

COA Fall Field Day

by Sylvia Halkin

Come and join us for the annual COA Fall Field Day at Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven on Saturday, September 23. Lighthouse Point Park is an excellent place to observe fall bird migration, with large numbers of migrating hawks passing overhead, and both migrating and feeding flocks of shorebirds and songbirds. There will be an ongoing hawk watch at the park throughout the day. In addition to hawkwatch observation points, there will be birdwalks along the shore and in the park woods, and field trips to Sandy Point, the New Haven Harbor mudflats, West Rock, and other local birding sites. A butterfly walk will also be offered.

The day will begin at 7:30 am, with registration and continental breakfast (registration continues to 11 am for late arrivals). Walks and field trips will be scheduled in mostly 2-hour slots between 8 am and 3 pm. COA members and their guests, and non-members as well, are encouraged to attend this once-a-year event, which takes place rain or shine. Field Day fees are only \$5 per person on site (there is no advance registration). Members will receive a schedule of events in the mail: if you need more information you may call Janet Mehmel at (203) 655-9823.

Bring lunch and your binoculars; a spotting scope will also be useful if you have one. **Directions are as follows:** To get to Lighthouse Point Park from I-95 Northbound, take exit 50 and go straight ahead to the second traffic light. Turn right onto Townsend Avenue and drive 1.7 miles to Lighthouse Road; turn right on Lighthouse Road and

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HOTLINE HIGHLIGHTS

Wilson's Storm Petrel	Stonington	June 17
Purple Gallinule	Derby	July 15-21
Red-necked Stint	Milford	July 29
Wilson's Phalarope	Madison	June 12
Red-necked Phalarope	Morris	May 18-19
Loggerhead Shrike	Groton	May 21-22
Yellow-throated Warbler	W. Hartford	May 8
Clay-colored Sparrow	Sterling	May 14
Chestnut-col. Longspur	Haddam	June 18-20
Boat-tailed Grackle	Stratford	May 21

RARE BIRD ALERT: 203-254-3665

Fall Hawk Migration in Connecticut

The following is a reminder to veteran birders and to the growing number of new birders in Connecticut.

There are many well known hawk sites in North America, Cape May and Hawk Mountain for example, past which hundreds or thousands of raptors pass in Fall migration. Two Connecticut lookouts, Lighthouse Point and Quaker Ridge, can be included among the very best.

At the National Audubon Center, Quaker Ridge, in Greenwich there is a continuous daily hawk watch, September 1 through November 15. The main attraction at Quaker Ridge is the thousands of Broad-winged hawks that pass on some days in mid September, about the 12th to the 25th. The Broadwings are usually accompanied by other raptor species including Ospreys, Sharpshins, Kestrels, and Bald Eagles. Up to 20 Golden Eagles have been counted here on in some autumns.

During the mid- September period Broadwings are also migrating past inland sites and on some days hundreds or even thousands can be seen.

Watch for days following a cold front which brings northerly breezes and fair weather cumulus clouds. The cumulus clouds mean thermals, rising air bubbles, which

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Fall Field Day

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drive 0.6 miles to the park entrance. The bright yellow COA signs will lead you to the meeting site. From I-95 southbound, take Exit 51 onto Frontage Road, go 0.9 miles to Townsend Avenue, and drive approximately 1.8 miles to Lighthouse Road, and then follow directions as above. See you there!

Fall Hawk Migration

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the hawks can use for free rides to the southwest.

Some inland hawk watch sites in Connecticut are at the following locales:

Osborne Hill in Sandy Hook
Huntington State Park in Redding
Good Hill in Woodbury
Chestnut Hill in Litchfield
The Middle School Torrington
Johnnycake Mountain in Harwinton
Taine Mountain in Burlington

The other major lookout in our state is Lighthouse Point on the east side of New Haven Harbor. The continuous daily watch gets under way during the last week of August and continues through November 30. The flights here feature Ospreys, Sharpshins, Kestrels, Cooper's Hawks and many of all the other raptors. Again, northerly winds are usually the best, but along the shore other wind directions may bring many hawks past the Point. During a typical fall season the total hawk count here may range upward to 20,000 or more.

In September, you may see hundreds of Broadwings passing. If you see such a flight try to get a count of the birds and pass this count along to Neil Currie.

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

**Please submit materials for the next
issue by November 1, 1998 to
Dwight Smith, Editor,
241 Shepard Ave., Hamden, CT 06514.**

For information on these hawk watch sites in Connecticut as well as details on their location and how to help out as a participant please contact Neil Currie at the following:

Neil Currie
10 Mountain Laurel Lane
Sandy Hook, CT 06482
phone 203-426-9861

The Incredible Migrations of the Blackpoll Warbler

by Paul Carrier

Of all the neo-tropical birds that migrate south after the breeding season is completed in North America, the Blackpoll Warblers journey has to be one of the most spectacular of all. This small *Dendroica* warbler often accomplishes one of the most demanding non-stop migrations of any bird species, much less doing it weighing in at just over a 1/2 ounce!

Most neo-tropical passerine migrants head due south from their breeding grounds, stopping often along the way to rest and fuel up for the next stage of their long journey. These frequent stops are necessary to replenish spent energy used on their migration.

During the months of August and September, the Blackpoll leaves its breeding grounds, mostly north of the U.S. border, heading east south east, until reaching the coast of the Atlantic. This movement east seems to be a trait learned by their ancestral generations as they backtrack their expansions to the west. Upon arriving at the Atlantic, usually the Canadian Maritimes, these birds rest and feed up, often doubling their weight.

From here, many ornithologists disagree as to exactly where the majority of this species go. Some say most put out into the Atlantic, stopping at the Bahamas and other islands of the West Indies. It is also believed some follow the Atlantic coastline south, sometimes traveling as far south as Florida, before setting out into the Caribbean for the north coast of South America. Evidence also shows that some fly into the Atlantic from the Maritimes of Canada and northern New England on a non-stop flight covering 2,800 miles, till arriving 3 or 4 days later on the north coast of South America!

It has been suggested that many other neotropical passerines might occasionally use this same route, such as

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Blackpoll Warbler Migration

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the American Redstart, Cape May, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. These species may all fly this route nonstop to the West Indies, but this has yet to be proven. The possibly extinct Eskimo Curlew and Hudsonian Godwit are also known to use this nonstop route to the tropics, but waders are known for their long distance migrations, being much larger and stronger fliers than most passerines.

So how does this light weight, seemingly built for overland travel passerine, accomplish this monumental, non-stop, oceanic 2,800 mile flight?

When the Blackpolls finally arrive on the coast of the Atlantic, they begin to feed up for days, building fat reserves for the coming trip out over the ocean. Here they wait until ideal low pressure systems arrive, often 4 or 5 days apart, pushing them out and south east into the open Atlantic. Roughly 36 hours later, these birds pick up the northeast trade winds, giving them a free ride towards the West Indies, with some accomplishing a non-stop flight to the north coast of South America.

Although it has been documented, this non-stop, oceanic route might not be the primary, or preferred route taken by this warbler. Some suggest by taking this more direct oceanic route, it cuts nearly a third of the distance it would take if they used the island hopping and mainland routes.

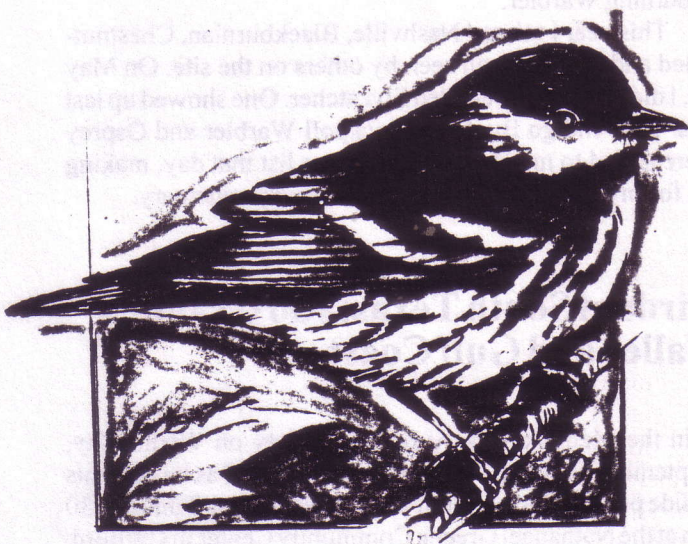


Figure 1. Halftone of the Blackpoll Warbler by Paul Carrier

The origin, purpose, and accomplishments of bird migration are still a mystery to us, and the more we discover, the more complicated the puzzle becomes. One thing is clearly apparent: the Blackpoll Warbler accomplishes a feat one would not think possible for such a diminutive bird.

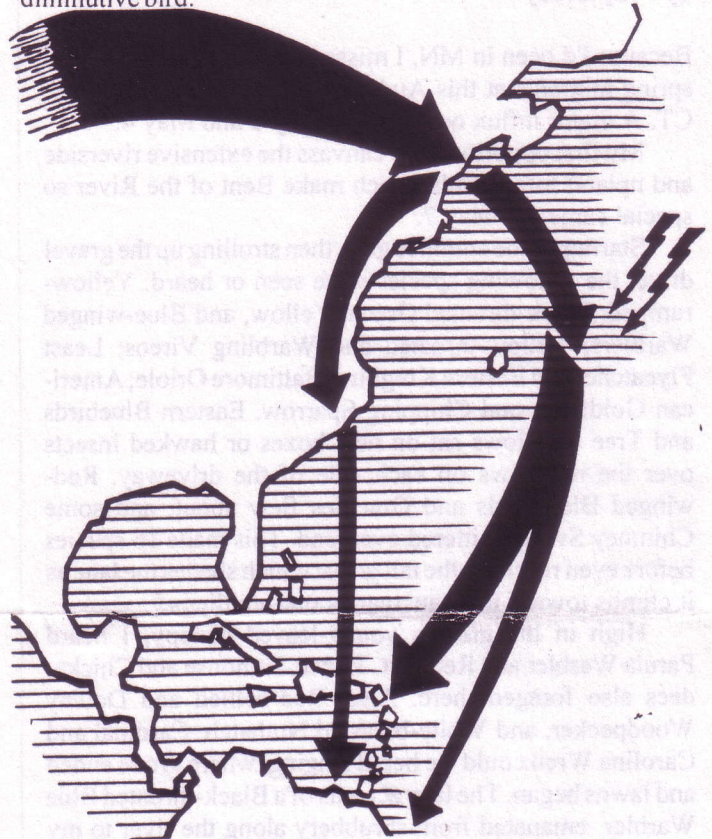


Figure 2. Major migration routes of the Blackpoll Warbler.

Literature Cited

- Curson, Jon. 1994. Warblers of the America. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.
- Dunn, Jon. 1997. Warblers, Peterson Field Guide. Houghton Mifflin Company. Boston
- Burton, Robert. 1992. Bird Migration. Facts on File. Smithsonian . 1995. Atlas of Bird Migration. Random
- Rappole, J. 1995. Ecology of Migrant Birds. Smithsonian

HOTLINE REPORTS

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

Dave Procencher 860-885-1239

Frank Gallo 203-966-6756

Mark Santyr 860-455-0787

A May Morning at Bent of the River

by Polly Brody

Because I'd been in MN, I missed the first mass arrival of spring migrants at this Audubon sanctuary in Southbury, CT. A major influx occurred on May 3 and May 4.

My first opportunity to canvass the extensive riverside and upland forest trails which make Bent of the River so special came on May 7.

Starting at the entrance gate, then strolling up the gravel drive, the following species were seen or heard: Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Yellow, and Blue-winged Warblers; Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos; Least Flycatcher and Eastern Kingbird; Baltimore Oriole; American Goldfinch and Chipping Sparrow. Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows sat on nest boxes or hawked insects over the meadows on each side of the driveway. Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles flew about, and some Chimney Swifts chattered overhead. This made 16 species before even reaching the tall grove which shades the lane as it climbs toward this sanctuary's out-buildings.

High in the grove's young-leaved canopy, I heard Parula Warbler and Redstart. Tufted Titmouse and Chickadees also foraged there. Also, Red-bellied and Downy Woodpecker, and White-breasted Nuthatch. Cardinal and Carolina Wren could be heard singing, where grove ended and lawns began. The lazy accents of a Black-throated Blue Warbler emanated from shrubbery along the river to my left, and the voice of a Common Yellow-throat. From afar, I heard the Hooded Warbler, but never saw it.

The lawn and buildings area is graced with shade trees and ornamental plantings, including lilac, apple and magnolia. Here were: Mockingbird, Robins, House Wren, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Phoebe, and the inevitable Cowbird. A Flicker called from the distance.

There is a wonderfully restored barn which has a superb viewing balcony overlooking lawn, some feeders, and facing the riverine trees. Here Barn Swallows, Blue Jays, and Catbirds added to my thriving list. I was told that the magnolia tree below had been "crawling with warblers" three days earlier! A Ruby-throated Hummingbird buzzed by before I left.

Going on along the riverside trail, several more birds were added: Louisiana Waterthrush, Palm Warblers, a Black-and white Warbler, two very peevish Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and a courting pair of Mourning Doves. A fine Common Merganser drake flew downriver. That duck breeds on this protected stretch of the Pomperaug River.

I've seen the hen standing on a sycamore limb by the water. Canada Geese loafed on a silt bar and a Kingfisher rattled away. Crows chivvied a Red-tailed Hawk overhead. I listened in vain for Orchard Orioles, which nest here yearly, but they were mute on this morning. A Pileated Woodpecker did sound off from a distance.

I hiked uphill into drier terrain and entered a mixed hemlock/deciduous woodland. Here Red-eyed Vireos sang, along with Wood Thrush and Ovenbirds. A veery hopped across the trail. One Blue-headed Vireo alternated its song with the incessant Red-eyes.

I entered a cedar meadow--one of a string of three managed for brushy plant succession--and here Prairie Warblers abounded. The air was filled with their ascending chromatic scales. Field Sparrow, Towhee, and a passing Turkey Vulture augmented my list.

Crossing the meadow back into forest, I headed toward the center, but took a detour along a high elevation trail. This netted a pair of Scarlet Tanagers and a foraging flock of warblers which included a new one--Magnolia Warbler. Great Crested Flycatcher breeped behind me as I descended through a hemlock stand. A Winter Wren trilled from the slope, such a long song for such a stubby bird! When I stopped to pish, a bold Worm-eating Warbler showed up and stared at me, almost eyeball to eyeball.

Minutes later I emerged by the barn buildings. The stroll had been just short of 2 1/2 hours. The list total was 64 species.

It should be noted that many other birds occur regularly on this refuge--in May 1998, I logged 96 species in one day on the 500+ acres. I also discovered the sanctuary's first Mourning Warbler.

This year I missed Nashville, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided and Cerulean, all seen by others on the site. On May 12, I did spot an Olive-sided Flycatcher. One showed up last year also. Indigo Bunting, Blackpoll Warbler and Osprey were added to my Bent Of The River list that day, making 68 for my cumulative total on this lovely sanctuary.

Birds of South Texas: Rio Grande Valley and Gulf Coast.

Join the Menunkatuck Audubon Society on Wednesday, September 13 for an evening with Sam Fried as he presents a slide presentation of South Texas specialities. Time is 7:30 pm at the Nathanael Greene Community Center in Guilford. For info and directions call Jerry Connolly at 245-9056.

COA Members Compete in Birding World Series

by Patrick Comins

On May 13, 2000, COA members Patrick Comins, Frank Gallo, Jamie Meyers, Dave Tripp, Jr., Fran Zygmunt, and driver Eileen Fielding competed in the New Jersey Audubon Society's World Series of Birding as the Lyric Birdseed Cassowaries. This is an event in which teams try to tally as many species as they can in the state of New Jersey in a 24 hour period. Scouting is the key to doing well especially for an out of state team such as ourselves. To that end Frank, Jamie and I arrived a few days early to try to pin down some of the more difficult to find birds. Armed with excellent advice and information from former New Jersey Native Greg Hanisek, the scouting went well so it was with high hopes that we began our quest.

The weather was touch and go as we began our efforts at Black River Wildlife Management Area, with on and off rain and lightning in the distance. We birded around several nighttime locations and made our way to Black Dirt Road in Sussex County just before first light. When all was said and done for the darkness, we had tallied a nice nighttime total, including some difficult species such as Saw-whet Owl, Least Bittern and Sora. Now the real games were to begin. As we entered High Point State Park it became evident that we may have been in a bit of trouble; few of the resident birds that we had staked out were singing due to the damp and cool weather conditions. By the time we left HighPoint and Stokes State Forest spirits were low, as we were several species behind where we wanted to be, and almost an hour behind schedule.

We did have some nice surprises like Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Golden-winged Warbler, but we were missing expected species like Blue-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Waterthrush and Common Raven. The area around Culver's Lake quickly buoyed our spirits when we ran into Blackpoll and Tennessee Warblers right off the bat and the weather began to clear. A nice migrant wave including Bay-breasted and Cape May Warblers had us right back up to where we wanted to be, along with some nice surprises like a flock of Pine Siskins and some waterfowl including Red-breasted Merganser.

Now it was time to towards Alpha and its grasslands, via the Delaware Watergap. When we got to Alpha, we were half a million strong, or at least we had a good bird list and were not as far behind schedule. Horned Lark, American Pipit, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow and Bald Eagle made that well worth the stop, even if we did miss the Lapland Longspur that had been there two days earlier.

We then headed further south to Cumberland and Salem Counties, taking a short time out as we took I-95 through Philadelphia. It was then across the Commodore Barry Bridge and we were back in business. A Carolina Chickadee reminded us that this was a whole'nother world. The Mannington Marsh got us back in the mood to tick, as we picked up species like Caspian Tern, Common Moorhen and American Coot. It was then on to southern landbird heaven Salem County. Singing Kentucky Warbler, and Blue Grosbeak were nice pick ups at one of our first stops. Prothonotary Warbler and Summer Tanager, along with a Hairy Woodpecker that we should have had up north, made Route 555 well worth the stop. It was on to the shore, with one more southern landbird picked up at Jake's Landing, Yellow-throated Warbler.

It would have been nice to spend more time at the world famous Reed's Beach, but it was Red Knot tick, Dunlin tick, Short-billed Dowitcher tick, Sanderling tick, Brant tick--move it on we have to get to Brig. On the way to Brigantine we stopped at the marshes of Nummy's Island, where we added Whimbrel, and both night-herons. A wrong turn produced some terns as we found Common and Royal Terns at the north end of Anglesea. One seawatch at Avalon produced Surf and Black Scoters, but look at the time, it was after 7:00!! A mad rush to Brigantine ensued and after a couple of more wrong turns we made it there with less than an hour to search. We had some good discoveries like Peregrine Falcon, Blue-winged Teal and Ruddy Duck, but we were racing against the clock and the sun. By the time we got to the White-rumped Sandpiper's usual haunt, it was essentially pitch black. Their distinctive call notes saved the day as a flock of shorebirds flew over..It was then on to the Barn Owl vigil. The owls had been difficult to pick up for the last few days, but we waited patiently while listening to simultaneously calling Chuck-will's Widows, Whip-poor-wills and Common Nighthawks. Our patience paid off as we were all eventually able to make out the Barn Owl at the entrance to the box with the aid of night vision scopes, except me who had to strain to see its distinctive flight style across the marsh through my scope.

The weather was catching up to us with thunder and rain approaching, and the regular Great Horned Owls were uncooperative, so we headed towards the finish line. There was no point in going for Black Rails in weather like that, so we headed directly for Cape May. Lilly Lake provided the last tick of the day, as we identified an injured Snow Goose with the aid of the frequent lightning. The beach at Cape May Meadows proved to be a futile attempt to tick off Piping Plover and Least Tern, as we decided it was wise to get back in the van rather than being the highest point on the beach in an impressive lightning storm. We headed to the finish line and tallied our totals. When all was said and done

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World Series of Birding

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we had logged a respectable 194 species, good enough for 8th place and a new team record. We were all pleased with this total, especially considering that we had missed several easy species such as: Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Least Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Lesser Yellowlegs, Nashville Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, and Salt Marsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow. The best part was that we had helped to raise nearly \$5,000 for environmental education. After nearly 36 hours straight of being awake it was time for some much needed rest. Thank you to all who supported the team and the cause. It is not too late to help out, post event pledges will still be accepted, unless you want to save your pledge for next year when we hope to raise \$10,000 and record over 200 species. Pledges can be sent to:

The CASSOWARIES, Connecticut Audubon at Hartford, 118 Oak Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

COA Announces the COA/CTDEP Data Base Update Project

by Dave Provencher

Now you can go birding and help protect our state's birds at the same time! The Connecticut Ornithological Association has initiated a new project to help update the avian section of The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's (CTDEP) Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB) and to initiate COA's own data base. Limited resources at CTDEP have resulted in incomplete and out of date data about Connecticut's birds. Yet this data base is of great importance when environmental decisions are made in the state. COA has long recognized the critical importance of this data and is acutely aware of the resource challenges which CTDEP faces. Now you can help! By filling out a simple form when you find any of the species in the Species of Concern List, and sending it to the COA coordinator in your region you, will make an enormous contribution to our knowledge and protection of Connecticut's species in danger.

In 1989, the Connecticut Legislature passed Public Act 89-224 "An Act Establishing a Program for the Protection of Endangered Species." The overall goal of the legislation is to conserve, protect, restore and enhance any endangered

species and their essential habitat. As part of the Endangered/Threatened species program the CTDEP can carry out studies of wildlife and plants to better understand their distribution, abundance, and habitat and environmental needs. In 1991, the first lists of Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species in Connecticut were developed by CTDEP biologists. These lists were reviewed by individuals and groups expert in the respective taxonomic fields. The first State Endangered Species List became official in 1992. The CTDEP initiated the first statutorily mandated five year review of the list in 1997. Taxonomic Advisory Committees reviewed the changes proposed by CTDEP. Public comment was solicited, evaluated and incorporated into the listing process. The revised list became official in 1998.

There is one very simple truth about the birders of Connecticut. No one knows the birds of our state like we do. No one knows better their distribution, their numbers, their population trends, or their habitat needs. Yet this knowledge has largely been kept within the birding community. This is simply because the birding community has made only limited efforts to share this valuable resource. Many birders have participated in bird surveys in CT and continue to do so. These surveys have been largely conducted in areas that were already known to harbor a particular species of concern or were suspected of it. Many birders in Connecticut have found or observed species that are endangered or threatened while birding our state. These sightings have been shared with friends and other birders but often do not get documented in any way that could be useful for conservation or protection. If we are to be as effective as we can be in helping to save our birds, we must share what we know. No one knows the birds of our state better than we do.

By supplying information on the species listed in the COA/DEP Species of Concern list you will help bring the NDDDB up to date as well as help to create the COA Species of Concern Database. This will help paint a more accurate picture of the status of Connecticut's birds so we can take action to try and save species on the brink of disappearing from our state. We all have lost "known" birds. Each of us has a spot we used to go to for a particular species. Whether it was Red-shouldered Hawk, Whippoorwill, or Alder Flycatcher we all know a spot where "it used to be". Well we can help reduce the sad use of the phrase "It used to be easy to find here". When you go birding keep a copy of the Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species List with you as well as copies of the report form and use them! It doesn't take long. Even if you report only ONE sighting more than you did last year it will help! It is

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COA/CTDEP Data Base

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in our power to help rewrite the official CT Endangered Threatened, and Special Concern Species List. And when you do, you will feel special yourself knowing that you have helped protect one of Connecticut's most beautiful natural wonders, its birds.

There are several ways to get the COA/DEP Species of Concern List as well as the Report Form for reporting the observation of these species. You can visit COA Web on the Internet at www.ctbirding.org and follow the home page link or you can request them by email at goshawk@snet.net. Additionally you can get them by US Mail by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to:

Dave Provencher
43 Branch Hill Road
Preston, CT 06365

Trips and Events

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Devil's Den and Katharine Ordway Preserves

Fall Migrant Bird Walk, on Saturday, September 16, from 7-9:30 am. Join Michael Corcoran to search for migrant birds. Bring binoculars and a bird book. Minimum age 10.

Hawk Watch at the Den, on Saturday, September 23, from 9:20 to 11:30 am. From atop Deer Knoll, raptor expert Larry Fischer will identify Broad-winged Hawks and other birds on their annual migration south. Bring binoculars.

Hawk Watch at the Den, on Thursday, October 5, from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Larry Fischer will identify migrating raptors at Deer Knoll. Kestrels and Sharp-shinned Hawks should be in flight. Minimum age 10. Bring binoculars.

Four Mile Hike at the Den, on Sunday, October 22, from 2-4 pm. This guided woodland hike will celebrate the colorful leaf season with some varied terrain. While not specifically a birding hike birders should enjoy the opportunities provided in this event.

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

Flights of Fancy Adventures

Flights of Fancy Adventures, Inc., specializes in small group, high quality, low cost birding and natural history tours. For more information on these spectacular birding trips call Sam Fried at 860-243-2569 or at 901 Mountain Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002

Trinidad & Tobago, from January 3-12, 2001. Wonderful tropical birding at the world famous ASA Wright Nature Center. Tanagers, hummers, honeycreepers and bellbirds abound. Includes 3 days on Tobago, with tropicbirds and boobies. Limited to 12-13 participants. Reduced price of \$1995 plus \$500 airfare from JFK

South Texas, Rio Grande Valley and Gulf Coast, from February 9-18, 2001. All the hotspots with Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Whooping Crane, other Rio Grande specialties. Limited to 10 participants. Cost \$1395 from San Antonio, Texas.

Prince William Sound and Cooper River Delta, Alaska from April 28 to May 8, 2001. See thousands of sea birds and mammals on an 8-day cruise, then witness the largest shorebird migration in the world on the Copper River delta. Our group fills the entire boat. Limited to 10 participants. Cost is \$2360 from Cordova, Alaska.

More Trips and Events Info Needed

Please be sure to send me info re trips and events of your organization. I would like to include info from the New Haven Bird Club, Hartford Bird Club, and other Connecticut Birding Organizations.

COA Bulletin

Trips & Events

Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center

Offering a variety of nature programs. For information please check out their website at www.dpnc.org

Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch

Sponsored by the Audubon Society of Greenwich, Riverside Road, Greenwich, CT, the Audubon Society will hold its annual Hawk Watch Weekend on September 16 and 17, 2000 at the Audubon Center in Greenwich. The following activities are planned for all age groups and experience levels:

September 16, 2000:

11:00 am. Tim Gilman (Audubon Center Naturalist) will head an indoor Hawk Identification Workshop

1:00 pm. Jim Eyring with Pace University Environmental Center will present a Birds of Prey demonstration with Live Hawks and Owls.

September 17, 2000

1:00 pm Brian Robinson with Wildlife Lectures will present a Birds of Prey Lecture with Live Hawks and Owls.

Please call the Center at 203-869-5272 for additional scheduled activities.

The Fat Robin

Hawk Watches at Lighthouse Point Park. Call Jim Zipp at the Fat Robin for dates and details at 203-248-7068

The Audubon Shop

Bird walks at Hammonasset. Birds of prey, hawks, owls, waterbirds, shorebirds, songbirds, every Saturday, \$2, meet at the Audubon Shop at 7:50. For info call Jerry at 203-245-9056.

Connecticut Audubon Society

For information on these and other CAS trips call Andy Griswold, Director, Connecticut Audubon EcoTravel at 860-767-0660 or e-mail CTAUDUBON@AOL.COM

Fall Migration at Sandy Point on Sunday, September 10, from 8 am - 10 am. Fritz Davis will lead this trip to Sandy Point in West Haven in search of migrant shorebirds and raptors. CAS Members \$10, Nonmembers \$15

Hawk Watch on Fishers Island on Wednesday, September 20. All day trip with Miley Bull for this seasonal phenomena. Price includes transportation Fairfield and along the coast ferry fees. Bring a picnic lunch. CAS Members \$50, Nonmembers \$60.

Birds of Barn Island, on Sunday, September 24, from 9 am to noon. Migrant shorebirds, waterbirds, sparrows, and warblers are the focus of this trip. Leader is artist and veteran birder Mike DiGiorgio. CAS Members \$10, Nonmembers \$15.

Griswold Point on Saturday, September 30, from 9 am - 11 am. Join osprey researcher Dr. Paul Spitzer who studied the ospreys in the lower Connecticut River during the 1960's will share his experiences. Raptor migration, shorebirds, and others are a focus of this trip. CAS Members \$10, Nonmembers \$15.

Pratt Preserve Tour, on Saturday, October 7, from 10 am to 1 pm. Join Miley Bull in hiking this 150 acre property in search of meadow birds. CAS Members \$10, Nonmembers \$15.

Station 43 Fall Migration, on Sunday, October 8, from 7 am to 10 am. Join Mark Szantyr, expert birder, teacher, artist and winner of this past year's Mabel Osgood Wright award at this birder's hotspot. CAS Members \$10, Nonmembers \$15.

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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

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.

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