



# BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Connecticut Ornithological Association  
VOLUME 2 NO. 1 SPRING 1988

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

COA ANNUAL MEETING -- MARCH 26th! (SEE DETAILS - PAGE 2)

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

RIVERS AND WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

April 23rd, 1988 (10 A.M. to 3 P.M.)

Central Connecticut State University

New Britain, CT 06850 -- Call (203) 364-0520

YALE UNIVERSITY  
ORNITHOLOGY LIBRARY

This Conference will feature workshops, lectures and seminars to increase your awareness of the state of our rivers and the wildlife that depends on them; provide information on current programs to protect these rivers; and offer suggestions for public involvement.

The educational aspect of these programs will also be highlighted to assist teachers and citizens in the development of comprehensive programs about our rivers. There will be representative speakers from the CT. River Watershed Council, Housatonic Valley Assoc., Dept. of Env. Protection -- Natural Resources, Water Quality, Marine Fisheries, VT. River Watch, U Conn. Dept. of Renewable Natural Resources, and many others. A must for anyone concerned with the state of our rivers!

The Conference registration fee of \$10 includes a bountiful buffet lunch and refreshments throughout the day. For more information cal (203) 364-0520.

DID YOU FORGET TO RENEW YOUR COA MEMBERSHIP?

COA relies on each of its members to carry out all of its projects. The support and participation of our members has been the key to our succsss. If you have not yet renewed your membership, would you please do so with this form. Thank you.

APPLICATION FOR 1988 MEMBERSHIP

Individual .....	\$10 per year	Sustaining .....	\$ 30 per year
Family .....	\$15 per year	*Life (Individual).....	\$300 per year
Contributing .....	\$20 per year	*Life (Husband & Wife) .....	\$450 per year

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

BIRD CLUB AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: The Connecticut Ornithological Association, 314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06430

\*Payable in three annual installments.

Dues and contributions are tax deductibl as allowed under the law.



COA ANNUAL MEETING -- MARCH 26th!

Science Tower of Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT.  
Registration 8:00-9:00 A.M. (\$4.00) Program begins at 9:00 A.M.

You should all have received an invitation to the 1988 COA Annual Meeting some weeks ago. While we realize some of you may receive this Bulletin on the eve of the meeting (even though it is being mailed on the 15th) here are last minute details that may perhaps entice you to attend.

There will be live birds on hand! Lots and lots of spectacular bird photography -- both slides and prints, and some fascinating presentations by Connecticut birders.

There will be concurrent presentations in the morning, so meeting attendees will have an opportunity to select those they would most like to hear.

The titles and speakers are:

- Ginger Bladen: Operating a Year-round Banding Field Station
- Winifred Burkett: Migrating Sparrows: Who Uses What Fields and Why
- Robert Braunfield: Preventing Predation in Bluebird Nest Boxes
- George Clark, Jr.: Special Features of Robin and Starling Bills
- Thomas Crossman: Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows Nesting at Bradley Airport
- Joclyn Hudon and Alan Brush: Unusual Pigmentations in Cedar Waxwings
- Gordon Lowery: Dynamics of a Black-capped Chickadee Population: 1958-1988
- Stuart and Janet Mitchell: What To Do Until the Doctor Comes; Raptor Rehabilitation (there will be birds on hand)
- Dwight Smith: Roost Site Selection by Eastern Screech Owls
- Jeffrey Spendelow: Roseate Terns Nesting at Falkner Island

There will be a break between the four sessions where juice, coffee, and donuts will be served.

Lunch 12:00-1:30 (on your own)

Business Meeting: 1:30-2:15. Election of Officers and Directors.  
Learn what is planned for COA in 1988.

Special Program: Connecticut Birds and the Arts 2:30-3:30.

This program will begin with a sampling of the creative talents of Connecticut birders, including photography, painting, carving, and writing. The various artists will discuss their individual styles and techniques to illustrate how these influence the character of their work.

- Michael DiGiorgio - Artist
- Julie Zickefoose - Artist
- Townsend Dickinson - Photographer
- Ray Schwartz - Photographer
- Bill Gaunya - Carver
- Michael Harwood - Writer

Social Gathering: 3:30-4:30. An informal gathering with donuts and cider.

SNOWY OWL REPORTS

Snowy Owls were banded and color-marked at Logan Airport, Boston, MA this winter by Mass. Audubon. They request that any color-marked birds you might have seen this winter be reported to them at (617) 259-9500, Ext. 7403.

The Owls were marked with two color bars across the back of the head. Top color denotes month of marking, the second represents the individual bird. Color combinations will be red, green, yellow and blue.

Please call Mass. Audubon if any color-marked birds were encountered.

SIGN UP NOW FOR FALL HAWK PROGRAM

Interested in counting Hawks and learning Hawk bonding at Hammonasset State Park this fall? Contact Clay Taylor, 24 Old Leesville Road, Moodus, CT 06469. (After June 1st at Meigs Point Nature Center, Hammonasset State Park, Madison, CT 06443.) A place to bunk down will be the minimum provided.

NEW RARE RECORDS REPORT FORM

Reproduced on page 4 is a new form for reporting any rare or unusual species, you may encounter. You should save this form for future use, or better yet, if able make photocopies so your BULLETIN stays in tact.

CORRECTION: CHRISTMAS COUNT PARTICIPATION

In the December BULLETIN it was erroneously stated that one could participate in a Christmas count without paying the \$4.00 fee and that not paying would simply mean not having your name appear in AMERICAN BIRDS. As several members pointed out, the official policy for the 1987 count was that you were required to pay to participate in an official Christmas count. In other words: "No Pay ... No Play." Perhaps this policy will be amended by count time this year.

MOST-WANTED LIST NOT VERY WANTED?

The response to the request form that appeared in the December 1987 issue of the BULLETIN asking members to send their list of their most-wanted state birds was disappointing!

Out of approximately 350 members, less than 30 mailed in completed forms.

Does this mean YOU, the reader thinks the whole idea of compiling a most-wanted list is a poor one? Hopefully that is not the case!

To encourage everyone to participate, there is a self-addressed reply card included with this BULLETIN. Please complete and return it!

It has been mentioned that newer birders might have felt intimidated by the previous request for their state total and the promise of seeing their name in print next to their list total.

So NOTE -- if you did not mail the form before because you were "turned off" by the state list business ... be assured, it is not necessary to give us either your state total or your name. There is space provided on the enclosed form, but don't feel you are obligated. Your most-wanted birds is what we're after.



DATE RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_ REPORT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ STATUS \_\_\_\_\_

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CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION RARE RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

This form is provided as a convenience for reporting unusual species; observers should use this form for only one report. Obtain as complete a description as possible during the observation and before consulting a field guide. Copies of original notes and sketches are welcomed. Attach additional sheets if needed.

NAME OF BIRD \_\_\_\_\_ DATE(S) OBSERVED \_\_\_\_\_

Locality (town and location):

Circumstances of observation -- include habitat, time of day, associated species, duration and quality of views (weather, light conditions, distance to bird, optical equipment):

Description - include size, shape, behavior, vocalizations, color and pattern of head, upperparts (back, wings, rump, tail), underparts, and soft parts (bill, eye, legs and feet); in a separate paragraph explain identification and elimination of similar species:

Documentation (photographs, recordings, etc. - include their location):

Observer's experience (overall and with this species):

Observer's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please print your name, address, and phone number on the back of this form. Also print the names and addresses of any other observers (they are encouraged to submit a separate report, especially if independent observations).

Return completed report to: Frank Mantlik, Secretary, Rare Records Committee,  
17 Seabreeze Place, South Norwalk, CT 06854.

RESULTS OF THE "MOST-WANTED" QUESTIONNAIRE

First, the listing of state totals. Of 29 forms returned, 23 members chose to disclose their state totals. Listed below, purely as a matter of interest (fun) are the totals mailed in. The names of individuals who have 300 plus species in the state are shown.

In the future, cards returned with a state total and a name may appear in the BULLETIN, so if you do not want your name next to your total, simply leave your name off your "Most-Wanted" card.

1. 314 Tom Baptist	9. 285	17. 219
2. 310 Mark Szantyr	10. 279	18. 208
3. 310 Carl Trichka	11. 262	19. 193
4. 308 Buzz Devine	12. 262	20. 131
5. 307 Neil Currie	13. 254	21. 130
6. 302 Frank Mantlik	14. 236	22. 126
7. 301 Betty Kleiner	15. 224	23. 119
8. 289	16. 221	

Second, the most sought after, most coveted species as revealed by the forms mailed in, the number of people wanting a species (out of 29 who responded) is shown:

1. Black Rail	19	11. Black Vulture	6
2. Sedge Wren	16	12. Blue Grosbeak	6
3. Yellow Rail	12	13. Bohemian Waxwing	6
4. Barrow's Goldeneye	10	14. Black-Legged Kittywake	6
5. Northern Hawk-Owl	9	15. Morning Warbler	5
6. Connecticut Warbler	9	16. Wilson's Phalarope	5
7. Prothonotary Warbler	9	17. Western Kingbird	5
8. Great Gray Owl	9	18. Pine Grosbeak	5
9. Gyrfalcon	6	19. Red Crossbill	5
10. Harlequin Duck	6	20. Snowy Owl	5

In all there were 122 species mentioned by the 29 participants, which just goes to show no two lists are the same.

Target birds ranged from accidentals only previously recorded in the state once or twice, such as Short-tailed Sandpiper and Wheatear to more realistic goals, such as Golden-winged Warbler, Golden Eagle, Turkey and Orchard Oriole.

The complete list of most-wanted birds will appear in the next issue of the BULLETIN IF the idea gets more support!

So sit down now and fill in your card ... and then mail it! Remember, if you don't want to put your state total in that's fine, or if you want to put your state total but not your name, that's fine too!

If we get more interest, we'll endeavor to give specific where-to-go advice for some of the more realistic species.

WHAT ARE YOUR CHANCES OF FINDING THE TOP BIRDS?

Not good ... which is why they are most-wanted. Here, to put the top five into perspective, are some historical records and comments from our state authorities:

Joseph D. Zeranski, Thomas R. Baptist -- (co-authors of the forthcoming publication, Connecticut Birds)



NOTES ON FIVE RARE SPECIES IN CONNECTICUT

Barrow's Goldeneye (Bucephala islandica)

This species is a very rare coastal visitor from mid November to April. It is reported more frequently from New Haven eastward, and has not been observed west of Westport. There are only two inland records: one in South Windsor in 1939 (Auk 57:244), and one in Woodbridge in 1976 (American Birds 30:691). It normally associates with Common Goldeneyes (Bucephala clangula). Identification of females in the field poses special difficulties -- they are nearly impossible to separate from the female Common Goldeneye.

Yellow Rail (Coturnicops noveboracensis)

The Yellow Rail is a very rare migrant from September to early December -- it is accidental in spring from late March to late May. Most records from the state are from before the early part of this century. It may be found along the drier fringes of coastal marshes and inland in fields. Its scarcity may be the result of the loss of habitat, the difficulty of detection, a decrease in numbers, or some combination thereof.

Black Rail (Laterallus jamaicensis)

This species is a very rare visitor from late May to early November. It has historically favored the Spartina patens marshes at the mouth of the Connecticut River. There are only two records of calling males in the state in the last eight years. It is at the northern limit of its range, and is therefore rare here.

Northern Hawk Owl (Surnia ulula)

The Northern Hawk Owl is an accidental winter visitor to Connecticut from October to late January. There are only five reports from the state -- two are specimen records from 1869 and 1902 (Merriam, Birds of Connecticut, 1877; Manter, The Birds of Storrs Connecticut and Vicinity, 1975.) The last credible sighting in the state was by George Griswold at South Windsor in 1934 (Auk 51:521).

Sedge Wren (Cistothorus platensis)

This elusive species is a very rare migrant from April to early May and from early september to late October. It is accidental in winter: a specimen was taken in February, 1953 at North Haven (Yale Peabody Museum #16029), and one was seen by Roger Tory Peterson in January, 1955. Unfortunately, it appears to be extirpated from the state as a nesting species -- the last recorded nestings were in 1972 and 1976 at Danbury and Salisbury respectively (American Birds 26:840, 31:231).

-- Joseph D. Zeranski, Thomas R. Baptist (co-authors of the forthcoming publication, Connecticut Birds)



WEST ROCK RIDGE AND VICINITY -- AN INTRODUCTION

By Stephen Broker

West Rock Ridge in the towns of New Haven, Hamden, Woodbridge and Bethany is one of the outstanding areas for studying natural history, hiking, bicycling and enjoying scenic views in southern Connecticut. It is also one of the most underutilized resources of our region, in spite of the fact that it is now a state park.

West Rock is a seven mile long, north-south trending trap rock ridge of late Triassic-early Jurassic origins (not quite 200 million years old). Together with the nearby Pine Rock, Mill Rock and East Rock, West Rock is the southern-most basaltic rock outcrop in a ridge system which runs through the Connecticut Valley Lowlands into Massachusetts.

East Rock Park in New Haven, which is a city-run park, currently is enjoying some much-needed restoration. This park is well known to birders, with great attention always being given to its wood warblers in the spring migration. This reputation is well-deserved, but I am convinced that East Rock affords a small fraction of the opportunities for the study of birds available at West Rock.

West Rock and vicinity includes ridgetops and slopes, and the immediate surrounding lowlands and bodies of water: West River, Lake Watrous, Lake Dawson, Konolds Pond, Wintergreen Brook and Lake Wintergreen. The region is bounded on the west by the Litchfield Turnpike (Route 69), on the north by High Rock (which is included in the defined area), on the east by roads east of Wintergreen Brook but including land adjacent to and north of the Hamden Town Dump off Wintergreen Road, and on the south by the southern terminus of the ridge. For the present discussion, I focus on that area of the ridge which includes Wintergreen Notch (through which the Wilbur Cross Parkway Tunnel runs), Konolds Pond, Lake Wintergreen, and the ridge top and slopes extending from the tall radio towers just north of the Notch down to the southern terminus.

Because of its elevation in a region of surrounding lowland, its proximity to the ameliorating climate of Long Island Sound, the particular thermal properties of basalt rock, its diversity of habitat types, and its history of preservation, West Rock is a unique area for a diversity of plant and animal life. It combines elements of northern and southern biota.

West Rock is believed to have the second highest concentration of rare and endangered plants in Connecticut. Among them are members of the Clubmoss, Polypody, Grass, Beech, Birthwort, Pink, Fumitory, Caesalpinia, Bean, Cactus, Borage, Mint, Honeysuckle, and Composite Families. Hairy Lip-Fern, Northern Drop-Seed, Post Oak, Virginia Snakeroot, Yellow Corydalis, Prickly Pear Cactus, and Torrey's Mountain Mint are some of the rarities growing here. They are all in need of protection.

Among animals, West Rock Ridge is an island refuge for many species, including rodents, red and gray fox, eastern coyote, river otter, and white-tailed deer. The range of eastern coyote now extends throughout the state, and one occasionally sees an individual on the ridgetop. I have found river otter in Wintergreen Brook, and the species has also been reported from Konolds Pond.

I shall begin a review of the bird life of West Rock Ridge and vicinity, and continue it in future bulletins. Based on my study of the ridge since the early 1980s, I have prepared a preliminary check-list of the birds which occur here as breeding species, wintering birds, spring or fall migrants, transients or accidentals. A number of the more uncommon species have been added to my list by Anthony H. Bledsoe, based on



his nine years of birding the region, and by Noble S. Proctor, who has studied the birds of West Rock for 27 years. Their input is greatly appreciated, as is that of others. The check-list consists of more than 220 species, subspecies and hybrids.

The topography of the ridge and vicinity, and the diversity of habitats afforded avian life allows for a broad range of species, including loons, grebes, cormorants, bitterns, herons and egrets, swans, geese and ducks, hawks, eagles and falcons, game birds, shorebirds, doves, owls, woodpeckers, flycatchers, swallows, crows and jays, mockingthrushes, wood warblers, tanagers, cardinals and grosbeaks, sparrows, blackbirds, finches and redpolls. Rarities and notable species include: Red-necked Grebe, both bitterns, Tundra Swan, Green-winged (Common) Teal, Barrow's Goldeneye, Black Vulture, Bald and Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Gyrfalcon, Wild Turkey, two phalarope species, Glaucous Gull, Black Tern, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, both shrikes, Philadelphia Vireo, "Brewster's Warbler," "Lawrence's Warbler," Orange-crowned Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, Henslow's Sparrow, Pine Grosbeak, and both redpolls.

It is not just the rarities that make West Rock an outstanding place to bird. The bodies of water provide an abundance of water birds, hawk flights are impressive along the ridge, spring and fall migrants are easily observed from the paved road (Baldwin Drive) that climbs the east side of the ridge and spans the ridgetop, and breeding birds are numerous and varied. There are many spots from which one can look slightly up to, across to, or down on tree tops, thus avoiding the neck cramps so characteristic of much of East Rock.

To get you started this spring, I'll mention several areas particularly good for birding. Grab a map to get your bearings, or ask for one at the new ranger gate house opposite the West Rock Nature Center parking lot, on Wintergreen Road (east side of ridge). Once the tourist season begins, the southern terminus is open to motor vehicles for a small fee, and the drive is well worth it. All of New Haven, the shoreline, Long Island Sound, and Long Island are to be seen in a broad panorama. After driving up, drive back down, park your car, and walk back up toward north or south for the real fun. Try these spots:

1. The east slopes and lowlands. Park at the Nature Center or the city-run lot across the street, if it's open. Walk to the flagpole and little gate house. Wander thickets, roads and trails from here. To the left is the road to Judges' Cave and the terminus, to the right is Wintergreen Notch and the north portion of the ridgetop. Ten minutes or more should be spent scouting around laurel thickets and treetops. In spring migration, this place is very impressive. Arrival dates in recent years have been: 2nd week in April: Pine Warbler, Palm, Yellow-rumped; 3rd week: Louisiana Waterthrush (predictable at Nature Center waterfall); 4th week: Black-and-White Warbler, Black-throated Green, Blue-winged; latest April: Ovenbird, Black-throated Blue. First week in May: 12 additional parulids, including Worm-eating, Northern Parula, Prairie, Cerulean, Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian; 2nd week: everything else! Peak days for species arrivals in last three years have been May 1 & 8 (1985), May 3 (1986), and May 3, 4, and 11 (1987). The slope between flagpole and talus foot path (due west of pole, uphill) is most impressive for Bay-breasted, Canada, Redstart, and the occasional Hooded. Just upslope from talus trail, Worm-eating Warbler breeds annually. In Wintergreen Notch, ovenbird and Black-and-White breed. From the Notch trail, one can see Great-crested Flycatcher, Northern Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak with ease after first week in May arrivals. Back on lower portion of road leading to Judges' Cave, the various thrush species are seen hopping on the road. Wood thrush song is most evident. Also down here, Northern Flicker, Downy and Hairy Woodpecker, nuthatch, Brown Creeper, and occasional Red-tailed Hawk.



2. The "third slope". Continuing the hike to the ridgetop north of Wintergreen Notch, (from talus trail or road), one passes just below the ventilation shaft tower for the Parkway Tunnel. This begins perhaps the best stretch of birding on the ridge. Here, either side of the road should be worked patiently, or frantically on busy days. In the lower, sumac thickets, find Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, American Goldfinch at the goldenrod, Eastern Phoebe nesting under ventilation shaft roof. Keep looking overhead for migrant loons, cormorants, and raptors. From here all the way up the road, flocks of migrants work their way upslope and across the road. Halfway up, a flat rock shelf is exposed on the upslope side. In this vicinity, Blue-winged Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, Indigo Bunting, House Wren, Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Thrasher, and Common Yellowthroat all set up territory and breed. Further up, near the "third curve", "Brewster's Warbler" was observed in 1985. Red-eyed Vireo calls repetitively from downslope.

3. The ridgetop. Continuing up the road to the 4th and final curve, one finds another hot spot for birding. Work the curve and island (where road splits slightly) for thicket birds, and treetops for migrant flocks. Climb in among sumacs to look down on 3rd slope treetops. Cerulean Warbler has been seen from here. Then, proceed along Baldwin Drive to the radio tower on right, and the spectacular Konolds Pond Lookout on left. At the radio tower, laurel thicket produce abundant birds, including thrasher, towhee, cardinals, chickadees and titmice, many warbler species, including Hooded, and more flycatchers, wrens, vireos, oriole, tanager, and grosbeak. At the point of the lookout (there are actually two trodden paths to the precipitous edge here), thickets hold Prairie Warbler, Ovenbird, tail-bobbing Palm Warbler, Solitary Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, some thrushes. Also, Magnolia Warbler and the various treetop warbler species. The Lookout itself allows good binocular viewing or scoping of Konolds Pond. Without plummeting to the bottom, look for American Kestrel, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks flying by, Turkey Vulture, and Buteo species. The walk further north along the road will turn up some additional species, and various pockets produce good opportunities for Eastern Phoebe, Brown Thrasher, Great-crested Flycatcher, and the woodpeckers, including Pileated. For the industrious, Lake Dawson Lookout beckons to the north, with a pleasantly quiet walk through the oak-hickory forest.

4. Konolds Pond. On the opposite (west) side of the ridge, reached by driving around the southern terminus, going under the parkway, and taking Route 69 a short distance to farm land and a panoramic view of the ridge. Parking is catch as catch can, in the light industry area just south of the pond, or off Route 69. At the pond, scope northwest and northeast corners, southern edge by industry buildings, and southern lobe of Konolds. Look for American Bittern, herons and egrets, Mute Swan (which collects in large numbers here, and breeds in much smaller numbers), a large Wood Duck population, both teals, many Ring-necked Ducks in early spring, raptors flying over the ridge, wading birds, and numerous passerine fly-arounds. Then, walk the dirt road between pond and ridge to the north, to two old field localities, then further north to the forested Woodbridge Loop Trail. Chestnut-sided, Worm-eating, Black-and-White, and Blue-winged Warblers regularly breed along the dirt road. American Woodcock is found in the wetland area just north of the pond. In the wooded regions of the Loop Trail, Pileated Woodpecker may be found. Taking some extra time, it's worth the walk to the base of the cliff face, just opposite Konolds Pond. This may involve some low level trespassing. It's also hard hat country, if you get too close to the cliff. This area is the site of a former quarry, and the columnar basalt columns have a habit of breaking off as talus slope and entropy increase. The vertical cliff is the closest thing that we have to Yosemite's El Capitan, however. Happy birding, here and elsewhere!



5. Lake Wintergreen. If you're doing this in sequence, you'll now have to drive back over to the east side of the ridge. Proceed past the West Rock Nature Center and around two big bends to Wintergreen School on the right, then Main Street on the left. Take Main Street, which looks anything but main in its size, down the low grade the equivalent of a city block to the dirt parking area of Lake Wintergreen. Don't park in front of the "water company" gate. The hiking and birding here are delightful, and a good portion of time is required to do it well. To the south is Lake Wintergreen, which never seems to be too inspiring for birding. On the way, however, one passes excellent marshland and thickets, and there are birds found here which are not found elsewhere in the region. "Lawrence's Warbler" gives evidence of breeding here annually, and in fact there are records of this Blue-winged - Golden-winged Warbler hybrid collected here in the early 1900s. Other species: Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed Vireo, numerous Yellow Warblers, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Turning back to the north and walking along the wide path paralleling Wintergreen Brook, one finds Green-backed Heron, an occasional Virginia Rail, Blue-winged Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Redstarts, Sparrows, Cedar Waxwing, and other species. The state steadfastly refuses to mow down abundant poison ivy, making the walk less pleasant as the season progresses. Also, as tick season advances, and because of the tall grasses, one has to watch the clothing (fortunately, not for the Lyme Disease species of tick). Birding here is not, regrettably, without its distractions.

-- Stephen Broker

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