

# BULLETIN

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Volume 4, Number 3, Summer, 1990

AUGUST 1, 1990

The newsletter of The Connecticut Ornithological Association is published quarterly, in February, May, August and November. Please submit materials for the next newsletter by October 15, 1990.  
July 14, 1990

Dear COA Members:

Once again, Richard English (**New Haven**), has come to our rescue. Last fall, when the first printing of the **Connecticut Field List** was published, the printer made an error in billing for the job -- did not inform us -- and absorbed the loss. However, when the bill arrived for the second run -- that was a different story. We were short of funds for the field list.

Mr. English, as you may recall, donated the funds for the first printing. Upon hearing of the problem with the billing error, Mr. English sent another donation to cover the difference along with additional money for any future price increases.

We are very appreciative of his generosity:

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### HAWK WATCH DATES

Connecticut Hawk Watch dates for the Fall migration are September 9th - 22nd. Weekend watch dates inland are September 15 and 16, 22nd and 23rd, on the shoreline 29th and 30th.

Some hot spots for watching the migration are Lighthouse Point in New Haven, Whippoorwill Hill in Newtown, Quaker Ridge at the Greenwich Audubon Center, and Huntington State Park.

For more information call Neil Currie, (203) 426-9861.

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Should you happen upon an injured bird during this migration season, you may find a rehabilitator nearest to your location by calling (203) 566-3333, 24 hours a day.

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### TUFTS LOON STUDY

Dr. Mark Pokras of Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine is examining loons from all over New England to determine causes of mortality. Cadavers are given a complete post-mortem, microbiological and partial toxicological analysis. Anyone finding dead or moribund loons is asked to transport them to the Tufts Wildlife Clinic in North Grafton, MA as rapidly as possible. If bodies are fresh and can arrive at Tufts within 48 hours please refrigerate and do not freeze carcasses. If bodies are frozen, or it will be more than 48 hours until transport, freezing is acceptable.

For further details on this study or on handling and shipping specimens contact the Wildlife Clinic at (505) 839-7918.



## ROSEATE TERNS

Just a reminder that Jeff Spendelow has requested information on sightings of color banded and/or color marked Roseate Terns (check last issue of the newsletter). Please make reports to JEFFREY SPENDELOW, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD 20708 USA, (301-498-0373).

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## PEABODY MUSEUM OFFERING

The Peabody Museum of Natural History, 170 Whitney Avenue is sponsoring a program on Wednesday, August 15th, at the Bartlett Arboretum and New Canaan Nature Center. The 63 acre outdoor museum features the original tree and shrub collection of Francis A. Bartlett, founder of the Bartlett Tree Expert Company, as well as collections of rhododendrons and azaleas. The arboretum also contains one of the largest collections of dwarf conifers in the northeast.

After lunch, participants will visit the New Canaan Nature Center. Established in 1960, it is devoted specifically to the study of nature, horticulture, and related sciences. Visitors can view the Horticultural Education Building, a state-of-the-art solar greenhouse, and the Discovery Center, a museum featuring hands on, interactive exhibits involving local natural history and live animals.

For information and fees, call (203) 432-3730.

NOTE: This may not reach some of you in time to attend, however I have included this item to give you an idea of the type of offering available at Peabody. If you are interested in further information on their activities, please call the number above to receive a listing.

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## CHRISTMAS COUNT INFORMATION REQUEST

The next newsletter will contain information on this year's count dates, locations and compilers. If you are a compiler or have the info for your group please send the following:

Name, address and phone number of compiler(s)  
Day and date of the count  
Any notes of particular interest about the count that might entice participants to come

Please send to: Stephen P. Broker, 76 Diamond Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1313, (203)387-0798

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## PEREGRINE ENCOUNTERS

Jim Zipp  
400 Mt. Sanford Road, Hamden, CT 06518

Sitting in a cramped blind 10 hours a day, 25 to 30 days during my favorite months of September and October, can be difficult at times, particularly when things are slow. Equally difficult is sitting in work during this time of year watching the flag stand out like a sheet of plywood pointing south. October 3, 1989 was just such a day and by noon I couldn't stand it any longer so I took the afternoon off and flew down to Lighthouse Point in New Haven. Hawks were streaming overhead the whole time I was setting up nets and by 1:00 pm, I was inside the blind ready to trap.



## PEREGRINE ENCOUNTERS (cont'd)

It was only a matter of minutes before I was running in and out of the blind retrieving hawks from the nets, banding them, recording data and releasing them. Before an hour had passed, fifteen hawks had been banded. Sharpies, Cooper's, kestrels, Merlins and harriers were all making their way in and out of the blind and even a Peregrine had made several spectacular passes through the station, but as usual, eluded capture. Over the last eight seasons of banding, we have had passes each year but never a capture. Our station is a small patch cut from a phragmites marsh and Peregrines don't seem to like coming in too close, preferring a more open area.

At 1:55 pm, I released two Cooper's Hawks I had caught at the same time and gave the lure a pull. I usually do this when banding alone in case a hawk is in the area I hadn't seen while banding and recording data from the previous bird. Scanning the sky, I picked up what I thought to be another Coop gliding straight in from 12 o'clock. I played the lure as I would for a Cooper's Hawk, drawing it to the center of the bow net before the hawk entered the banding station. It was 60 or 70 yards out when the Coop suddenly became a Peregrine Falcon! It never flapped a wing and fooled me as I wasn't expecting a Peregrine, Cooper's seemed to be everywhere this day. My lure was already "centered" and with the speed of the approaching falcon I had no time to pull it back out and play it in the air as most experts say is the best way to work Peregrines. All I could do was hold my breath and hope for the best. The bird came straight in like a Red-tail and landed on the lure. I pulled the trigger line springing the bow net and I had my first Peregrine. Lifting the bow-net revealed a handsome immature male. I quickly banded him and brought him up to show to the hawkwatchers. Several took photographs before I released him back into the wind. He hadn't performed to classic stoops Peregrines are famous for but having waited eight year for this moment, I was thrilled.

Returning to the station and setting up again, I found the flight had died. The next hour was very slow and it was three o'clock before it picked up again. Another Peregrine made several passes but never lowered its talons or seemed serious, although it put on a nice show. Several Cooper's Hawks, a couple of Sharp-shinned Hawks, an American Kestrel and a Northern Harrier were banded and released. At 3:45 pm, I was blind sided by yet another Peregrine which came in from behind - toward the pigeon!

It blasted through the mist net that surrounds the sparrows without loosing any speed. In fact, it was going so fast that it overshot the pigeon and had to turn around before softly landing on it. Again, I pulled the trigger springing the bow-net into action. I could hardly believe that after being skunked by Peregrines for eight years, I now had two in under two hours!

This bird turned out to be a large immature female. I again shut down the station and brought her out to show everyone but found the parking lot empty. Here I was holding a beautiful female Peregrine in my hand and nobody to share her with. I banded and released her without even taking a photograph (having come directly from work I had no camera gear).

Now that I think about it, maybe that had something to do with my great luck that day. In the last eight years that was probably the first time I didn't have my cameras. There's a thought, maybe I should consider leaving my cameras home more often.

DIRECTORY OF COA OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

**President:** Debra Miller, 14 Oakridge Drive, Franklin, MA 02038, (508) 520-1289  
**Vice-President:** Frank Mantlik, 17 Seabreeze Place, Norwalk, CT 06854, (203) 839-1694  
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**Membership Committee:** Steve Mayo, 136 Beach Avenue, Milford, CT 06460, (203) 877-0445  
**Field Trip Committee:** Byron Butler, (203) 453-1965

**Connecticut Rare Bird Alert Tape:** (203) 254-3665

**To report sightings:** Tom Rockovansky: (203) 222-7777  
Milan Bull: (203) 259-6305 or 255-8837

**CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**  
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# Connecticut Ornithological Association - FIELD DAY -

YALE UNIVERSITY  
ORNITHOLOGY LIBRARY

White Memorial Foundation  
Litchfield, Connecticut 06759  
September 8, 1990

The Connecticut Ornithological Association will hold a field Day at the Mott-Van Winkle Center of the White Memorial Foundation from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 8, 1990. It will be an informal day of field trips and workshops.

## - Schedule -

- 7:30-8:00 am Registration and coffee at the Mott-Van Winkle Center (Someone will be available here throughout the day for late arrivals.)
- 8:00-8:30 am We will welcome you for the day's activities and offer some information so you may select your field trips and/or workshops.
- 8:45-10:15 am You may choose from an assortment of field activities on the Foundation's grounds. We will be exploring different areas of the property in search of birds. Arrangements are being made to have leaders guide you who are from the area and familiar with the birds and various habitats.

We are also planning a walk/activity for children, ages 7-12.

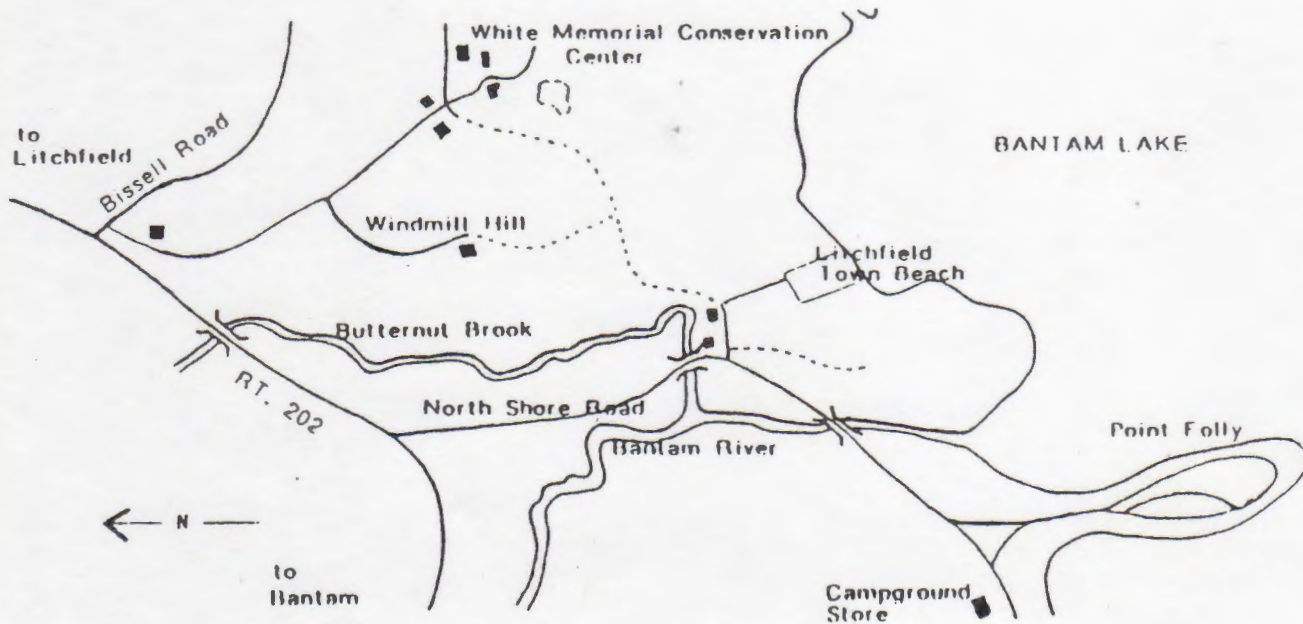
## - Workshops to run concurrently -

- 8:45-9:15 am How to Improve Your Birding Skills, Byron Butler
- 9:30-10:15 am Confusing Fall Sparrows, Winnie Burkett
- 10:30 am Coffee Break, (Coffee, tea, juice and doughnuts will be served.)
- 11:00-12:00 noon Banding Demonstration, Gordon Loery
- Overview of censusing and other ongoing studies White Memorial, group leader to be announced.
- 12:00 noon-1:00 pm Lunch, (Bring a brown bag lunch, picnic tables available.)
- Joe Zeranski and Tom Baptist will be available during the break to sign you copy of their book, *Connecticut Birds*.
- 1:00-2:00 pm Hawk Watch Field Trip to Chestnut Hill
- Game Warden Mike Bean will guide us through Waterfowl Collection at S. Dillon Ripley's home (about a mile from the Foundation).

## General Information

**Campsites and Facilities** - There are campsites and facilities available for those who wish to get an early start on the day. Please call ahead to make reservations: (203)567-0089.

**Directions** - About two miles from Litchfield Center, on Route 202, turn on to Bissell Road and follow signs to Mott-Van Winkle Center.



To pre-register, please send \$2.00 per person to **The Connecticut Ornithological Association**, 314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06430. (You may register at the Mott-Van Winkle Center on September 8th for \$4.00 per person.)

----- Please Detach and Return with Registration Fee -----

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of People Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



Connecticut Warbler Fall Migration Report Form for Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov.

Directions: First fill out a series of questions about your impression of the migration, then list your records of birds that fall in the categories below. Feel free to add any records you think are important whether or not they fit one of the categories.

Please complete this form and return it to :  
By: December 10

Betty Kleiner  
5 Flintlock Ridge  
Simsbury, CT 06070

How often have you birded during the three months?  
1) just around my yard 2) 1-6 days 3) 7-12 days 4) 13 or more days

Would you classify the migration as Great, Good, Average, or Poor?

Was the migration in your opinion early, on time, or late?

What species impressed you as being more common this year?

What species impressed you as being scarce this year?

Did you have any days of unusually heavy migration (waves of warblers etc.)?

Rare or unusual Species

Red-necked Grebe	Black Tern
Black Vulture	Black Skimmer
Golden Eagle	Chuck-will's Widdow
Gyr Falcon	Red-he. Woodpecker
Am Avocett	Western Kingbird
Both Godwits	Am Raven
Buff-br. Sandp	Boreal Chickadee
L-b Dowitcher	Sedge Wren
Wil Phalarope	Philadelphia Voreo
Red Hpalarpoe	Orange-cr Warb
Little Gull	Kentucky Warb
Lesser E-b Gull	Mourning Warb
B-l Kittiwake	Connecticut Warb
Caspian Tern	Western Tanager
Royal Tern	Dickcissel

Grasshopper Sparrow
Henslow's Sparrow
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Both Crossbills
Common Redpoll
Pine Grosbeak

Any Peep after 30 October  
Any Empidonax Flycat after 30 Sept

Any Warbler after 15 Oct  
(except: Co Yellowthroat)  
Yell-rump Warbl)  
Palm Warbler )

Species for which we would like First Fall Records.

R-t Loon	Co. Goldeneye	Winter Wren
Horned Grebe	Pufflehead	Golden-cr. Kinglet
Great Cormorant	R-b Merganser	Water Pipit
Ring-necked Duck	R-l Hawk	Tree Sparrow
Oldsquaw	L-e Owl	Fox Sparrow
W-w Scoter	S-e Owl	D-e Junco
Surf Scoter	Saw-whet Owl	Lapland Longspur
		Snow Bunting

Species for which we would like Last fall Records.

All Herons	Ea. Phoebe	Red-eyed Vireo
Glossy Ibis	Ea. Woodpewee	White-eyed Vireo
Wood Duck	Ea. Kingbird	Palm Warbler
All Shorebirds	All Swallows	Co Yellowthroat
Laughing Gull	House Wren	Scarlet Tanager
All Terns	Marsh Wren	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Co. Nighthawk	B-g Gnatcatcher	Indigo Bunting
Chimny Swift	Veery	Bobolink
R-t Hummingbird	Wood Thrush	Northern Oriol

Dates when species were particularly numerous

Co. Loon	Chimny Swift	Co Yellowthroat
R-t Loon	Co Flicker	Scarlet Tanager
Horned Grebe	Ea Phoebe	Rose-br. Grosbeak
Canada Goose	Ea Kingbird	Savannah Sparrow
Snow Goose	Horned Lark	Song Sparrow
Brant	Blue Jay	White-th Sparrow
Green-wing Teal	B-c Chickadee	White Cr Sparrow
Am Wigeon	Water Pipit	D-e Junco
Oldsquaw	Swainson's Thrush	Snow Bunting
All Scoters	Am Robin	Lapland Longspur
Co Goldeneye	Brown Thrasher	Red-winged Blackbird
All Mergansers	Red-eyed Vireo	Common Grackle
All Shorebirds	Flocks of Warblers	Evenign Grosbeak
Bonaparte's Gull	Yellow-rumped Warb.	Am Goldfinch
Co Nighthawk	Palm Warbler	

(over)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

