

BULLETIN

THE BULLETIN
Volume IV, Number 4, Fall, 1990
NOVEMBER 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 January 5, 1991.

Dear COA Members:

Our first Field Day was held on September 8, 1990 at the White Memorial Foundation in Litchfield and was a great success. About 80 members and friends enjoyed a day of workshops and field trips. Thanks to Gordon Loery, we had a super choice of field activities in a rustic setting.

Our thanks go to Byron Butler who ran a well attended workshop, How to Improve Your Birding Skills, which included tips for use in the field as well as an exercise on proper focusing of binoculars. We heard many compliments and positive comments from those in attendance.

Winnie Burkett offered identification tips in her workshop, Confusing Fall Sparrows. When someone works with a group as long as Winnie has worked with COA, it becomes difficult to find different ways to say thank you -- time and again, year after year. I suppose the best way is to simply say "Thank you, again for another great job!"

We thank the following field trip leaders for sharing their expertise and taking us exploring in the various areas at White Memorial.

Ed Hagen in Catlin Woods
Ray Belding in the Wild Garden and Boardwalk
Gordon Loery for a canoe trip to the Marsh
Dave Rosgen for a tour of the Blue Bird Box Project
Jeff Kirk for hawk watches on Chestnut Hill

Gordon also presented a discussion of the banding and censusing projects at the Foundation (we tried to keep Gordon busy), while Kim MacDonald led a special activity for children.

During the lunch hour, we enjoyed our brown bag lunches in the warm sunshine and had the opportunity to talk with Joe Zeranski and Tom Baptist as they signed copies of their book, Connecticut Birds.

For some, the highlight of the day was the trip down the road to see S. Dillon Ripley's waterfowl collection. Game Warden Mike Bean guided a group through the grounds, offering a rare look at some very interesting birds. There was a long procession of about 15 cars that went over for this trip. Some people were so excited, that they had their binoculars in focus and cameras clicking away while still in their cars.

Thank you to all who made this a wonderful day!

The newsletter needs a logo for the heading. Does anyone have any suggestions? Please send ideas or drawings to Deb Miller, 14 Oakridge Drive, Franklin, MA 02038.

1991 ANNUAL MEETING
March 16, 1991
Quinnipiac College
Hamden, Connecticut 06518

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Ornithological Association will be held at Quinnipiac College on March 16, 1991. We are planning a full day of presentations which will focus on questions concerning trends in bird populations.

We will be sponsored on campus by the Biology Department at Quinnipiac and owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Richard Bernard, Professor of Biology, who was instrumental in making arrangements with the college. We will be sending preregistration forms with schedule information and other pertinent details with renewal forms, during the first week of December.

Anyone wishing to help the Program Committee is encouraged to call Tish Noyes (468-6273), George Zepko (347-1133) or Debra Miller (508-520-1289). Tish needs someone to organize and run the raffle.

COA Rare Records Committee member Thomas Burke and COA member Lysle Brinker discovered a Wood Sandpiper in Rye, NY on October 31, 1990. This is the second record for the lower 48 states (the other was in 1907).

Many COA members took the opportunity to see this exciting bird on the weekend of November 1st-2nd. Some 700 people were able to enjoy the sighting.

91st ANNUAL NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1990 - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1991
CONNECTICUT COUNTS

***** NORTHERN COUNTS *****

BARKEHAMSTED, CT (BA CT) - Saturday, December 22, 1990

| | | |
|------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Compilers: | David Rosgen | David Tripp, Jr. |
| | P.O. Box 1465 | RFD-2 |
| | Sharon, CT 06069 | Winsted, CT 06098 |
| | 203-283-8378 | 203-379-9237 |

EDWIN WAY TEALE TRAIL WOOD, CT(EW CT) - Saturday, December 29, 1990

Compiler: Marilyn "Sam" Higgins
Hammond Hill
Hampton, CT 06247
203-455-0063

HARTFORD, CT (HA CT) - Saturday, December 29, 1990

| | | |
|------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 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 16, 1990

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

LAKEVILLE-SHARON, CT (LS CT) - Sunday, December 16, 1990

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

STORRS, CT (ST CT) - Saturday, December 15, 1990

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

***** MID-STATE COUNTS *****

HIDDEN VALLEY, NY-CT (HV NY) - Monday, December 31, 1990

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Compilers: Sibyll Gilbert | Jeanne Kauffman |
| RD1, Box 236 | RD2, Box 172 |
| Pawling, NY 12564 | Sherman, CT 06784 |
| 914-855-3266 | 203-355-1688 |

OXFORD, CT (OX CT) - Sunday, December 16, 1990

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

QUINNIPIAC VALLEY, CT (QV CT) - Sunday, December 16, 1990

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

SALMON RIVER, CT (SR CT) - Sunday, December 16, 1990

Compiler: David A. Titus
376 Main Street
Cromwell, CT 06416
(H) 203-635-1544
(W) 203-347-9411 ext 2354

WOODBURY-ROXBURY, CT (WR CT) - Saturday, December 15, 1990

Compiler: Mark Szantyr
P.O. Box 80
Woodbury, CT 06798
(H) 203-429-4038
(W) 203-486-4081

***** COASTAL COUNTS *****

GREENWICH-STAMFORD, CT (GS CT) - Sunday, December 17, 1989

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Compilers: Thomas Baptist | Canfield Clark |
| 103 Sunset Hill Road | 12 Heather Lane |
| Redding, CT 06896 | Greenwich, CT 06831 |
| 203-938-8078 | 203-531-4857 |

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

NEW HAVEN, CT (NH CT) - Saturday, December 15, 1990

Compilers: Stephen P. Broker Frank Gallo
76 Diamond Street 54 Deer Run Road
New Haven, CT 06515 Wilton, CT 06897
(H) 203-387-0798 (H) 203-562-4241
(W) 203-432-5110 (W) 203-966-9577

NEW LONDON, CT (NL CT) - Saturday, December 29, 1990

Compiler: Robert Dewire
9 Canary Street
Pawcatuck, CT 06379
203-599-3085

OLD LYME-SAYBROOK, CT (OL CT) - Sunday, December 30, 1990

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

STRATFORD-MILFORD, CT (SM CT) - Thursday, December 27, 1990

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 16, 1990

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
(H) 203-227-7253
(W) 203-227-5997

NOTE: Once again, we thank Steve Broker for accommodating our publication schedule and getting all this information put together so far in advance. Thank you, Steve.

Seven paintings by Francis Lee Jaques, artist and naturalist, are on exhibit on the third floor of the Peabody Museum. They are originals of the plates published in Robert Cushman Murphy's two-volume work, **Oceanic Birds of South America**. Jaques' work also appears in four of the Museum's dioramas. For more information call the InfoTape: 432-5050 or 432-4771.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Byron Butler would like to receive information on the occurrence of Connecticut Warblers in Connecticut for 1990, spring and fall records. Please send any information (date, location, time, age, sex) to Byron at 58 Windfall Lane, Guilford, CT 06437 or phone him at (203) 453-1965 or 432-5077.

GREENWICH AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD TRIPS

The Greenwich Audubon Society (GAS) announces the following field trips and invites COA members to participate. For more information contact Betty Grossman, GAS Field Trip Chairperson (203)637-2208).

1991 Field Trips

- | | |
|--|--|
| Saturday, January 5 8:00am-12:00 noon | WARD POUND RIDGE RESERVATION Cross River, NY, with Tom Burke Meet at Island Beach parking lot. |
| Saturday, April 6 7:00am-mid-aftn | JAMAICA BAY, NY Meet at Island Beach parking lot. Bring lunch. |
| Saturday, May 4 7:00am-11:00am | CRANBERRY LAKE PRESERVE Northcastle, NY with Jay Gartner Meet at Island Beach parking lot. |
| Saturday, May 11 6:30am-9:00am | BIRD BREAKFAST At Audubon Center, for reservations, call 869-5272 |
| Saturday, June 1 7:30am-11:00 am | ROCKEFELLER STATE PARK PRESERVE Tarrytown, NY, with Jay Gartner. Meet at Island Beach parking lot |
| Saturday, July 6 8:00am-10:00am | LEADER'S CHOICE With Ken Ballas. |
| Saturday, August 3 | MILFORD POINT With Steve Potter. Departure depends on the tide. |
| Saturday, September 7 8:00am-10am parking lot. | FAIRFIELD GARDENS With Tom Burke. Meet at Garden |

COA encourages local bird clubs to send announcements of field activities to the newsletter at 314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06430.

BIRDERS MOBILIZE TO AID RESEARCH ON MIGRANT BIRDS

At a recent symposium on neotropical migrant birds hosted by the Manomet Bird Observatory (MBO), a Massachusetts-based center for long-term environmental research and education, Latin American scientists delivered an eloquent plea for help: a lack of binoculars and other basic research tools is frustrating the efforts of local research and conservation groups to identify the habitats crucial to our wintering migrant birds and to educate the Latin American public on conservation issues.

In response, the Manomet Bird Observatory and 17 Massachusetts birds clubs have formed the MBO/Mass Birders Forum, a network of bird clubs working to help protect migrants and their habitats by establishing links with research, conservation, and education groups in Latin America. The Forum's initial project is to collect used binoculars from birders through their clubs for distribution to Latin American groups. Future projects may include sending field guides, ornithological reference books, and funds for research and conservation education.

MBO is eager to work with other groups from around the U.S. who are interested in forming similar networks. For information about how your club can get involved, or how to make an individual contribution to the Birders Forum please contact the Birders Forum Coordinator, Manomet Bird Observatory, BOX 936, Manomet, MA 02345 (phone: (508) 224-6521, fax: 508-224-9220).

DRY TORTUGAS, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, APRIL 25 - SUNDAY, APRIL 28

Seventy miles off Key West lie the Dry Tortugas, a small chain of tropical islets. Thousands of brown noddies and sooty terns breed on tiny Brush Key, described by Roger Tory Peterson as "the number one ornithological spectacle of the continent".

On this four-day boat trip, we should also see masked and brown boobies, many possible rarities and numerous migrants. A return Gulf Stream pelagic trip should produce bridled tern and Audubon's shearwater.

The trip is run by Four Points Nature Tours and will be led and organized for **Hartford Audubon Society** by Sam Fried. The cost per person is \$425, all inclusive from Key West. Space is limited, so make your reservations now. Call Sam at (203) 232-6763 for more information.

The following appeared in the New Haven Bird Club's Newsletter, Volume 28, No. 1, August - September, 1990 and is reprinted with permission from the author, Noble Proctor, and the New Haven Bird Club.

WARBLER MIGRATION 1990 LOCATION: LAKE WINTERGREEN, HAMDEN DATE: MAY 8, 1990

On May 7th everything was setting up perfectly. A warm front was sweeping up from the South as a cold moist low pushed out to sea -- prime spring migration conditions. It appeared that the 8th should be one of those "big hit" mornings all birders wait for each spring. Now to choose the place to be when the birds arrived. With a cool front moving out and warm pushing in so fast, the coast more than likely would have low ground fog or haze. Arriving migrants would be likely to see the large masses of East and West Rock at dawn and choose to "pitch down" a bit inland rather than on the obscured coastline. Having birded so many years at both East and West Rocks, I found the decision a tough one. However at West Rock I had seen in the mid-60's some of the most impressive warbler migrations ever, something that I have not seen for years. So it would be West Rock on the 8th.

When I arrived at the Wintergreen parking area it was obvious that birds were everywhere. Magnolias sang, Blue-wings darted about and Redstarts hurried their notes. From the car, eight species of warblers could be heard, along with many other species, ranging from Yellow-billed Cuckoo to Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. The fall-out had happened. Over the next two hours I was treated to a warbler show the likes of which I haven't seen for 25 years. Warblers were everywhere, several species in every tree. There were groups of Black-throated Greens and Black-throated Blues, Magnolias and Tennessees. Nashvilles seemed to call from every location and as always Black-and-Whites popped in to scold and Yellow-rumps caught my eye at every view. The uncommon species were well represented -- Cape Mays, Bay-breasteds, Ceruleans, Blackburnians highlighted many of the oak tops. Hoodeds, once a rarity but now a permanent fixture of the woodlands, called as they foraged under the Mountain Laurels. Working its way out into the sunlight at the tip a Larch was the always elusive Yellow-throated -- a red letter sighting for any spring migration. Scattered in the foraging groups were all the Vireos save the Philadelphia. At the end of the two hours I had recorded 28 species of warblers, with many represented by a large number of individuals. The total species list for the time was 65 -- a fair list for upland oak woodland at field edge.

The next day I returned to see if the flocks had stayed and met up with longtime birding friends Ed Shove and Dick Bernard. As I approached, Ed cried, "Yesterday was the day here!" Ed had picked West Rock as the place to be, and as I worked the lower slopes, he worked the ridge unbeknownst to me! He described the "wave after wave" that came onto the ridge. Two Mourning Warblers had been one of his major finds and he had a Philadelphia Vireo rounding out the vireos for the day on the rock. We talked of our luck with warbler migration in the past at West Rock and agreed that the day had produced a migration the likes of which we hadn't seen in years. But for this year, two longtime birding friends had been at the right place at the right time, and oh how the birds had cooperated.

Noble Proctor, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT

A NOTE ON "PEEPS"

Carl Trichka
65 Glover Street, Fairfield, CT 06430

Having been a licensed bird bander since 1977 and realizing that of the two million or so birds that are banded annually, less than 1% are ever recaptured or found, it piques my curiosity when I receive either a computer printout or the green Certificate of Appreciation issued by the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) denoting an encounter with a banded bird.

Two such reports were received by me in early August, 1990 and both pertained to Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*). The first one involved an adult of unknown sex that I banded in Great Meadows Marsh, Stratford, CT on August 6, 1984. It was captured and released by Canadian Wildlife Service personnel on May 7, 1990 in central Saskatchewan, Canada. I thought it odd that this bird was using the Great Plains Flyway to return to its breeding grounds after having been trapped on the east coast during its fall migration.

A few days later I received a second report from BBL on a peep that I captured on August 7, 1984 in the same location as the above peep. This bird was already banded and I submitted the details to BBL. Six years later I received this report. Why it took so long to process it, I have no idea, but better late than never. This sandpiper was banded as an adult of unknown sex on May 26, 1984 by personnel from South Dakota State University near Rutland, SD.

So here was another peep known to be on the Great Plains Flyway in the spring and on the east coast in the fall. Time to dig out the reference books. What I learned was that this species performs an elliptical migration pattern that involves a northward movement in the spring through the Great Plains and takes its southward flight in the fall along the eastern seaboard.

It is believed that there are about three separate breeding populations that range from the subarctic zone on the northern edge of the boreal forests from Alaska across Canada to Baffin Island. The Alaskan population uses the Great Plains pathway but may be found further east in the fall. The central population migrates along James Bay in the fall and returns via the Great Plains in the spring. The eastern population uses the Atlantic seaboard in the fall and returns in the spring along the same route primarily, occasionally through the Great Plains.

Quite frankly, I would have never bothered to research migration patterns of sandpipers had it not been for the curiosity aroused by these two banding reports.

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Frank Mantlik: (203) 838-1694
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THE CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
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