

# COA Bulletin

Summer 1996 NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION Vol 10 No 2

## Connecticut Summer Bird Counts --1996 Style

by Joe Zeranski

Get out those tapes and bird songs, CD's, or old records hiding in the back of your closet. Start reacquainting yourself with those all too often baffling bird trills, whistles, hoots and warbles. No longer can birders bird well by sight identification of birds alone. Needed skills now include a pair of "good ears". This is especially true for the 6th Annual COA sponsored Connecticut Summer Bird Counts which will soon be upon us.

When the foliage is as thick as it is during June, a person's skills in identifying birds by their vocalizations is important. More birds can be identified by their calls and songs than by their appearance. For many birders, SBCs have become an indicator of how well their personal ID skills have developed.

This is arguably the most interesting of our state-wide birding events and provides much meaningful data. It should not be forgotten that this is also a prime opportunity for birders to become better acquainted with our own native nesting birds while contributing to our understanding of bird nesting distributions.

In 1991, during the first year of COA's sponsorship of SBCs, 169 species were observed, in 1992 178 species were seen, 1993 totaled 185. There were 189 species in 1994 and last year 187 were reported, including four species new to SBCs. Not entirely unexpected were the Sanderling and Ring-necked Duck, but the reportings of Mississippi Kite and Gull-billed Terns were remarkable. Nine SBCs were held during the past two years. If these

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## HOTLINE HIGHLIGHTS

**Harlequin Duck** Milford Feb 1 - Mar 9  
**Common Eider** Stamford Feb 8 - Apr 15  
**Barrows Goldeneye** Enfield Feb 19-23  
**Black Vulture** New Milford Mar 4 - Apr 9  
**Loggerhead Shrike** Milford Mar 17  
**Ruff** Milford Mar 25 - Apr 14  
**Northern Gannet** Westport Mar 25-26  
**White-fronted Goose** Tolland Apr 8-9  
**Yellow-throated Warbler** Killingworth  
 Apr 14 - 15  
**Boat-tailed Grackle** Stratford Apr 21-23

**RARE BIRD ALERT: 203-254-3665**

## 1996 Annual Meeting New England Marathon

by Fran D'Amico

COA's Twelfth Annual Meeting was held at Middlesex Community-Technical College in Middletown on Saturday, March 23rd. It was attended by 174 people, who enjoyed a full day of entertaining and informative activities, including slide presentations, an award presentation, a bird quiz, shopping in the COA Marketplace, and the raffle. This year's raffle featured three optical prizes (a scope and two pairs of binoculars), artworks, and books.

Excellent presentations were given by Walter Ellison (Vermont), Steve Mirick (New Hampshire), Charles Duncan (Maine), Seth Kellogg (western Massachusetts), Wayne Peterson (eastern Massachusetts), Richard Ferren (Rhode Island), and Dave Provencher (Connecticut). They highlighted interesting and unique aspects of birding in their state. Julian Hough put this year's challenging bird quiz together. The day's programming concluded with an informative and lively exchange in the Rare Records Symposium. States were represented by Walter Ellison (Vermont), Steve Mirick (New Hampshire), Charles Duncan (Maine), Wayne Peterson (Massachusetts), Hugh Willoughby (Rhode Island), and Frank Mantlik (Connecticut).

The raffle, organized and run by Frank Pearson and John Gaskell, was the most successful in COA's history

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# COA Bulletin

## SBCs--- 1996 *(continued from page 1)*

SBCs continue to be held, they will allow us to make better comparisons and decipher trends.

We can only speculate which new species will be found this year and who will find them, but we can anticipate a fuller portrait of our summering birds to emerge. Certainly we can better document the effects of the severe 1995-96 winter, with its extensive and prolonged snow cover, upon a number of species. This is especially true for ground feeders such as Carolina Wren. We look forward to this year's SBCs and hope that they will produce birds as exciting as those found in 1995.

Several territories had fewer observers participating than was desirable and additional volunteers will be very much appreciated. To join us please call a SBC compiler now, or better yet two, and offer your help. A list of the 1996 Connecticut SBC compilers is provided as follows:

<b>Barkhamsted</b>	Dave Rosgen 203-283-8378
<b>Greenwich-Stamford</b>	Tom Burke 914-967-4922 Gary Palmeri 203-661-4897
<b>Hartford</b>	Kathie Felice 203-582-5802
<b>Litchfield Hills</b>	Bob Barbieri 203-489-8672 Ray Belding 203-482-4046
<b>New Haven</b>	Steve Mayo 203-393-0694
<b>Quinnipiac</b>	Wilford Schultz 203-265-6398
<b>Salmon River</b>	Joseph Morin 203-635-2786
<b>Storrs</b>	Steve Rogers 860-429-1259
<b>Woodbury-Roxbury</b>	Russ Naylor 203-263-2502

For additional information, including criteria for setting up new SBCs, contact COA's SBC coordinator, Joe Zeranski at 203-661-9607.

**The Newsletter of the  
Connecticut Ornithological Association  
is published quarterly in  
February, May, August, and November.  
Please submit materials for the next  
issue by August 1, 1996 to  
Dwight Smith, Editor,  
241 Shepard Ave, Hamden, CT 06514.**

## 1996 Annual Meeting

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because of the generous donations of items by corporate sponsors Kowa, Swift and Swarovski and COA members Tom Baptist, Jerry Connolly (The Audubon Shop in Madison), Paul Fusco, Mike DiGeorgio, Pat Dugan, Bill Gaunya, Greg Hanikse, Bob McDonnell, Milford Camera Shop, Roaring Brook Nature Center, Ray Sarapillo, Joe Zeranski, and Jim Zipp (the Fat Robin Shop in Hamden). The range of COA Marketplace items included fine artwork, books, outstanding photography, and a wide variety of other bird related items. Booths for the Association of Field Ornithologists (AFO), Manomet Bird Observatory, and The Bird Observer were welcome additions to this year's COA Marketplace.

During the business portion of the meeting, officers were elected for the 1996 to 1997 term and directors were elected for the 1996 to 1999 term. In filling these positions, the membership followed the recommendations of the nominating committee, which was composed of the chairperson, Alison Olivieri, and members Buzz Devine and John Gaskell. Jay Kaplan and Dave Provencher were elected to their second term as COA president and vice-president, respectively. Re-elected were Carl Trichka, treasurer, and Andy Brand, secretary. Fran D'Amico, Greg Hanisek, Lise Hanners, Tom Harrington, John Longstreth, and Ben Olewine were elected to new terms ending in 1999.

The presentation of the Mabel Osgood Wright Award to Fred Sibley was a high point of the meeting. Milan Bull presented the award, which COA gives to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to Connecticut Ornithology. Milan's remarks on Fred's many accomplishments will appear in the next issue of the Connecticut Warbler.

Many thanks are due to all those who made this special event possible: Middlesex Community-Technical College for co-sponsoring the meeting, especially Dean John Coggins, and the Program Committee members who worked tirelessly (well, sometimes they actually did get tired); Mary Carter, Fran D'Amico, Kathie Felice, John Gaskell, Greg Hanisek, Tom Harrington, Julian Hough, Betty Kleiner, Gil Kleiner, Jamie Meyers, Joann Meyers, Frank Pearson, and Mark Szantyr. Several other individuals helped out during the meeting and thanks go to them as well.

## Spring Turkey Hunt

Connecticut's spring Wild Turkey hunting season is scheduled from May 1 to May 21. Birders are reminded to exercise caution during this and other hunting seasons of the year when birding in areas likely to be hunted.



# COA Bulletin

## We Want Shrike News

by Greg Hanisek

The winter of 1995-96 has produced what appears to be a record flight of Northern Shrikes. The first birds showed up just after mid-October, and a few were still around as mid-April approached.

In order to assess the extent and magnitude of the flight as accurately as possible, COA is soliciting observations. If you saw a Northern Shrike during this year---but did not report it either as a COA field note or to the Rare Bird Alert--please send us a note on your sighting.

The note should include date, place and, if possible, age (adult or immature). Send it to COA Field Notes Editor, Greg Hanisek, 175 Circuit Avenue, Waterbury, CT 06708.

## Reservoir Watching in Connecticut

by Jay Kaplan and Jamie Meyers

During periods of peak waterfowl migration, many Connecticut birders flock to the shore to look for loons, grebes and ducks. Connecticut is a small state and for most of us, Long Island Sound is within an hour's drive and easily accessible. Yet, there are obviously times when you may not have the time to get down to Milford Point, Hammonasset, Sherwood Island or Harkness Memorial State Parks. If you are fortunate to have one of Connecticut's many large reservoirs near your home, you may never go to the shore again! Although large bodies of water can obviously be productive stopover points during migration, few of Connecticut's reservoirs are heavily birded. This may be a mistake. In England, according to Julian Hough, a member of the Connecticut Rare Records Committee, it can be quite difficult to get to the coast. Many birders there stake out local reservoirs at prime locations for migrants. In doing so, they can be well rewarded with sightings of shearwaters, jaegers, and other pelagic species. Obviously, Connecticut will never be confused with the British Isles as a migration corridor. Nevertheless, our larger lakes and reservoirs can be productive. Following hurricanes, for example, unsubstantiated reports of petrels have come from the upper Connecticut River and from Batterson Pond in the Hartford area. The Connecticut Rare Records Committee is currently reviewing a 1970's shearwater report from Suffield's Congamond Lakes. One would certainly not expect to see shearwaters or petrels on Connecticut lakes on an annual basis. Yet the variety of species can be surprising.

This year, several Hartford area birders have been monitoring Nepaug Reservoir, located on the border of

Canton, Burlington and New Hartford. Nepaug may not be as well known as its larger relative, Barkhamsted Reservoir, located about fifteen miles to the north. Nevertheless, the bird list for Nepaug was quite impressive during the first two weeks of April. Sunday, April 14th was especially productive with 17 species of loons, grebes and waterfowl noted. Several of these species were present for only a short time, perhaps brought down by some heavy rain showers during the day. A full list of species from this two week period includes: Common Loon, Pied-billed, Horned and Red-necked Grebe (at least 12 individuals, many in full breeding plumage); Snow and Canada Goose (nesting); Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Oldsquaw (2), Surf Scoter (one immature), White-winged Scoter (2 adult males), Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead (high of 17), and all three merganser species. Additional species of note included Great Blue Heron, Osprey, Bald Eagle, and a male Northern Harrier. Several hundred gulls (Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed) use the Reservoir as an evening roost and, on April 14th, six Bonaparte's Gulls were also noted. Finally, thousands of Tree Swallows could be seen skimming the Reservoir, feeding on mayflies and other aquatic insects in one of the few locations where food was still available after the early April snowstorm.

Was this spring an anomaly? Or would more careful and continuous observation, particularly when fronts pass, result in such activity at other Connecticut reservoirs? Reservoir watching is easy and often convenient. We recommend it and would be interested in hearing birding results from other reservoirs around the states.

## Articles Needed for the COA Bulletin

As usual, your happy COA Bulletin editor needs more and more articles for each issue of the bulletin. Articles on local sightings, birding events, special trips, book reviews or op ed pieces can all find a home in a future issue. Please consider working up an article---anything from half a page upwards to several pages of type can be happily accommodated. It is your bulletin too, and it is your contributions that make the bulletin a lively and entertaining piece of reading.

### **HOTLINE REPORTS**

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

**Milan Bull 203-259-6305 or 203-255-8837**

**Mark Szantyr 860-429-4038**

**Frank Gallo 203-966-6756**



# COA Bulletin

## 5th Annual North American Migration Count

Since this is scheduled to take place on 11 May, by the time you read this the 5th North American Migration Count will have come and gone, hopefully with lots of participants. Some 500 birders were expected to count migrants. If you missed it this year, why not read about it in the March 1996 edition of ABA's *Winging It*" (on page 21). The event is also announced in the BBC "Blue Book." Better yet, you can obtain a copy of the results of this and previous year's migration counts from Mike Resch, New England Compiler at 12 Lakin Street, Pepperell, MA 01463.

To reiterate information about the NAMC:

- \* It is a nationwide count held on one day (the second Saturday in May) each year.
- \* It includes entire counties as count areas (instead of 15-mile diameter circles)
- \* It occurs in warm weather and has no fees.

The goals of the NAMC include:

- \* Obtain a snapshot of the progress of spring migration
- \* Obtain information on the abundance and distribution of Neotropical migrants and all other species
- \* And have fun!

For more information and results of these counts in New England, contact Mike Resch at the above address, or contact your local coordinator. The 1996 New England Coordinators of the North American Migration Count are listed below:

<b>New England</b>	Mike Resch 508-433-8896
<b>New Hampshire</b>	Alan and Barbara Delorey 603-887-4681
<b>Maine</b>	Maurice Mills 207-726-4494
<b>Rhode Island</b>	David Emerson 508-822-7430
<b>Vermont</b>	Bonnie Dundas 802-447-7433
<b>Massachusetts</b>	
Essex County	Rob Lewis 617-450-6530
Worcester County	Richard Hikdreth 508-429-5085
Suffolk County	Robert Stymeist 617-926-3603
Nantucket County	Edith Andrews 508-228-9529
Hampden County	Seth Kellogg 413-569-3335
Hampshire County	Anne Lombard 413-586-7509

## Connecticut

Litchfield County

Chris Wood 203-355-3716

Hartford County

Jay Kaplan 860-693-0157

Middlesex County

Wilford Schultz 203-265-6398

## Report Those Rare and Unusual Bird Sightings

by Greg Hanisek

The annual meeting has drawn praise from all quarters, and deservedly so. When I think back over all of the interesting programs, one remark comes back to me again and again. Seth Kellogg, who spoke on the birds of western Massachusetts, said he wasn't all that fond of either the term "birdwatcher" or "birder." He preferred the term "local bird study."

In an era when listing and traveling rate highly with people interested in birds, Seth struck a major chord. Despite our fascination with far-away places and rare migrants, we shouldn't lose sight of the basics. Knowing the birds of our local area well remains a worthwhile, important and satisfying pursuit.

In Britain, where rarity-chasing reaches a level of manic obsession only faintly imagined on our side of the Atlantic, birders study of their "local patch" remains almost a sacred obligation. A resident of Lancashire may race off to Scilly on news that some North American wood warbler has made an appearance, but a couple of days later he'll be back combing through gulls at the reservoir a half-mile from his house.

As COA Field Notes Editor, I find this subject especially close to my heart. I would love to see more members send in notes on their sightings. I think some hesitate because they are afraid they haven't seen anything "good" enough. Others may not keep any notes.

If you have records, don't underestimate them. Individual sightings may not seem significant, but the more we can accumulate, the more patterns emerge. Rarities are interesting, but information on the arrival and departure dates, numbers of birds seen and nesting activity are all more significant in the long run.

If you are interested in sending notes and you are not sure what to pick out, feel free to send them all. Err on the side of too much rather than too little. Not all sightings will make it into print, but they will help create a picture of avian activity during a given reporting period. Sightings that seem unimportant now may gain significance years from now as patterns begin to emerge.

Bird populations are dynamic, but the changes often

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# COA Bulletin

## Reporting Sightings

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begin subtly. The more records we accumulate, the better that we can assess what is going on.

If you don't take notes, I would encourage you to try it. It is impossible to remember precisely when, where, and how many birds we have seen over the years. Notes help sharpen our perception of what is going on, and they help put things into perspective. Migration schedules of common species come into clear focus when you can look through a decade's worth of notebooks to see exactly how things have unfolded.

I find nothing in birding more satisfying than paging through old notes as a particularly interesting part of the year draws near, figuring out where and when I ought to find a seasonal arrival and then actually having the bird meet my expectations.

I'm also rewarded by all of the COA members who send in field notes, but I would love to get a lot more from you, so please, send your sightings to me at the following address:

Greg Hanisek, 158 Circuit Avenue, Waterbury, Connecticut.

## In Support of Owls

To the *COA Bulletin* Editor:

Dave Provencher's article "The Owl's Plight" in the Spring issue of the *COA Bulletin* was an admonition to us all and I want to congratulate you for publishing it.

As birding becomes more and more popular---the second fastest growing hobby in the U.S (gardening being #1, in case you were wondering)---more and more inexperienced people will venture afield. Although some of us may feel that ethical behavior toward wildlife is "common courtesy" or as natural as breathing, the fact is that more often than not, it must be taught. It is up to those of us who practice caution to teach others how to do the same. Knowing exactly how to confront someone who is behaving inappropriately is not always easy and many of us, myself included, do not relish confrontations, particularly with strangers. Perhaps COA could do its members a favor by organizing a workshop on how to deal with this problem.

In the meantime, "Let us not love them to death," indeed. Bravo, Dave Provencher.

Sincerely,

Allison Wickwire Olivieri

## DEP Wetland Bird Survey

Since 1993, the DEP Wildlife Division, with the help of volunteers, has conducted a statewide survey of Connecticut's wetlands in an effort to obtain basic population information on endangered birds like the American Bittern, Least Bittern, Pied-billed Grebe and other wetland species.

Survey participants use playback of tape recorded song to determine the presence of wetland birds. During the survey, tape recordings of territorial calls are played at dawn to elicit responses during the breeding season.

Last summer, 30 wetland sites were censused. Survey results revealed that Virginia Rails were the most common species responding, followed by Willet, Clapper Rail and King Rail.

Survey volunteers will be asked to survey locations once in late May, twice in June and once in early July, beginning at sunrise, any day of the week.

If you are interested in participating in this year's annual wetland bird survey contact Jenny Dickson at the Sessions Woods Office.

## Connecticut Birding Guide

The *Connecticut Birding Guide* will be available this summer. The guide is written by Arnold Devine and Dwight G. Smith, illustrated by Mark Szantyr and has a forward by Noble Proctor. Dozens of Connecticut birders contributed their time and efforts to review the manuscript prior to publication.

The *Connecticut Birding Guide* covers some 84 major birding sites along with dozens of additional sites. The guide provides a comprehensive view of the best and most accessible birding spots in Connecticut and the birds most likely seen at those sites in every season of the year.

For more information about the guide please contact Mr. Buzz Devine at 18 South Street, Plymouth, Connecticut, 06782 or Dwight Smith at 241 Shephard Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut, 06514, phone 203-248-1934.

## Winter Bald Eagle Survey

71 volunteers recorded Bald Eagles during the midwinter Bald Eagle survey which took place January 12-14.

Survey results tallied 128 individuals (45 adults, 83 immatures), almost double the number counted in 1995.



# COA Bulletin

## Connecticut Rookeries

Several of Connecticut's offshore islands support nesting colonies of herons and egrets. Three of the largest rookeries are Great Captain Island off Greenwich, Charles Island near the mouth of Milford Harbor and Duck Island at Westbrook. Of these, Great Captain Island supports the largest rookery which consists of some 80 pairs of Great Egrets, 140 pairs of Snowy Egrets and 130 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons. Charles Island is a relatively new rookery which includes some 192 heron and egret pairs. This rookery is comprised mostly of Black-crowned Night-Herons. The rookery at Duck Island is comprised of 11 pairs of Snowy Egrets, 5 pairs of Great Egrets and 6 pairs of Black-crowned Night-Herons. To protect these large rookeries, the DEP Wildlife Division began a management program during the 1995 nesting season.

This program included the placement of educational signs that explained the importance of the rookeries and the need to avoid disturbing them, and the erection of protective fences during the nesting season. These protective measures will be repeated during the 1996 summer nesting season.

For more information regarding Connecticut's rookeries, read the article in the March/April 1996 issue of *Connecticut Wildlife*, from which this report was abstracted.

## Winter Waterfowl Survey

Survey results are in for the annual, nationwide Midwinter Waterfowl Survey, coordinated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The survey is conducted once each year in early January by Wildlife Division biologists along the Connecticut coast and inland along major rivers. Survey results of waterfowl counts, recorded in order of their abundance, included 10,300 scaup, 5,500 Canada Geese, 2,900 American Black Duck, 1,600 Canvasback, 1,300 Mute Swan, 700 mergansers, 600 Bufflehead and 500 Common Goldeneye. Numbers of American Black Duck and Mallards were down from last year while numbers of scaup and Canvasback increased. Most impressive was the increase in scaup, which may be recovering after several years of decline.

## Deer Hunt at Bluff Point

Birders that frequent Bluff Point Coastal Reserve in Groton will be interested to learn that the deer overpopulation problem at the Point has been corrected by a controlled hunt.

At its peak, the deer population was estimated at some 250 individuals. The population was seriously stressed and

severely impacted the vegetation at Bluff Point.

To reduce the size of the deer population, the Wildlife Division initiated a controlled hunt on January 2, 1996. During the hunt, a total of 143 hunters harvested some 226 deer during 8.5 days of hunting. Hunters averaged 1.2 deer. DEP staff harvested a further 7 deer to meet the target deer harvest of 233 individuals, which was deemed sufficient to alleviate the deer population problem at the point. The deer harvest was not without controversy; media, Friends of Animals and other interested groups all expressed their differing points of view regarding how to best manage the deer population. For now, the matter seems to have been settled and the natural ecology of the Point is much the better.

## New Names for Several of Connecticut's Audubon Centers

Last year several of the Connecticut's Audubon Society's facilities were given new names. Since these facilities are of interest to many COA birders, a listing is presented as follows:

The Birdcraft Museum and Sanctuary is now the Connecticut Audubon Center.

The Fairfield Nature Center is now the Connecticut Audubon Center at Fairfield.

The Holland Brook Nature Center is now the Connecticut Audubon Center at Glastonbury.

The Milford Point Coastal Center is now the Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center at Milford Point.

The Environmental Center in Hartford is now the Connecticut Audubon at Hartford.

## Cheshire to Hamden Rails to Trails Linear Park

The Rails-to-Trails Linear Park which runs through most of Cheshire has been extended into northern Hamden near Sleeping Giant. Plans call for the further extension of this unique and valuable trail into New Haven and possibly northward towards Farmington, following the old railroad and still older canal line. While the trail is very heavily used by outdoor recreationists, birders can still profitably bird the trail in very early morning and late evening hours.



# COA Bulletin

## TRIPS & EVENTS

### The Audubon Shop in Madison

**BIRDING HAMMONASSETT**, every Saturday through June, beginning birders welcome. Meet at the Audubon Shop in Madison at 7:50. Car pooling to go into Hammonasset Beach State Park. Fee \$2. Call Jerry Connolly at 203-245-9056 for more information.

**BIRD WALK AT EAST ROCK PARK**, Saturday, May 19, This walk, co-led by Jerry Connolly and Dan Barvir, is at peak warbler migration. Meet at Eli Whitney Museum, Whitney Avenue at 8:30. Walk goes until 11:15 am. Fee \$2. Call Jerry Connolly at 203-245-9056 for more information.

### Menunkatuck Audubon Society

**BEGINNING BIRD-A-THON**, Jerry at the Audubon Shop in Madison will be leading a beginning Bird-a-thon at Hammonasset on Saturday, May 18, from 8-10:30 am. Minimum suggested donation is \$.15 per species seen during the 2.5 hours. Call Jerry at 203-245-9056 for more information.

**LIVE BIRDS OF PREY**, discussion and display on Monday, June 17. North Carolinian Raptor Rehabilitator Doris Mager will bring live Bald and Golden Eagles, Burrowing Owls, Peregrine Falcon, Crested Caracara!! and others. A raffle will be held to benefit the Menunkatuck Audubon Society that evening. The talk is scheduled from 7:30 to 9:00 pm at the Guilford Community Center, Route 77 in Guilford. Call Jerry Connolly at 203-245-9056 for more information.

### The Nature Conservancy

**BIRDING BY EAR AT DEVIL'S DEN**, on Saturday, June 8, from 6:30-9:00 am. Learn to identify birds by their songs and calls with Director Lise Hanners. Bring binoculars. Advanced registration is required. Call the Den Office at 203-226-4991 for more information.

**NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WALK WITH ALISON WACHSTEIN AT THE DEN**, on Sunday, June 9, from 1-3:00 pm. Part two of a series of Nature Photography workshops, this one held outdoors at the den. This part features camera work. Advanced registration required. Call the Den Office at 203-226-4991 for more information.

### New Haven Bird Club

**WHITE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, LITCHFIELD**, on Sunday, May 12. Warblers in a variety of habitats at the Foundation along with rails, swallows, flycatchers and possibly cuckoos. Bring lunch, moderate hiking. Call leader Lee Schleisinger at 914-937-4685 for more information.

**LAKE BETHANY**, on Saturday, May 18. Lots of migrants and Wild Turkeys as well. Bring a snake and drink. Call leader Pat Leahy at 203-393-2427 for more information.

**MILFORD POINT PICNIC**, on Saturday, June 1. Activities include the picnic, Piping Plover, Least Tern nesting and the new CAS center. Bring lunch and a drink for a pleasant day at the beach. Meet at the Sanctuary parking lot at 9:30 am or catch up with the group on the beach.

**ANNUAL SUMMER BIRD COUNT**, on Saturday and Sunday, June 8 & 9. Contact Steve Mayo at 203-874-1860.

### Hartford Bird Club

**ANNUAL SUMMER BIRD COUNT**, on Saturday and Sunday, June 8 & 9. Contact Kathie Felice at 860-582-5802 for information.

**STATION 43, SOUTH WINDSOR**, on Saturday, June 8 at 6:30 am. Meet at corner of Main Street and Newberry Road. Call leader Carl Ekroth at 860-257-7887 for more information.

**QUARRY PARK AND CONNECTICUT RIVER FLOOD PLAIN**, on Sunday, June 9. Meet at 7:00 am at Rocky Hill Water Treatment Plant. Call leader Mary Carter at 860-257-7887 for more information.

**CONNECTICUT LAKES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**, on Saturday and Sunday, June 28 & 29. This two day field trip has a limited capacity so call leader Patsy Mason at 860-673-3713 for information regarding available spots.

## 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**



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## Trips and Events *(continued)*

### Connecticut Audubon Society

The Connecticut Audubon Society announces the following field trips. Field trips are open to all for a nominal fee. For more information on these and other CAS field trips and events, call the field trip coordinator at 1-800-996-8747.

**NATURE'S PATHWAYS AT WHITE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**, from June 2-June 4. Workshops and outings with resource people from DEP, White Memorial and CAS fee, CAS members \$175, nonmembers \$210. Includes meals, lodging, lectures and workshops.

**FALKNER ISLAND**, on Wednesday, June 21, from 6-9 pm. Tour boat trip to and around the island conducted by an ornithologist (landing is not permitted). Fee, CAS members \$25, nonmembers \$30.

**EXPLORE A SALMON RIVER VALLEY**, on Saturday, June 24, from 9 am to noon. Hank Wolcott leads. Carpool from CAS center at Glastonbury. Fee, CAS members \$8, nonmembers \$10

**PUFFINS AND PETRELS: THE MAINE COAST**, from Friday, July 14 to Sunday, July 16. Boothbay Harbor, southern Main, even LL Bean. Fee, CAS members \$295, nonmembers \$315, includes coach transportation, hotel, puffin boat trip, some meals.

**SUMMER BEACH WALK AT BLUFF POINT**, on Saturday, August 19. Car pool from Connecticut Audubon Center at Glastonbury at 9:30 am or meet at Bluff Point at 10:30 am. Rain date is Sunday, August 20. CAS members \$8, others \$10.

**SHOREBIRDS AT MILFORD POINT**, on Saturday, August 19, from 9 am to late am. CAS ornithologist Milan Bull is leader on this trip to the point for shorebirds.

**BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES AT RHODE ISLAND'S GREAT SWAMP**, on Saturday, August 26, from 10 am to early pm. Alison Olivieri and Judy Richardson help you search for butterflies and migrant warblers. Van transportation a possibility.

**FALL MIGRANTS AT BLUFF HEAD, GROTON**, on Saturday, September 16, from 6:30 am to mid-morning. Andy Griswold leads this trip to Bluff Point in search of migrants.

## REGIONAL HOTLINES

Connecticut (203) 254-3665  
Rhode Island (401) 231-5728  
Eastern Massachusetts (617) 259-8805  
Western Massachusetts (413) 253-2218  
Vermont (802) 457-2779  
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

**CAPE MAY**, from Friday, September 29 to Sunday, October 1. Warblers, vireos, tanagers, hawks, herons and more on this trip which is led by Milan Bull and Greg Hanisek. Fee CAS members \$295, nonmembers \$315. Cost includes coach transportation, hotel, admission, some meals.

### OTHER CASEVENTS OF INTEREST TO BIRDERS

**BLUEBIRD HOUSES FOR FATHER'S DAY**, on Saturday, June 17, from 9-11 am at Pomfret Farms. Hands on building of bluebird houses. Nominal fee.

**THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS**, from October 6-16, 1996. The itinerary for this trip includes some of the best areas for Hawaii's rare endemic birds and plants. Local guide is Mark Collins, Milan Bull is also a leader. Fee, CAS members \$2,390, nonmembers, \$2,490. Fee does not include air transportation.

**ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION**, from February 8-22, 1997. Cruise on a former research vessel refitted. Guides will include naturalists and professional photographers. Space is limited to 38 on this trip. Fee is \$4,995, plus airfare from JFK.

## Roaring Brook Nature Center

**BIRD COURSE FOR KIDS**, from July 1 through July 3, to be conducted by Jay Kaplan at the Nature Center. This three day course meets from 9-12 am on July 1, from 8-12 pm on July 2 and from 8-4 pm on July 3. Course features basic skills in bird identification. This is a great way to get your kids started in this fascinating hobby and avocation. For more information call leader Jay Kaplan at 860-693-0263.



# 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 28, 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  
**Conservation** Paul Fusco, 4 Old Country Road, Oxford, CT 06484 203-584-9830  
**Field Trips** Steve Mayo, Tuttle Court, Bethany, CT 0606525 203- 874-1860  
**Membership** Lise Hanners, Devil's Den Pres, Box 1162, Weston, CT06883 203- 226-4991  
**Program** Fran D'Amico, 508 Preston Avenue, Meriden, CT 06450 860-237-2734  
**Publications** Betty Kleiner, 5 Flintlock Ridge, Simsbury, CT 06070 860-658-5670  
**Rare Records** Frank Mantlik, 261 Chestnut Hill Rd, Norwalk, CT 06851 203-846-8601  
**Research** Robert Askins, CT College/Biology, New London, CT 06320 203-439-2149

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