



President's Message

By: Patty Pendergast

COA is not an advocacy organization. That was much harder for me to swallow than you know - being a long time activist for conservation, habitat protection and progressive land use. Our charge is to determine what the facts are and offer them up to facilitate intelligent decision making, not to tweak those facts to prove or disprove an opinion. We have several scientists who work closely with our committees and often remind us that 'the numbers show this, and don't indicate that'. That's exactly why we are considered the most credible ornithological organization in the state.

Sadly though, what is said most often is that we don't have enough data to determine population density, impacts or disturbances. Currently, we need to increase the amount of baseline field surveying across the state in order to have a better handle on the what, how much and where concerning all birds in Connecticut. Having a legitimate bank of knowledge will not only help prioritize issues for us, but for other birding organization, legislators, agencies, and citizens action groups. As we progress through the birding year, we hope you will join some of these surveys and submit reports to: Natural Diversity Database, DEP, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127.

A Federal Court Decision and Mute Swans in Connecticut

By: Steve Oresman

Recent media articles on Mute Swans (*Cygnus color*) with headlines such as "Federal Law Speaks for Mute Swans" and "Protection of Mute Swans Ordered By Federal Court" may create the impression that there are new research findings on the status of Mute Swans or that new protections have been ordered. This is not the case. The court ruled only that the Mute Swan was covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, not that it was a native species or migratory in the usual sense of that word.

COA is not an advocacy organization, but part of its mission is to "disseminate accurate scientific information about birds and their habit." The discussion below is intended to support that objective.

Based on interpreting the legal language of four different migratory bird treaties, and also on legal governmental administrative procedural grounds the Federal Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia ruled that the Mute Swan was covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. While the COA is not qualified to comment on the legal reasoning, it is important to note that the court also said, "Furthermore, including the Mute Swan on the list of migratory birds does not prevent the Secretary from controlling any potential harmful effects caused by Mute Swans."

The status of Mute Swans in the U.S. is clear, based on a review of the extensive historical and current ornithological literature available to the COA Conservation Committee and its advisors. The Mute Swan is an introduced Eurasian species. It is not mentioned by either Alexander Wilson or by John James Audubon, the leading figures in early American ornithology. It is further not listed as occurring in the eastern U.S. in Chapman "Birds of Eastern North America" 1895, "Birds of America" edited

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COA Bulletin

Volunteers Needed for DEP Projects!

Migratory Bird Stopover Habitat Survey

Objective: To document the use of Connecticut's major river corridors as stopover habitat for spring and fall avian migrants.

Need: Most avian management has focused on breeding and wintering birds. Little information exists on critical stopover habitats used by migrating birds. Loss of these critical habitats can result in greater distances between "refueling" stops for migrating birds, that can significantly increase their mortality.

Benefits: Will identify priority sites for protection at the state or local level. Contributes to the Partners In Flight national goal of identifying such areas throughout the country.

Contact JT Stokowski at 860-675-8130 (Session Woods) to volunteer

Master Conservationist Program *

Objective: To professionally train volunteers to deliver wildlife-related programs for education outreach and technical assistance.

Need: The demand for wildlife-related programs far exceeds the Wildlife Division's capabilities. There is a need to produce high-quality volunteers for state agencies, environmental organizations and others who provide natural resource education to the public.

Benefits: By developing an intensive training course, the Division will create a pool of highly trained volunteers to educate others about issues related to wildlife and natural resource management.

Grassland Bird Studies

Objective: To document the extent of grassland bird nesting habitat in Connecticut and, at larger nesting areas, to learn more about essential habitats and limiting factors.

Need: Many species of grassland birds are declining throughout the Northeast and grasslands are one of the most rapidly disappearing habitat types in Connecticut. Studies are needed to develop plans to ensure the continued existence of grassland dependent species in Connecticut.

Benefit: Study results will allow the Wildlife Division to identify critical habitats for acquisition or protection and will assist in the development of a long-term grassland bird conservation plan.

Call JT Stokowski at 860-675-8130 (Session Woods) to volunteer.

Connecticut Coastal Birding Trail*

Objective: To provide the public, through a recreational framework, with the guidance and information that will allow them to learn more about Connecticut's bird resources and the conservation issues they face.

Need: There is a growing public interest in bird viewing and bird conservation, but limited information to guide citizens to the best observation sites or to inform them about the birds and habitats they are viewing.

Benefits: This project will result in a trail guide that identifies a network of key birding sites along the coastline and describes information about the birds and habitats at each site, providing wildlife educational opportunities in recreational settings.

Town Planning Workshops and Manuals *

Objective: To develop a series of land managers' workshops and manuals that will include information on landscape-level resource management.

Need: Many of the land use decisions that affect wildlife are made at the municipal level. There is a need to provide local decision makers with helpful, productive guidance and to promote cooperation on a regional basis to address wildlife conservation issues.

Benefits: Training and a land managers' manual will provide municipal officials with guidance for making informed land use decisions and promote a landscape-level ("beyond town boundaries") perspective for addressing smart growth and sustaining viable wildlife populations.

Wildlife Management Area Comprehensive Inventory *

Objective: To conduct comprehensive natural resource inventories on two wildlife management areas.

Need: The Wildlife Division has not had the resources to conduct intensive natural resource inventories on most of the 90 Wildlife Management Areas that it administers. Improved inventory data would assist in guiding habitat management decisions and evaluating management actions.

Benefits: This project will allow the Wildlife Division to evaluate floral and faunal inventory techniques and develop a detailed natural resource data base on two of its largest Wildlife Management Areas.

Urban Schools Small Habitat Project*

Objective: To provide technical assistance and plant materials to at least ten urban schools to enhance schoolyard habitats.

Need: As Connecticut's landscape continues to urbanize, smaller habitat parcels become increasingly important to wildlife. Schoolyard habitats offer an excellent opportunity to teach students, teachers and parents about urban wildlife and small-scale habitat enhancement techniques.

Benefits: This project will enhance at least ten urban schoolyard habitats providing a learning experience for students and demonstration sites for the local communities.

***Contact Jenny Dickson: Sessions Woods 860-675-8130**

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COA Bulletin

Upcoming Salt Marsh Birds Study

As part of the effort to identify IBAs of global significance in Connecticut, the University of Connecticut (UConn) and Audubon Connecticut have received funding for an in-depth two-year study of Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Seaside Sparrow usage of Connecticut's coastal habitats. Funds will be provided through the State of Connecticut's Endangered Species Income Tax Check-off fund, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Long Island Sound Study program. Dr. Chris Elphick and Dr. Margaret Rubega from UConn, and Patrick Comins, Audubon Connecticut's Director of Bird Conservation will be the principal investigators for this project.

Connecticut's coastal marshes are very important nesting areas for these two secretive species of birds. These coastal marshes may have some of the highest densities of nesting Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows found anywhere in the world. This species is found nesting only in a narrow strip of high salt marsh habitat from southern Maine south to Maryland, with as much as 50% of the world population being found from Maine to Long Island. Its geographical range is estimated to be only on the order of 7,800 square miles, but with considerably less suitable habitat within that range (by comparison, the total area of Connecticut is around 5000 square miles). Bird Life International lists the Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows as a special concern species, due to this restricted range, and threats to this habitat type from rising sea levels and habitat degradation by invasive species and other factors. Additionally, because of these factors, Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows are given a Watchlist score by Audubon that is among the highest of any North American Species. It is also tied with the Piping Plover as the species with the highest conservation priority of any found nesting in Connecticut, as ranked by the Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan for southern New England.

The project will focus on the vast salt meadow marsh in Guilford, the salt marsh at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison, and Great Island Marsh, near the mouth of the Connecticut River. These coastal marshes may have some of the highest densities of nesting Saltmarsh Sharp-

tailed Sparrows found anywhere in the world. The study will provide information about the sizes and densities of these populations, their habitat associations, and develop models to explain and predict the variations that are seen in the abundance and occurrence of these birds. These models will allow managers to examine the consequences of habitat change, such as open water marsh management (OMWM) for these species.

In a broader context, this research will provide critical information needed to evaluate the global and regional importance of Long Island Sound to Saltmarsh sharp-tailed and Seaside Sparrows. As such, this study will lay the groundwork for protecting these species in the face of changing habitat, pollution and sea-level conditions, and help with Audubon's efforts to document North America's Important Bird Areas, a crucial first step to comprehensive protection of the continent's avifauna. Stay tuned for information on opportunities to volunteer to assist with this important study.

Threats and conservation issues facing the Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow include:

- Restricted breeding and wintering ranges.
- Very specific habitat needs.
- Degradation of nesting habitat by invasive plant species including *Phragmites*.
- Habitat degradation and loss due to draining and diking of salt marshes for development in some parts of its range.
- Development of the upland edges of salt marshes, which are important buffers to the nesting habitat for this species.
- Increased predation by introduced species, including cats, in proximity to human development.
- Small, localized populations of this make surveying with Breeding Bird Survey methods problematic.
- Research is required, as there is little known about species' demography.

COA Bulletin

Volunteers Needed for DEP Projects!

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Specialty Landowner Habitat Workshop Series *

Objective: To conduct a series of workshops to promote wildlife habitat enhancements for owners and managers of specialty habitats such as cemeteries, golf courses and tree farms.

Need: Although not viewed as traditional wildlife habitats, golf courses, cemeteries and tree farms present opportunities to benefit many species of wildlife. Within this community of specialty landowners there is increasing interest in being environmentally friendly, however, there has not been a concerted effort in the past to provide outreach or technical assistance to these groups.

Benefits: This project will improve awareness of wildlife habitat needs and result in wildlife habitat enhancements on these relatively large acreages.

Informational and Educational Exhibits *

Objective: To create two new displays for the Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center: one on the importance of habitat to Connecticut's birds and, the other, on Connecticut's endangered species and their management.

Need: Visitorship to the Conservation Center and habitat demonstration sites at Sessions Woods has been increasing annually. Development of these two new exhibits will expose visitors to a variety of important messages related to birds, endangered species and habitats.

Benefits: Development of high quality exhibits at Sessions Woods will increase the attractiveness of the site as a destination for school groups and environmental educators. The information presented in the exhibits directly relates to the habitat demonstration sites located throughout the 450 acre property.

Grassland Habitat and Bird Viewing *

Objective: To develop and enhance bird viewing opportunities at four high-quality early successional stage habitat sites.

Need: Grassland habitats are rapidly disappearing in Connecticut. The public needs a better understanding of how remaining grassland habitats can be maintained and an appreciation of their importance to many declining species of birds.

Benefits: This project will improve access, develop viewing blinds and provide interpretive signage at four state-managed grassland areas. The improved viewing opportunities will increase public awareness and appreciation of the management activities required to maintain grassland habitats.

Control of Invasive Vegetation and Early Successional Stage Enhancement at Wildlife Management Areas *

Objective: To enhance sixty acres of habitat on state-owned land at three sites to benefit wildlife species dependent upon early successional habitats.

Need: Early successional habitat is declining throughout the

Northeast due to development, natural succession, loss of farmland and absence of fire. In addition, invasive species such as autumn olive often dominate disturbed sites. Active management to create, maintain and enhance early successional habitats is needed to reverse the population decline of many wildlife species that require such habitats.

Benefits: As a result of this project, 20 acres of warm season grasses will be enhanced, 30 acres of old field habitat will be restored, and 10 acres of decadent aspen will be regenerated on state land.

Red-headed Woodpecker Status Assessment *

Objective: To document the occurrence of red-headed woodpeckers in Connecticut and to develop management recommendations for the species.

Need: The red-headed woodpecker is a state endangered species that has become extremely uncommon. Very little is known about its current status or habitat requirements in Connecticut.

Benefits: Data documenting the population status and habitat use will be used to develop a management plan for this species.

Wildlife Diversity Web Site *

Objective: To develop a comprehensive web-based source of information about Connecticut's Wildlife Diversity Program.

Need: Connecticut's citizens have a strong interest in the Wildlife Division's projects. A web site would be a powerful communication tool for providing timely updates to cooperators and volunteers as well as the general public.

Benefits: The web site developed under this project would serve as a cost-effective method of providing the public with timely information about Wildlife Division projects, including the WCRP projects described above.

Heron and Egret Monitoring at Charles Island Natural Area Preserve *

Objective: To collect basic biological data on the nesting colony, provide on-site education about the rookery, and to monitor human use and impacts on nesting birds.

Need: The heron rookery at Charles Island is one of the state's largest nesting colonies for Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron and Little Blue Heron. Despite educational signage, protective fencing and seasonal closures, the colony continues to suffer annual mortality due to human disturbance.

Benefits: An on-site monitor will educate site users about the uniqueness of the rookery and its sensitivity to disturbance. The monitor will collect information on human-related disturbances that will assist in the development of a long-term rookery protection plan.

***Contact Jenny Dickson: Sessions Woods 860-675-8130**

COA Bulletin

Trips & Events

Housatonic Audubon Society

Friday, April 19, Housatonic Audubon's Annual Dinner with Guest Speaker Wendell Minor

Wendell is a local artist who has illustrated numerous children's books by Jean Craighead George, Eva Bunting and Charlotte Zolotow and is known for his cover illustrations for books such as *Fried Green Tomatoes*, *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Alaska*. He is also an individual with a deep respect and understanding for the natural world and he loves bringing scenes of the natural world to children. "If we lose touch with nature," he has said, "then we lose touch with ourselves." Individual interested in the dinner may reserve their space early by contacting Laurie Fortin at (86) 424-3963.

April 27-May 4, Springtime on the Chesapeake Bay

Join Audubon Sharon Manager Scott Heth for an eight day trip about the 100 passenger *M/V Nantucket Clipper*. Depart on Saturday from Washington, D.C. to embark on a trip to explore the Chesapeake Bay in its spring glory. Highlights will include birdwatching at the Jean duPont Shehan Audubon Sanctuary in Bozman as well as touring the National Aquarium and exploring St. Michaels, Annapolis and Baltimore. For more information please contact the Audubon Center at (860) 364-0520 and for reservations contact Beth Ryan at (800) 967-7425.

New Haven Bird Club

Sunday, April 7, 2002, 8:00 AM, East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance

Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot for a bird walk from 8 to 9 AM. Then join ranger Dan Barvir and help with light trail maintenance for about 2 hours along the river. Bring work gloves and pruning shears if you have them. Leader: Dan Barvir 203-946-6086

Saturday April 13, 2002, 8:30 AM, Lighthouse Point to the Richard English Refuge

Meet in the Lighthouse Point Hawk Watch parking lot and bird the harbor shore for gull, loons, ducks and early returning shore birds. We will then proceed up to the Richard English Refuge on Deer Lake in Killingworth then to Hammonasset State Park. This is an all day trip so bring lunch and dress warmly. Leaders: Dick English 203-865-8610 and Mike Horn 203-288-1891 or mhorn@rcn.com

Saturday, April 27, 2002, 7:30 AM, West Rock Ridge - New Haven, CT

Climb the winding abandoned road to the top of West Rock Ridge with an awesome view of Konold's Pond. You can find early warblers, woodland birds and a variety of woodpeckers. Meet at the West Rock Nature Center parking lot on Wintergreen Av. Leader: Pat Leahy 203-393-2427 or ptleahy@aol.com

Sunday, April 28, 2002, 8:00 AM, Beginners Walk

Details to be announced. Trip Leader: Chris Loscalzo 203-389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net

CT Audubon Society - EcoTravel

Call 1-800-996-8747 for reservations and a detailed itinerary on these special trips

May 4 - 6, 2002, Famous Gardens Tour

Discover the brilliance of the Brandywine River Valley by touring the outdoor gardens and indoor conservancies of Longwood Gardens and Winterthur. The \$425 fee includes transportation from Connecticut, hotel, most meals, entry fees, and guide tours. Leaders are Mary Dowdell, CT Audubon EcoTravel Assistant, and Bob Kuchata, an accomplished botanist and photographer.

May 31 - June 2, 2002, Martha's Vineyard Tour

If you are a beginning or non-birder then this trip is for you! Though the groups will enjoy birds as they see them, the focus of the explorations will be on "the big picture" - how

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COA Bulletin

A Federal Court Decision and Mute Swans in Connecticut

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by Pearson with an extensive and distinguished board of advisors 1917, or Forbush "Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States" 1925. Then how and when did the Mute Swan become established here?

The consensus is that it was introduced first on Long Island and in the lower Hudson Valley between 1910 and 1912. Feral birds were reported in Connecticut by the 1930s but breeding was not established here until the late 1950s (Bevier, Editor, "The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Connecticut 1994"). The American Ornithologists Union check list 1998 edition says, "Introduced and established in North America." This introduced status is not questioned in any of the principal regional bird literature and is further supported by an examination of all the major field guides from the original Peterson to the current Sibley. Thus the conclusion that the Mute Swan was introduced from Europe, where it is currently "Long semi-domesticated and mainly resident" (Peterson et.al. "Birds of Britain and Europe 1993).

As far as migration, there is again agreement that Mute Swan movements are from inland waters to open and coastal waters when their resident habitat freezes. The Federal Court relied in part on testimony that in this type of movement some swans may move across the Canadian border. This limited movement was one of the legal arguments supporting its coverage under the Act.

Since Mute Swans have reached Connecticut, their numbers have exploded. The Christmas Bird Count data show that their population has increased from virtually none in the early 1950's to over 1600 in 2000, with the population stabilizing at about that level in the past decade. The impact of this growth and of possible future growth on the environment is not clear. However the US Fish and Wildlife Service is clearly concerned, and proposed control activities in Maryland, which were the cause of the lawsuit. The Court quoted the acting Director

of USFWS "If uncontrolled, Mute Swans pose a serious threat to the ecological integrity of many areas, including the National Wildlife Refuge System and other Federal lands committed to the maintenance of natural wildlife diversity."

The impact of swan populations in Connecticut is not clear and more research needs to be done. There have been a number of studies which while citing aggressive behavior of swans, show no measurable impact on other waterfowl. This research, however, appears to be limited to small inland studies covering a few pairs or to the short term effects of larger concentrations of swans on vegetation. It would be useful as a first step to conduct an independent academic review and summary of all the available research on this subject both published and unpublished in the U.S. and Europe.

Joining COA

The Connecticut Ornithological Association welcomes new members. COA is the only statewide organization devoted exclusively to birds and birding. 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!

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, 2002 to Manny and Teri Merisotis at tmerisotis@earthlink.net

Or at 93 Ripley Hill Rd., Coventry, CT 06238

COA Bulletin

CT Audubon Society - EcoTravel

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the island came to be and how the geological forces that created the island determined its subsequent history. \$425 includes transportation from Connecticut, lodgings, most meals, ferry fees, and leaders. Leaders are CT Audubon Staff Members Mary Dowdell and Cathy O'Donnell.

June 16-17, 2002, Iceland Tour

Travelers will find a multitude of birds, American and European species that are found nowhere farther east or west. The tour will visit areas of geothermal activity with mud pots and deposits of all colors and will bring you to within almost touching distance of about five million nesting birds, primarily puffins, fulmars, auks, and guillemots. Participants can expect to see 16 different species of ducks. Fee: \$3885 includes air from New York. Leader is Milan Bull, CT Audubon Director of the CT Audubon Coastal Center.

Hartford Audubon Society

Saturday May 4, 2002, Quarry Park and Connecticut Flood Plain in the Rocky Hill area. Wear sturdy walking shoes. If the spring has been wet, bring waterproof boots. Meet at 7:00 AM at the north gravel parking area in Ferry Park, at the east end of Route 160 which runs off Route 99. Follow the ferry signs. Leader: Larry Lunden (860) 232-2416.

Saturday, May 4, 2002, 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 Station 43 specialties and rarities. Rubber boots will be a must. Meet at the corner of Newberry Road and Main Street at 8:00 AM. Leaders: Len Kendall (860) 658-7952 & Roger Preston (860) 658-5010.

For more information: www.hartfordaudubon.org or call 860-282-BIRD (2473).

JOIN COA FOR THE BEST OF BIRDING IN CONNECTICUT!

New Member Renewal Gift

Please Print or Type

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone* _____

Email Address* _____

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

Computer skills Events Field Trips Finance Workshops Science

Membership Category Individual \$18 Family \$25 Contributing \$30 Sustaining \$50

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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CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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DATED MATERIAL...PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

Connecticut Ornithological Association Volunteer Reporting Instructions for the State Natural Diversity Database

The COA is cooperating with the DEP to provide breeding bird information to be included in the Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB). The NDDDB is the DEP inventory of threatened, endangered and special concern species and their habitats. It is referred to by all state agencies in preparation of environmental impact statements that are required before undertaking any actions that may significantly affect the environment, as defined by statute. Municipalities can also access the information in the NDDDB for planning purposes.

The COA has chosen thirteen listed species to focus on in 2002. The species are listed below. Reports on evidence of birds breeding between the dates listed below are requested on the special avian survey forms. Instructions for completing the forms follow the list of birds.

		<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
• Pied-billed Grebe	(E)	May 1	Aug 1
• American Bittern	(E)	May 1	Aug 1
• Least Bittern	(T)	May 1	Aug 1
• Sharp-shinned Hawk	(E)	May 15	Aug 1
• American Kestrel	(SC)	May 1	Aug 1
• Common Moorhen	(E)	May 1	Sep 30
• Common Nighthawk	(T)	June 1	Aug 1
• Whip-poor-will	(SC)	May 1	Aug 1
• Horned Lark	(T)	April 1	Aug 1
• Brown Thrasher	(SC)	May 1	Aug 1
• Golden-winged Warbler	(T)	May 1	Aug 1
• Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow	(SC)	May 1	Sept 1
• Seaside Sparrow	(SC)	May 1	Sept 1

Evidence of breeding does not require finding a nest, but rather determining the appropriate breeding code, which range from observation of an individual in the nesting season to a nest with young. One report should be prepared at the end of the breeding season for each species at each location, showing the month and day on which you observed the highest level of breeding evidence. Breeding codes are found on the opposite side. Care should be used to avoid disturbance including limitation on the use of call response tapes.

Connecticut Ornithological Association
SPECIAL AVIAN SURVEY FORM
In support of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
Natural Diversity Database

Species Name: _____

Date of Highest Level of Breeding Evidence: _____

Highest Level Breeding Code (from instruction sheet)

Observed: _____

Probable: _____

Possible: _____

Confirmed: _____

Habitat Description: _____

Site Location and Name: (include topo quad if known): _____

Directions to Site (include map, or hand drawn map on reverse) _____

Land Ownership if known: _____

Comments: _____

Observer Data:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

E-mail: _____

Reverse side may be used for any additional information.

Connecticut Breeding Bird Reporting Codes

Observed

X Species (male or female) observed during the breeding season.

Possible

O Species (male or female) *observed* in suitable nesting habitat during its breeding season.

S Singing male(s) detected in suitable nesting habitat during its breeding season.

Probable

P *Pair* observed in suitable nesting habitat during their breeding season.

T Song or other behavioral evidence of *territory* establishment on at least two different days a week or more apart.

C *Courtship* behavior or *copulation*.

N Visiting probable *nest* site.

A *Agitated* behavior or “*anxiety*” calls from adult(s).

B *Nest building* by wrens or excavation of holes by woodpeckers.

FP *Food pass*. Observation of aerial food transfer between a pair of raptors.

Confirmed

NB *Nest building* by all except woodpeckers and wrens.

PE *Physiological evidence* of breeding [i.e., highly vascularized incubation (brood) patch or egg in oviduct based on bird in hand.] **For use by licensed bird banders only.**

DD *Distraction display* or injury feigning.

FL Recently fledged young or downy young of Galliformes, shorebirds or waterfowl. Fledged young should be incapable of sustained flight.*

ON *Occupied nest*; adults incubating or entering or leaving an apparently occupied nest site (includes high nests or nest holes, the contents of which cannot be seen).

UN *Used nest* found; (**Careful identification required**).

AY *Attending young*; adults carrying fecal sac/food for young, or feeding recent fledglings.*

NE *Nest with eggs*. *

NY *Nest with young* seen or heard. *

Exact location information is critical in order to enable the record to be placed in the NDDDB. GPS coordinates are the most desirable, however, a map (either printed or hand drawn) and detailed directions to the site are essential.

Completed forms should be sent to:

West of the CT River: Buzz Devine, 18 South Street, Plymouth, CT 06782.

East of the CT River: Dave Provencher, 43 Branch Hill Road, Preston, CT 06365.

Electronic Reports: COA web site. <http://www.ctbirding.org>

*Presence of cowbird egg or young is confirmation of both cowbird and host species.