

COA Bulletin

Spring 1996 NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION Vol 10 No 1

COA's 1996 Annual Meeting

by Fran D'Amico

Please join us on Saturday, March 23rd at Middlesex Community-Technical College in Middletown for COA's Twelfth Annual Meeting. This is a special opportunity for COA members and their guests to convene for an educational and entertaining day in the company of their fellow birders. New members are especially encouraged to attend, so that they can meet the diverse group of people who belong to COA -- from beginning birders to professional ornithologists.

This year's program is *Birding Beyond Connecticut's Borders: The New England Region*. Our lineup of speakers represents some of the foremost field ornithologists that the six state area has to offer. They will highlight interesting and unique aspects of birding in their state. New England's habitats range from the fishing banks of the North Atlantic to the majesty of New Hampshire's mountains and is reflected in the diversity of our avifauna. In addition to the migrant and resident birds that are seen in New England, there are the southern species that continue to range northward and the northern species that irruptively invade our region. Our speakers are knowledgeable on the specialties and the best birding habitats of their state.

Have you ever wondered why every Barnacle Goose is considered an escapee? Why the Monk Parakeet is on the official state list of Connecticut? What do you do with a Garganey seen at Plum Island? Now is your opportunity to ask. The last session of the day will be a **Rare Records**

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HOTLINE HIGHLIGHTS

Gr. W-fronted Goose Old Saybrook Dec 23
 Harlequin Duck Milford Dec 16-Jan 25
 Bw's Goldeneye Enfield Dec 17-Jan 14
 Bw's Goldeneye Westport Jan 7-25
 Gyrfalcon Madison Dec 4
 Cm. Black-headed Gull Stamford
 Dec 9-Jan 30
 Iceland Gull Manchester Jan 19-30
 Great Gray Owl Madison Jan 14
 Common Raven Sharon Jan 14
 Northern Shrikes widespread Oct 5-now

RARE BIRD ALERT: 203-254-3665

President's Message

It has been a Connecticut winter of which we can all be proud, with blizzards, subzero temperatures, and only the briefest of January thaws. Birding in January was difficult with canceled field trips and the frustration (for many of us) of missing rare birds such as the Great Gray Owl that appeared for but a single day at Hammonasset Beach State Park. In spite of the weather, several intrepid Connecticut birders were able to amass well over 100 species during the month of January -- a fine way to start off the new year. Perhaps one of these individuals will challenge Dave Provencher's incredible 1995 total of 294 birds in Connecticut. A look at Dave's year list shows that he didn't miss much and he certainly put in a tremendous effort from the first of January through the 31st of December. To some, such Herculean feats may make it seem that listing and ticking off rarities is the primary objective of many members of this organization. Nothing could be further from the truth. Although it is obvious that for many, seeing a rare bird provides a good bit of excitement, the vast majority of Connecticut birders that I know are deeply concerned about birds and the preservation of their habitats. Field birding is an educational experience as well as an enjoyable one. I recently had the opportunity to show a young beginning birder her first Northern Shrike. She was truly excited about seeing the bird, and when we returned from our excursion, we took the time to study shrikes in a field guide, noting the differences between the two native species. This led to a

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COA's 12th Meeting

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Symposium. Representatives from the six New England state avian record committees will answer questions collected from the audience. Mark Szantyr, secretary of Connecticut's Rare Records Committee will be the moderator. You'll have an opportunity to submit your written questions until noon.

All are invited to a brief business meeting and election of new COA Board members. Another highlight of the day will be the announcement of the Mabel Osgood Wright Award winner. This is presented to a member of our community who has made an outstanding contribution to ornithology in our state. A bird quiz to test your skills will be available throughout the day in the COA Marketplace area.

A hot and cold buffet luncheon (\$8.50 per person) will be served, and those who prefer to bring their bag lunches are invited to eat in the dining room.

The popular COA Marketplace will be offering a variety of bird related items and birding gear at reasonable prices. COA checklists, decals, patches and back issues of *The Connecticut Warbler* will be available for you to purchase. And to top off the day, several lucky people will be winners of valuable birding equipment and art in the raffle.

Registration is only \$10.00 per person in advance (see box at top of next column) or \$12.00 at the door. To get to the meeting place at Middlesex Community-Technical College, take Exit 11 from Route 9 (North or South) and turn right (east) onto Randolph Road. At the stop sign, turn left onto Saybrook Road. Follow Saybrook Road and turn left onto Reservoir Road, then turn right onto Training Hill Road. Parking is on the left. Signs will be posted to Chapman Hall, where the day's events will be held.

The day will begin with registration and a continental breakfast from 8:00 to 9:00 am. The announcement of raffle winners at 5:00 pm will provide a nice conclusion to the day's activities. We guarantee that you are in for a good birding time at the meeting and hope that you will make plans to attend. See you there!

The Newsletter of the
Connecticut Ornithological Association
is published quarterly in
February, May, August, and November.

Please submit materials for the next
issue by May 1, 1996 to
Dwight Smith, Editor,
241 Shepard Ave., Hamden, CT 06514

COA ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

To preregister for the Annual Meeting, send your name and address and a check for \$10.00 per person (must be received no later than March 15, 1996) plus \$8/50 per person for buffet lunch (optional) to: COA, 213 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06430

President's Message

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discussion of the decline of the Loggerhead Shrike in Connecticut and the loss of grassland habitat for other species. In this way, a new sighting also became an educational experience. In a few weeks, members of the Connecticut Ornithological Association will have the opportunity to participate in an outstanding educational experience---our 1996 Annual Meeting. Fran D'Amico and her committee have worked diligently to put together what promises to be an exciting day at Middlesex Technical-Community College. The Annual Meeting is the highlight of the COA year and provides birders from around the state and the region as well with the opportunity to get together and discuss current birding events, future trips and the status of birds and birding in Connecticut. I'll look forward to seeing and greeting many of you at the meeting.

Barn Owl Nest Boxes

The Connecticut Wildlife Division began a project in 1993 to ascertain the population status and distribution of the Barn Owl in Connecticut. A part of this study focused on ways to encourage Barn Owl nesting in the state. Nest boxes for Barn Owls have been placed at several locales in the state where Barn Owls may be present but suitable cavities and other structures for nesting are lacking. Nest boxes have been erected at Great Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Wangunk Meadows WMA in Portland, Roraback WMA in Harwinton, Bluff Point Coastal Reserve in Groton, Shade Swamp WMA in Simsbury and at Canterbury. Nest boxes are also planned for Hammonasset Beach State Park and other areas. It is hoped that these nest boxes will be placed well before the 1996 breeding season, and will encourage nesting by Barn Owls. Money for the Barn Owl nest box program was made available via the 1994 Endangered Species/ Wildlife Income Tax Check-off Fund. The state wildlife division also plans to send survey forms to members of local bird clubs requesting information on Barn Owl nests and known locations. This information was abstracted from Julie Victoria's article in in Jan/Feb 1996 issue of *Connecticut Wildlife*.

Spring Arrival of Wood Warblers in Newtown

by Polly Brody

The spring arrival of warblers and other passerines is one of the most anticipated birding events each year. Over a 13 year period, from 1960-1972, I recorded the first arrival dates of 22 species of wood warblers (Parulidae) at four different study areas in the vicinity of Newtown, Connecticut. During this period, I surveyed each of the four study areas daily, between 07:00 and 10:00 hours in April and May. All species of warblers were identified using 8 x 40 binoculars. I also recorded ambient temperatures on each day of the survey.

I tabulated my results for each species to determine the average arrival dates and the range of dates within which the species arrived each year. I also evaluated the average and range of arrival dates with ambient temperatures to determine what, if any, correlation existed.

The average and range of arrival dates of all warblers observed are presented in Table 1. Four species of warblers consistently arrived earlier than others throughout the study period: the Yellow-rumped Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Palm Warbler and Black-and-white Warbler.

The Louisiana Waterthrush consistently arrived before any other warbler species in five of the 11 years that it was observed. It also exhibited the greatest variation in its arrival dates from year to year, especially when compared to most of the other warbler species. Its earliest arrival date was on April 13 while its latest arrival date was on May 13.

The Yellow-rumped Warbler appeared earlier than other warbler species in three years. In two of the study years it arrived along with the Louisiana Waterthrush ahead of the other warbler species. The Yellow-rumped Warbler also had the earliest average arrival date of any warbler, on April 23. Possibly, some of these early individuals represent birds that overwintered a short distance south.

The Palm Warbler arrived earliest in 1965 and 1966. Its arrival dates also showed considerable variation over the 13 year study period.

The Black-and-white Warbler fell within the narrowest range of arrival dates (13 days) of the first group of four warblers and showed the least variation in arrival times. Its arrival dates ranged from April 21 to May 3, with an average arrival date of April 27.

Several warbler species showed substantial variation in the range of their arrival dates, including the Prairie, Wilson's, and Black-throated Blue Warblers. Some of this variability may be attributed to the small numbers that appeared each year (i.e., the inherent variation often found in small sample sizes). For example, Wilson's Warbler and

Blackburnian Warbler were observed in only six of the study years while the Black-throated Blue Warbler was recorded in only seven of the study years.

The least overall variation in arrival dates was exhibited by the Bay-breasted and Magnolia Warblers, but this may also reflect the small sample sizes for each. For example, the Magnolia Warbler was only observed 11 times. Both the Common Yellowthroat and Chestnut-sided Warbler also showed comparatively little variation in spring arrival dates.

TABLE 1

Spring Arrival Dates of Wood Warblers in Newtown, Connecticut, 1960-1972.

Warbler	Average*	Range	Year**
Yellow-rumped	4/23 (5.3)	4/12-5/1	13
Louisiana	4/25 (9.5)	4/13-5/13	11
Palm	4/29(8.2)	4/18-5/12	10
Black-and-white	4/27(3.3)	4/21-5/3	13
Ovenbird	5/2(3.7)	4/24-5/7	13
Yellow	5/3(3.7)	4/26-5/10	13
N. Parula	5/6(4.3)	4/27-5/13	13
B-T Green	5/4(3.4)	4/27-5/9	11
Blackburnian	5/6(5.4)	4/27-5/12	6
Blue-winged	5/3(3.7)	4/28-5/10	13
Nashville	5/4(4.1)	4/28-5/11	7
Prairie	5/8(6.8)	4/28-5/19	13
Am Redstart	5/9(4.5)	4/29-5/17	12
B-T Blue	5/9(5.0)	5/2-5/16	7
C. Yellowthroat	5/9(3.2)	5/2-5/14	13
Wilson's	5/12(6.5)	5/4-5/22	6
Magnolia	5.8(2.5)	5/5-5/14	11
Cape May	5.9(3.6)	5/5-5/16	12
Chestnut-sided	5/9(3.3)	5/5-5/16	13
Blackpoll	5/12(5.4)	5/5-5/22	11
Canada	5/12(5.6)	5/5-5/22	11
Bay-breasted	5/12(2.2)	5/9-5/15	6

* average and standard deviation of arrival dates

**years in which species was recorded during the 13 year study period.

HOTLINE REPORTS

To report sightings of rare, unusual, or migrating birds, call one of the following:

Frank Gallo 203-966-6756

Mark Szantyr 860-429-4038

Frank Mantlik 203-846-8601

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The earliest arrival date overall of any warbler species was that of the Yellow-rumped Warbler on April 12, 1968. Latest arrival dates were those of the Wilson's (5/22/69), Blackpoll (5/22/69), and Canada (5/22/64) Warblers. Birds with the greatest range in arrival dates were the Louisiana Waterthrush (arriving over a 31 day period), Prairie Warbler (22 days), American Redstart and Wilson's Warbler (each with 19 days). The narrowest range of arrivals among warblers was exhibited by the Magnolia Warbler (10 days).

Patterns in temporal variation revealed six species whose arrivals fell within a fairly compact and similar span over the 13 years. Yellow, Northern Parula, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Blue-winged and Nashville Warblers arrived no earlier than April 26 nor later than May 13. Indeed, earliest arrivals observed for the Northern Parula, Black-throated Green and Blackburnian warblers were all on April 27 and earliest arrivals for Blue-winged and Nashville warblers were on April 28. The Prairie Warbler also occurred no earlier than April 28 but its latest arrival extended the range to May 19. Three other species shared similar ranges in arrival dates, the Magnolia, Cape May, and Chestnut-sided; none arrived before May 5 nor later than May 16. Magnolia, Cape-May, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll, and Canada Warblers shared an identical earliest arrival date of May 5.

Cape May and Chestnut-sided warblers had identical ranges and identical mean arrival dates of May 9. Their standard deviation values were also close, suggesting similarly little variation in arrival dates. Blackpoll and Canada warblers also had identical ranges and means of arrival dates of May 12. The similarity in arrival dates of these two species is especially interesting considering that the arrivals of these two species were observed in exactly the same 11 years of the study.

Certain dates had a number of simultaneous arrivals. The preponderance of multiple arrivals fell between May 4 and May 11. The earliest "warbler wave" recorded during the sampling period occurred on April 28. A "warbler wave" is here defined as the arrival of four or more species of warblers on the same day. May 14 was the latest date a wave was observed. May 4, May 5, and May 7 were "warbler wave" dates in more than one year. 1971 was the only year in which three distinct "warbler waves" of at least four species each occurred. These were on May 4, May 7, and May 11. 1968 had a series of multiple arrivals with three species each, occurring on May 10, May 13, and May 17; these being later than usual.

Multiple arrivals were also examined to determine if any pattern of association would emerge. Ovenbird and Blue-winged Warblers often occurred either simultaneously or within a day of each other. In 1961, both arrived on May 5, in 1962 Blue-winged arrived on April 28 and Ovenbird on April 29; in 1966 Blue-winged appeared on May 2 and

Ovenbird on May 3; in 1967 both arrived on May 1; in 1969 both arrived on May 1; both arrived on April 28 in 1969; both arrived on May 1 in 1970 and in 1971 both arrived on May 7. The other notable association was that of the American Redstart and Common Yellowthroat which arrived simultaneously on May 10 in 1961, on May 8 in 1962, May 8 in 1964, May 6 in 1966 and May 14 in 1967.

There was a less consistent yet discernable similarity for Cape May and Chestnut-sided warbler arrivals as well. In 1961, Cape May and Chestnut-sided arrived together on May 10. In 1963, Chestnut-sided arrived on May 7 while Cape May appeared on May 8. In 1965, the two warblers arrived together on May 7. In 1967, the Chestnut-sided arrived on May 14 while the Cape May appeared in the next wave on May 16. In 1970, the Cape May arrived on May 8 and the Chestnut-sided on May 9. In 1971, they both arrived on May 11.

An analysis of temperature averages for the ten day period preceding and including each date upon which four or more warbler species arrived was conducted. For this analysis, I obtained high and low temperature extremes for each day within a ten day span prior to and including all arrival dates for each of the 22 species over the 13 year study period. Both daily extremes and daily high temperatures were averaged. Results are shown in Table 2. No significant correlations were found between temperature averages and the fluctuations in species arrival times.

TABLE 2
Arrival Dates of Four or More Wood Warblers Compared with Temperatures for a Ten Day Period Prior to and Including Arrival Dates, Newtown, Connecticut.

Arrival Date	10 day Av. Temp.*	10 day Av. High Temp.*
April 28, 1969	51.4	62.0
May 4, 1962	58.1	67.6
May 4, 1971	47.2	55.2
May 5, 1963	55.4	61.5
May 5, 1969	58.5	73.0
May 6, 1966	47.3	68.9
May 7, 1965	59.6	68.9
May 7, 1971	50.4	59.0
May 8, 1964	54.6	65.6
May 9, 1970	56.2	67.8
May 10, 1961	52.0	59.2
May 11, 1971	52.6	61.4
May 14, 1967	47.8	56.8

*Temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

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The Owl's Plight

by Dave Provencher

The winter of 1995-96 has been a hard one for raptors. Everything from accipiters to owls has struggled to find food during this poor prey year. Even shrikes have moved into our region in historic numbers. Many indications of the severe impact of the season on raptors are coming to light. Regionally, Barred Owls have been noted near bird feeders, apparently staking them out for their nocturnal visitors. One Connecticut observer discovered a Barred Owl eating a Long-eared Owl. Barn Owls have been found dead of apparent starvation on Martha's Vineyard and others have been seen hunting in broad daylight. Great Gray Owls moved early and in large numbers in the middle of the continent and indeed, every Connecticut birder knows about the Great Gray Owl that spent a day at Hammonasset Beach State Park. The fall migration of Northern Saw-whet Owls shattered previous records on the east coast by huge margins, possibly indicating a prey failure further north.

The struggle for a raptor to survive winter can be very difficult. The balance of energy spent versus food obtained can be a precarious one. For owls, the ability to spend the day in cover and resting is essential to their survival. We as birders should know this and behave accordingly. While owls hold a special fascination for us we must avoid putting any undue stress on them. During the search for the Great Gray Owl at Hammonasset the day after its appearance, I witnessed a Great Horned Owl on Willard's Island moved by searching birders so many times that it ended up flying out into the marsh and perching on the ice. The cedars around the rotary were crawling with birders searching for reported Long-eared Owls. I overheard one birder telling another to stand by him because his buddy was in the cedars trying to flush the owls to him. This sort of birding is very hard on owls, particularly during a harsh winter and poor prey year.

I ask everyone to please give our wintering owls special consideration. If you see an owl, please observe it quietly and briefly. Don't approach it or intentionally flush it. Ask other birders to show the same consideration if you tell them of an owl's location. Please do not handle Saw-whets, as some birders have done this year. Don't mistake their docile response for trust---it is very stressful for them to be handled and probably dangerous as well to the physiological health of the owl. Don't disturb an owl's roosting site to get a better look at the owl or a better chance of photographing it. Don't announce the owl. I have even seen a sign on a tree noting that a Saw-whet was in it. We as birders should have an interest in the owl's survival that exceeds our desire to see them more closely. I hope that all of you will join me in being especially aware of the plight of our owls this year. Let us not love them to death.

Review List of the Connecticut Rare Records Committee

The CRRC welcomes descriptions, photographs, sound recordings, and other documentation for reports of any species on the list below and any other species not on the official state list (see *COA Field Checklist*, August 1994).

Eastern Grebe, Western Grebe, Northern Fulmar, Black-capped Petrel, Cory's Shearwater, Greater Shearwater, Manx Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, White-faced Storm-Petrel, Leach's Storm Petrel, American White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Anhinga, Magnificent Frigatebird, White Ibis, Wood Stork, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Tundra Swan, Greater White-fronted Goose, Tufted Duck, Common Eider, King Eider, Harlequin Duck, American Swallow-tailed Kite, Swainson's Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Yellow Rail, Black Rail, Corn Crake, Purple Gallinule, Sandhill Crane, Wilson's Plover, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Spotted Redshank, Eskimo Curlew, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff, Red-necked Phalarope, Red Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Franklin's Gull, Little Gull, Mew Gull, Thayer' Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Ross' Gull, Bull-billed Tern, Sandwich Tern, Arctic Tern, Bridled Tern, Sooty Tern, Dovekie, Thick-billed Murre, Razorbill, Black Guillemot, Atlantic Puffin, Band-tailed Pigeon, White-winged Dove, Northern Hawk Owl, Burrowing Owl, Great Gray Owl, Boreal Owl, Chuck-wills-widow, Rufous Hummingbird, Black-backed Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Gray Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Boreal Chickadee, Sedge Wren, Northern Wheatear, Townsend's Solitaire, Varied Thrush, Bohemian Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell's Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Summer Tanager, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Painted Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Henslow's Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Smith's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Boat-tailed Grackle, Hoary Redpoll.

The CRRC also seeks information regarding the breeding records of the following unusual breeding birds and also other species which are not known to breed in Connecticut. Information received will be reviewed and archived by the CRRC.

Tricolored Heron, Blue-winged Teal, Bald Eagle, Northern
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HARRIER, Peregrine Falcon, Black Rail, King Rail, American Coot, Common Snipe, Black Skimmer, Barn Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Sedge Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, Protonotary Warbler, Dickcissel, Vesper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Red Crossbill, Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeak.

COA Listing Report Form (optional)

The hobby of birdwatching has, for many, evolved into a sport of listing. Listing has been defined as the recording of species which have been identified within a particular area, time period, or both. The most common is the Life List, but birders also keep track of their individual State Lists, County Lists, Town Lists, Yard Lists, Year Lists, Big Day Lists and so forth.

This idea is nothing new. The American Birding Association (ABA) annually publishes the lists of its members. Since the COA last published similar lists in the Summer 1993 issue of the *COA Bulletin*, we thought it was time to offer this to our members once again.

The staff of COA views listing generally as positive, as it encourages us to get afield more often. There is more thorough coverage of areas or time periods, thus resulting in more data and knowledge of bird distribution, as well as stronger field skills among observers.

If you submit your list, include only species accepted by the Connecticut Rare Records Committee, as found in The Connecticut Field List (1994 edition) and the CRRC's Reports in *The Connecticut Warbler* (e.g., excluding such species as Barnacle Goode and Jackdaw). We rely upon the integrity of those reporting their lists to provide accurate totals. An example of the listing forms that the CRRC wants you to use is provided below:

Feeder and Yard List: _____ "best yard species" _____

Town Lists: _____ species seen in _____ (town 1)

Town Lists: _____ species seen in _____ (town 2)

Town Lists: _____ species seen in _____ (town 3)

County Lists _____ species seen in _____ (county 1)

County Lists _____ species seen in _____ (county 2)

CT State List (overall: _____ "best state species" _____

Year State List (1995) _____ "best" year species _____

MOST WANTED SPECIES

List bird species in order, you would most like to see in Connecticut:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Send forms, or request forms and additional information to Master birder Greg Hanisek at 175 Circuit Avenue, Waterbury, Connecticut 06708.

Turkey Hunting and Turkey Harvests Increasing in Connecticut

The recovery of the Wild Turkey in Connecticut is one of our favorite success stories. Since their initial reintroduction and initial protection, Wild Turkey populations have grown dramatically throughout the state and are now a fairly widespread species that can almost always be added to a local or regional CBC or Big Day Count. Even commuters on the Merrit Parkway are often treated to the sight of Wild Turkeys foraging for grit along the roadways. Some farmers have reported flocks numbering 200-300 birds in their fields. The successful recovery of the Wild Turkey population has, in a sense been their undoing, for the turkey season has seen an increase in the number of permits issued and the number of turkeys harvested.

The 1995 Fall Firearms Turkey season ran from October 21 through November 4 in much of Northwestern Connecticut. The hunter response to the turkey season has been dramatic. In 1995 some 1,028 hunting permits were issued, almost twice the number issued in 1994. The number of turkeys harvested more than doubled at 121 birds. Most of the birds taken were adults and slightly more than half were females. The largest Tom harvested weighed 19.5 pounds but the average weight of harvested males was 17.7 pounds. Females averaged about 8.3 pounds. Turkeys were harvested in some 21 towns, mostly in Sharon, Canaan, Warren and Goshen.

For more information about the Fall Firearms Turkey Harvest consult Howard Kilpatrick's article in the Jan/Feb 1996 issue of *Connecticut Wildlife*.

COA Bulletin

Fifth Annual North American Migrant Count

Mike Resch, NAMC New England Coordinator, is once again sending out notices that it is time to start planning the 1996 North American Migration Count. Now in its fifth year, the count will be held on May 11, 1996.

As Mike notes, the NAMC is like a Christmas Count in that it includes counting all birds seen or heard on a given day. In contrast to the Christmas Count, the NAMC

- * is a nationwide count held on the second Saturday in May
- * uses entire counties as count areas
- * occurs in warmer weather and has no fees

The goals of the NAMC include:

- *obtain a snapshot of spring migration
- *record information on the abundance and distribution of species
- *participate in a fun event.

According to Mike, last year's NAMC counts for the six New England states totaled some 115,989 individual birds of 234 species which were recorded by 412 observers in 171 parties. The counters covered 43 of the 65 counties in the New England states. Since 1993, the number of counties covered and the number of participants has continued to rise.

The Connecticut Coordinators for the NAMC are Chris Wood for Litchfield County and Jay Kaplan for Hartford County. Connecticut birders are urged to participate in this count either by helping on one of these counts or signing up for a county that is not yet included on the NAMC count list. Tolland, Middlesex, New Haven and New London counties are there for the asking. To participate in the established counts, please call Chris at 203-355-3716 or Jay at 203-693-0157. For more information about the counts or to talk about starting a count in another Connecticut county, please call Mike Resch at 508-433-8896. Mike's e-mail address is - mresh8702@aol.com.

Birding Equipment for Sale

Celestron C90 Series Spotting Scope with accessories to include tripod, finder scope, instruction booklet, porro prism, 30 mm eyepiece and 18 mm eyepiece, star diagonal, T-adaptor for photography and set of Allen wrenches. All for \$600. Call San G. Dodd at 860-423-6170 (day or night) for more information.

REGIONAL HOTLINES

Connecticut (203) 254-3665
Rhode Island (401) 949-3870
Eastern Massachusetts (617) 259-8805
Western Massachusetts (413) 253-2218
Vermont (802) 457-4861
New Hampshire (603) 224-9900
Maine (207) 781-2332
New York Metro (212) 979-3070
Northern New Jersey (908) 766-2661
Cape May, New Jersey (609) 884-2626

Trips and Events

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New Haven Bird Club

SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COAST, on Saturday, March 16. Bring lunch and be prepared for windy weather. Meet at Sherwood Island State Park parking lot (I-95 Exit 18) near the large pavilion at 8 am. Call leader Tom Kilroy at 203-929-6683 for more info.

SHORELINE FROM LIGHTHOUSE TO LORDSHIP, on Saturday, April 6. Winter gulls, loons, ducks and early shorebirds. Meet at the Hawkwatch parking lot for Lighthouse Point Park at 8:30 am. Bring lunch. Call leader Dick English at 203-865-8610 for more info.

EAST ROCK PARK CLEANUP AND BIRDING, on Sunday, April 14. Meet at the parking lot by Lake Whitney for bird walk between 8-9 am. Then join park ranger Dan Barvir to help with cleanup and light trail maintenance. Bring work gloves and pruning shears.

DURHAM MEADOWS TO COASTAL GUILFORD, on Saturday, May 4. Rails, shorebirds and early migrants on a 6-7 hour birding trip, so bring lunch. Meet at Exit 58, I-95 North at the northeast side of the commuter lot at 5:45 am. Call leader John Wagenblatt at 203-496-8294 for info.

KID'S WALK AT EAST ROCK PARK, on Sunday, May 11. Children accompanied by adults meet at Eli Whitney Museum parking lot at 8:30 am. Call leader Flo McBride at 203-288-6777 for more info.

WHITE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, on Sunday, May 12 for warblers, rails, flycatchers, swallows, hawks, etc. Bring lunch. Meet at WMF parking lot at 8 am. Call leader Lee Schlesinger at 914-937-4685 for more info.

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Trips & Events

The Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center at Milford

The CAS at Milford Point announces the following Adult Lecture Series on the Ecological Components of Milford Point. All talks are given in the evening, from 7:30 to 9:00 pm at the CAS Coastal Center, One Milford Point Road. Fee is \$8 for nonmembers, \$6 for members and \$4 for students for each talk. Please purchase tickets in advance. Contact Barbara Milton at 203-878-7440 for more information.

CHARLES E. WHEELER SALT MARSH (Milford Point), talk by Randy Chambers on Wednesday, March 6 at 7:30 pm.

STEWART B. MCKINNEY WILDLIFE REFUGE: THE MAKING OF A WILDLIFE REFUGE, by Milan Bull on Wednesday, March 27.

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES AT MILFORD POINT, by Matt Black, on Wednesday, April 2.

LONG ISLAND SOUND ALIVE, by Peter Pellegrino on Wednesday, April 9.

BIRD WALKS AT THE POINT, on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month, from 9:00 to 10:00 am in the morning. Meet in front of the building at 9:00 am. Contact Barbara Milton at 203-878-7440 for more information about these birding walks at Milford Point.

Connecticut State Museum of Natural History--University of Connecticut-Storrs

Call the UCONN Museum at 860-486-4460 for information on these and other programs offered by the state museum.

REFLECTIONS OF NATURE, an exhibit by Nature Photographer Terry Dickinson of Hampton, opening Sunday, March 17 and continuing to the end of April, in the Wilbur Cross Building.

PLANTS THAT ATTRACT BIRDS TO YOUR LANDSCAPE, by Carol Auer on Sunday, April 21 at 3 pm in Room 154 of UCONN's Torrey Life Sciences Building, 75 N. Eagleville Road, Storrs.

The Audubon Shop in Madison

EAGLE WATCHES ON THE CONNECTICUT RIVER, Saturdays, January 21 through March 2. \$15 includes lunch at Oliver's Tavern. Call leader Jerry Connolly at 203-245-9056 for information.

COSTA RICA FIELD TRIP, March 15-25 with leader Noble Proctor. Call Jerry Connolly at 203-245-9056 for information and reservations. Desperately seeking single lady to share occupancy with another lady on this trip. Call Jerry Connolly at 203-245-9056 for information.

Menunkatuck Audubon Society

THE SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE, illustrated talk by Tom Maloney on Wednesday, May 8, at the Guilford Community Center at 7:30 pm.

Connecticut Audubon Society

The CAS announces the following field trips. For more information call Lauren Brown at 1-800-996-8747.

CITY DUCKS: BIRDING NEW HAVEN HARBOR, on Saturday, March 9, from 9 am -early afternoon. Meet at Long Wharf New Haven Information Book, I-95 Exit 46. Bring or buy lunch. Leader Milan Bull.

TREE IDENTIFICATION FOR BIRDERS, on Sunday, March 13, 1-3 pm at New Haven's East Rock Park. Leader Lauren Brown.

BARN ISLAND, on Saturday, April 27, from 9 am - late morning. Leader Milan Bull. Call for directions and meeting place. CAS Members \$5, nonmembers \$8, optional van transportation. Directions will be sent.

CORNWALL, ENGLAND, from Friday, May 3 through Saturday, May 11. Cost \$2,150 members, \$2,250 nonmembers. Call CAS Glastonbury Center at 860-633-8402 for information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COA encourages local bird clubs to send announcements of field trips and other events to Dwight Smith Bulletin Editor
241 Shepard Ave, Hamden, CT 06514

COA Bulletin

Field Reports Requested

Birding observations by COA birders form the basis for the seasonal reports on the status of resident and migrating birds in the state which appear in *The Connecticut Warbler* and *Audubon Field Notes*. COA members are encouraged to report their sightings by filling in Species Report Forms, can be obtained from Greg Hanisek by calling 203-574-3636.

Report periods and due dates are; Fall period from August 1 through November 30, report due December 10; Winter from December 1 to February 30, report due March 10; Spring from March 1 to May 30, report due June 10; Summer from June 1 to July 30, report due August 10. Please submit reports to Greg Hanisek, 158 Circuit Ave., Waterbury, CT 06708. Contributors should complete separate forms for each species observed. Sort the forms into phylogenetic order, using the COA *Connecticut Field List* as a guide. Detailed descriptions should be given for species on the *Field List* denoted by * (rare) or # (hypothetical) or for species not on the *Field List*. All reports will be preserved. Comments are welcomed.

Joining COA

The Connecticut Ornithological Association welcomes new members. COA is the only statewide organization devoted exclusively to birds and birding, and its members range from beginning birders to professional ornithologists. Joining COA is guaranteed to improve your knowledge of Connecticut birds and increase your enjoyment of Connecticut birding.

Membership costs as little as \$12.00 per year and includes a copy of *The Ten Best Birding Sites in Connecticut*, the quarterly *COA Bulletin*, a quarterly journal of Connecticut ornithology, *The Connecticut Warbler*, and invitations to COA events such as field trips and field days. Membership dues also support COA's rare bird hotline, conservation initiatives, and research projects. New members receive a copy of the official *Connecticut Field List* and a COA decal.

Present COA members who have not yet renewed for the current year can use the form below. Check the mailing label on the other side of this page to see whether your membership is current. If not, please send in the form today.

JOIN COA FOR THE BEST OF CONNECTICUT BIRDING

Please print or type

New Member Renewal Gift

Name _____ Name 2 _____

(Memberships above the individual level can include a spouse or partner)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ - _____

Telephone* _____ Occupation* _____

Bird Club or Audubon Chapter* _____ Christmas Count Name* _____

Level of Birding Experience* Beginner Novice Intermediate Advanced Expert

Membership Category Individual (\$12) Family (\$18) Contributing (\$25) Sustaining (\$40)

*Optional

Send this application with your check to:

Connecticut Ornithological Association, 314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06430

COA does not release its membership list to other organizations. Dues are tax deductible as allowed under the law.

MEMBERS: PLEASE GIVE THIS FORM TO A BIRDING FRIEND

COA Bulletin

COA OFFICERS

President Jay Kaplan, 71 Gracey Road, Canton, CT 06896 860-693-0157
Vice President Dave Provencher, 43 Branch Hill Rd, Preston, CT 06360 860-885-1239
Treasurer Carl Trichka, 65 Glover Street, Fairfield, CT 06430 203-259-2623
Secretary Andrew Brand, 59 Brooksvale Ave, Hamden, CT 06518 203-230-1718

COA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Bylaws Joseph Zeranski, 163 Field Point Rd, Greenwich, CT 06830 203- 661-9607
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Research Robert Askins, CT College /Biology, New London, CT 06320 203-439-2149

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