



# BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Connecticut Ornithological Association

VOLUME 2

NO. 4

WINTER 1988

## REPORT ON MAY 1988 BIG DAY COMPILATIONS

Five groups of birders contributed to this compilation. Dates for the "Big Days" ranged from May 14th to May 22nd. The cumulative list of the five groups included 207 species plus one race (Bullock's Oriole).

Missing from the list of 207 were a few species we might have expected to see in that time period: Blue-winged Teal, Common Gallinule, Common Snipe, Water Pipit, Philadelphia Vireo, Mourning Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Lincoln's Sparrow, all of which have been seen on "Big Days" in other years, but are never easy to find.

Notable on the cumulative list were Common Raven (in two places) and the hard-to-find Gray-cheeked Thrush. Also notable were species that were probably lingering: Snow Goose, Shoveler, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Surf and White-winged Scoter, and Merlin, and Peregrine.

-- Neil Currie --

## NOTES ON THE FALL 1988 HAWK MIGRATION

The fall migration was once again spectacular. At Quaker Ridge in Greenwich, a record 40,000 hawks including 34,000 Broadwings, were counted. The biggest day was September 16th, when over 13,000 Broadwings passed the lookout. At Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven, with observers still on hand in November, the count is over 24,000. In the Fall BULLETIN, Hawk Watching in Connecticut, we attempted to explain when and where to see migrating hawks in our state. We noted that at Lighthouse Point the most abundant species, consistently, is the Sharp-shinned Hawk. Wouldn't you know it! This year, after September 14th, Broadwings were along the shore in great numbers. Thus, the 9,300 seen at Lighthouse this fall made them number one. In addition to the above, South Windsor reported over 2,500 hawks, Southbury (Flat Hill) over 5,500, and Whippoorwill Hill in Newtown over 7,800. For details on the hawk migration, watch for the field notes in an upcoming Warbler.

-- Neil Currie --

**HELP! I NEED OWL PELLETS.** They are a very effective, hands-on method for teaching children about owls, and I have used up my supply. I will be teaching several children's classes on owls this winter and sure could use some pellets. If you have pellets you wouldn't mind parting with, or know where I could collect some, please let me know. Winnie Burkett, (203) 429-3194, 17 Southwood Road, Storrs, CT 06368.

**BIRD PHOTOGRAPHERS** -- Sam Fried, President of the Hartford Audubon Society and a professional bird photographer, will now do for COA members what he has been doing for himself. He will duplicate your bird slides, enlarging and cropping as requested, to make the bird a larger part of the image. This can make your slide presentations much more interesting and effective. Fried also makes custom Cibachrome prints from bird slides. For more information, contact him at 90 Sunny Reach Drive, West Hartford, CT 06117, (203) 232-6763.

2

TIME ONCE AGAIN TO MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS COUNTS PLANS

Christmas Counts are a wonderful mix of serious birding and socializing. Taking part in a count is a marvelous excuse to indulge in your favorite pastime instead of finishing your Christmas shopping or cleaning up the house after holiday houseguests have left.

It's a great time for renewing acquaintances, enjoying a day's birding with friends and contributing, in a very real sense, to our knowledge of the birds of the state.

It's also a time when rarities are turned up, and count participants who learn of a "good bird" first are best able to "chase it." Anyone seriously trying to build a state list should take part in as many counts as possible.

In Connecticut we have seventeen recognized counts to choose from.

Which brings up the point -- many counts are in serious need of more observers.

The following list of State Christmas Counts has been compiled to encourage Members to take part in new counts. Most of us have "our own" favorite count, but why not get out to a different part of the state? It's a great way to add to your own knowledge of good birding spots, and by taking part in other counts you're making a real contribution to the state records.

So here are seventeen Christmas Counts to consider. All compilers will welcome your call ... they are looking for help!

OXFORD

Sunday, December 18th

Contact: Buzz Devine 888-5161  
Mark Szantyr 756-8362

Compilation at: Sam Wheeler's house  
8 Mountain Rd., Seymour

QUINNIPIAC VALLEY

Sunday, December 18th

Contact: Wilford Schultz 265-6398  
James McBride 235-4976

Compilation at: 93 Harrison Rd.,  
Wallingford

SALMON RIVER

(Mattabeseck Audubon  
Society)

Sunday, December 18th

Contact: David Titus 635-1544

Compilation at: 376 Main St., Cornwall

STORRS

(Natchaug Orn.  
Society)

Saturday, December 17th

Contact: Winnie Burkett 429-3194

TRAIL WOOD

Tuesday, December 27th  
Contact: Sam Higgins 429-3219

STRATFORD-MILFORD  
(Official COA Count)

Wednesday, December 28th  
Contact: Fred Sibley 453-9345  
Frank Gallo 562-4241

Compilation at: Milford Point Sanctuary  
Total Species 86: 119

COMMENTS: This count is held mid-week so as not to conflict with other counts, but needs more observers! Even if you can only put in a half-day, call.

Count has the potential to be the highest total in the state with a good mix of species.

WESTPORT

Sunday, December 18th  
Contact: Frank Mantlik 454-1950  
Ed Hiestand 227-7253

Compilation at: Nature Center for  
Environmental Activities  
10 Woodside Lane  
Westport 06880

Total Species (Normal expect about 110)

COMMENTS: Recent highlights from past several years include Bald Eagles, Water Pipit, Lark Sparrow, Red-headed Woodpecker, Merlin, Tundra Swan, Gr. White-fronted Goose, King eider. This is the 40th consecutive year for this count.

WOODBURY-ROXBURY

Saturday, December 17th  
Contact: Aldro Jenks 263-2613

Compilation at: Woodbury Community House

COMMENTS: Recent highlights include: 12 Bald Eagles, 202 Bluebirds, 177 Golden-crowned Kinglets.

BARKHAMSTED

Monday, December 26th  
Contact: Dave Rosgen 567-3411 567-5281  
Dave Tripp (jr) 379-9237

Compilation at: Roaring Brook Nature Center

COMMENTS: Third year for this count, which needs your support.

NEW LONDON

Saturday, December 31st  
Contact: Bob Dewire (W) 536-1216  
(H) 599-3085

Compilation at: 7 Mary Butler Dr., Waterford

GREENWICH-STAMFORD

Sunday, December 18th

Contact: Tom Baptist (914) 628-11128  
Gary Palmer 661-4897

COMMENTS: Recent highlights include: Red-necked Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, Rough-legged Hawk, Merlin, Gr. Yellowlegs, Yellow-breasted Chat, Snowy Owl, N. Oriole.

HARTFORD

Saturday, December 31st

Contact: Jay Kaplan 693-0157  
Compilation at: Westmour Park, Flagg Rd  
West Hartford  
(7:30 pm, Jan. 2, 1989)

HIDDEN VALLEY

Monday, January 2nd

Contact: Jeane Kaufman 355-1688

Sibyll Gilbert (914) 855-3266  
Rt. 1, Box 236, Pawling NY 12564

Compilation at: Pattterson/Pawling Town Hall

COMMENTS: This count straddles the NY-CT state line. CT birds are tallied separately and sent to COA, in addition to full count data. We have many interesting areas to cover, but very few observers. We welcome more help from other counts.

LAKEVILLE-SHARON

Sunday, December 18th

Contact: Bob Moeller 364-5936

Compilation at: Northeast Audubon Center

COMMENTS: Should produce Ravens! 14 Saw Whet Owls.

LITCHFIELD HILLS

Sunday, December 18th

Contact: Ray Belding 485-1368

Compilation at: Litchfield Grange Hall,  
Rt. 202

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB

Saturday, December 17th

Contact: Bob Dewire (W) 536-1216  
(H) 599-3085

Compilation at: 7 Mary Butler Dr., Waterford

OLD LYME-SAYBROOK

Sunday, January 1st

Contact: Jay Hand 434-0213  
76 Still Lane, Old Lyme 06371

Compilation at: Essex Town Hall

**"LOCAL LISTING" UPDATE**

Many birders keep lists, usually life lists. Bird lists may consist of the total number of species identified by an observer or a group during a specific time or within a particular geographic area, or both. There are year lists, local lists, big day lists, yard lists, and any number of other lists.

Beginning in 1989, the COA Bulletin will annual publish members' lists which may be of interest to other members (PROVIDED WE RECEIVE SUFFICIENT INTEREST!). We plan to do this to acknowledge the most active field people, to encourage more intense local birding, to more deeply explore the birding potential of a great variety of areas, and to satisfy readers who find lists interesting reading.

All COA members are encouraged to fill out the list form provided below, even if just for a town list. These have been included for those who make special birding efforts in a few local areas. Naturally, each person sets the criteria for his or her own lists and should continue to do so. But to insure that the published lists are based upon the same criteria, some guidelines have been established.

- a) A person's list should consist of those birds identified by that person.
- b) A list should consist of non-captive birds (those not in banding nets or in the hand), species which have been accepted by the Connecticut Rare Records Committee.
- c) Lists shall contain species identified through December 31, 1988.

This form shall be mailed by January 15, 1989 to insure publication.

TODD WEINTZ  
50 WATER STREET  
S. NORWALK, CT 06854

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**LIST FORM**

Observer (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Tel # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Conn. List Total (All Time) \_\_\_\_\_ Conn. Year List (19\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Town Lists:  
Town \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

County List:  
County \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

**BIG DAY LIST:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Observers: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Noteworthy Species: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

General Route: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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COA DIRECTORY

COA OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

President:	Carl Trichka 259-2623	Program:	George Zepko 347-1133
V. Pres:	Debra Miller (617) 520-1289	Publicity:	Roland C. Clement 838-8619
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Secretary:	Winnie Burkett 429-3194	Bulletin:	Todd Weintz 938-3934
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