

President's Message

By Patty Pendergast

March 20, 2001 - I took a friend out to watch woodcock dancing in his field. This man is rich and powerful, having made his money through developing lands such as this old farm. The farm is the last in town, it backs up to Cockaponsett State Forest. It has an absolutely wonderful array of wildlife, plants and views. I've walked it many times since moving to the river valley. My hope is to expose him to all the wonders of this land throughout the seasons, so maybe he will view the value of his purchases differently.

It's probably a foolish dream. But he was intrigued by the Woodcock that danced on this day and hour in an ancient ritual, in spite of human existence buzzing past on nearby Route 9. This man is only recently aware that Red-tailed Hawks nest here and that the beaver meadow harbored Yellow-rumped Warblers and Bluebirds through a difficult winter. He was surprised to learn that the green Goldfinches would turn yellow in a matter of days, that the Juncos would be heading north in short order and that those brown sparrow birds were different species and had neat calls (White-throated, Fox, Tree, Song, Swamp and Chipping... and House Sparrows and House Finches!).

These glimpses into life's eternal cycles are not new to the field birders of COA. We are driven every day of the year to catalogue life in a way that many others have not yet discovered. Our ritual searches provide a reliable knowledge base that can enlighten others, whether they are casual observers or those in decision making positions. We at COA are honor bound by the fascination we have for birds to set our organizational compass by science. Our governance board and committees are made up of field birders, ornithologists and conservation non-profits - all mesmerized by birds. COA's membership ranges from rabid birders and researchers to those who aspire to learn more about the birds they see at their feeders. Because of our ethics and passion, we aren't so much the 'elite' as we are the core of bird conservation.

Features inside

Connecticut Grasslands by Roland Clement	2
Stepping Aside by Dave Provencher	3
Book Review by James Bair	4
Fast Facts: Least Tern	4
ARCC Bylaw Change	4
New ARCC Review List	5
Help with Shorebird Conservation by Patrick Comins	6
Trips and Events	7



Szantyr

ARCC Elects Two New Members

By Greg Hanisek

The Avian Records Committee of Connecticut has elected two members to full terms. Joining the committee in 2001 are Frank Gallo of New Canaan and Frank Mantlik of Stratford, both experienced birders and members in long standing of the state's birding community. They replace Richard Soffer, who retired from the committee after completion of a full term, and Dave Provencher, who under terms of the committee's bylaws, must step down for at least a year after serving two full terms.

Frank Mantlik returns to the committee after stepping down for a year. He previously served as ARCC chairman, as well as president of COA. Frank is well known for his bird photography, as well as his birding skills.

Frank Gallo joins the committee for the first time. He is a veteran field trip leader with experience throughout North America and abroad. He is an employee of New Canaan Nature Center.

ARCC is a 10-member committee charged with reviewing reports of rare species in the state and with maintaining a historical archive of bird sightings in Connecticut. Other members are Greg Hanisek, chairman; Mark Szantyr, secretary; and Buzz Devine, Jay Kaplan, Dave Tripp, Julian Hough, John Gaskell and Chris Wood.

COA Bulletin Loses Dwight Smith

By Dave Provencher

After six years of dedicated service to COA and COA Bulletin Dwight Smith has retired from the Board of Directors and as editor of this newsletter. One of the mainstays of birding in Connecticut for many years his service to COA will be sorely missed. Often the members of any organization are unaware of

(continued on page 2)

COA Bulletin

Dwight Smith (continued from page 1)

the work and effort that goes into the production of a newsletter such as COA Bulletin. The personal effort and sacrifice is considerable. For the last six years Dwight has persevered in this daunting task and produced an excellent result. In an organization of over-worked professionals and over committed volunteers, getting material and data for this publication remains an enormous challenge. Dwight frequently had to request, beg, and cajole contributors for material. Often he had to resort to being an author as well to round out the latest issue. Through-out this challenge he produced quality issue after quality issue.

The leadership of COA wishes to extend their deepest gratitude to Dwight for his tireless efforts. As president for the past four years I have been acutely aware of Dwight's contributions to our association. He continues to prove himself a leader in Connecticut ornithology and birding. We look forward to his continued leadership in our state and wish to say, Thank You very much indeed Dwight!

Connecticut Grasslands

By Roland Clement

The most dramatic change we humans have imposed on the American landscape in the last three hundred years and more has been the clearing of the Eastern Deciduous Forest, once the greatest forest of its type on the planet.

Almost as dramatic has been the recovery of much of that forest in the last century, as our agriculture moved westward. In the Northeast—including New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey—some fifteen million acres have grown from abandoned old field to young woodland, and in a few places, to mature forest. It is this impressive transition that accounts for the excessive populations of White-tailed Deer in our day—that and the elimination of predators on deer. Most of us have been made aware of this change in the land, learning that stone walls in today's woodlands attest to earlier use as pasture or cropland. We now value the recovered woodlands more than ever.

We have not, however, been much aware of the changes imposed on the grasslands of the Northeast, the non-wooded open spaces. Their loss is the flip-side of the forest story. Indeed, most of us have thought that grasslands were essentially limited to the great plains of interior North America.

We have neglected the fact that most sizable rivers flowing through relatively open country tend to flood annually and thus once maintained extensive meadows. We have neglected that in pre-colonial days, an abundance of beavers constantly created grassy beaver meadows which probably covered up to fifteen percent of the landscape at any one time. And we neglected that extensive sandy outwash plains built on coarse gravel created during the waning days of the Ice Age were often so droughty that they remained in grass and shrubs, sometimes in oak savanna. These "barrens" once carried Heath Hens, our regional version of the Prairie Chicken. These natural grasslands therefore covered tens of thousands of acres, and were host to a unique flora and fauna.

And during the height of Northeastern agriculture, between 1750 and 1850, small farms contributed another few million acres of grassland, in pasture or in wheat, oats, barley, and flax, good habitat for quail, bobolinks, and meadowlarks. Emily Dickinson exulted over this landscape in the late 19th Century.

This attractive small-farm landscape is now almost gone, as also the natural grasslands that provided "breathing room" in an otherwise often confining wooded environment. And the fascinating diversity of flowering plants, butterflies, and birds that require that kind of open habitat is therefore fast disappearing. Much of this change is the inevitable result of changing human life styles and a different economy.

But it is precisely to rescue a representative sample of this unique open environment for Connecticut's future that we ask Governor Rowland and the State Legislature to earmark enough of the current budget surplus for use in assessing, acquiring and restoring these valued open spaces—the remnant grasslands of Connecticut.

Growing public appreciation of these neglected historical environments now lead us to urge that the Department of Environmental Protection be specifically charged with preserving such designated grassland environments, and funded both to acquire them and maintain them in perpetuity.

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

Please submit materials for the next issue by May 1, 2001 to Dave Provencher at goshawk@snet.net Or at 43 Branch Hill Rd., Preston, CT 06365

COA Bulletin

Stepping Aside

By Dave Provencher

For the last four years I have been president of the Connecticut Ornithological Association. Those same four years have seen remarkable events in my life. The birth of Janet, our third child, my unexpected job changes (two of them), and a few health issues. Tough to get old, especially when you've always treated your body like a rent-a-car. I started as president with many plans for COA. As life usually does, it dictated that I would find precious little opportunity to carry them all out. In an amazing run of resignations of long serving individuals, we had to replace virtually every position and function within COA with the notable exception of Betty Kleiner. Some things never change, Geno Auriemma produces elite teams at UCONN and Betty produces the wonderful *Connecticut Warbler*. I wonder which of those two remarkable individuals will affect me more when they retire.

During my tenure as president I have come to know better than ever just what a remarkable group of people make up the membership of COA. I have known many people in my life but I can say I have known no better. The diversity within the birding community is amazing. These little feathered creatures really attract quite a unusual mix of the human species. I can think of no other hobby or obsession where you could hope to meet such fascinatingly different people doing the same thing. And doing them under the most insane of conditions. If there was a category 3 hurricane in progress and a Black-capped Petrel was reported there would be dozens of people aged 10 to 80 trying to get to the spot to see it. And cursing the authorities who are trying to save our lives by blocking the way! Ah, birding. Obsession, insanity, virus? Who knows, who cares? I love the smell of it, the sounds of it, the challenge of it. We all do. It's why we go birding.

The Connecticut Ornithological Association is nothing if it isn't potential. Potential new friends, new experiences, new knowledge, new conservation victories, new personal challenges, and oh yes... new birds. COA can only live up to its potential if its members try to live up to theirs. There will always be a need for new people to carry the torch. It is now time for a new president and a new chapter in COA's history. There will always be issues and problems an organization such as COA must face. The fact that there has always been people who step up and accept the challenge is truly inspiring.

Well I'm through now, though my duties and responsibilities to COA continue in different ways. I see a time in the very

near future when I will have more personal time than I have had for, oh say four years. I can never adequately thank the many people who have served COA with me during the last four years and the four years I served as board member and vice president. They have been shining examples of commitment and volunteerism, despite little to no recognition for their efforts. Indeed criticism is their reward more often than praise. Such seems to always be the case with volunteer organizations. I can never adequately thank everyone, but I can say I will always appreciate what they have done. Selfless generosity is a noble gift.

Now I am an ex-president. A pity there is no retirement plan in COA. But what the heck, now I can go birding again. That's my reward. My gold watch will be the silhouette of a Nighthawk against a late summer sky. My ticker-tape parade will be the whirling cloud of migrant shorebirds on a wind-swept beach. And my retirement plan will be hot coffee before dawn, birding all day, and beer after dark. Perfect.

I was awakened by a Woodcock walking around 'peenting' under our bedroom window at 4:30 this morning. I had been in bed for 25 minutes. Yet the sound was most welcome to me, the sound of Spring returning. Soon the sounds of warblers, tanagers, and thrushes will fill our woods. And now I can go and seek them out.

— *An ex-president, Dave Provencher*

Have you seen a rare bird in Connecticut? Well report it and share it!

To report sightings of rare birds call:

- **Mark Szantyr at (203) 754-3898 or email birddog@snet.net**
- **Greg Hanisek at (203) 754-4401 or email ghanisek@rep-am.com**
- **Email Dori Sosensky at dori.sosensky@yale.edu**

To report sightings of unusual birds call:

- **Bruce Stevenson at (917) 690-8139 or email Bruce_Stevenson@BNPParibas.com**
- **Jim Hunter at (203) 259-5778 or email wstkingbrd@aol.com**
- **Email Dori Sosensky at dori.sosensky@yale.edu**

To report migrants or notable occurrences:

- **Tell your friends and family and email**
- **Greg Hanisek at ghanisek@rep-am.com**
- **Dori Sosensky at dori.sosensky@yale.edu**
(please follow submission guidelines posted on COA Web at www.ctbirding.org)

COA Bulletin

Book Review By James Bair

Stan Tekiela. *Birds of Connecticut: Field Guide*. Cambridge MN: Adventure Publications, 2000. \$13.95.

This pocket sized photographic bird guide resembles the Golden nature guides edited by Herbert S. Zim. It is not complete, but it is more than adequate for a person with a casual interest in birds found in Connecticut. It features 120 species in 145 entries with a full page photo opposite a general description of the bird, nest, and details that might assist in identification. There is also a range map, just of the state of Connecticut.

Birds of Connecticut: Field Guide focuses on the birds most likely to be seen in the state--no Red-headed Woodpeckers or Curlew Sandpipers. The range maps give the reader realistic expectations of sighting specific birds. The colors and poses of the photos are realistic. I would recommend it to people who are curious about yard birds or birds they might have noticed on outdoor excursions.

The book lists the birds by color like the photographic Audubon Field Guide series--helpful to casual observers of birds in good light. It duplicates the complete entries of some species with different colored females. For example, not only is the female Towhee pictured under brown birds and the male under black ones, but the descriptive page is repeated as well. This can cut down on cross-referencing. On the other hand, there is no attempt to organize the birds within their color groups. You can find the Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs under brown birds, but there is no reason that they should be fourteen pages apart. This pattern holds true for most of the other similar species in the book including the House and Purple finches, the House and Winter Wrens, and the two egrets.

Birds of Connecticut: Field Guide is a boilerplate book. There are nearly identical books for New York, Massachusetts, and twelve other states. Except for the state range maps and perhaps a dozen written references to the state, there is nothing to give it a Connecticut distinction. Do not compare it to the complete Zeranski and Baptist *Connecticut Birds* or to the detailed bird-finding guides of Proctor, Rosgen and Billings, or Smith *et al.* Tekiela hosts the Gee Whiz Nature Radio Program in Minnesota. His program tries to get people more interested in nature. This book may do the same as it increases the confidence of the casual bird watcher.

CT Bird Quiz:

What species was accepted as Connecticut's 400th bird species by the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut?

Answer on page 8

Connecticut Threatened Species: Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*)

Habitat: Broad, sandy, vegetation-free beaches usually located close to an estuary.

Weight: Approximately 1 ounce.

Length: 8.5-9.5 inches.

Wingspan: 20 inches.

Life Expectancy: 15 years of age.

Food: Small fishes, like sandlances; sand eels; crustaceans, like shrimp and prawns.

Status: State threatened.

History in Connecticut: Historically, the species has been declining in Connecticut due to residential and recreational development of beaches and the channelization of rivers. Heavy losses are also caused by severe storms, flooding, and depredation by dogs, cats, rats, skunks, raccoons, black-crowned night-herons and great black-backed gulls. Recent protection measures in the Northeast, which include the fencing and posting of colonies, may have stabilized the population.

In Connecticut, Least Terns often share their nesting areas with the federally and state threatened Piping Plover. Since 1987, least terns have nested at 15 sites along the Connecticut coast from Greenwich to Groton.

Information source: Endangered and Threatened Species Fact Sheet, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. For more on Connecticut Listed species visit the CTDEP website at: <http://dep.state.ct.us/burnatr/wildlife/learn/esfact.htm>

ARCC Bylaw Change: The Secretary

The position of secretary in a rare records committee is a demanding one. It entails organizing the received reports, duplicating paperwork for all committee records, overseeing the circulation of reports and recirc batches, preparing materials for committee meetings, and much more. Often a secretary is just getting good at what he does when he is forced off the committee by term limits. This can be detrimental to the effectiveness of the committee

Recognizing this to be true in Connecticut the COA Board of Directors authorized a bylaws change allowing the secretary to serve without term limits. The secretary must however be nominated every year by the chairman of the ARCC at the first meeting of the COA Board for board approval. So the secretary position is filled each calendar year while all other ARCC members serve uninterrupted three year terms. This change will allow the ARCC to continue to operate effectively without unnecessary disruption.

COA Bulletin

Avian Records Committee of Connecticut Review List

As approved by ARCC March 28, 2001

The following species have been determined to need written documentation for all occurrence within the State of Connecticut or that part of Long Island Sound considered Connecticut waters. The Committee strongly encourages any observation of these species to be documented and submitted to the Committee. This documentation greatly enhances the avian history of our state.

Pacific Loon	Mew Gull	Henslow's Sparrow
Eared Grebe	Thayer's Gull	Le Conte's Sparrow
Western Grebe	Black-legged Kittiwake	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Northern Fulmar	Ross' Gull	Harris' Sparrow
Black-capped Petrel	Sabine's Gull	Smith's Longspur
Cory's Shearwater	Gull-billed Tern	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Greater Shearwater	Sandwich Tern	Brewer's Blackbird
Manx Shearwater	Arctic Tern	Bullock's Oriole
Audubon's Shearwater	Bridled Tern	Brambling
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Sooty Tern	Hoary Redpoll
White-faced Storm-Petrel	Dovekie	
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Thick-billed Murre	Unusual Breeding Birds
American White Pelican	Razorbill	Breeding records of these species or others not known to breed in Connecticut will be reviewed and archived by the ARCC.
Brown Pelican	Black Guillemot	
Anhinga	Atlantic Puffin	
Magnificent Frigatebird	Band-tailed Pigeon	
White Ibis	White-winged Dove	Tricolored Heron
White-faced Ibis	Northern Hawk Owl	Blue-winged Teal
Wood Stork	Burrowing Owl	Bald Eagle
Pink-footed Goose	Great Gray Owl	Northern Harrier
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Boreal Owl	Peregrine Falcon
Cinnamon Teal	Chuck-will's-Widow	Black Rail
Tufted Duck	Rufous Hummingbird	King Rail
King Eider	Black-backed Woodpecker	American Coot
Mississippi Kite	Say's Phoebe	Common Snipe
Swallow-tailed Kite	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Black Skimmer
Swainson's Hawk	Tropical Kingbird	Barn Owl
Gyr Falcon	Gray Kingbird	Long-eared Owl
Yellow Rail	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Short-eared Owl
Black Rail	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	Red-headed Woodpecker
Corn Crake	Cave Swallow	Olive-sided Flycatcher
Purple Gallinule	Boreal Chickadee	Sedge Wren
Wilson's Plover	Sedge Wren	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Black-necked Stilt	Northern Wheatear	Loggerhead Shrike
American Avocet	Mountain Bluebird	Northern Parula
Spotted Redshank	Townsend's Solitaire	Yellow-throated Warbler
Eskimo Curlew	Varied Thrush	Prothonotary Warbler
Long-billed Curlew	Bohemian Waxwing	Blue Grosbeak
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Loggerhead Shrike	Dickcissel
Curlew Sandpiper	Bell's Vireo	Vesper Sparrow
Ruff	Black-throated Gray Warbler	Henslow's Sparrow
Red-necked Phalarope	Hermit Warbler	Boat-tailed Grackle
Red Phalarope	Western Tanager	Red Crossbill
Pomarine Jaeger	Black-headed Grosbeak	Pine Siskin
Parasitic Jaeger	Painted Bunting	Evening Grosbeak
Long-tailed Jaeger	Green-tailed Towhee	
Franklin's Gull	Lark Bunting	

COA Bulletin

Help with the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan by Patrick Comins

Shorebird migration season is upon us. A key component of our region's role in the US Shorebird Conservation Plan is the continued monitoring of migrant shorebird habitat usage in our area. Many species of shorebirds are experiencing significant declines in population. Due to the inaccessibility of many of these species' nesting areas, scientists rely on the data provided by monitoring at migratory stopover areas in order to assess threats to shorebird populations and to help with conservation planning. Monitoring is also a key component of Audubon's Important Bird Areas initiative and the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. These shorebird counts help us to determine the critical feeding and roosting areas for shorebirds in our area.

The Connecticut Audubon Society will again oversee the Manomet ISS effort in Connecticut. Please contact Joseph Blumberg for more information on how you can help out, joseph.blumberg@snet.net or call the CAS Coastal Center at Milford Point at (203)878-7440.

Realizing that time is a valuable commodity an additional approach is being tried this year in order to increase the amount of data available. Since many people are not able to commit to doing a full schedule of counts at any one location, we are asking that birders also provide counts of shorebirds at key locations when they visit them. Locations such as Milford Point, Sandy Point, Menunketesuck flats, Hammonasset Beach State Park, and the Guilford shorebird pools, will be especially useful, but additional data wherever you regularly watch shorebirds will be helpful as well.

Simply keep track of the numbers of each species, time of the visit, tide (or water level at non-tidal locations), behavior, disturbance level and whether your counts are exact, estimates, or extrapolated. All of the information needed is listed on the forms. It will only take a few minutes. Additional data is especially needed between August 10th and 20th and again around Sept. 10th, but will be useful anytime between April and October. Joseph will be able to provide either the paper forms or the electronic excel sheets on which to record your data.

Additional information from Manomet:

Shorebirds are hemispheric globetrotters whose migrations include long-distance nonstop flights often exceeding a thousand miles. To complete these extraordinary flights shorebirds must lay on large fuel reserves. In many of the 40 common North American species fat is accumulated at food-rich staging areas. There apparently are few places having the

right combination of resources, for in some cases between 50 and 80% of the entire population of a species may visit a single site. It therefore appears that loss of critical staging areas could devastate hemispheric populations.

In 1974 Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences organized the International Shorebird Surveys (ISS) to gather information on shorebirds and the wetlands they use. One motive was to learn how various species depend on particular wetlands and migration corridors. Having fostered some 50,000 census counts from more than 600 sites, the take-home message now is clear; many species of shorebirds depend on strategic migration staging sites.

The ISS data confirmed the need to form the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN), a program that works to build protection for strategic migration sites. ISS data also have been used in identifying sites in North and South America that qualify for inclusion in WHSRN, for charting migration timing at key sites, and for developing an atlas to provide conservation and wildlife professionals basic information needed for making effective decisions.

Documenting shorebird migrations requires a large information gathering network that spans all of the Americas. Costs of paying for this work would be prohibitive, so the ISS is developed around a volunteer base to gather needed information. To date more than 900 people have contributed information but ISS continues to need additional volunteer help.

ISS data are used principally for conservation and management initiatives. During the last 5 years ISS evaluations have helped formulate practices in federal agencies as varied as the U.S. Forest Service, the Department of Defense, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as dozens of state agencies. ISS data have provided pivotal information used in federal and state management training programs. Data also are provided to researchers who meet program conditions.

The ISS data files now include more than 50,000 censuses, with about 1300 added each year by 50-100 cooperators. Cooperators are asked to census a location selected by the cooperator three times monthly during key migration periods. Less frequently collected counts also are welcome, especially from regions where information is sparse. Researchers planning other uses for their data may contribute with restrictions on how their data may be used, or they may archive appropriate data with the ISS on completion of projects.

For more information, visit www/manomet.org (the wetlands section) or contact the International Shorebird Surveys, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, PO Box 1770, Manomet, MA USA 02345. Email bharr@manomet.org. Fax 508/224-9220, voice 224-6521.

COA Bulletin

Trips & Events

The Fat Robin

Walks every Saturday in May for spring migrants to either East Rock Park or the Farmington Canal/Brooksvale Park. Plus Bluebirds, Indigo Buntings, and more. All trips leave from the store at approx 7:45 AM and are \$2. Call Jim Zipp at (203) 248-7068 for more details.

Flights of Fancy Adventures

Contact Sam Fried or Donna Mages for More Information About These Adventures. 860-243-2569 OR MAGESFRIED@AOL.COM

BOLIVIA - NOEL KEMPFER MERCADO NATIONAL PARK AND EASTERN ANDES: October 6-21, 2001.

Experience South American spring birding in pristine tropical wilderness at two remote fly-in lodges in NKMNP and amazing birds of Andes eastern slope. Limited to 10 participants. Unbelievably low-priced at \$3295 from Santa Cruz, Bolivia. See Sam's article in Dec. 2000 issue of WildBird magazine.

BIRDING NORTHERN BELIZE: February 13-23, 2002.

Incredible, easy, affordable but luxurious tropical birding along rivers and Maya ruins, visiting Crooked Tree, Lamanai Outpost Lodge & Chan Chich Lodge. Limited to 12 participants. \$2595 from Belize City, Belize.

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! We'll see most endemic species. Limited to 14 participants. \$3995, not including airfare to Guayaquil, Ecuador or Galapagos Islands.

QUEBEC: June 22-30, 2002. We'll try for Bicknell's Thrush, Yellow Rail and boreal species on the Gaspé Peninsula on our way to Bonaventure Island's breeding colony of Northern Gannet. Includes ferry trip across 30-mile wide mouth of St. Lawrence River for pelagics and whales. Limited to 10 participants. About \$1300, all-inclusive from Bloomfield, CT.

Hartford Audubon

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, Granby/Suffield Area, Spring is here, come look for Upland Sandpipers, Grasshopper Sparrows, Great Blues in breeding plumage and early warblers on a trip around the Granby/Suffield Area. Leader: Stephanie Lovell (860) 521-2621

SUNDAY, MAY 6, Northwest Park, Windsor Join our leader to search for warblers and other spring migrants. Meet in the parking lot of Northwest Park at 6:00 AM. Leader: Paul Desjardin (860) 623-3696

SUNDAY, MAY 6, Hammonasset for Beginning Birders, Hammonasset Beach State Park Emphasis will be on identification techniques. Time will be spent studying and enjoying birds. More advanced birders who are willing to help are encouraged to join us. Leader: John Gaskell (860) 669-1862

SATURDAY, MAY 12, Beginners Bird Walk, Station 43, South Windsor

There should be a plentiful supply of land and water birds so join us as we search for the usual Station 43 specialties as well as some rarities (hopefully). Leaders: Len Kendall (860) 658-7952 and Roger Preston (860) 658-5010

SATURDAY, MAY 12, Litchfield and Kent This trip should produce such excellent species as Cerulean and Golden-winged Warblers, Cliff Swallow and many others. Leader: Dave Rosgen (860) 274-6728

New Haven Bird Club

East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance, Sunday, April 8, 2001. Meet at the parking lot by Lake Whitney for a bird walk from 8 to 9 am. Then join Park Ranger Dan Barvir and help with light trail maintenance. Leader: Dan Barvir 203-946-6086

West Rock Ridge, Saturday, April 28, 2001, 7:30AM You can find most early warblers, great woodland birds and a variety of woodpeckers. Meet at the West Rock Nature Center parking lot on Wintergreen Ave at 7:30AM. Leader: Pat Leahy 203-393-2427

Branford Supply Ponds, Sunday, April 29, 2001, 8:30AM The migrant birds are just beginning to arrive at this time of the year. Meet at exit 54 commuter lot off of I95. Leader: John Himmelman 860-663-3225.

Bent of the River Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, Southbury Saturday, May 5, 2001, 7:30AM Diverse habitat of woodlands, meadows and river edges. Bluebirds to Warblers to Pileated Woodpeckers and more. Leader: Andy Brand 203-230-1718

Kid's Walk at East Rock Park, Sunday, May 6, 2001, 9:00AM Children, accompanying adults and NHBC members will be searching for warblers and other spring migrants on this morning walk. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot at 8:30AM. Leader: Florence McBride 203-288-6777

COA Bulletin

Menunkatuck Audubon

Menunkatuck Audubon will hold a 2nd *Biodiversity Day* this year in the town of Guilford, Connecticut. This 24-hour biological inventory will run from 5PM on Friday, September 7th to 5PM Saturday, September 8th.

Last year we documented the biological diversity in the town of Madison. Participant's efforts yielded over 1900 species during the 24 hours. Several species were found that had not previously been recorded in the area, or the state. We invite you to join us in Guilford this year.

Participants can sign on for the whole day or part of it. You can put your own team together or let us team you up with others in your field. Generalist teams are also welcome. Contact us at menunkatuckas@snet.net.

Connecticut State Museum of Natural History at UConn BioBlitz 2001

BioBlitz 2001 will be held in Tarrywile Park in Danbury from 3PM June 8th to 3PM June 9th. Tarrywile Park is another beautiful urban park that is about 640 acres in size and has a variety of habitats including meadows, forests, marshes, ponds, and a lake. We are hopeful that we can top last year's species total of 1,898. Contact Margaret Rubega at UCONN (860) 486-4502. Email: rubega@uconnvm.uconn.edu

Connecticut Audubon EcoTravel

Chatfield Hollow Sun., April 29 7:30 - 11AM

Join expert birder, artist, designer Mike DiGiorgio searching for early spring migrants like yellow-throated warbler at Chatfield Hollow State Park in **Killingworth**. Wear comfortable, waterproof footwear, for some of the paths may be muddy. CAS members \$10. Nonmembers \$15.

Osberndale State Park Sun., May 6 9AM - Noon

This 350-acre state park located in **Derby** along the Housatonic River, offers a variety of habitats including woods, ponds and old fields. The Kellogg Environmental Center is also located in the park. Join veteran CAS Leader and photographer Frank Mantlik. CAS Members \$10. Nonmembers \$15.

COA encourages local bird clubs to send announcements of field trips and events to:
Dave Provencher at goshawk@snet.net
Or 43 Branch Hill Rd., Preston, CT. 06365.

East Rock Park Sat., May 12 7 - 10AM

There is no better place to be during spring migration than **New Haven's** famous migrant hot spot **East Rock**. Join veteran birder Fritz Davis, in an place where he is very familiar. East Rock attracts birds that have recently crossed Long Island Sound or are moving along the coast to the north. CAS Members \$10. Nonmembers \$15.

Songbirds on River Road Sat., May 19 7AM - Noon

The River Road area in **Kent** is known for its outstanding collection of migrant warblers and truly is a magnet for birders across the state each spring. Join Dave Tripp on a search for all that this special place offers. David is an active birder, a member of the CAS World Series Team, and holds a seat on the rare records committee of the Connecticut Ornithological Association. Bring lunch if you like. Members \$10. Nonmembers \$15.

Call 800-996-8747 for reservations or visit CAS website at: www.ctaudubon.org/fieldtrip/talesofa.htm

New Canaan Nature Center

Arizona: Grand Canyon, Scenery and Summer Specialties Saturday, July 28 - Friday, August 10, 2001

Another terrific trip to Southeast Arizona to see Mexican rarities, Arizona specialties, hummingbirds and spectacular scenery. 13 species of hummingbirds, and Mexican rarities such as rufous-capped warbler and black-capped gnatcatcher occur with regularity in July and August. Mount Lemmon, Madera Canyon, Patagonia/Sonoita Creek, Ramsey and other Huachuca Canyons, and the lovely Chiricahua Mountains plus we've planned a couple of days in Sedona plus visits to beautiful Caverns and the Grand Canyon to top off the trip.

This trip will be co-led and sponsored by Birdseekers, a top-notch British bird tour company. For details, contact Frank at 203-966-9577 ext 15, or e-mail him at fgallo@newcanaannature.org. Cost: \$1775 plus airfare, most meals extra.

Want to know more about COA and Connecticut birds and birding? Visit COA Web at www.ctbirding.org

CT Bird Quiz Answer:

Cinnamon Teal at Milford Point, 1994.

COA Bulletin

Field Reports Requested

Field observations by COA members form the basis for the seasonal Field Notes in *The Connecticut Warbler* and *Audubon Field Notes*. These reports greatly assist in documenting and updating the status of birds in Connecticut. COA members are greatly encouraged to report their sightings. This can be done by filling in Species Report Forms (Obtainable by calling Greg Hanisek at 203 754-4401) or reporting by e-mail at ghanisek@rep-am.com. Forms should be sent to Greg Hanisek, 175 Circuit Avenue, Waterbury, CT 06708. Contributors should complete separate forms for each species and sort the forms in taxonomic order if possible. The Connecticut Field Checklist may be used as a guide. Species listed in the checklist with an asterisk are rare in Connecticut and detailed descriptions should be sent to The Avian Records Committee of Connecticut. These reports should be sent to Mark Szantyr at 145 Farmington Avenue, Waterbury, CT 06710 or birddog@snet.net. ARCC report forms are available from Mark Szantyr. Additional guidance for these reports is available on the ARCC pages of COA Web, www.ctbirding.org.

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 a great way to improve your knowledge of Connecticut's birds and birding. It is also a great way to help COA research and conservation.

Membership costs as little as \$12 per year and includes a copy of *The Ten Best Birding Sites in Connecticut*, the highly respected quarterly journal *The Connecticut Warbler*, the quarterly *COA Bulletin*, 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 Checklist* and a COA decal. Present COA members may use the form below to renew. Check the mailing label on this Bulletin to see if your membership is current. If not please renew today!

Members Please Give This Form To A Birding Friend!

JOIN COA FOR THE BEST OF BIRDING IN CONNECTICUT!

New Member [] Renewal [] Gift []

Please Print or Type

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____

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Email Address* _____

COA is always in need of volunteer help. If you might be interested in helping please check all the volunteer areas below that you would like to know more about:

Computer skills [] Education [] Events [] Field Trips [] Finance [] Workshops [] Science []

Membership Category Individual \$12 [] Family \$18 [] Contributing \$25 [] Sustaining \$40 []

Send this application with your check or money order 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 by law.*

COA Bulletin

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COA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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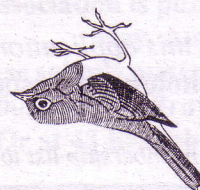
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