



## Fall Field Day

by Rachel Keneally

COA held its Seventh Annual Fall Field Day at Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center on Saturday, September 21. This year events were held in and out of doors, again with programs throughout the day for children. The weather was mild and sunny for the 85 participants. Bird walks went out to Bluff Point Coastal Reserve, Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Haley Farm State Park, Knox Preserve, the Nature Center, Lantern Hill and Harkness Park. Thanks to trip leaders Dave Provencher, John Gaskell, Elaine Nye, Larry Reiter, Maggie Philbrick, Bob Askins, and Tom Harrington. Together, they delivered the 95 species seen. Highlights included American Golden Plover, a good warbler flight at Bluff Point, and a Tricolored Heron. Folks were surprised to see a late moving Common Nighthawk from the Nature Center Parking lot during Greg Hanisek's Hawk Watch.

There were programs throughout the day for the children who attended. These were led by Sandy DeRosa of the Nature Center. Sandy led a Kids Bird Walk, and a Pond Dipping to look at the variety of life beneath the calm waters of a woodland pond. The children who participated in the Owl Workshop were amazed as they dissected owl pellets to expose and identify skeletal remains of the meal.

Ginger Bladen ran a bird banding demonstration throughout the morning. The birds cooperatively flew into Ginger's mist nets at an even pace, giving onlookers a good variety of species to observe up close.

An optics workshop was given by Don Treworgy from  
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## HOTLINE HIGHLIGHTS

Lark Sparrow	Madison	Sept 11-14
Anhinga	Greenwich	Sept 14
Northern Wheatear	Storrs	Sept 15-18
Parasitic Jaeger	Westport	Sept 17
Common Eider	Milford	Sept 21
Swainson's Hawk	Greenwich	Sept 29
Swainson's Hawk	Madison	Oct 6
Western Kingbird	Southbury	Oct 7-9, 27-29
American Avocet	Stonington	Oct 25
White Pelicans	Madison	Oct 27-29
Boreal Owl	Madison	Nov 1

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

## 97th Annual Christmas Bird Count:

Friday, December 20, 1996 to Sunday, January 5, 1997.

### Connecticut Christmas Count Schedule

COA members are encouraged to participate in the 97th Annual National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count. The seventeen counts in Connecticut are held on eight different days during this period. Check the listing below for the date of the count in your area, and call your compiler to sign up for this important birding event. If you have a schedule conflict, join a count in a neighboring area on another day. Many COA members participate in several counts every year, and compilers always welcome another pair of eyes. Join the fun with more than 1000 participants.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1996

**New Haven, CT (NH CT)** Compilers: Stephen P. Broker, 76 Diamond Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1313, 203-387-0798, Frank Gallo, New Canaan Nature Center, 140 Oanoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT 06840, 203-966-6756, and Chris Loscalzo, 67 Wepawaug Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525, 203-389-1259

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# COA Bulletin

## Fall Field Day

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from the Mystic Seaport Planetarium. Folks were able to try a variety of binoculars and spotting scopes and with Don's help learn how to evaluate the product that best suits their needs.

Greg Hanisek and Carol Lemmon led afternoon butterfly walks that many of the youngsters attended. The highlight of the day was a Long-tailed Skipper that was only seen by a few folks late in the afternoon after the last butterfly walk.

Many thanks to the Program Committee members who organized the day: Fran D'Amico, John Gaskell, Rachel Keneally, Betty and Gil Kleiner, Jamie Meyers, Joann Mayers, Maggie Philbrick and Mark Szantyr.

## 97th Christmas Bird Count

**Storrs, CT (ST CT)** Compiler: Steve Rogers, 75 Charles Lane, Storrs, CT 06268, 860-429-1259.

**Woodbury-Roxbury, CT (WR CT)** Compiler: call Chris Wood in Woodbury, 203-263-5331 or Russ Naylor in Woodbury, 203-263-2502.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1996

**Greenwich-Stamford, CT (GS CT)** Compilers: Gary Palmer, 34 Field Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807, 203-661-4897 and Brian O-Toole, 6 Fort Hills Lane, Greenwich, CT 06831, 203-269-1027.

**Litchfield Hills, CT (LH CT)** Compiler: Raymond E. Belding, 1229 Winsted Road #30, Torrington, CT 06790, 860-482-4046.

**Lakeville-Sharon, CT (LS CT)** Compiler: Bob Moeller, P. O. Box 1119, Sharon, CT 06069, 860-364-5936.

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

Please submit materials for the next  
issue by February 1, 1997 to  
Dwight Smith, Editor,  
241 Shepard Ave, Hamden, CT 06514

**Oxford, CT (OX CT)** Compiler: Buzz Devine, 18 South Street, Plymouth, CT 06782, 860-283-0744.

**Quinnipiac Valley, CT (QV CT)** Compiler: Wilford Schultz, 93 Harrison Road, Wallingford, CT 06492, 203-265-6398.

**Salmon River CT (SR CT)** Compiler: Caly Taylor, 24 Moodus Leesville Road, Moodus, CT 06469, 860-873-9078.

**Westport, CT (WE CT)** Compiler: Frank W. Mantlik, 261 Chestnut Hill Road, Norwalk, CT 06880, 203-227-5997. Additional contacts: Ed Hiestand, 10 Woodside Lane, Westport, CT 06880, 203-227-5997, and Charles Barnard, 94 Gray Rock Road, Southport, CT 06490, 203-259-8994

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1996

**Barkhamsted, CT (BA CT)** Compiler: David Tripp, Jr., 19A Loomis Heights, New Hartford, CT 06057, 860-379-9237.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1996

**Edwin Way Teale, Trail Wood, CT (EW CT)** Compiler: Marilyn Higgens, Hammond Hill, Hampton, CT 06247, 860-455-0063.

**Hartford, CT (HA CT)** Compiler: Jay Kaplan, 71 Gracey Road, Canton, CT 06019, 860-693-0157.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1996

**Stratford-Milford, CT (SM CT)** Compiler: Steve Mayo, 27 Tuttle Court, Bethany, CT 06524, 203-393-0694.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1997

**Pawling (Hidden Valley), NY-CT (HV CT)** Compiler: Sibyll Gilbert, RR1, Box 236, Pawling, NY 12564, 914-855-3266 and Angela Dimmock, Sherman, CT 860-355-3429 or 212-628-8348

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1997

**New London, CT (NL CT)** Compiler: Robert Dewire, 9 Canary Street, Pawcatuck CT 06379, 860-599-3085.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 1997

**Old Lyme-Saybrook, CT (OL CT)** Compiler: Jay Hand, Pattee Hill Road, Goffstown, NH 03045, 603-497-5040.

# COA Bulletin

## President's Message

by Jay Kaplan

At a recent meeting, your Connecticut Ornithological Association Board of Directors voted to adopt a code of ethics formulated by the American Birding Association. Why you might ask, was such an action deemed necessary here in Connecticut? From my own personal experience, I have almost always found Connecticut birders to be a good-mannered lot, respectful of other's wishes and property. Instances where birds were harassed or where private property boundaries were not respected have been few and far between. Yet, as an "experienced" birder, I have always felt some sense of responsibility to pass on a "code of ethics" to the novice, thereby helping to ensure that unpleasant occurrences should be kept to a minimum in the future. Of course, an objective of many of our birding organizations has been to pass along the delights of birding to others. In doing so, we have, in a sense, created a greater need for an ethics code.

Polls (I shudder to use that word so soon after the elections) indicate that after gardening, birding is now the most popular passive recreational activity. To be sure, there are more birders today than there were even a few years ago. An increase in field birders, coupled with shrinking habitat for birds, is certain to create conflicts. No one goes birding with the expectation of becoming involved in controversy, yet it can and it does happen.

The perfect example sometimes occurs at this season. An uncommon owl roosts in a smallish stand of evergreens. Birders, even quiet ones, by their presence and/or numbers, can cause undue stress to such a bird that may be having difficulty maintaining itself with suddenly diminishing resources. If the bird is located on private property, but along a public roadway its discovery can create additional concerns, not only for the bird, but for the safety of birders and the general public.

The acceptance of an ethics code is in no way a forerunner to a "birding police unit," the purpose of which will be to intimidate birders into someone's definition of what might be considered "proper behavior." Rather, it is a consideration of common sense rules that will help ensure that watching birds will remain, in an increasingly frenzied society, a pleasant and leisurely pursuit for a wide range of birders at varying levels of expertise. Members who may have additional questions with respect to the ethics code found in this newsletter should feel free to contact me. I look forward to seeing you in the field.

[please see page 4 of this COA Bulletin issue for a complete copy of COA's Principles of Birding Ethics]

## Rare Records Committee News

by Frank Mantlik

In order to reflect the topic of its work, the title of The Rare Records Committee was changed this summer to **The Avian Records Committee of Connecticut (ARCC)**. Also, the makeup of the Committee has recently changed, as required by the Bylaws. We sincerely thank retiring members Milan Bull and Jay Kaplan for their many (6) years of service. Replacing them are newcomers Christopher Wood and John Gaskell, filling out the 10-member panel. I was voted to continue another term as Chairman, and Mark Szantyr will continue as Secretary (by far the most demanding job). We thank all submitters of reports for their cooperation in documenting for posterity the state's rare avifauna. Look for the Committee's annual report in the January issue of *The Connecticut Warbler*.

## "Letters to the Editor" column for *The Connecticut Warbler*

COA members (and other birders as well) can now see their concerns and interests regarding articles and other birding events published in a new section of *The Connecticut Warbler* to be entitled Letters to the Editor. Please send your letters to Mark Szantyr, 2C Yale Road, Storrs, CT 06268

## *Connecticut Birding Guide*

Its here, all 570 pages, with details about birding sites throughout the state and an annotated species list about the status, approximate dates of occurrence and where to find all of the birds that have been regularly recorded in the state. Check with your local nature store or Audubon shop for copies or write Buzz Devine at 18 South Street, Plymouth, CT 06782, 860-283-0744 for more info.

## 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

## The COA's Principles of Birding Ethics

### CODE OF BIRDING ETHICS.

PLEASE FOLLOW THIS CODE AND TEACH IT TO OTHERS.

#### 1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

1 (a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.

1 (b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area.

Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, from roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.

Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

1 (c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance can be minimized, and permission has been obtained from private landowners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

1 (d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist, otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

#### 2. Respect the law and rights of others.

2 (a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

2 (b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.

2 (c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and nonbirders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

3 (a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean and free of decay and disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

3 (b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

3 (c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires specific care.

*Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member.*

4 (a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as those of people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where Code I applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

4 (b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation and intervene if you think it is prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

*Group Leader Responsibilities (amateur and professional trips and tours)*

4 (c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

4 (d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment and does not interfere with others using the same area.

4 (e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.

4 (f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g., no tape recorders allowed).

*(COA Code of Ethics is continued on page 5)*

# COA Bulletin

## COA Code of Ethics

(Continued from page 4)

4 (g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

This Code of Ethics was developed and is promoted by the American Birding Association. Distribution by Connecticut Ornithological Association, 314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06430

## Hunter on the Sound

by Dave Procencher

The gray of the morning sky blended seamlessly with the surface of the sound. The wind had fallen off and was a rather mild 10 to 15 mph out of the nor'west. Visibility alternately opened up and closed down and the rain fitfully started and stopped as the storm grudgingly gave up battering the Connecticut coast. The previous two days had seen the sound churned by 30 to 50 mph easterly winds and rain squalls. Once again I was at Harkness on the Waterford coast watching for storm blown birds. I had done this many, many times and almost always had been disappointed. The barriers of Napatree Point, Rhode Island, and Fisher's Island, New York, combine with Long Island to keep virtually all pelagic birds away from Connecticut waters in anything less than a huge storm. My love of pelagic birding is deep and the paucity of occurrences of ocean birds on the Sound has always been very frustrating to me.

It was the 20th of October and I watched the horizon, carefully checking every bird. Gull after gull with a Gannet or two, the same old story. I angled my scope to start a scan in the west and I noticed a distant bird flying flat and level with strong, steady beats. I have observed and studied jaegers on the Atlantic, Pacific, Caribbean and the Canadian tundra. You get to know how a species flies after you have studied it for awhile. My heart skipped a beat as I tracked this bird. My excitement rose sharply as I strove to be certain, to be sure this speck was not just another gull. The bird was flying closer and my uncertainty evaporated. "Jaeger" I called to the others with me. I have been on many pelagics and have stood within 20 feet of a jaeger pair at their nest on the tundra, but that cry still causes a thrill in me. I tracked the bird as it headed eastward and the others were soon on it. It flew with the cold confidence of a predator

a wolf on the wing. It soon picked out a Laughing Gull and pumped its wings with sudden power. The gull went into wild evasive maneuvers which the jaeger matched effortlessly, showing small flashes of white on its wings. A brief but dramatic dogfight ensued. The jaeger suddenly gave up the chase and continued eastward. Perhaps the gull did not have food to surrender.

Jaegers are pugnacious, somewhat Merlin-like in their behavior. They will go after anything that gets in their way, except a Skua. If a jaeger is a wolf, a Skua is a grizzly.

The bird worked its way east and disappeared in a gray haze. I knew the bird to be a Parasitic based upon its size relative to the gull and its general shape but I could not definitely rule out Pomarine based upon a distant view. I grabbed a bagel out of my truck and told the others to be vigilant as we might see it again, but I was not really expecting to. A few minutes later as I was munching my breakfast I started a scan from the west. The first thing I looked at was a Parasitic Jaeger cranking hard eastward. "Jaeger" I called again. This time the bird was much closer and the plumage of a light phase adult was plain to see. The bird again targeted a Laughing Gull and the display of the hunter's speed and power was mirrored in the obvious fear the gull showed and its frantic attempt to get away. As the jaeger spun on a wingtip it showed us its upper wing pattern and its central tail feathers, diagnostically identifying it as an adult Parasitic Jaeger. For several minutes we watched the bird as it worked eastward, chasing a few other gulls as it went. Soon the jaeger disappeared again to the east. Though I could not be certain, I felt in all likelihood this was the same individual we had seen a few minutes before. The clouds to the west started to break up and the visibility improved. Nothing further was to be seen of the hunter. Before many days had passed, the bird we had seen would be patrolling the ocean many miles further south under a warm sun.

Many times I have stood through storms watching the Sound. I have been wet, wind battered, salt encrusted, snow-blinded, and sand-blown. I have been cold, very cold, seemingly, at times, always cold. Now the Sound had finally yielded me something I very badly hoped for during so many storms. Perhaps the gods of birding had felt I had earned this all too brief reward for so many hours of suffering and had smiled on me. I gratefully accepted their smile, and as I drove home, I was smiling to myself.

Plan now to participate in your local CBC Count now! In fact, try two or three counts this year!

# COA Bulletin

## Focus on Environment

by Patti Pendergast

It is intriguing to consider the consuming pastime of ours as an "industry." Birding certainly has basic equipment needs and while the initial output can be costly, once the requisite binoculars, scope, and books are acquired we're pretty much set...right? Quite a few studies have been released based on the economic value of consumptive (hunting) and non-consumptive (bird watching, bird feeding, etc.) forms of migratory bird recreation. Regardless of the form, these "industries" compare favorably to many Fortune 500 companies.

Just considering the non-consumptive recreational use of birds on a national scale, 65 million people feed or watch birds, and 24.7 million of these travel to go birding. As a nation, we spend \$5.2 billion annually. In state, we are also supporting quite impressive numbers, retail sales ran in 1991, to \$55.5 million. Approximately 1,320 people are employed as a direct effect of those sales and the state sales tax runs to \$3.3 million annually. These figures do not even take into consideration the "multiplier effect"; other non bird related services and industries that benefit from our efforts (those all night convenience stores get a chunk of change from me...). That "Total Economic Impact of Non Consumptive Bird Use" has been extrapolated out to \$109.7 million. These numbers have not gone unnoticed by marketing firms, major corporations, educators and businesses. What happened to the 104th Congress? Can't be sure, but they didn't take these numbers seriously when first elected...you can be sure they do now. In this past election, the environment was an oft-repeated battle cry on the national level.

On the state level we have quite a ways to go. Given that Connecticut is just shaking off the effects of the deep recession in recent years, the emphasis by our legislators has been on budget cutting and rebuilding our economy. The Rowland Administration has drastically cut budgets across the board, but none so deeply it seems, as the Department of Environmental Protection and related environmental matters. Program funding for the DEP has been severely cut. In 1990, the Non Harvested Wildlife Division had \$52,000 to work on Bluebird, Piping Plover, Least and Roseate Tern restoration, Osprey platforms, education programs and so forth. For 1995, they had just \$2,500 to work with.

Connecticut ties last in the region for open space per capita, coming in at just 0.6 of an acre per person. The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Fund has been curtailed to release only \$350,000 in the coming year. When you consider the carrying capacity of land with the functions we expect it to perform---recreation opportunities,

habitat for wildlife, environmental health---the need for acquiring open space is apparent, while the prospects for doing so look fairly dismal.

These are two examples of where we as birders can use our clout to get legislators to listen. COA was one of the first Connecticut organizations to sign on to the "Teaming with Wildlife" initiative. If enacted, it may be the only source of funding the Non Harvested Wildlife Division gets! In Connecticut, the competition between humanity and wildlife for space and resources is very intense. The clout of birding economics may be one of the few aces we can use locally.

Figures have been taken from "The Economic Contributions of Bird and Waterfowl Recreation in the United States during 1991." This report was prepared for the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the USFWS North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office.

## Rare Birds at Madison

Hammonasset Beach State Park continues its reputation for fall birding surprises with the appearance of a Boreal Owl on November 1. The owl apparently stayed only one day in the area before departing. Just a couple of days earlier, on October 27, the phone lines out of Madison were buzzing with the announcement of the discovery of four White Pelicans spotted off Middle Beach Road. The pelicans stayed a little longer---three of the four were seen again at Chaffinch Island Park in Guilford.

## Hawk

by Polly Brody

We saw the hawk rise  
sudden from the grass  
climb the meadow westward  
toward gilded, violent clouds.  
Wings beat hard to lift  
over cedars at the wall  
Belly fired by late winter sun  
the bird slid downward, quickly gone  
A drift of feathers swirled  
backlit in sunset dazzle.  
Under airborne down, we found  
a pheasant, warm breast half-plucked  
turned upon the tangled grass.  
Here the hawk had mantled,  
bent a yellow eye,  
driven down its gleaming hook.

# COA Bulletin

## TRIPS & EVENTS

### New Haven Bird Club

**NEW HAVEN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**, on Saturday, December 21. Details for the event to be discussed at the December 12th meeting. All are welcome to participate.

**KID'S CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**, on Saturday, December 21, from 1:00 to 2:00 PM at Ridge Hill School in Hamden. Kids and accompanying adults will count birds on the school grounds. Call leader Florence McBride at 203-288-6777 for details.

**PLUM ISLAND/NEWBURYPORT, MASS**, on January 26 & 27, 1997. Birding for eagles, owls, hawks, ducks, seabirds, seals and more in Plum Island (weather permitting), Newburyport and possibly Cape Ann on the way home Sunday. Meet in Newburyport at the motel on Friday night. Call leader Frank Gallo at 203-966-8871 or [people@aol.com](mailto:people@aol.com) for details.

**SACHUSET POINT & RHODE ISLAND COAST**, on Sunday, February 9, 1997. An all day trip in search of Harlequin Ducks, rare gulls and so forth. Wear appropriate clothing for cold and winter weather along the coast. Bring lunch and a drink. Meet at the I-05 Exit 54 commuter lot, closest to I-95 at 7 AM. Call leader Andy Brand at 203-230-1718 for details.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY AND EASTERN SHORE**, on Sunday, February 23, 1997. Search the east shore from Madison to the Lower Connecticut River for shorebirds, eagles, Rough-legged Hawks, and ducks. Dress for cold, winter conditions and bring lunch, drink and a spotting scope if you have one. Meet at Hammonasset Beach State Park entrance at 8 AM. Call leader John Himmelman at 203-663-3225 or e-mail to [jhimmel@connix.com](mailto:jhimmel@connix.com) for details.

**SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COAST**, on Saturday, March 8, 1997. Bird for waterfowl and rarities along Connecticut's southwest coast. Bring lunch and dress for cold and windy weather. Meet at the New Haven Information Booth at Long Wharf in New Haven at 8 AM. Call leader Tom Kilroy at 203-929-6683 or e-mail [72067.1162@compuserve.com](mailto:72067.1162@compuserve.com) for details.

### Hartford Audubon Society

**HAMMONASSET BEACH STATE PARK**, on Sunday, December 1. Search for Lapland Longspurs, owls, Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, and other winter species. Dress warmly for this morning trip. Meet at the park entrance at 8 AM. Call leader Kathie Felice at 860-582-5802 for details.

**HAMMONASSET FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS**, on Sunday, December 8. This and similar trips to offer beginning birders the chance to sharpen their skills. More advanced birders who are willing to help out are also welcome. These field trips are cosponsored by the Menunkatuck Audubon Society. Meet at the park entrance (I-95, Exit 62) at 8:00 AM. Call leader John Gaskell at 203-669-1862 for details.

**POTLUCK SUPPER AND MEETING**, on Tuesday, December 10. Bring a dish to share and up to a dozen slides to show. Bring something to auction off, if you like. Call John Gaskell at 860-669-1862 for details.

**HARTFORD AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**, on Saturday, December 28 (blizzard date is Sunday, December 29). Call any of the chairmen -- Bill Altmann at 860-643-7117, Steve Davis at 860-242-2135, and Jay Kaplan at 860-693-0157 for more details.

**STATION 43 BEGINNERS BIRD WALK**, on Sunday, January 12. Basics of field identification of birds is a special feature of these trips. Bring binoculars, field guides and questions. Meet at the corner of Newberry Road and Main Street at 9:00 AM. Call leader Sam Fried at 860-243-2569 for details.

**"BIRDS OF NORTHWEST PARK"** on Tuesday, January 14 at the Elmwood Community Center. Slide presentation by naturalist Elanya Grody will highlight the rare and wonderful birds that can be found at this park in Windsor, including Grasshopper Sparrows and Blue Grosbeaks.

*(Trips and Events 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

## More Trips and Events

(continued from page 7)

### Hartford Audubon Society

MANCHESTER LANDFILL, on Saturday, January 18, 1997. Bird search for White-winged Gulls and other surprises. Call leader Patrick Comins at 860-646-6600 for details.

### The Fat Robin

EAGLE WATCHES AT CONNECTICUT RIVER SITES, on Sundays in January, 19, 26, and Saturdays in February, 1, 8, 15. Meet at the Fat Robin, 3000 Whitney Avenue in Hamden, for 8 AM departure. Trip is free, binocular rentals available. Call Jim Zipp at 203-248-7068 for details.

FARMINGTON CANAL and EAST ROCK PARK TRIPS are scheduled for spring. Call The Fat Robin for details.

### The Audubon Shop

EAGLE WATCHES ON THE CONNECTICUT RIVER, on seven Saturdays, January 11-February 22. See our national symbol in the wild. \$15 includes soup and sandwich lunch at Oliver's Tavern in Essex following the field trip. Reservations must be made in advance. Limit 35 people. Call Jerry Connolly at the Audubon Shop at 203-245-9056 for details.

### Menunkatuck Audubon Society

"On the road with John James Audubon" by Mary Durant Harwood on Wednesday, December 11. Covering 35,000 miles in 13 months, Mary and her late husband, Mike, retraced the path that J.J. Audubon took in the early 1800's, painting the birds of North America. This free talk begins at 7:30 PM at the Guilford Community Center, Exit 58, Route 77, one-half block north of town green. Call Jerry Connolly at 203-245-9056 for details.

"Natural history of Antarctica" slide presentation by the renown birder and naturalist Roland Clement on Wednesday, February 12. This free talk is given at the Guilford Community Center at 7:30 PM. Directions as above. Call Jerry Connolly at 203-245-9056 for details.

## 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

SCOURING THE COAST, on Saturday, December 14 and Wednesday, December 18. Field trip leader Andy Griswold leads the search from West Brook to Old Lyme, searching for rarities and regular winter birds. Fee CAS members \$8, nonmembers \$10 each trip.

EAGLE WATCH, on Saturday, January 25, from 9:00-11:30 AM. Field trip to Shepaug Dam in Southbury. Dress warmly and bring binoculars. Fee includes van transportation and hot chocolate. Fee \$5 CAS members, \$8 non members.

NANTUCKET, from Saturday, January 18 to Monday, January 20, 1997. Milan Bull leads this trip for the fourth year in a row. Bird for scoters, eiders and oldsquaw, gulls, winter ducks and other birds. Space in van is very limited, so sign up now. Fee CAS members \$325, nonmembers \$350

DINING WITH THE HARLEQUINS, on Saturday, January 25, from 12:30 PM to evening. Trip to Sachuest Point and nearby locales in Rhode Island for harlequins and other wintering ducks. Andy Griswold leads this trip. Fee CAS members \$40, nonmembers \$45

OWL PROWL, on Friday, February 7, from 7-8:30 PM. Night time walk through the Larsen Sanctuary in search of Barred, Screech and Great Horned Owls. Fee \$4 for CAS members.



# 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, 15 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 203-237-2734  
**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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