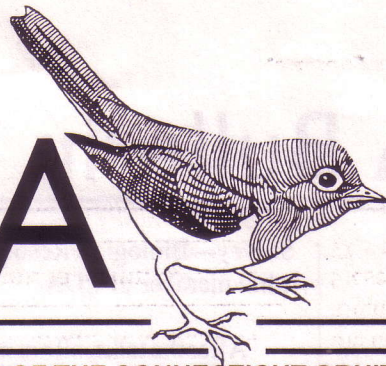


# COA



# Bulletin

Spring 1997 NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION Vol 11 No 1

## COA's 1997 Annual Meeting

Please join us Saturday, March 29th at Middlesex Community Technical College in Middletown for COA's thirteenth Annual Meeting. This is a special opportunity for COA members and their guests to convene for an educational and entertaining day in the company of their fellow birders. New members are especially encouraged to attend, so that they can meet the diverse, knowledgeable and talented group of people who belong to COA, from beginning birders to professional ornithologists.

The focus of this year's program is the influence of Long Island Sound on birds and birding in our state. A lineup of knowledgeable and informative speakers will talk on various related topics.

**A Historical Perspective on Long Island Sound**, by Milan Bull, Director of the Fairfield Nature Center and Director, Field Studies and Ornithology for the Connecticut Audubon Society, will be our keynote speaker. Milan is a long-time member of COA and an international trip leader. Milan will set the tone for the day by giving us insights into Long Island Sound, birds and other wildlife in and along the sound.

**The State of the Sound.** As of this printing we are awaiting confirmation of our speaker. This talk will focus on the current health of the sound and the many organizations that are involved in the cleanup of the sound.

**Sea Ducks.** Sam Fried will present the current status  
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## HOTLINE HIGHLIGHTS

- Black-headed Gull** Stamford Nov 24-Jan 14
- Orange-crowned Warbler** Stamford Nov 28-Dec 15
- Ash-throated Flycatcher** Old Lyme Nov 30-Dec 5
- Yellow-headed Blackbird** E. Hartford Dec 9-Jan 20
- Snowy Owl** Westport Dec 22
- Barrow's Goldeneye** Westport Dec 22-Jan 25
- Black Vultures** Bethel Jan 23

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

## President's Message

by Jay Kaplan

A number of years ago, when I first learned about a new organization, the Connecticut Ornithological Association, my initial thought was "not another birding group." I was having enough trouble keeping straight my memberships in and participation with existing bird-related organizations in the state. Perhaps it was because several of my friends joined, or perhaps I took a look at the fledgling "Connecticut Warbler" publication; for whatever reason, I sent in my membership, became active, and eventually joined the Board of COA. Now, my term as President of this organization is about to come to an end. As such, it seems only fitting that in this, my final column for the "COA Bulletin," I ramble with some thoughts concerning what to me is an exciting and important organization. Connecticut is well endowed with birding groups. Many of these groups hold meetings, mail newsletters and offer field trips and programs. They exist in all corners of the state and do an excellent job of developing and maintaining the interest of the novice as well as the more experienced birder. So, you might ask, as I once did, how does the COA differ from these other organizations? For starters, take a close look at *The Connecticut Warbler*. Our quarter publication is impressive with interesting articles for all levels of experience and expertise. You would be amazed at the number of requests that we receive for back issues of "The Warbler"

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# COA Bulletin

## COA's 1997 Annual Meeting

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of ducks, especially those that winter in the sound. Sam is former president of the Hartford Audubon Society and a bird photographer. He has also led bird trips throughout the United States and a frequent speaker at bird clubs throughout the state.

**Sparrows of the Salt Marshes.** Greg Hanisek is an accomplished birder and naturalist who serves on both the New Jersey and the Connecticut Rare Records Committees. He has participated in the World Series of Birding and he captains the Bausch and Lomb team that has won four times.

**Shorebirds.** Julian Hough will be speaking on the expected and unexpected shorebirds seen along the Connecticut coast. Julian is a relative newcomer to Connecticut, having moved here from Cape May a few years ago. He is a member of the Connecticut Rare Records Committee.

**Alcids and Kittiwakes.** Dave Provencher, COA Vice-President and Rare Records Committee member will give a slide presentation of these rarities in the Long Island Sound. When the weather patterns are right, birders who brave the conditions can be rewarded with looks that may be brief of some of these species.

**Rare Birds Along the Connecticut Coast.** Frank Mantlik has been very involved in the COA as past President, current board member, Chairman of the Rare Records Committee, and one of the voices of the Connecticut Rare Bird Alert. He is also a professional photographer and avid birder. Frank will be sharing some of his photographs of rarities that have shown up along the Connecticut coast.

**Falkner Island Tern Project.** Jeff Spendelow started the Tern Project in 1978 with Fred Sibley. He has continued with this project as its Director and he also coordinates a study of Roseate Terns in the New England area. Jeff conducts this as part of his job for the U.S. Geological

Survey---Biological Resources Division in Maryland. Jeff is a life member of COA.

After the talks, all are invited to a brief business meeting and election of new officers and COA Board members. Another highlight of the day is the announcement of the Mabel Osgood Wright Award winner. This is presented to a member of our community who has made an outstanding contribution to ornithology in our state.

The COA Marketplace will have a variety of vendors who will be offering a variety of bird-related items, birding gear, bird books and art. COA checklists, decals, patches, and back issues of the Connecticut Warbler will also be available for you to purchase. A bird quiz to test your skills will be available throughout the day in the Marketplace area. And to top off the day, several lucky people will be winners of valuable birding equipment and art in the raffle.

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

This will be a terrific event for Connecticut birders. Registration is only \$10.00 per person in advance (see box below) or \$12.00 at the door.

**Directions To Middlesex Community-Technical College.** To get to Middlesex Community-Technical College, take Exit 11 from Route 9 (North or South; turn right (east) on Randolph Road; at the stop sign, turn left onto Saybrook Road; turn left onto Reservoir Road; turn right again onto Training Hill Road. Parking is in the lot on the left.

The day will begin with registration and a continental breakfast from 8:00 to 9:00 am and will conclude with the announcement of raffle winners at 5:00 pm. See you there!

## COA Annual Meeting Registration

To preregister for the Annual Meeting, send your name and address and a check for \$10.00 per person (must be received no later than March 14, 1997) plus \$8.50 per person for buffet lunch (optional) to: COA, 314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06430

## Articles\*\*Articles\*\*Articles

As always, your COA Bulletin editor (me) is looking for articles of all sorts for the bulletin. If you have a preliminary study, observed an interesting bird or more, or had a good field trip or event you would like to see printed, please drop me a line. Better still, send me the article and I will see it through to publication in the bulletin. Other good topics include book reviews of bird books, bird journals and etc.

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

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



# COA Bulletin

## President's Message

(continued from page 1)

from researchers, from libraries, and from birders on both coasts and both sides of the Atlantic. Columns such as "Connecticut Field Notes" and the "photo challenge" can help you to improve your knowledge of Connecticut birds as well as your identification abilities. While "*The Warbler*" may be the flagship publication of this organization, the "*Bulletin*" with timely articles and with information on upcoming meetings and events from around the state also serves an important function. The COA also sanctions the Connecticut Avian Records Committee, co-sponsors the Rare Bird Telephone Line and has become ever more frequently involved in a wide range of issues that potentially affect birds and their habitats in Connecticut. In late March, COA will sponsor its annual meeting. This year's meeting will focus on Long Island Sound. The program associated with this meeting will surely have something for everyone and I urge all of you to seriously consider attending. One of our organization's greatest strengths has been its ability to bring individuals together from throughout Connecticut and beyond to discuss, learn about, and enjoy a common interest---the past, present, and future status of birds and birding in Connecticut. As I conclude my term as COA president, I can honestly say that it has been a most enjoyable and educational experience. I plan to stay closely involved in the activities of COA and hope that you will join me in supporting the mission of this organization.

## Spring Birding Tips and Trips

The winter birding doldrums are over and the summer status quo of the nesting season is still a long way off. The spring birding season is upon us---a time of transition for both weather and birds. Bright and sunny days increasingly mix with and alleviate the worst of winter's cold and snow. Winter birds start moving northward, especially toward the end of February and March. Meanwhile, spring migrants begin to build in numbers and variety in the state. The Connecticut and Housatonic Rivers are important migration corridors for Osprey, Tree Swallow, inland shorebirds (Killdeer and American Woodcock), and waterfowl. Other early migrants such as Eastern Phoebe, American Robin, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, and Brown-headed Cowbird begin to appear throughout the state. Blackbirds usually start appearing in late February. By late

March and early April, large flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls mass at the mouth of Oyster River (Greater New Haven Harbor area), South Cove in Old Saybrook, and Long Wharf in New Haven. These birding sites also usually yield Black-headed Gull and frequently Little Gull among the migrants.

The migration scene continues in April. Good waterfowl concentrations can often be found at Greenwich Point Park, Great Island Wildlife Management Area, Milford Point, Gulf Pond and Rocky Neck State Park. The spring hawk migration is less concentrated than in fall, but returning accipiters and Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Broad-winged Hawks can be spotted at River Road in Kent, Naugatuck State Forest, Osbornedale State Park, and elsewhere.

From mid-April into early May the herons, egrets, and shorebirds return to the coastal marshes and can be spotted at Manresa, Great Meadows Marsh, Milford Point, Griswold Point, Barn Island, and elsewhere along the shoreline.

The spring migration of warblers, vireos and other songbirds peaks during the first three weeks of May and Connecticut birders are galvanized by an urgent need to visit River Road in Kent, Boston Hollow in Ashford, and East Rock Park in New Haven to catch the concentrations of spring warblers, which can often be spectacular. A good day's birding at any of these sites during the peak spring migration can frequently tally two dozen warbler species along with many other migrants as well.

Flocks of migrant swallows build at Konold's Pond in New Haven, Nepaug Reservoir and along the river corridors. These flocks can produce Tree, Northern Rough-winged, Barn, Bank, and occasionally Cliff Swallows along with a variety of ducks and shorebirds.

Other notable sites in the state for songbird movements, especially in May, include Bluff Point Coastal Reserve, Lighthouse Point Park, and Devil's Hopyard State Park.

For more information on these and other good spring (as well as summer, winter and fall) birding sites throughout the state, check out the *Connecticut Birding Guide*, available at many local bookstores and nature shops.

### HOTLINE REPORTS

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

Frank Gallo 203-966-6756

Mark Szantyr 860-429-4038

Frank Mantlik 846-8601



# COA Bulletin

## 1996 Fourth Annual New Haven Bird Club Big Sit! (as "Sat" in Connecticut)

Written and compiled by John Himmelman

This October marked the fourth year that the New Haven Bird Club sponsored the Big Sit!. This is an event in which participants count bird species from a seventeen four circle "drawn" anywhere in the state they wish to represent. In 1993, we started with five circles in our state. In 1995, the event was opened up to the whole country and eight states participated, with California's combined total edging out Connecticut's by three birds. This year, twenty-one states joined in, comprising forty-eight circles and one hundred and fifty-eight individuals and 296 species of birds. Again, California took the lead, this time with 182 birds seen by eleven circles throughout their state. Connecticut came in second, but the gap between us and the victors grew to 63 species. We had eight circles covering our state and tallied 119 birds.

The most birds seen from within one circle was 97, by California's Trude Hurd and John Schmitt at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Hammonasset tied for the sixth highest total (with Bolsa Chica Buffs in California) tallying 73 birds seen by Clay Taylor, Patrick Daigle, Jerry Connelly, and John Gaskell. Their highlights included Royal Tern, Virginia Rail, Tri-colored Heron, Peregrine Falcon, and White-crowned Sparrow. This team broke the Connecticut record of 71 species, previously held by Milford Point's "Surf scopers" John Himmelman, Frank Gallo and Joe Himmelman. Milford Point came in seventh in the country this year with 66 species. There were a few good hits at this site: American Bittern, Golden Plover, Merlin, Bonaparte's Gull, and Monk Parakeet, but a lot more misses.

The weather did not help our efforts. Torrential downpours the previous night and early that morning kept numbers low. While Frank Mantlik remarked that the previous Nor'easter had "vacuumed the sound clean," Frank Gallo and I were similarly saying that "it was as if all of the birds were sucked out of Connecticut..."

However, the winds did bring Dori Sosensky and Dave Provencher a Parasitic Jaeger and Northern Gannet (new to the count) at Harkness Park in Waterford. And Frank Mantlik, who sat at Sherwood Island in Westport with Rob Winkler and Richard Soffer, was still able to come up with 51 species, including American Coot, American Pipit, Forster's Tern, and Cooper's Hawk. Amy Peck and Susan Annatone did their third year at Sandy Point in West Haven.

They too, were surprised at the low number of birds seen on that day. Their total was 29 species, but that spot has great potential and they are due for a big year.

Andy Brand and Jim Zipp chose an inland site for their circle. They spent the day at Farmington Canal in Hamden and tallied 50 species, about ten of which were the only ones seen by Sitters in the state on that day. Eastern Screech Owl was a beauty as was Solitary Vireo, Hermit Thrush, and Eastern Bluebird. We have a category of Best Inland Total, which went to Andy and Jim this year. The prize is a Big Sit button.

The other two inland sites were in Sterling and Beacon Falls. Robert Dixon, of the former, counted 29 species from his yard. We owe him for the Golden-crowned Kinglet. Edward Jurzynski of the latter site counted 18, also from his yard. We thank him for his Ovenbird.

Next year's Big Sit is tentatively set for October 19. There are a lot of spots in our state that could use covering--as many as there are back yards. Every birder has their favorite spot. Wouldn't it be interesting to see what could be seen there throughout the course of a day---year after year?

As slow as everyone seems to have made out that day, it still tied with 1994's total. And the most important thing was we had fun. It's relaxing, there's often good conversation, and a little competition---against your previous totals as well as against the other circles. You get to observe the patterns of bird movement. And, if all that is in your area for a time is a plain old Song Sparrow, it too, can become surprisingly fascinating. Throughout the day we warm our hands and bodies on hot cider and go on "walk-arounds" to stretch our legs. People stop by to watch some birds with us and then move on. That too, becomes a pattern. We have started a new tradition at Milford Point. My wife, Betsy, stops by before sunset with Mexican food (those spices warm up the body!) and we all pop open a bottle of wine to toast the sunset. Of course, we still keep a wary eye out for "just one more bird.."

State totals for this Big Sit: CA--182, CT-- 119, IN -179, FL --76, SC--76, NJ--72, MI--61, AL--52, AZ--48, NY--46, TN--45, IL--44, MO--42, OR--38, WA--35, NC--34, TX--33, OH--33, WI--29, MS--26, CO--13.

## The 1996 Falkner Island Nesting Season

The number of Roseate Tern nests increased in 1996 to 140 pairs which made 157 nesting attempts (including re-nesting). Of these, 72 nests were successful and 64 chicks fledged. About 3,800 Common Tern pairs nested and raise an estimated 1000 chicks. For more info about the tern nesting colony see Julie Victoria's article in *Connecticut Wildlife*.



# COA Bulletin

## CT Legislation Debates Wildlife Concerns

by Patti Pendergast

The Connecticut legislative session is in full swing. These are some examples of the proposed or introduced legislation that the ornithological community might be interested in.

**DEP Wildlife Management.** This bill is a mish mash of different components---deer hunting, endangered species, bow hunting permitting. Section 2, however, would allow the DEP to temporarily close lands to public access to enhance and protect important breeding areas, migration stopover points, and wintering areas. Good for endangered species, Piping Plover and Roseate Tern are specifically mentioned. However, there are other good aspects in this potpourri that could kill the good intent of that section; deer baiting and language to clarify the Commissioner's authority to manage species that threaten the state's natural plant and animal communities, agriculture public health...if they are undesirable or diseased - the old 'shake, addle or roll' issue raises itself once again. In order to preserve Section 2 of the Wildlife Management Bill, we worked with the DEP to move that language into the next mentioned piece of legislation, the Natural Area Preserves bill, if at all possible.

**DEP Natural Area Preserves** - Would work to ensure management plans for Natural Area preserves that focus on biological or geological resources of concern. It will make the Natural Area Preserves statute easier to apply by further defining the term 'protected resource'.

**Proposed Falconry Bill** - Apparently Connecticut and Hawaii are the only 2 states that do not allow falconry. A hunter's alliance has brought this to the fore. There are a lot of questions with this issue. The DEP would have to make a new program for this and there simply isn't money in their budget to regulate this effectively. While I'm reminded that responsible falconers were key to restoring the Peregrine Falcon populations, falconry in Connecticut would have to be largely self regulated due to DEP funding constraints. We all know how hard that is to do with our own birding ethics.

There have also been a myriad of bills introduced concerning mosquito control due to the equine encephalitis outbreak last summer. At this point the environmental community would like to avoid wholesale pesticide spraying of our wetlands.

On the whole, the environmental community has been puzzling over a way to convince the present administration that open space acquisition through the Recreation and

Natural Heritage Trust fund is important to the state's residents---all of them! Any ideas?

If you have any further questions, don't hesitate to call any of the following people for information:

Patty Pendergast, National Audubon Society, phone  
860-526-4686

David Sutherland, The Nature Conservancy, phone  
860-344-0716

Lisa Santecroce, Connecticut Audubon, phone  
860-527-8737

## Sighting of Richardson's Goose (*Branta canadensis Hutchinsi*) at Lighthouse Point, New Haven, Connecticut

by Paul Carrier

On October 5, 1996, at Lighthouse Point, during the hawk watch, we noticed a "V" of geese coming at us, heading southwest. Within were two notably smaller birds. When overhead, they showed the same Canada Goose markings as their fellow migrants, but were just half the size, upon researching, it appears the birds were probably subspecies "*Brantacanadensis Hutchinsi*."

Kortright states description: same color pattern as common, but smaller than "Lesser Canada," but somewhat larger than the darker "Cackling goose" of the west. The range is described: breeds in the eastern high arctic, it migrates down Hudson Bay through Manitoba, Nebraska, Iowa, the Dakotas and Mississippi Valley; wintering on the Gulf Coast of Mexico. The map also shows wintering the coastal Texas and parts of coastal Florida. Also local records in the Chesapeake Bay and coastal North Carolina.

Forbush states: "this small race is occasionally reported in the Eastern United States and Canada. Stragglers occasionally join migrating flocks of the larger Common Canada Goose, and have been collected in Maryland, North Carolina and other Atlantic coast states." He also notes: "any very small goose with typical Canada markings found east of the Mississippi River is sure to be this race."

Scott describes its breeding range as: Manville Peninsula, Southhampton, Baffin and Ellesmere Islands.

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# COA Bulletin

Migrants between Mississippi River and Rocky Mountains to winter in coastal Texas and Mexico.

Some ornithologists feel that some of the subspecies are really separate species, owing to the fact that they are isolated geographically with no interbreeding. Traditionally, families return to the same area of nesting year after year, promoting inbreeding and keeping the gene pool pure, thus keeping their identity pure as well. Whether Richardson's Goose is, in fact, a species or not, seeing one is exciting, and seeing one here in Connecticut added to the thrill of bird watching for many who saw it that day at Lighthouse Point Park.

## References

- Low, G. 1983. North American marsh birds. Harper and Row, New York.
- Livingston, J. 1966. Birds of the northern forest. McClelland and Stewart, Canada.
- Forbush, E. 1955. Natural history of American birds. Houghton-Mifflin, New York.
- Kortright, F. 1967. Ducks, swans, and geese of North Stackpole, Pa.
- Scott, P. 1977. Keys to the waterfowl of the world. Royle and Son. London.

## News from the RBA

by Frank Mantlik

The tape-recorded bird news we edit and provide on a weekly basis continues to be a service that is much in demand. This remains true, despite the recent explosion of internet users who are able to access transcripts of RBA's from across the country. Dori Sosensky and Jamie Meyers assist in transcribing our RBA onto the Net each week.

Periodically, we experience technical difficulties with our 10-year old Dictaphone 775 workhorse answering machine, most recently for two weeks (on and off) in January. With some TLC we've got the unit running smoothly again. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. With the advent of voice-mail services, the "industrial strength" answering machine market has disappeared. Alternatives for the future of the CT RBA are being investigated.

In the meantime, this service is only as good as the number of sightings reported promptly to us. To report rare or unusual sightings, or to provide updates on current rarities be sure to phone in your info to one of the following:

Mark Szantyr in Storrs, 860-429-4038, [birddog@snet.net](mailto:birddog@snet.net)

Frank Gallo in New Canaan, 203-966-6756, [peeplo@aol.com](mailto:peeplo@aol.com)

Frank Mantlik in Norwalk, 203-846-8601

## House Finch Disease Plagues State Songbirds

Take close note of any House Finches or other birds around your bird feeder or bird bath with swollen and crusty, runny eyes ---they may have a bacterial infection that has impacted songbirds across the country. First recorded in Connecticut in September, 1994, the disease is impacting local and regional populations of House Finches and may pose a threat to other songbirds as well. Similar symptoms have also appeared in American Goldfinches, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Cardinal, Lincoln's Sparrow and Eurasian Starling. Connecticut birders can help researchers trace the spread and impact of this disease in the state by reporting birds looking or acting "funny"---that is, having trouble feeding or bathing (the disease causes vision and balance problems), or bumping into things. If you spot a bird exhibiting these symptoms record the species, sex, date and location seen, number of birds affected, whether the disease involves both eyes or one, and send the info to: Cornell Lab of Ornithology House Finch Disease Survey, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. (from Jenny Dickson's article in the Jan/Feb issue of Connecticut Wildlife)

## Benediction

by Polly Brody

I walk once more with you, mother,  
along this dirt road  
thirty years familiar,  
skirting pasture and woodlots.  
The in-your-face maples  
have lost grip on scarlet and flame,  
oaks bring out vintage burgundy,  
distillation so deep, its reds  
seem to glimmer into black light.  
Preceding us, a progression of flushes--  
juncos and whitethroats disturbed  
from breakfast on poison-viy berries--  
and we slow our pace even more  
than your arthritis demands,  
so their alarms may be muted.  
Then you stop.  
About us, the small bustle of birds.  
Pish-pish you whisper,  
and they come up form bushes, weed margins.  
Between us a prayer suspends  
ambiguous as cobwebs not yet defined by dew:  
May you go like this,  
flutter of downy woodpecker at your breast,  
ruby-crowned kinglet's *d-jeet* in your ear.

(published in *Poetpourri*)



# COA Bulletin

## TRIPS & EVENTS

### Hartford Bird Club

"**Conservation Issues in the Galapagos Islands,**" on Tuesday, March 11, at the Elmwood Community Center, at 7:30 pm. Judy Preston, Director of Science and Stewardship for The Nature Conservancy, will talk about the famous islands---their geology, wildlife, threats to the region and what is being done to protect them.

**Beginner's Bird Walk at Station 43, South Windsor**, on Sunday, March 16. The basics of bird 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 860-243-2569 for more info.

**Nepal: Birding the High Peaks**, on Tuesday, March 18, 8:00 pm at the McAuley Residence Auditorium, 275 Steele Road, West Hartford. Julian Hough details his expedition to the Nepalese Himalayas in this slide show.

**Western Connecticut Shoreline**, on Saturday, March 22. Check out a number of spots along the coast from New Haven to Sherwood Island State Park in search of wintering waterfowl and early migrants. Meet at Long Wharf in New Haven at 8:00 am. Call leader Sam Ekroth at 860-872-6372 for more info.

**Hammonasset for Beginning Birders**, on Sunday, March 23. Basics of bird identification led by a basic kind of guy. More advanced birders are encouraged to join as well. The trip is cosponsored by the Menunkatuck Audubon Society. Meet at the park entrance gate at 8:00 am. Call leader John Gaskell at 860-669-1862 for more info.

**Sachuest Point, Rhode Island**, on Sunday, March 30. This area is home to the largest wintering flock of Harlequin Ducks in New England with upwards of 60 birds possible. Bring lunch for this all day trip. Meet at Sachuest Point parking lot at 8:30 am. Call leader Paul Desjardins at 860-633-3606 for directions and more info.

**Western Connecticut Shoreline** on Saturday, March 22. Birding from New Haven to Sherwood Island State Park in search of wintering waterfowl and early migrants. Meet at Long Wharf in New Haven at 8:00 am. Call leader Carl Ekroth at 860-872-6372 for directions and more info about this trip.

**Hammonasset for Beginning Birders** on Sunday, March 23. Basic identification skills, but more advanced birders are encouraged to join in. Trip is cosponsored by the Menunkatuck Audubon Society. Meet at the park entrance gate at 8:00 am. Call leader John Gaskell at 860-669-1862 for more info.

"**This isn't Birding, This is War,**" on Tuesday, April 8, at the Elmwood Community Center, at 7:30 pm. Mark Szantyr will show and discuss strategy, preparation, trials and tribulations of doing a competitive Big Day in Connecticut. Mark is a member of the Connecticut and New England Big Day record holding team.

**Lewis Farm, Suffield, Connecticut**, on Saturday, April 12. Birding and helping with local maintenance and spring cleanup at this sanctuary. Come anytime from 8:30 am on. Call Jon Smalley at 860-561-0195 for more info.

**Hawk Watch, Penwood State Park**, on Saturday and Sunday, April 19 and 20. Watching for northbound raptors at this state park. Meet at the parking lot at 8:30 am. Call leader Paul Carrier at 860-485-9654 for more info.

**East Granby and West Suffield**, on Sunday, April 27. Excellent trip for early spring migrants. Good chance for Upland Sandpiper and Grasshopper Sparrows. Meet at the unpaved parking lot adjacent to Bradley International Airport on Route 20 in East Granby.

**Warbler Migration at East Rock Park**, on Sunday, May 10. Meet at museum parking lot at 7:00. Contact Paul Desjardins at 860-623-3696 for more info.

**Spring Migrants at Durham Meadows**, on Sunday, May 11. Especially looking for rails and other migrants. Contact Mark Carabretta at 860-229-8462 for more info.

**Mount Auburn Cemetery and Plum Island**, on Tuesday, May 13. Visit the famous Cambridge warbler hot spot, also Newburyport's Plum Island for more warblers and shorebirds. This is a car-pooling trip. Meeting time is 6:00 am at the cemetery. Call trip leader Jim Moore at 860-673-4672 for more information.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



# COA Bulletin

## Trips and Events

(continued from page 7)

### State Museum of Natural History

Located in the Gant Science complex/Physics building at the UConn campus, the state museum is sponsoring two interesting birding events on family days this spring. For more information about these events, call the museum at 860-486-5690.

**Live Bald and Golden Eagles, Hawks, Owls, and Falcons**--a demonstration by raptor rehabilitators from the Raptor Project, on Sunday, March 9 at 1:30 and 2:45 pm.

**"The Life and Future of Kep'alek--the Greater Scaup, Connecticut's Winter Guest from Alaska"** a slide talk by Dr. Jack Barclay on Sunday, March 9 at 4:00 pm.

### The Audubon Shop

**Bird Walks at Hammonasset**, on spring Saturday mornings, from 8:00-10:30 am. Meet at The Audubon Shop in Madison at 7:50 am. Fee \$2. Call Jerry Connolly at 245-9056 for more info.

**Bird Walk at East Rock Park** on Saturday, May 18, from 8:00-11:00 am. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot. Walks are co-led by Jerry Connolly and Dan Barvir. Call Jerry Connolly at 245-9056 for more info.

### Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center at Milford

Please call Linda Mack at 203-878-7440 for reservations, information, and updates in case of inclement weather affecting outdoor programs. Participants are required to register in advance. Dress appropriately for outdoor programs. All programs are held at the Audubon Coastal Center at Milford Point. Call for directions.

**Wild Bird Feeding Seminar**, on Saturday, March 8, from 10:30-12:00 noon. Join Sandy Janiga, Lyric Wild Bird Food specialist for the latest on feeding wild birds at your backyard feeders---what seeds to feed, when to feed them and what feeders best attract different species. Limited to 45, so please register in advance.

## 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**

**Build Your Own Birdhouse**, on Saturday, March 22, from 1:00-3:00 pm. Jim Winkelman will help participants build birdhouses designed to attract various types of nesting birds. Bring your own pliers and hammers--we will provide the rest. Please register in advance. Fee \$8 CAS members, \$10 for nonmembers.

**Bird Seed Sale Day**, on Saturday, April 12, from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Call 878-7440 for more info. Pre-payment is required. Pick up your orders at the Coastal Center.

**Shorebird Migration Workshop**, on Saturday, May 10, from 9:00-11:00 am. Join Steve Mayo for a couple of hours learning how to identify "peeps," waders, terns and other local migrants. Bring binoculars and spotting scopes. Fee \$4 CAS members, \$6 nonmembers.

### Litchfield Hills Audubon Society

**Bird Walk at White Memorial Foundation**, on Sunday, May 11 and Sunday, May 18. Contact Bob Barbieri at 860-489-8692 for more info.

### Potapaug Audubon Society

**Bird Walk at Gillette Castle State Park**, on Sunday, May 11. Contact Rob Braunfield at 860-873-1165 for more info.

### The Fat Robin, Hamden

**Spring Bird Walks, East Rock Park, Farmington Canal**, on Saturdays. Call Jim or Carol Zipp at 203-248-7068 for info.



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 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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**DATED MATERIAL ... PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**