons on Oct. 18 (FMa), and one lingered to Nov. 27 in Stratford (FMa). An immature **White Ibis** was a seasonal highlight found on Aug. 3 in Old Lyme (SJ, H.G, m.ob.). It was present in a saltmarsh in the Hawk's Nest community through at least Aug. 23.

Away from hawk watches, Golden Eagles were reported over Sherwood Island State Park in Westport on Sept. 25 & 30 (TG, LF); over a Stratford yard on Oct. 22 (FMa); and at Cassidy Road in Southbury on Nov. 12 (BB). For a complete report on monitoring of the the fall hawk migration, see Steve Mayo's summary elsewhere in this issue. A **Sandhill Crane** on Aug. 8 in West Hartland was in a part of the state where breeding has been suspected for several years (JF). Others included

a migrant flying past Lighthouse Point on Oct. 11 (TH); two over Lighthouse on Nov. 2 (SM); three over West Rock Ridge, New Haven, on Nov. 3 (JZ); and two in Stonington on Nov. 7 (TG). Of special interest were 23 over Lighthouse Point on Nov. 28 (DCa et al.). This is the same group seen at locations both north and south of Connecticut. Other reports were of 24, but observers here noted the Lighthouse birds were distant and just above tree line, so one bird could easily have been out of sight during passage.

The first adult American Golden-Plover appeared Aug. 14 at Short Beach in Stratford, then moving to Milford Point (FMa, NB et al.). A Semipalmated Plover was a good inland find Aug. 4 at Wimisink Marsh in Sherman (ADi). The number of staging American Oystercatchers at Cockenoe I., Westport, grew to 36 on Aug. 18 (TG, AH). A fast-moving **American Avocet** was seen Aug. 1 at 9:30 a.m. at Sachem Head in Guilford (NP) and at 11 a.m. at Watch Rock in Old Lyme (HG). Whether one on Aug. 8 in Stratford was a different bird remains a

matter of speculation (DCp). One on Sept. 5-6 at Sandy Point joined in an unusually rich several-day array of waders, gulls and terns at that productive location. A noteworthy gathering of 21 juvenile eastern Willets was at Griswold Point in Old Lyme on Aug. 29 (NB). Whimbrels were at Griswold Point on Aug. 29 (CC) and at Sandy Point on Aug. 30 (TG); with two each in Stratford on Sept. 2 (FMA), at HBSP Sept. 3-4 (m.ob.), at Sandy Point on Sept. 6 (JOs) and in Stratford on Sept. 14 (TM). Three Hudsonian Godwits made a low pass over the bird-filled lagoon at Sandy Point on Sept. 6 (MA). It was a good season for **Marbled**

Godwits. One found Aug. 15 at HBSP (PW), turned up the next day in nearby Clinton (DCi). Another was in Greenwich on Aug. 22 (FMo); one was seen at both Milford Point (TG) and Birdseye boat launch in Stratford (CB) on Sept. 7; and one was at Rocky Neck State Park in East Lyme on Sept. 14 (BP).

Two Sanderlings were a good inland find Aug. 13 at Rocky Hill Meadows (BA). The first of about eight reports of Baird's Sandpipers was from Shell Beach marsh in Guilford on Aug. 19 (RS). Singles were found on Aug. 29 at Shell Beach, HBSP and Watch Rock (NB). A Pectoral Sandpiper was far inland Sept. 7 at Colebrook



*Paul Fusco photo
A good flight of Whimbrels included these two
at the Stratford Great Meadows on Sept. 18,
2014.*



*Hank Golet photo
Always a stunning presence, this American Avocet at Watch Rock in Old Lyme on Aug. 1, 2014, was one of several found along the coast this fall.*



*Russ Smiley photo
These three Red-necked Phalaropes made a quick stop at Shell Beach in Guilford during the passage of thunder storms on Aug. 13, 2014.*



Luis Ramos photo
This Yellow-billed Cuckoo was surprisingly late on Nov. 11, 2014, in New London.



Russ Smiley photo
This Lark Sparrow, one of two for the season, graced Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison with a week's stay in early November 2014.

Reservoir (PCa). The first report of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper came from HBSP on Aug. 29 (MP et al.). On Aug. 31 singles appeared at Sandy Point (GN et al.) and at Rocky Hill Meadows (SZ et al.), with two at the latter location on Sept. 1 (JS et al.). A Long-billed Dowitcher Sept. 16 at Stratford marina was at a very reliable spot for this uncommon species (CB). Another was at Shell Beach through the end of November (GH). Three **Red-necked Phalaropes** descended briefly on Shell Beach during an Aug. 13 rain storm along with 150 Lesser Yellowlegs and one Stilt Sandpiper (NP, GH et al.). Shell Beach produced again on Aug. 22 when a **Wilson's Phalarope** began a stay of seven days (SSa et al.). On Sept. 1, two were found at Sandy Point (GN et al.), where they were seen through Sept. 8.

A **Black-headed Gull** was a good find Nov. 22 at Enders Island in Mystic (HG). An unusual inland Laughing Gull visited Bristol Reservoir No. 7 on Oct. 25 (PCa). A Glaucous Gull was at HBSP on Nov. 29 (JCr). Caspian Terns were widespread along the coast from mid-Au-

gust through early September, with a high of four on Sept. 3 at Milford Point (CL et al). A late one was off Old Saybrook on Nov. 1 (TG). A significant movement of Black Terns Aug. 15-16 along the mid-coast produced reports of 11 individuals (TG, MDo, DRt, PW, CL). A Royal Tern was at Avery Point, Groton, on Aug. 16 (DRt), with two at Menunketesuck I. in Westbrook on Aug. 25 (CL). Unusually large numbers in October included 18 off Guilford on Oct 26 (SSa, m.ob.). An incredible feeding frenzy in New Haven Harbor on Sept. 6 following thunder storms comprised a combined 10,000 Common Terns and Laughing Gulls, along with many Forster's Terns and at least one juvenile Black Tern (NB, SBi). A late Black Skimmer visited Milford Point on Oct. 3 (FMa). The bird of the season was a **Long-tailed Jaeger** seen and photographed Sept. 3 from a DEEP research boat off the mouth of the Housatonic River (FMa, GH).

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo made a late appearance on Nov. 11 in New London (LR). A **Barn Owl** was an unexpected find Nov. 16 at



Frank Mantlik photo

This Rufous Hummingbird appeared at a feeder in Stratford on Nov. 16 and remained into the winter season.

an undisclosed location in Waterford (NB, PR et al.). The season's first Snowy Owl made it to Long Beach, Stratford, on Nov. 26 (TD), and an inland one was reported from Storrs on Nov. 29 (PR). Two Short-eared Owls were at Stratford Point on Oct. 20 (CH). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was seen being eaten by a Red-tailed Hawk on Nov. 13 at Sherwood Island State Park in Westport (TG). Triple-figure reports of southbound Common Night-hawks included 100 on Aug. 17 in Scotland (TT); 200 on Aug. 19 at Mansfield Hollow (PR); 300 on Aug. 20 in Falls Village (SG); 675 on Aug. 21 in Falls Village (EO); 500 on Aug. 23 in Granby (JW);

200 on Aug. 25 in Canton (DTr); 117 on Aug. 26 in Easton (TM); 106 on Sept. 11 in Greenwich (RMc); and 125 on Sept. 12 in Branford (EB). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird lingered to the late dates of Nov. 10-12 visiting blooming Pineapple Sage at a yard in Norwalk (LF). The adult male **Rufous Hummingbird** that started visiting a Kent feeder in July was last seen on Aug. 1 (CM). One that appeared at a Stratford feeder on Nov. 16 remained through the season (FG, Ma et al.). The eight reports of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were spread over all four months, including feeder visitors and hawk-watch flybys.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was late Oct. 12 in Salisbury (FB), and an Eastern Kingbird was late on Sept. 26 at North Farms Reservoir in Wallingford (MM). The only **Western Kingbird** was present Oct. 24-26 in Bridgeport (TM et al.). A Northern Shrike was found on Nov. 24 at Haddam Meadow State Park in Haddam and remained deep into winter (HS, m.ob.). A Red-eyed Vireo was late on Nov. 14 at HBSP (GN). A Horned Lark was an early arrival Oct. 1 at Sandy Point if it was a migrant, but the location is also a potential breeding spot (JOs). Twelve Red-breasted Nuthatches on Sept. 14 at Maltby Lakes in Woodbridge, during a modest migratory flight, suggested breeding in suitable habitat there (CL). Light-house Point's best count of migrating Eastern Bluebirds for the season was 365 on Nov. 7 (DCa). A Swainson's Thrush was late Nov. 22 at Sherwood Island (SBI, FMA et al.). A major flight on Oct. 19 at Bluff Point included c. 200 Hermit Thrushes (GW et al.). A sizable flock of c. 200 American Pipits was at Rocky Hill Meadows on Oct. 4 (PCo).

A Louisiana Waterthrush, an early-departing breeder seldom seen on southbound migration, was a nice surprise Aug. 17 on Willards I. at HBSP (GH). **Golden-winged Warblers**, now a legitimately rare migrant, were found in Lyme on Aug. 16 (HG), in Guilford on Aug. 24 (TT) and in Mystic on Aug. 26 (TS). Late Black-and-white Warblers were at HBSP on Nov. 10 (CI) and at Avery Pond in Preston on Nov. 28 (TC). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was in Guilford on Aug 23 (MP). The first Mourning Warbler report came from Watertown on Aug. 21 (GH). The last Common Yellowthroat report came from HBSP on Nov. 16 (GN). A tardy Yellow Warbler dropped in at Sandy Point in West Haven on Nov. 9 (NB). Amid a 4,000-bird flight on Oct. 19 at Bluff Point, observers logged 1200 Yellow-rumped Warblers and a total of six warbler species (GW et al.). A Wilson's Warbler was southbound on Aug. 7 in Barkhamsted (PDe). A Yellow-breasted Chat, always unpredictable, turned up at the Race Brook Tract in Orange on Sept. 1 (CL), the first of eight seen throughout



Mark Szantyr photo

This immature Red-headed Woodpecker, seen here on Nov. 16, 2014, was an exciting find at the Perko feeder in Colchester.

an unusually good season for this secretive species.

An American Tree Sparrow was early Oct. 18 at Bauer Park in Madison (ABl). The season's first of five **Clay-colored Sparrows** was at Glastonbury Meadows on Oct. 4 (ADa). **Lark Sparrows** were nice finds Nov. 5- 10 at HBSP (CI et al.) and Nov. 16-23 at Ocean Beach in New London (RS et al.). A Grasshopper Sparrow was a surprise on Oct. 26 in a Waterbury sand pit (JM). A Fox Sparrow was a bit early Oct. 20 at Quaker Ridge (RMc), and a Barkhamsted yard hosted an incredible 19 on Nov. 15 (FZ). A Lincoln's Sparrow, the earliest-arriving

of the migrant sparrow species, first appeared Sept. 12 in Putnam (MR). Two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were late visitors to a Woodbury feeder on Nov. 19 (DTh). **Blue Grosbeaks** were at Wethersfield Meadows on Aug. 17 (TT); at Woodbridge Community Garden on Sept. 22 (RS); at Silver Sands State Park in Milford on Sept. 29 (RS); and at Bauer Park in Madison on Oct. 15-16 (TM et al.). A long-staying adult male **Painted Bunting** was found Oct. 27 at Cove Island Sanctuary in Stamford (PDu). The season's first **Dickcissel**, a flyover Aug. 20 in Westport (TG), was among c 20 for the season..



Frank Mantlik photo

A major flight of Pine Siskins found large numbers passing through the state in October and some visiting feeders into the winter season.

A Yellow-headed Blackbird found on Nov. 6 at Lyman Orchard in Middlefield (NB, m.ob.) was joined by at least one other in a large mixed blackbird flock present through Nov. 11. Another was reported on Nov. 8 at Silver Sands (JOs). Baltimore Orioles were November feeder visitors in Essex (LW) and Sterling (RD). A major finch flight produced a series of impressive counts at hawk watches: Oct. 26 at Lighthouse Point - Pine Siskin 1500, Purple Finch 1600, unidentified finch 1200, House Finch 370 (SM); also for Pine

Siskin at Lighthouse - 1500 on Oct.19 (FG) and 1100 on Oct. 20 (GH); for Purple Finch - 1300 on Oct. 19 (FG). Two Common Redpolls at an East Haddam feeder on Nov. 13 were the only ones reported (RMi). Three Red Crossbills on Nov. 21 at HBSP were the only crossbills reported (AG). A smattering of Evening Grosbeaks consisted of 10 on Nov. 3 in Watertown (RN), three on Nov. 7 at Windsor Locks (PDe), two at HBSP on Nov. 24 (PCo) and seven at Lighthouse Park on Nov. 28 (DCa).

Observers – Mark Aronson, Bill Asteriades, Bill Banks, Charles Barnard, William Batsford, Fred Baumgarten, Eileen Becker-Dunn, Scott Besade (SBe), Steve Bird (SBi), Andrew Block (ABl), Nick Bonomo, Alex Burdo ABu), Dana Campbell (DCa), Donna Caporaso (DCp), Jay Carlisle (JCr), Jim Carr (JCa), Paul Carrier (PCa), Paul Cianfaglione (PCi), Jerry Connolly (JCo), Tom Cordock, Dan Cimbaro (DCi), Christina Clayton, Patrick Comins (PCo), Michael Curtis, Mark Danforth (MDa), Andrew Dasinger (ADa), Paul Desjardins (PDe), Angela Dimmitt (ADi), Robert Dixon, Mike Doyle (MDo), Turk Duddy, Patrick Dugan (PDU), Chris Elphick, Jennifer Flaherty, Larry Flynn, Frank Gallo, Hank Golet, Sean Grace, Pete Grannis, Tina Green, Andy Griswold, Tony Hager, A.J. Hand, Greg Hanisek, Chris Harrison, Julian Hough, Chuck

Imbergamo, Sue Joffray, Scott Kruitbosch, Justine Lee, Adrian Lewis, Chris Loscalzo, Ryan MacLean (RMc), Charles Makarewich, Frank Mantlik (FMa), Steve Mayo, Jamie Meyers, Rob Mirer (RMi), Fulvio Montanari (FMo), Marty Moore, Keith Mueller, Tom Murray, Russ Naylor, Gina Nichol, Erin O'Connell, John Ogren (JOg), John Oshlick (JOs), Annie Perko, Maggie Peretto, John Pfeiffer (JPf), Barbara Pokorny, Noble Proctor, James Purcell (JPu), Luis Ramos, Brian Roach, Dan Rottino (DRt), Mike Resch, Dave Rosgen (DRo), Phil Rusch, Sol Satin (SSa), Tommy Self, Russ Smiley, Steve Specter (SSp), Howie Sternberg, Jack Swatt, Mark Szantyr, Tim Thompson, Darcy Thurrott (DTh), Dave Tripp (DTr), Mike Warner, John Weeks, Lisa White, Glenn Williams, Paul Wolter, Sara Zagorski, Jim Zipp, Fran Zygmunt.

2014 FALL HAWK WATCH

By Steve Mayo

Connecticut hawk watchers report to HawkCount, a robust database maintained by the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Johnnycake (Burlington) was the sole contributor for the spring, 2014 season, tallying an impressive 30 coverage hours. Triple-digit counts occurred April 25 and 28 on light northerly winds. The spring total was 555 raptors, predominately Broad-winged hawks.

There is no official start of the fall hawk watch season, although observers eagerly await a frontal passage as early as mid August. As with the previous early fall season, the second half of August 2014 remained hot and hazy. Lighthouse (New Haven) and Boothe Memorial (Stratford) logged only 28 and 3 coverage hours, respectively. Quaker Ridge (Greenwich) observers put in an impressive 106 hours of coverage, counting on average, just over a hawk an hour.

The first week of September brought sightings of small numbers of hawks, but inland watches were poised to look for the huge numbers of migrating Broad-winged Hawks. "Broad-wings" are complete migrants. At this time of year, the eastern North America population leaves the continent in great numbers and moves south to Central America and central South America. By Sept. 12, a front was draped across the eastern US and was moving off the coast. The next day, Booth Hill (West Hartland) had 1,451 Broadwings. On Sept. 14, with high pressure centered over New York, Chestnut Hill (Litchfield) had a Connecticut season high of 3,265. Winds were steady from the northwest, and there was enough cloud cover to make counting bearable. Just to the north at Middle School (Torrington) over a thousand were tallied on light north and northeast winds. Sept. 15 was another excellent day, with light northwest winds over Connecticut. Botsford Hill (Bridgewater), Chestnut Hill, Johnnycake and Quaker Ridge all reported four-figure totals. White Memorial (Litchfield) surpassed a thousand on the

next day. Immediately after another weak frontal passage on the 18th, Quaker Ridge had its best Broad-wing day. Cumulus clouds and hawks built up from late morning on, and by day's end 2,260 Broad-wings had passed. Chestnut Hill had over a thousand on September 19, on northeasterly winds. The next day, strong southerly winds stopped the flight, at least among the inland sites. By the morning of the 21st, a large low pressure area was centered over the Great Lakes. It passed through the next day, setting up Quaker Ridge with light northwest winds and 1,378 Broadwings on Sept. 23. Most of the inland sites had closed down by then, but Chestnut Hill managed almost 400 Broad-wings on Sept. 24.

Back down toward the coast, Waveny (New Canaan) missed any substantial Broad-wing flights. Lighthouse also reported no real Broad-wing flight, with one exception. On the late date of Oct. 2, observers noted 256 passing on a cloudy and sometimes rainy, afternoon. Of course, Broad-winged Hawks weren't the only raptors moving throughout September. Both inland and coastal sites reported excellent numbers of Bald Eagles, which helped contribute to many record or near-record season totals for this species. Quaker Ridge's September totals for all other hawk species were generally consistent with previous 5-year averages. Lighthouse on the other hand, showed a dramatic crash in Sharp-shinned Hawks. The September 2014 total of 885 was the lowest in its long history of full-season coverage.

The first half of October brought warm southerly breezes, not cool northerly winds; warm fronts, not cold fronts. Quaker Ridge and Lighthouse had a good hawk flight on Oct. 10, after some moderate west winds the previous day. Connecticut coastal watchers waited in vain for a strong, frontal passage to occur. A good cold front around the Columbus Day timeframe can bring many hundreds of Accipiters. Unfortunately this never occurred. Finally, during the early morning hours of Oct. 19, a cold front passed off coastal Connecticut. Dozens of hawk watchers "got the memo" and headed to Lighthouse. The park was literally full of cars as a result of one of the ubiquitous Autumn Sunday walkathons.

But the park was also full of hawks (13 species), swirling on strong northwest winds. The final total of 1,159 included 25 Bald Eagles, 514 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 237 Cooper's Hawks, 135 American Kestrels and 56 Merlin. Quaker Ridge had 255 hawks (with another 282 on light and variable winds, Oct. 20). Boothe Memorial (Stratford) logged 663 hawks on the 19th, including 286 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 256 Turkey Vultures. After that, days with northerly winds became more frequent. For the rest of October, Quaker Ridge and Lighthouse continued to enjoy many daily totals in the 100-300 range.

Boothe Memorial and Chestnut Hill provided a few November coverage hours. But it was at Quaker Ridge where suffering in those cold winds really paid off. On Nov. 3, winds were light from the west and northwest, and the sky was virtually cloudless. The 501 raptors counted that day included 301 Turkey Vultures, 116 Red-shouldered Hawks, and 5 Golden Eagles! The daily buteo push at Quaker Ridge continued through Nov. 19. High November totals helped establish Quaker Ridge season records for Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawk. The season Red-shouldered Hawk total of 1,046 was more than double that of any previous season. Lighthouse didn't share in the November buteo bonanza, but a slight up-tick in Sharp-shinned numbers helped save the season for this declining Accipiter. Observers lingered at Lighthouse, logging 12 hours of bitterly cold and windy coverage. There was one last late season push. On Dec, 7, the total of 115 hawks included an impressive 54 Red-tailed Hawks.

Additional data including daily, monthly and seasonal summary reports, may be obtained from the Hawk Migration of North America website, hawkcount.org. Summaries for Connecticut and the rest of New England, can also be obtained from The Northeast Hawkwatch, <http://www.battaly.com/nehw/>.

Volunteers who counted at our Connecticut sites in 2014 included: Mark Aronson, Renee Baade, David Babington, Bill Banks, Charlie Barnard, Dan Barvir, Steve Beal, Raymond Belding, Gail Benson, Nick Bonomo, Zachary Brown, Tom Burke, Todd Cameron, Dana Campbell, Paul Carrier, Carolyn Cimino, Al Colins, Patrick Commins, Jim Cortina, Annette Cunniffe, Kathy Davies, Rita Dempsey, Ayreslea Denny, Paul Desjardins, Randy Domina, Brian Donovan, Rich Donovan, Cindy Ehrlinger, Chris Finlay, James Fischer, Bobbie Fisher, Anne Fiske, David Fiske, Woody Fitzgerald, Steve Foisey, Barry Freed, Rita Freed, Frank Gallo, Ted Gilman, Nancy Glynn, Tina Green, Carol Griffiths, Frank Guida, Pete Gustas, Tony Hager, Nicki Hall, Greg Hanisek, John Hannan, Dennis Hannon, Roy Harvey, Julian Hough, Brenda Inskeep, Lynn James, Elsbeth Johnson, Lynn Jones, Anne Kehmna, Sulmaan Khan, Scott Kruitbosch, Jim MacLean, Ryan MacLean, Matt Male, Frank Mantlik, John Marshall, Jeff Martin, Shaun Martin, Stefan Martin, Steve Mayo, Robin McAllister, Ken Merrifield, Nancy Meyer-Lustman, Ken Mirman, Don Morgan, Judy Moore, Marty Moore, Tom Murray, Steve Oresman, Brian O'Toole, Ron Pelletier, Janet Petricone, Todd Peterson, Matt Popp, Donna Potwin, Tim Reed, Anne Ribolow, Phil Ribolow, Rick Roach, Paul Roberts, Ed Sadowsky, David Salmon, Meredith Sampson, Sol Satin, Penny Slocum, Scott Slora, Dori Sosensky, Howie Sternberg, Maria Stockmal, Tony Tortora, Lisa Wahle, Bill Wallace, Steve Walter, Mike Warner, Fitz Waterman, Al Welby, Paul Wolter, Sarah Zagorski, David Zawisha, Joe Zeranski, Jim Zipp, Fran Zygmunt.

Connecticut - All Lookouts - Fall 2014

Lookout	Town	Hours	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW
INLAND GROUP												
Booth Hill	West Hartland	9	0	4	2	3	0	6	0	1	0	1659
Botsford Hill	Bridgewater	68	0	0	28	21	7	74	12	0	0	3993
Chestnut Hill	Litchfield	68	0	0	34	12	7	49	9	2	0	7712
Johannycake Mt.	Burlington	59	24	67	59	50	10	81	8	0	1	3239
MiddleSchool	Torrington	54	4	0	4	7	0	13	10	0	2	2185
White Memorial	Litchfield	23	0	34	8	12	0	7	21	1	23	1253
INLAND TOTAL		281	28	105	135	105	24	230	60	4	26	20041

Connecticut - All Lookouts - Fall 2014

Lookout	Town	Hours	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	uR	TOTAL
INLAND GROUP										
Booth Hill	W. Hartland	11				2	2	1		3562
Botsford Hill	Bridgewater	79				16	4		18	11338
Chestnut Hill	Litchfield	60	13			4			14	5711
Johnnycake Mt.	Burlington	49			1	19	4	2		4086
MiddleSchool	Torrington	72				7	3	1	14	9072
White Memorial	Litchfield	52	10			6	37	5	12	3917
INLAND TOTAL		323	23	0	1	54	50	9	58	37686

BV-Black Vulture	SS-Sharp-shinned Hawk	BW-Broad-winged Hawk	AK-American Kestrel
TV-Turkey Vulture	CH-Cooper's Hawk	RT-Red-tailed Hawk	ML-Merlin
OS-Osprey	NG-Northern Goshawk	RL-Rough-legged Hawk	PG-Peregrine Falcon
BE-Bald Eagle	RS-Red-shouldered Hawk	GE-Golden Eagle	uR-Unidentified Raptor
NH-Northern Harrier			

Connecticut - All Lookouts - Fall 2014

Lookout	Town	Hours	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW
COASTAL GROUP												
Boothe Memorial	Stratford	130	19	200	173	92	16	334	70		22	2339
Lighthouse Point	New Haven	680	39	416	715	173	262	3077	843	6	209	2676
Quaker Ridge	Greenwich	761	15	928	470	177	165	2147	424	6	425	16188
Waveny Park	New Canaan	35			9	4	1	20	4			1038
COASTAL TOTAL		1606	73	1544	1367	446	444	5578	1341	12	656	22241

Connecticut - All Lookouts - Fall 2014

COASTAL GROUP	Town	Hours	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	uR	TOTAL
Lookout										
Boothe Memorial	Stratford	130	55			41	14	14	37	3426
Lighthouse Point	New Haven	682	486	3	10	906	393	147	459	10840
Quaker Ridge	Greenwich	761	223		10	484	83	33	171	21949
Waveny Park	New Canaan	35	10			10	1	2	15	1114
COASTAL TO-TAL		1608	774	3	20	1441	491	196	682	37329

BV-Black Vulture	SS-Sharp-shinned Hawk	BW-Broad-winged Hawk	AK-American Kestrel
TV-Turkey Vulture	CH-Cooper's Hawk	RT-Red-tailed Hawk	ML-Merlin
OS-Osprey	NG-Northern Goshawk	RL-Rough-legged Hawk	PG-Peregrine Falcon
BE-Bald Eagle	RS-Red-shouldered Hawk	GE-Golden Eagle	uR-Unidentified Raptor
NH-Northern Harrier			

Broadwing Flight - Connecticut - Fall 2014

	August	Sept thru 13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20-23	24-30	Oct	Nov	Total
Lookout													
INLAND GROUP													
Booth Hill			479				3047						3526
Botsford Hill		122	769	1413	3924	1779	2341	795	21	3			11167
Chestnut Hill		48	172	1322		1844	1267	893	57				5603
Johnnycake Mt.		96	279	1770	1129		197	132	292				3895
Middle School		98	270	1050	4451	623	5	2454	35	1			8987
White Memorial		7		573	2559	88	118	331	28				3704
COASTAL GROUP													
Boothe Memorial		23	1532	154	402	3	2		95	110	18		2339
Lighthouse Point		39	513	35	6	295	1	1	1648	44	93	1	2676
Quaker Ridge	23	523	2812	1910	5485	4689	3	41	250	440	12		16188
Waveny Park		2	15	88		933							1038
Total	23	958	6841	8315	17956	10254	6981	4647	2426	598	123	1	

Lighthouse Point, New Haven - Fall 2014

Hours	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PF	uR	Total
14			3		2	1								2				8
220	4	45	574	76	106	1412	213	2	13	2582	23	0	2	447	138	47	132	5815
257	30	170	136	64	120	1463	536	2	40	93	104	1	1	444	204	82	155	3645
168	5	201	2	33	53	201	87	2	155	1	342	2	7	13	49	16	143	1372
2																		2
661	39	416	715	173	282	3077	843	6	209	2676	486	3	10	906	393	147	430	10840

Quaker Ridge, Greenwich - Fall 2014

Hours	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PF	uR	Total
100			19	11	7		1			23				2			1	65
274		2	378	115	88	1323	159	1	10	16153	9		1	318	46	10	87	18700
249	8	548	73	38	56	734	225	1	181	12	64		5	158	35	20	48	2186
138	7	378		13	14	90	39	4	254		150		4	6	2	2	35	998
761	15	928	470	177	165	2147	424	6	445	16188	223	0	10	484	83	32	171	21949

PHOTO CHALLENGE



Walking across a field of unmowed but fairly short grass, you encounter a streaky bird feeding on the ground. Nearby are Horned Larks, not unexpected in this habitat in January, but the unfamiliar bird is by itself. Sparrows come to mind, as does Lapland Longspur, which often associates with Horned Larks, but this bird is a bit too large for either. Also, its fairly long, pointed bill doesn't resemble the seed-cracking bills of sparrows and longspurs. Since the bird is quite dark overall, you turn your attention to blackbirds. The shape seems right, although this bird seems to have more yellowish color around the head and face than any species other than Yellow-headed Blackbird. Unfortunately, the overall streaky look and placement of bright color doesn't fit that species. Eventually you turn to Red-winged Blackbird, whose females fit the overall look of this bird. When you learned that female Red-wingeds can show varying amounts of orange and yellow tones on the head and face, you decide you've finally got it. This female Red-winged Blackbird was photographed by Bill Banks in January 2015 at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison.



Photo Challenge No. 89

THE CONNECTICUT WARBLER

Editor

Greg Hanisek - 175 Circuit Ave., Waterbury, CT 06708
(203) 754-4401 email: ghanisek@rep-am.com

Departments

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The Connecticut Warbler (ISSN 1077-0283) is devoted to the study of birds and their conservation in Connecticut and is published quarterly (January, April, July, and October) by the Connecticut Ornithological Association.

Send manuscripts to the Editor. Please type double spaced with ample margins, on one side of a sheet. Submit a copy on a computer disk, if possible. Style should follow usage in recent issues. All manuscripts receive peer review.

Illustrations and photographs are needed and welcome. Line art of Connecticut and regional birds should be submitted as good quality prints or in original form. All submitted materials will be returned. We can use good quality photographs of birds unaccompanied by an article but with caption including species, date, locality, and other pertinent information.

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Connecticut Ornithological Association
314 Unquowa Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
www.ctbirding.org

Printed at Yale University

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Volume 35, No 2, 2015

Mabel Osgood Wright Award	33
Twentieth Report of the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut	
<i>Jay Kaplan and Greg Hanisek</i>	37
The Acceptance of Trumpeter Swan Onto the Connecticut State List	
<i>Frank Gallo</i>	47
Notes On Behavior, Status and Distribution	55
Connecticut Field Notes	
<i>Greg Hanisek</i>	58
2014 Fall Hawk Watch	
<i>Steve Mayo</i>	70
Photo Challenge	80