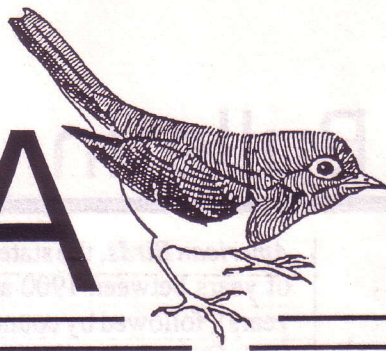


COA



Bulletin

Winter 1992

NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Vol 6 No 4

Spirits High, Count Low on Field Day

Although the weather was less than ideal, over 60 people attended COA's Fall Field Day at the Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton on September 19th. The Program Committee -- Jay Kaplan, Betty Kleiner, Gil Kleiner, Joyce Marshall, Debra Miller (Chairperson), and Alison Olivieri -- put together a diverse set of field trips and presentations which were enjoyed by all who attended.

Paul Dejardins, Jay Kaplan, Betty Kleiner, and Todd McGrath led field trips to Roaring Brook, Great Pond, West Hartford Reservoir, and Nepaug Reservoir. The chilly, overcast weather limited the combined total for all the trips to only 65 species, as compared to 97 species tallied in Greenwich during last year's Fall Field Day, when the weather was just about perfect. This year's total included 11 warbler species but only three sparrow species and two flycatchers, Alder and Olive-sided.

Jay Kaplan, who is director of the Roaring Brook Nature Center, was disappointed that some of his "regular" birds didn't make an appearance, but the walk he led did turn up both the smallest and the largest bird of the day -- Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Wild Turkey.

An afternoon visit to the Boothe Hill hawkwatch produced several kettles of Broadwings, as well Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, an imma-
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HOTLINE HIGHLIGHTS

- Little Stint Milford Aug 22
- Am White Pelican Waterford Oct 3
- Blue Grosbeak Westport Oct 18 - 20
- Common Eider Waterford Oct 21 - Nov 8
- Yellow Rail (dead) Fairfield Nov 1
- American Avocet Old Lyme Nov 2
- N Gannets SE CT Coast Nov 4 - 20
- Henslow's Sparrow Old Lyme Nov 8
- Royal Terns Westbrook Nov 8 - 9
- Gray Kingbird Greenwich Nov 18 - 22
- Pacific/Arctic Loon West Haven Nov 21

RARE BIRD ALERT: 203-254-3665

93rd Christmas Count

by Steve Broker

The 93rd Annual National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count is being held from Thursday, December 17 through Sunday, January 3. Once again we are conducting 17 counts in Connecticut (see list in this issue). We continue a tradition which extends back to 1900 and the first winter bird censuses, a calculated counterpoint to the Victorian tradition of spending Christmas Day shooting everything that fluttered within range.

The concept of the Christmas Bird Count originated in New York, and Connecticut joined in from the very beginning of this longest continuously running population census. Our state had two counts in 1900, one in Bristol and one in Norwalk. Counting birds was fun and seemed to be a good thing to do then, so in 1901 Bristol held its second count. That same year birders in Edgewood Park, New Haven, also put together a Christmas Count. These counts were repeated in 1903, and in 1904 Bristol, New Haven and South Norwalk participated.

During the first decade of this century, new counts were conducted in Washington, New London, Glastonbury, Hartford, Middletown and Waterbury. (See "Connecticut Christmas Counts 1900 to 1909: the first decade", Fred Sibley, *Connecticut Warbler*, 2(1):5-7

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COA Bulletin

Fall Field Day . . .

ture Bald Eagle, and a great view of a Red-tailed Hawk hunting low among the trees at the edge of the field.

In addition to field trips, the day included four excellent workshops. COA president Frank Mantlik gave a lecture and slide show entitled "Wings Over Connecticut," a season-by-season review of birding in the state. Ed Hagan, a member of the COA Rare Records Committee, compared data from the Christmas and Summer Bird Counts and made the point that while the Christmas Count is a more popular event, the Summer Count actually reveals more information about changes in the status of various species. Betty Kleiner and Jay Kaplan gave an informative and amusing talk on "Jizz," the art of quickly identifying birds by using holistic techniques rather than traditional field marks. Debra Miller officiated at a fascinating bird's nest quiz, which featured nest specimens from over twenty species of locally nesting birds.

Thank you to all these speakers, to the field trip leaders, and to the members of the program committee for making this Fall Field Day a success -- in spite of the weather.

Christmas Count . . .

[January 1982] for a summary of the results of these counts.) The present New Haven count circle held as many as eight different counts in a year. Hartford and West Hartford held ten counts in 1910. In some areas, multiple counts during the same year continued to be a feature of CBCs through the 1920s.

Since 1900 there have been more than 900 Christmas Bird Counts held in Connecticut. Based on a review of CBC articles in *Bird-Lore*, *Audubon Field Notes*, and

The Newsletter of the
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Please submit materials for the next
issue by February 1, 1993 to
Jay Knox, Editor,
43 Bridge Road, Weston, CT 06883.

American Birds, the state count held the greatest number of years between 1900 and 1992 is New London's (76 years), followed by counts in Hartford (73), New Haven (65), Oxford (65), Greenwich-Stamford (including Port Chester, NY counts) (58), and Westport (56).

When it comes to continuity the leading count is Oxford, hands down. Oxford has conducted a count every year since 1929, making this year's edition the 64th in a row! Hartford began its present string of CBCs in 1940, New Haven in 1944 (with one or two lapses since then), Westport in 1950, New London in 1951, Litchfield Hills in 1956, and Greenwich-Stamford and Storrs in 1957. The remaining state counts are held at Lakeville-Sharon (1962, Woodbury-Roxbury (1965), Old Lyme-Saybrook (1967), Hidden Valley-Pawling (1968), Stratford-Milford (1971), Quinnipiac Valley (1972), Salmon River (1976), Barkhamsted (1986), and Trail Wood (1987).

So get out there and count those birds again this year. We have a strong tradition to uphold -- out in the field absorbing nature, adding to our collective knowledge, and having fun.

Spoonbill Fever

by Frank Mantlik

Pink color-dyed Snowy Egrets along the Connecticut shoreline in late August and early September created quite a stir among the state's birding community. With the coincidental appearance (and resulting media coverage) of a stray Roseate Spoonbill at Staten Island, NY, the RBA phones rang off the hook with reports (mostly from non-birders) from Greenwich to Old Lyme of "Roseate Spoonbills" and "pink flamingos"!

Quick research revealed that wildlife biologists in southern New Jersey and Chincoteague, Virginia had undertaken a study of the survival and dispersal of fledgling Snowy Egrets at those colonies by color-marking and radio-tagging. Once the mystery was solved, active birders began sending information on the "Spoonret" sightings to the federal Bird Banding Lab in Laurel, Maryland.

By the way, in the event YOU find a dead, banded bird, record the band number, date, location, species (if known), cause of death (if known), and your name and address. Send this information to: Bird Banding Lab, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Laurel, MD 20708.

COA Bulletin

Strange Catbird Diet

by Alison Olivieri

Last spring and summer two Gray Catbirds visited a platform feeder in my backyard on a regular basis. The only food offered was sunflower kernels. Normally, we don't feed birds from Memorial Day to Columbus Day, so this requires some explanation. About mid-May I noticed a catbird gathering hay from our "dog yard" and taking it into a cherry laurel about three feet from our back door. The next day I saw one of the birds on the feeder and the other on a nearby fence. No one was more surprised than I, and we kept the feeder going just to see if this would continue. From then on, until early September, I saw them -- usually one at a time with the other in view -- at least once a day appearing to feed on the sunflower kernels.

The nesting was successful, again much to my surprise, as that back door is a busy place with four dogs bursting out of it at random intervals during the day and evening. Luckily we were able to watch some of this small drama. We never saw the birds feed nestlings anything but insects, but the adults continued to use the feeder.

One morning I walked into the garage to find both adults acting agitated -- hopping, fluttering and uttering calls. (This was after nearly 10 days of trying to dissuade a pair of Barn Swallows from nesting in the garage, and I had just about had it with the local bird population.) For a second, it I thought a mouse was scurrying behind hoses, rakes and shovels but, of course, it was a brand new fledgling catbird. After re-arranging most of the gardening equipment, I managed to catch it and ALL of us went outside. The fledgling ran under some perennials, and the adults hung around until, finally, all three of them took off to the other side of the yard.

We never saw juvenile catbirds at the feeder; only the two adults continued to visit. This does not seem to be "normal" behavior for catbirds; at any rate, no one I asked about it had heard of this before. It was suggested that the birds were eating worms or other insects in the seed, which is certainly possible. I did go through many, many bags of seed, and I bought it at at least two different places, and none of it had that "webby" look that bug-infested bird seed often gets.

A little research on Catbird eating habits brought the following to light: A.C. Bent said, "Few birds are

more adaptable in eating any kind of food that chances to be readily accessible." His list includes cheese, corn flakes, milk and fried fish (!). And John Dennis, master bird feeder, notes, "These birds are known to eat seeds and grain. . . only after such foods have been softened through exposure to the weather."

Has anybody out there had a similar experience? If so, we'd like to hear about it; write a letter to the Editor, COA Bulletin, 43 Bridge Road, Weston, CT 06883.

Nightjar Survey Needs Coordinators

During 1993 the COA surveys of Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will will be in their third year. The goal of the surveys is to determine what is happening to the breeding populations of these birds in Connecticut. Information collected to date indicates that Nighthawks and Whip-poor-wills have become less common in the state over the past few decades, although numbers of them are still found in a few localities. It is hoped that the knowledge gained in these surveys can be productively used to assist in the conservation of these birds.

Volunteers are needed to coordinate the 1993 COA Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will Surveys. These coordinators are essential for the success of the surveys. Coordinators mail out forms on which observers record their findings, collect the completed forms, keep files of correspondence, and follow leads to contact additional people who can provide information on the subject birds. Coordinators may also, if they wish, participate in analyzing the information received and writing up occasional reports on the results.

If you are interested in the possibility of being a coordinator, please contact George Clark, who is the COA Research Committee Advisor for these surveys. George can be reached at 486-4459 (days) or 429-7932 (evenings, weekends) or by mail at Box U-43, Storrs, CT 06260-3043.

HOTLINE REPORTS

To report sightings of rare, unusual, or migrating birds, call one of the following:

Milan Bull 259-6305 or 255-8837
Jay Hand 434-0213 or 771-6755
Frank Mantlik 838-1694

COA Bulletin

Renewal Reminder New Membership Database Ready

With the new year almost here, it's time once again for COA members to renew their memberships. Because COA does not have a staff to process renewals every month on the anniversary of the date members join, all memberships are based on a calendar year.

This year's renewals will be entered in a new, custom membership database which has been programmed for COA by board member Jay Knox, who is a developer of computer databases. COA's membership list was formerly kept as a mail-merge file in a word processing program, which was a satisfactory system for printing labels but was limiting in other respects.

The new database will make it much easier for the membership chairperson to process renewals and new memberships, as well as address changes. In addition to printing mailing labels in several formats, the new program will produce a variety of reports, including several types of membership lists and a monthly summary of renewals, new memberships, and dues collected.

Most importantly, the new database will permit COA to record more information on each of its members, so that the organization's programs and communications can be targeted more accurately to the membership's needs. This is why the renewal request which was recently mailed contains a more detailed renewal form than those of past years. Please take a moment to fill out the Member Information section of the form, so that a profile of the membership can be included in the new database.

Also, please consider giving someone you know a gift membership in COA. An Individual membership costs only \$10.00 and makes a wonderful holiday present for a beginning birder or an out-of-state birding friend. Please return your renewal for 1993 as soon as possible. Thanks for your continued support of COA.

1992 Bird Lists

For an article in a future issue of the *Bulletin*, members are encouraged to send their 1992 bird list totals to Todd McGrath, 64 Lyness Street, Manchester, CT 06040. Include totals for any or all of your yard, town, county, state or year lists.

Warbler Back Issues Archivist and early issues needed

Betty Kleiner, editor of *The Connecticut Warbler*, COA's quarterly journal of ornithology, is looking for an archivist who will organize and arrange for the safekeeping of over 10 years of the publication's files, artwork, and back issues. Anyone interested in helping with this important task should contact Betty at 658-5670.

Betty is also hoping to locate a few copies of certain early issues of *The Warbler*, of which COA has very few copies. The issues needed are Vol I, No 2 & 3; Vol II, No 1; Vol III, No 1 & 4; and Vol IV, No 2 & 4. If you have any of these issues and are willing to return them to COA, please send them to Betty Kleiner, 5 Flintlock Ridge, Simsbury, CT 06070.

Members who have copies of more recent issues which they no longer need are encouraged to return them to COA, rather than throwing them away. *Warblers* can be returned by bringing them to any COA event or sending them to COA at 314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06430.

COA at Neotropical Migrants Conference

COA was well-represented at the recent *Partners in Flight* (Northeast Working Group) conference on November 5th at the Norwalk Holiday Inn. The *Partners in Flight* Program is an international bird conservation effort, incorporating the participation of federal and state agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the corporate community.

In attendance were COA president Frank Mantlik, vice-president Robert Askins, and member/Nature Conservancy-staffer Lise Hanners. Dr. Askins, a noted Connecticut College biologist studying neotropical migrant birds, gave a presentation on monitoring nesting populations. Other presentations included *Priority Species in the Northeast*, research, management, and education.

COA is taking an active role in conserving bird species and habitat. To learn more about *Partners in Flight*, contact Diane Pence, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, (617) 965-5100.

COA Bulletin

Peabody's Swallows

by Alison Olivieri

Birders: you have only a little time left to see "Mixed Blessings: the Complex Social Life of Cliff Swallows" at Yale's Peabody Museum of Natural History.

Why should you go? Two reasons: The exhibit is stunning *and* you will learn more in a short period of time than you thought possible. This is not the average lovely museum diorama; in fact, it's a down and dirty look at what it's like to be a small colonial nesting bird.

Life is hard -- there's nest material thievery, forced copulation, nest raiding, egg transfer (i.e., forced adoption), horrible parasites and fearsome bullsnakes. In spite of this, these beautiful swallows can live to be 9 (sometimes 15) years old, despite migrations to and from Argentina, Chile and Brazil.

So what is driving this lifestyle? Why would a species evolve to live in this difficult and dangerous way? The answer, apparently, is food -- they follow each other to insect swarms, thus guaranteeing more for their young.

Once inside the main door of the museum, you follow a funnel of hand carved Cliff Swallows up the stairs to their exhibit, where an accompanying video plays in a continuous loop. After a fascinating immersion in the swallow's world, you can always check into the best exhibit of the birds of Connecticut available anywhere.

So, if you think you've got problems, take them off your mind by visiting the cliffies. The exhibit will remain until January 3, 1993; admission is free weekdays after 3 pm. The Peabody Museum is located at 170 Whitney Avenue (corner of Sachem Street), New Haven, CT (Exit 3 off I-91). For information call 432-5050.

Waxwings in Winter

by Roland Clement

Moose Hill, elevation 471 feet, is in western Guilford, on the Branford line between Route 1 and Interstate 95. It was an apple orchard until a decade or so ago. Today it is a hundred-acre tangle of Multiflora Rose, one of the largest such thickets in Connecticut, where the shrubby rose is strangling the apple trees and furnishes an abundant winter food supply for cardinals, mockingbirds,

and Cedar Waxwings.

When I discovered Moose Hill in January, 1992, it hosted two wintering flocks of waxwings, each about fifty strong. My morning walks along Towner Swamp Road on the western edge of the hill almost always brought me in contact with the westernmost flock, since the birds enjoyed the high, sun-facing trees along this road. Depending upon how cold the morning was, or the hour of my walk, the birds were either feeding in the rose thickets, or sunning in the high trees; or their bullet-like forms hurtled between shrubs and trees as I crossed their territory. It had been an easy winter for them, one of the mildest on record.

On the morning of March 24th it was thirty-two degrees at seven o'clock and the sky was clear. When I saw the Waxwings at nine a.m., I immediately felt that they were just waking up. None were feeding yet, but most of them descended to an open brooklet for a morning drink. Studying them more carefully, I found ten or so birds still on roost, crowded shoulder to shoulder, sheltered beneath a complex of bent limbs about twenty-five feet above the snowy ground. But these too soon left the roost and joined the milling throng.

April turned out to be colder than normal, but even so, the waxwings scattered right after mid-month, their wintering stay among the thorny tangles of Multiflora Rose over.

New Hawk Watch Organization Formed

The New England Hawk Watch has disbanded and was recently replaced by The Northeast Hawk Watch, which will summarize data collected from all hawk watching sites in the the New England states, southeast New York, Fire Island, and northern New Jersey. The new organization will be affiliated with The Hawk Migration Association of North America.

The Annual Report, formerly funded by donations from bird clubs throughout New England and distributed free to all interested, will now be sent to paying members of The Northeast Hawk Watch. New members will receive three Annual Reports covering the 1992, 1993, and 1994 hawk migration seasons. To join, send \$10.00 to Gerald Mersereau, Treasurer, Northeast Hawk Watch, P.O. Box 321, Tariffville, CT 06081.

COA Bulletin

Christmas Bird Count Schedule

COA members are encouraged to participate in the 93rd annual National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count. Counts in Connecticut are scheduled from Saturday, December 19 to Sunday, January 3rd. Check the listing below for the date of the count in your area, and call your compiler to sign up for this important birding event. If you have a scheduling conflict, join a count in a neighboring area on another day. Many COA members participate in several counts every year, and compilers always welcome another pair of eyes.

Saturday, December 19, 1992

NEW HAVEN, CT (NH CT) Compilers: Stephen P. Broker, 76 Diamond Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1313, 203-387-0798 and Frank Gallo, 35 Urban Street, New Canaan, CT 06840, 203-966-8871.

STORRS, CT (ST CT) Compiler: Steve Rogers, 58 Pinney Hill Road, Willington, CT 06279, 203-429-5532.

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

Sunday, December 20, 1992

GREENWICH-STAMFORD, CT (GS CT) Compilers: Canfield Clark, 12 Heather Lane, Greenwich, CT 06831, 203-531-4857 and Gary Palmer, 34 Field Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807, 203-661-4897.

LITCHFIELD HILLS, CT (LH CT) Compiler: Raymond E. Belding, 29 Windmill Road, Harwinton, CT 06791, 203-485-1368.

LAKEVILLE-SHARON, CT (LS CT) Compiler: Bob Moeller, P.O. Box 1119, Sharon, CT 06069, 203-364-5936.

OXFORD, CT (OX CT) Compiler: Buzz Devine, 18 South Street, Plymouth, CT 06782, 203-283-0744.

QUINNIPIAC VALLEY, CT (QV CT) Compiler: Wilford Schultz, 93 Harrison Road, Wallingford, CT 06492, 203-265-6398.

SALMON RIVER, CT (SR CT) Compiler: David A. Titus, 795D Long Hill Road, Middletown, CT 06457, 203-346-1893

WESTPORT, CT (WE CT) Compiler: Frank W. Mantlik, 17 Seabreeze Place, South Norwalk, CT 06854, 203-838-1694. Additional contact: Ed Hiestand, 10 Woodside Lane, Westport, CT 06880, 203-227-5997.

Saturday, December 26, 1992

BARKHAMSTED, CT (BA CT) Compilers: David Rosgen, PO Box 1465, Sharon, CT 06069, 203-283-8378 and David Tripp, Jr. RFD-2, Winsted, CT 06098, 203-379-9237.

Sunday, December 27, 1992

STRATFORD-MILFORD, CT (SM CT) Compiler: Steve Mayo, 159 Kings Highway/#27, Milford, CT 06460, 203-874-1860.

Friday, January 1, 1993

PAWLING, NY-CT (PA NY) Compilers: Sibyll Gilbert, RR1, Box 236, Pawling, NY 12564, 914-855-3266 and Jeanne Kauffman, RD2, Box 172, Sherman, CT 06784, 203-355-1688.

Saturday, January 2, 1993

E. W. TEALE TRAIL WOOD, CT (EW CT) Compiler: Marilyn Higgins, Hammond Hill, Hampton, CT 06247, 203-455-0063.

HARTFORD, CT (HA CT) Compiler: Jay Kaplan, 71 Gracey Road, Canton, CT 06019, 203-693-0157.

NEW LONDON, CT (NL CT) Compiler: Robert Dewire, 9 Canary Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379, 203-599-3085.

Sunday, January 3, 1993

OLD LYME-SAYBROOK, CT (OL CT) Compiler: Jay Hand, 76 Sill Lane, Old Lyme, CT 06371, 203-434-0213.

Neck-banded Geese

As part of a continuing study of the movement and survival rates of both resident and migrant Canada Geese along the Atlantic Flyway, the Connecticut DEP's Wildlife Division has been capturing and tagging Canada Geese with metal leg bands and (usually white) neck collars. The collars have a unique three- or four-digit code (e.g., GN5 or GY#) that can be observed with a scope or binoculars.

Anyone who observes such collared geese is encouraged to record the following: code, neck-band color, color of symbols, date, location, and size of flock. Record only codes that can be clearly read. Do not guess! Please send this data, along with your name and address to: Paul Merola, CT DEP Waterfowl Program, Franklin Wildlife Management Area, 391 Route 32, North Franklin, CT 06254 (phone: 203-642-7239).

COA Bulletin

First COA Field Trips

by Frank Mantlik

This summer COA initiated a new Field Trip Program. The first trip, a shorebird/tern workshop at **Milford Point** on August 30, was a huge success. Over fifty people of all birding skills attended, ably led by Steve Mayo (field trip chairman), Todd McGrath, Frank Mantlik, and others. Coinciding with high tide, dozens of scopes were trained on the multitude of birds resting on the sandbar just offshore -- hundreds of shorebirds (of 15 species) and Common Terns. The leaders patiently assisted all participants to spot and sort through the identification of each species. Those birders who hiked to the tip of Milford Point were well-rewarded with point-blank studies of several "peep" species. The day's highlights included Willet, Whimbrel, Red Knots, Western and White-rumped Sandpipers, Forster's Terns, and a Peregrine Falcon, which stooped on the shorebird flock!

On October 10, a two-part trip to the state's two leading hawkwatch sites was somewhat dampened by unfavorable weather and winds. At **Lighthouse Point**, leaders Steve Mayo, Neil Currie, and Frank Mantlik were joined by a few hardy members. They were treated to an aerial display by a male Peregrine Falcon, as well as several Osprey, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, 3000 migrating Blue Jays, and two late-migrant Common Nighthawks. At **Quaker Ridge**, leaders Tom Burke, Joe Zeranski, and Julio de la Torre reported a rather lackluster afternoon hawk movement.

Our first COA out-of-state trip was to nationally-famous **Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge** in Queens, NY for a waterfowl workshop. Tom Burke (expert birder and voice of the NY Rare Bird Alert), Julio de la Torre (world-class owl expert and naturalist), and Frank Mantlik (COA "Prez") led an enthusiastic group of 12 members. Frequently flying jets from JFK pierced the bright blue, breezy skies overhead, while on the ground and water thousands of ducks and geese of 20 different species were scoped in great lighting conditions. Highlights included flocks of Snow Geese, Brant, Gadwall, Scaup, Mergansers, and Ruddy Ducks, as well as a Eurasian Wigeon, a Tricolored Heron, and 48 American Oystercatchers. The sight of two super-sonic transports taking off was eclipsed by an adult Peregrine Falcon sailing slowly over our picnic lunch! To top off a great day, the group made a stop at Playland

REGIONAL HOTLINES

Connecticut (203) 254-3665
Rhode Island (401) 231-5728
Eastern Massachusetts (617) 259-8805
Western Massachusetts (413) 253-2218
Vermont (802) 457-2779
New Hampshire (603) 224-9900
Maine (207) 781-2332
New York Metro (212) 979-3070
Northern New Jersey (201) 766-2661
Cape May, New Jersey (609) 884-2626

Lake in Rye and saw the male Tufted Duck!

NOTE: Superb views of a Peregrine Falcon have been had on each of the first three COA field trips. See what you're missing? Be sure to check the list of upcoming trips on page 8.

Time To Bell The Cat

Various studies have shown that housecats are a major predator on songbirds. This problem is especially critical in winter, when bird-feeding again becomes popular with homeowners. To help prevent unnecessary slaughter, we encourage cat-owners to place an elastic bell collar on their cats. Ask your neighbors to do the same. Most cats adjust quickly, while birds can avoid attack.

Members' Corner

COA secretary **Alison Olivieri** has resigned after three years of faithfully and precisely documenting the deliberations and decisions of the COA Board of Directors. Alison will continue as the chairperson of the Education Committee and will also serve as a director, replacing **Gene Billings**, who left the Board in order to replace Alison as secretary.

Recent callers to COA's rare bird alert hotline have probably noticed that the familiar voice of hotline stalwart **Milan Bull** is sometimes replaced by another announcer. **Jay Hand** has volunteered to be the hotline's "co-voice," and he and Milan will share responsibility for getting the word out on unusual birds and interesting migrants.

COA Bulletin

Trips & Events

COA Field Trips

This fall, COA initiated a new birdwatching field-trip program, designed to visit productive areas throughout the state at their peak seasons. Geared for birders of all levels of experience, from novice to veteran, the trips are led by a group of top field birders who have a talent for education. Trips are open to all and take place rain, snow or shine. We often bring a snack or a bag lunch. For information, call COA Field Trip Chairman Steve Mayo (874-1860) or President Frank Mantlik (838-1694). The following trips are scheduled for upcoming months.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RARITIES CHASE on Friday, January 1, 1993. A carpool run around the state to kick off your year list and see rare birds located on various CBCs. Time and place to meet will be announced on the Rare Bird Alert (254-3655).

EAGLE WATCH AT SHEPAUG DAM on Saturday, February 13, 1993. Learn more about Bald Eagles at this famous wintering spot. Time, place to meet, and registration info will be announced on the RBA.

GULL IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP on Sunday, April 4, 1993, 9:00 am. Explore the mysteries of gull plumages and terminology while searching for wintering European rarities. Meet at the New Haven Info Booth at Long Wharf (Exit 46 off I-95).

EAST ROCK WARBLERS on Saturday, May 1, 1993, 8:00 am. Search for neotropical migrants at this famous early-Spring hotspot. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum in New Haven. Take Exit 3 off I-91, go straight on Trumbull Street 2 blocks, then right on Whitney Ave. approx. 1.5 miles. Museum and parking are on the right.

Connecticut Audubon

Connecticut Audubon Society announces the following field trips. For information on these trips and others, call Director of Adult Education Lauren Brown at 259-6305 or 481-0377.

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND on Saturday, January 23. Noon to late afternoon. Sachuest Point guarantees Harlequin Duck. \$8 members; \$10 non-members. Leader: Andy Griswold.

CHINCOTEAGUE, VA with stops at Bombay Hook and Milburn Landing. April 30-May 2. \$295 members; \$315 non-members. Includes transportation, hotel and all meals. Leaders: Fred Sibley, Jay Hand and Jim Mockalis.

Greenwich Audubon

Greenwich Audubon Society announces the following field trips. All trips begin at 8:00 am at Island Beach parking lot (I-95 Exit 3 in Greenwich). For information call Jackie Bruskin (914)-378 2254 (day) or (914) 667-3928 (evening).

SHARON AUDUBON - HOUSATONIC MEADOW SANCTUARY on Saturday, February 6. Long trip; bring lunch. If snow, will chase rarities on Hotline or Christmas Count. Leader: Pat Dugan.

JONES BEACH on Saturday, March 6. Long trip; bring lunch. Leaders: Jackie Bruskin and Brian O'Toole.

Hartford Audubon

Hartford Audubon announces the following field trips. For general information call 633-7135, leave a message, and your call will be returned.

ESSEX AND EAST OF THE RIVER on Sunday, January 10, 1993. Meet at the Goodspeed Opera House parking lot at 8:00 am. Leader: Steve Mayo, 874-1860.

CAPE ANN, NEWBURYPORT, MASS on Saturday and Sunday, January 23-24. Leaders: Walter Charsky and Betty Kleiner. For more information, call Betty Kleiner, 658-5670.

LONG ISLAND BIRDING on Saturday and Sunday, February 13-14. Leader: Jim Moore, 673-4672.

New Haven Bird Club

New Haven Bird Club announces the following field trips in addition to local weekend trips, which are always available. For information call Outdoor Field Trip Chairmen John Himmelman, 663-3225 or Steve Mayo, 874-1860.

MONTAUK, LONG ISLAND on Saturday and Sunday, January 16-17. Participants pay for lodging and meals. Limit 15. Leader: John Farrand, 773-3221.

PLUM ISLAND & NEWBURYPORT, MASS on Saturday and Sunday, February 13-14. Participants pay for lodging and meals. No limit. Leader: Frank Gallo. For information call Steve Broker, 387-0798.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COA encourages local bird clubs to send announcements of field trips and other events to Jay Knox, Bulletin Editor
43 Bridge Road, Weston, CT 06883

COA Bulletin

Winter Field Report

Please tear off the form which appears below, and use it to submit your Winter Field Report. List noteworthy sightings on separate sheet(s) of lined paper, giving species, date, number of individuals, and location. Use abbreviations when possible; for example, five Common Loons seen at Sherwood Island State Park on Feb. 26 should be entered as "Com. Loon 2/26 (5) SISP."

For common species, please record dates and locations of first, last, and maximum sightings. Rare and uncommon species, for which reports of all sightings are needed, are listed below. The compilers would greatly appreciate receiving your report with species listed in phylogenetic order; use the COA *Connecticut Field List* as a guide. Note: Detailed descriptions should be submitted for any species on the *Field List* which is denoted by * (rare) or # (hypothetical) or for any species not on the *Field List*. All reports will be preserved. Editorial commentary is welcomed.

JOINING COA

The Connecticut Ornithological Association welcomes new members. Membership is only \$10.00 per year and includes this quarterly newsletter, a quarterly journal, and invitations to COA events. To join, send your name and address and a check to COA at 314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06430.

COA Annual Meeting

COA will hold its Annual Meeting at Connecticut College in new London on Saturday, March 27, 1993. There will be speakers, workshops, field trips, and a birder's marketplace. Volunteers are needed for the program, hospitality, and registration committees; if you are interested in helping in one of these areas, contact Program Committee chair Debra Miller at (508) 520-1289. Save the date!

COA Field Report Form for Dec 1, 1992 to Feb 28, 1993

Name: _____ Phone: _____

(Please correct address label on other side if necessary.)

How often have you birded this season?

1) Just around my yard 2) 1-6 days 3) 7-12 days 4) 13 or more days

Which species impressed you as being more common this year?

Which species impressed you as being scarce this year?

Feeder Location: Urban Suburban Rural Farm Rural Woodland

Feeder Offerings: Sunflower Thistle Mixed Seed Suet Water Other: _____

Species for which all records are needed:

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Red-necked Grebe | Barrow's Goldeneye | Glaucous Gull | Wh-crowned Sparrow |
| American Bittern | Golden Eagle | Any Alcids | Lapland Longspur |
| Tundra Swan | Peregrine Falcon | Snowy Owl | Northern Oriole |
| Eurasian Teal | Gyrfalcon | Long-eared Owl | Any Crossbill |
| Eurasian Wigeon | Little Gull | Varied Thrush | Any Redpoll |
| Redhead | Com Bl-headed Gull | Northern Shrike | Pine Siskin |
| Any Eider | Iceland Gull | Any Warbler | |
| Harlequin Duck | Lesser Bl-backed Gull | Any Grosbeak | |

Submit report to Betty Kleiner, 5 Flintlock Ridge, Simsbury, CT 06070 by March 10, 1993.

COA Bulletin

COA OFFICERS

President Frank Mantlik, 17 Seabreeze Place, South Norwalk, CT 06854 838-1694
Vice President Robert Askins, CT College/Biology, New London, CT 06320 447-1911 x7444
2nd Vice Pres Tom Baptist, 103 Sunset Hill Road, Redding, CT 06896 938-8078
Treasurer Carl Trichka, 65 Glover Street, Fairfield, CT 06430 259-2623
Secretary Gene Billings, 28 Sunset Ridge, Norfolk, CT 06058 542-5177

COA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Bylaws Joseph Zeranski, 163 Field Point Road, Greenwich, CT 06830 661-9607
Conservation Tom Baptist, 103 Sunset Hill Road, Redding, CT 06896 938-8078
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Publications Betty Kleiner, 5 Flintlock Ridge, Simsbury, CT 06070 658-5670
Rare Records George Clark, Biology Box U-43, UCONN, Storrs, CT 06269 486-4459
Research Robert Askins, CT College/Biology, New London, CT 06320 439-2149

**THE CONNECTICUT
ORNITHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION**
314 Unquowa Road
Fairfield, CT 06430

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