

# COA Bulletin

Fall 1996 NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION Vol 10 No 3

## COA Fall Field Day September 21

by Rachel Keneally

The COA will hold its Seventh Annual Fall Field Day at Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center (DPNC) in Mystic on Saturday, September 21. A full day of activities is planned for birders of all ages at this 125-acre sanctuary and surrounding area. The DPNC is located in the town of Mystic and is conveniently reached by Interstate 95 or Route 1. DPNC encourages you to meander through seven miles of hiking trails and explore the sanctuary.

The DPNC has helped preserve this natural Connecticut woodland by maintaining four ponds which differ in character and ecology. There are also several tributaries of the Little River which lends itself to a wide variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, passerines, and perhaps raptors. For contrast, there are meadows and fields which can only enhance the avian possibilities and the observation of butterflies and moths. We won't stop there, the woodland has a stream that wanders through it and there is an abundance of wetlands. Visitors can test their horticultural knowledge in the wildflower garden which is thriving and helping to maintain the natural balance of the Nature Center. More than 150 species of birds have been sighted at the Nature Center, making it a perfect place to spend the day.

The Nature Center will be open at 7:30 am for walk-in registrations and for preregistered attendees to pick up a schedule of the day's events. Morning refreshments will be provided. Field trips will run throughout the day, covering all of the region's varied habitats. The earliest field trip will  
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### HOTLINE HIGHLIGHTS

**Tricolored Heron** Stonington June 7-July 14  
**Sooty Tern** Old Lyme July 14  
**King Rail** Madison July 6-Aug 3  
**Common Moorhen** Litchfield June 15-29  
**Black-headed Gull** Stamford July 11-31  
**Black Skimmer** West Haven June 21-Aug 3  
**Gull-billed Tern** Greenwich June 15  
**Yellow-breasted Chat** Redding June 10-15  
**Blue Grosbeak** Windsor June 29-July 15  
**Manx Shearwater** Guilford June 20  
**White Pelican** Niantic July 23

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

## Fall Hawk Watches

by Neil Currie

As you read this, the Fall (southbound) migration is already underway. Shorebirds are on the move all along our coastline and swallows are also moving in numbers along the shore.

Come September, the hawk migration and hawk watching seasons will be underway. Watchers will already, from the last week of August on, be present at Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven. At the Audubon Center in Greenwich, Quaker Ridge, the count and the watch will begin on September first. At both of these lookouts, the watches will go on well into November. At those places, Red-tailed Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks and even Golden Eagles will be moving by in late October and early November. At Quaker Ridge last fall (1995) a record 23 Golden Eagles were recorded.

A spectacular sight anytime from around September 11-12 to September 21-22 is the passage, some days, of hundreds of Broad-winged Hawks. On those days, they may come out of the northeast in groups called kettles that range in size from a handful to several hundred hawks. Several lines and several kettles may be in the sky at the same time. Last fall (1995) on September 15 a record 31, 988 Broadwings crossed over Quaker Ridge. At Lighthouse Point Park and at East Shore Park, located just two miles north of Lighthouse on the east shore of New Haven Harbor

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## COA Fall Field Day *(continued from page 1)*

meet at Bluff Point Coastal Reserve at 6:00 am. If conditions are right, you can witness the morning flight phenomenon that in the past has brought thousands of migrants through Bluff Point in a few hours. Starting at 8:00 am, bird walks will be leaving from the Nature Center to explore different habitats. Walks will go out to Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Haley Farm State Park, Knox Preserve, and the Nature Center. Bird banding will be going on from 8:00 am to noon. Programs for kids will begin at 9:00 am with a bird walk and talk to introduce your fledgling to birding. Parent and child can also share pond dipping. An owl workshop specifically aimed for children 8 and older will be held at 11:00 am. Adult supervision is not necessary for this event. Several indoor identification workshops will be held to sharpen your ID skills. An optics pro from Connecticut College will offer tips on how to choose the best optics for your birding needs. The afternoon programs include an outing to Lantern Hill and Harkness Memorial State Park for a view of the sky during raptor migration. The morning programs for children will be repeated after lunch. Kids may also accompany adults on the butterfly walks, other bird walks and the closing ecology walk, which will focus on the natural history of the Nature Center.

Fall Field Day fees are \$5.00 for adults (no charge for children under 18) if you preregister by September 13. Registration on the day of the event is \$7.00. Remember, try to car pool! It's not only cheaper, it's Greener! Members will receive registration material in the mail. For additional information, please call Fran D'Amico at 203-237-2734 or Mark Szantyr at 860-429-4038. Also, stay tuned to the Connecticut Rare Bird Alert at 203-254-3665 for additional information and updates concerning this event. The festivities go on rain or shine. See you there!

**Directions to Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center:** from I-95 Northbound--take Exit 90 and remain in the left lane. Turn left onto Rte 27 north for a half mile. Turn right onto Jerry Browne Road. At top of hill, turn right on Pequotsepos Rd. DPNC is a half mile on the left. **From I-95 southbound** take Exit 90 and turn right onto Rte 27 north. Follow the same directions as above

**The Newsletter of the  
Connecticut Ornithological Association  
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**Please submit materials for the next  
issue by November 1, 1996 to  
Dwight Smith, Editor,  
241 Shepard Ave, Hamden, CT 06514**

## Articles-Articles-Articles-Articles

As always, your *COA Bulletin* editor (me!!) is looking for, hoping for and wanting for new articles. Events, book reviews, and birding observations from all will be published.

## Fall Hawk Watches *(continued from page 1)*

Broadwings are not observed every year. This seems to depend upon the number of days of northwest winds and their strengths on days before the hawks arrive from the northeast. If they do come, there may be hundreds of them.

Broadwings arriving over Quaker Ridge are coming from Maine, New Hampshire, eastern and central Massachusetts, into northern and western Connecticut. There are several lookouts in western Connecticut. The directions to them are listed below. Watchers are at these sites on some of the days between September 11 and 22. Best days follow a cold front with winds out of the north or northwest, clearing skies and developing cumulus clouds. The sometimes high flying hawks can be spotted well against these white, puffy clouds. In this period, rainy days and winds from southerly directions discourage the hawks.

After these Broadwing dates, all other species of hawks continue to migrate on or within a few miles of the Connecticut shore, at Lighthouse Point Park, at East Shore Park, even over East Rock Park and West Rock Ridge State Park in New Haven, and at Quaker Ridge.

### FALL HAWK WATCH LOOKOUTS

#### Chestnut Hill--Litchfield

Take Route 63 north from Watertown to East Morris (junction of Route 63 and Route 109). Go north 3.0 miles from this junction to Camp Dutton Road on the right. Turn onto Camp Dutton Road. Camp Dutton is also 1.2 miles south of Litchfield center. (from Litchfield center, turn left onto Camp Dutton Road.) Drive to the top of the hill to a "T" (junction with Chestnut Hill Road). The lookout is ahead of you in the field.

#### Botsford Hill--Roxbury-Bridgewater Town Line

Take Route 67 north from Southbury center. Follow Route 67 to Roxbury center (about 8 miles). Just north of Southbury center, Route 67 turns left. At Roxbury center, leave Route 67, going straight onto Weller's Bridge Road. Take Weller's Bridge Road 1.4 miles to a bridge crossing the Shepaug River. Turn left, rejoining Route 67 coming from the right. Go 0.2 miles around a right curve on Route 67 to Botsford Hill Road on the left. Turn left onto Botsford Hill

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## Fall Hawk Watches *(continued from page 2)*

Road. Go about 1.3 miles to Keeler Road on the right. Continue past Keeler Road. The lookout will be anywhere on the right for the next 1.3 miles. Call Neil Currie for further details at 203-426-9861

### Whippoorwill Hill—Newtown

Take Route 25 and Route 6 north from the flagpole in Newtown center. Go 2.0 miles to Whippoorwill Hill Drive on the right. The street sign for this road is well hidden by foliage. As you approach 2.0 miles go slow. Take a right turn onto Whippoorwill Hill Road. This is a short, S-shaped cul-de-sac. Park at the end and walk straight past some trees and by a wall to the lookout. For further details call Polly Brody at 203-426-9929

### C. P. Huntington State Park

Take Route 58 south from Bethel center about 4.0 to 4.5 miles to Sunset Hill Road. Or take Route 58 north from Exit 45 on the Merritt Parkway for about 11.0 to 12.0 miles past Redding Ridge center to Sunset Hill Road. From the south bear right onto Sunset Hill Road. From the north, turn sharply (almost 180 degrees) to the left. Go about 0.75 miles to the parking lot entrance of C.P. Huntington State Park on the right and park. The lookout is in the field to the left of the parking lot. For other details, call Larry Fischer at 203-426-3901.

## House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) Takeover of an Occupied Eastern Bluebird Nest Box

by Paul Carrier

Many people and organizations in Connecticut and elsewhere are attempting to help bring back the Eastern Bluebird to healthy population numbers by putting up nest boxes or starting an Eastern Bluebird trail. For the most part, these efforts seem to be working, with a slow, but steady increase in number of the Eastern Bluebird being recorded in most areas. However, just erecting suitable nest boxes is not the only help that they need. If these boxes are not checked and monitored regularly, these efforts can sometimes make success for the bluebirds less than if no boxes were erected at all.

Many situations can affect the success rate of the bluebird nest box program. We have no control over many

of these variables, such as cold, wet springs, harsh winters, lack of insects, and other weather-related and ecological conditions.

Another problem is competition for potential nesting sites from other species. We eliminate the Eurasian Starling from the role of potential competitor by using 1.5 inch entrance holes in the nest boxes, which are too small for the larger starlings to use. Competition with two native birds, the Tree Swallow and House Wren is sometimes harder to control, however. Wrens can usually be discouraged by placing nest boxes away from woods and bushes, the more open it is, the less wrens like it. Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds are now more able to use these boxes, with competition between the two on an almost equal level. By placing two boxes close together, we find both species benefitting, with less time spent competing for a single box, as they will usually nest side by side, with little disagreement.

Most of these problems so far mentioned are of equal balance for or against the Eastern Bluebird, but one more major problem is not even close to being equal, fair, or just even natural; this problem is the alien House Sparrow. I have personally found the House Sparrow population in my town to be ever increasing. In fact, the 1995 breeding season had almost three times more House Sparrow attempts than in 1994. For 1996, it is early to say, but they seem to be of equal numbers as last year. Let me note here that the 1996 nesting season appears to have been a bad one for bluebirds. After two monitoring trips to my 200 boxes here in Harwinton, results suggest that Eastern Bluebird nesting attempts are down almost 75% over last year. Because of this year's poor start and low bluebird numbers, breeding successes are extremely important for their recovery. Since much of the bluebird's success seems to be a function of competition with other birds like the House Sparrow, why is this alien species such a problem to the Eastern Bluebird and other nest box nesting birds? Let me relate an observation that well illustrates the advantage that House Sparrows have over other cavity nesting species.

My first monitoring of nest boxes for this year was later than usual because of the late April snow and persistent cold, wet, weather. After my first complete check in May,

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### HOTLINE REPORTS

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

Frank Mantlik 203-846-8601

Mark Szantyr 860-429-4038

Frank Gallo 203-966-6756

# COA Bulletin

## Eastern Bluebird and House Sparrow Observation *(continued from page 3)*

I discovered how few Eastern Bluebirds were back. One nest located at our local elementary school had five eggs on May 18th, and checking on the 25th I counted four young and one dud egg---good going for such a cold spring. From my calculations, this nest box was due to fledge its young around June 6th. I went for a final check around June 1st to see how things were doing. When I arrived, I noticed the pair of bluebirds on the top of the nest box. They seemed to be enticing the young to come out. Looking closer, I noticed a head sticking out the entrance and thought that it was one of the young, getting ready to fledge. To my amazement, I discovered the head to be that of a male House Sparrow chirping with great content. What was going on here? Upon approaching the nest box, the sparrow took flight, with both bluebirds in pursuit. I opened the box to find three dead and one still living Eastern Bluebird fledgling. I was irritated and disgusted. I wanted to learn from this incident so that I might find a possible future solution, therefore I closed the nest box with the contents undisturbed and went to my car to observe further happenings without interference.

Within minutes, the pair of bluebirds was again on the top of the nest box, looking very confused. Should they continue to guard the box, or gather food for the hungry young? It looked as though the Eastern Bluebird pair was going to stay on top of the box and keep the intruders from taking possession of the entrance again. I knew this heroic gesture was in vain, for the young had no chance of survival after the violent beating they had received from the male House Sparrow.

After no more than a minute, the female House Sparrow flew over and attempted to land on top of the nest box. Both agitated bluebirds took after her, chasing her as far away as they could. Just seconds after the chase began, I noticed the male House Sparrow, who was chirping all the time from a nearby bush, take advantage of the unguarded moment to fly in, enter the box and kill the surviving young. This took less than a minute, for in a short time he was again blocking the nest box entrance with his head partially poking out, chirping his successful usurping of the nest box.

This pair of dedicated Eastern Bluebirds could not win in this one-sided drama, for if they defended their nest box continually the young would surely die of starvation. Likewise, if they left the nest box to procure food for the young the persistent intruders would do exactly what I saw---take over the nest box by blocking the entrance with their bodies, and, when time allowed, attack and destroy the young or eggs.

Two days later, I checked this nest box to find that the

House Sparrows had begun to build their nest directly on top of the dead bluebird young.

I am sure that this scenario happens every year to bluebirds and other cavity nesting species wherever the House Sparrow is to be found in North America. The most disturbing fact about this incident is to realize that the House Sparrow can build its nest almost anywhere, outcompeting many species beside the bluebird for available nest boxes and natural nest sites as well. At the site where the observed incident took place, many alternate potential nesting sites were nearby; vines, buildings and so forth. Why was it necessary for this aggressive House Sparrow pair to displace the nesting bluebirds in that particular box? I had another empty nest box just 200 feet away, so why not nest in the empty box, where no fighting would have occurred?

This observation highlights how the alien House Sparrow's persistent and belligerent style of behavior has made it one of the most successful aliens we have in this country. One that I and others do not appreciate, and work hard at controlling, if not eradicating their numbers.

This one example also shows how our native hole nesting birds are not equipped to take on this unfamiliar, alien bird species. However, with our continued monitoring of bluebird nest boxes as often as we can, perhaps we can help our native birds have a chance to overcome this and other destructive competitors for nest boxes.

## Connecticut Birding Guide

At 570 pages the *Connecticut Birding Guide* turned out to be quite a project. The *Guide* includes some 84 major birding sites in the state along with numerous subsites, adjacent sites, and nearby attractions, as pertaining to the best birding in each site area. The *Guide* includes almost 90 full page maps to illustrate the major features of each birding site. Also included are 40 pen and ink illustrations by noted wildlife artist, birder, and field researcher Mark Szantyr. There are introductory chapters about birding in Connecticut, characteristic birding habitats and birds in each of the major habitats that are found in the state, an annotated species list of all the birds that have been recorded in the state, an annotated bibliography, and an index. The project was three years in the making and, in reality, reflects almost 60 years of birding in the state by the authors and illustrator.

Readers interested in obtaining a copy of *Connecticut Birding Guide* may contact Arnold Devine at 203-283-0744 or write him at 18 South Street, Plymouth, CT 06782.

# COA Bulletin

## President's Message

by Jay Kaplan

The recent passing of Roger Tory Peterson marks the end of an era in American Ornithology. The Peterson Field Guide series, beginning with the publication of the first edition of *A Field Guide to the Birds of the Eastern United States* in 1934, changed forever our way of looking at the natural world. His illustrations, coupled with attention to field marks, range maps, and descriptions of species, allowed us to seek out new creatures and to confirm our observations. The guides, in helping us to study and learn about the creatures with which we share our planet, also have helped us to better understand the complexities of the world in which we live.

Yet, Roger Tory Peterson's legacy to the birders and the naturalists of today goes far beyond his famous collection of field guides. His sheer enjoyment of the outdoors and his enthusiasm for birds and other wild creatures should serve as an example for all of us.

As Connecticut birders, many of us should feel a special kinship for Roger, as he lived here among us in the Nutmeg State. It wasn't too many years ago, while on a birding excursion to the Connecticut shoreline, that we observed Roger photographing gulls in Old Saybrook. In spite of the desire of some members of our group to approach him and ask him to autograph their field guides, cooler heads prevailed and we remained content to watch him from a distance. Here was a man, about 80 years old at that time, obviously enjoying his work with so "mundane" a species as Ring-billed Gulls! Would that the rest of us might find such pleasure, not only in the rare and unusual, but in the marvels of all species.

Although he will likely best be remembered as an artist, in my mind Roger Tory Peterson was an educator of the highest order. By helping millions develop an interest in the world of birds and in the world of nature, Roger has done more for conservation and preservation of the environment than any other individual of this century.

\*\*\* \*\*

[Very early in his remarkable career, Roger Tory Peterson studied art and illustration at the Art Student League in New York City and at the National Academy of Design. After graduating, he taught art and science in Massachusetts and continued to use his talents to good effect in drawing and painting birds. In the early 1930's, the editor of *Audubon* suggested that he prepare a pocket field guide to the birds, featuring his artwork. As Jay notes above, this proposal resulted in the classic and classy 1934 *Field Guide to Eastern Birds* which remains today, one of the most popular field guides on the market. Peterson continued to write and illustrate books, pamphlets, programs for the media and

other preparations. During his career, Peterson served as writer and editor to greatly expand his field guide series, which now includes many books that provide the most detailed and exacting (and well illustrated) treatments of most wildlife and many wildlife habitats in North America. Some of them, along with others of his works, have been translated into over a dozen languages. Roger Tory Peterson died in Old Lyme, at the age of 87. Undoubtedly, his legacy of field guides and the field guide concept which he pioneered will outlast him many generations.]

## Earth Song\*

by Polly Brody

Wings on the long waves,  
long waves of sound,  
light as clocks ticking,  
feathers stoke air.

Flocks hold together bound  
on true north,  
toll'd by the same deeps  
humming to whales.

The Atlantic heaves  
basso, over its floor  
but the continent westward  
raises that pitch---

ultramarine shelves to cerulean  
in the ear's labyrinth,  
Flocks hear a front grumble  
hours ahead,  
veer fro its icy thrum.

Drawn by the sea drum  
beaching on Monomoy,  
they beat safe to cover  
before sleet at dawn.

\* Migrating birds use a complex of mechanisms when taking compass bearings; one of these is the infra sound of sea and air.

[Polly Brody is a writer, poet, artist, nature lover, researcher, and birder who lives in Newtown, Connecticut. Polly graces this issue of the COA Bulletin with her poem above and another, Raptor, presented on the next page of this issue.]

# COA Bulletin

## Raptor

by Polly Brody

The Goshawk raised its head  
from a starling in its claw  
and met my eyes, topaz stare  
cold under the feathered brow,  
while we both fused still.  
I read its inclination;  
more irritated than disturbed,  
certainly not alarmed,  
and get on with eating

Its beak arced, naked horn  
flanked by glaring irises---  
a meat hook from which hung  
the tattered bit of starling scalp.  
This accipiter held fast  
against my uninvited presence  
and by some elemental likeness  
in rapacity, relentless motive,  
it seemed just then to explicate  
the Bosnian horror.

## Keith Mueller, Connecticut Wildlife Artist Paints the 1996 Duck Stamp

Birders and collectors of duck stamps will be delighted to learn that the 1996 Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp Program Duck Stamp was painted by well known Connecticut artist Keith Mueller. Keith's painting features a pair of Oldsquaw flying low over the water, past the Green's Ledge Lighthouse in the Norwalk Islands.

Keith is a draftsman, carver of decoys, and waterfowl artist who has always maintained an active interest in promoting wildlife and wildlife habitats, especially wetlands and the waterfowl that patrol them. Perhaps best known for his carvings, Keith has won some 200 awards. In 1994, he won the prestigious North American Decoy Carving Championship. One of the most recent of Keith's many accomplishments is the publication of a book entitled *Waterfowl Concepts: Book One*, which includes a good sampling of his paintings and sketchings as well as Keith's field observations of birds.

If you are interested in obtaining copies of the duck stamp or collectors editions of same, visit your local art store soon, or contact the publisher at 1-800-382-5562 for further information.

## Field Trips and Events

(continued from page 8)

### Mattabeseck Audubon Society

**CANOE TRIP TO SALT MARSHES**, from Lieutenant River to Griswold Point. Meet trip leader Larry Cyrulik at Lot L at the corner of Lawn Avenue and High Street at Wesleyan University at 8:00 am. Call 860-342-4785.

**BLUFF POINT STATE PARK**, on Sunday, September 15, a field trip in search of warblers at the hottest new fall warbler spot in the Northeast. Call Clay Taylor at 860-873-9078 for details.

**LIGHTHOUSE POINT PARK**, on Sunday, September 29 for migrating hawks, eagles and falcons. Meet at DeKoven House, 27 Washington Street, Middletown, at 8:15 am or 9:00 am at Lighthouse Point Park. Call leader Clay Taylor at 860-873-9078 for details.

### New Haven Bird Club

**DAILY HAWKWATCH, LIGHTHOUSE POINT PARK**, September 1 through December 1. Lighthouse Point Park is a premier coastal migration spot for raptors and other birds. Start time is around 7:00 am to noon or later, 7 days a week. Meet at East parking lot.

**BIRD WALK FOR KIDS, LIGHTHOUSE POINT PARK**, on October 5. Children accompanied by adults, meet at the East Parking Lot at 8:30 to seek raptors and other migrants. No experience needed. Bring field guide and binoculars. Call leader Flo McBride at 203-288-6777 for more info.

**HAMMONASSET BEACH STATE PARK**, Madison, on October 19. Fall migrating land and shorebirds should be in abundance. Walking is fairly easy on trails. Meet at park entrance at 8:00 am. Call leader Flo McBride at 203-288-6777 for more info.

**THE BIG SIT**, October 20. Set up a lawn chair and count how many birds you see or hear in 24 hours. For more info about this national event in which you can participate call John Himmelman at 203-663-3225

**BEGINNER'S BIRD WALK**, Hammonasset, on November 9. Meet at park entrance at 8:00 am. Call leader Arne Rosengren at 203-248-2903 for more info.

# COA Bulletin

## Trips & Events

### The Audubon Shop in Madison

**BIRD WALKS AT HAMMONASSET**, every Saturday, beginning on September 21, running through Thanksgiving. Meet at The Audubon Shop in Madison at 7:45 am. Fee \$2. Call Jerry Connolly at 203-245-9056 for further information.

**FALL HAWK WATCHES AT LIGHTHOUSE POINT PARK**, Dates to be announced. Call Jerry Connolly at 203-245-9056 for more information.

**SEMIANNUAL BINOCULAR WORKSHOP AND SALE** on Saturday, October 5, at The Audubon Shop in Madison. Discussions and demonstrations by Jerry Connolly will test and compare the world's greatest optics. Meet at the shop at 10:30 am. The event will continue all day. The event will also feature the lowest prices of the year on optics. Call Jerry Connolly at 203-245-9056 for details.

### Hartford Audubon Society

**BLUFF POINT AND GRISWOLD POINT**, Saturday, September 7. This trip will seek warblers, shorebirds and other migrants, and give you a chance to check out this hot corner. Meet at 6:00 am, at the entrance to Bluff Point State Park. Leader, Paul Desjardins, Call for directions and additional information at 860-623-3696.

**JAMAICA BAY, NEW YORK**, Saturday, September 7. An early fall trip to Jamaica Bay in New York City to search for shorebirds and other migrants. Watch for skimmers, herons, and migrant land birds. Call the leaders for car pool arrangements. Leaders Chuck Peterson at 860-561-0205 and John Gaskell at 860-669-1862.

**HAWKWATCH AT BOOTH HILL**, in East Hartford, on Saturday and Sunday, September 21 and 22. Bring a chair, food, and drink, and spend the day watching for Broadwings, Ospreys, Ravens and perhaps an eagle. Meet at 8:30 am. Call leader Paul Carrier for more information at 860-485-9654.

**BEGINNER'S BIRD WALK AT STATION 43, SOUTH WINDSOR**, on Sunday, September 22. A special feature of HAS designed to teach the basics of field identification. Bring your binoculars, field guides, and questions. Meet at the corner of Newberry Road and Main Street at 8:00 am. Call leader Sam Fried at 860-253-2569 for more info.

**HAMMONASSET BEACH STATE PARK**, Madison, on Saturday, October 5. Patrick Comins will lead this trip to Hammonasset in search of shorebirds, raptors, and other migrants. Meet at the entrance at 8:00 am. Call leader Patrick Comins at 860-646-6600 for more information.

**STATION 43, SOUTH WINDSOR**, on Sunday, October 13. A good area for sparrows and raptors. Meet at the corner of Newberry Road and Main Street at 7:30 am. Call leader Carl Ekroth at 860-972-6372 for more information.

**HAMMONASSET FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS**, at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison on Sunday, October 20. This trip will offer beginning birders another location in which to sharpen their birding identification skills. We will visit the park four times a year to study the procession of birds that use this diverse ecosystem. Emphasis will be on identification techniques. Time will be spent studying and enjoying the birds. More advanced birders who are willing to help are encouraged to join us. Each trip begins at the park entrance at 8:00 am. Take Exit 62 off Interstate 95 and head south on the connector to the park entrance. Call leader John Gaskell at 860-669-1862 for more information.

**JAMAICA BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**, New York, New York, on Saturday, November 2. Enjoy this annual bus trip where upwards of 90 species are possible. Expect to see a large assortment of waterfowl, waders, and land birds. The bus will leave the Connecticut Historical Society parking lot at the corner of Asylum and Elizabeth Streets in Hartford, promptly at 7:15 am and will return at approximately 6:00 pm. Bring warm clothing and lunch. This trip can fill up quickly, so get your reservation in as soon as possible to be assured a seat. Trip cost is \$16.50 per person. Checks should be made payable to the Hartford Audubon Society and mailed to Jamaica Bay Trip, c/o Jay Kaplan, 71 Gracey Road, Canton, CT 06019. Put your return address and telephone number on the check, so that you can be notified of any changes. Call leader Jay Kaplan at 860-693-0157 for further information.

*(field trips continued on page 8)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

# COA Bulletin

## Hartford Audubon Society Field

### Trips *(continued from page 7)*

**RHODE ISLAND SHORELINE**, on Saturday, November 9. Check out Rhode Island's south shore from Point Judith west towards Connecticut. Meet at Point Judith at 8:00 am. Call leader Paul Desjardins at 860-623-3696 for more information.

**CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERFOWL WEEKEND**, on Saturday, November 9 and Sunday, November 10. In late autumn, the skies over the Delmarva Peninsula are filled with migrating Snow Geese, Tundra Swans, and hosts of other waterfowl. Join Chesapeake Bay locals in their annual Waterfowl Festival and see some of the finest bird carvings and art in the world. Other birds of note include possible Brown-headed Nuthatch, and lingering waders and shorebirds. Contact leaders Jim Moore at 860-673-4672 and Peter Stephan at 914-255-6794 for more information.

**BANTAM LAKE AREA**, Litchfield, on Saturday, November 16. Explore the White Memorial Foundation and Bantam Lake area in search of migrating ducks, coot, and other early winter birds. Bring warm clothing, lunch, and be ready for fun on this possibly all day field trip. Meet at the Litchfield Green at 8:00 am. Call leader Paul Carrier at 860-485-9654 for more information.

**HAMMONASSET BEACH STATE PARK**, Madison on Sunday, December 1. Meet at the park entrance at 8:00 am to search for Lapland Longspurs, owls, Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, and other winter species. Dress warmly for this morning trip. Call leader Kathie Felice at 860-582-5802 for more information.

## Hartford Audubon Society Wildlife Lecture Series

**THE LURE OF THE TROPICAL RAIN FOREST**, on Tuesday, October 15, at the McAuley Residence Auditorium, 275 Steele Road, West Hartford, CT 06117. Alvah Sanborn will present a slide program illustrating the dynamics of the Neotropics that includes a field trip through Corcovado National Park and a visit to the lush cloud forest of Monteverde. Alvah is a former director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Pleasant Valley Sanctuary in Lenox, Massachusetts. He presents lectures on many wildlife topics for the National Audubon Society. For more information on this and other lectures contact Fran D'Amico at 860-237-2734.

## 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

## Connecticut Audubon Society

The Connecticut Audubon Society announces the following field trips which are open to all for a nominal fee. Advance sign-up is required. For more information call Field Trip Coordinator Lauren Brown at 1-800-996-8747.

**GREAT MEADOWS MARSH**, Stratford, on Saturday, September 28, from 9:00 am to late morning. Leader, Milan Bull. Fees for CAS members \$5, nonmembers \$8.

**CAPE MAY**, from Friday, October 4 to Sunday, October 6. Hot spot for fall migration. Cost for this trip is \$315 for members, \$345 for nonmembers. Cost includes coach transportation from Glastonbury and Fairfield, hotel, most meals, admissions, and leadership fees. Leaders are Greg Hanisek and Joe Bear.

**SHERWOOD ISLAND BIRDING**, Sunday, October 27, from 9:00 am to late morning. Leader Frank Mantlik. Meet at pavilion parking lot of the park. CAS members \$5, nonmembers \$8.

**NANTUCKET**, from Saturday, January 18 to Monday, January 20, 1997. Buffleheads, goldeneye, scoters, eiders, oldsquaw, and more. Leader Milan Bull. Fee for CAS members is \$325, nonmembers \$350. Self drive to Hyannis, deduct \$25 per person. Cost includes van transportation from Fairfield and points east, ferry, hotel and some meals.

**TEXAS, THE COAST AND THE HILLS**, from Sunday, April 18 through Sunday, April 27, 1997. Expect over 250 species. Leaders Jay Hand and Andy Griswold. For more information, come to a slide show, Thursday, November 21, at the Connecticut Audubon Society, 2325 Burr Street, Fairfield, or Thursday, December 12, Main Street in Glastonbury, each show to be held at 7:30 pm.

*(field trips continued on page 6)*



# 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. The forms can be obtained by calling Greg Hanisek at 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*, the quarterly *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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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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