



# Connecticut Ornithological Association

## **41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting - March 8, 2025 -**

**CT State Community College, Middlesex  
Middletown, Connecticut**

Founded in 1984, the Connecticut Ornithological Association is an all-volunteer organization with the mission of promoting interest in Connecticut birds as well as the collection, promotion, and dissemination of the best available scientific information on the status of Connecticut birds and their habitats. Welcome!

[www.ctbirding.org](http://www.ctbirding.org)

# Schedule

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8:00am - Registration

8:45am - Welcome and COA Business Meeting

Election of new Board Members and Officers

- Michael Audette - Cynthia Ehlinger, President
- Stefan Martin - Allison Black, Vice-President
- Lisa Monachelli - Corey Leamy, Secretary
- David Tripp, Jr. - Paul Wolter, Treasurer

Presentation of COA Awards

- Betty Kleiner Award
- Mabel Osgood Wright Award
- President's Award
- COA Mini-Grants
- George Zepko Audubon Camp Scholarship

9:30am - Chris Elphick, *CT Bird Atlas Results and Updates*

10:25am - Premier Sponsor Presentation, Zeiss

Richard Moncrief, *Ideas to Get Young Kids into Birding*

10:40am - Break

11:30am - Peter Alden, *AOS Possible Renaming of 150+ Common Names of US and Canadian Bird Species*

12:25pm - Lunch in Founders Hall

1:45pm - **Raffle & Silent Auction Closes**

1:45pm - Keynote Address by Lillian Stokes & Matthew Young,  
*Finches of the United State and Canada*

2:50pm - Raffle & Auction Winner Announcements  
Closing Comments

Thank you for attending our 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting. We would love it if you would take a few minutes to fill out a brief survey about the event. Simply scan the QR code to the right with the camera on your phone or visit the Annual Meeting page on the COA website. Happy Birding!



## Welcome from the President

Once again we are happy to be bringing Connecticut birders together live and in person to celebrate birds, birders, and birding and we hope you all enjoy our program. As I exit the COA presidency, I need to thank the Board members, past and present, that have helped make this experience rewarding and, I hope, productive. And I am especially pleased to be leaving the leadership of our organization in the capable hands of Cynthia Ehlinger, Allison Black, Corey Leamy, Paul Wolter, Adam Fasciolo, and the rest of our Board of Directors, all of whom have demonstrated a commitment to our mission. And thanks to all our members for supporting our efforts to promote birding and ornithological knowledge in Connecticut.



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A sincere thank you to the CT State Community College, Middlesex for hosting us and to Perk on Main for our delicious breakfast treats and luncheon.

Thank you also to the COA community for donating to our raffle:

Tom Baptist - Steve Broker - Sharon Dehlinger - Cynthia Ehlinger - Tina Green  
Greg Hanisek - Kimberly Jannarone - Frank Mantlik - Lisa Monachelli  
Gina Nichol - Brian O'Toole - Paul Plotnik - Ellyne Rey - Terry Shaw  
Paul Wolter - Chris Wood

The Audubon Shop - Bird Hag - Bruce Museum - Camp Mustelid  
Cornell Lab - The Little Nuthatch - Menunkatuck Audubon - Milford Photo  
Ocean State Job Lot - Stamford Museum & Nature Center - Vortex Optics  
Wild Birds Unlimited (Brookfield) - Wild Birds Unlimited (Fairfield)  
Wild Birds Unlimited (Niantic) - Wild Birds Unlimited (Old Saybrook)  
Zeiss Optics

And finally, a sincere thank you to our 2024 COA Board Members and Annual Meeting Committee Members for all their help behind the scenes to make this another great event for the Connecticut birding community:

Joe Attwater - Allison Black - Gilles Carter - Sharon Dellinger - Cynthia Ehlinger  
Adam Fasciolo - Jo Fasciolo - Rick Gedney - Tina Green - Peter Grund  
Jim Hunter - Kimberly Jannarone - Aidan Kiley - Micky Komara - Corey Leamy  
Ryan MacLean - Lisa Monachelli - Brian O'Toole - Bill Rankin - Dan Rottino

# Premier Sponsor



Seeing beyond

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## Lead Sponsors



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## Community Sponsors



Hartford  
Audubon  
Society



with special thanks to COA member Angela Dimmitt

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## Supporting Vendors



with Rob Braunfield (Original Historic Bird Art)

# Thank you!

We encourage you to check out our generous sponsors and vendors.  
Links available at [ctbirding.org/events/annualmeeting](http://ctbirding.org/events/annualmeeting)



## Speakers

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**Chris Elphick** is a professor of conservation biology in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut. His research centers around describing, understanding, and mitigating biodiversity loss. He has been studying birds in Connecticut since 2002, and his lab group has conducted research on birds in tidal marsh, forest fragments, farmland, and montane shrublands. His research has been published

in scientific journals such as *Conservation Biology*, *Ornithological Applications* (formerly *Condor*), *Ornithology* (formerly *Auk*), *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science of the USA*, and *Science*. He is also one of the lead investigators for the Connecticut Bird Atlas.

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**Peter Alden** is a world renowned naturalist, lecturer, ecotourism guide and author from Concord, Massachusetts. Included among his many books on North American and African wildlife are the *National Audubon Society's Regional Field Guide Series*. He is considered to be an authority on birds and larger mammals of the world and is often consulted by the media and the ecotourism industry for his expertise. He has pioneered

biodiversity days and bioblitzes in his home state and led wildlife tours to more than 100 countries around the world. His insights on the renaming of bird species is sure to enlighten and entertain.

*The Stokes Guide to  
Finches of the United States and Canada*  
by Lillian Stokes and Matthew Yong



**Lillian Stokes** is an award-winning author and photographer who produced 35 Stokes Guides with her husband Don, including the bestselling *Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, the *Stokes Field Guide to Birds: Eastern and Western Regions*, and more. Lillian was producer & cohost of two national PBS birdwatching TV series seen by 40 million viewers. Other achievements and activities include; Federal Duck Stamp Judge, Partners in Flight National Conservation Award, and Lifetime Achievement Award Kappa Kappa Gamma, Board of Directors of the Hawk Migration Association of North America, Nuttall Ornithological Club, former Board member NH Audubon.

**Matthew Young** is the Founder and Board President of the Finch Research Network. Matthew has also worked in the field of social work with special needs populations at the William George Agency for 12 years. Additionally, Matthew worked at the Cornell Lab across 15 years where he worked on Golden-winged Warblers, Voices of Hawaii's Birds, Merlin Bird ID, and was Project Lead on the Lab's first Irruptive Finch Survey in 1999. Widely known as a preeminent authority on finches of North America, Matthew has written finch species accounts for breeding bird atlases, Birds of the World accounts, and published several papers on finches and the Red Crossbill vocal complex.

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# Awards

Betty Kleiner Award:

Author or Artist in the Field of Ornithology

- Steve Mayo for his CT Warbler article “2023 Fall Hawk Watch”

Mabel Osgood Wright Award:

Contribution to the Knowledge, Study, and Conservation of Birds

- Steve Broker for his years of dedicated service to COA, NHBC, and other organizations as well as his committed research on Connecticut birds.

President’s Award:

Service to COA

- Chuck Imbergamo for his stewardship of the CTBirds Listserv
- Angela Dimmitt for her years of dedicated service to COA, the Western CT Bird Club, the Litchfield Hills Audubon Society, and other conservation-minded organizations.

George Zepko Audubon Camp Scholarship Award:

Birding Camp Week in Maine for Teens

- Mila Bella and Hudson Zentz

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# 2025 Mini-Grants Recipients



- A Place Called Hope
- Avalonia Land Conservancy
- Birding for Pleasure
- Connecticut Audubon Society
- The Friends of Kycia Farm
- Friends of Sherwood Island
- Guilford Salt Meadow
- Horizon Wings
- Meriden Conservation Commission
- Roaring Brook Nature Center

Photo courtesy of 2024 Mini-Grant Recipient, Essex Land Trust

# Thank You for Supporting COA!

Your Support Makes Possible:

- Workshops for birders of all levels
- Mini-Grant funding for bird-friendly projects across the state
- The COA website, [ctbirding.org](http://ctbirding.org)
- *The Connecticut Warbler*, ornithological journal
- CTBirds Listserv, an email list for bird discussions
- COA Bulletin, quarterly email newsletter
- Conservation collaboration efforts on behalf of birds, birders, and birding in Connecticut

If you are not currently a member, we encourage you to join today to enjoy all of the benefits including the quarterly COA Bulletin, early access to event tickets, access to our entire Workshop video library, and more!

## Available at the COA Marketplace Table

- The COA cap featuring our logo designed by Julian Hough
  - 100% cotton twill with leather strap
- *Connecticut Birds: Distribution and Status by Season* by Frank Gallo
- Birds of Connecticut Checklist

## Final Notes

Be sure to get your raffle tickets, explore the exhibit hall, and support our local vendors. The raffle and silent auction will close at **1:45pm** and winners will be announced during Closing Remarks. *You must be present to win.*