



## Christmas Bird Count

by Steve Broker

Writing of the Norwegian tradition of putting out sheaves of barley or oats for winter birds, Bird-Lore state, "here, then, is a country where, as far as anyone knows, the birds have always had a Christmas tree, while in America most birds, I imagine, consider themselves lucky if they chance to find a stray crumb on Christmas morning. So let us all be good Norwegians this coming Christmas and see that the birds are well supplied, if not with sheaves - at least with crumbs, seed, and grain for the Juncos and Sparrows, suet, ham-bones, and bacon rinds for the Woodpeckers, Chickadees, and Nuthatches...Then next March, write and tell Bird-Lore of your winter guests, who they were, and what you have learned of their habits." (Bird-Lore, 1(6): 195, December 1899)

### A Christmas Bird-Census

"It is not many years ago that sportsmen were accustomed to meet on Christmas Day, 'choose sides,' and then as representatives of the two bands resulting, hie them to the fields and woods on the cheerful mission of killing practically everything in fur or feathers that crossed their path - if they could.

"These exceptional opportunities for winning the laurels of the chase were terms'side hunts,' and reports of the hundreds of non-game birds which were sometimes slaughtered during a single hunt were often published in our leading sportsmen's journals, with perhaps a word of editorial commendation for the winning side. We are not

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## HOTLINE HIGHLIGHTS

<b>Am White Pelican</b>	Old Lyme	September 14
<b>Swainson's Hawk</b>	Greenwich	October 13
<b>American Avocet</b>	Madison	October 12
<b>Marbled Godwit</b>	West Haven	Sept 10
<b>Red-necked Stint</b>	Milford	July 29-Aug 3
<b>Caspain Tern</b>	Madison	September 24
<b>R-headed Woodpecker</b>	Bloomfield	Oct 9-31
<b>Summer Tanager</b>	Waterbury	September 21
<b>Blue Grosbeak</b>	Westbrook	September 28
<b>WW Crossbill</b>	West Hartford	August 6

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

## COA Shorebird Workshop Wrapup

by Jay Kaplan

On Sunday, August 27th, about 50 COA members and friends met at the Connecticut Audubon Society's Coastal Center at Milford Point for the annual COA Shorebird Workshop. Workshop leaders Jay Kaplan and Frank Mantlik provided the group with information about fall migration and the natural history of some of the species to be expected. Three Peregrine Falcons provided the group with spectacular aerial displays as they repeatedly flushed shorebirds from the sandbars. Among the more common migrants observed were Black-bellied and Semipalmated, and Least Sandpipers, and Oystercatchers. Sharp eyed members of the group also spotted a Lesser Golden Plover and at least two Western Sandpipers among the more common species. A highlight was a female Boat-tailed Grackle. Forty-seven species including 14 shorebird species were seen during this event. Our special thanks to Dori Sosensky, Greg Hanisek, and Patrick Comins.

Ideas for future workshops are always welcome. We are also always on the look out for individuals who will assist in leading or be the leaders of future workshops. Address suggestions to Jay Kaplan, COA Field Trip Chairman at

71 Gracey Road, Canton, CT 06019

# COA Bulletin

## Christmas Bird Count *(continued from page 1)*

certain that the side hunt is wholly a thing of the past, but we feel assured that no reputable sportsman's journal of today would venture to publish an account of one, unless it were to condemn it; and this very radical change of tone is one of the significant signs of the times.

"Now Bird-Lore proposed a new kind of Christmas side hunt, in the form of a Christmas bird-census, and we hope that all readers will aid us in making it a success by spending a portion of Christmas Day with the birds and sending a report of their 'hunt' to Bird-Lore before they retire that night. Such reports should be headed by the locality, hour of starting and of returning, character of the weather, direction and force of the wind, and the temperature; the latter taken when starting. The birds observed should then be added, following the order in which they are given in the A.O.U. 'Check List,' with, if possible, the exact or approximate number of individuals of each species observed.

"Promptness in sending these lists to Bird-Lore (at Englewood, N.J.) is urged in order that the best of them may be published in our February number, where they will not only be of interest to other participants in the 'hunt,' but will also constitute, in a measure, a census of Christmas bird-life." (Bird-Lore, 2(6): 192, December 1890)

"While the exceptionally fine weather on Christmas day was a sufficient inducement to take one afield, we trust that the spirit of wholesome competition aroused by Bird-Lore's bird census added materially to the pleasure of those who took part in it.

"The results of the census are both interesting and instructive; interesting, because they are definite, comparative, and, in a sense, personal; instructive, because they give a very good idea of the distribution of winter birds on Christmas day, with some indication of the number of individuals which may be observed in a given time. On the one hand the almost entire absence of such northern species as the Crossbills is noticeable; on the other, the mild season and prevailing absence of snow evidently accounts for the presence of a number of species rarely observed in December."

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

**Please submit materials for the next  
issue by February 1, 2001 to  
Dave Provencher, 43 Branch Hill Rd  
Preston CT 0606365.**

## 101st ANNUAL NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT CONNECTICUT CHRIST- MAS BIRD COUNT SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY- DECEMBER 16, 2000:

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

New Haven, CT (NH CT) Compilers: Stephen P. Broker, 50 Hidden Place, Cheshire, CT 06410-3723, 203-272-5192; Chris Loscalzo, 67 Wepawaug Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525, 203-389-6508

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

Woodbury-Roxbury, CT (WR CT) Compiler: Chris Wood, 6 Orton Lane, Woodbury, CT 06798, 203-263-5331

### SUNDAY-DECEMBER 17, 2000:

Greenwich-Stamford, CT (GS CT) Compiler: Gary Palmer, 34 Field Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807, 203-661-4897

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

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

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

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

Salmon River, CT (SR CT) Compiler: David A. Titus, 278 Court Street #108, Middletown, CT 06457, 860-346-3735

Westport, CT (WE CT) Compiler: Frank W. Mantlik, 195 Highview Drive, Stratford, CT 06614, 203-377-5829; Charlie barnard, 94 Gray Rock Road, Southport, CT 06490, 203-259-8994

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2000

Barkhamsted, CT (BA CT) Compiler David Tripp, Jr., Country Lane, Canton, CT

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

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# COA Bulletin

## Birding the "Big Island" ---- Hawaii

by Polly Brody

In October, 1999, I attended my nephew's wedding and stayed afterward for three weeks with my sister and brother-in-law at their ranch on the island of Hawaii. Their home is at an elevation of 4,300 feet, situated in an upland habitat which consists of open, rolling grassland with scattered groves of eucalyptus and native evergreens. Prior to, and while I was there, a prolonged dry spell had turned everything brown and sere. A few days before I returned to Connecticut, a rainfall resumed, and a green haze was emerging on the dessicated hillsides.

The two most common birds on these ranchlands were: Eurasian Skylark and the Erckel's Francolin (an introduced gamebird. Next most abundant: Golden Plover and California Quail. It should be noted that all the major Hawaiian islands support introduced birds. Around urbanized areas, the Zebra Dove (from Asia), the Red-crested Cardinal (from South America), and the Common Myna (from India) are ubiquitous...so too the House Finch and House Sparrow, and the little Japanese White-eye. This last species is named for its conspicuous white eye-ring.

Because these islands are nowhere distant from the sea, one may encounter surprises. I discovered a Wandering Tattler at the verge of an ornamental cascade on the grounds of a posh resort hotel.

But let's get to the more interesting species--the endemics.

I made an excursion up to about 9,000 ft. elevation on Mauna Kea. Along the way I found my first endemic lifers: the 'Apapane, and the Hawaii 'Amakihi, both members of the honeycreeper family. The 'Apapane is found in wide range of elevations, feeding on nectar and insects. It is quite vocal; its whistles and buzzes resound in the groves of 'ohi'a trees which it frequents. Its plumage is largely crimson above and below, with black wings and tail, and conspicuously white undertail coverts. The 'Amakii is yellow-olive throughout. It has a noticeably decurved bill. It frequents the leafy branches of koa, 'ohi'a and mamane trees, searching for insects, nectar, and fruit.

Very fortuitously, while I was on Hawaii, the Hakalau Tract of the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge was opened to the public. This occurs one day per year! What a stroke of luck for me! I borrowed my sister's 4x4 and drove 20 wrenching miles on a very rough track to the forest reserve. The refuge lies on the windward slope of Mauna Kea. Rainfall averages from 150 to 250 inches a

year on this side of the mountain, depending on altitude. The tract I entered was at about 4,500 feet elevation. Average rainfall here is about 150 inches a year and this supports a closed canopy native forest of Koa, 'Ohi'a and other trees as well as many species of native shrubs and ferns.

Visitors (mostly birders) were converging from all the other islands and even the mainland, for this special day. Refuge naturalists took us out in small groups, to explore the 32, 733-acre reserve.

During this morning in the forest, I met with six, lovely life birds--all of them endemic species, some of them with endangered status: the I'iwi, the "Akepa (both honeycreepers), the Hawaii Creeper, the 'Oma'o (Hawaiian thrush), the 'Elepaio (a flycatcher), and the "Io (Hawaiian hawk). Save for the hawk, I would never have encountered these birds "on my own" elsewhere.

Just under six inches in length, the I'iwi is a brilliant, vermilion-plumaged bird. Jet black wings and tail contrast with its body. There is a white patch on inner secondary flight feathers. It has a salmon-colored, strongly decurved bill. Lack of any white under-tail coverts and the salmon bill distinguish it from the more common "Apapane. The 'Akepa is an insect-eating honeycreeper. Its bill is short and straight, but crossed at the tip, which facilitates its foraging habit--prying open leaf buds. The male's plumage is blaze orange, while the female is largely grey-green with tinges of yellow or orange, while the female is largely grey-green with tinges of yellow or orange on her breast. This is an endangered species.

The Hawaiian thrush is a reclusive critter! We heard it long before we saw it. Yours truly finally spotted one perched in a leafy tree, and all in our group enjoyed a good view of the bird.

! On another day, I drove to an area--a golf course!--where the Nene Goose could be seen. There were four or five pairs loafing on the fairways! This goose has been successfully nurtured on the big island and may now be found outside its original mountain refuge.

Before I returned to CT, I invested a day exploring parts of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The active crater there is called Kilauea. There are impressive views across the caldera's expanse, from many points along its rim road.

### 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

## Birding Hawaii

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Through binoculars, I could scan the forested opposite slope and I saw several White-tailed Tropicbirds soaring above the canopy. Farther along this drive, one graceful individual floated right over me.

One descends the volcano's massive southeastern flank via Chain of Craters Road, which makes its sinuous way downslope toward the sea. From the point at which this road parallels the coast, to its abrupt end (blocked by a 12 year old lava flow), spectacular lava cliffs plunge 500-600 feet to the ocean below. I got out of my car and carefully walked over plates of black lava to the verge. Looking down, I noticed dark, shearwater-type birds coursing back and forth, and occasionally alighting on the cliff ledges. Suddenly I realized that they were Black Noddy Terns; distinguished from the Brown Noddy by their more extensive ashy cast to the top of the head and the ashy cast to their slightly forked tail (when seen from above).

My pleasure at happening upon this unexpected life bird, in such a splendid seascape setting, equalled the awe of watching the eastern rift lava tongue, red-hot and creeping slowly downhill, ignite the forest margins which it touched. An unforgettable last day on Hawaii.

## The Incredible Junco

by Paul Carrier

Throughout my years of watching birds in Connecticut, one species has always held an interest for me from one year to the next; and that bird is the Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*).

From seeing them for the first time under my bird feeder as a child, to observing them breeding in CT, they have always peaked a special interest for me to this day.

I would like to briefly describe this bird's history here in CT first; then show some adaptabilities I have recorded throughout the years that are especially noteworthy to me, and possibly to you as well.

It appears the first documented breeding records for this bird in CT are recorded in the early 1900s. Prior to this, they were either absent, or just not reported. My first encounter with Juncos as a breeder started in 1955 in the West Hartford Reservoir. At that time, I saw Junco immatures during the summer months almost every year. The first documented record for West Hartford, however, was in

1972 (Zeranski and Baptist 1990),

Whether the Junco was a breeder in CT before the Europeans arrived is not certain; but the possibility of this being the case could be true. The Juncos preference for old growth forests, especially cool, dark Hemlock ravines and hillsides, of which CT had in abundance before the Europeans de forested the State, makes for a good argument. Be that as it may, they nest here now, and within some areas in good argument. Be that as it may, they nest here now, and within some areas in good numbers. The New York State atlas reports densities as high as 42 pairs per 100 acres in that State, and from what I have seen here in the towns of Hartland and Barkhamsted, this density could be the same in some areas of our State as well

The average nesting territory is reported to be 2 to 3 acres, but in favorable, large unfragmented forests, this area could be less. The Juncos nesting territory found within old, primarily Hemlock dominated forests here in CT is often near an opening through the high canopy. The nest is often built near or at the base of a vertical rock, cliff, soil bank or upturned tree root. The New York Atlas describes this preference for vertical nesting sites with the following unusual examples: Vine covered trellis; Bird feeder, and a ledge beneath a gabled house.

Several years ago, I discovered a Junco nest at a very unusual site. While making a visit to Torrington for a dental appointment, I heard a Junco singing from a small landscaped tree just in front of the building's entrance. Knowing Juncos nested within the surrounding forest, I gave it no thought. On my return visit, I again noticed this singing male, and decided to wait and see where he might eventually go. In time, he flew down to a small, manicured bush growing beside the 3 story building's wall. Sure enough, at the base of this bush was a nest containing 4 young Juncos. On my last visit to this building, I noticed three young Juncos being fed by the parents at the roof's edge.

During the winter months, the Junco is a common resident in CT, with most areas of the State having good winter populations. They seem to become well established by November, with winter territories of about 10 plus or minus acres. Winter flocks of 100 birds are not unusual. It has been noted, the same Juncos will often return to the same winter territories each winter. These winter flocks usually contain more males the further north you go, and predominantly more females and young farther to the south. One reason for this might be so males can establish a territory on the breeding grounds before the females arrive from farther south.

Each flock of wintering Juncos will often have a noticeable pecking order within its individuals. Older males seem to dominate, with females and new seasons young

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# COA Bulletin

## The Incredible Junco

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following. On winter territory, birds often stick together and by the end of the day, will roost together as well. Roosting sites are usually dense areas of brush, or low snow laden branches, especially hemlocks.

In 1998, when CT had a substantial amount of snow, I noticed an unusual occurrence at my Juncos roosting site. Each night, the flock of 40 or so Juncos would always roost amongst dense vegetation near and within large Hemlocks in the back yard. Just as it was getting dark, I noticed, landing just above this site, a Barred Owl. After waiting for the cover of night to block his moves, it would fly to the roosting site, disappear within, and I assume grab a Junco for its first meal of the night. This occurrence was noticed several times that year.

During the summer breeding months, the Juncos diet consists of over 50% insects. The young are fed almost exclusively insects at this time. Towards the fall, when insects are becoming scarce, vegetable matter, predominantly seeds, become more the staple. Seeds eaten in winter here in the Northeast in order of preference are: Ragweed, bristlegrass, crabgrass, smartweed, timothy, pigweed, and wood sorrel. Also commonly eaten are: corn, sedge, poison ivy berries, sumac, goldenrod, pine and catkins from birches.

Known as a ground feeding bird, the Junco is often observed scratching amongst the leaf litter or snow looking for seeds. They will also climb up weed stems to reach seeds, and often their weight will bend the seed heads to the ground, where they continue feeding. This technique allows Juncos to obtain food even during deep snow winters, when much of the low ground plants are covered with snow.

Another source of food available to Juncos during deep snowy winters are tree seeds. I have often seen this bird feeding beside Goldfinches and Siskins high up within tall birch and hemlock trees, eating the seeds found within cones and catkins. They will also fly to the snow covered ground just below the trees, and pick up seeds that have fallen.

In the 25 plus years I have kept records of feeder birds in my yard in Harwinton, CT. These are the dates for the first and last sightings of the year. On average, the first birds arrive by mid to late October, and the last to leave are usually early May. My records show the earliest, October 11th, and latest May 13th. Ironically, Juncos nest just 4 miles to the east and 5 miles to the north of my yard.

An example of Junco adaptability:

If Juncos return year after year to the same winter territory as some ornithologists think, than this would answer what has been happening here at my feeders through the years. From the start of my bird feeding in 1975, Juncos have always fed from the ground. When I put up a large, open flat feeder on a 6 foot pole, it took a big snow storm to get them to use it; reluctantly at first, but since, they use it regularly.

In 1996, I saw my first Junco, a male, trying to perch on my suet log feeder. One day, I noticed him successfully break off a chunk of suet mix, and carry it to a nearby bush. Two days later, a female accomplished the same, picking out a piece that fell to the ground where she ate the morsel. In 1997, I counted at least 4 different Juncos freely feeding from the suet log. Same two birds plus 2 more copying their habit?

In 1998, I saw for the first time, 2 Juncos feeding freely off my perch feeder which is 6 feet off the ground. This took some doing, for the home made feeder has horizontal perches, made for Chickadees and Titmice.

A month later, I saw for the first time, 2 Juncos feeding from my thistle feeder, with success. Since this day, I have observed up to 3 Juncos at a time on the thistle feeder.



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## The Incredible Junco

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For the winter of 1999, Juncos were using all my feeders most every day. On one snowy day, I counted 2 Juncos using the suet log, 3 on the mix feeder, 3 eating thistle, and 6 within the open flat feeder. This totals 14 Juncos feeding from feeders 6 feet off the ground at one time! These feeder birds outnumbered the 8 Juncos feeding at the same time from the ground! I believe this example shows these Juncos might be the same birds wintering here year after year. Each winter, more individuals observe the others finding new sources of food, and start copying them.

Late in the winter of 1997, I had a male Junco that showed a white line below its eyes, equal on both sides. I noticed this same bird wintering here for the next three years, again supporting the fact Juncos winter in the same area each year.

Winter is a difficult time for birds, food availability is at a yearly low, and finding a continual source of food is a daily chore. The better a species adapts to finding food, the better its chances are of survival. I believe the vast numbers of Juncos we see at our feeders every winter, attest to the success of this species accomplishing this task.

### Literature Cited:

Martin/Zim/Nelson. 1951. American Wildlife and Plants.

Bevier. 1994. The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Connecticut.

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Root. 1988. Atlas of Wintering North American Birds.

Zeranski/Baptist. 1990. Connecticut Birds.

## Rescue Package to Halt Bird Extinction Crisis

Bird Life International News Release

The state of the world's threatened bird species is worse than ever, with the extinction rate on course for a dramatic rise 500 times above the natural rate over the next 100 years, according to a major new assessment.

The new assessment shows the number of bird species threatened with global extinction rose dramatically by 75 from 1,111 in 1994 to 1,186 in 2000---a shocking 12% of

all bird species. Of the new total, 1,175 (99%) are at risk of extinction from human activities such as logging, intensive agriculture, longline fishing, hunting, and trapping.

Since BirdLife's last global survey in 1994, two forest species of honeyeaters from the Hawaiian Islands, USA? the Kauai O'o and Bishop's O'o? have been officially listed as Extinct, 14 more species are listed as Critical and 86 more as Endangered [4].

Alarmingly, the extinction rate for birds continues to rise. The current rate is 50 times greater than the prehistoric or 'natural' rate, but is predicted to rise to 500 times greater than natural over the next 100 years [5]. Of grave concern is the movement of an overall total of 100 species into the two highest threat category lists in the last six years.

Since 1994 the number of threatened albatrosses and petrels increased from 32 to 55. Sixteen species of albatross, including the majestic Wandering Albatross, are now threatened with global extinction compared to three in 1994 [6]. The threat with the highest impact on these species is the indiscriminate slaughter of seabirds by longline fishing vessels which is particularly severe in illegal fisheries in the Southern Ocean.

The number of threatened bird species in tropical rainforests, such as doves and parrots, has also increased, especially in Southeast Asia, due to severe deforestation in countries such as the Philippines, where the Philippine Eagle has been hard hit [7], and Indonesia. Rainforest species are most at risk from unsustainable logging and forest clearance for agriculture and exotic timber plantations.

The White-rumped Vulture and Long-billed Vulture have also suffered extremely rapid declines in India as a result of disease, compounded by poisoning, pesticide use and meat processing practices, resulting in a revised Critical listing for both, having previously been Least Concern and Near-Threatened in 1994.

As these examples demonstrate, birds can tell us about the state of the environment and the sustainability of human activities. For example, documented declines in Wandering Albatross and rainforest species such as the Philippine Eagle tell us that current longlining and rainforest clearance practices are not sustainable.

Of the recovering species that have been downlisted since 1994 the Rarotonga Monarch and Black-faced Spoonbill, both of which were Critical, are now listed as Endangered thanks to a combination of predator control and community conservation work in Rarotonga, and habitat protection, legislation and a regional Action Plan in China, Taiwan, North Korea, South Korea and Japan [8].

The book identifies the world's extinction "hotspots" as Brazil, Indonesia, West Africa, Madagascar, China, the Philippines and New Zealand. Brazil and Indonesia have the most threatened species (114 each); New Zealand and the

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## Bird Extinction Crisis

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threatened species, 42% and 35% respectively.

Threatened Birds of the World also highlights the most important habitats and main threats to the most endangered species; habitat loss and degradation are the most pervasive threats, affecting 89% of all threatened birds.

For the first time the assessment also sets out potential solutions to the crisis, identifies the practical actions required to save species from extinction, and sets specific conservation targets to be met by the year 2005, including aiming to reduce the total number of threatened bird species by 10%. Measures identified in the assessment include the need for more surveys and recovery plans, better funding, more effective laws, the management of natural resources for sustainability and more Important Bird Areas (IBAs).

According to James et al [9], ten to one hundred times the current annual global conservation budget is required to halt the global extinction crisis. This would pay for a realistic global system of protected areas, sustainability in major land uses such as forestry and agriculture, and population surveys of little known species. This is about one thousandth of the annual value that the natural environment returns to human society in goods and services, which is thought to be US\$33 trillion [10]. Such a sum could be met by redirecting a small part of the subsidies that currently support environmental damage around the world.

### NOTES

1. Threatened Birds of the World is the most authoritative and comprehensive assessment ever published on the status of the world's threatened bird species, and has been compiled by BirdLife International. Previous editions were published in 1988 and 1994 under the title "Birds to Watch".
2. BirdLife International is a global alliance of conservation organizations working in more than 100 countries who, together, are the leading authority on the status of birds, their habitats and the issues and problems affecting bird life.
3. Additional quotes on the extinction crisis facing birds described in Threatened Birds of the World:

"This threat to the diversity and richness of life has been brought about by the wholesale changes that we have made to the face of the earth. Such losses need not continue." Sir David Attenborough, writer and broadcaster, UK.

"All the indications are that we are standing at the opening phase of a mass-extinction event comparable in scale to the previous five, the most recent of which eliminated the dinosaurs 65 million years ago." Dr. Russ Mittermeier, President, Conservation International, USA.

## 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**

4. A selection of Critical, Endangered, and Vulnerable species entries with accompanying images that can be downloaded for media use will be posted on the day of the launch at the BirdLife International website at [www.birdlife.net](http://www.birdlife.net)

5. For other species, the extinction rate is estimated at 1,000 to 10,000 the natural rate. See the IUCN Red List for May 1995, and also the IUCN Red List 2000.

6. Wandering Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*), Vulnerable: There are about 28,000 mature individuals which nest on four widely separated sub-Antarctic island groups, and disperse throughout the Southern Ocean. The species is endangered by longline fisheries with significant numbers being drowned after striking at baited hooks. Information from the two best-documented breeding sites indicate that, like other albatross species, the Wandering Albatross is undergoing a long-term decline. BirdLife International started a global campaign this year called "Save the Albatross: Keeping the World's Seabirds off the Hook". Its mission is to reduce the indiscriminate slaughter of seabirds in longline fisheries by promoting the use of effective mitigation measures in all such fisheries. Photographs of this species for media use will be posted on the day of the launch on the BirdLife International website.

The web site includes considerable additional information on endangered birds, links to other sites, news, charts, photos, and other materials pertaining to all aspects of endangered birds. For example, materials include "Birds near the brink" and "Back on track" contain selected species summaries of birds with declining and improving populations and selected images that can be downloaded for media use only.

*(this web site info was contributed by Patrick Comins)*

# COA Bulletin

## Trips & Events

### New Haven Bird Club

**Eagle Observations at Lake Gaillard, North Branford,** on December 2,3, 9 & 10. Need volunteers to bring scopes up to Lake Gaillard on these dates. Please call John Triana at 203-758-7203 for details.

**Rariety Chase,** Sunday, January 7, 2001. Go directly to the spots where the rare birds were spotted on CBC. Watch the newsletter for details and call Steve Mayo at 203-393-0694 for more info.

**Barkhamsted** on Saturday, January 20. Call leader Steve Broker for details.

**Sachuest Point and Rhode Island Coast** on Sunday, February 18, at 7:00 am. An all day trip in search of Harlequin Ducks, rare gulls and other winter shoreline birds. Bring lunch and drink, scope if you have one. Meet at the I-95 Exit 54 commuter lot by I-95. Call leader Andy Brandt at 203-230-1718 for details.

**Connecticut River Valley and Eastern Shore** on Saturday, February 24. Search the east shore from Madison to the lower Connecticut River for shorebirds, eagles, RL hawks and ducks. Dress for cold, windy conditions. Bring lunch, drink, and scope. Meet at the Hammonasset State park entrance at 8:00 am. Co-leaders Nancy Rosenbaum at 203-288-8897 and Arne Rosengren at 203-248-2903.

### Menunkatuck Audubon Society

**Birds of Southern Africa,** Wednesday, January 10, from 7:30-9 pm at the Nathanael B. Green Community Center in Guilford. Free admission to this talk/show by Frank Gallo

### The Audubon Shop

**Eagle Watches on the Connecticut River,** on Saturdays, January 13, 27, February 3, 10, 24. Cost \$17. The 12th annual Eagle series---usually sold out so get your tix early. the \$17 cost includes soup and sandwich lunch at Oliver's Tavern in Essex following the field trip. Tix will be available after Thanksgiving. Call Jerry Connolly at 203-245-9054 for details.

### Christmas Bird Counts

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#### Saturday, December 30, 2000

New London, CT (NL-CT) Compiler Robert Dewire, 9 Canary Lane, Pawcatuck, CT 06739, 860-599-3085

#### Sunday, December 31, 2000

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

Old Lyme-Saybrook, CT (OL-CT) Compiler Patty Pendergast, 112-1 Main Street, Chester, CT 06412

#### Monday, January 1, 2001

Pawling (Hidden Valley), NY-CT (HV-NY) Compiler: Sibyll Gilbert, RR1, Box 236, Pawling, NY 12564, 914-855-3266; Angela Dimmitt, New Milford, CT 860-355-3429

### The Fat Robin

**Eagle watches at the Connecticut River.** Call Jim Zipp at 203-248-7068 for details on these and other birding field trips offered by The Fat Robin.

### Flights of Fancy Adventures

Contact Sam Fried and Donna Mages at 860-243-2569 for details about these and other birding/wildlife tours and events.

**Prince William Sound & Copper River Delta, Alaska,** from April 28-May 8. See thousands of sea birds on an 8 day cruise, then witness the largest shorebird migration in the world on Copper River delta. Limited to 10 participants. Cost \$2360 from Cordova, Alaska

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

COA encourages local bird clubs to send announcements of field trips and events to Dave Provencher, 43 Branch Hill Road, Preston, CT



# 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

<b>President</b>	Dave Provencher, 43 Branch Hill Rd, Preston, CT 06365 860-885-1239
<b>Vice President</b>	Mark Szantyr, 662 Phoenixville Road, Chaplin, CT 06235 860-455-0787
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jim Zipp, 400 Mt. Sanford Road, Hamden, CT 06518 203-272-1439
<b>Secretary</b>	Andrew Brand, 59 Brooksvale Ave, Hamden, CT 06518 203-230-1718

## COA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

<b>Bylaws</b>	Joseph Zeranski, 163 Field Point Rd, Greenwich, CT 06830 203-661-9607
<b>Conservation</b>	Paul Fusco, 4 Old Country Road, Oxford, CT 06484 203-584-9830
<b>Field Trips</b>	Jay Kaplan, 71 Gracey Rd., Canton, CT 06019 860-693-0157
<b>Membership</b>	Lise Hanners, Devil's Den Preserve, Box 1162, Weston, CT 06883 203-226-4991
<b>Program</b>	Fran D'Amico, 508 Preston Avenue, Meriden, CT 06450 203-237-2734 Rachel Keneally, 290 Silver Hill Rd., Easton, CT 06612 203-268-6904
<b>Publications</b>	Betty Kleiner, 5 Flintlock Ridge, Simsbury, CT 06070 860-658-5670
<b>Rare Records</b>	Frank Mantlik, 10 Arch Street, Apt. B, Norwalk, CT 06850 203-854-9780
<b>Research</b>	Robert Askins, CT College/Biology, New London, CT 06320 860-439-2149
<b>Education</b>	Patrick Comins, 116 High St., Manchester, CT 06040 860-646-6600

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FAIRFIELD, CT 06430

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