

Summer Bird Count

An Important Census Tool!

The annual Connecticut Summer Bird Count is right around the corner, so contact your count compiler soon for details about participation. The SBC has been held in Connecticut for more than 20 years and has generated valuable information to help reveal population trends of breeding species in our region.

Nine SBC tracts encompass a significant area of the state (1,642 square miles, or 31.2%), more than any other breeding bird census technique used in Connecticut. In 1999, 239 observers counted 186 species. The all time record number of species observed was 201 set in 1998.

Recent SBC data suggest that five of our numerous Neotropical migrants are facing precipitous decreases in populations: Wood Thrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Eastern Towhee. Other declining species are Whip-poor-will, Worm-eating Warbler, Brown Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, White-eyed Vireo, and Eastern Meadowlark.

Please contact your compiler to join the SBC effort this year. Your participation is needed to help quantify important changes in bird populations. And besides, the SBC is loads of fun!!

Barkhamsted: Dave Rosgen, 84 Falls Terrace, Apt. D, Oakville, CT 06779

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HOTLINE HIGHLIGHTS

Tufted Duck	Fairfield	Feb 19-Feb 21
Gyrfalcon	Stratford	Feb 7-Feb 11
Sandhill Crane	Mansfield	Apr 19
Little Gull	several	Feb 29-Apr 2
Glaucous Gull	New London	Jan 23-Feb 15
Razorbill	Mystic	Mar 12, 15
Ruff	Madison	Apr 23- Apr 25
Prothon. Warbler	Manchester	Apr 30-May 1
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Plainfield	Feb 3
Boat-tailed Grackle	Stratford	Apr 14

RARE BIRD ALERT: 203-254-3665

President's Message

by Dave Provencher

COA Goes Online!

The Connecticut Ornithological Association is now online! COA Web can be found at www.ctbirding.org on the internet. This new and exciting addition to the COA family is currently still under construction but many pages are already complete. On COA Web you can find information about the organization, COA programs and events as well as other Connecticut birding events, the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut (ARCC), ARCC's published reports of rare records in CT, resources for birding Connecticut, identification articles, volunteer opportunities, links to other birding websites, links to "bird-cams", and much more. You can also list your CT life list total as well as your CT yard list total on-line. You can also post your "best" CT bird and yard bird! COA Web will let you know what is going on in CT in ornithology, birds and birding, conservation, trips, and more. You can visit the "bird-cam" and peek in on nesting Bald Eagles, Barred Owls, and Peregrine Falcons (all done non-invasively or course). Future projects for COA Web includes a members page where you can find out about some of CT's birders, site guides to featured CT birding sites, companion articles to

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COA Goes Online!

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published articles in the Connecticut Warbler, and other fun and interesting birding topics. So take a look today and see what's happening in CT birding on COA Web, www.ctbirding.org, and let us know what you think!

(perhaps this means that we can soon put the COA Bulletin on line for all to enjoy. editor)

Summer Bird Counts

(continued from page 1)

Greenwich-Stamford: Gary Palmer, 34 Field Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807

Hartford: Paul Cianfaglione, 8 Glenn Lane, West Hartford, CT 06110

Litchfield Hills: Bob Barbieri, 56 Baron Lane, Torrington, CT 06790

New Haven: Steve Mayo, 27 Tuttle Court Road, Bethany, CT 06524

Quinnipiac: Wilford Schultz, 93 Harrison Road, Wallingford, CT 06492

Salmon River: Joseph Morin, 8 West Street Terrace, Cromwell, CT 06416

Storrs: Steve Rogers, 75 Charles Lane, Storrs, CT 06268

Woodbury--Roxbury: Russ Naylor, 44 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798

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

**Please submit materials for the next
issue by August 1, 2000 to
Dwight Smith, Editor,
241 Shepard Ave., Hamden, CT 06514.**

Raptor Nests Needed

As part of a long term project involving the monitoring of raptor nests by myself, my students, and Buzz Devine, I am requesting info re nests of the following:

Red-tailed Hawk
Great Horned Owl
Northern Goshawk
Common Raven
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk

This past year we located and measured 16 Northern Goshawk nests, and 8 Sharp-shinned Hawk nests in Connecticut. We are currently watching 17 Common Raven nests and are following up leads re Cooper's Hawk nests (we have a count total of 9 of these, so far). Any information you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Bicknell's Thrush

by Carl Trichka

A bird banding operation has been carried out during the spring and fall months at Connecticut Audubon Society's Birdcraft Museum and Sanctuary since 1979. During that period of time we have banded 118 species plus 2 hybrids and 2 races. In September, 1999, we added our 119th species, a Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*). The bird was banded with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife band (1531-92331) on 28 September. This thrush was recently split from the Gray-cheeked Thrush based on work by Canadian ornithologist, Henri Ouellet.

This individual was separated and identified by its shorter wing length and plumage differences from the Swainson's Thrush, which it closely resembles.

During the past winter I was reading various publications and learned that in the spring of 1998, a banding station was established at the Plum Island National Wildlife Reserve in Newburyport, MA, with the assistance of personnel from Manomet Bird Observatory, who trained the banders and provided guidance. In the fall of that year, they netted a Bicknell's Thrush and contacted Manomet. Personnel there stated that in 30 years of banding at Manomet, they only had two Bicknell's Thrushes. This was our first at Birdcraft, after 20 years of banding.

This species can be identified by its call when on its breeding grounds, which are usually found in northern New England, New York, and Canada at elevations over 2500 ft.

Protecting Our Songbirds

by Jayne Amico

I am a new member to COA. I am not an expert when birding in the field, but place orphaned, sick, or injured bird in my hands and I can promise you that it will have excellent care. I am a wildlife rehabilitator who specializes in songbirds. I am licensed by the State of Connecticut and federally permitted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to care for migratory birds.

With spring migrants arriving and baby bird season upon us it is likely that while out birding, driving in your car, or in your own backyard you may come across a bird that you feel needs help.

Unfortunately as we continue to develop more and more land our contact with wildlife is also going to increase. The majority of birds that I receive for rehabilitation are a direct result of coming into contact with people who think they have found a baby that has been orphaned.

There are ways that we can all help to lessen this negative impact. Make your cat an indoor cat---he will live a healthier, longer life because of it. Cats are not native to the U.S. and are not a natural predator of birds. For most cat, birds are just a moving object, something to play with, and cats will toy with a bird for hours and then leave it alive but suffering. A natural predator would swiftly kill and eat the bird. If you do have an outdoor cat that you will not consider bringing inside, putting a collar with 3 bells or more on it will make it difficult for a cat to sneak up on a bird. Certainly it is unwise to put out bird feeders and other bird attractants if there are free roaming cats in your area.

If your cat catches a bird, gently remove the bird and call for a wildlife rehabilitator in your area, even if a bird appears to have no wounds. Cat mouths contain bacteria that are deadly to birds. The tiniest puncture or tear in the skin opens the door for a fatal infection. It is almost impossible to move aside every feature in order to look for these miniscule punctures, therefore, all cat-caught birds need antibiotics A.S.A.P.

While driving in your car do not assume that birds will fly out of the way. Especially in spring and summer adults are focused on establishing and defending territories and feeding young. Fledglings are focused on following their parents wherever they go. Every single day while I am driving I see the remains of at least one bird who has not survived being hit by a car. American Robins, Mourning Doves, and Northern Flickers seem especially at risk. Northern Flickers often hunt for ants and other insects on the medians and soft shoulders of roads. In spring snow-falls, American Robins are forced to look for food in the

only bare spots available and too often these areas are along roadways. Who hasn't seen Mourning Doves in the height of courtship abandon all concerns as they attend to the propagation of the species. Subsequently, these species are frequently hit by cars. Likewise, roadways often provide much needed gravel for avian digestive systems, causing the birds to venture across busy roadways. Sometimes a bird that has been hit is stunned or has sustained injuries that are not life threatening. I have stopped and picked up many birds who were still alive after being struck, or perhaps sometimes more accurately, striking a motor vehicle.

If you have a window that birds are striking notice the time of day or possibly the time of year. Sometimes the birds are being fooled by the reflection of the light or the sky and trees on the glass. Often this only happens during certain seasons or certain times of day when the sun is at a certain angle. Pulling the shades during that time will eliminate the reflection. On large plate glass windows hanging sun catchers or any other device that will cause the birds to recognize the barrier may help. If you find a bird stunned below a window always pick the bird up and place it in a well ventilated box lined with paper towels and place it in a warm dark quiet place away from people and pets. Never leave a stunned bird not capable of taking care of itself outside. Leave the bird strictly alone for a couple of hours. After this resting period, test the birds abilities by releasing it into a small room after covering all windows so the bird does not repeat the mishap that got it here in the first place. If the bird is flying well, alert, and seems steady, remove the covering off one window and open it up, the bird should fly out. If the bird is still not doing well then it will need a rehabilitator.

When working on laws and gardens and applying chemicals remember if its toxic to you its toxic to them. If you would not apply it on your food do not apply it to theirs. Don't forget, the outdoors is their home. The laws, trees, shrubs, and flowers are where they eat. The reason you do not see dead birds all over your green but toxic lawns is because, when a bird injects a toxin its health becomes compromised, and the bird or other creature hides under cover and will ultimately die there. If a predator finds the compromised

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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

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Protecting Our Songbirds

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bird or its carcass and eats it, it now becomes an issue of not only primary, but secondary poisoning. Go organic, there are corn based pre-emergents for weed control, beneficial nematodes for grub control. Plant trees, shrubs, vines, and flowers that attract birds to your gardens they are the best pest control you could have and you will be rewarded with their beautiful colors and song.

Help protect their habitat. Think twice before you mow a field or cut a tree or shrub. Many species of birds need tall grass to nest and forage in. Woodpeckers need dead and dying trees to excavate cavities in. Try and remove only the limbs that pose a danger to you or your home. Always check any field, tree, or shrub thoroughly for signs of nesting before cutting it down.

If you find a bird that you feel needs help, make sure it truly does need assistance. If you can approach an adult bird and pick it up then it very likely needs help. If you find a young bird on the ground and it is fully feathered with a very short tail it is a fledgling. If the bird can stand on both legs, both wings are equally positioned on its sides and you cannot see any wounds or blood the bird is probably fine. Many fledglings leave the nest before they can fly and ultimately end up on the ground where the parents continue to care for them.

If the bird has little or no feathers it needs to be put back in the nest. If the bird is cold it will need to be warmed first. A bird's body temperature is higher than ours so the bird should feel warm in your hands. Supplemental heat can be as simple as a gooseneck lamp with a 60 watt bulb positioned over the young bird. To hold the nestling get a small bowl, relative to the nestlings size and line it with tissue. Make a depression in the center and place the bird in it. The bird should fit snugly in the nest.

Strong winds can dislodge nests and you will find the nestlings and nest on the ground. In this situation placing the nest in a wicker basket in earth tone colors and tie the basket securely to the tree. The nest needs to be as close as possible to the original site, i.e. same height in the tree, same side of the tree, same tree! Once again if the young have become chilled, warm them first and/or during the process of putting the new nest up. Never use solid containers to hold a nest in a tree for they will fill with water and drown the young.

If a bird does need to be brought to a rehabilitator place the bird in a well ventilated box lined with paper towel and put in a warm, dark, quiet place away from people and pets. If the bird cannot stand and is laying on its side prop the bird upright with towels on either side. If the bird has little or

no feathers it will need supplemental heat and an artificial nest. Do not give any food, water, or medicine. It is safer for the bird to wait then be fed incorrect food or liquids. Never give young birds fluids in their mouths. They get all their fluids from their food and the risk of aspiration is great.

I would be happy to try and assist anyone with any wildlife questions or problems. Happy spring and Happy birding! Jayne Amico, The Recovery Wing, 860-276-8433. recoverywing@aol.com

2000 COA Annual Meeting

by Janet Mehmel

COA's sixteenth Annual Meeting was held at Northeast Utilities Berlin Auditorium on Saturday, March 18th. It was attended by 108 people who enjoyed a full day of educational and entertaining activities, including slide presentations, a bird quiz, shopping in the COA Marketplace, a raffle and an award presentation.

Excellent presentations were given by Paul Lehman, Andrea Jones, Brian Harrington and Dale May. The ever challenging Bird Quiz was compiled by Mark Szantyr. Mark was also the worthy recipient of the Mabel Osgood Wright Award this year. Dave Provencher presented the award which is given to individuals who have made significant contributions to Connecticut ornithology. Dave's remarks on Mark's many accomplishments will appear in the next issue of The Connecticut Warbler.

This year's raffle, run by John Maynard and John Gaskell, offered many photographs, original artwork, an art print, a wood carving, and optical equipment. All items were generously donated by members Jerry Connolly, Buzz Devine and Dwight Smith, Patrick Dugan, Michael DiGiorgio, Jeff Feldmann, Sam Fried, Paul Fusco, Bill Gaunya, Jay Kaplan, Bob MacDonnell, Mike Moccio, Ray Scory, Mark Szantyr, Jim Zipp and Swift.

New Board members were elected during the business portion of the meeting. They include Tom Kilroy, Carol Lemmon, Jamie Meyers and Mark Szantyr. Dave Provencher will retain the office of the President for an additional year with Patty Pendergast as Vice President. Jim Zipp and Andy Brand will continue as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

Many thanks to all the people who made this special event possible. NE Utilities for generously donating the use of the facility, and the Program Committee members, Fran D'Amico, Betty and Gil Kleiner, John Gaskell, John Maynard, Patty Pendergast, Sylvia Halkin and Janet Mehmel.

Volunteers for Exciting Shorebird Survey Project

by Patrick Comins

Connecticut Audubon and Manomet, Inc. have been awarded a Long Island License Plate Grant to identify and map critical migratory habitats for shorebirds on the Connecticut coast. Their survey includes identification of habitat types, their usage by various shorebird species, and an evaluation of potential prey.

Volunteers are needed from early April through the middle of September to help with the survey which will take place at several sites along the Connecticut coast. Volunteers will be expected to put in 6 hours a month (two hours/week for three weeks each month). Experienced shorebird observers are especially needed, but all levels of experience will be useful. Even though you may have missed the first few weeks of the survey, your data will still be useful to Manomet if you start now.

Today many shorebirds and other wetland birds are in rapid population decline. At least 16 of 26 shorebird species are in serious decline. Please join us in locating important staging sites for our migratory shorebird population. The need for such a survey to promote habitat protection is both urgent and crucial. Please help by participating in this important study.

For further information please call or email: Barbara Milton, CT Audubon Coastal Center (203) 878-7440 email: mpr9@juno.com or Volunteer Coordinator: Joe Blumberg email: jblumberg@snet.net

Bluebirds in Winter

by Paul Carrier

I have always had an interest in how wild creatures find enough food to live on, especially during times of extreme hardships like in the dead of winter, or during extremely deep snows. Unlike us superior thinking humans, who plan ahead and store food in cans, freezers and supermarkets, wildlife must face the challenge of finding food every day.

As most bird watchers know, birds spend the majority of their day searching for food; for without it, they might never make it to another. So whenever I see an example of this pursuit, especially under extreme conditions, I stop and

pay attention. The example below is just one of these times of discovery.

Today, January 15th, I decide to go out and do a little local birding. My work is finished, and though it is very cold outside, (never hit above 22 all day!), the sun is shining, and the wind is light. I decide to just drive about my beautiful rural town of Harwinton, and stop whenever I see something of interest.

After some time passes, I begin to notice the absence of anything alive. In fact the only bird life seen so far, are several fly-by Crows! Where are all the birds? They are out there somewhere, but where?

Just then, I round a corner on this back road winding through a local farm, and I spot movement ahead. I stop the car and look. First I spot several Goldfinch feeding in a birch tree. Then a Downy, and several Kinglets as well. Just then, a male Eastern Bluebird flies across the road, and lands up in a bare maple tree. Being a Bluebird nest box builder and monitor, with over 180 boxes set up in my town, I know a bit about this bird. Some Bluebirds will winter over every year, and this year seems to have more of them than usual.

Looking around, I know berries should be near, for Bluebirds always stay close to their source of food during the winter, and I spot multiflora rose in abundance over in the field to my right. So why did he fly over here, where there are no berries to feed on? I stopped and observed.

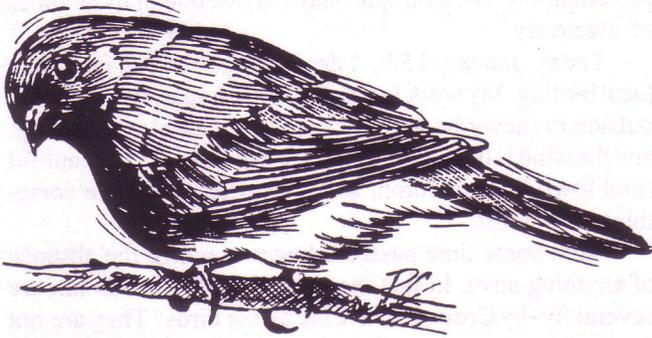
The Bluebird was perched just 5 feet above the ground on a small overhanging maple branch, and seemed to be concentrating its attention on the frozen ground below. This posture was the same shown by Bluebirds during the summer months, when ground insects make up the majority of their diet, but what was he looking for when the ground was frozen solid, and the temperature was well below freezing? I waited to see the answer.

Shortly, he flew down to a clump of swamp grass, and began to search and peck within it. Was he finding insects there? Soon he flew back up to his original perch and continued to search below. I observed this male Bluebird drop down to different clumps of grass more than a dozen times, and each trip seemed to result in some form of success. Were there, in fact, insects being found within these grass clumps? I finally walked over to one of these clumps, and after searching hard, I did spot several forms of insects within. One was a very small species of spider, the other an unknown insect I believe in the stone fly family, but very small, too small for me to see well without the aid of a magnifying glass.

These low clumps of grass, sunlit in this south facing field, with only a hint of wind, were in effect micro-climates, warm enough to stir any life within, and be noticed by the Bluebird, to be consumed as a welcome

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alternative to its normal winter diet of berries and hips.



Hop to It

by Patrick Comins

The Connecticut General Assembly is in full swing. We have approximately 6 short weeks to get anything accomplished this session. These are some of the important bills of legislation that we should be interested in.

An Act concerning the Open Space Trust Fund - Raised Bill No. 5883. This establishes a 'Charter Oak Open Space Trust Fund' within the General Fund into which shall be deposited 35% of any surplus funds from the fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002 - not to exceed more than \$50 million in any one year. Many environmentalists are advocating that the division of this trust fund run as follows: 40% going towards the Open Space Matching Grants program, 30% towards the Department of Environmental Protections Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust program and 30% to the Department of Agriculture's Purchase of Development Rights program (PDR) - good for grassland birds!!!

We need to support this funding as a means of helping to purchase water company lands (particularly the Bridgeport Hydraulic lands in Fairfield Co), utility lands and as a state match to pending federal assistance for open space and natural resource protection.

Wildlife Diversity

Approximately 80% of Connecticut's wildlife falls under the non-harvested game umbrella. In the rush to protect open space, the average citizen/legislator tends to forget the need to survey and implement best management practices on these lands. Our DEP Wildlife Division ranks among the lowest funded in the country, with most of the money going towards managing and enhancing game species.

The Federal Endangered Species Act is under intense scrutiny at this time. Funding decreases for wildlife diversity every year on a state and federal level. We need to get our state legislators to provide \$1 million dollars to avert a funding crisis and secure up to \$3 million in matching

federal funds pending in Congress. Piping plover, roseate terns, kestrels and myriad others depend on your voice NOW.

It is VERY IMPORTANT that you contact your state legislators NOW! TODAY! RIGHT AWAY! The budget adjustments and allocation of the state surplus will be hotly debated for the next few weeks.

Key legislators to contact will be:

President Pro Tempore: Kevin B. Sullivan email Kevin.B.Sullivan@po.state.ct.us phone 860-240-8600.

Senate Majority Leader: George Jepsen email Jepsen@senatedems.state.ct.us phone 860-240-8600

Senate Minority Leader: M. Adela Eads email Dell.Eads@po.state.ct.us phone 860-240-8800

Speaker of the House: Moira Sullivan email Moira.Lyons@po.state.ct.us phone 860-240-8500

House Majority Leader: P David Pudlin email Dave.Pudlin@po.state.ct.us phone 860-240-8489

House Minority Leader: Robert Ward email Jessie.Stratton@po.state.ct.us phone 860-240-0440

Senator Eileen Dailey email her at Dailey@senatedems@po.state.ct.us phone 860-240-0447

If you want to view any legislation or find out who your representatives are the Connecticut General Assembly Website is www.cga.state.ct.us

The general address for all legislators is NAME LOB/ Capital Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Please check in with your state reeepresentative. Let the people above and your own state reps know you are birders/ wildlife watchers. Tell them that you care about Connecticut's quality of life and the role open space plays in that. You know why you care. A brief statement about land near where you live, or wildlife in danger because of development, or issues because the state can't adequately address wildlife issues due to funding will help immensely.

Call with questions or if you don't know who your state rep is!

email Patty Pendergast at winterwren@earthlink.net

COA Bulletin

Trips & Events

Connecticut Audubon Society

CAS offers a variety of trips and events that are open to COA members. For list of events, reservations, and details, please contact Andy Griswold at 860-767-0660 or 800-996-8747 or write him at Andy Griswold, Director of EcoTravel, 67 Main Street, Essex, CT 06426

Fisher's Island, on Tuesday, June 13. This all day field trip with host Ed Horning of the Ferguson Museum is designed for bird watching along with a visit to the museum to see the collection of bird specimens. CAS Members \$50, nonmembers \$60.

Celebrate our Sanctuaries on Sunday, June 25. Ecotravel will be offering tours of CAS properties this year. Tour #1 with Milan Bull includes the Roy and Margot Larsen Wildlife Sanctuary, Birdcraft Sanctuary, Banks South Farm, and the John W. Field and John Mahoney Sanctuary. CAS members \$10, nonmembers \$15/

Beach Exploration at Bluff Point State Park in Groton on Saturday, July 18. Join Annie Guion and Jeff Weiler, CAS resident naturalists at Trail Wood on this level 1.5 mile hike. CAS members \$10, nonmembers \$15.

Falkner Island Cruise, on Saturday, July 22, from 5-8 pm. Meet Jeff Spendelow and check out the federally endangered Roseate Tern on this evening cruise. Bring a picnic supper and favorite beverage to enjoy during the cruise. CAS members \$30, nonmembers \$40.

Arboretum Tour, on Saturday, August 12, from 9-11 am. Join CAS staff member and Arboretum docent Mary Dowdell for a walk through the plant collections, native grasses, and other wildflowers. Time will be devoted to plant identification and then you are free to wander the grounds in search of birds. CAS members \$10, nonmembers \$15.

Whale Watch, on Thursday, August 17. This whale watch originates in Plymouth, Massachusetts but offers the chance to see a variety of pelagic birds as well. After the cruise a New England Lobster Bake is in order. Trip includes transportation from Connecticut, boat fees, and lobster dinner. CAS members \$85, nonmembers \$95

CAS Overnight Tours

Baffin Island, from June 15-22. This spectacular tour takes you to Baffin Bay, Eclipse and Lancaster Sounds, Bylot Island and many other spots rich in Arctic wildlife. The tour even includes a 3/4 day camping trip using large sleds pulled by snowmobiles. Cost \$3995 includes all meals, air from Hartford or NYC, lodging, and ground transportation.

Katahdin Wilderness, from July 9-15. This tour starts in Milinocket, Maine and includes hikes and adventures with pack horses or seaplane ride (additional charge) to Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps where we will search for moose, birds, and other northern wildlife. Cost \$895, includes lodging, food, programs, and expert naturalists. Call for kid's pricing.

Pacific Northwest, from August 11-20. Ten day exploration of Puget Sound area and Olympic National Park. Pelagic trips in search of specialities such as Black-footed Albatross, Flesh-footed Shearwaters, Xanthus' Murrelets, and Rhinoceros Auklets. Trip leaders are Buzz Devine and Andy Griswold. Cost \$2695.

The Fat Robin

Located in Hamden, the Fat Robin offers a variety of birding events for the summer months. Please call Jim or Carol Zipp at 203-248-7068 for details on forthcoming summer birding events.

New Haven Bird Club

10th Annual Summer Bird Count, on June 3 and June 4. Call leader Steve Mayo at 203-393-0694 for further information on this count.

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

Flights of Fancy Adventures, Inc.

We are pleased to announce the following tours, which are scheduled for 2001 and 2002. Our small company is based in Bloomfield, Connecticut and is operated by Sam Fried and Donna Mages. Many of you already know Sam from the slide shows he has done all over the Northeast or from reading his articles in all the US birding magazines. If you have been on our Galapagos or California Pelagics trips, you also know that we run great tours and have a lot of fun in the process. The price for our tours includes all meals, unless otherwise indicated, ground transportation, guide services and accommodations from the beginning of the tour. Please call or write about any of these trips if you would like further information. References supplied on request.

UPCOMING TOURS

SOUTH TEXAS - RIO GRANDE' VALLEY & GULF COAST: February 9-18, 2001. All the "hotspots", Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Rio Grande' specialties Whooping Cranes. Limited to 10 participants. \$1,395 from San Antonio, Texas.

BIRDING NORTHERN BELIZE: April 5-15, 2001. Incredible, easy and luxurious tropical birding along rivers and Maya ruins, visiting Crooked Tree, Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Chan Chich Lodge. Limited 10 12 participants. \$2,595. from Belize City, Belize.

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND & COPPER RIVER DELTA, ALASKA: May 3-11, 2001 (approx.). See thousands of sea birds and mammals on a 6 day cruise aboard The Discovery. Witness the largest shorebird migration in North America. Limited to 10 participants. \$2,400 from Cordova, Alaska (several meals not included).

BOLIVIA - NOEL KEMPFER MERCADO NATIONAL PARK: October 6-21, 2001. Experience South American spring birding in pristine tropical wilderness at two remote fly-in lodges. Limited to 10 participants. \$3,295 from Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, ECUADOR: April 6-17, 2002. Tour Darwin's Enchanted Isles aboard the stabilized 125' luxury yacht Parranda. Snorkel with sea lions & penguins. Giant Tortoises, dancing boobies galore! Limited to 14 participants. Price to be determined.

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

YUKON, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES & THE DEMPSTER HIGHWAY: May 31-June 10, 2002 (approx.) Travel north of the Arctic Circle for arctic birds and mammals under the midnight sun. Limited to 12 participants. Price to be determined.

"WE HAVE FUN"

Sam Fried and Donna Mages
901 Mountain Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002
TEL: 860-243-2569
Email: magesfried@aol.com

The Audubon Shop

Birdwalks at Hammonasset State Park, on Saturdays, June 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 8-10 am. See returning songbirds, shorebirds, and waders, and birds of prey. Meet at Audubon Shop at 7:50 am. Binocular rentals available. Beginners welcome. Call Jerry Connolly at 203-245-9056 for details.

Menunkatuck Audubon Society

"Conservation of Open Country Birds of New England" by Connecticut College professor Robert Askins on Wednesday, June 14th, from 7:30-9:00 pm. Prof Robert Askins will present a slide/lecture on the birds that inhabit fields and grasslands. It is perhaps not widely known that these important habitats are in increasingly short supply in the Northeast. Bob's new book, "Restoring North America's Birds" was just published and is available at the Audubon Shop. The event will be held at the Nathanael B. Greene Community Center in Guilford. I-95, Exit 58, Route 77 south, 1/2 block past RT 1 on right.

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)

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City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ - _____

Telephone* _____ Occupation* _____

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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

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