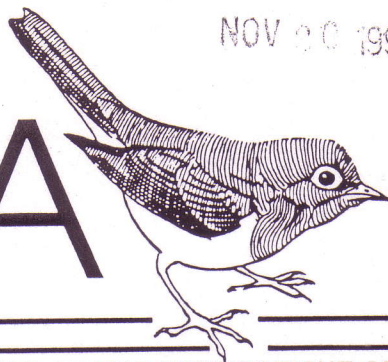


COA



Bulletin

Summer 1994 NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION Vol 8 No 2

COA Team at World Series of Birding

by Jay Hand

The World Series of Birding was started eleven years ago by New Jersey Audubon Society as a competitive and fund-raising event. It has been wildly successful as both. The goal is to identify as many species of birds as possible within the state of New Jersey during a designated 24-hour period, which starts at midnight. A team's signed checklist must be handed in to World Series officials at Cape May Point by midnight at the end of the competition. This requirement makes a carefully planned route and strict adherence to it critical to a team's success.

The 95% Rule, too, has an impact on strategy: at least 95% of the species on the final checklist must have been identified by *all* of the team members. It is therefore not advisable for teams to split up, since any species in excess of the allowable 5% not seen by all team members must be dropped from the list.

As they did in their first World Series appearance last year, the COA/CAS/Lyric Wild Bird Seed "Milford Pointers" were raising funds for the Milford Point Coastal Center, which is currently under construction. On the evening of May 13, the team converged on a shopping center parking lot in Basking Ridge, NJ. Miley Bull, Louis Bevier and Brian O'Toole arrived from

Continued on Page 3

Features

Banding at Birdcraft.....	2
Annual Meeting.....	6
In Memoriam.....	7
Trip Report.....	8
Trips and Events.....	8

HOTLINE HIGHLIGHTS

- Bohemian Waxwings Goshen 2/14 - 3/19
- Red-headed Woodpecker Mansfield 3/7 - 3/23
- Golden Eagle Cannan 3/1 - 3/21
- Little Gull Woodmont 4/2 - 4/17
- Swallow-tailed Kite Weston 4/20, Greenwich 4/21
- Prothonotary Warbler Branford 4/15
- Yellow-throated Warbler Kent 4/26 - 5/20, Killingworth 5/4
- Wilson's Phalarope Madison 5/13 - 5/18

RARE BIRD ALERT: 203-254-3665

New Big Day Record

by Frank Mantlik

Four birding teams took part in Big Days this May in Connecticut. For those unfamiliar with them, a Big Day is a 24-hour search for as many species as a team can find in one calendar day, with official rules set up by the American Birding Association. It is a competitive, though friendly, event, with teams spending weeks scouting sites, planning logistics, and studying bird vocalizations.

On May 20th, a perennially-strong birding team set a new state Big Day record of 186 species, shattering the record of 176, which had been set just five days earlier. Team members Ed Hagen, Mark Szantyr, Buzz Devine, Chris Wood, Bill Root, and Greg Hanisek attributed their phenomenally successful day to a new route and lots of scouting. Beginning at midnight and ending at 11pm, their route took them through Hartford, Litchfield, Fairfield, New Haven, Middlesex, and New London Counties. Highlights were: American Bittern, Blue-winged Teal, Greater Scaup, Oldsquaw, all 3 scoters, Peregrine Falcon, Upland, White-rumped, and Purple Sandpipers, Bonaparte's Gull, Barn Owl, Yellow-

Continued on Page 2

COA Bulletin

New Record . . .

bellied Flycatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, 27 species of warblers including Yellow-throated, Grasshopper, Lincoln's, and White-crowned Sparrows, and Pine Siskin.

On May 15, the team of Jay Kaplan, Steve Mayo, Todd McGrath, Peter Stephan, and Brian Kleinman recorded 176 species, breaking the old record of 173. They basked in glory and fame — for five days anyway.

The cumulative total for all four teams was (approximately) 205 species, which points up the wondrous variety of resident and migrating birds present in the state during May. Highlights recorded by the other teams included Tricolored Heron, Snow Goose, Northern Shoveler, Bufflehead, Black Vulture, Bald Eagle, King Rail, Common Moorhen, Wilson's Phalarope, Laughing Gull, Short-eared Owl, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Gray-cheeked Thrush. Congratulations to all the Big Day participants!

The Day They Closed the Nets at Birdcraft

by Alison Olivieri

We needed something to revive our spirits after the beating we took this winter, and the spring migration as documented at Birdcraft Museum and Sanctuary's Banding Station proved to be just the antidote.

An early knockout was the Louisiana Waterthrush that was banded April 30th and stayed at least three more days for several recaptures, allowing almost all the banders close up and personal looks. Northern Waterthrushes are caught with regularity at Birdcraft and are, along with American Redstarts and Black and

White Warblers, the most abundant warbler found at the site. However, Louisianas ("LOWA's" in banding jargon) are rarely caught in this six-acre suburban tract. Carl Trichka, COA treasurer and Birdcraft's master bander, searched the records and found the last record of this species was as long ago as 1986.

Then, of course, there was May 10, 1994 — how many of you were out that day? Anybody call in sick? The wave was so big at Birdcraft, the nets had to be closed after the first net check and, when they were re-opened an hour or so later, it was still going strong! At 1:30 that afternoon, one oak tree outside the museum hosted Black-throated Blue Warblers, Black-throated Greens, Black and Whites, American Redstarts and Northern Parulas with about 10 people gawking underneath. All told, 76 birds were banded, including Ovenbirds, Canada Warblers, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Yellow Warblers and Myrtle Warblers. If the banders hadn't had to close the nets, it would have been one of those 100+ days that are much more likely to occur in the fall.

As a sort of sidebar to this wild morning, the annular solar eclipse took place that day, casting an eerie, shadowy light that somehow emphasized the otherworldly sensation of seeing migrants flit through every tree and bush.

Actually, that whole week (beginning May 8) was hot stuff and it continued through International Migratory Bird Day, Saturday, May 14. Led by COA member Judy Richardson, the banders added Nashville, Prairie and Magnolia Warblers, plus a Ruby-throated Hummingbird and an Indigo Bunting. What happens when the 7:30 am net check holds more birds than can be processed in the allotted hour is that the phones start ringing with calls for reinforcements. One spouse was quoted as saying that being married to a bird bander is like living with a volunteer firefighter.

For the first time in years, we opened the station every weekend to accommodate a peck of new recruits who pursue salaried employment Monday through Friday. This, in and of itself, was exciting and caused considerable pandemonium — particularly on days when the would-be banders outnumbered the birds! Many of these troupers are COA members, including Andy Brand, Fran D'Amico, John Gaskell, Ed Lang, Barbara Rasch, John Schultz and Linda Wiggins.

We're particularly encouraged by the appear-

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

Please submit materials for the next
issue by August 1, 1994 to
Jay Knox, Editor,
43 Bridge Road, Weston, CT 06883.

COA Bulletin

ance of Hartford area residents, because volunteers at CT Audubon's Holland Brook Nature Center in Glastonbury have plans to open a banding station there for environmental education purposes. Included in this cadre are Rose Anne Austin, Larry London, Jill Massey, Heather Riccardi, Linda Ruth, Joan Stevens, Alan Turner and some of the above-listed COA members.

If any of you would like to join us this fall, please call Alison Olivieri (259-7725) or Judy Richardson (261-6997). We'll begin around mid-August and go until we catch the Fox Sparrows, usually right before Thanksgiving.

World Series . . .

Connecticut; Evan Mann, our driver from Lyric Wild Bird Seed, arrived with a company minivan from Cape May, where he had spent the day involved with sponsors' activities; and Dave Provencher and I came from nearby, having scouted northern New Jersey since dawn.

I was a last-minute substitute for team captain Frank Mantlik, who had injured his knee a few weeks earlier while moving. After some provisioning at the Grand Union and a quick pizza that would be our last true meal for at least 24 hours, we piled into the minivan and headed for our midnight start at Black River.

The forecast had been for the strong northwesterly winds to diminish, and Dave and I had been waiting all day for some sign that this would actually happen. However, at 8 PM, while we stood on a bridge over the Black River watching nighthawks swooping silently over the marsh, strong gusts were still buffeting us, but it seemed that the gaps between them were growing longer.

At fifteen before midnight, the team was assembled on that same bridge, ears cupped, senses straining for the slightest sound. Miraculously, the wind had dropped, and we stood beneath a sky as clear and crisp as January. Within a minute, we heard a sora (a species missed by the team last year), a Virginia rail and a swamp sparrow -- hopefully they would keep calling. Precisely at midnight (calculated by averaging four different wristwatches!), a sora cackled, signaling an auspicious start, and we were serenaded by all three species during the next hour, as we walked a trail that hugs the marsh edge. At some point a barred owl began

hooting from the other side, and the din stirred up a marsh wren or two. Repeating last year's feat, the team "whistled up" a screech-owl, and then it was time to move on, despite missing the nighthawks we knew were there.

Over the next several hours we headed north, stopping at un-scouted but likely-looking spots along the secondary roads, listening intently for anything new or unusual. Besides mockingbirds, we heard at least one probable immature great horned owl, this being the time downy young leave their nests and clamber about the canopy from branch to branch, crying hungrily as their parents feed them through the night.

By 4:45 AM we had arrived at our dawn position, a beaver meadow in High Point State Park in extreme northwestern New Jersey. As we stood at the edge of the swamp, listening to another species that had eluded last year's team -- American woodcock -- we realized that it was downright cold and that our schedule did not require us to start until 5:30. We could SLEEP -- just a little!

It is doubtful any of us actually slept, knowing that we had to get cracking very shortly, and no sooner had we gotten "comfortable" than traffic began to develop: cars going past us to a bend in the road, lights doused, doors opening and closing, people getting out and back in, lights on, cars moving away. Obviously, our starting point was not unique. We couldn't believe that all this hubbub was over a woodcock, a relatively "easy" species, but that's all we could figure. At any rate, we were out and listening again at 5:15, our only company another carload who promptly walked into the hemlock grove across the street. That had also been our plan, so we quickly followed suit.

We were greeted by the "whit" notes of half a dozen least flycatchers, and several roosting turkeys exploded from the hemlocks, fully awakening any of us who might still be sleepy in the early morning half-light. The grove bordered a

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 846-8601

COA Bulletin

beaver-flooded area, and what little understory existed gave way to the snaky stems of rhododendrons as we approached the water. This was to be our best shot at northern species such as winter wren, white-throated sparrow and junco, but none had been here yesterday, and that was true now. However, from among the drowned trees still standing came the wiry song of a brown creeper, another species missed last year. On the way back to the van, Brian said nonchalantly, "Look at the owl." Directly in front of him, to our surprise and delight, was a downy white "brancher" six feet off the ground perching on a downed hemlock limb! Great horned owl was now confirmed. By the time we reached the van, we had added a vireo and four warblers, all by song: solitary, magnolia, black-throated blue, Blackburnian and redstart, respectively. Hermit thrushes, too, were singing all around us.

Our next stop could have been routine, with house wren, blue-winged and chestnut-sided warblers, rose-breasted grosbeak, northern oriole, and American goldfinch all singing from the treetops in the first sunlight of the day, but a white-throated sparrow in dull plumage, out of habitat and obviously a migrant caught my attention in a small bush beside the road. It was one of those classic birding moments: I'm saying, "There's a white-throat in there," and someone else looking at the same bush is saying, "I've got a white-crown." I'm thinking, "Am I losing it? How can I blow a white-throat? He must think I'm a complete bozo!" Then *two* sparrows fly out of the bush: a white-throat *and* a white-crown. Phew! Two more species not tallied last year, and it was only 6:30!

A few stops later, and we'd already relegated pileated woodpecker to the twilight realm of what we would henceforth refer to as "circle" species - those unfortunate enough not to be identified by all team members and threatened with extinction should the 95% rule require their removal from the checklist, where their tentative status was marked with an "O" rather than with the "X" of permanence. Another circle species was added when, in the excitement of encountering a pocket of Cape May, yellow-rumped and bay-breasted warblers at a dense stand of Norway spruce, I missed a golden-crowned kinglet that Dave and I had had on the scouting run. If things kept up like this, a great warbler day was in the making. However, two more circle species - ruby-throated hummingbird and golden-winged

warbler - at the next stop had us wondering if we were going to lose species in the final analysis. We had figured on bettering last year's total of 165. If we hit 180, then we we'd be allowed nine species, or one twentieth of our total, that did not have to be identified by everyone on the team.

Greg Hanisek, a New Jerseyan recently transplanted to Connecticut, still does the World Series with his New Jersey teammates, but he had been kind enough to lay out a route that would give us a better variety of habitats than last year's. We were heading down the east side of the first major fold of the Appalachian system, Kittatinny Ridge, which starts in High Point as a continuation of the Shawangunk Mountains of southwestern New York and runs southward, paralleling the Delaware River for a while before crossing it at the Water Gap and continuing into Pennsylvania. Several lakes gave us the opportunity to find a common loon and to defer to Louis' adept arguments in favor of a second one as opposed to the red-throated that the rest of us wanted to call it based on its apparently up-turned bill, which was actually an illusion caused by a lighter-colored lower mandible.

Before crossing the ridge into the Delaware valley, we also picked up staked-out nesting pied-billed grebes and cliff swallows and added black vulture, ruffed grouse, solitary sandpiper, Nashville, hooded and Wilson's warblers, and orchard oriole. Three of these increased our circle species count to seven, many more than was permissible for the fewer than 120 total species we had tallied so far. In the Delaware valley we ran into our second group of pine siskins of the day, a purple finch, and cerulean and Canada warblers.

Emerging from the road along the Delaware onto I-80, we were to pass through the Water Gap itself. Towering cliffs on both sides of the highway were ideal habitat for ravens, and Dave and I had looked in vain yesterday for a nest that Greg had said was on the Pennsylvania side. Now, riding shotgun, I thought to myself, "The day has gone so well that it will be just our luck to get a raven on the New Jersey side." Looking up with my binoculars at the cliff looming ahead of us, I could hardly believe my eyes: a couple of turkey vultures were soaring above the cliff, and with them was something smaller and black! Evan pulled onto the shoulder and out of the van spilled the team, all looking intently up.

It was a raven, all right, and it was carrying

COA Bulletin

something in its bill. It broke from the vultures and soared right over our heads and crossed to the Pennsylvania side. We were ecstatic! This species was not even on the official WSB checklist - it was a write-in. Our timing could not have been better. Well, maybe not for the raven, but we were running a little over an hour behind schedule, and we still had to hit the grassland area, stopping on the way for a staked-out worm-eating warbler and for a Kentucky that Greg had told us about but which Dave and I hadn't been able to find yesterday.

The worm-eating was there and the Kentucky wasn't, but we now had a remarkable 27 species of warblers, with a shot at 30 if we got three in the south: yellow-throated, prothonotary, and a Swainson's that was supposed to be hanging around Higbee Beach in Cape May. Throw in a chat and we'd have 31. And there was always the chance of bumping into a Tennessee just about anywhere.

If we had arrived at the grassland area on schedule by 10, we certainly would have heard Vesper, savannah and grasshopper sparrows singing on territory, but all was silent when we rolled in at 11:45. However, we did see a flock of American pipits in breeding plumage feeding a long way off in a plowed field (they are known to hang in at this location until mid-May), and bobolinks were easy to spot in one of the hay fields.

It was a fairly unpromising two hours to Brigantine, and Miley volunteered to spell Evan for the hike over to the Garden State Parkway and down through the Pine Barrens. Our species count being 125 or so, with 7 circle species, we were one over the limit for the 95% rule. Since we had the waders, shorebirds, gulls, terns and southern woodland species yet to go, we were still optimistic about exceeding last year's 165. From the start we knew we hadn't a prayer of even coming close to winning - no way could an out-of-state team put in one day of scouting and do that. The feeling had been, though, that we could improve significantly on last year's tally and perhaps approach 200 species. Now, heading toward Brig with the northern forest behind us, we knew 200 was out of reach this time, but we could probably hit 180 without too much trouble if we kept up our current pace and got to the southern forest areas in time for the evening chorus.

Two raptors (kestrel and broad-winged hawk)

and another circle species (cedar waxwing) were added to the list en route to Brigantine, and, once in the refuge, we kept moving and did the loop drive in an hour, picking up blue-winged teal, red-breasted merganser, the expected shorebirds, white-rumped sandpiper, gull-billed and Forster's terns and the salt marsh sparrows (sharp-tailed and seaside). Louis was the only one to spy a white-eyed vireo, a species that should have been a dime a dozen - chalk up another circle species (that's 9 now). The county park at Cape May Court House was jammed with families out on a lovely May afternoon, but we managed to get in and out in 10 minutes, just long enough to locate the celebrity red-headed woodpecker.

Then it was out to Stone Harbor for the two night-herons and other waders. Dave and I combined different field marks in a quick glance to bag a royal tern, but it was our tenth circle species. We were now in danger of forfeiting two of our total species. If we had not been pressed for time, we might not have missed an Iceland gull that several other teams apparently knew about, judging from their comings and goings in rapid succession. We also might have looked a little harder for a ring-billed gull, since this would be our last opportunity for it, and we ended up missing it altogether!

However, time was a-wasting and we had two hours of daylight left to hit the southern forest areas that were yet another half hour away. Deciding to skip Cape May and the Swainson's warbler, we opted instead for a shot at yellow-throated and Kentucky warblers, summer tanager and blue grosbeak, plus a scissor-tailed flycatcher that had been discovered yesterday along one of the roads we were planning to visit. Also, we would be closer to night locations for black rail and chuck-will's-widow.

Jake's Landing Road is about a mile long and dead-ends at a marsh creek after emerging from a tongue of mature forest punctuated by a couple of stands of pine. The mosquitoes were thick, but we got a savannah sparrow along the road through the marsh, and a few yellow-throated warblers were singing from the pines. No summer tanager was in evidence, and, rather than join the scissor-tail chase that was in full swing, we chose to head into Belleplain State Forest in search of the tanager, the grosbeak, and a Kentucky warbler or a chat that might happen to be occupying the favorable habitat. Habitat there

COA Bulletin

was plenty of, but we didn't find any of the birds we were after until emerging from the forest into a cut- or burnt-over area of new, scrubby growth. There, we were able to reduce the circle species count by two, thanks to an orchard oriole and a white-eyed vireo that were singing in tandem. Brown thrasher and, finally, summer tanager, were also there, putting us at 179 species.

The sun had set, and we made tracks for a black rail site. Along the way, a nighthawk came out of nowhere, swooped over the van and disappeared low over a field. Not everyone saw it, but hitting 180 qualified us for one additional circle species, and we were still completely legal. A short time later, another nightjar, whip-poor-will, pushed us to 181, but out on the marsh we could not hear a black rail calling, despite perfect, windless conditions.

Because we were on the verge of instantaneous sleep, there was talk of sending one person to Cape May Point and the rest of us packing it in. It was only about 10:30, though, and somehow we rallied and decided to go right down to the wire. Still a chance for chuck-will's-widow at Higbee Beach, but they tend to call only at dusk early in the season, and we didn't find one. We did manage one last species: Louis was driving, and through some remarkable maneuvering of the car so as to shine the headlights over a small pond, we were able to see, of all things, a couple of snow geese keeping company with domestic geese on a little island. (We found out the next day that there had also been an injured ring-billed gull on that pond!) With 182 species, we turned in our checklist at 11:55.

Our effort put us in the top 14 out of 51 teams, tying us with the Swift Instruments team for 11th out of 40 places. Oddly, the Swift team also missed ring-billed gull. First place went to a team of native New Jerseyans sponsored by *Birder's World* with 218 species, three better than last year's record tally. The top six teams had at least 200 species, and the cumulative total of all teams was 265 species, one less than last year's record total. Winning teams are recognized for two other categories: best total for an out-of-state team, and best total for Cape May County. The former had 210 species, while the latter had an incredible 186. Why did we race around the state like maniacs? Actually, with a little better discipline, a little more scouting and more time spent in the south, 200 species should not be difficult at all. Next year.

1994 Annual Meeting New Officers and Directors Elected

COA's tenth annual meeting was held at Middlesex Community Technical College in Middletown on Saturday, March 26th. It was attended by 120 people, who enjoyed a full day of entertaining and informative activities, including lectures, slide shows, an award presentation, a bird quiz, shopping in the COA marketplace, and trying to win a Kowa scope in the raffle, not to mention lots of good conversation with other birders.

Excellent presentations were given by Louis Bevier, Roland Clement, Les Corey, Jenny Dickson, Lise Hanners, Frank Mantlik, and Dave Provencher. The popular bird quiz was devised this year by George Clark, who put together a challenging slide show format. The raffle, organized by George Zepko and run by John Gaskell, was a great success because of generous donations of valuable items by Kowa Corporation, Jerry Connolly, Bill Gaunya, Ray Schwartz, Ray Scory, and others. Marketplace participants reported that sales were brisk.

During the business portion of the meeting, officers were elected for the 1994 to 1995 term and directors were elected for the 1994 to 1997 term. In filling open positions, the membership followed the recommendations of the nominating committee, which was composed of chairperson Louis Bevier, and members George Clark and Frank Mantlik.

Tom Baptist was elected to his second term as COA president, and Jay Kaplan and Carl Trichka were reelected to the offices of vice president and treasurer, respectively. Andrew Brand was elected to succeed Gene Billings as secretary. Because two COA directors have recently retired from the Board, eight new directors were elected instead of the usual six. Frances D'Amico and Greg Hanisek were chosen to fill unexpired terms, and Paul Fusco, Betty Kleiner, Stuart Mitchell, Alison Olivieri, Mark Szantyr, and Joseph Zeranski were elected to new terms ending in 1997.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the Mabel Osgood Wright award to Donald Hopkins, the founder of the Northeast Hawkwatch. Neil Currie presented the award, which COA gives to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to Connecticut ornithology. Neil's remarks on Don's many ac-

COA Bulletin

Bad Weather, Good Birds on Field Trips

Field Trip Chairman Steve Mayo reports that of the three COA field trips this spring, two were hampered by poor weather, but all the trips produced a variety of interesting birds.

The Gull Identification Workshop to the New Haven area on March 27 was attended by only four people, owing to the extremely cold and rainy conditions. Undaunted, leader Steve Mayo conducted a virtual crash course on the three common species, Herring, Ring-billed, and Great Black-backed, by pointing out 18 of the 22 possible plumage variations. (These species take 3-4 years to reach full adult plumage.) In addition, a rare Lesser Black-backed Gull and various species of waterfowl were studied.

Due to the early meeting time and/or the forecast for heavy rain, no one but the leader showed up May 1 for the Durham Meadows rails and migrants trip. The day actually proved beautiful, and Steve Mayo proceeded to have an especially enjoyable and productive day of birding. After finding Pied-billed Grebe, Virginia Rail, and Sora at the Meadows, he cleaned up on migrants, including a rare Prothonotary Warbler, at East Rock Park. Total: 83 species. Let this be a lesson on weather forecasts to prospective trippers!

The May 14th Big Half Day to Litchfield County was well-attended. To catch the peak of the spring migration, participants visited White Memorial Foundation in Litchfield, River Road in Kent, and Mohawk State Forest in Cornwall. They found 89 species, including two American Bitterns, Ruffed Grouse, Bay-breasted Warbler, and all six species of swallows. Thanks for a great trip, Steve!

Trip Leaders Needed

The popular COA field trip program has recently suffered a setback because of the departure of one of its leaders and the temporary loss of another -- Todd McGrath has moved out of state, and Frank Mantlik is recuperating from a broken knee. If you enjoy helping others spot birds and learn field marks, please call Steve Mayo at 874-1860 or Tom Baptist at 938-8078 to volunteer.

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 Frank Mantlik (846-8601). The following trip is scheduled for August.

COASTAL BIRDS OF MILFORD POINT on Saturday, August 27, 1994, 2:00 am to 5:00 pm. to coincide with high tide. This shorebird/gull/tern identification workshop is COA's most popular field trip. Meet at Milford Point or call one of the leaders listed above for directions.

Deep Sea Pelagic Trip

Connecticut Audubon Society is planning a pelagic trip to the canyons on the edge of the Continental Shelf, where there will be a good chance of seeing shearwaters, petrels, jaegers, and other seabirds. The trip aboard the well-equipped Lady Frances will depart Point Judith, Rhode Island at 9:00 pm, Saturday, August 27 and return 24 hours later. Passengers can sleep on the way to the canyons; food will be available on the boat or can be brought from home. Wayne Petersen, one of New England's best known birders, will lead the trip. The cost to members of COA or CAS is \$150, with a limited number of bunks to be assigned on a first-come-first-served basis. Last year's trip got rave reviews, so reserve early by sending a 50% deposit to Connecticut Audubon Society, 2325 Burr Street, Fairfield, CT 06430. For more information, call 259-6305 or 481-0377.

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

Summer Field Report

Observations by COA birders form the basis for the seasonal reports on the status of resident and migrating birds in the state which appear in *The Connecticut Warbler* and *American Birds*. All COA members are encouraged to report their sightings by filling in Species Report Forms, which are available in convenient pads from Betty Kleiner by calling 658-5670. Betty will also send detailed reporting instructions..

The Summer Field Report period runs from June 1st to July 31st, and all reports should be submitted by August 10 to Betty Kleiner. Contributors should complete one or more separate forms for each species observed. Before submission, the forms should be sorted into phylogenetic order, using the COA *Connecticut Field List* as a guide. Detailed descriptions should be given 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. Comments are welcomed.

Joining COA

The Connecticut Ornithological Association welcomes new members. COA is the only statewide organization devoted exclusively to birds and birding, and its members range from beginning birders to professional ornithologists. Joining COA is guaranteed to improve your knowledge of Connecticut birds and increase your enjoyment of Connecticut birding.

Membership costs as little as \$10.00 per year and includes this quarterly newsletter, a quarterly journal devoted to Connecticut birds, and invitations to COA events and field trips. Membership dues also support COA's rare bird hotline, conservation initiatives, and research projects. New members receive a copy of the official *Connecticut Field List* and a COA decal.

Present COA members who have not yet renewed for the current year can use the form below. Check the mailing label on the other side of this page to see whether your membership is current. If not, please send in the form today.

JOIN COA FOR THE BEST OF CONNECTICUT BIRDING

Please print or type

New Member Renewal Gift

Name _____ Name 2 _____

(Memberships above the individual level can include a spouse or partner)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ - _____

Telephone* _____ Occupation* _____

Bird Club or Audubon Chapter* _____ Christmas Count Name* _____

Level of Birding Experience* Beginner Novice Intermediate Advanced Expert

Membership Category Individual (\$10) Family (\$15) Contributing (\$20) Sustaining (\$30)

**Optional*

Send this application with your check to:

Connecticut Ornithological Association, 314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06430

COA does not release its membership list to other organizations. Dues are tax deductible as allowed under the law.

MEMBERS: PLEASE GIVE THIS FORM TO A BIRDING FRIEND

COA Bulletin

COA OFFICERS

President Tom Baptist, 103 Sunset Hill Road, Redding, CT 06896 938-8078
Vice President Jay Kaplan, 71 Gracey Road, Canton, CT 06019 693-0157
Treasurer Carl Trichka, 65 Glover Street, Fairfield, CT 06430 259-2623
Secretary Andrew Brand, 59 Brooksvale Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518 230-1718

COA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Bylaws Joseph Zeranski, 163 Field Point Road, Greenwich, CT 06830 661-9607
Conservation Paul Fusco, 4 Old Country Road, Oxford, CT 06484 584-9830
Field Trips Steve Mayo, 159 Kings Highway/#27, Milford, CT 06460 874-1860
Membership Program Lise Hanners, Devil's Den Preserve, Box 1162, Weston, CT 06883 226-4991
Publications Dave Provencher, 43 Branch Hill Road, Preston, CT 06360 885-1239
Rare Records Betty Kleiner, 5 Flintlock Ridge, Simsbury, CT 06070 658-5670
Research George Clark, Biology Box U-43, UCONN, Storrs, CT 06269 486-4459
Robert Askins, CT College/Biology, New London, CT 06320 439-2149

CONNECTICUT
ORNITHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION
314 UNQUOWA ROAD
FAIRFIELD, CT 06430

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Fairfield, CT
Permit Number 275

Address correction requested

[Franklin Farrel III
88 Notch Hill Road/Apt #223
North Branford, CT 06471-1820 FM94

DATED MATERIAL ... PLEASE DO NOT DELAY