

THE BULLETIN

The newsletter of the Connecticut Ornithological Association
Volume 3, Number 2, Fall 1989

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October 15, 1989

Dear COA Member:

We are pleased to announce that the Connecticut Ornithological Association's Connecticut Field List has been published and will be available for distribution as soon as we work out the details for its sale. We gratefully accepted a generous donation from Richard English, Founding Member, of East Haven, for the full cost of printing the checklist. Mr. English has been an active member on the Rare Records Committee and after working on the checklist also gave his financial support.

We thank Mr. English for his generosity.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors, September 19th, Louis Bevier of Storrs, was confirmed as a director to complete a term (to 1990) for Todd Weintz. Louis serves as the secretary for our Rare Records Committee after working on a similar committee in California. He is also working on the final stages of the Breeding Bird Atlas (see update from Marshall Case later in this newsletter). Welcome Louis.

COA has recently accepted a request to exchange journals with The Ohio Cardinal which is published by a new group. In our correspondence, Ed Pierce, co-editor of their journal expressed the following: "We feel very privileged to have received an acceptance from such an impressive publication. Learning more about Connecticut bird life and birders will help us."

At first I was amused by this comment, to think that someone expressed this -- to us. Then I realized that we are no longer the new guys on the block and other groups are beginning to hear things about us. Nice things.

Take care and keep looking up.

Debra Miller, President

MABEL OSGOOD WRIGHT AWARD

The Connecticut Ornithological Association has created the Mabel Osgood Wright Award to recognize the contributions of Connecticut citizens in stimulating popular awareness of the value of birds in the natural environment.

The award will be made periodically, not necessarily annually, depending on the recommendations of an Award Committee, currently

chaired by Roland C. Clement. The committee invites "at large" nominations which should include a one-page biography of the nominee(s), to be sent to Roland C. Clement, 71 Weed Ave., Norwalk, CT 06850, by December 1, 1989.

The Award Committee has recommended to the Board that the award be named after a distinguished predecessor whose life and work exemplified the qualities considered to be important in selecting a recipient. The Board has accepted the recommendation of Mabel Osgood Wright.

Mabel Osgood Wright (1859-1934) was born in New York City but became a resident of Fairfield, Connecticut after her marriage to James O. Wright. In 1897, she published Citizen Bird, the book that surprised and delighted a whole generation because it introduced the bird illustrations of Louis Agassiz Fuertes. She later wrote Birdcraft, a popular guide to bird song and bird identification, also illustrated by Fuertes; and The Friendship of Nature, one of the first calls for animal rights.

In 1898, she was a founding member and the first president of the Audubon Society of the State of Connecticut, and served as president for 26 years. Wright was a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Audubon Societies from 1905 to 1928, and was an assistant editor of Bird-Lore magazine from 1899 to 1911.

It is likely that no other Connecticut citizen had a greater impact on the environmental consciousness of the Connecticut citizenry than this versatile nature enthusiast.

NOTE FROM ROLAND C. CLEMENT

Bill McKibben's long article in the September 11, 1989 issue of New Yorker magazine, "The End of Nature", is probably the single most important statement on the environmental crisis of our day. Earlier books, like William Vogt's Road To Survival (1948), Aldo Leopold's Sand County Almanac (1949), and Rachael Carson's Silent Spring (1963) were consciousness-raising, one issue alarms about what we are doing to our planet. McKibben's plea for a reexamination of our traditional commitments to economic growth is all-inclusive, persuasive, and prophetic.

TIPS FOR FILLING OUT FIELD REPORT FORMS

Betty Kleiner

The Field Notes are both a vital part of The Connecticut Warbler and a compiled record of bird sightings within the State of Connecticut. They are the only published field records, showing trends, breeding data, migration and winter patterns. Therefore,

the editors have some requests in filling out these forms.

The following tips will help to simplify and speed up the process of compiling the Field Notes for publication in the journal and will therefore help in keeping us on schedule. We appreciate your cooperation.

1. Please write legibly! If we can't read your writing, it may be difficult to use your data.
2. Include the name of the town, as well as the location, in your sightings. We don't know where every pond, reservoir, nature preserve, etc. is located in the state.
3. If you have additional data that you would like to include, use a separate piece of paper. Squeezing additional information into the margin or between spaces on the report form makes for difficult reading.
4. If you include other people's names on your form, be sure you have the correct spelling.
5. Put only data for the report period on the report form; i.e. June data should not be on the Spring report form and August data should not be on the summer form. It is difficult to go back over previous forms after they have been filed away.
6. We need more birders to fill out report forms. It will give a better overall picture of the birds in Connecticut.
7. If you can't get your report in by the 10 day deadline after each reporting period, send it along anyway. We can still use the data.
8. Please use proper taxonomic order when submitting your reports.

Remember - only your reports can detail what is happening to the birds in Connecticut.

NOTE TO AMERICAN BIRDS CONTRIBUTORS

Charles Duncan sends this letter to all who contribute Field Reports to American Birds.

21 September 1989

Dear American Birds contributor:

It's no secret that many times the old Northeastern Maritime regional reports were a source of great frustration: often appearing late, incompletely, or not at all. Last year the region was split and there is a New England Region which now includes

Vermont, and which is separate from the Canadian Maritimes. The split seems to be successful so far, and it gives us a chance to make some major improvements in our reporting, record-keeping, and publishing efforts. This letter attempts to explain, from the viewpoint of the Regional Editors, ways in which you can help us to improve this process. Each state record-keeping publication will have its own timetables, format, and desired information. It is not our place or our wish to interfere with these. Our suggestions here refer only to material which will be used in writing our Regional Reports. Please contact your State or Subregional editor if you are unsure what their wishes and needs are!

Foremost for everyone to appreciate is how tight our editorial deadlines are. As an example, the current Fall Migration reporting period ends on November 30. The finished Regional Report must then be to the American Birds editors (Susan Drennan, Kenn Kaufman, and the poor soul doing the Changing Seasons column) by January 15. For a region the size of ours, the Regional Editor needs about three weeks of hard work to write the report once all submissions have been received. Conclusion: Your fall migration observations have to be in the editor's hands by December 20. If you contribute to a journal (Maine Bird Notes, or Field Notes of Rhode Island Birds, for example) which sends edited notes to us, it seems inescapable that your state editor must have your submissions by December 10 at the very latest! (If a record is genuinely significant, please send it to us even if you have missed these deadlines. It can be published as an addendum, and is important for our understanding of the region's birdlife in any event.)

WE RECOMMEND IN THE STRONGEST TERMS POSSIBLE THAT YOU SEND IN YOUR REPORTS MONTHLY, WITHIN A DAY OR TWO OF THE END OF THE MONTH, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

Most contributors send in excellent reports. Here's a checklist you can use to judge yours:

- Clear handwriting or typing
- Observers' names, not just initials
- Correct AOU name of the species
- Species in correct taxonomic order
- Convincing description (perhaps brief), photo, sketch, or tape recording so any unusual records can be evaluated
- Location (include state!) with reference to the nearest town (not just "Riverside Park parking lot" as we have received)
- Statement of significance: why you are sending in this report (typically: "high", "late", "first ever here", "fewer than normal this season")

If you have been birding an area for some time and you have been a good record-keeper over the years, please give us your appraisal of the situation, e.g. "few dabblers this season, but lots of Great Auks inland".

Please! Do not send us long checklists with arrival or departure dates for many, many species. Most of these dates fall well within the expected periods. It is most laudable that you keep such detailed records, but only the atypical ones will be worth publishing in American Birds. It increases our efforts enormously to sift the wheat from the chaff, and you can probably do it more knowledgeably than we can since you are more aware of your own local scene. Keep these data for yourself and perhaps your state editors, but only send us the unusual ones. Also, please don't send us a narrative about a birding trip, and expect us to extract the dates and locations of your best finds.

It's clear from your reports that many contributors keep records in some sort of computerized database. We are exploring ways in which the use of computer technology can streamline our reporting process. Please, if you would, drop a note to Charlie Duncan describing the program and the hardware you are using. Anyone who might be interested in a one-week workshop on the use of database programs for storing bird data (hands on, using IBM/AT&T computers) perhaps in summer 1990 is also urged to send a note to Charlie. Let him know if you are a raw beginner or a professional systems analyst.

With best wishes for good birding,

Blair Nikula
Winter season (1 December - 28 February)
23 Atwood Lane
Chatham, MA 02633

Simon Perkins
Spring Migration (1 March - 31 May)
Massachusetts Audubon Society
Drumlin Farm
Lincoln, MA 01773

Wayne Petersen
Nesting Season (1 June - 31 July)
Massachusetts Audubon Society
Drumlin Farm
Lincoln, MA 01773

Charles Duncan
Autumn Migration (1 August - 31 November)
Institute for Field Ornithology
University of Maine at Machias
9 O'Brien Avenue
Machias, ME 04654

90th ANNUAL NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1989 - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1990
CONNECTICUT COUNTS

NORTHERN COUNTS

BARKEHAMSTED, CT (BA CT) Tuesday, December 26, 1989

Compilers: David Rosgen David Tripp, Jr.
 P.O. Box 1465 RFD-2
 Sharon, CT 06069 Winsted, CT 06098
 203-567-5281 203-379-9237

EDWIN WAY TEALE TRAIL WOOD, CT (EW CT) Saturday, December 30, 1989

Compiler: Marilynn Higgins
 P.O. Box 36
 Chaplin, CT 06235
 203-429-9103

HARTFORD, CT (HA CT) Saturday, December 30, 1989

Compilers: Jay Kaplan Stephen A. Davis
 71 Gracey Road 17 Briar Lane
 Canton, CT 06019 Bloomfield, CT 06002
 203-693-0157 203-242-2135

LITCHFIELD HILLS, CT (LH CT) Sunday, December 17, 1989

Compiler: Ray Belding
 29 Windmill Road
 Harwinton, CT 06791
 203-485-1368

LAKEVILLE-SHARON, CT (LS CT) Sunday, December 17, 1989

Compiler: Bob Moeller
 P.O. Box 1119
 Sharon, CT 06069
 203-364-5936

STORRS, CT (ST CT) Saturday, December 16, 1989

Compiler: Winifred Burkett
 17 Southwood Road
 Storrs, CT 06268
 203-429-3194

MID-STATE COUNTS

HIDDEN VALLEY, NY-CT (HV NY)

Monday, January 1, 1990

Compilers: Sibyll Gilbert
RD1, Box 236
Pawling, NY 12564
914-855-3266

Jeanne Kauffman
RD2, Box 36
Sherman, CT 06784
203-355-1688

OXFORD, CT (OX CT)

Sunday, December 17, 1989

Compiler: Buzz Devine
18 South Street
Plymouth, CT 06782
203-283-0744

QUINNIPIAC VALLEY, CT (QV CT)

Sunday, December 17, 1989

Compiler: Wilford Schultz
93 Harrison Road
Wallingford, CT 06492
203-265-6398

SALMON RIVER, CT (SR CT)

Sunday, December 17, 1989

Compiler: David A. Titus
376 Main Street
Cromwell, CT 06416
203-635-1544

WOODBURY-ROXBURY, CT (WR CT)

Saturday, December 16, 1989

Compilers: Michael Harwood
P.O. Box 51
Washington, CT 06793
203-868-2606

Mark Szantyr
25 Bonair Avenue
Waterbury, CT 06710
203-756-8362

COASTAL COUNTS

GREENWICH-STAMFORD, CT (GS CT)

Sunday, December 17, 1989

Compilers: Thomas Baptist
103 Sunset Hill Road
Redding, CT 06896
203-938-8078

Canfield Clark
12 Heather Lane
Greenwich, CT 06831
203-531-4857

Gary Palmer
34 Field Road
Cos Cob, CT 06807
203-661-4897

NEW HAVEN, CT (NH CT)

Saturday, December 16, 1989

Compilers: Stephen P. Broker Frank Gallo
76 Diamond Street P.O. Box 3391
New Haven, CT 06515 New Haven, CT 06515
(H) 203-387-0798 (H) 203-562-4241
(W) 203-432-5110 (W) 203-787-8028

NEW LONDON, CT (NL CT)

Saturday, December 30, 1989

Compiler: Robert Dewire
9 Canary Street
Pawcatuck, CT 06379
203-536-1216

OLD LYME-SAYBROOK, CT (OL CT)

Sunday, December 31, 1989

Compiler: Jay Hand
76 Old Sill Lane
Old Lyme, CT 06371
203-434-0213

STRATFORD-MILFORD, CT (SM CT)

Wednesday, December 27, 1989

Compilers: Fred C. Sibley Steve Mayo
25 Shirley Street 136 Beach Avenue
Naugatuck, CT 06770 Milford, CT 06460
203-729-3582 203-877-0445

WESTPORT, CT (WE CT)

Sunday, December 17, 1989

Compilers: Frank W. Mantlik Ed Hiestand
17 Seabreeze Place P.O. Box 176
South Norwalk, CT 06854 10 Woodside Lane
203-838-1694 Westport, CT 06880
203-227-7253

PEREGRINE FALCON REHABILITATED IN PORTLAND

A 2 year-old female Peregrine Falcon was found July 12th at the Hartford Club in Hartford. The bird wore two bands: a Fish and Wildlife band with the number 180700275 and another band reading G75G. It was one of five peregrines raised at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst last summer.

Jan and Stuart Mitchell, raptor rehabilitators from Portland, nursed Gee Gee (nicknamed from her band) back to health and released her a month later.

POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

We are compiling a list of individuals interested in working on wildlife-related projects underway at the University of Connecticut. We anticipate having several graduate assistant-ships available, and we are also recruiting volunteers. Current and forthcoming projects include the biology of wintering waterfowls, energetics of Bald Eagles, wildlife use of wetlands, wildlife habitats in New York Harbor, and effects of habitat fragmentation on wildlife.

If you would like to be placed on our list, send your name, phone number, and a brief statement of your qualifications to Drs. Robert Craig and John Barclay, Dept. of Natural Resource Management and Engineering, U-87, UConn, Storrs, CT 06269-4087.

"FLIGHTS OF FANCY"

COA member Sam Fried offers interesting and varied lectures for birding, nature, camera or garden clubs. Included are programs on "birding hotspots" around North America, such as the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, the Big Bend Country of West Texas, Newfoundland and Labrador, Southeast Arizona, Manitoba and Churchill, and Attu Island, Alaska. Fried also does lectures on owls, hummingbirds, birds of prey, and the birds of Connecticut.

Fried also offers custom photographic printing and slide duplicating/enlarging services. Since he knows how birds should appear and does all the photo work himself, he can print your slides or enlarge them exactly the way you would like.

If you would like more information about the nature programs, or the photographic services, please call or write: Flights of Fancy, Sam Fried, 90 Sunny Reach Drive, West Hartford, CT 06117, 203-232-6763.

For those of you who missed the workshop presentation given by Jocelyn Hudon and Alan H. Brush at COA's 1988 annual meeting, you may have a second chance. Hudon and Brush have had their article "Probable Dietary Basis of a Color Variant of the Cedar Waxwing" published in The Journal of Field Ornithology, Volume 60 (Summer 1989), No. 3, pp. 361-368.

Reprints are available from the authors. Address correspondence to Brush at the Department of Physiology and Neurobiology, U-42, The University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut 06268.

There was also an article on this work in Connecticut Audubon, Fall 1989. The article, by William Clede, was titled "The Case of the Orange-banded Waxwings!"

CONNECTICUT BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT UPDATE

Marshall Case, Vice President for Education, National Audubon Society sends along the following update on the Connecticut Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

National Audubon Society, Audubon Council of Connecticut, and Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection with Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Natural Resources Center signed an agreement on July 30, 1988 "to participate in the final manuscript preparation and publication". In the memorandum of understanding, the Natural Resources Center agrees:

- (a) to contract with a mutually acceptable ornithologist to prepare the text and descriptions of breeding birds and to extract certain data on species of special concern for inclusion in the DEP's Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base.
- (b) all inventory data, records and materials supplied to the Center and its contractor are the property of the National Audubon Society and Audubon Council of Connecticut and said inventory data, records and materials shall be kept in confidence until the publication is released.
- (c) publish a "Connecticut Breeding Bird Atlas" in a format and style mutually acceptable to both parties of this agreement.

The National Audubon Society and the Audubon Council of Connecticut agrees "to provide the breeding bird inventory data, materials, distributional maps and line drawings of breeding birds needed for publication of a 'Connecticut Breeding Bird Atlas'" and to financially assist the Natural Resources Center in securing ornithological services.

Louis Bevier has been hired to be the lead editor, along with Noble Proctor, George Clark, Dave Rosgen, George Zepko, Chris Wood and Marshall Case. Louis comes to this project with high recommendations and a first publication is to be ready by the fall of 1990, or earlier. Connecticut resident and artist, Michael DiGiorgio, has been contracted to produce 200 drawings for the atlas.

Chris Wood is heading up our Council's wildlife committee and Marshall Case has been project coordinator. George Zepko has accomplished the major assignment of pulling all of the data together on the Wesleyan University computer and using his expertise with the species mapping of the entire project. Dave Rosgen completed his assignment as atlas field coordinator in the fall of 1988. Louis is now heading up the data and species accounts writing and coordination.

FIELD ENCOUNTERS OF THE WORST KIND
Janet Mitchell, Cox Road, Portland, CT 06480
(203) 342-2672

The chance encounter with an injured bird increases during migration periods. Not only are there more birds in the flyways, but there are more birders watching the phenomenon. Many of us will schedule our vacations to coincide with this time.

The sight of *Passer domesticus* at MacDonald's caught in the outdoor disposal bin may not slow us down in our day's bird quest. However, the sight of *Pandion haliaetus* carrying and caught in a treble hook fishing plug or a dazed and bloodied *Falco peregrinus* fresh from an auto impact may prompt us to take some action.

Perhaps the following few words will give you a modicum of confidence when you encounter an injured bird in the field for the first time. There are rehabilitators located throughout the state. You may be only moments from assistance with your rescue mission.

If the bird appears to be critical or in extremis and your own personal philosophy tells you to let nature take its course...good for you. You could consider euthanasia on the spot. If you embrace this philosophy you probably have the strength to carry it out and are familiar with the acceptable methods. If you cannot do this please take the time to transport the bird to a veterinarian or rehabilitator who will evaluate the problem and take the proper action.

Let common sense guide the handling and transportation of injured birds that may be potentially treated and released. Handle gently (and firmly in the case of raptors). Bring the body parts into a natural position, if possible, without apparent discomfort to the bird. Support the damaged parts. Leave the vent free so as not to soil the feathers.

If the bird appears to be dry about the mouth and eyes or if you have a distance to travel, you should attempt some form of rehydration before packaging it for the trip. Do not attempt to pour fluid into any bird's mouth -- either unconscious or conscious.

A weak mixture of sugar and water dropped carefully at the end of a small bird's beak will help. Offer as much as the bird will take. Flattened cola drinks or Gatorade may also be used. You can remove the carbonation by warming the cola if possible. Gatorade is available in powdered form in packets. If you are in the field a great deal, you might consider carrying it for yourself as well as for a chance encounter with an injured bird.

The attempted rehydration of a raptor presents a few more challenges. A sweater, jacket or car robe will suffice...Wrap the bird's body very carefully...keeping the talons in mind...either

cover them well (small raptors only) or have a companion hold the bird. Keep firm hold on the legs. Have great respect for the talons. Accipiters are quick beyond belief. Expect Great Horned Owls and large falcons to strike at you with their beaks. Count on it with a vulture. Know also that the vulture will vomit... probably on your best Eddie Bauer field pants and favorite patch.

Using a piece of strong fabric (neckerchief, sweat band) dip it into the fluid and offer it to the bird. The bird will bite at it and get some of the fluid. Keep a strong hold on the fabric. Pour a little more fluid onto the fabric as the bird takes it. CAUTION: Use extreme care when removing the fabric and do not damage the bird's tongue.

Place the bird in a well ventilated box which will just accommodate its size. If the bird is causing you some alarm, a neat trick is to place an inverted box quickly over him and then gently slide a piece of cardboard or thin wood underneath him. Once you turn the box (slowly) right side up - you have him. Provide a perch if the bird is on his feet. Choose a branch from a nearby tree or bush which will fit comfortably the size of the bird's foot when perched. Make sure that the perch is firmly held in place so that it will not tip with the bird on it.

Do not place the box in the trunk of your car...Yes, even your BMW may have a leak in the exhaust system. Many birds are heat sensitive. Keep him at a temperature comfortable to you. This is of paramount importance if the bird is dehydrated. In cold weather, consideration should be given to keeping the bird warm. Again, provide good ventilation and secure the box well...Secure the box well...Secure the box well. Great Horned Owls have been known to revive quickly, escape from their box and place their talons firmly on the nearest perch, which may be your shoulder. This will generally happen on a major artery during rush hour.

These things are all any untrained person can be expected to do in the field. Accept this and act with confidence.

If all of this is beyond what you are able to do, get moving. You are wasting time. To find the rehabilitator nearest to your location, call (203) 566-3333, 24 hours a day...yup...even during owl prowls.

The deadline for submission of material for the next issue of the newsletter is November 15, 1989. Please send any items to COA, 314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, Connecticut 06430.

ANNUAL MEETING 1990

Believe it or not, it is time to start planning the 1990 annual meeting. The theme of the meeting will be "Where to Bird in Connecticut" and we need your help.

There are many good places to bird in Connecticut that are not written up anywhere. Some are general knowledge, and some are virtually unknown. These areas may be good only at particular times of the year or are good for specialty birds. Still they are spots that birders in the state definitely would like to know about. If you are familiar with such a spot, we would like you to come to the 1990 Annual Meeting and tell us about it.

Presentations need not be long. They may be oral, with slides or without, or just in poster form. A presentation might be undertaken as a bird club project or could be done by several people who bird the area regularly. The possibilities are endless.

To schedule your presentation, or if you would like to help on the Annual Meeting in any other way, please contact Winnie Burkett, 17 Southwood Road, Storrs, CT 06268, or phone 429-3194.

To respond by mail, please send the following to Winnie at the above address by November 15, 1989. We thank you for your interest and participation and we look forward to another great meeting.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

BIRDING LOCATION _____

SEASON OR DATES FOR BEST BIRDING _____

TARGET SPECIES _____

TYPE OF PRESENTATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE

SLIDE _____ POSTER _____

DIRECTORY OF COA OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

President: Debra Miller, (508) 520-1289
 Vice President: Frank Mantlik, 838-1694
 Treasurer: Carl Trichka, 259-2623
 Secretary: Alison Oliveri, 259-7725
 Journal Editor: Betty Kleiner, 658-5670
 Program Committee: Winnie Burkett, 429-3194
 Publicity Committee: Roland Clement, 838-8619
 Connecticut Rare Bird Alert Tape: 254-3665
 To report bird sightings:
 Tom Rockovansky: 222-7777
 Milan Bull: 259-6305 or 255-8837

The Connecticut Ornithological Association
 314 Unquowa Road
 Fairfield, CT 06430

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CITY _____
 STATE _____
 ZIP _____
 BIRDING LOCATION _____
 SEASON OR DATES FOR BEST BIRDING _____
 TARGET SPECIES _____
 TYPE OF PRESENTATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE _____
 POSTER _____
 SLIDE _____