

COA Bulletin

Winter 1994 NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION Vol 8 No 4

Fall Field Day

by Jay Knox

A warm, clear fall day greeted the seventy members and guests who attended COA's fifth annual Fall Field Day at the Nature Center for Environmental Activities in Westport on September 24th. The day's activities included a hawk watch, five field trips, three lectures, a bird banding demonstration, and a butterfly walk.

The on-site hawk watch was manned by Carl Trichka and Joe Zeranski, who stayed at their posts all day long keeping track of the trickle of raptors passing over. Their persistence paid off with 58 hawks of six species, including a Northern Harrier, a Cooper's Hawk, and 11 Ospreys.

Morning field trips were led by Tom Baptist, Richard Soffer, Mark Szantyr, and Rob Winkler, and afternoon trips by Greg Hanisek and Charles Barnard. These trips explored a variety of habitats such as upland woods and swamps, salt marshes, coastal flats, brush dumps, and grasslands, so that participants saw a wide range of birds -- from loons to warblers. In all, some 74 species were spotted during the day.

In addition to the field trips, there was a full slate of workshops and lectures. Judy Richardson demonstrated bird banding tools and techniques and later gave a slide presentation which introduced her audience to the intricacies of the bander's craft. Yale lepidopterist

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HOTLINE HIGHLIGHTS

Marbled Godwit	Old Lyme Aug 24-25
Baird's Sandpiper	Milford Sept 5-9
Northern Wheatear	Madison Sept 17-18
Eared Grebe	Litchfield Sept 17-19
Clay-colored Sparrow	Stamford Sept 26
Western Kingbird	Stratford Sept 28-29
LeConte's Sparrow	Southbury Oct 12-17
Black Vulture	New Milford Oct 18-26
Barnacle Goose	Westport Oct 20-22
Lark Sparrow	Southbury Oct 22-26
Iceland Gull	Stamford Oct 25

RARE BIRD ALERT: 203-254-3665

The 95th Christmas Bird Count

In a grand old and continuing tradition the annual National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count will commence in just a couple of weeks.

As in the past several years, 17 counts will be held in the state, the first counts beginning on Saturday, December 17 and the last counts taking place on Sunday, January 1. See the list of counts on page 7 for details on the state counts.

Plan to participate in one or more counts—your presence will be welcome.

Last year's Christmas Bird Count participants numbered 767 field observers and 180 feeder watchers. Together, they counted an astounding total of 401,578 birds belonging to no less than 169 species. Five additional species were recorded during count week.

New species for last year's count included Piping Plover, Tree Swallow, Boreal Chickadee, Swainson's Thrush and American Redstart. Some rarities observed included Northern Gannet, the blue form of Snow Goose, King Rail and Townsend's Solitaire.

This year's count offers equal excitement and good birding, so get out and participate!!

COABulletin

Fall Field Day...

Larry Gall gave a slide-illustrated talk on butterflies and moths and then led his listeners out into goldenrod speckled fields for a look at the real thing — several species of which he caught with an expert flick of his net.

Avian rehabilitator Ed Hiestand explained the painstaking process required to bring an injured bird back to health and introduced two of his patients. The first was an Eastern Screech Owl who is a permanent resident of the Westport Nature Center because of a blind eye makes him unfit to survive in the wild. The second patient was a fierce-looking Red-tailed Hawk, and the members of the audience were delighted to hear that the bird was ready to be released and that they could witness this special event. Everyone trooped out onto the lawn, with Ed leading the way holding the hawk in sturdy leather gloves.

After a few photographs were taken, Ed tossed the bird aloft. Apparently surprised by its sudden release, the hawk flapped heavily and lost altitude swiftly, looking for a moment as if it was going to crash land and end up back in rehabilitation. It recovered and swooped powerfully upward to a perch in a white pine a short distance away. It sat there in plain sight for a few minutes looking very dignified, while the assembled birders admired it. What a wonderful end to a wonderful day.

Thanks to the speakers, the trip leaders, and especially to program chairman Frank Mantlik for making this year's Fall Field Day a big success. A special thanks also to the Westport Nature Center for the use of their facilities and for their hospitality.

September Big Day

by Greg Hanisek

You couldn't really call it birding. Not any more than you call it swimming when you're tumbled by a 15-foot breaker. In fact, it was more like being washed away on a wave of warblers, vireos and tanagers.

But that was at dawn. Our day, a Big Day in September, started more slowly, if not more quietly, in the small hours at White Memorial Foundation in Litchfield. Ed Hagen, prime mover of many a May assault on state Big Day records, decided we should try one at a different time of year.

We arrived in the parking lot outside the White Memorial museum at a rather leisurely 2:15am. and the owls were talking. To our left, a Barred Owl asked a question. To our right, two Great Horned Owls answered.

This would have been an auspicious beginning except for one detail. We were early, and the third member of our Big Day team, Dave Tripp, hadn't arrived yet. We waited and gently coaxed the night shift to keep it up.

But when Dave pulled in, the horned owl punched out, which could have led to a lot of fruitless roaming through the Litchfield Hills. Luckily, a quarter mile down the road a young Bubo screamed for its supper and we were off to the nearby wetlands. Our luck held as we quickly added Virginia Rail, Sora and Eastern Screech Owl.

We secured them on our list and started the long drive east to Bluff Point in Groton. The night was clear with a light northerly wind, conditions we hoped would bring a fallout to the "hot corner" so invitingly described by Dave Provencher in a recent Connecticut Warbler article.

On I-95 somewhere east of the Connecticut River, shouts of "Nighthawk" awoke me from a pleasant slumber. I wheeled around in the seat in time to get a brief and barely satisfactory look at two long-winged birds flopping over the tree-tops. Any moral dilemma I may have faced at the end of the day evaporated when our 6 a.m. arrival at Bluff Point was greeted by another Nighthawk bopping down the tracks.

Somewhere in the neighborhood a Mocking-

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The Newsletter of the
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Please submit materials for the next
issue by February 1, 1995 to

Dwight Smith, Editor

241 Shepard Ave., Hamden, CT 06515

COABulletin

bird sang. The sky had just begun to lighten in anticipation of a 6:30 sunrise, and the birds were tentative. We walked along a trail in the scrubby woods, waiting. We had heard stories about this place, about the morning songbird flights, and the conditions were right.

Soon a Wood Thrush called. Then the chip notes began to drop from the sky. We hustled back to the "hot corner", where nocturnal migrants typically funnel off the wooded point along a scraggly line of cherry trees. By the time we got there, warblers were winging past in small groups. In a matter of moments we suffered sensory overload. The migratory dam had burst and we were gasping for air.

The songbirds flew past in waves - fast, small and virtually unidentifiable. Some stopped in the last few trees before the tracks, but they lingered for seconds at best. We caught glimpses, swatches of color, quick impressions.

There were lots of American Redstarts. Lots and lots of redstarts. A Northern Waterthrush tarried for a moment, then an Ovenbird. Waxwings wheezed as they flew by. A Merlin hurtled after tiny feathered specks flying too high to even think about. Wood peewee and Scarlet Tanagers popped into some bare branches.

The high-speed passage kept up for perhaps a half-hour, maybe more. Then as the sun rose and warmed the treeline, birds began to stop and feed. More names attached themselves to darting bodies. Black-throated greens and Northern Parulas. Yellow Warbler and Red-eyed Vireos. Black-and-white Warblers and Black-polls.

At 8 a.m. there were still plenty of birds, but the spectacle had abated considerably. We decided to move on. We got out onto I-95 and wondered how many species we'd seen. Guesses hovered around the 50 mark. When we went through the checklist, we were amazed to find we'd seen 70 species of birds, including 19 species of warblers, while standing in one spot for two hours.

We birded for 17 hours that day and saw more than half our total species in two hours at Bluff Point.

This was a great start, but we had a long way to go. We weren't sure what kind of a tally a September Big Day should yield but figured 120+ would be respectable. Heading west, following Ed's itinerary, we concentrated on shorebirds, which proved to be widely scattered. Our passerine timing had been impecca-

ble, but there was no way to hit the mid-afternoon high tide and still make a second inland sweep for species missed in the morning.

So we pecked away at the waders. Our only Black-bellied Plover of the day had already flown by at Bluff Point. Our only Black-crowned Night Heron wheeled through a residential neighborhood in Milford. Our only lesser yellowlegs probed a mudflat on the back side of Gulf Pond. Our only Sanderlings huddled on Long Beach in Stratford.

We never did find a Ruddy Turnstone or a Dunlin, but we offset those misses with whimbrel at Sandy Point in West Haven; Lesser Golden Plover, Forster's Tern and Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Milford Point; and a bedraggled scaup in New Haven Harbor. I carefully pinpointed an Oystercatcher through my scope at the mouth of the Housatonic, describing its position in great detail until some movement proved it to be a Cormorant with a gull sitting in front of it. Moments later Dave found four legit Oystercatchers on another bar.

After Milford Point, we had to leave our coastal misses behind and head up Route 8 for a return visit to Litchfield County. We went back to White, and holes on the checklist began to fill up. White-breasted Nuthatch. Brown Creeper. Swamp Sparrow. Amazingly, after 5 in the afternoon, the first Song Sparrow. We actually went looking for one of Connecticut's most common birds at several spots before finding one.

A Litchfield cemetery yielded Pine Warbler and Palm Warbler, putting our day's warbler list at a respectable 21. The pond across the street held Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser.

By now the possible additions were dwindling. We decided to pursue some of them at places where we'd found them on the Big Day we'd done in May. This proved to be a productive strategy. A spot near the Housatonic in Kent offered up Field Sparrow, Sapsucker and

(Continued on page 4)

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

Frank Mantlik 846-8601

COA Bulletin

Common Merganser. A field nearby still held Eastern Meadowlarks. Mohawk Mountain produced White-throated Sparrow and a young Hermit Thrush wearing some of the pale feather edgings of its juvenile plumage.

As Turkey Vultures cruised over the river, we searched hopefully - but fruitlessly - for a Black Vulture. While Ed and I looked up, Dave found a Solitary Sandpiper in shallows darkened by dusky shadows.

That wrapped up our fun at 131.

Magic Pelagic Trip 2

by Alison Olivieri

Connecticut Audubon's second annual Pelagic Trip, August 27-28 out of Point Judith, Rhode Island, was another big hit for a boatload of birders—20 species were logged comprised of more than 2,300 individuals.

Wilson's Storm Petrels were seen in abundance (more than 1,200) compared to last year's September trip when they could hardly be chummed in for a look and the third jaeger—the parasitic, AWOL last year—-not only appeared but performed tern harassment behaviors for an appreciative audience!

Leader Wayne Peterson of Massachusetts Audubon, turned in the following list: Sooty Shearwater, Cory's Shearwater, Greater Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, Band-rumped Storm Petrel, Semipalmated Plover, Red-necked Phalarope, Dowitcher sp., Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Laughing Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Common Tern, Black Tern and two warblers—Cape May and Common Yellowthroat. This is not to mention the Ruby-throated Hummingbird that flew by Wayne's window during his lunch break.

The point is, you'll never know (until you go) how much you really wanted to see shearwaters flying and Storm Petrels hovering over the water like butterflies; there are just no other birds like these. We know pelagics can be dicey but these two trips have been blessed with a comfortable vessel, relatively calm weather, compatible people and wonderful leaders, including Wayne, Frank Mantlik, Jay Hand and Andy Griswold. For more information on this trip or future trips call and leave a message for Lauren Brown, Connecticut Audubon's field trip director at 259-6305.

COA Fall Field Trip

by Steve Mayo

On Saturday, October 1, unseasonal flooding dampened feet but not the spirits of the Station 43 participants led by Paul Desjardins. The intrepid group slogged through this beautiful Connecticut birding hotspot which features some of the state's very best and most diverse inland freshwater marshes along with nearby farm fields, meadows and suburbia. The array of wetland habitats ringed by willow and buttonbush shrubs did not disappoint as a number of waterbirds as well as warblers and sparrows were in evidence. All told, fifty species were tallied during the morning walk, including Lincoln's Sparrow and Wood Duck.

Bluebirds

by Fred Comstock

In an article published in the Connecticut Warbler in July, 1993, I reported on an Eastern Bluebird banding study which covered the period 1985 through 1987. In 1988, I began color banding bluebird nestlings using different color bands for each year. So far, I have banded over 400 nestlings during the last five years. From 1985 through 1993, I banded a total of 4,313 nestlings and three adult females. Of the 4,313 nestlings, 1,702 or 39% were males; 1,627 or 38% were females; and 984 or 23% were of unknown sex.

I have received only two reports of band recoveries since 1985, probably due to the reluctance of nest box owners to get too close to the birds. A nestling banded in Bethany, Connecticut on May 31, 1989 was found dead in Watertown, Connecticut on May 28, 1990. A second nestling banded in Bethany, Connecticut on August 6, 1991 was found dead in the same town on February 2, 1992. It apparently overwintered in that area.

(Editor's Note: Fred Comstock has recently published a paperback book titled "Bluebirds—The How To Book." To purchase a copy, send a check for \$7.95 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling to Fred at 168 Main Street North, Bethlehem, CT, 06751. Connecticut residents should add 6% sales tax.)

COA Bulletin

Thanks Jay!!

Jay Knox is stepping down as COA *Bulletin* editor. During Jay's years "in office" the *Bulletin* transitioned to the form and format that it now exhibits. Under Jay's guidance, the *Bulletin* always contains a wealth of articles and topicals that are simultaneously informative as well as entertaining. All will agree that the *Bulletin* is now a vital COA publication which supplements and compliments COA's *Connecticut Warbler*.

While Jay is relinquishing his editor's chair Connecticut birders can rest assured that he is as active as ever in local, state and regional birding activities. Jay continues as a member of the COA Board of Directors and continues his avid birding when he can extract time from his Knoxdata Enterprises.

We all owe Jay a debt of gratitude as well as a great big thank you for doing such a great job as editor!

Call for Articles

Since the *COA Bulletin* must and will go on I am going to need articles from you, the members, to grace these pages. There are lots and lots of birders watching birds, participating in birding events, scouting new birding areas, finding birds and observing bird behavior.

I, you, we the readers are always interested in all these birding activities. Please write up your latest activities and birding news items for inclusion in the *COA Bulletin*. Articles of all sorts about birds, birding trip reports, op ed pieces, anything that might be of interest will be welcome. Other categories of interest might include reports on the progress of your current study of bird ecology or bird behavior, studies planned for the future, finished projects, news of upcoming bird and nature craft exhibits, outdoor photography and the like. Perhaps a good local birding hotspot not quite large enough to put in the *Connecticut Warbler* as a site guide might be of especial interest to Connecticut birders. We are even interested in regional birds and birding activities which Connecticut birders might participate in or take an interest in.

Please mail your articles and news items to me at the following address: Dwight Smith, 241 Shepard Avenue, Hamden, CT 06514, phone 203-248-1934 (home), 203-392-6220 (work).

Trips and Events...

(continued from page 8)

New Haven Bird Club

BEGINNERS BIRD WALK at East Rock Park. Saturday, December 10. Meet at Eli Whitney Museum at 8:30 am. Call leader Florence McBride at 288-6777 for more information.

SACHUEST POINT, R.I., Sunday, January 22. All day trip, Meet at I-95, Exit 54 commuter lot at 7 am. Call leader, Andy Brand, 230-1718 for more information.

PLUM ISLAND and NEWBURYPORT, MASS., Saturday and Sunday, February 18-19. Call leader Frank Gallo, 966-8871 for details.

CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY and EAST SHORE, Saturday, February 25. Meet at Hammonasset State Park entrance, I-95, Exit 62 at 8 am. Call leader Arne Rosengren, 248-2903 for information.

Western Connecticut Bird Club

Two weekend overnight trips are planned, one to **CAPE ANN, MASS.**, the other to the **DELMARVA PENINSULA, DE.** Call John Longstreth, 264-9502 or Russ Naylor, 263-2502 for details.

Renewal Reminder

The new year is almost here and it's time once again for COA members to renew their memberships. Because COA doesn't have a staff to process renewals every month on the anniversary of the date members join, all memberships are based on the calendar year. Please send in your renewal for 1995 as soon as possible.

Request for Assistance

Buzz Devine and I and Ken Petit are attempting a comprehensive survey of Northern Saw-whet Owl wintering habitat in the state. Please drop us a line if you see wintering individuals. We are especially interested in wintering areas in the Northeast and Northwest part of the state.

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Mitchells Honored!

Jan and Stuart Mitchell have received yet another well deserved honor. They were among this year's recipients of the Hartford Courant's Volunteer Recognition Program, which recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations that contribute to worthy environmental, ecological and sociological endeavors.

COA members are familiar with this husband and wife team—they have been married for 42 years—whose passion is the rehabilitation of injured and sick birds of prey at their care facilities called The Mews.

For 25 years they have cared for and cured an amazing assortment of raptors, from Northern Saw-whet Owls to Bald Eagles and everything in between. Jan estimates that they have released 3,000 raptors including many endangered species such as the Peregrine Falcon. One of their rehabilitated raptors too injured to ever fly again became the Southern Connecticut State University mascot.

In addition to their raptor rehabilitation work the Mitchells give educational talks to local schools, conservation officers, animal caretakers and scientists. They place a premium on the importance of teaching others the value of wildlife and wild habitats. As Jan says, "if people learn that wild things belong in the wild and that we have to share our space with them, then that's really our greatest contribution."

We offer our very best congratulations to the Mitchells for this latest honor.

IRS NOTE

Carl Trichka reports that as treasurer of COA, he recently received a communication from the Internal Revenue Service instructing us (the COA) that as a tax-exempt organization, we are required to inform our membership about a change in the law regarding the mechanics of substantiating contributions to tax-exempt organizations. As of January 1, 1994, donors must request substantiation in writing from any organization to which they give \$250.00 or more. A donor can no longer rely on a cancelled check to prove a donation. The donee is not required to record or report the information to the IRS by requesting a social security number from the donor. The responsibility for ob-

taining documentation lies with the donor, who must request it from the donee. Unfortunately, COA rarely receives donations of \$250.00 or more, but we are required, nevertheless to make this public disclosure.

COA Donates \$\$

The COA Board elected to make small cash contributions to two worthy organizations. To the Ornithological Council, based in Washington, D.C., the COA will donate \$100 to further their work, which involves acting as a sort of watchdog over Capitol Hill to protect birds and bird habitat. Recently, the Ornithological Council was instrumental in pressuring Congress to restore funds to protect the critical habitat of the Golden-cheeked Warbler.

The COA Board also donated \$200 to the Connecticut DEP, the funds to be used specifically for bird research and/or protecting avian habitat.

Long Island Sound Plates Fund

Over 37,000 motorists have purchased the special state Long Island Sound license plates—those featuring the distinctive light blue lighthouse.

The sale of these plates have not only brightened the roadway but have also provided special funds that the State Department of Environmental Protection is using for improvements to state parks and other areas.

Of special interest for birders, some of the funds have been used to improve trails at a number of state parks and provide observation platforms and other new facilities at others.

At Sherwood Island State Park a new observation platform affords a great view of the salt marsh along the western side of the park. Already this platform has paid dividends to birders as Robert Winkler spotted a White Pelican from this new birder perch.

Other new observation platforms have been built at Hammonasset (two), Great Island, Barn Island, and Milford.

COA Bulletin

Christmas Bird Count Schedule

COA members are encouraged to participate in the 95th annual National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count. The 17 counts in Connecticut are held on seven different days during this period, from Saturday, December 17th to Sunday, January 1st. 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, compilers always welcome another pair of eyes. All counts guarantee good times, good birding and invigorating weather. Join the fun with more than 1000 birders.

Saturday, December 17, 1994

NEW HAVEN, CT (NH CT) Compilers: Stephen P. Broker, 76 Diamond Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1313, 203-387-0798 and Frank Gallo, New Canaan Nature Center, 144 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT 06840, 203-966-6756

STORRS, CT (ST CT) Compiler: Steve Rogers, 75 Charles Lane, Storrs, CT 06268, 203-429-1259

WOODBURY-ROXBURY, CT (WR CT) Compiler: Ed Hagen, 47 Sycamore Avenue, Woodbury, CT 06797, 203-263-5356

Sunday, December 18, 1994

GREENWICH-STAMFORD, CT (GS CT) Compilers: Gary Palmer, 34 Field Lane, Greenwich, CT 06807, 203-661-4897 and Brian O'Toole, 6 Fort Hills Drive, Cos Cob, CT 06807, 203-629-1027

LITCHFIELD HILLS, CT (LS CT) Compiler: Raymond E. Belding, 46 Scoville Street, Torrington, CT 06790, 203-482-4046

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, 203-265-6398

SALMON RIVER, CT (SR CT) Compiler: David A. Titus, 278 Court Street, Apt. 108, Middletown, CT 06457, 203-346-3735

REGIONAL HOTLINES

Connecticut (203) 254-3665

Rhode Island (401) 940-3870

Eastern Massachusetts (617) 259-8805

Western Massachusetts (413) 253-2218

Vermont (802) 457-4861

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

December 18th...

WESTPORT, CT (WE CT) Compiler: Frank Mantlik, 261 Chestnut Hill Road, Norwalk, CT, 203-846-8601. More contacts: Ed Hiestand, 10 Woodside Lane, Westport, CT 06880, 203-227-5997 and Charles Barnard, 94 Gray Rock Road, Southport, CT 06490, 203-259-8994

Monday, December 26, 1994

BARKHAMSTED, CT (BA CT) Compiler: David Tripp, Jr., RFD-2, Winsted, CT 06098, 203-379-9237

Tuesday, December 27, 1994

STRATFORD-MILFORD, CT (SM CT) Compiler: Steve Mayo, 159 King's Highway-27, Milford, CT 06460, 203-874-1860

Wednesday, December 28, 1994

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

Saturday, December 31, 1994

HARTFORD, CT (HA CT) Compiler: Jay Kaplin, 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 1, 1994

PAWLING (HIDDEN VALLEY), NY-CT (HV NY) Compiler: Sibyll Gilbert, RR1, Box 236, Pawling, NY, 12564, 914-855-3266

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

COA Bulletin

TRIPS & EVENTS

The Audubon Shop, Madison

EAGLE WATCHS on the Connecticut River, Saturdays, January 21-February 25, 1995. \$15 includes lunch at Oliver's Tavern; Call Jerry Connolly, 245-9056 at the Audubon Shop, Madison, CT for more information.

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 trips are scheduled for upcoming months.

RARITIES CHASE, on Saturday, January 7. An all day search for rarities discovered during the recent Christmas counts. This is a great way to see some Life Birds and get a good start on your 1995 year list. Time and place to meet will be announced on the Rare Bird Alert (254-3665) on January 5.

EAGLES along the Connecticut River on Saturday, February 18. After a check at Hammonasset we will head up to Essex in search of wintering bald eagles. Meet at Hammonasset State Park entrance at 8 am. Call Steve Mayo, 874-1860 for more information.

Connecticut Audubon

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

TEXAS, April 14-24. Wildly successful last year, \$995 from Houston includes van transportation, hotel, some food, leader, fees. Reservations and deposits required. Leaders, Jay Hand, Andy Griswold and Curtis Smith.

NANTUCKET, Saturday, February 18 to Monday, February 20. \$315 includes hotel, some food, transportation. Leader Milan Bull.

CHINCOTEAGUE, Friday, May 5 to Sunday, May 7. Includes Bombay Hook and other stops. Price of \$295 includes hotel, some food and transportation. Leaders Jay Hand and Curtis Smith.

Connecticut Audubon Birdcraft Museum

SHADOWBIRDS—A GUEST FOR RAILS, photoexhibit by William Burt of Old Lyme, through December 31, 1994. Open Tuesday, Saturday, Sunday, noon to 5 pm; call 259-0416 for information.

Hartford Audubon

ESSEX and CONNECTICUT RIVER EAST, Saturday, January 14. Meet at Goodspeed Opera House, East Haddam at 8:30 am.. Call leader Steve Mayo, 874-1860 for information.

BEGINNING BIRD WALK, meets Sunday, January 15 at Station 43, corner of Newberry Road and Main Street in South Windsor at 9 am. Call leader Sam Fried, 243-2569 for information.

Menunkatuck Audubon

BEGINNING BIRD WALK, Sunday, January 8. Meet at Hammonasset State Park, off I-95, Exit 62 at 9 am. Call leader John Gaskell, 669-1862 for further information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COA encourages local bird clubs to send announcements of field trips and events to Dwight Smith, Bulletin Editor, 241 Shepard Ave, Hamden, CT 06515

COA Bulletin

Winter 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 Winter Field Report period runs from December 1st to February 28th, and all reports should be submitted by March 10th 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. Editorial commentary is 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 to do so. 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
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Field Trips	Steve Mayo, 159 King's Highway/#27, Milford, CT 06484	874-1860
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Publications	Betty Kleiner, 5 Flintlock Ridge, Simsbury, CT 06070	658-5670
Education	Jay Hand, 76 Sill Lane, Old Lyme, CT 06371	434-0213
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

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