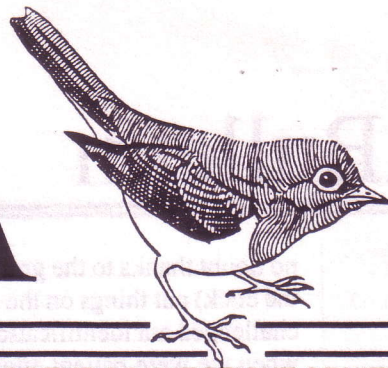


# COA



# Bulletin

Spring 2000 NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION Vol 15 No 1

## COA Sixteenth Annual Meeting, Saturday, March 18, 2000

by Janet Mehmel

The Connecticut Ornithological Association will hold its annual meeting at the Northeast Utilities Conference Center in Berlin, CT.

Please join us to hear our keynote speaker, Paul Lehman. His presentation "Weather and Bird Migration" will describe how those high and low pressure systems, fronts and precipitation influence migration. Paul taught meteorology at the University of California at Santa Barbara before turning his career exclusively to the birds. He is one of the country's most knowledgeable birders. Paul is a frequent leader of Wings bird tours and was editor of Birding Magazine for nine years. We are also fortunate to have Brian Harrington speak on the Flight of the Red Knot, from his fascinating book of the same name.

Other speakers include Andrea Jones who will present a slide show on the breeding ecology of grassland birds in New England. Andrea is the Grassland Conservation Coordinator for Massachusetts Audubon and has been studying grassland birds and their habitats for the past six years. Her talk will focus on habitat types, distribution and management of species such as Upland Sandpiper, Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark.

Dale May, Director of DEP Wildlife Division will speak on Non-Game programs and funding in Connecticut.

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## HOTLINE HIGHLIGHTS

Cave Swallow	various	Nov 5 - Nov 12
Harlequin Duck	Stamford	Oct 29-Nov 17
Franklin's Gull	Stamford	Oct 24-Nov 3
Snowy Owl	Madison	Dec 5
Razorbill	Mystic	Jan 1
W. Kingbird	Stratford/Milford	Nov 21-Dec 4
Varied Thrush	Hamden	Nov 10-20
Y-Throated Warbler	Hamden	Dec 8-Jan 7
BT Gray Warbler	Madison	Nov 6-Nov 8
Brewer's Blackbird	Columbia	Nov 10

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

## Message from the Editor

Another issue of the COA Bulletin is finished and will be in your mail ASAP. I am still concerned about the lack or seeming lack of interest on the part of the membership and the COA board re the bulletin---at least judging by the amount of input from any but a couple of individuals into each and every issue. Surely you get tired of reading stuff that I put in all the time, but as no one else---or hardly anyone else seems to bother sending in materials then my contributions are what we are left with.

I would like to make the bulletin a lively newsletter with all sorts of interesting and exciting articles, news, quips, and anything and everything else pertaining to Connecticut birds and birding that might interest you, the reader. But, I need your help. Every Connecticut birder has her/his share of birding experiences, good books that can be brought to the attention of the membership at large, research interests, even articles that you may have started but never finished. These may be just right for the bulletin.

Even informal articles and observations make good reading. If you found the topics/observations interesting then I can guarantee that other birders will also take time to read them and be informed. What do I need? Everything.

What about writing up that last field trip, or taking some notes out of your birding logbook and sharing them with other Connecticut birders?



# COA Bulletin

## COA Annual Meeting

(continued from page 1)

If you do not preregister the cost will be \$15. at the door. Continental breakfast will be provided. Lunch can be brown-bagged or purchased on site. As in past years, there will be a "Marketplace" and a raffle of donated prizes. If you need more information, please contact Janet Mehmel at 203-655-9823 (for complete directions see page 5)

## Pacific Pelagics!

by Jamie Meyers

Five Pacific pelagic trips in nine days may be California Dreamin' to some birders, or a nightmare to others, but seabirds, seabirds and more seabirds were the main thrust of the maiden excursion for Flights of Fancy Adventures, Inc., a new eco-touring group founded and run by Connecticut's own Sam Fried and his wife Donna Mages. Sam is a nationally acclaimed nature writer and photographer, and many of you probably know him from his lively, entertaining presentations that he gives across the state. His tireless enthusiasm, coupled with the thrill of birding in one of America's most productive birding areas, made for a great trip!

The tour started with back to back to back pelagics, all with Shearwater Journeys to various destinations in rich offshore waters off of scenic Monterey and Santa Cruz. We welcomed both the remarkably calm seas and fine birding. Black-footed Albatrosses provided thrills as they gracefully soared past, mixing with Northern Fulmars of varying color phases, Red and Red-necked Phalaropes, and three species of common shearwaters. Jaeger migration was in full swing, and by the end of the day more than one of us was saying "It's just another Pomarine Jaeger". Even South Polar Skuas were showing in such good numbers that they threatened to become pedestrian! Even without rarities, it would have been a super show, but goodies such as Craveri's Murrelet, both forms of Xantu's Murrelet, and several Flesh-footed Shearwaters (encouraged to appear

no doubt thanks to the group's rallying chant on the way to the dock) put things on the top. Thousands of storm-petrels challenged our identification skills, and rewarded us in kind when we were patient enough to finally get good looks at them. As if that wasn't enough, there was time after the third pelagic to catch our land legs and a winter-plumaged White-winged Tern that had been frequenting Moonglow Dairy, a most excellent bonus and life bird for many.

Though we were up for more pelagic birding, the bounty of California's land birds awaited. The group was dazzled by Golden Eagles and Ferruginous Hawks on the plains, delighted by LeConte's Thrasher, Sage Sparrows and Greater Roadrunners in the oil country of Maricopa, and thrilled by White-headed Woodpeckers, Red-breasted and Williamson's Sapsuckers and Cassin's Finches at 8,000 feet near the summit of Mt. Pinos. It was time for some to renew some old acquaintances, too, as ex-Connecticut birder Todd McGrath treated us to Pacific Golden-Plovers and a host of migrating passerines in the Ventura area on a hot sunny California weekday. An Eastern Phoebe, uncommon for California, even joined the fun! A definite highlight was the appearance of a young Mountain Lion roaming a foothills ranch.

It was then on to Santa Cruz Island for a rendezvous with the much sought-after Island Scrub-Jay. The desert side of the island is not the best for those in search of an easy tick, but several of these deep blue gems were cooperative, and the hike produced other interesting birds, such as insular subspecies of Allen's Hummingbird, Orange-crowned Warbler and Loggerhead Shrike, plus a tired and very tame Golden-crowned Sparrow and a handsome Green-tailed Towhee.

In the home stretch now, we headed back up north, detouring for some quality birding at places such as the Pinnacles National Monument, where we enjoyed a nice picnic lunch next to some hummer feeders before getting great looks at more specialties such as Lawrence's Goldfinch, Wrentit, and the coastal form of Sage Sparrow, which may be recognized as a separate species someday.

The trip ended, appropriately, with one final pelagic trip, for those of us brave enough to board the boat despite the prospect of choppy weather! We all survived, and enjoyed our final looks at many of the great pelagic species we had seen before.

This final tally for this Flight of Fancy was 213 bird species plus many fine mammals, cetaceans, and other critters. It was a trip to cherish and remember for a long time, and I wish similar success to Sam and his group in their many tours to come!

*Editor's Note: I would love to see more articles such as this for the COA Bulletin!!*

**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, 2000 to  
Dwight Smith, Editor,  
241 Shepard Ave., Hamden, CT 06514.**



# COA Bulletin

## The Gull Identification Seminar

by Patrick Comins

Hi All: Nine observers met at the West Haven Boat Launch for the 3rd annual COA Gull Identification Seminar. It wasn't like birding the Manchester Landfill. We concentrated on aging and identification of the common species. We did have a couple of highlights though. In New Haven near the mouth of the Mill River, there was a large concentration of gulls near the oyster shell piles. Among the birds was a roughly herring-sized gull (adult) with a Thayer's-like underwing pattern. The black was entirely restricted to a row of black spots on the tips of the outer primaries. The bird was flying overhead so the upperwing pattern was not seen well (other than to see it had some black). It was a very interesting bird, and I wish we saw more of it. It illustrated the difficulty of gull identification quite well. Was it a Thayer's gull, probably not, but what could it have been? Noninate argentatus Herring Gull can have similar wing patterns, but that would be even rarer than a Thayer's. Hybrid Herring X Glaucous Gull would be a possibility, or can smithsoninaus Herring Gulls have such a primary pattern? Even a very dark Iceland Gull could not be entirely ruled out, but the size and flight style seemed to go against this possibility (as with Thayer's). A good illustration of why gull identification is still an emerging science.

We eventually made our way to Westbrook where the adult Iceland Gull put on quite a show, even calling (long call type call?) several times while sitting on the water. The posture was different than when observed long calling on the ground, with the head held a little higher. The bird calling was captured on video tape, which could be important as there is a little record of this species vocalizations or vocalizing behavior. From there we headed to New London, where we did not see the Glaucous Gull or Iceland Gull, but the tide was a little below high.

Non-gull highlights, Red-shouldered and Rough-legged Hawks. I-95, Lyme. 9 Brant, Harkness State Park.

## Articles Needed!!

As always and ever I need articles for the COA Bulletin. It is your bulletin and I am sure that you get tired of hearing about the same old people all the time (mostly me) so take action. The very best way to get rid of my articles is to submit yours, which will be gladly substituted by the editor.

## COA Education Committee needs volunteers

by Patrick Comins

The COA Education Committee is looking for people to serve on the committee to help with the goals of the committee. If you are interested in working on or with the committee please contact Patrick Comins at his e-mail:

patrickcomins@juno.com,

phone 860-342-3783

## Volunteer Opportunities at Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking volunteers for piping plover nest monitoring at the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. During March of each year Federally threatened piping plovers return to coastal Connecticut. As you may be aware, piping plovers are extremely susceptible to human disturbance, predation and tidal wash outs. We are actively recruiting volunteers in an effort to ensure plover nesting success despite the potential difficulties.

Volunteer piping plover monitors will observe and record data for nesting birds at one of 3 locations: Milford Point, Stewart B. McKinney NWR Milford Point, CT Audubon; and Long Beach, Town of Stratford. The Primary duty involves assisting the Refuge Biologist with observation and data collection for nesting piping plovers. A secondary function involves educating the visiting public. Volunteers work 4-hour shifts from April until the end of the breeding season (usually in August). The working conditions are sometimes pleasant; however, at other times, it could be windy, cold, and raw. The work can also be very

*(continued on page 4)*

### HOTLINE REPORTS

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

Dave Provencher 860-885-1239

Frank Gallo 203-966-6756

Mark Santyr 860-455-0787



## McKinney NWR Needs You!

(continued from page 3)

rewarding as volunteers will have the opportunity to positively impact nesting success for piping plovers in Connecticut.

The positions require excellent observation and recording skills, ability to work independently, reliability, the ability to deal with the public in a courteous manner, and a genuine interest in helping to conserve our nation's wildlife resources. Selectees must donate a minimum of 4 hours per month, wear an official uniform component of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (i.e., cap, t-shirt), and attend a half day training and orientation session. This mandatory training is offered once per year in March.

Volunteers are also needed for other programs such as bird surveys, data entry, and education. Geographic duty locations include Westbrook, Stratford, and Milford Point areas in Connecticut. For further information please contact Pam Denmon, Refuge Biologist at 860-399-2513 or Pamela\_Denmon@fws.gov.

## Conservation and Open Space Legislation

by Patty Pendergast

Future Conservation and Open Space initiatives in Connecticut will be greatly enhanced by the following federal legislation. This legislation is long overdue and needs to be followed closely throughout the spring. Connecticut Forest and Park Association is releasing this informational alert with a request to contact our Senators and Congressional Representatives. If significant federal matches were available, our state legislators might be moved to reconsider budget allocations.

### Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA)

H.R. 701 House Bill S. 25 Senate Bill

In the very end of the last Congressional Session in 1999, the House Resources Committee voted to forward conservation legislation to the House Floor for full consideration. The legislation would provide conservation with the largest infusion of federal funds in history, \$44 billion over the next 15 years, most of which will go to various state and local conservation programs, including state-level wildlife conservation. Following is a breakdown of what Connecticut stands to gain from H.R. 701 if it were to move through the House and then the Senate without opposition.

### Title I Assistance and Coastal Conservation

Creates a revenue sharing and coastal conservation fund for coastal states and eligible local governments to mitigate the various impacts of OCS activities and provide funds for the conservation of our coastal ecosystems. These funds will not provide incentives for new oil and gas development. Connecticut's share \$6,978,530.

Title II Land and Water Conservation and Restoration Fund Guarantees stable and annual funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at its authorized \$900 million level. This dedicated funding would provide for both the state and federal programs included in the LWCF, while protecting the rights of private property owners. Connecticut's share \$7,299,132.

Title III Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Fund Funneling dollars through successful and already existing Pittman-Robertson Act, Title III will invest into wildlife conservation and education. This new source of funding will nearly double the Federal Funds available for wildlife conservation. As a state specific comment, many of these federal funds are available through a state ematchi. If the state of Connecticut does not have the funding for wildlife diversity available we will not be able to come up with matching funds to qualify for these federal dollars. Connecticut's share \$3,210,780.

Title IV Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) UPARR provides matching grants to local governments to rehabilitate recreation areas and facilities, provides for the development of improved recreation programs, sites and facilities. Connecticut's share \$1,911,955.

### Title V Historic Preservation Fund

This provides funding for programs of the Historic Preservation Act, including grants to the states, maintaining the National Register of Historic Places, and administering numerous historic preservation programs. Connecticut's share \$1,911,955.

### Title VI Federal and Indian Lands Restoration

Provides funding for a coordinated program on Federal and Indian lands to restore degraded lands, protect resources that are threatened with degradation, and protect public health and safety. Connecticut's share \$7,622.

### Title VII Conservation Easements & Species Recovery

This provides annual and dedicated funding for conservation easements and funding for landowner incentives to aid in the recovery of endangered and threatened species. Connecticut's share \$254,194. (continued on page 5)



# COA Bulletin

## Open Space Legislation

(continued from page 4)

Title VIII Payment In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Refuge Revenue Sharing Up to \$200 million of the annual interest generated from the CARA Fund will match, dollar for dollar, the amount appropriated during the Congressional Appropriations process. Connecticut's share \$702,540.

The legislation is still in House of Representatives, where it probably has sufficient leadership to pass. After that it moves on to the Senate, where CARA faces its biggest challenge. Apparently there is no Senator who is motivated enough to champion this. The western property rights movement is making much mischief as well as those who do not want to divert appropriations away from the general fund. Historically the money that comes in from LWCF has been used to make up gaps in the budget. Every past effort to utilize LWCF money as it was intended to be used died in the Senate after getting through the House.

Senator Lieberman co-sponsored a bill S. 1573, Natural Resources Reinvestment Act of 1999 with Senator Leahy (D-VT), the late Senator Chafee (R-RI) and Senator Jeffords (R-VT). Upon the tragic death of Senator Chafee this effort lost momentum. It is particularly imperative for us to actively support either CARA or promote his own sound initiative in order to conserve land and water, preserve historic resources, improve environmental resources, protect fish and wildlife, and preserve open space.

Remind Senator Lieberman how important Conservation and Open Space protection are to you. Mention that many critical watershed lands could be coming on the open market due to utility deregulation. There is much public will to save them. Note that the federal matches available through this legislation will help with Endangered Species protection, help restore and enhance our state and municipal parks, and conserve coastal ecosystems.

Senator Joseph Lieberman DC phone 202-224-4041  
CT phone 860-549-8463  
Address: Hart Building #706, Washington, DC 20510  
Email: senator\_lieberman@lieberman.senate.gov  
Website: www.senate.gov/~lieberman

Senator Christopher Dodd DC phone 202-224-2823  
CT phone 860-258-6940  
Address: Russell Building #444, Washington, DC 20510  
Email: sen\_dodd@dodd.senate.gov  
Website: www.senate.gov/~dodd

Both of these Senators need to hear from us, but Senator Lieberman is of particular interest. He needs to be urged to take a strong lead on this initiative when it comes time for this issue. I am also including our Congressional Representatives phone numbers if you want to touch base with them as well.

Cong. John B. Larson DC phone: 202-225-2265 CT phone: 860-278-8888

Cong. Sam Gadjenson DC phone: 202-225-2076 CT phone: 860-886-0139

Cong. Rosa DeLauro DC phone: 202-225-3661 CT phone: 203-562-3718

Cong. Christopher Shays DC phone: 202-225-5541 CT phone: 203-579-5870

Cong. James H. Maloney DC phone: 202-225-3822 CT phone: 203-573-1418

Cong. Nancy L. Johnson DC phone: 202-225-4476 CT phone: 860-223-8412

Congressman Sam Gadjenson's environmental aide, Erica Richardson provided the breakdown of Connecticut's share of CARA.

## Biodiversity Day

Please Mark Your Calendars! On September 9, 2000, the Menunkatuck Audubon Society will hold its first Biodiversity Day in the town of Madison, Connecticut. This 24-hour biological inventory will run from 5 pm on Friday, September 8th to 5 pm on Saturday, September 9th.

We hope to enlist the help of Connecticut's leading biologists and specialists in all taxonomic fields in the task of documenting the biological diversity of the town of Madison. It is a coastal town that encompasses many habitats, from Long Island Sound and its intertidal zones and salt marshes, to rivers, swamps and peatlands, to grasslands, forests and trap rock ridges. The resulting biological inventory will provide valuable data for town land use planners, environmental organizations, the Madison Land Conservation Trust and Madison's citizens as issues of development/open space arise.

Participants can sign on for the whole day or just part of it. We will provide accommodations for those of you participating on Friday evening (entomologists, mammalogists, etc.) if necessary. You can put your own team together or let us team you up with others in your field. Generalist teams are also welcome.

Saturday meals will be provided at a central location, where you will have the opportunity to meet, socialize and compare notes. We will be sending registration forms out in March or April. We hope you can join us!



# COA Bulletin

## Directions to COA meeting

(continued from page 2)

Location of Meeting: 107 Selden Street, Berlin.

### Traveling North on I-91

Travel I-91 North to Exit 22N-S for Route 9 North (New Britain and Middletown). Bear left on Exit 22N (New Britain) to Route 9 North.

Travel Route 9 North approximately 2.4 miles to Exit 21 for Route 372 (East Berlin and Routes 5 and 15 North, Hartford). Turn right at the end of the exit onto Route 372 West. Continue for .4 mile to the first exit (unnumbered exit) for Routes 5 and 15 North (Hartford).

Travel north on Routes 5 and 15 approximately 1.7 miles to Berlin.

NU General Offices will be on the right on a hill. At a traffic signal, take a right onto Selden Street and continue up the hill. Turn left from Selden street to the roadway into the Northeast Utilities complex.

### Traveling South on I-91

Travel Route I-91 South to Exit 28 for Routes 5 and 15 South (Berlin Turnpike, Wethersfield, and Newington).

Travel south approximately 6.8 miles on Routes 5 and 15 to Berlin.

NU General Offices will be on the left on a hill. At a traffic signal, take a left onto Selden Street, and continue up the hill. Turn left from Selden Street to the roadway into the Northeast Utilities complex.

### Traveling East on I-84

Travel Route I-84 East to Exit 35 for Route 72 East and Route 9 South (New Britain and Middletown). Exit 35 is a left-hand exit. This section of highway begins as Route 72 East and then becomes Route 9 South. After approximately 3.4 miles the highway will fork: stay to the right following Route 9 South (Berlin and Middletown) for about 4 miles.

Take Exit 21 for Routes 5 and 15 (Hartford and New Haven). At the end of the exit, stay to the right, merging onto Routes 5 and 15 North.

Travel North on Routes 5 and 15 approximately 1.8 miles to Berlin.

NU General Offices will be on the right on a hill. At a traffic signal, take a right onto Selden Street, and continue up the hill. Turn left from Selden Street to the roadway into the Northeast Utilities complex.

### Traveling West on I-84

Travel Route I-84 West to Exit 57 for Routes 5 and 15 South (this is a left-hand exit for the Charter Oak Bridge, Routes 15 South, I-91 South, New York City) Stay to the left side on the Charter Oak Bridge and continue to follow signs for Routes 5 and 15 South.

Travel South approximately 8 miles from the Charter Oak Bridge, on routes 5 and 15, to Berlin.

NU General Offices will be on the left on a hill. At a traffic signal, take a left onto Selden Street, and continue up the hill. Turn left from Selden Street to the roadway into the Northeast Utilities complex.

## Bird Banding Slide Show

Interested in finding out more about local bird populations? Join us to learn more about the mist-netting and banding project run by Audubon in Sharon. This slide show will be held at the Sharon Audubon Center on Tuesday, April 24th, beginning at 7:00 pm. We will talk about some of the bird species found in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut and at Buttercup Farm Sanctuary in Stamfordville, New York. Also come to find out how you can participate in local bird research. For more information please call Sharon Audubon Center at 860-364-0520 for more information.

## Bird Banding Workshop

The Sharon Audubon Center announces a **Bird Banding Workshop** to be held Saturday, May 6th, from 8:00 to 12:00. Learn how to take birds out of mist nets, band birds, and determine their age and sex. Also come to learn more about the M.A.P.S. (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) project and how you can be involved with bird research. Please call the Sharon Audubon Center at 860-364-0520 for more information and to make a reservation. Fee \$10 for nonmembers, free to chapter members. Note: space for this workshop is limited to 12 people.

## New Bird Species

Connecticut birders are reeling them in this year with sightings of a number of rare and unusual species, many new to the state. Be sure to document your sightings of unusual species with detailed notes, photos, statements by other birders who also sighted the bird and any other details that will help verification.



# COA Bulletin

## Trips & Events

### Hartford Audubon Society

**Beginner's Bird Walk, Station 43**, on Sunday, March 12. Everything you always wanted to know about bird identification but were afraid to ask! 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. Leaders: Len Kendall (860) 658-7952 and Roger Preston (860) 658-5010

**Western Connecticut Shoreline** on Sunday, March 19. Explore the coastline for late wintering birds and early spring arrivals. Dress warmly and bring lunch. Meet at the Long Wharf Information Center (Liberty Belle Ticket Sales) New Haven, at 8 am. Leader: Carl Ekroth (860) 872-6372

**Sachuest Point, Rhode Island**, on Saturday, March 25. Sachuest Point is home to the largest wintering flock of Harlequin Ducks in New England with upwards of 60 birds possible. Other ducks and seabirds are common and we may see Northern Gannet as well as other birds that are harder to find in Connecticut. Bring lunch for this all day field trip. Meet at the Sachuest Point parking lot at 8:30 am. Call leader Paul Desjardens at (860)-623-3696 for directions.

**Hammonasset for Beginning Birders**, on Sunday, April 2. These trips will offer beginners another location at which to sharpen their skills. Emphasis will be on identification techniques. Time will be spent enjoying and studying birds. More advanced birders who are willing to help are encouraged to join us. Trip begins at the park entrance gate at 8:00 am. Take exit 62 off I-95, head south to the park entrance. Leader John Gaskell (860) 669-1862

**Birding and Maintenance Party, Lewis Farm, Suffield**, on Saturday, April 8. Support your sanctuary and help with spring cleanup. Bring your binoculars and work implements. Come anytime from 8:30 am on. Call for more information; leader Jon Smalley (860) 521-2621

**Granby/Suffield area** on Saturday, April 29. Spring is here, come look for Upland Sandpipers, Grasshopper Sparrows, Great Blues in breeding plumage, and early warblers, on a trip around the Granby/Suffield area. Meet at the unpaved parking lot on Route 20 adjacent to Bradley Airport in East Granby at 7:00 am. Call leader Stephanie Lovell at (860)-521-2621 for more info.

**Quarry Park and Connecticut Flood Plain** on Saturday, May 6. We are looking for Bobolinks, sparrows, shorebirds, nesting songbirds, and other surprises on this morning trip exploring Quarry Park and the Connecticut River floodplain in the Rocky Hill area. Wear sturdy walking shoes. If the spring has been very wet bring waterproof boots. Meet at the north gravel parking area at Ferry park at 7:00 am. The park is at the east end of Route 160 which runs off the Silas Deane Highway (route 99). Watch for the Ferry sign. Leader: Mary Carter (860) 257-7887

**Cedar Hill Cemetery**, on Saturday, May 6. Jon Smalley will lead a trip through this little birded area looking for warblers, thrushes, and other spring migrants. Cedar Hill Cemetery can be a great spot and is close to home. Meet at the Jewish Cemetery on Jordan Lane at 7: am. Call the leader for specific directions. Leader Jon Smalley (860) 561-0195

**Hammonasset for Beginning Birders**, on Sunday, May 7. These trips will offer beginners another location at which to sharpen their skills. More advanced birders who are willing to help are encouraged to join us. Trip begins at the entrance gate at 8:00 am. Call leader John Gaskell at (860) 669-1862

**West Hartford Reservoir #6**, on Sunday, May 7. Join our leader to search for warblers and other spring migrants. Meet in the parking lot off Route 44 at 6:00 am. Leader: Paul Desjardin (860) 623-3695

**Litchfield and Kent**, on Saturday, May 13. This trip should produce such excellent species as Cerulean and Golden-winged Warblers, Cliff Swallow, and many others. Bring lunch and meet at White Memorial Foundation parking lot in Litchfield at 7:00 am. Leader Dave Rosgen (860) 283-8379

**Nepaug Reservoir**, on Sunday, May 14. this roving trip to excellent areas always produces interesting migrants. Meet at the restaurant parking lot at the intersection of Routes 44 and 202 at 7:30 am. Call leader Paul Carrier at (860) 485-9654 for further info.

*(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

## Trips and Events

(continued from page 7)

### The Fat Robin

East Rock Park every Saturday in May for spring migrants. Meet at The Fat Robin at 3000 Whitney Avenue in Hamden at 8:00 am. Fee @4. Call Jim Zipp at 203-248-7068 for details.

### The Audubon Shop

**Birding Hammonasset State Park**, every Saturday from April through June. Field trips run from 8-10:30 am. See returning shorebirds, songbirds, birds of prey, and waders. Fee \$2. Meet at The Audubon Shop at 7:45 am. Call Jerry Connolly at 203-245-9056 for details on this and other birding events at The Audubon Shop

### HAS Wildlife Series

**Tempest out of a Teacup: The Functional Ecology of Red-necked Phalaropes**. Phalaropes are unique among shorebirds in being highly aquatic, known for spending up to 9 months of their year on the open ocean. They display a fascinating array of behavioral and physical characteristics which have evolved in response to living and feeding in an aquatic environment. This talk will cover the interaction of form and function in phalaropes. Our speaker tonight will be Margaret Rubega, Connecticut's State Ornithologist. Talk is at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, April 18, at the McAuley Residence Auditorium, 275 Steele Road, West Hartford.

### Natchaug Ornithological Society 2nd Annual Birdathon

The Natchaug OS hereby invites birders from across the state to participate in our second annual birdathon to be held on May 19-20, in Mansfield and vicinity. The birdathon will begin at 8:00 am on the 19th and continue until 8:00 am on the 20th, at which time there will be a meeting of all participants at the Unitarian Universalist meeting House on Spring Hill Road in Storrs to determine who has seen the most species. This will be a fund raising event to benefit the Nature Conservancy, a national, non-profit organization

## REGIONAL HOTLINES

Connecticut (203) 254-3665  
Rhode Island (401) 949-3970  
Eastern Massachusetts (617) 259-8805  
Western Massachusetts (413) 253-2218  
Vermont (802) 547-4861  
New Hampshire (603) 224-9900  
Maine (207) 781-2332  
New York Metro (212) 979-3070  
Northern New Jersey (908) 766-2661  
Cape May, New Jersey (609) 884-2626

dedicated to preserving natural habitats, and Joshua's Trust, a locally based group working to preserve open space in Mansfield. Teams are asked to raise a minimum of \$15 per participant. For more information including a registration form please contact: Bob Pirrie, 656 Chaffeeville Road, Storrs, CT 06268. phone 860-429-8784.

### CAS Trips

For more information on these CAS trips please call Andrew Grisworld, Director, Connecticut Audubon EcoTravel, 67 Main Street, Essex, CT 06426, phone 860-767-0660, FAX 860-767-9988, E-mail Ctaudubon@aol.com

**Costa Rica: parrots and Turtles**, from May 1-10. Tour itinerary will include the best jungle and marine environment locations. Guides include Clay Taylor and Charlies Gomez will escort participants to Pacuare nature Reserve, Tortuguero National Park, Braulio Carrillo National Park, and Carara Biological Reserve.

**Point Pelee, Ontario**, from May 13-19. This trip to the warbler capitol of the world will be led by Frank Mantlik and Mary Dowdell. Seeing 100 species a day is possible and big days can produce 170 species. Travelers will visit several birding hot spots including "Onion Fields", Hillman Marsh Conservation area, and Kopegaron Woods Conservation Area. Cost is \$1795 which includes air from Hartford or New York, first and last night dinners, all breakfasts and lunches, hotels, and ground transportation.

**Pacific Northwest**, from August 11-20. Early mention of this field trip to Olympic National park and Puget Sound area. Trip leaders are Buzz Devine and Andy Griswold. Cost is \$2695 which includes hotels, most meals, airfare from New York.



# 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, 175 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** Dave Provencher, 43 Branch Hill Rd, Preston, CT 06365 860-885-1239  
**Vice President** Patty Pendergast, P. O. Box 1028, Old Lyme, Ct 06371 860-526-4686  
**Treasurer** Jim Zipp, 400 Mt. Sanford Road, Hamden, CT 06518 203-272-1439  
**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** Jay Kaplan, 71 Gracey Rd., Canton, CT 06019 860-693-0157  
**Membership** John Longstreth, 846 Southford Rd., Southbury, CT 06488 203-754-4401  
**Program** Janet Mehmel, 26 Tory Hole Rd., Darien, CT 06820 203-655-9823  
**Publications** Betty Kleiner, 5 Flintlock Ridge, Simsbury, CT 06070 860-658-5670  
**Rare Records** Greg Hanisek, 175 Circuit Ave., Waterbury, CT 06708 203-754-4401  
**Research** Robert Askins, CT College/Biology, New London, CT 06320 860-439-2149  
**Education** Patrick Comins, 116 High St., Manchester, CT 06040 860-646-6600

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