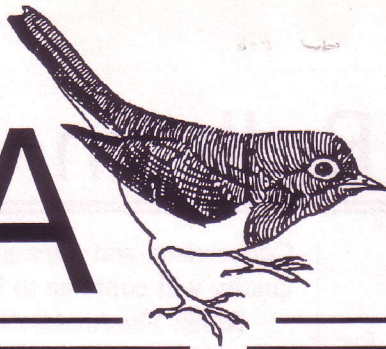


COA



Bulletin

Spring 1993

NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Vol 7 No 1

1993 Annual Meeting

by Debra Miller

Please join us on Saturday, March 27th at Connecticut College in New London for COA's ninth Annual Meeting. A lineup of knowledgeable and informative speakers will be on hand to make a variety of presentations on birds and birding in Connecticut.

The Annual Meeting is a highlight of the birding year for many COA members and their guests, because it gives them the chance to spend an educational and entertaining day in the company of their fellow birders. Even the most experienced birders learn at least one new avian fact or field skill by attending the meeting, and most of us learn a great many new things. New members are especially encouraged to attend, so that they can meet the diverse group of people who belong to COA, from beginning birders to professors of ornithology. This year's presentations, which are summarized below, have much to offer both the neophyte and the expert.

Fun Birding with a Purpose: Greg Butcher, Director of Bird Population Studies for Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Vice President of the Association of Field Ornithologists, and Executive Director of the American Birding Association will be the keynote speaker. Greg will tell stories about birding projects with which he's been involved and introduce us to the organizations that sponsor them. These will include birdfinding guides and youth education (American Birding Association), Breeding Bird Censuses (Association of Field Ornithologists), Christmas Bird Counts (Audubon), Nest Record Program and Project FeederWatch (Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology), Project Tanager (Cornell and ABA),

(continued on page 2)

MEETING REGISTRATION

To preregister for the Annual Meeting, send your name and address and a check for \$10.00 per person plus \$9.00 per buffet lunch (optional) to COA at 314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06430.

HOTLINE HIGHLIGHTS

Tufted Duck Greenwich Dec 15 - Feb 28
Snowy Owl Stratford Dec 16 - Jan 26
Black Vultures New Milford Dec 19 - Jan 17
Lesser Black-backed Gulls New Milford
Dec 19 - Feb 6
Ash-throated Flycatcher Stamford
Dec 20 - Jan 10
Barrow's Goldeneyes Essex Jan 3
Semipalmated Plover Waterford Jan 10
Barnacle Geese Wallingford Jan 23 - Feb 8
Northern Shrike Durham Jan 25 - Feb 6

RARE BIRD ALERT: 203-254-3665

Xmas Count Results Ash-throated Flycatcher Tops List

by Steve Broker

During the 1992-93 National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count, the 93rd edition of this longest running bird census, 908 committed participants (788 in the field and 120 at feeders) braved the elements and fought fatigue (and also resisted the suggestions of friends and loved ones that we should indeed be committed), as Connecticut was canvassed for its early winter avifauna. The results of our efforts were again remarkable.

We recorded 163 Count Day and 3 Count Week species, including five species new to the 10 year state CBC list and seven additional state rarities. A total of 41 species were seen in 10-year-high numbers, and 9 were in 10-year-low numbers. Two species, American Bittern and Common Redpoll, were missed for the first time in 10 years.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, seen on the Greenwich-Stamford count, represents the first record of this western *Myiarchus* in Connecticut. The other new species were Tufted Duck (Greenwich-Stamford), Common Eider (4 at New London and 1 at Old Lyme), Common Moorhen (New London) and Black-legged

(continued on page 4)

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Annual Meeting . . .

international conservation (International Council for Bird Preservation), and neotropical migratory bird conservation (Partners in Flight).

The Owls of Connecticut: Julio de la Torre, author and nocturnal-raptor expert, will present concise biographies of all owl species known to have occurred in the state. He will give brief accounts of the status, ecology, vocalizations, etc. of each species and comment on conservation where appropriate. Emphasis will be on current nesters, but extralimital species will also be covered.

Transportation Planning and the Environment: Ned Hurlle, Director of Environmental Planning, Connecticut Department of Transportation, will discuss the process the ConnDOT undertakes with respect to planning, designing and constructing transportation projects and will explain how environmental concerns are addressed. Emphasis will be on coordination with State, Federal and local environmental agencies.

The Changing Breeding Ecology of Bald Eagles in Northwest Connecticut: Donald A. Hopkins, Connecticut Bald Eagle Study Group, will review observations of Bald Eagles on the Upper Farmington River over the past eighteen years. He will document the change of this small eagle population from non-breeding to breeding, describe the first successful nesting in the state in almost 40 years, and offer a possible explanation for this fortuitous event.

Rare Records Revisited: George Clark, Connecticut State Ornithologist, will review examples of both old and recent reports of rare bird species in Connecticut and discuss the gathering and evaluation of the evidence required for a species to be added to the official state list, which is maintained by COA's Rare Records Committee. In recent years, there has been considerable improvement in the quality of documentation for rarities in

Connecticut, and there is reason to be optimistic that the quality will continue to improve.

Rails: Shadowbirds of the Marshlands: William Burt, photographer, will discuss rails and their companion birds, as well as their marshland worlds, with emphasis on Connecticut. There will be brief excursions to other marsh regions too - in Maryland and Manitoba - for a look at the nesting sites of two very special rails which are found, but only rarely, in Connecticut.

Birding Spots in Southeastern Connecticut: Robert Dewire of NatureScapes, Inc. will take us on a photo journey to the southeastern corner of Connecticut's best birding spots and show us by season where to find those special birds that make a trip worthwhile.

Warbler Identification for Beginners: Jay Kaplan, Director of the Roaring Brook Nature Center, former President of Hartford Audubon Society, and COA Board Member will use slides and mounted specimens to illustrate techniques of field identification of breeding and migrant warblers found in Connecticut during the spring season. This workshop will focus on field identification of breeding-plumage individuals by field marks, voice, habits and habitats.

Mystery Photographs and the Logic of Identification: Frederick Purnell, former COA Board Member, will show us that confronting an unidentified bird in a photograph provides an opportunity not only to sharpen identification skills, but to focus on the logic of field identification. The *psychology* of identification (how we do identify a bird) differs from the *logic* of identification (how we ought to go about identifying a bird). This is a crucial distinction for those who are faced with providing supporting details on a sighting of a rarity. The logic of identification depends upon *falsification* - eliminating likely confusing species by concentration on distinctive features.

Monk Parakeets in Connecticut: Linda Pearson, Connecticut Audubon bird bander and volunteer bander with the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship Project (MAPS) will introduce us to the Monk Parakeets which have been residents of the state since the late 1960s. Her slide presentation will present the results of a two-year study of the habits, distribution and status of these fascinating birds.

Bird Vocalization Quiz: Jay Hand, COA Board Member, has put together two recorded quizzes -- one for beginners and another for advanced listeners -- which will be available as an independent exercise

The Newsletter of the
Connecticut Ornithological Association
is published quarterly in
February, May, August, and November.

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

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throughout the day. Jay will discuss the answers during an afternoon workshop.

In addition to these presentations, there will be a number of other events during the day. A buffet luncheon (\$9.00 per person) will be served, and attendees who prefer to bring a bag lunch are invited to eat in the dining hall. After lunch there will be a short business meeting, during which COA officers and directors for 1993 will be elected.

A highlight of the day will be the presentation of the 1993 Mabel Osgood Wright award, which COA has created to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to Connecticut ornithology. A reception and cake-cutting for the recipient of the award will be held after lunch. Also, the popular COA marketplace will be offering a variety of birding gear and bird related items at reasonable prices. And to top off the day, several lucky people will be winners of valuable birding equipment in the raffle. All in all, this will be a terrific event for Connecticut birders.

Registration is only \$10.00 per person in advance (see box on page 1) or \$12.00 at the door. The day will begin with registration from 8:00 to 9:00 am and conclude with the announcement of raffle winners at 5:15 pm. See you there!

Nightjar Volunteers

This spring COA will be conducting its third annual survey of Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will. Volunteers are needed to participate in these surveys, which are designed to determine the distribution and abundance of these species in Connecticut, as well as to measure population changes. There are indications that both of these Nightjars are declining in the state.

For the Whip-poor-will survey, volunteers will drive in rural areas on calm evenings in June, listening for Whip-poor-wills. The only qualifications are the ability to identify the call of the Whip-poor-will and a willingness to drive at night. For the Common Nighthawk survey, participants will visit town parks, lighted baseball fields, and shopping mall parking lots and drive city streets on calm June evenings listening for nighthawks. The qualifications for this survey are a willingness to be in urban areas at night and the ability to identify the nighthawk's call.

If you are interested in participating in one or both of these surveys, contact Mike Usai, the survey coordi-

nator, at 914-946-1371 during the evening. A mailing with observation forms and more details will then be sent. Mailings will also be sent to those who have contributed reports in the past.

Good Birds on Trips

The COA Field Trip program started 1993 off with a bang, as ten enthusiastic birders, led by Todd McGrath and Frank Mantlik, braved a clear, cold, windy New Year's Day by "chasing" rarities found on recent Christmas Bird Counts. The first stop was in Stamford, where terrific views (and photos) of the **Ash-throated Flycatcher** (1st documented state record) were had, as it searched for lingering insects in a sheltered residential yard. Everyone was delighted, and if the trip had ended then, it would have been a huge success.

From there, a stop at nearby Greenwich harbor resulted in equally good views of the drake **Tufted Duck**, in direct comparison with Lesser Scaup. Next, a drive to New Milford's Landfill and nearby river for Black Vultures and rare gulls was unsuccessful; the landfill was not in operation and birds were scarce. Returning to the coast netted a drake Eurasian Wigeon at Seaside Park in Bridgeport, and an American Bittern and six Northern Harriers at Stratford. Fifty-two species were seen on the day, getting birders off to a great start for the new year.

On February 13, Steve Mayo led a group of COA members to the eagle-viewing site at Shepaug Dam in Southbury. Despite a snowstorm the day before, the roads were passable, the site was open, and the skies gradually cleared. The intrepid group was rewarded, even before reaching the dam, as they watched an immature Bald Eagle feeding on prey in a roadside farm field. A second immature eagle was seen at the dam itself. These trippers should consider themselves lucky, because even though the weather was much nicer the next day, no eagles were found!

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

Xmas Count . . .

Kittiwake (CW at New Haven). Tufted Duck has only recently moved from the state hypothetical list to being a fully documented species. Common Eider was last seen on the 1980-81 Old Lyme-Saybrook count. Common Moorhen was previously seen on the 1979-80 Stratford-Milford count. Black-legged Kittiwake has just one previous state CBC record, 1974-75 at New London.

While the feeder-watcher portion of counts was our poorest in 10 years (why are we getting lax in this area?), the field observer contingent was one of our largest ever. The combined effort in field and at feeder tallied 479,212 birds. High species honors went to Hartford with 85 Count Day and 3 Count Week species (among Northern counts), Woodbury-Roxbury with 85 CD species (Mid-State), and Old Lyme-Saybrook with 123 CD species and New Haven with 123 CD + 7 CW species (Coastal). All 17 counts held this year contributed in important fashion to the combined Connecticut Christmas Bird Count. Hartford, Woodbury-Roxbury and Old Lyme-Saybrook counts were particularly fabulous for their species totals and rare finds, as was Greenwich-Stamford with its top-quality rarities.

Those species seen four or fewer times in 10 count years and thereby termed rarities were Northern Gannet (New Haven and New London), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (CW at Greenwich-Stamford), Green-winged "Eurasian" Teal (Stratford-Milford), Barrow's Goldeneye (2 at Old Lyme), Black Vulture (3 at Woodbury-Roxbury), American Oystercatcher (New London and Old Lyme), and Orange-crowned Warbler (1 each at Greenwich-Stamford, Old Lyme-Saybrook and Stratford). Great Egret (Greenwich-Stamford and Westport) and Red Knot (27 in all at New Haven, New London and Old Lyme-Saybrook) were other noteworthy species.

Regional rarities included Blue-winged Teal (Hartford), Snowy Owl (Lakeville-Sharon) and Northern Shrike (Edwin Way Teale Trail Wood) in the north, Common Raven (Pawling and Woodbury-Roxbury) and Northern Oriole (Woodbury-Roxbury) mid-state, and American Oystercatcher (New London and Old Lyme-Saybrook) and Lesser Black-backed Gull (Greenwich-Stamford and Stratford-Milford) coastally.

Statewide results show new record high numbers for several species, including Great Blue Heron, Mallard, four hawks (Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-shoul-

dered, Red-tailed), Northern Flicker, four wrens, and House Finch. Of these record high species, Mute Swan, Turkey Vulture, Wild Turkey, Monk Parakeet, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren and Eastern Bluebird continue their ten-year trends of significantly increasing numbers, while Bald Eagle fell one short of tying the ten-year high.

Ten-year low counts were recorded for Snow Goose, Northern Pintail, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Bobwhite, Long-eared Owl, Blue Jay, Brown Thrasher, Rusty Blackbird and Pine Siskin. Rough-legged Hawk was seen only at Hartford, a single individual. Two species were missed for the first time in ten years: American Bittern and Common Redpoll. Species at least temporarily reversing ten-year decreases in numbers are Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren and Eastern Meadowlark. My observation several years ago that European Starling was declining in numbers must be balanced against the realization that we're still able to count more than 150,000 of this Old World introduction on our CBCs. Concern remains for declining numbers of American Kestrel (just 66 statewide), Ruffed Grouse (also 66 seen, the fifth bad year in a row), and American Coot (only 38, about one tenth of last year's improved total).

Here are some additional observations. Excellent coastal surveys by boat and from land produced the highest Common Loon count ever. Mute Swans (1832 counted) remain unchecked by previous management efforts to control their numbers. Canvasback (429 total) had its third consecutive year of very poor numbers. Monk Parakeets are establishing new colonies along the coast. Southern species (Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren) continue to extend their range northward, while Common Raven continues its successful breeding and wintering range expansion south into Connecticut. Shorebirds were generally in short supply with the exception of Sanderlings.

There was a huge increase in numbers of early winter Bonaparte's Gulls. Winter conditions in Connecticut continue to be favorable for wrens, including House Wren and Marsh Wren. One can speculate that we're becoming more familiar with protected coastal areas which serve as refuges for Marsh Wrens not motivated to fly south in fall. Eastern Bluebird recovery continues rapidly statewide, up another 13% this year.

Wood Warbler representation was poor, with the exception of 3 coastal Orange-crowned Warblers, one Pine Warbler at Old Lyme-Saybrook, and Palm War-

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bler at Litchfield Hills, New Haven (CW), and Westport. Only New Haven and New London recorded Common Yellowthroat. Yellow-breasted Chat was missed in Connecticut for the second time in the last 15 years.

My thanks go to all count compilers for sharing data. Jay Kaplan has Hartford Audubon ten year records in highly readable form. Ed Hagen has Woodbury-Roxbury data compiled for the period 1964-1992. Greenwich-Stamford reports show fascinating historical analysis by Gary Palmer. The standard of excellence for CBC reports continues to be set by Frank Mantlik, whose Westport reports contain insightful comments and thoroughly documented details on rarities which show the rest of us how it should be done.

Full details on the Christmas Count will appear in the next issue of *The Connecticut Warbler*.

Members Speak Up

by Alison Olivieri

Nearly 10 per cent of our membership took the time and the energy to respond to our recent request for "Comments" on the membership renewal forms; hence we return the favor with a summarizing article.

Any experienced direct mail professional will tell you that this is a staggeringly high response rate, considering that the statistical norm is usually akin to bird banding recaptures -- something like 0.3 per cent. Obviously the COA membership feels passionately about its birding activities (we knew that) and its organization (we were hoping).

Let's begin with the rave reviews: about 80% of the respondents used adjectives like "excellent," "exceptional," "interesting" and "informative" to describe COA's overall activities. *The Connecticut Warbler* pulled in the highest praise; one member spoke wistfully of wishing to write something worthy of our journal. Of particular interest to members, it seems, are the site guides by Buzz Devine and Dwight Smith that have appeared with some regularity of late (be sure to watch for the book).

Close behind was the *COA Bulletin* (thank you very much), described by one member as "always read with great interest" and by another as "always anxiously awaited." The recently initiated COA field trip program received several compliments, including "always welcome," "interesting," and "well balanced." Annual

Meetings are highly respected, evidently, and received much praise for excellent programs. Twenty per cent of those who responded said that they call the Rare Bird Alert regularly; a member who is especially fond of the RBA said that it helped find a few lifers and state birds, and another member offered the following: "...even if I am not free to bird, I still enjoy the weekly update."

A number of the respondents expressed general approval of the way COA is run but also included suggestions for making things better. Here are some of their suggestions, preferences, and special requests.

Several members asked for more information (or an article) on backyard birds, stating flatly that they do not go afield. A very specific request was made for information on plantings and other techniques to attract birds. At least one member said his/her main interest in birds was their behavior, and another cited *The Connecticut Warbler* article on the "tern that adopted the oystercatcher egg" as an all-time favorite.

One member requested personal descriptions in our publications of good days at top birding locales, in the state and elsewhere. Another member said he/she wanted to participate in winter feeder surveys but didn't know how. And one respondent asked for COA's membership list -- if the American Birding Association publishes its list, why don't we?

Now for the negatives: The most frequent complaint (one-third of the 20 per cent of comments which were less than rave reviews) was that our activities are not exactly statewide. One member said he/she was "still waiting for info on bird clubs in Danbury." Another put it this way, "I get the impression that COA doesn't care too much about birding or birders in other parts of Connecticut than the immediate shoreline, especially the southwest shoreline. I realize that the COA membership seems concentrated in that area, but please put a little more emphasis on the rest of the state."

The runner up reproach was that our publications are not always received on time. This is a source of great aggravation to us as well, and, although sometimes it is not our fault, sometimes it just plain is. One gentle soul said, "...the only suggestion I would make would be to get the publications out in a more timely manner. Considering that it is all done by busy volunteers, this is not a gripe, merely an observation."

Another source of consternation, at least to one member, is the Field Report Form. He or she finds the terms "more common," "less common," and requests for "very uncommon to rare" birds confusing, stating

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that the Field Notes cover a much wider range of species. It was suggested that potential contributors need to know more precisely what is of interest.

There is much to chew on here. We love the admiration, but we'd better do some serious thinking about the rest. In a state with such a large population, it's inconceivable that there are only about 400 birders in our organization. We need to become truly statewide; we need to find new members; we need to get our information out in time for people to attend activities; and, finally, we need to pay more attention to the interests of our membership. Thank you all for responding. Here is a compliment for you from an out-of-state member: "I have found Connecticut birders I've met along the way to be extremely friendly and helpful -- a nice, enthusiastic breed who are very involved in birds, birding and conservation."

The President Replies

by Frank Mantlik

I want to thank all COA members who took the time to send us the comments summarized in Alison Olivieri's article; this kind of feedback is essential to improving our organization. Here are my thoughts on the major suggestions and criticisms we received.

More timely mailings? While *The Connecticut Warbler* staff strives to maintain the publication schedule (January, April, July, and October), there are many levels of editorial review required, and delays are a fact of life. In spite of this, the all-volunteer editorial staff does a remarkable job. The *Bulletin*, which is certainly more time-critical, is usually mailed three to four weeks before major upcoming events. Unfortunately, bulk mail, which we must use to keep postage costs down, is very unpredictable -- the *Bulletin* is delivered in some towns within a week, but it sometimes takes a month to arrive in others! We've taken some steps to speed delivery (e.g., printing "Do Not Delay" on the mailing label), and we will pursue others.

Can I get a list of COA members? The COA Board has always withheld the membership list from outside (commercial) concerns, but members in good standing may obtain a copy from the Membership Co-Chairs, Al and Diane Collins.

More information on backyard/feeder birds? We agree that more frequent articles regarding this aspect of

birding should be published. The editorial staff welcomes and will solicit such articles in the future.

More site guide articles? The editors instituted the very popular feature of Site Guide articles in the CW. As helpful aids to birding in the state, these are in demand, and we will continue to publish this type of article on a regular basis.

A better seasonal sightings report form? We agree, and the Board and editorial staff has struggled to come up with a form that lists all expected species yet still is manageable and of a format that fits in the *Bulletin*. We are currently working on a solution. Please bear with us.

Activities are not in my area. One thing we definitely strive for is to hold our activities in locations throughout the state, so they are available to the entire membership. For example, past Annual Meetings have been held in Fairfield, Hamden, Middletown, Storrs and Stamford, and this year's will be in New London. Fall Field Days have been held in Litchfield, Greenwich, and Canton. Although the Field Trip Program is in its fledgling stage, we intend to schedule trips to all areas of the state. We welcome your suggestions for locations/sites for any of these events in the future.

Membership is concentrated in one area. We are not certain at this point whether this is an accurate observation, though we don't think that it is. Our new membership database software will permit us to analyze our membership by region, and we'll publish a breakdown in the next issue of the *Bulletin*. We do know that COA's Board of Directors has representatives from all parts of the state. Board meetings are held in Middletown, so that no one is discouraged from serving on the board by having to travel too far to attend meetings.

Species Review List

The COA's Connecticut Rare Records Committee, under the chairmanship of George Clark, has released an updated Species Review List, which appears on the insert which follows this page. To inform the committee of sightings of any of the species on the list, please use the report form which is on the back of the insert. The current issue of *The Connecticut Warbler* contains an article which discusses recent additions to the state species list and also reports on the status of other rarities the committee has reviewed.

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Free Parrot Paper

Reports of foot-long green birds squawking and flocking from Branford to Stamford have been deluging the Connecticut Audubon Society's Fairfield office for several years now. If you have seen them, you are not hallucinating, nor are you alone.

From a large colony in Bridgeport, these South American Monk Parakeets are beginning to extend their range in our recently balmy state, particularly along the coast. Natural inhabitants of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, the medium-sized parrots (Latin name: *Myiopsitta monachus*) were introduced accidentally into the metropolitan area in the late 1960's or early 1970's.

COA members Linda Pearson (Easton) and Alison Olivieri (Fairfield) have been studying the birds for about two years under the direction of CAS' Fairfield Nature Center Director Milan Bull, a COA board member. Due to intense public curiosity about these charming, hardy birds, the research team decided to publish a free newsletter three or four times a year to update interested residents. The first issue was mailed in January, 1993.

To receive a copy, drop a postcard to The Parrot Paper, c/o The Fairfield Nature Center, 2325 Burr Street, Fairfield, CT 06430 with your name and address, or call 259-6305 (Tuesday through Saturday) and ask to be put on the mailing list.

Spring Speakers

Dr. Luis Baptista on Ornithology

Dr. Luis Baptista, an internationally recognized ornithologist, will give two lectures in Connecticut in early May. In his first lecture, on Saturday, May 8th at Old Lyme High School at 8:00 pm, Dr. Baptista will discuss "The biology of some unique birds and conservation on some Mexican Islands" and also "Song dialect traditions in White-crowned Sparrows." In his second lecture, on Sunday, May 9th at the Pequotsepos Nature Center in Mystic at 1:30 pm, his topic will be "Behavior of hummingbirds and their relationship to flowers." Dr. Baptista is Chairman and Curator of the Department of Ornithology of the California Academy of Sciences and is said to be a fascinating speaker. For more information, contact Louis Connick at 434-8443.

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 (908) 766-2661
Cape May, New Jersey (609) 884-2626

Pete Dunne on Birding

On Saturday, March 20, the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and the Audubon Society of Northeast Connecticut will sponsor "Birds Live and Spectacular" with a slide talk by well-known birder and author Pete Dunne, live hawks and owls from the Vermont Raptor Center, and a number of other bird-related activities, including hands-on exhibits for children. The event will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 pm in the Jorgensen Auditorium at The University of Connecticut, 2132 Hillside Road, Storrs. For information, call 486-4460.

Dr. Heinz Meng on Falcons

On Saturday, April 17, at 2:00 pm, at the Peabody Museum in New Haven, Dr. Heinz Meng of the Peregrine Falcon Foundation will present "Falcons Return" -- a program illustrated by slides, motion pictures, and live birds. Dr. Meng is a noted falconer and the first scientist to breed Peregrine Falcons in captivity. His trained falcons and hawks have appeared on television, in operas, and in the movies. For reservations, call 432-3775, Monday to Friday after 2:00 pm.

Dick Walton on Birding by Ear

Learn to identify birds by their calls and songs with Richard K. Walton, author of "Birding By Ear" and "Backyard Birdsong." Two sessions will be held: Birding By Ear I on Saturday, March 27, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Connecticut Light & Power Building, New Road, Madison and Birding By Ear II on Thursday, May 6, 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. There is a \$50 fee and a limit of 25 participants; pre-registration is required. For further information, call Jerry Connolly of the Audubon Shop in Madison at 245-9056.

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Trips & Events

COA Field Trips

COA field-trips are 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.

GULL IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP on Sunday, April 4 at 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, at 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 right.

Connecticut Audubon

CAS announces the following field trips and has generously offered to extend its member rate to COA members. For more information on these trips and others, call Director of Adult Education Lauren Brown at 481-0377 or 259-6305.

GULLS AND GLACIERS on Saturday, April 24. The birds and geology of Milford Point. Leaders Milan Bull and Sid Quarrier (retired DEP geologist).

CHINCOTEAGUE, VA with stops at Bombay Hook and the Pocomoke River. Friday, April 30 - Sunday, May 2. This popular trip delights birders annually. Leaders include Miley Bull, Fred Sibley, Jim Mockalis and Jay Hand; last year's treat was a ruff! Cost is \$295 including transportation from Fairfield, admissions, hotel, all meals; limit 40.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD from Friday, June 5 - Sunday, June 7. Leaders include Lauren Brown.

Greenwich Audubon

All trips meet at 8:00 am at Island Beach parking lot (I-95 Exit 3). All trips are free. Beginners and young family members are welcome. To register or for more information, call Jackie Bruskin at (914) 378-2254 (day) or (914) 667-3928 (evening).

HUDSON RIVER AND GREENBROOK SANCTUARY on Saturday, April 3; bring lunch; pre-registration required. Leader Matthew Popp plus a local leader.

EAST ROCK NEW HAVEN on Saturday, May 1; bring lunch. Leader Brian O'Toole.

New Haven Bird Club

NHBC announces the following trips in addition to local trips on weekends, which are always available. For information, call Field Trip Chairman, John Himmelman at 663-3225 or Steve Mayo at 874-1860.

DURHAM MEADOW TO COASTAL GUILFORD on Saturday, May 1. Meet at I-95 Exit 58 northeast side commuter lot at 5:45 am. Leader John Wagenblatt, 235-7555.

WHITE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, Litchfield on Saturday, May 15. Meet at parking lot of White Memorial at 8:00 am. Leader Lee Schlesinger. For information, call Steve Broker at 387-0798.

RIVER ROAD, KENT on Saturday, May 22. Meet at Amity Shopping Center in New Haven at 7:00 am OR Kent old train station at 8:20 am. Leader Steve Broker, 387-0798.

Potapaug Audubon Society

SCOURING THE CONNECTICUT COAST on Saturday, March 6. Meet at I-95 Exit 65 commuter lot next to Andy's Restaurant at 9:00 am. Bring lunch; many miles covered. Leader Andy Griswold, 443-2491.

BUSHY HILL NATURE CENTER, Ivoryton on Sunday, May 16, 7:00 - 9:00 am; Leader Phil Miller 767-0848 (business hours).

Western Connecticut Bird Club

COASTAL BIRDS & CONNECTICUT RIVER on Sunday, April 4. Meet at I-84 Exit 14 commuter lot (Southbury) at 8:00 am. Leader Buzz Devine 283-0744.

DELMARVA PENINSULA/CAPE MAY WEEKEND from Thursday, April 29 - Sunday, May 2. Call leader Ed Hagen at 263-5356 for details.

FLANDERS NATURE CENTER, Woodbury, Sundays April 25 through May 30. Meet at Trail House parking lot at the Nature Center at 7:30 am. Leaders are Bird Club members; call Angela Dimmitt at 355-3429 (weekends).

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

Spring Field Report

Please tear off the form which appears below, and use it to submit your Spring 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.

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.

ABA Mailing to COA

Although it is COA's policy not to release its membership list to other organizations, the Board of Directors voted to let the American Birding Association make a mailing to COA members. The board felt that many members would find this mailing, which invites them to join the ABA, interesting and informative. COA's list will not be provided to the ABA directly; instead, COA will affix its mailing labels to the ABA literature.

COA Field Report Form for March 1 to May 31, 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?

Species for which all records are needed:

Red-necked Grebe	Peregrine Falcon	Monk Parakeet	Kentucky Warbler
Northern Gannet	Black Rail	Barn Owl	Mourning Warbler
Both Bitterns	King Rail	Snowy Owl	Yellow-br Chat
Tricolored Heron	Common Moorhen	Long-eared Owl	Summer Tanager
Cattle Egret	Upland Sandpiper	Short-eared Owl	Blue Grosbeak
Tundra Swan	Ruff	No. Saw-whet Owl	Dickcissel
Northern Shoveler	Wilson's Phalarope	Whip-poor-will	Clay-colored Spar
Eurasian Wigeon	Little Gull	Red-head. Woodpecker	Vesper Sparrow
Redhead	Com. Black-hd. Gull	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Grasshopper Spar
Lesser Scaup	Iceland Gull	Yellow-bel. Flycatcher	Lincoln's Sparrow
Any Eider	Lesser Bl.-back. Gull	Common Raven	Wh-crowned Spar
Black Scoter	Glaucous Gull	Sedge Wren	Lapland Longspur
Barrow's Goldeneye	Caspian Tern	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Yel-headed Blbrd
Black Vulture	Royal Tern	Golden-wing. Warbler	Boat-tailed Grackl
Bald Eagle	Black Tern	Yell.-throated Warbler	Pine Siskin
Golden Eagle	Black Skimmer	Prothonotary Warbler	Evening Grosbeak

Submit report to Betty Kleiner, 5 Flintlock Ridge, Simsbury, CT 06070 by June 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
Education	Alison Olivieri, 184 Fair Oak Drive, Fairfield, CT 06430 259-7725
Field Trips	Steve Mayo, 159 Kings Highway/#27, Milford, CT 06460 874-1860
Finance	Jay Buss, 272 Knollwood Drive, Fairfield, CT 06430 259-6768
Membership	Al Collins, 25 Mitchell Street, Stamford, CT 06902 323-3055
Nominating	Debra Miller, 14 Oakridge Drive, Franklin, MA 02038 (508) 520-1289
Program	Debra Miller, 14 Oakridge Drive, Franklin, MA 02038 (508) 520-1289
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**

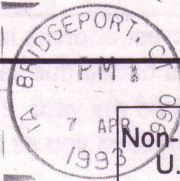
314 Unquowa Road
Fairfield, CT 06430

Address correction requested

STEVE BROKER
76 DIAMOND STREET
NEW HAVEN, CT
06515

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL ... PLEASE DO NOT DELAY



Connecticut Ornithological Association's
CONNECTICUT RARE RECORDS COMMITTEE

SPECIES REVIEW LIST*

The Committee welcomes documentation for reports of any species or form on this list and of any species not on the state list (see COA Field-list, September 1989).

Eared Grebe
Western Grebe
Northern Fulmar
Black-capped Petrel
Cory's Shearwater
Greater Shearwater
Manx Shearwater
Wilson's Storm-Petrel
White-faced Storm-Petrel
Leach's Storm-Petrel
American White Pelican
Brown Pelican
Anhinga
Magnificent Frigatebird
White Ibis
Wood Stork
Fulvous Whistling-Duck
Tundra Swan
Greater White-fronted Goose
Tufted Duck
Common Eider
King Eider
Harlequin Duck
Barrow's Goldeneye
Black Vulture
American Swallow-tailed Kite
Swainson's Hawk
Gyr Falcon
Yellow Rail
Black Rail
Corn Crake
Purple Gallinule
Sandhill Crane
Wilson's Plover
Black-necked Stilt
American Avocet
Spotted Redshank
Eskimo Curlew
Long-billed Curlew
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Curlew Sandpiper
Ruff
Red-necked Phalarope
Red Phalarope
Pomarine Jaeger
Parasitic Jaeger
Franklin's Gull
Little Gull
Common Black-headed Gull

Mew Gull
Thayer' Gull
Black-legged Kittiwake
Ross' Gull
Gull-billed Tern
Sandwich Tern
Arctic Tern
Sooty Tern
Dovekie
Thick-billed Murre
Black Guillemot
Atlantic Puffin
Band-tailed Pigeon
White-winged Dove
Northern Hawk Owl
Burrowing Owl
Great Gray Owl
Boreal Owl
Chuck-will's-widow
Rufous Hummingbird
Black-backed Woodpecker
Say's Phoebe
Tropical Kingbird
Gray Kingbird
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Boreal Chickadee
Sedge Wren
Northern Wheatear
Townsend's Solitaire
Varied Thrush
Bohemian Waxwing
Loggerhead Shrike
Bell's Vireo
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Hermit Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Summer Tanager
Western Tanager
Black-headed Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Painted Bunting
Green-tailed Towhee
Clay-colored Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Lark Bunting
Henslow's Sparrow
Le Conte's Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow

Harris' Sparrow
Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco
Smith's Longspur
Chestnut-collared Longspur
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Boat-tailed Grackle
Northern "Bullock's" Oriole
Hoary Redpoll

UNUSUAL BREEDING BIRDS

Breeding records of these species or others not known to breed in Connecticut will be reviewed and filed by the CRRC.

Tricolored Heron
Blue-winged Teal
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Peregrine Falcon
Black Rail
King Rail
American Coot
Common Snipe
Black Skimmer
Barn Owl
Long-eared Owl
Short-eared Owl
Red-headed Woodpecker
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Sedge Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Swainson's Thrush
Loggerhead Shrike
Northern Parula
Yellow-throated Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Dickcissel
Vesper Sparrow
Henslow's Sparrow
Red Crossbill
White-winged Crossbill
Pine Siskin
Evening Grosbeak

* as of 3 February 1993

Date Received _____ Report No. _____ Status _____

CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION RARE RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

This form is provided as a convenience for reporting unusual species. Observers should use this form for only one report. Obtain as complete a description as possible during the observation and before consulting a field guide. Copies of original notes and sketches are welcomed, as are photographs and recordings. Attach additional sheets if needed.

NAME OF BIRD _____ **DATE(S) OBSERVED** _____

Locality (town and location):

Circumstances of observation - include habitat, time of day, associated species, duration and quality of views (weather, light conditions, distance to bird, optical equipment):

Description - include size, shape, behavior, vocalizations, color and pattern of head, upperparts (back, wings, rump, tail), underparts, and soft parts (bill, eye, legs and feet). In a separate paragraph explain identification and elimination of similar species:

Documentation (specimen, photographs, recordings, etc. - include their location):

Observer's experience (overall and with this species):

Observer's name, address, phone (please print):

Observer's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Name, address, phone of any other observers, and date(s) seen (they are encouraged to submit a separate report, especially if independent observations):

Return completed report to: Louis Bevier, CRRRC Secretary
P. O. Box 665
Storrs, CT 06268
(203) 450-0336