

THE CONNECTICUT WARBLER

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ON THE COVER

The bird of the season - and the year - was Connecticut's long-awaited first California Gull, found in April at Hammonasset Beach State Park by Stefan Martin and illustrated here by Mark Szantyr.

THE 2016 SUMMER BIRD COUNT

By Joe Zeranski and Patrick Comins

Introduction

The Summer Bird Count (SBC) marks the 25th year in 2016. This is our most intensive inventory of breeding birds in Connecticut and as such provides valuable insight to the status of our breeding birds. This analysis would not be possible without the efforts of the volunteer observers, compilers and captains. Thank you for your efforts and dedication. State listed species are marked as (E) for endangered, (T) for threatened and (SC) for special concern. Details on any potential breeding state-listed species should be reported to the state's Natural Diversity Database in addition to being recorded for the count.

Results

This year 182 count-day species were recorded. This is average (100%) and five more than the last year's count and two less than the previous two years. No additional count period species were observed. Greenwich/Stamford had the most species with 134 and Hartford the fewest with 111. Barkhamsted set a new 10-year high with 131 species. There were 264 observers, in 170 parties. The number of observers was down by 13 compared with last year, but still the second highest number of participants. Volunteers tallied 1407.5 party hours, with 1357 being daylight hours and 50.5 night hours, with Barkhamsted setting a new high for their level of daytime effort, perhaps helping them to break their species high count.

There were 114,567 individual birds recorded, which is a new record high and more than 6,000 above last year's record total. The ten most abundant species were, in descending order: **American Robin, European Starling, Red-winged Blackbird, Gray Catbird, House Sparrow, Common Grackle, Red-eyed Vireo,**

Song Sparrow, Mourning Dove and Canada Goose.

Eight of these are repeats from the last year, with **Mourning Dove** and **Canada Goose** replacing **Chipping Sparrow** (11) and **Cedar Waxwing** (13). The order was quite different though with **American Robin** back in 1st place this year after falling to 10th last year, **European Starling** moving from 8th to 2nd and **Song Sparrow** moving from 1st to 8th.

Eighteen species were represented by a single individual: **Greater Scaup, Black Scoter, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Pied-billed Grebe (E), Least Bittern (T), Northern Goshawk (T), Solitary Sandpiper, Sanderling, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Caspian Tern, Royal Tern, Black Skimmer, Mourning Warbler, Seaside Sparrow (T) and Pine Siskin.**

Non-nesting Species

There were 25 species recorded on the count days that do not regularly breed in Connecticut and can be considered either late migrants or non-nesting visitors:

Brant, Greater Scaup, Black Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Dunlin, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Royal Tern, Black Skimmer, Merlin and Swainson's Thrush.

The underlined species are potential nesters, but in the absence of additional supporting evidence they will be considered non-nesting visitors.

Noteworthy among these: A **Black Scoter** was recorded from New Haven, the first SBC occurrence since 1998. Seven **Short-billed Dowitchers** recorded in New Haven were just the 2nd time they have been found since 2006 and a new 10-year high (eight were recorded in 2000). New Haven also



Mark Szantyr photo

Cedar Waxwing dropped out of the Top Ten most abundant birds in the 2016 Summer Bird Count, but numbers remained high enough to rank it 13th overall.

recorded a **Caspian** and a **Royal Tern**, the 3rd and 2nd records since 2006. Greenwich/Stamford and Barkhamsted both recorded **Merlins**, the 3rd time our “mid-sized” falcon has been found since 2006 and with the two birds representing an all-time high count.

There was a good showing of non-nesting waterfowl overall with **Brant**,

Greater Scaup, **Black Scoter**, **Long-tailed Duck**, **Bufflehead** and

Red-breasted Merganser putting in appearances. Most of these were from Greenwich/Stamford and/or New Haven,



Bruce Finnan photo

Merlin was recorded as a non-breeding species on the 2016 SBC, but recent range extensions mark it as a possibility for subsequent counts.

but with the **Bufflehead** being a great inland bird from Barkhamsted.

Arctic-nesting shorebirds form a considerable portion of this list again this year with **Black-bellied Plover**, **Semipalmated Plover**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Sanderling**, **Dunlin**, **Least Sandpiper**, **White-rumped Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and **Short-billed Dowitcher**. Most of these were from Greenwich/Stamford and/or New Haven, but Woodbury-Roxbury contributed to the shorebird total with the **Solitary Sandpiper**.

Greenwich/Stamford's **Mourning Warbler** certainly represents a late migrant, although this species has been observed nesting in Barkhamsted in the past. **Blackpoll Warbler** was missed for the first time since 1999.

Notable Nesting Species

Gadwall has been missed twice on the last ten counts, but

was recorded this year in both Greenwich/Stamford and New Haven. Barkhamsted and Litchfield Hills were the only two counts to find **Ruffed Grouse**. **Common Loon** (SC) again gets featured in the nesting species section with last year's successful nesting on a lake in northwest Connecticut. The Barkhamsted loons could represent a nesting attempt, but the coastal records certainly represent non-breeders. Barkhamsted also found the count's only **Northern Goshawk** (T).

Litchfield Hills' observers turned up the count's only **Pied-billed Grebe**, (E) a species that has been missed on four of the last ten counts. **Least Bittern** (T) is also easy to miss, but the Hartford count found one this year. New Haven had two **Common Nighthawks** (E) and they were also recorded in Greenwich/Stamford and New Milford/Pawling. It is likely that only the New Haven birds represent nesting attempts and the others may be late migrants. Hartford and Storrs each found three **Sora**, for a new all-time high count of six, doubling the old record from 2003.

Hartford had four **Grasshopper Sparrows** (E), a species that will be more difficult to find now that large-scale construction is underway at Rentschler Field. This year no access was granted to check the interior of the field, but some **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found on the perimeter of the habitat. Much of the area was mowed short this year and there was much construction activity at this former airfield in East Hartford. The old Hartford Landfill offers some hope for the continued presence of **Grasshopper Sparrows** on the SBC after the impending loss of the grasslands at Rentschler.

Saltmarsh Sparrows (SC) were recorded by Greenwich/Stamford and New Haven observers and New Haven observers recorded a **Seaside Sparrow** (T), a great find and only the 5th since 2006. Greenwich/Stamford found a **Pine Siskin**, which is likely a late migrant at this location, though they do nest in the state in some years.

Species Recorded in Above Average Numbers

Several species of waterfowl put in good showings with a

new all-time high count for **Wood Duck** at 671 and well above average numbers of **American Black Duck** (121% of ten year average), **Hooded** (135%) and **Common Mergansers** (143%). The number of waterfowl recorded in a given year can vary widely based on timing of breeding and the detectability of ducklings. **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at a ten-year high with 16, doubling the previous high from 2007 and 2009, but well off the all-time high of 93 in 1998.

Snowy Egrets (T) came in at a ten-year high of 107, but this is well below their all-time high of 261 in 1996. This is good news nonetheless as this species had appeared to be in decline on the count for many years.

Three **Northern Harriers** (E) was a ten-year high, but just shy of the all-time high of five in 2000. **Cooper's Hawk** (58) and **Broad-winged Hawks** (SC) (96) both had all-time highs, beating the old high counts of 49 in 2012 and 80 in 2014. **Bald Eagles** (T) tied last year's all-time high of 52. For comparison, only two were found statewide in 1998. **Virginia Rail** came in at a new all-time high of 53, eclipsing the old record of 51 from 1999. **Willetts** tied the 2014 all-time high of 29. The 14 **Ruddy Turnstones** were a ten-year high count.

Rock Pigeons came in at a new ten-year high with 1,420, but well below the all-time record of 2,453 in 1998. **Mourning Doves** were a new all-time high with this year's 3,114 easily beating out the old record of 2,897 in 2007. **Chimney Swifts** again shattered their all-time high count with 1,747 beating last year's high count of 1,567. **Peregrine Falcon** (T) had an all-time high of ten.

Several forest-nesting birds had all-time highs including: **Red-bellied** and **Pileated Woodpeckers**, **Blue Jay**, **Common Raven**, **Veery**, **Tufted Titmouse**, **Pine Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler** and **Brown-headed Cowbird**, as did three edge species, **Eastern Phoebe**, **Song Sparrow** and **Chipping Sparrow**.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were at a ten-year high (49), but well shy of the all-time high of 157 in 1993. **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** had a new all-time high of 622, eclipsing-



Hank Golet photo

Virginia Rails showed (or more likely sounded off) well on the Summer Bird Count, coming in at an all-time high of 53

ing the old record of 540 in 2004. **Eastern Bluebird** was at a ten-year high (744), but well short of the all-time high of 793 in 1999. **Blue-winged Warblers** were also at a ten year high (326), but at less than half of the all-time high of 716 in 1996. **Eastern Towhee** was at a new ten year high (726), but well below the all-time record of 887 in 1985. **White-throated Sparrows** were at a ten-year high with 22, but didn't quite break the all-time record of 23 in 1995. This is a species that had been much harder to find nesting in the state in recent years. The one recorded by Barkhamsted and the 20 that were recorded by Lithchfield Hills could represent nesters, while the one on the New Haven Count is likely a late migrant. **American Goldfinch** was also at a ten-year high (2,836), but shy of the overall record of 3,030 in 2001.

Species Recorded in Below Average Numbers

Brant is a non-nesting visitor but came in at a ten-year low levels with only four found. **Double-crested Cormorants** came in at a new all-time low with 547, just 69% of their ten-

2016

Connecticut Summer Bird Count Totals

Species known to historically nest within Connecticut are shown in *italics*. The stats under State Totals pertain to the prior 10 SBCs unless double underlined when they pertain to the all-time results. Low numbers are given only for those years when a species was recorded.

Rare - noted on fewer than five years during previous 10 years [outlined box]
New Count Day[CD] species - not recorded on previous 10 years [darkened outlined box] = XX
Higher numbers were tallied than were on any of the previous 10 years [underlined number] = XX
Fewer numbers were tallied than were recorded on any of the previous 10 year [boldfaced number] = XX
Not recorded in [CD] 2016, but recorded on all the previous 10 years [underlined, boldfaced zero] = 0.0
All-time SBC record - surpassing all previous SBC records [double underline] = 0.0

SPECIES	Coastal SBCs			Upland SBCs:					2016 State Totals	% of 2006-15 Average obs.	# yrs obs.	2006-2015						
	GS	NH	CT Valley	Mid-state		Northern						Ave	Low	High				
				WR	NM/P	Ba	LH	St										
Snow Goose																		
Brant	1	3										2	0.3	0	2			
Canada Goose	1035	281	393	236	248	413	286	109	4	3001	10	45	5	235				
Mute Swan	66	10	1	10	29	1	8	125		125	10	212	97	306				
Wood Duck	147	36	143	80	83	36	109	37	671	671	10	432	272	607				
Gadwall	2	2							4	4	8	4.2	0	13				
American Wigeon	41	12		2	2	3	2		62	62	2	0.2	0	1				
American Black Duck	386	128	271	79	111	149	80	59	1263	1263	10	51	22	86				
Mallard											10	1601	1062	2064				

<i>Mallard/Black Duck</i>	1	1					1	0%	1	0.3	0	3
<i>Blue-winged Teal</i>								0%		0.1	0	1
<i>Northern Shoveler</i>								0%	2	0.3	0	2
<i>Green-winged Teal</i>								0%	5	0.7	0	2
<i>Ring-necked Duck</i>								100%	4	1	0	7
<i>Greater Scaup</i>								0%	2	0.2	0	1
<i>Lesser Scaup</i>								0%	1	0.1	0	1
<i>Surf Scoter</i>									2	0	0	0
<i>Black Scoter</i>	1							235%	6	1.7	0	6
<i>Long-tailed Duck</i>	4							111%	5	0.9	0	2
<i>Bufflehead</i>	cp								2	0.3	0	1
<i>Common Goldeneye</i>								0%	2	0.3	0	1
<i>Hooded Merganser</i>	1			1	5	16	6	135%	10	27	7	56
<i>Common Merganser</i>				83		105	6	143%	10	137	86	234
<i>Red-breasted Merganser</i>	1							80%	8	1.25	0	2
<i>Ruddy Duck</i>								0%	6	2	0	6
<i>Northern Bobwhite</i>								0%	7	1.1	0	5
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant</i>	1			1	3	4	3	320%	10	5	1	8
<i>Ruffed Grouse</i>						10	1	128%	10	8.6	1	24
<i>Wild Turkey</i>	63	29		12	56	165	52	90%	10	492	415	582
<i>Red-throated Loon</i>								0%	2	0.2	0	1
<i>Common Loon</i>	3	4				2		188%	10	4.8	1	11
<i>Pied-billed Grebe</i>							1	71%	6	1.4	0	4
<i>Horned Grebe</i>								0%	3	0.4	0	2
<i>Wilson's Storm-petrel</i>								0%	1	0.3	0	3
<i>Double-crested Cormorant</i>	351	155		17	0	3	1	69%	10	793	598	1025
<i>Anhinga</i>								0%	1	0.1	0	1
<i>American Bittern</i>								0%	9	2.7	0	6
<i>Least Bittern</i>				1				56%	9	1.8	0	4

SPECIES	Coastal SBCs				CT	Upland SBCs:				2016 State Totals	% of 2006-15 Average	# yrs	2006-2015			
	Valley		Mid-state			Northern		Ba	LH				St	Ave	Low	High
	GS	NH	WR	NM/P		Hfd	Hfd									
Great Blue Heron	31	22	44	97	46	61	34	31	366	125%	10	292	211	375		
Great Egret	138	33							171	76%	10	226	120	345		
Snowy Egret	101	16							117	147%	10	80	66	102		
Little Blue Heron										0%	6	0.5	0	2		
Cattle Egret										0%	1	0.1	0	1		
Green Heron	24	8	10	6	5	9	2	69	88%	10	79	58	113			
Black-cr Night-Heron	70	9	2					81	38%	10	212	49	449			
Yellow-cr Night-Heron	4	2						6	130%	10	4.6	1	10			
Glossy Ibis										0%	8	3.9	0	8		
Black Vulture	3		4	3	4	7	3	3	27	77%	10	35	17	59		
Turkey Vulture	33	35	44	42	15	98	71	32	370	95%	10	388	292	463		
Osprey	53	57	2		5	4	6	4	131	94%	10	139	90	184		
Mississippi Kite										0%	1	0.1	0	1		
Northern Harrier						2	1		3	600%	5	0.5	0	2		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2		1	2			1	1	7	58%	10	12	8	18		
Cooper's Hawk	7	3	4	3	1	26	9	5	58	150%	10	39	23	49		
Northern Goshawk						1			1	33%	8	3	0	7		
Bald Eagle	7	4	7	1	6	25	1	1	52	175%	10	30	14	52		
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	3	1	1	1	29	21	15	96	109%	10	88	51	135		
Broad-winged Hawk	7		6	21	6	33	19	10	96	158%	10	61	45	80		
Red-tailed Hawk	50	21	30	19	43	47	33	22	265	90%	10	294	217	360		
King Rail										0%	2	0.2	0	1		
Clapper Rail	9	4		33					13	151%	10	8.6	4	17		
Virginia Rail	4		2			1	13		53	221%	10	24	13	32		

	3			3	6	667%	8	0.9	2
<i>Sora</i>						0%	6	1	5
American Coot						106%	10	53	78
American Oystercatcher	48	8			3	100%	7	3	9
Black-bellied Plover	1	2			6	118%	8	5.1	15
Semipalmated Plover	1	5			18	131%	10	14	24
Piping Plover	71	16		23	210	86%	10	246	297
Killdeer	6	6	42	19	6	85%	10	52	66
Spotted Sandpiper	6	6	19	1	3	250%	4	0.4	1
Solitary Sandpiper			1	1	1	176%	7	1.7	5
Greater Yellowlegs	3				3	161%	9	18	29
Willet	21	8			29	0%	4	1.4	4
Upland Sandpiper	11	3			14	400%	8	3.5	11
Ruddy Turnstone						0%	4	3	22
Red Knot						36%	5	2.8	21
Sanderling	1				1	111%	4	1.8	11
Dunlin	2				2	0%	1	0.1	1
Purple Sandpiper						5%	5	21	73
Least Sandpiper			1		1	59%	7	1.7	6
White-rumped Sandpiper	1					0%	2	0.3	2
Pectoral Sandpiper						191%	8	43	215
Semipalmated Sandpiper	16	65			81	2333%	1	0.3	3
Short-billed Dowitcher	7				7	0%	1	0.1	1
Wilson's Snipe						143%	10	16.1	30
American Woodcock			4	2	23	0%	1	0.1	1
Bonaparte's Gull						56%	9	30	111
Laughing Gull	9	8			17	26%	10	334	470
Ring-billed Gull	50	32	2	3	87	65%	10	673	975
Herring Gull	262	174		1	437	0%	2	0.2	1
Glaucous Gull									

SPECIES	Coastal SBCs				CT				Upland SBCs:				2016 State Totals	% of 2006-15 Average	# yrs	2006-2015	
	Valley		Mid-state		Northern		Northern		Ba	LH	St	Ave				Low	High
	GS	NH	Hfd	WR	NM/P	NR	NR	NR									
Great Black-backed Gull	64	41												10	206	107	373
Least Tern		51												10	141	13	334
Gull-billed Tern														1	0.2	0	2
Caspian Tern														2	0.5	0	3
Black Tern														1	0.1	0	1
Common Tern	106	8												10	321	82	547
Forster's Tern	3													8	3.9	0	6
Royal Tern														1	0.2	0	2
Black Skimmer	1													6	5.5	0	26
Rock Pigeon	113	209	140	70	16	122	670	80						10	933	578	1154
Mourning Dove	667	360	466	346	263	442	310	260						10	2472	2072	2897
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	4	29	4	4	5	10	5	23						10	42	11	115
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	4	1	10	3	10	3	10						10	26	10	74
Eastern Screech-Owl	8		1	2	6	3	7	9						10	40	19	59
Great Horned Owl	8			2	3	3	2	2						10	22	10	36
Barred Owl	13	cp	8	10	8	35	20	12						10	96	61	132
Northern Saw-whet Owl														8	1.8	0	4
Nighthawk, Common	1		2		1									10	2.8	1	6
Eastern Whip-poor-will						1	1	1						9	6.9	0	22
Chimney Swift	270	97	87	142	63	567	54	467						10	896	554	1567
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	26	9	9	17	35	76	62	47						10	223	157	335
Belted Kingfisher	10	2	5	12	11	37	5	4						10	92	69	118
Red-bellied Woodpecker	261	99	99	99	91	109	61	81						10	703	506	869
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4	cp	19	43		384	90	2						10	520	337	649

Downy Woodpecker	225	64	81	96	251	86	72	939	112%	10	837	667	1095
Hairy Woodpecker	63	19	21	35	81	23	14	282	102%	10	278	235	356
Northern Flicker	181	46	34	45	68	43	42	542	106%	10	511	436	613
Pileated Woodpecker	27	4	30	32	69	42	28	242	152%	10	159	103	230
American Kestrel			9		3	4	3	19	148%	10	13	6	21
Merlin	1				1			2	1000%	2	0.2	0	1
Peregrine Falcon	3	2			5			10	137%	10	7.3	5	9
Monk Parakeet	19	3						22	33%	10	67	20	172
Olive-sided Flycatcher									0%	6	1	0	3
Eastern Wood-Peevee	133	57	83	80	134	117	80	779	112%	10	698	592	891
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher									0%	4	0.3	0	1
Acadian Flycatcher	2	1	11	8		4	3	24	92%	10	26	16	35
Alder Flycatcher	46	59	3	2	31	50	3	93	95%	10	98	62	139
Willow Flycatcher			22	46	30	46	12	302	109%	10	278	224	366
Least Flycatcher	1		8	14	58	40	28	149	109%	10	137	75	188
Eastern Phoebe	66	26	30	118	317	192	98	974	124%	10	788	548	939
Great Crested Flycatcher	93	62	36	50	53	60	77	487	102%	10	479	389	591
Eastern Kingbird	69	34	23	43	288	75	51	654	120%	10	545	456	664
White-eyed Vireo			1	1		1		4	45%	10	9	2	18
Yellow-throated Vireo	38	4	12	56	71		46	257	100%	10	257	206	362
Blue-headed Vireo			7	3	59	31	2	102	64%	10	159	102	227
Warbling Vireo	238	122	165	140	123	84	139	1115	127%	10	880	682	1175
Red-eyed Vireo	306	121	98	231	1406	731	229	3407	114%	10	2999	2490	3526
Blue Jay	395	191	173	180	679	164	129	2078	137%	10	1516	1227	1757
American Crow	260	99	118	324	743	418	183	2394	104%	10	2310	1960	2623
Fish Crow	73	51	6	16	22	6	9	197	170%	10	116	62	148
Common Raven	16	2	3	8	15	107	6	170	175%	10	97	50	116
Horned Lark									0%	1	0.2	0	2
Northern Rough-w Swallow	109	28	39	61	207	19	86	622	145%	10	429	349	504

SPECIES	Coastal SBCs			CT			Upland SBCs:						2016 State Totals	% of 2006-15 Average	# yrs	2006-2015			
	GS	NH	Hfd	Valley		WR	Mid-state		Northern		Ba	LH				St	Ave	Low	High
				NM/P	NM/P		NM/P	NM/P	NM/P	NM/P									
Purple Martin	21	2	2	2	2	12							39	81%	10	48	14	87	
Tree Swallow	139	126	126	139	204	648	321	204					1907	104%	10	1827	1245	2325	
Bank Swallow	4	19	16	13		62	27	27					141	60%	10	236	148	407	
Barn Swallow	335	291	94	236	168	547	281	264					2216	121%	10	1831	1506	2239	
Cliff Swallow	26	3	6	54	57	44	4						194	71%	10	275	181	365	
Black-capped Chickadee	264	68	93	161	183	890	262	186					2107	112%	10	1876	1570	2254	
Tufted Titmouse	348	130	121	229	197	910	206	219					2360	128%	10	1840	1648	2005	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	1	1	1	6	32	6	2					49	211%	10	23	7	43	
White-breasted Nuthatch	191	44	59	73	121	310	80	79					957	132%	10	726	486	1040	
Brown Creeper	1	2	2	5	1	40	18						67	94%	10	71	52	95	
House Wren	256	97	49	185	184	138	197	114					1220	123%	10	994	723	1288	
Winter Wren		cp		2		14	9						25	48%	10	52	13	93	
Marsh Wren	18	37	16		3		29						103	104%	10	99	46	253	
Carolina Wren	99	36	38	49	43	6	16	21					308	85%	10	362	199	502	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	61	2	12	65	36	138	29	66					409	144%	10	285	193	436	
Golden-crowned Kinglet						1	2						3	50%	10	6	1	16	
Eastern Bluebird	40	13	17	155	134	197	125	63					744	135%	10	551	445	684	
Gray-checked Thrush														0%	1	0.1	0	1	
Veery	143	29	15	209	438	875	557	182					2448	116%	10	2115	1698	2335	
Bicknell's Thrush														0%	1	0.1	0	1	
Swainson's Thrush														0%	7	1.2	0	5	
Hermit Thrush			1	4	7	175	59						246	115%	10	214	167	270	
Wood Thrush	192	78	69	143	225	213	163	92					1175	101%	10	1169	943	1375	
American Robin	2289	1111	1329	569	472	1267	759	572					8368	114%	10	7315	6656	8404	

Gray Catbird	736	<u>82</u>	305	476	<u>525</u>	<u>1062</u>	668	335	4189	103%	10	4061	3538	4762
Brown Thrasher	9	<u>1</u>		7	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	3	4	39	111%	10	35	26	56
Northern Mockingbird	123	82	72	<u>37</u>	<u>54</u>	34	12	26	440	103%	10	429	362	511
European Starling	1126	806	624	446	444	<u>423</u>	648	909	5426	100%	10	5453	4455	6613
Cedar Waxwing	236	122	147	<u>125</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>1620</u>	225	161	2829	131%	10	2163	1234	3115
Ovenbird	67	79	18	206	<u>206</u>	<u>642</u>	615	<u>182</u>	2015	118%	10	1715	1333	2067
Worm-eating Warbler	17	21	3	27	<u>20</u>	10	5	18	121	117%	10	103	75	141
Louisiana Waterthrush	26	<u>8</u>	10	48	<u>37</u>	<u>93</u>	35	26	283	131%	10	215	145	307
Northern Waterthrush	2			5	<u>4</u>	13	25	<u>18</u>	67	131%	10	51	41	77
Blue-winged Warbler	48	40	16	60	19	38	37	<u>68</u>	<u>326</u>	107%	10	306	276	323
"Lawrence's Warbler"			2					2						
"Brewster's Warbler"														
Black-&-White Warbler	13	21	2	46	40	<u>283</u>	164	<u>42</u>	611	114%	10	538	417	624
Tennessee Warbler										0%	1	0.1	0	1
Nashville Warbler										0%	8	0.9	0	2
Mourning Warbler	<u>1</u>								1	111%	6	0.9	0	3
Kentucky Warbler										0%	3	0.4	0	2
Common Yellowthroat	220	<u>88</u>	109	<u>143</u>	208	621	<u>380</u>	<u>149</u>	1918	102%	10	1889	1706	2092
Hooded Warbler	1			28	24		5		58	113%	10	51	34	72
American Redstart	36	12	29	180	<u>140</u>	529	483	85	1494	110%	10	1359	1131	1566
Cerulean Warbler						2	11	9	<u>22</u>	151%	10	15	4	28
Northern Parula				1		1				34%	10	5.9	2	10
Magnolia Warbler				2	<u>1</u>	77	14		94	89%	10	106	75	139
Blackburnian Warbler				11	3	166	<u>35</u>	<u>1</u>	216	104%	10	207	139	274
Yellow Warbler	440	183	216	234	188	254	425	238	2178	108%	10	2016	1791	2297
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<u>14</u>	2	<u>2</u>	64	<u>71</u>	268	220	24	665	109%	10	611	529	666
Blackpoll Warbler									<u>0</u>	0%	10	3.8	1	7
Black-throated Blue Warbler				2	2	<u>186</u>	63		253	115%	10	219	162	298
Pine Warbler	41	27	24	30	10	<u>237</u>	92	51	<u>512</u>	118%	10	435	398	508

SPECIES	Coastal SBCs										Upland SBCs:										2016 State Totals	% of 2006-15 Average	# yrs	2006-2015		
	Valley					Mid-state					Northern					2016 State Totals	2006-15 Average	# yrs	Ave	Low				High		
	GS	NH	Hfd	WR	NM/P	Ba	LH	St	Ave	Low	High	Ave	Low	High												
<i>Yellow-rumped Warbler</i>	23	8	31	3	15	49	14	66	103	80	129	64%	10	103	80	129										
<i>Prairie Warbler</i>			1	23	2	20	19	139	103	80	146	135%	10	103	80	146										
<i>Black-thr Green Warbler</i>			1	31	2	130	117	298	330	272	416	90%	10	330	272	416										
<i>Canada Warbler</i>				1	1	12	12	39	51	39	75	76%	10	51	39	75										
<i>Wilson's Warbler</i>									0.3	0	1	0%	3	0.3	0	1										
<i>Yellow-breasted Chat</i>									0.3	0	2	0%	2	0.3	0	2										
<i>Eastern Towhee</i>	54	38	29	114	99	224	130	726	558	446	677	130%	10	558	446	677										
<i>Chipping Sparrow</i>	360	81	106	259	280	1227	297	2957	2530	2248	2841	117%	10	2530	2248	2841										
<i>Field Sparrow</i>	37	10	16	26	23	13	6	140	116	77	156	121%	10	116	77	156										
<i>Verper Sparrow</i>			57	3	4				0.1	0	1	0%	1	0.1	0	1										
<i>Savannah Sparrow</i>			4						80	55	106	91%	10	80	55	106										
<i>Grasshopper Sparrow</i>									6.2	2	19	65%	10	6.2	2	19										
<i>Nelson's Sparrow</i>									0.3	0	1	0%	3	0.3	0	1										
<i>Saltmarsh Sparrow</i>	3	2							106%	10	11	106%	10	4.7	1	11										
<i>Seaside Sparrow</i>									1	0	3	125%	4	0.8	0	3										
<i>Song Sparrow</i>	506	226	380	367	298	842	384	3213	2901	2684	3133	111%	10	2901	2684	3133										
<i>Swamp Sparrow</i>	4		6	8	30	92	112	266	331	245	463	80%	10	331	245	463										
<i>White-throated Sparrow</i>			1			1	20	22	5.6	1	19	393%	10	5.6	1	19										
<i>Dark-eyed Junco</i>						60		60	116%	10	70	116%	10	51.9	35	70										
<i>Scarlet Tanager</i>	117	45	34	101	76	230	123	787	771	680	888	102%	10	771	680	888										
<i>Northern Cardinal</i>	396	190	194	227	200	581	195	2199	1970	1649	2247	112%	10	1970	1649	2247										
<i>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</i>	31	31	40	71	100	101	54	479	475	385	577	101%	10	475	385	577										
<i>Blue Grosbeak</i>									0.1	0	1	0%	1	0.1	0	1										
<i>Indigo Bunting</i>	61	41	23	132	107	157	51	606	565	446	698	107%	10	565	446	698										
<i>Dickcissel</i>									0.2	0	1	0%	2	0.2	0	1										

Bobolink	<u>489</u>	576	20	<u>71</u>	73	21	171	10	<u>366</u>	74%	10	496	391	703
Red-winged Blackbird			731	<u>400</u>	<u>466</u>	<u>467</u>	749	581	4459	91%	10	4889	4291	5453
Eastern Meadowlark			<u>15</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>			4	21	125%	10	17	9	28
Common Grackle	1163	577	<u>515</u>	279	249	<u>669</u>	<u>339</u>	<u>179</u>	3970	82%	10	4855	3502	6534
Boat-tailed Grackle										0%	1	0.1	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	213	76	210	198	174	269	199	195	1534	137%	10	1119	928	1284
Orchard Oriole	30	11	4	12	<u>5</u>	3	2	<u>5</u>	72	85%	10	85	68	126
Baltimore Oriole	283	88	102	143	<u>107</u>	<u>221</u>	<u>66</u>	106	1116	100%	10	1118	930	1358
Bullock's Oriole										0%	1	0.1	0	1
House Finch	171	36	126	152	158	204	112	<u>148</u>	1107	110%	9	1010	776	1240
Purple Finch				9	9	64	<u>32</u>	4	<u>118</u>	76%	10	154	102	200
Red Crossbill										0%	1	0.1	0	1
Pine Siskin	<u>1</u>								1	14%	4	7	0	50
American Goldfinch	256	130	330	203	241	<u>1135</u>	339	202	2836	127%	10	2241	1737	2685
Evening Grosbeak										0%	1	0.7	0	7
House Sparrow	986	504	890	183	241	<u>540</u>	288	464	4096	126%	10	3240	1869	4194
other unidentified /hybrid														
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	10528	9464	10402	10528	10484	<u>28286</u>	<u>#####</u>	<u>10131</u>	<u>114573</u>	116%		99163	90179	#####
CD Species	134	127	111	125	120	<u>131</u>	127	114	182	100%		182.4	172	191
CP Species												1.5	0	6
DEGREE OF EFFORT														
Observers	39	40	34	30	<u>26</u>	48	<u>33</u>	14	264	105%		251.8	229	277
Parties	34	27	26	19	17	22	16	9	170	123%		138	116	149
Party Hours	296.5	137	113	142	91	335	163	130	1407.5	106%		1326	1184	1417
Day Party Hours	291.5	137	113	135.5	87	<u>325</u>	150	118	1357	107%		1272	1124	1358
Night Party Hours	5	0	0	6.5	4	10	13	12	50.5	93%		54.3	31.5	68
Indiv. birds per 10 PHs	355.1	690.8	920.5	741.4	1152	<u>844.4</u>	948	779.3	814.0					
Indiv. birds per Observer	269.9	236.6	305.9	350.9	403.2	589.3	468	723.6	434.0					
% SBC Observers	14.8	15.2	12.9	11.4	9.8	18.2	12.5	5.3	100					
% SBC Party Hours	21.07	9.7	8.0	10.1	6.5	23.8	11.6	9.2	100					
% SBC Individual Birds	9.2	8.3	9.1	9.2	9.2	24.7	13.5	8.8	92					

year average (average) and beating the previous low count of 574 in 2001. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, were up slightly from last year's record low of 49, this year's 81 is only 38% of average. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** (E) turned in a new ten-year low with seven, fewer than the old record of eight in 2006, but more than the all-time low of four in 1992.

Killdeer were at a ten-year low (210), replacing the low of 217 in 2013, but not the all-time record of 158 in 2003. **Ring-billed Gulls** were recorded in all-time low numbers, with 87, just 26% of average and less than half of the previous low of 190 in 2011. **Great Black-backed Gulls** also put in a new all-time low of 105, beating the previous low of 107 in 2011. **Blue-headed Vireo** tied the ten-year low of 102, but the all-time low was 53 in 1992. The overall increase in recent counts compared to earlier counts is most likely an effect of level of effort in northern counts, as this species has declined overall in the state with the loss of hemlock habitat. **Bank Swallows** had a new all-time low of 141, beating out the old record of 148 in 2007. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** had a ten-year low (62), well below the old count of 80 in 2014 and



Julian Hough photo
Canada Warblers tied a 10-year low from 2006 of 39 individuals.

second only to the 31 in the first year of the count. **Canada Warblers** tied a ten-year low from 2006 with 39. Only 21 were found in the second statewide count of 1993, but this may have been an artifact of increased level of effort in northern counts in more recent years. **Bobolinks** (SC) were at a new ten-year low with 366, but well above the numbers recorded in the first three years of statewide count, which may be a level-of-effort artifact.

Nesting species recorded at 50% or less of average, but not at record lows include: **Least Tern** (T) (36%), **Common Tern** (SC) (35%), **Eastern Whip-poor-Will** (SC) (43%), **Monk Parakeet** (33%), **White-eyed Vireo** (43%), **Winter Wren** (48%), **Golden-crowned Kinglet** (50%), and **Northern Parula** (SC) (34%).

Northern Saw-whet Owl (SC) and **Nashville Warbler** were missed after each having been found in eight of the last ten counts. **Upland Sandpiper** (E) was missed and will be very hard to find on future counts with the loss of nesting habitat at Rentschler Field in East Hartford.

Two species were removed from the tables, not having been seen on any of the past ten counts and both last recorded in 2005, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, a vagrant at this season and **Golden-winged Warbler** (E) a nesting species likely extirpated from Connecticut.

Note: Any evidence of nesting by state-endangered (E), threatened (T) or special concern (SC) species should be reported to the COA Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) Project. This will ensure that the best available information can be taken into taken into account in land-use decisions.

Thank you

On behalf of the Connecticut Ornithological Association, we would like to thank all of the volunteer observers, captains and compilers for all of your hard work. The data that you provide is critical for understanding our ever-changing summer bird populations!

2016 CONNECTICUT SUMMER BIRD COUNT

STATEWIDE COUNT TOTALS

Count Dates: June 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 25, & 26

Totals: 179 count day [CD] species were recorded and totaled 114,426 individual birds. Two hundred and sixteen observers in 148 parties spent 1072.5 Party Hours [PH] in the field.

Since 1976, 265 SBC species have been counted, while another 4 species remain solely as count period [CP] birds.

LOCAL COUNT TOTALS

Barkhamsted Summer Bird Count (*founded 1992*)

Count Dates: June 25 & 26 (Sat. & Sun)

Totals: 131 species, 28,286 individual birds. Forty-eight observers in twenty-two parties spent 335 PHs in the field. Since 1992, with the addition of Bufflehead this year, 165 CD species have been recorded.

Participants: Rich Allen, Bianca Beland (assistant compiler), Ray Belding, Deb Bishop, Chelsea Boutin, Cameran Boyd, Jennifer Crossman, Ayreslea Denny, Buzz Devine, Angela Dimmitt, Elizabeth Faber, Peter Faber, Tom Green, Miles Groth, Nicki Hall, Seth Harvey, Vicki Hester, James Heuschkel, Bob Holms, Dorrie Holms, Sean Hurley, Mitchell Jackson, Denise Jernigan, Jim Kandefer, Marie Kennedy, Ed Kohl, Dave Kucia, Becca Lallier, Lorraine Langweiser, Vima LeJeune,, Heather Longley, John Marshall (assistant compiler), Alex Moore, Russ Naylor, Bill Needam, Carol Parent, Mike Placo, Wally Placo, Brendan Reilly, Jeff Ritz, William Roberts, Zack Roma, **David Rosgen** (121 Laurel Way, Winsted, CT 06098-2534; ctbluebird1020@gmail.com), Sam Slater, Jack Swatt, Peter Tokarz, John Weeks, and Allen Welby.

Weather: Sunny, warm, and calm.

Count (a rectangle, 12 mile east-west, 17 mile north-south)

Center: 41°5'N 72°59'W. Elevation: 285 to 1457 feet. Area covered: Barkhamsted, Burlington (northern edge), Canton, Colebrook, Hartland, New Hartford, Torrington (northeast 1/4), and Winchester.

Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count (*founded 1976*)

Count Dates: June 11 & 12 (Sat. & Sun.)

Totals: 135 count species, 10,528 individual birds. Thirty-nine observers in 34 Parties spent 296.5 party hours [PHs] in the field. With this year's addition of Merlin, since 1976, 239 CD species, plus 4 CP species, have been recorded.

Participants: Tom Andersen, John Askildsen, Mike Aurelia, Kyle Bardwell, Trudy Battaly, Joe Belanger, Gail Benson, Kelli Bochnik, Michael Bochnik, **Thomas W. Burke** (235 Highland Road, Rye, NY 10580; 914 967-4922, tom.burke@mcgladrey.com), Ioa Byrne, Al Collins, Annette Cunniffe, Patrick Dugan, Cynthia Ehlinger, Andrew Farnsworth, Olivia Giutini, David Havens, Jalna Jaeger, Wendy Knothe, Shawn Martin, Stefan Martin, Brien O'Toole, **Gary Palmer** (34 Field Road. Cob Cob, Ct., 06830; 203 661-4897, gejlpalmer@yahoo.com), Drew Panko, Anne Ribilow, PhilRibilow, Steve Ricker, Polly Rothstein, Meredith Sampson, Alan Scuterud, Bob Shriber, Andy Towle, Matt Tozer, Marvin Turner, Benjamin Van Doren, Bill Van Loan, Jr., Mike Warner, and Alex Wiggin.

Weather: 6/11- 47° to 76°F., strong afternoon T-storm [0.5]; 6/12- very windy, 64° to 77°F.

Count (a square, 15x15 mile east-west) Center: 41°05'N 73°37'W. Elevation: sea level to at least 740 feet. Area covered: in Connecticut (65% of area), Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, and Stamford, and in New York (35% of area), Armonk, Bedford (in part), Port Chester, Rye, and White Plains (in part).

Hartford Summer Bird Count (*founded 1991*)

Count Dates: June 11 & 12 (Sat. & Sun.)

Totals: One hundred and thirteen CD species, 7,347 individual birds. Thirty-four observers in 26 Parties covered 113 PHs. One hundred and seventy-three CD species have been documented since 1992.

Participants: Tom Allan, Bill Asteriades, Paul Cianfaglione, John Clancy, Linda Clancy, Pam Cooper, Fran D'Amico, Andrew Dasinger, Paul Desjardins, Peter Egan, Sarah Faulkner, Patrice Favreau, Poberta Gowing, Peter Grose, Dee Hanson, Kat Hutchins, Denise Jernigan, **Jay Kaplan** (71 Gracey Road, Canton, CT. 06019; 860 693-0157, jaybrd49@aol.com), Gil Kleiner, Steve Kotchko, Judy Larkin, Larry Lunden, Alan Lurie, Dave Lyons, Annette Pasek, Roger Preston, Doria Protopova, Zellene Sandler, Susanne Shrader, Brian Toal, Mike Trouern-trend,, Judy Whittlesey, Mike Whittlesey, and Sara Zagorski.

Weather: 6/11- day: 52° to 72°F. S Winds: 0 to 10 mph, overcast to clear; 6/12- day: 59° to 81°F., SW Winds, 0 to 10 mph, clear to patty cloudy;

Count (15-Mile diameter circle) Center: 41°46'N 72°40'W. (Old State House), Elevation: 40 to 640 feet. Area covered: Avon (in part), Bloomfield, East Hartford, Farmington (in part), Hartford, Manchester (in part), Glastonbury (in part), Newington (in part), Rocky Hill (in part), South Windsor, West Hartford, Wethersfield, and Windsor.

Litchfield Hills Summer Bird Count (*founded 1994*)

Count Dates: June 11 & 12 (Sat. & Sun.) ;

Totals: 127 species, 14,838 individual birds. Forty observers in 16 Parties accumulated 163 PHs. Since 1994 177 CD species have been recorded.

Participants: Judi Armstrong, Fabienne Audette, Michael Audette, Bob Barbieri, Marcia Barker, Ray Belding, Terri Bianchi, Debbie Bishop, Jay Coles, Arsylea Denny, Angela Dimmitt, Laurie Doss, Cathy Felton, Dick Felton, Evelyne Gelerter, Cathy Glasner, Nicki Hall, Greg Hanisek, Keith Johnson, Marie Kennedy, Jim Kolesar, Keven Liberg,

Debbie Martin, Dan Mercurio, Scott Mills, Russ Naylor, Gene Newell, Susan Newell, Ann Orsillo, Marc Passmann, Dean Sarjeant, Sue Schnurr, Sam Slater, Donna Rose Smith, Olaf Soltau, **David Tripp Jr.** (345 Colebrook Road, Winsted, Ct. 06098; dtrippjr@gmail.com), Ed Woodhouse, Dave Zomick, Stephanie Zomick, and Fran Zygmunt.

Weather: 6/11 – evening 1: 44° to 50°F., spotty showers; day 1 S Winds, 9-19 mph., 50° to 75°F., afternoon showers, 6/12 – evening 2: Pre AM showers, 50° to 60°F., day 2: S Winds, 5-25 mph. gusty winds, 60° to 75°F.,

Count (15-Mile diameter circle) Center: 41°43'N 73°14'W. Elevation: 450 to 1658 feet. Area covered (in whole or in part): Cornwall, Goshen, Kent, Litchfield, Morris, Sharon, Torrington, Warren, and Washington.

New Haven Summer Bird Count (*founded 1991*)

Dates: June 11 & 12 (Sat. & Sun.)

Totals: 126 species, 9,382 individual birds. Forty observers in 27 Parties spent 137 PHs in the field. Since 1991, with this year's addition of Royal and Caspian Terns. 204 CD species have been confirmed.

Participants: Dewitt Allen, Ralph Amodel, Christin Arnini, Phil Asprelli, Bill Batsford, Larry Bausher, Steve Broker, Dana Campbell, Nancy Clark, Elena Coffey, Louisa Cunningham, Sharon Dellinger, John Farley, Mike Ferreri, Greg Hanisek, Mike Horn, Amanda Kallenbach, Doreen Jezek, Kris Johnson, Patrick Leahy, Chris Loscalzo, **Steve Mayo** (27 Tuttle Court, Bethany, CT 06524; 203 551-1707, rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net), Florence McBride, Bob Mitchell, Judy Moore, Mike O'Brien, John Oshlick, , Steve Spector, Maria Stockmal, Deborah Tenney, John Tiana, Marianne Vahey, and Lisa Wahle.

Weather: 6/11– Winds variable AM, SSW winds PM, 5-10 mph winds; 6/12– ESE winds, 5 mph., 64° to 70°F.

Count (15-Mile diameter circle) Center: 41°18'N 72

New Haven, North Haven, Orange, West Haven, and Woodbridge (in part).

New Milford/Pawling Summer Bird Count (*founded 2003*)

Count Dates: June 20 & 21 (Sat. & Sun.)

Totals: 120 species, 10,607 individual birds. Twenty-Six observers in seventeen parties spent 91 PHs in the field. Since 2003, 154 CD species have been recorded.

Participants: Pat Bailey, Ray Belding, Don Breeger, Ioa Byrne, **Angela Dimmitt** (PO Box 146, Sherman, Ct. 06784; 860 355-3429, angeladimmitt@aol.com), Jacob Ebinger, Larry Fischer, Dot Fleury, Linton Hamilton, Carol Hartel, Marge Josephson, Marie Kennedy, Dennis Larkin, Conner Lemacher, Sariena Masiero, Russ Naylor, Marianne Pits, Carena Pooth, Adrienne Popko, Marty Schmidt, Sally Schmidt, Sally Spence, Suzanne Telsey, Nick Thold, Eva von Ancken, and Bill Wallace.

Weather: 6/18 – evening: 54° to 55°F; daytime: 55°F to 73°F., 6/19- night 54°F to 56°F., daytime: 56°F to 82°F.,

Count (15-Mile diameter circle) Center: 41°32'N 73°34'W (Intersection of Akindale and Ravine Roads in Pawling NY). Elevation: 300 to 600 feet. Area covered: (Connecticut 1/3 of area): Sherman, New Fairfield, and New Milford (west of route 7); (New York 2/3 of area): Patterson, Pawling, Putnam Lake, Carmel, southern Wingdale, and Poughquag.

Storrs Summer Bird Count (*founded 1990*)

Count Dates: June 13 & 14 (Sat. & Sun.) v

Totals: 112 species, 10,100 individual birds. Fourteen observers in nine parties accumulated 118 PHs in the field. Since 1990 138 CD species have been counted.

Participants: Denise Anamani, Bob Beaumont, Mike Curtis, Chris Demers, Kathy Demers, Susan Harrington, Tom Harrington, Susan Hochgraf, **Steve Morytko** (288 Varga

Road, Ashford, CT 06278-1828; 860 680-5729, smorytko@yahoo.com), Chip Moseley, Steve Rogers, Phil Rusch, Colin Tieman, and Doug Warner.

Weather: 6/13- day: 48° to 70°F., SW winds, 0-10; overcast, periods of rain, 0.3. night 1: 52° to 62°F., NW winds, 0-3 mph., 52° to 62°F., partly cloudy; 6/14- day: 58° to 79°F., NW winds, 0-37 mph, partly cloudy, strong gusts; night 2: 41° to 62°F., NW winds, 5-15 mph., partly cloudy, windy;

Count (15-Mile diameter circle) Center: 41°48'N 72°15'W. (Juncture of Route 195 and North Eagleville Road) Elevation: 200 to 750 feet. Area covered: Ashford, Chaplin, Coventry, Mansfield, Tolland, Willington, Windham and small portion of Andover.

Woodbury-Roxbury Summer Bird Count (*founded 1978*)

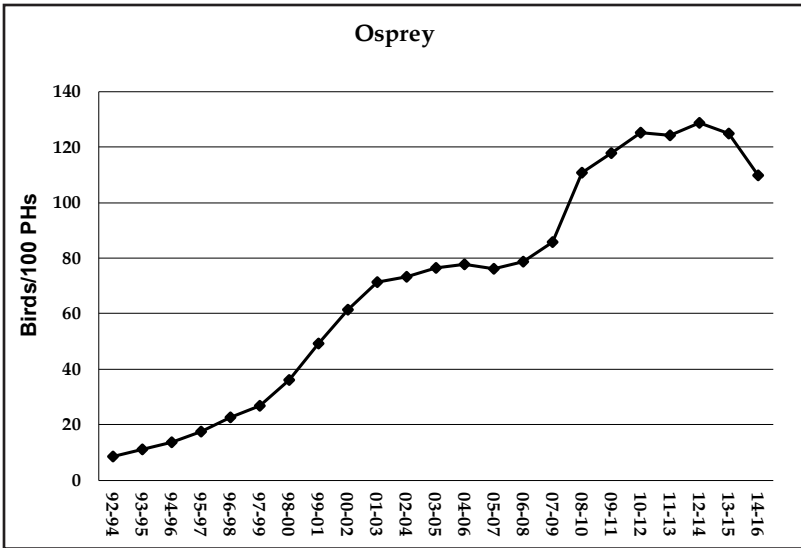
Count Date: June 5 (Sun.)

Totals: 125 species, 10,528 individual birds. Thirty observers in 19 Parties spent 135.5 PHs in the field. Since 1978, 180 CD species have been recorded.

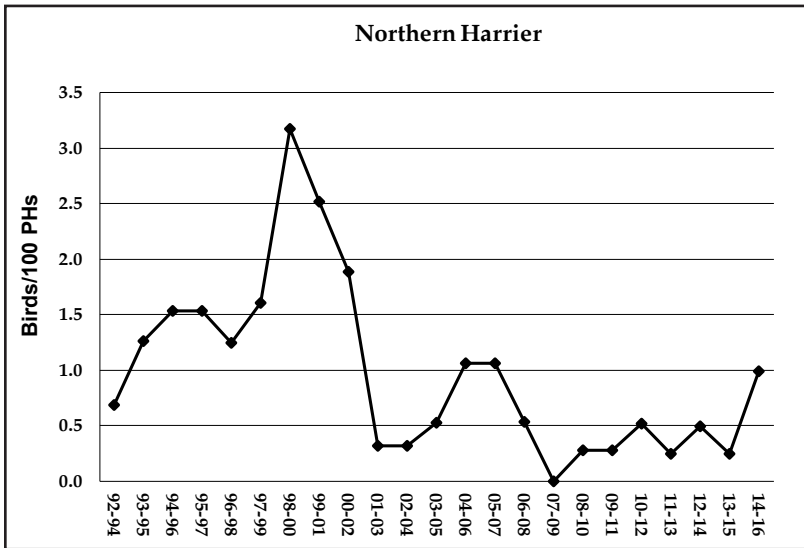
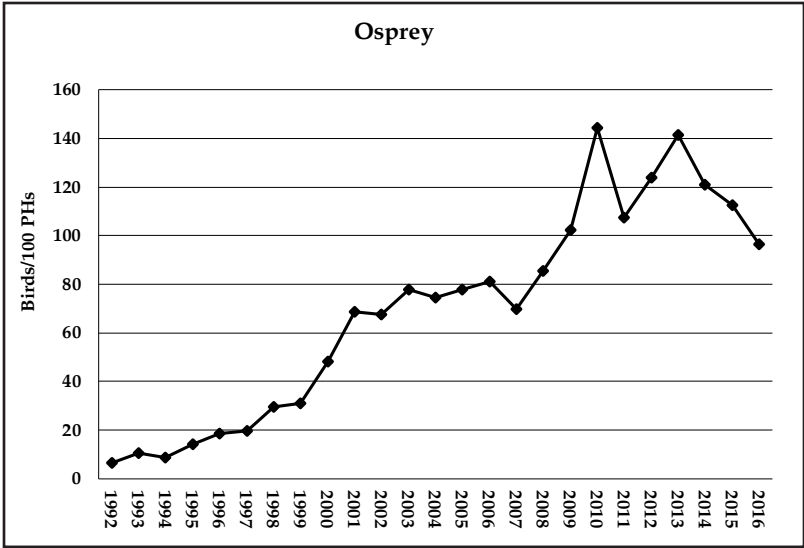
Participants: David Baade, Renee Baade, Dave Babington, Ray Belding, Polly Brody, Robert Cartoceti, Buzz Devine, Angela Dimmitt, Ken Elkins, Alison Fisher, Larry Fischer, Dennis Hannon, Seth Harvey, Tom Hook, Anne Kehmna, Bill Liedlich, Nancy Liedlich, Meredith Moore, **Russ Naylor** (44 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798, 203 841-7779), Carrie Folsom-O'Keefe, Brendon Reilly, Kathie Rice, Darcy Thurrott, Carol Titus, Dave Tripp jr., Leigh Wells, Scott Whalen, Chris Wood, Tom Zissu, and Fran Zygmont.

Weather: 6/5 - day: W/SW Winds, 0-25 mph., 45° to 80°F., AM showers, 1"; afternoon hotter, evening fog,

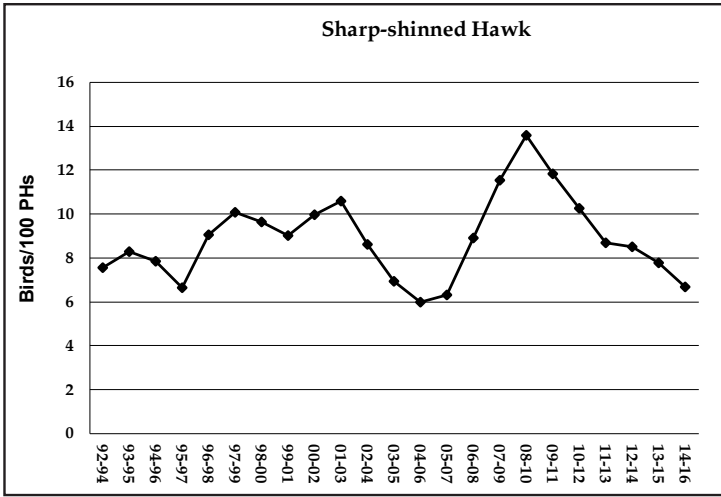
Count (15-Mile diameter circle) Center: 41°32'N 73°16'W. Elevation: 110 to 1060 feet. Area covered: Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Middlebury, New Milford, Newtown, Roxbury, Southbury, Washington, and Woodbury.



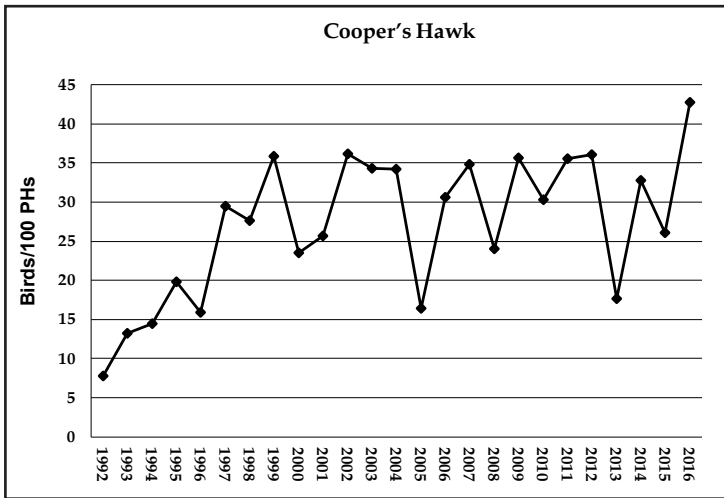
This year we feature birds of prey in the graphs section. Populations of these birds are difficult to assess even with standardized surveys. Their detection rate can vary widely depending on weather, timing of nesting and other factors and their numbers are not necessarily correlated well with level of effort. Some broad trends are however evident in the SBC data. We have chosen to correct for party hour level of effort by displaying birds per 1,000 party hours of effort, this delivers a number that is similar to the overall number of individuals recorded. These data are further modified to reflect 3-year rolling averages in order to smooth out year to year variability that can be the result of fledge timing, detectability, weather and other factors. Osprey example are certainly more numerous than they were in the early days of the count no matter how you look at them. The first graph shows their 3-year rolling average and the second shows the year-by-year numbers.



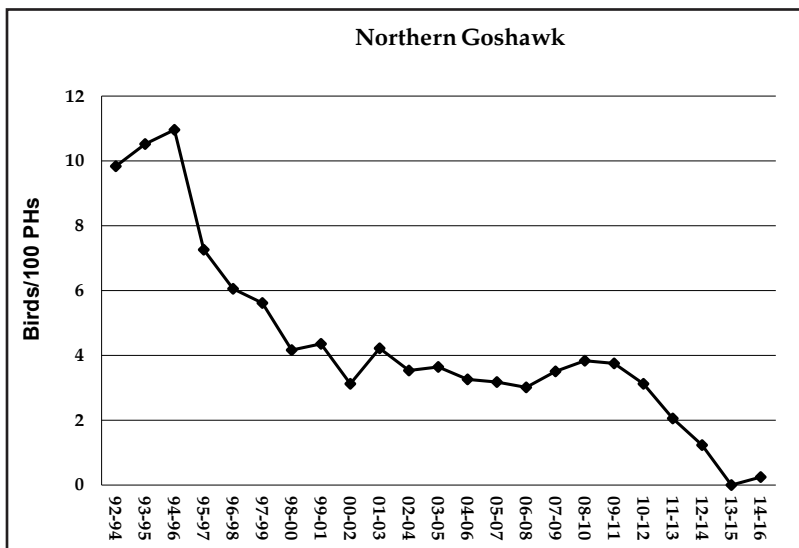
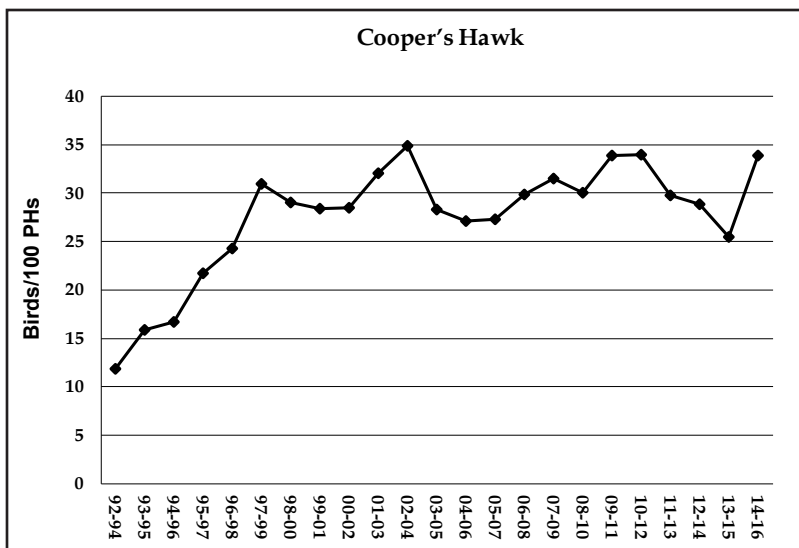
Northern Harriers have been uncommon to rare throughout the 25 years of the count. Most of these birds were likely non-nesting visitors.



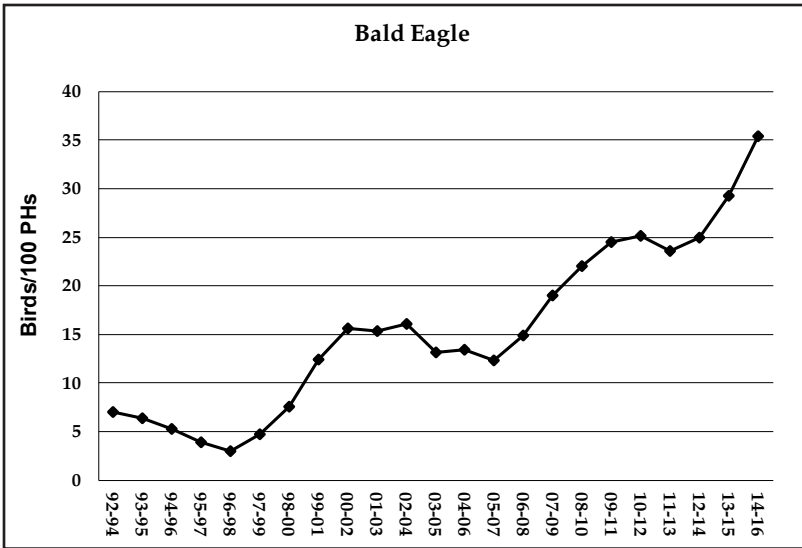
Nesting Sharp-shinned Hawks can be very difficult to detect and year to year/short-term variability appears to trump any real trend displayed in these data, even when looking at 3-year rolling averages.



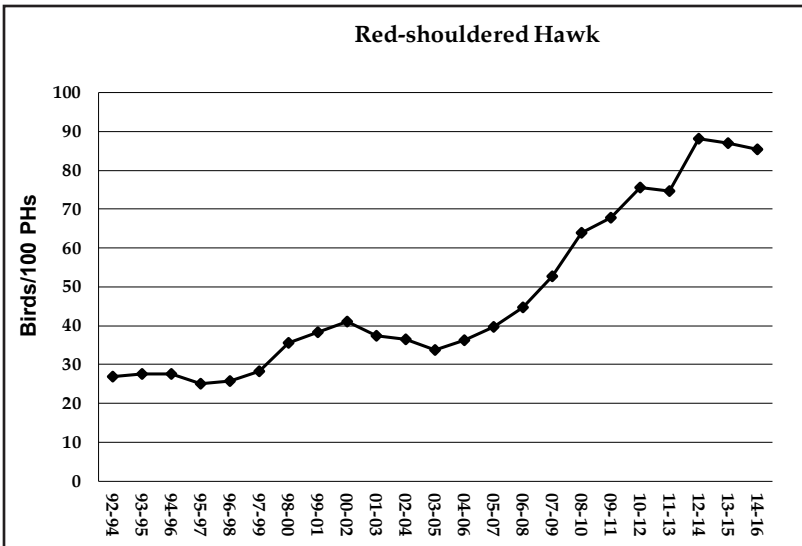
Cooper's Hawks can also be difficult to detect in the nesting season and much year-to-year variability is likely because of this. There do appear to be more Cooper's Hawks observed in recent years than in the early years of the count. Their graph has one of the most dramatic differences between year to year and 3-year rolling averages.



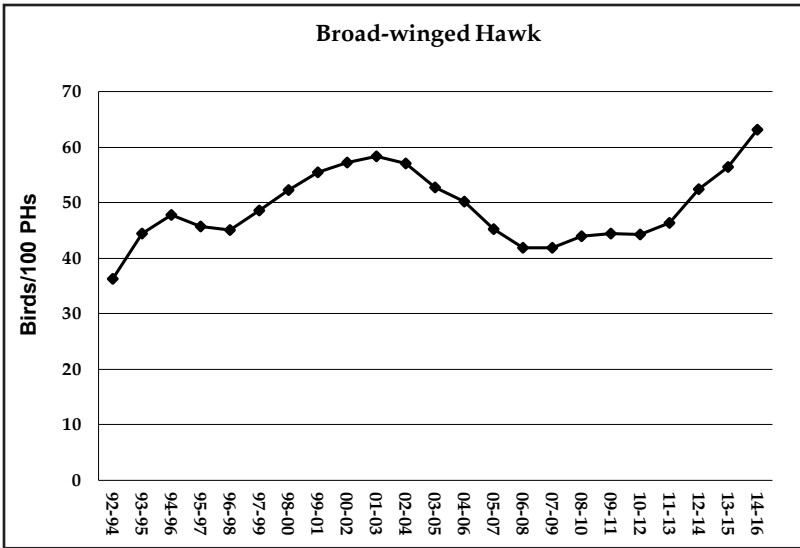
Northern Goshawks are rare nesters in Connecticut. One banner year in 1994 perhaps exaggerates an apparent decline in their numbers, but it does seem to be harder to find nesting goshawks than it used to be.



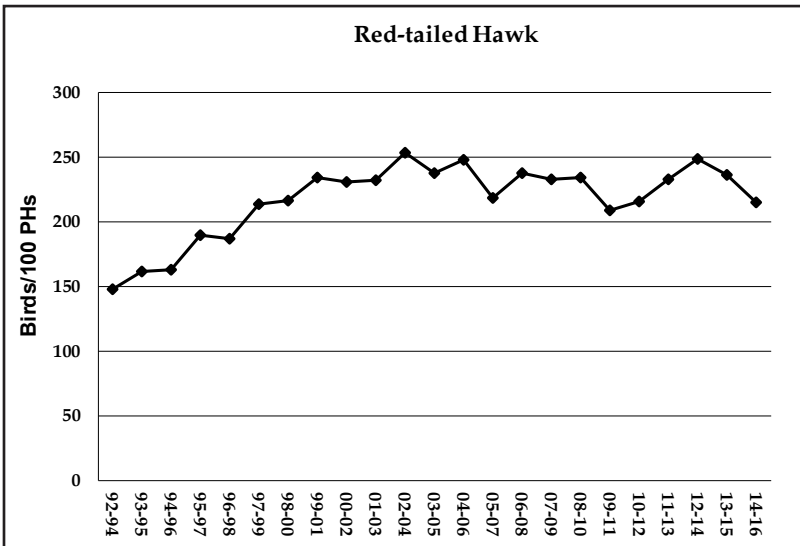
Not surprisingly, there are clearly more Bald Eagles being detected than there were in the early days of the count, likely because there are far more eagles to detect.



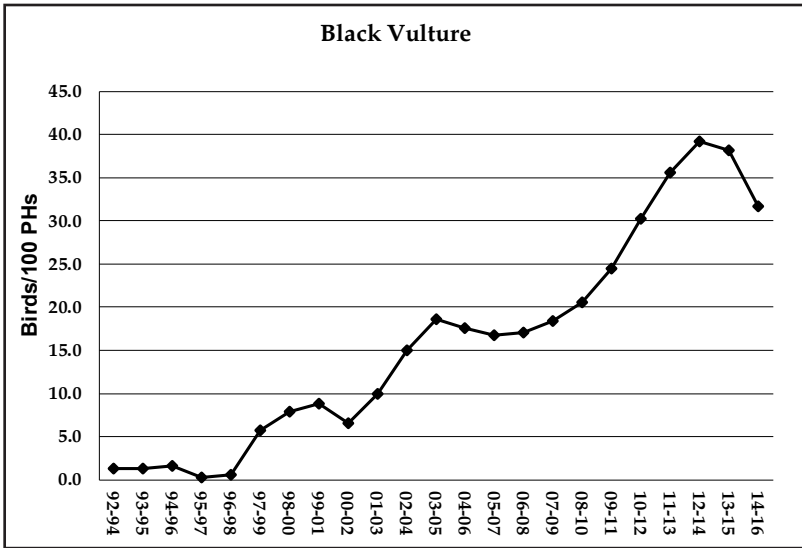
Red-shouldered Hawks are clearly increasing in Connecticut and the SBC data reflect this. Recent years have provided several record high counts.



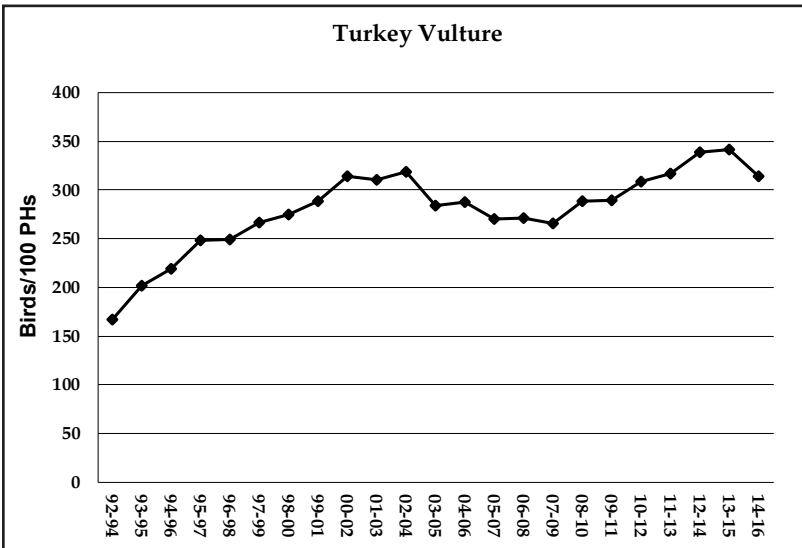
This year's record high count could be exaggerating an apparent increasing trend on the data for Broad-winged Hawk. Overall this species is thought to be declining, but there have been good numbers reported in recent years.



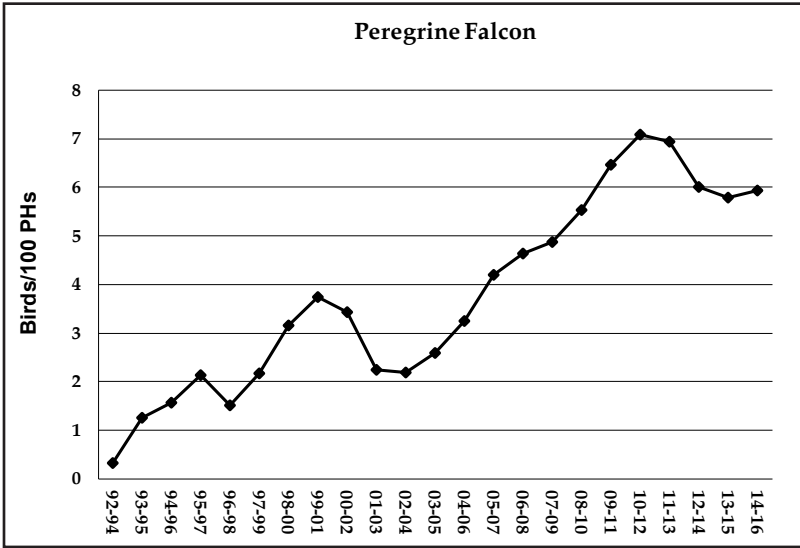
Shorter-term variability is apparent in the graph for Red-tailed Hawk, but there may be a slight increasing trend.



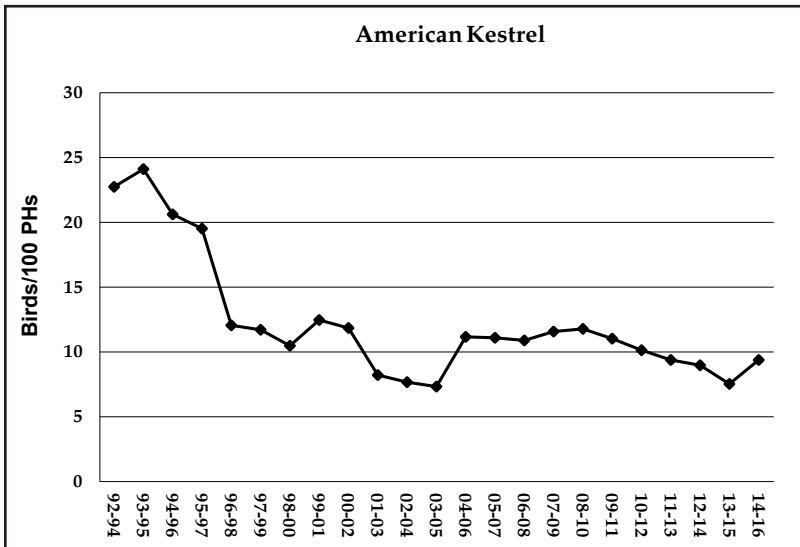
Though we are currently in a valley for Black Vulture numbers there are clearly more Black Vultures than there were in the early years of the count.



Nearly twice as many Turkey Vultures are being seen in the later years of the count than were in the early counts, but overall short term variability seems to be the major factor since about 2000.



Peregrine Falcons are clearly more numerous in the state today than they were in 1992 and this is well reflected in the SBC data.



On the other hand American Kestrels have certainly declined overall. The SBC data do indicate that less are being seen, although year-to-year variability has been the overarching theme since the late '90's.

CONNECTICUT FIELD NOTES

Spring Season, March 1 through May 31, 2016

By Greg Hanisek and Frank Mantlik

The winter's rare goose excitement carried over into March, and April brought amazing gull bounty. A nice array of passerine rarities was highlighted by Black-headed Grosbeak, and the songbird migration produced some stellar days, including a late warbler fallout May 25 that brought at least 18 species to East Rock Park in New Haven/Hamden. Red-headed Woodpeckers and Summer Tanagers were in especially good numbers.

The following is a list of first arrival dates for a selection of regularly occurring migrants. Unusually early dates are included within the main report:

Blue-winged Teal – March 10 in North Guilford (PS); Little Blue Heron – April 9 in Madison (RL); Green Heron – April 14 in Kent (CM), Osprey – March 10 in Madison (JCo); Semipalmated Sandpiper – April 25 in Stratford (SK); Piping Plover – March 10 in Stratford (NB); Solitary Sandpiper – April 18 in Litchfield (DRt); Semipalmated Sandpiper – April 25 in Stratford (SK); Pectoral Sandpiper – March 24 in West Haven (MA); Short-billed Dowitcher – April 28 in Norwalk (TG); Willet – April 12 in Guilford (MK); Lesser Yellowlegs – March 16 in Darien (SMu); Common Tern – May 2 in Guilford (GH); Yellow-billed Cuckoo – April 23 in New Haven (MA); Common Nighthawk – May 8 in Kent (RBa); Whip-poor-will – April 14 in Lyme (HG); Chimney Swift – April 21 in Derby (CL); Ruby-throated Hummingbird – April 18 in Mystic (GW) and Wolcott (JSw); Olive-sided Flycatcher – May 11 in East Hampton (DCi); Eastern Wood-pewee – May 8 in Stratford (SK); Acadian Flycatcher – May 10 in Easton (JW); Alder Flycatcher – May 18 in South Windsor (PDe) and Woodbury (RBa); Willow Flycatcher – May 9 in Barkhamsted (DRo); Great Crested Flycatcher – April 23 in Stamford (FM); White-eyed Vireo

– April 16 in Westport (TG) and East Hampton (RS); Yellow-throated Vireo – April 27 in New Haven (SB); Blue-headed Vireo – April 12 in New Milford (ADi); Purple Martin – March 22 in Salem (DBi, APe); Northern Rough-winged Swallow – March 27 in East Windsor (PDe) and New Haven (KJ); Bank Swallow – April 14 in South Windsor (PDe); Cliff Swallow – April 10 in Barkhamsted (DRo); Barn Swallow – March 12 in Madison (HS).

Also Veery – April 26 in Woodbury (CW) and Norwalk (LF); Gray-cheeked Thrush – May 10 in Harwinton (RBe); Swainson's Thrush – April 25 in South Windsor (PFv), Wood Thrush at three locations on April 25. Ovenbird – April 23 in Watertown (GH); Worm-eating Warbler – April 29 in New Haven (WB); Louisiana Waterthrush – March 31 in Naugatuck (GH); Northern Waterthrush – April 21 in Windsor (PDe); Blue-winged Warbler – April 22 in Hamden (PDe, JO), Hooded Warbler – April 30 in Kent (RBa); American Redstart – April 30 in Guilford (EG) and Lyme (DP); Cerulean Warbler – April 25 in Kent (ADi); Northern

Parula – April 19 in Southbury (KE); Blackburnian Warbler – April 27 in Monroe (JHl); Chestnut-sided Warbler – April 27 in Westport (TG); Blackpoll Warbler – May 4 in New Haven (SB); Black-throated Blue Warbler – April 28 in Naugatuck (GH); Prairie Warbler – April 22 in Southbury (KE); Black-throated Green Warbler – April 20 in Woodbury (RN); Grasshopper Sparrow – April 29 in Bristol (GH); Seaside Sparrow – April 20 in Guilford (DRt); Indigo Bunting – April 26 in Wolcott (APi); Bobolink – May 6 in Woodbury (GH)..

The best date for new arrivals was April 22: Spotted Sandpiper in New Haven (JO); House Wren in Madison (CI) and Greenwich (CEh); Blue-winged Warbler in New Haven (JO); Black-and-White Warbler in New Haven (JO); Scarlet Tanager in Hamden (DA); Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Bloomfield (BK); and Orchard Oriole in Norwalk (BMu). Another peak occurred May 8 with White-rumped Sandpiper in West Haven (NB); Black-billed Cuckoo in New Haven (MA); Cape May Warbler at three locations;

and Magnolia Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Canada Warbler and Wilson's Warbler, all in New Haven (JT, MA).

A **Pink-footed Goose** present in Avon through the winter season remained to at least March 7 (DM et al.). The only **Greater White-fronted Goose** was in Avon March 5-9 (RBe et al.). A flock of 18 Snow Geese passed over Harwinton on March 10 (PCa). The second **Ross's Goose** of the year, and the state's fourth, showed well at Seaside Park in Bridgeport March 19-April 10 (SMr et al.). Two Cackling Geese were at Wooster Park Pond in Stratford March 1-3 (FM et al.), and singles were at four other locations. The season's only Tundra Swan appeared April 19 at the Millstone power station in Waterford (DP). A drake **Eurasian Wigeon** made an inland appearance March 19-28 at Lake Elise in Middlebury (GH et al.). Two Northern Shovelers were late May 28 at Milford Point (JB), and a Greater Scaup was late May 21 in Old Lyme (GW). Two long-staying drake **Harlequin Ducks** were last reported March 5 at Sunken Island, Fairfield, (JN).

The high count of lingering Long-tailed Ducks was four at Sandy Point in West Haven May 31, along with a Surf Scoter (GH). South of normal breeding areas a hen Hooded Merganser escorted chicks on April 26 at a small pond in Meriden (NS). Two Red-breasted Mergansers were late on May 19 at Cockenoe Island in Westport (TG) and May 20 at Milford Point (FM), with one still present May 26 at Stratford Point (FM). Ruddy Ducks were widespread through late May with a high of 200 at South Cove, Old Saybrook, on March 20 (JSh).

The high count for Red-necked Grebe was six each on April 13 at Shippan Point, Stamford (PDu) and May 7 at Batterson Pond in Farmington (BH et al.). A **Western Grebe** was photographed off Old Saybrook on March 27 (RS), and was seen again by many observers at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison (hereafter HBSP) on April 2 (TG et al.). About 100 Northern Gannets were off Old Saybrook on March 28 (FM), and 350+ were flying west at Stamford on April 7 (PDu). A Double-crested Cormorant made a

early inland appearance on March 18 at Broad Brook Pond in East Windsor (PDe). A flight of 500 passed over Silver Sands State Park in Milford on April 22 (FM).

An American Bittern was unexpected and unusually conspicuous April 19 at Stanley Park in New Britain (DCr). A Least Bittern was far from known breeding areas May 30 at Sherwood Island State Park in Westport (TG). Others were at Little Pond in Litchfield, where they have bred, on May 31 (CW) and at HBSP on May 26 (DJ). Great Blue Herons were on nests March 18 at North Farms Reservoir in Wallingford (MM). A Snowy Egret was unusual inland in Simsbury on May 7 (DBe). The first of a

few Tricolored Heron reports came from Milford Point on April 2 (TM). The only report of Cattle Egret was one in Guilford May 17-18 (SHu). The first appearance of Glossy Ibis consisted of six on April 2 at both HBSP (JF) and the Menunketesuck Island flats in Westbrook (CL, MV), perhaps the same flock. A **White-faced Ibis** was found April 22 at Plum Bank Marsh in Old Saybrook (CEI), and presumably the same bird settled in at the Indian River marshes in Clinton April 23-May 2 (SZ et al.). This latter site hosted an amazing 204 Glossy Ibis on May 1 (DRt).

The only report of a **Swallow-tailed Kite** came from Orange on April 10 (DF).



Bruce Finnan photo
The season's only Cattle Egret visited Guilford in mid-May.

Birders were especially excited about a **King Rail**, a very hard species to pin down in Connecticut, when it was found in a small, accessible wetland at Mansfield Hollow Dam in North Windham May 1-7 (PR et al.). Two Virginia Rails were vocal on March 30 at East Swamp in Bethel, an early date (JMe). A Sora on April 15 at White Memorial Conservation Area in Litchfield was probably a new arrival (BDe). Two Sandhill Cranes were at Roy Swamp in Sharon on March 16 (AGi); two were in Aton Forest Preserve in Norfolk on March 24 (JA); and one flew over Johnnycake Mountain in Burlington on April 21 (KMe). The latest of a few Razorbills lingering into March was one off Sherwood Island on March 26 (JT et al.).

An American Golden-Plover, rare in spring, visited HBSP May 6-8 (SZ et al.). Two Upland Sandpipers arrived at Rocky Hill Meadows on April 5 (RS) and remained through April 10, an unusually long stay for resting migrants (m.ob.). Another was found at Trout Brook Valley Conservation Area in Easton on April 30 (JN). Whimbrels were at HBSP on April 29

(two) JCa), on May 14 (DS) and at the East River marshes in Guilford/Madison May 16 DRt et al.) and May 24 (JO et al.). One was also heard at Long Beach, Stratford, on May 26 (FM). A count of 20 Red Knots on May 30 at HBSP was very high by recent standards (PCo). A Least Sandpiper was early March 28 at Sikorsky Airport in Stratford (TD). A nice gathering of 11 Pectoral Sandpipers was at Wheeler Marsh in Milford on April 5 (TG). A black-plumaged **Ruff** May 2-7 at Wheeler Marsh in Milford spiced up the shore-bird migration (TG et al.). Another, this one black and white, was found at Sandy Point in West Haven on May 14, where it was seen by many during a one-day stay (AA et al.). The high count of Wilson's Snipe was 75 on April 15 at Great Meadows, Essex, facilitated by a hunting Northern Harrier (AGr). A female Wilson's Phalarope was a good find April 21 at Sparkle Lake Conservation Area in Groton (AV).

The best concentration of Bonaparte's Gulls was 600 to 700 March 20-21 at HBSP (JO, NB et al.). Inland two were at Lake Winnemaug in Water-



Julian Hough photo
This strikingly marked adult male Ruff put on a nice show for one day only at Sandy Point in West Haven on May 14.



town on May 4 (RN) and one was in Simsbury on May 7 (DBe). A **Black-headed Gull** that wintered in Stonington was present to at least March 5 (RS et al.), and singles were at HBSP on March 10 (KM_u) and at the Oyster River mouth in Milford on March 22 (JO). A Laughing Gull, a species most numerous as a post-breeder, appeared April 12 at Long Beach in Stratford (PCo). Rare gulls provided the seasonal highlight, starting with an incredible daily double when two **Mew Gulls** of two different races, one of them new for Connecticut, were found on March 20 in the same gull flock at HBSP (NB, m.ob.). A bird of the European race, also known as "Common" Gull, was joined by Connecticut's first bird of the North American race, also known as "Short-billed" Gull. They were present to March 23 and were joined by the bird of the season, with no close rivals, the state's first **California Gull**. An immature, it was found March 21 (SM_r, m.ob.) during the search for the Mew Gulls. It stayed through March 23, then remarkably was re-found March 24 at the West Haven boat launch,

where it remained to at least April 16 (NB et al.). A Lesser Black-backed Gull was a good inland find March 13 at Broad Brook Pond in East Windsor (PF_v). Caspian Terns bookended the season with one on May 1 at Bluff Point in Groton (SW, DR_t) and two on May 31 at Stratford Greenway (FM). The season's only Black Tern was off Compo Beach, Westport, May 27-31 (TG et al.). The season's only Royal Tern was at Sandy Point in West Haven May 30-31 (SZ et al.). Two Royal/Caspian Terns were at Sherwood Island May 19 (M_Wa).

A few Snowy Owls remained into the season's final month, with one at HBSP on March 1 (JCo et al.); at least one around Stratford-Milford through March 25 (m.ob.); and one on April 4-5 at Sandy Point in West Haven (WB). A Short-eared Owl cruised around Wheeler Marsh in Milford on April 5 (FM); others were in Westport April 22 (NB) and Stratford April 24 (TG). Hundreds of Chimney Swifts were conspicuous in downtown New Haven on April 27 (MA). After a good winter for Red-headed Woodpeck-

ers, the species was widely reported. Long-staying birds were seen by many at Henne Preserve in North Stonington, where up to three were reported (ND et al.); at Blood Street in Lyme, with two birds (JG); in East Haddam with two birds (DRt); and singles at Whalebone Creek in Hadlyme (HG et al.) and Oakes Preserve in Avon (DM et al.). There also were reports from South Windsor on March 1 (PFv), Elizabeth Park in Hartford on April 21 (KE, DBe), in Salem on April 30 (RS), in New Fairfield May 7-8 (JK) and near Rockville on May 18 (BN).

Rain on April 2 concentrated 11 American Kestrels at Rentschler Field in East Hartford (MD). The only reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were May 17 at Trout Brook Valley in Easton (TG) and May 27 at both Silver Sands State Park in Milford (SS) and in Canaan (TSc). A flurry of early arrivals in the first half of April included an Eastern Kingbird in New Haven on April 13 (ADo); a Warbling Vireo on April 10 at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hartford (MD); a Red-eyed Vireo April 20 in Woodbury (AL); a Blue-gray

Gnatcatcher on April 1 in Cromwell (HS); and a Palm Warbler in Greenwich on April 2 (MWA). The wintering **Townsend's Solitaire** remained in a Greenwich residential neighborhood to at least March 15 (SMr).

An Ovenbird, a species that has wintered a few times, appeared unexpectedly at a Storrs feeder March 20 and stayed into mid-April (SHa, TH). The only Golden-winged Warbler reports were of singles May 8 in Madison (BS) and May 10 in Pomfret (RD). **Prothonotary Warblers** were at William Wolfe Park in Monroe May 3-8 (JHl et al.); in Wilton on May 8 (LF); at River Road in Kent on May 9 (BDe, DJ); and at Walker's Pond in Milford on May 13 (SS et al.). The first of 10 reports of Mourning Warbler was May 9 at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hartford (BK). A Kentucky Warbler was a good find in Monroe on May 15 (JHu). A Cerulean Warbler was an unexpected Fairfield County visitor May 29 in Westport (PL). Yellow-breasted Chats were at Bluff Point in Groton on May 2 (TT, TG), at Birdcraft Sanctuary in Fairfield May 12 (KV, TG), at Barn Island Wildlife

Management Area in Stonington May 19-21 (CL, MV et al.) and Silver Sands May 27 through period's end (JO, m.ob.)

A **Lark Sparrow**, unique for the season, was found at HBSP on May 21 (TSe). A widespread presence by **Summer Tanagers** included one during a May 8 fallout at Walker's Pond in Milford (SS); one at East Rock Park in New Haven May 14 – 17 (MSc, RH et al.); one heard calling in Guilford on May 14 (EY); one in Madison May 17 (JHa, JCo et al.); and one on May 20 at Rosa Hartman Park in Stamford (SMr). A male **Western Tanager** was reported for one day only April 14 at a feeder in Colchester (MSi).

Northern Cardinals aren't known for movements or concentrations, but 33 in a Sterling yard on April 3 were noteworthy (BDi). A great find was an adult male **Black-headed Grosbeak** in a Berlin yard May 29-30 (BMy et al.). An adult male **Painted Bunting**, which wintered for the second consecutive year in the vicinity of Cove Island Park in Stamford, was last reported on April 4 (DW). A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** found in late February in Old Lyme remained to at least March 2 (MWo et al.). Another appeared on April 18 in the Highland section of Middletown (AS). Pine Siskins were widespread but in small numbers. The only double-figure count was



Bruce Finnan photo

This Vesper Sparrow showed off its distinctive white eye ring on April 11 at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison.

10 on April 4 at feeders in Sterling (BDi, LD). The only report of the highly unpredictable Evening Grosbeak involved one in Stamford on May 11 (PDu) and two in Waterbury on May 14 (PB).

Exotics: A Saffron Finch was photographed April 21 in Brookfield (CB).

Observers: DeWitt Allen, Anthony Amato, John Anderson, Mark Aronson, Renee Baade (RBa), Jim Bair (JBa), Bill Banks, John Barriger (JBr), William Batsford, Doug Beach (DBe), Ray Belding (RBe), David Bingham (DBi), Paul Bisnette, Nick Bonomo, Chris Bosak, Steve Broker, Jim Carr (JCa), Paul Carrier (PCa), Dan Cimbaro (DCi), Patrick Comins (PCo), Jerry Connolly (JCo), Don Crockett (DCr), Mark Danforth, Richard DeGraff, Paul Desjardins (PDe), Buzz Devine (BDe), Angela Dimmitt (ADi), Bob Dixon (BDi), Linda Dixon, Niall Doherty, Aaron Dollar (ADo), Turk Duddy, Patrick Dugan (PDu), Cynthia Ehlinger (CEh), Ken Elkins, Chris Elphick (CEl), Jack Faller, Patrice Favreau (PFv), Daniel Field, Larry Flynn, Paul Fusco (PFu), Frank Gallo, John Gaskell, Art Gingert (AGi), Hank Golet, Tina Green, Andy Griswold (AGr), Elaine Gunderson, Greg Hanisek, John Hannan (JHa), Sue Harrington (SHa), Tom Harrington, Roy

Harvey, Janet Holt (JHl), Bo Hopkins, Julian Hough (JHo), Stewart Hudson (SHu), Jim Hunter (JHu), Chuck Imbergamo, Kimberly Jannarone, Denise Jernigan, Lynn Jones, Mickey Komara, Jolene Kronen, Scott Kruitbosch, Brian Kulvete, Robin Ladouceur, Adrian Lewis, Chris Loscalzo, Preston Lust, Charles Makarewich, Frank Mantlik, Stefan Martin (SMr), Ken Merrifield (KMe), Jamie Meyers (JMe), Darlene Moore, Marty Moore, Keith Mueller (KMU), Tom Murray, Brendan Murtha (BMu), Sean Murtha (SMu), Brett Myslkowski (BMy), Jeremy Nance, Russ Naylor, Brandi Niles, John Oshlick, Ann Pelletier (API), Annie Perko (APe), Mike Perko, Dave Provencher, Dave Rosgen (DRo), Dan Rottino (DRt), Phil Rusch, Tom Schaefer (TSc), Mark Scott (MSc), Tommy Self (TSe), James Sherwonit (JSh), David Sibley, Maggie Silverman (MSi), Alan Siniscalchi, Nancy Skiles, Russ Smiley, Paul Smith, Nancy Specht, Steve Spector, Howie Sternberg, Jack Swatt (JSw), Mark Szantyr (MSz), Jory Teltser, Timothy Thompson, Marianne Vahey, Kathy Van Der Au, Anthony Vicciarelli, Mike Warner (MWA), Glenn Williams, James Winkelmann, Stuart Winquist, Dave Winston, Maureen Wolter (MWO), Paul Wolter Chris Wood, Elizabeth Young, Sara Zagorski, Fran Zygmunt.

NOTES ON BEHAVIOR, STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION

A Saltmarsh Bird Derailed Inland



James Winkelmann photo
This Clapper Rail was found dead on 24 August 2016 in a wooded area at Webb Mountain Park in Monroe, well up the Housatonic River from the tidal waters inhabited by this species. How it got there will remain a mystery, but it most likely involved the species' nocturnal migratory movements.

A Red-shouldered Hawk Eats A Crayfish

I photographed a juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk out my home office window on 22 August 2016 at 9:38 a.m.; the species is not uncommon in our town. It was down on the (uncut) back lawn that borders a forest of common deciduous trees and some hemlocks. Beyond the lawn, the property slopes down to the Dickenson Creek at the bottom of my property to the west. The lawn also is bordered on the south by a small stream that runs downhill. I wasn't aware of the hawk until I noticed the alarm calls of the many small birds



*Russ Smiley photo
This immature Red-shouldered Hawk had to get its feet wet to enjoy this meal of fresh crayfish in Marlborough.*

(chickadees, titmice, chipping sparrows, etc.) that usually frequent the area. Seeing the hawk on the ground, I noted that its right foot was pinning something to the ground. I assumed it was a small bird or mammal.

I noted that the hawk's tearing at what it was holding was not productive as it might be with a mammal or bird; I saw no chunks of flesh, feathers, or fur. I took many photos through the office window with my DSLR and long zoom that were handy. I tried to relocate to my deck for an unobstructed view, but the hawk spooked and flew off. The images later showed me that the hawk had grabbed a large crayfish.

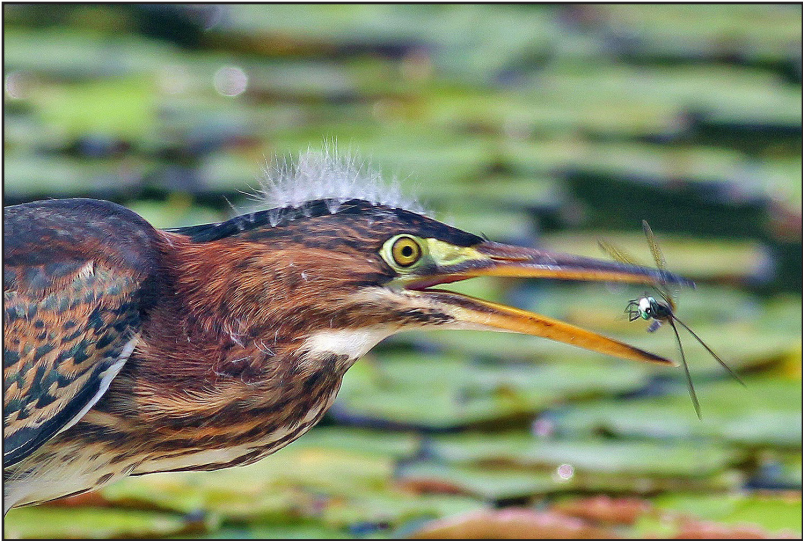
In the two-and-a-half decades that we've lived here, we had found a few crayfish in the stream to the side of our property, and we may have found one or two in the lawn when mowing, though I can't recall specific instances. I'd say they are much less common here than my childhood experiences with them in the Mid Hudson Valley of New York.

**Russ Smiley
Marlborough**

A Fly-catching Green Heron

Following up on 12 September 2016, on the reports to CT-Birds of Red-breasted Nuthatches flycatching, another unexpected flycatcher was a juvenile Green Heron on one of the almost dry Fitchville ponds. It was standing still on a dry spot while the other Green Herons, Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets were catching frogs in the remaining shallow water. It was looking upwards and its head moved as if it were following the movement of something in the air. In a very fast movement, it stretched its neck out, snapped its beak and caught one of the many large dragonflies flying over the pond/mud. I only saw one successful catch but it remained in place, watching, until I left and continued to ignore the many frogs that could be seen fleeing from the other herons. This is the first time I have seen such behavior.

Niall Doherty
Stonington



Dallas Trinity Trails photo

Editor's Note: Arthur Cleveland Bent, in his *Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds*, offers no instances of fly-catching by Green Herons. Several more recent references note dragonflies as a food item, but don't specify whether they were eaten as adults or nymphs. However, a web site for a nature preserve on the Trinity River in Texas has a stunning array of photos (including one reproduced here) of behavior described by Niall Doherty. See

<http://dallastrinitytrails.blogspot.com/2014/08/green-herons-hunting-trinity.html>

A Noteworthy Godwit Flock



Frank Mantlik photo

A group conducting a Big Sit at Milford Point on 9 October 2016 was thrilled and surprised to realize that a flyby flock of large shorebirds comprised 17 Hudsonian Godwits. A rare but regular fall migrant, this species usually appears as single individuals. But there are at least two other instances of very similar-sized flocks – 18 on 16 August 2004 at Watch Rock in Old Lyme and 19 on 19 August 1990 at Sherwood Island State Park in Westport.

PHOTO CHALLENGE



You run across a drab-looking waterfowl in tidal water in mid-June. The thin, serrated bill tells you it's a merganser, but this isn't the time and place for one of those fish-eating ducks. If you take the time to do a little seasonal research, you should discover that while no mergansers are common at that time and place, one species – Red-breasted Merganser – does occasionally linger on the Connecticut coast into summer. Yet you're not sure it's that species. You don't see many plumage clues, but again, taking the time to do a little checking, you realize there's one feature that provides the answer. The bird has rather prominent tertials (the four innermost flight feathers), and each one of them has pale edges. Only the Hooded Merganser has these, but males in full alternate (breeding) plumage are so distinctive that you never really paid much attention to these long curved black-and-white feathers. The other mergansers have plain tertials, and non-adult male Hoodeds show the two-tone pattern even if it is subdued. Paul Wolter photographed this Hooded Merganser on June 17, 2016, at Birdseye boat launch in Stratford.



Photo Challenge No. 95

THE CONNECTICUT WARBLER

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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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