



The Connecticut Warbler

The Journal of The Connecticut Ornithological Association



April 2022

ARCC adds two species to the state list

Delving into bird record history

Deconstructing an unassuming shorebird

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CONTENTS

- 25 **The Mabel Osgood Wright Award**
Denise Jernigan
- 28 **27th Report of The Avian Records Committee of Connecticut**
Greg Hanisek and Jay Kaplan
- 39 **First ARCC Historical Report**
Phil Rusch
- 49 **Connecticut Field Notes**
Greg Hanisek and Frank Mantlik
- 56 **Photo Challenge**
Greg Hanisek

ON THE COVER

Pine Grosbeak

In its 27th Report, included in this issue, the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut returns three species to its Review List, which outlines species for which documentation is required. One of them is Pine Grosbeak, beautifully captured by Mark Szantyr on this April cover.

The Mabel Osgood Wright Award

2022: To Paul J. Fusco



Paul Fusco in the field. (Bob MacDonnell)

The Mabel Osgood Wright Award is presented annually by the Connecticut Ornithological Association to a person or persons in Connecticut who have made a significant contribution to the knowledge, study, and conservation of birds.

The 2022 award was presented via Zoom to Paul Fusco of Oxford at the COA Annual Meeting on March 19, 2022. This article was prepared by Denise Jernigan.

Paul can often be seen out in the field with his camera, telephoto lens and tripod, waiting quietly and patiently for just the right moment to capture the perfect portrait of a fleeting warbler, a skittering shorebird, or a snoozing owl on a frigid morning. His impressive photographic skills have been paired with his talents as a researcher and writer of more than 150 nature articles for Connecticut Wildlife magazine and other major environmental publications over the past 25 years. Altogether they document the natural history of our state's birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, insects and



A Blue-winged Warbler during spring migration in a Connecticut state forest. (Paul Fusco)

plants, providing a solid foundation for future study and comparative analysis. In his years of photographing and writing about so many species of Connecticut birds, Paul has noted the decline in populations of some bird families and species, and has been generous in sharing his photographs and knowledge to illustrate changes in their numbers and habitats.

In his work for the Wildlife Division of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Paul has designed and created educational exhibits, interpretive text and trail signs, presentations, dioramas, and illustrations that highlight and interpret state environmental exhibits at the Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center, and in state parks and nature centers. He contributed to the exhibit design and photography for the new Meigs Point Nature Center at Hammonasset Beach State Park, and created “Watchable Wildlife” signs for the Long Island Sound viewing platforms, Topsmead State Forest, and other DEEP and DOT projects explaining and supporting wildlife conservation.

His field work has included surveys of neotropical migratory birds, shorebirds, Roseate Terns, eagles, grassland birds, waterfowl, turkey and grouse. Public outreach

programs include Migratory Bird Program walks and nature photography workshops. Along with Julian Hough (the 2022 winner of COA’s Betty Kleiner award), Paul has been the graphic designer for the annual Connecticut State of the Birds report since 2006.

Paul served on the COA Board of Directors from 1991 to 1997, was a member of its Conservation and Executive Committees, and continues his work to record the status of our state’s birds, lands and wildlife. Speaking of the benefits of spending so much time in challenging field conditions, Paul commented: “(This is) something that I have always appreciated when photographing birds. It is a way to peek into the intimate lives of the birds while photographing. It can only be done by close encounters and patience, lots of patience!”

COA is honored to present this award to Paul Fusco for his significant contributions to the documentation and conservation of Connecticut’s birds.



Two Red Knots along the Connecticut shoreline, where they are increasingly hard to find. (Paul Fusco)

27th Report of The Avian Records Committee of Connecticut

By Greg Hanisek and Jay Kaplan



This is the 27th report of the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut (ARCC). In the last report (see the 26th Report in *The Connecticut Warbler* Vol. 40 No. 2), three new species were added to the state list. The addition of Common Ringed Plover, Pacific Golden-Plover and Townsend's Warbler brought the state list to 448 species. This year, two species were added, a Crested Caracara photographed flying over West Haven, and a Eurasian Tree Sparrow frequenting a bird feeder in Old Saybrook. These additions bring the state list to 450.

This year, the committee voted on 63 records, the same number as in 2021. Reports were provided by birders of all levels of expertise, including numerous reports from beginning birders. All reports received are carefully reviewed by ARCC members prior to voting. For those wishing to submit a report, updated information on how to develop a report is located in the ARCC section of the Connecticut Ornithological Association website.

This year, the committee also voted on two sets of Historic Records totaling 58 additional records. In earlier times, collected bird specimens from Connecticut were often shipped to museums and other institutions across the country. Many of these specimens include accompanying historical information. ARCC co-secretaries, Phil Rusch and Frank Gallo, have been contacting institutions to document specimens collected in Connecticut. The results have led to many significant records, including new first records for the state.

State List And Review List

The committee depends on observers to submit their reports of species on the Review List (species for which the committee would like reports, and marked with an asterisk on the COA checklist), plus any species new to the state. The most recent State List



This Eurasian Tree Sparrow, a first for Connecticut as it visited a feeder in Old Saybrook, fit into a pattern of expansion from what was once a very limited Midwestern range in North America. It's shown here on 14 Nov 2021. (David Mathieu)

and Review List may be viewed on the COA Website at www.ctbirding.org. Submit written reports along with documentary material to Jay Kaplan, ARCC chair, and to the ARCC co-secretaries, Frank Gallo and Phil Rusch.

Each year, the committee evaluates the Review List. The committee continues to review the criteria it uses to determine what constitutes a review species and is looking at what other state committees are now doing. Based on occurrence over the past 20 years, the committee has re-instated Barnacle Goose and Little Gull and added Pine Grosbeak to the Review List. Barnacle Goose and Little Gull records over the past 10 years have averaged one per year. Pine Grosbeaks have totaled three irruptions since 2000. Two of these irruptions were minor, and none rivaled those that occurred during the latter half of the twentieth century, when the species was found regularly as far south as coastal Connecticut.

Format

In the case of accepted records, only observers who submitted reports are listed, with the original finder listed first followed by an asterisk. Photos are acknowledged

with ‡. Hyphenated numbers are the ARCC file numbers. For reopened files, an “R” follows the numbers. The species are listed in order according to the American Ornithological Society (AOS) Checklist. Multiple records of a particular species are listed chronologically. Months of the year are shortened to their first three letters.

Committee Membership

Members, in addition to the authors, who voted on records in this report are Nick Bonomo, Frank Gallo, Tina Green, Julian Hough, Alex Lin-Moore, Frank Mantlik, Phil Rusch, Dave Tripp and Glenn Williams. Dave Provencher, who served on the Committee since 1996, has resigned. We thank Dave for his contributions to Connecticut ornithology over more than two decades.

Accepted Records

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

A flock of six was present on 1 Jun 2021 at the Watertown Fire District well field in Woodbury (2021-31 Nicolas Main*‡); a flock of five was at Rocky Hill Meadows from 28 Aug 2021 through 10 Sep 2021 (2021-36 Jamie Meyers*‡, Bill Asteriades‡, Christina E. Cole‡).

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) One with apparent wing damage was seen at Goodwill Trail in Avon on 23 May 2021 (2021-28 Grace Chung‡); one was at Broad Brook mill pond in East Windsor on 27 Oct 2021 (2021-50 Jeff Fengler*‡); one was in a horse farm field in Somers on 31 Oct 2021, and bill pattern showed it to be different from the bird at nearby Broad Brook mill pond four days earlier and



Pink-footed Geese, like this one on 31 Oct 2021 in Somers, produced an amazing six accepted records for fall-winter 2021-22. (Jeff Fengler)



A boat trip off East Haven produced the state's third record of Sabine's Gull on 3 Sep 2021. (Nick Bonomo)

last seen 15 Feb (2021-54 Jeff Fengler*‡); one was in East Windsor and Ellington from 15 Dec 2021 to at least 8 Jan 2022 (2021-60 David Mathieu‡); four were together in South Windsor and Ellington from 19 Dec 2021 to at least 8 Jan 2022 (2021-61 David Lawton‡, Jamie Meyers‡, Russ Smiley‡); three were at and near Fairfield County Hunt Club in Westport from 15 Jan to at least 4 Feb 2022 (2022-03 Jonathan Green*‡); one was at Charles E. Wheeler WMA and Silver Sands State Park, both Milford, from 20 Jan to at least 3 Feb 2022 (2022-06 Severin Uebbing*‡). Between 8-12 individuals were found in fall and winter 2021-2022. There are now 21 total records for the state.

(Black) Brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*)

This western subspecies was found in a flock of (Atlantic) Brant flying over New Haven Harbor in West Haven on 5 Feb 2022 (2022-10 Nick Bonomo*‡). This observer has found five of the seven state records.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

An adult female was present from 4 Jan 2022 through at least 24 Feb at Captain's Cove in Bridgeport and nearby areas (2022-02 Greg Hanisek*). Single females have been seen there during several winters since 2015.

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

One was at Bantam Lake in Litchfield on 30 Aug 2020 (2021-57 Greg Hanisek*); one was at Stonington Town Docks from 25 Jan through at least 8 Mar 2022 (2022-07 Phil Rusch*, Sue Palmer‡).

Chuck-Will's-Widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*)

One was singing at dawn on 19 May 2021 at Shippan Point, Stamford (2021-27 Al Collins*).

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*)

One was found road-killed on 11 Nov 2021 in Mystic (2021-59 Rick Newton*‡).

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

One was flushed twice on 17 Oct 2021 from a grassy area at Flirt Hill in Easton (2021-45 Jeremy Nance*).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

One was present at Barn Island WMA in Stonington on 31 May-1 Jun 2021 (2021-30 Robert Dewire*, Christopher Veale‡).

Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

The state's second was found on 16 Dec 2021 in the saltmarsh at the Milford Point Coastal Center and seen by many that day (2021-58 Tom Murray*, Paul Fusco‡, Cody Limber‡).



Connecticut's second Northern Lapwing performed for many observers during its one-day stay on 16 Dec 2021 at Milford Point. (Paul Fusco)

Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*)

One was found in poor condition on 17 Jan 2022 at Lyme Fairgrounds in Lyme. It was taken to a veterinarian, where it was euthanized (2022-05 Michael Stanton*‡). One was found on 31 Jan 2022 at Stonington Point in Stonington (2022-08 Russ Smiley*‡, Phil Rusch). It was seen by many observers that afternoon and stayed until 11 Feb 2022. Another individual was found at Harkness Memorial State Park in Waterford on 2 Feb 2022 (2022-09 Bill Rankin*‡).

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

Single juveniles were seen from a boat off East Haven on 4 Sep 2021 (2021-38 Nick Bonomo*‡); from the end of the Moraine Trail at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison on 8 Sep 2021 (2021-39 Carolyn Cimino*‡); from shore at Sandy Point, West Haven, on 11 Sep 2021 (2021-40 Julian Hough*‡); and from shore at Smith Neck Road, Old Lyme, on 9 Oct 2021 (2021-43 Nick Bonomo*, Phil Rusch*). Two juveniles were seen from Stonington Point on 26 Oct 2021 (2021-49 Phil Rusch*). The autumn of 2021 saw an unusually high volume of records of this pelagic gull at inshore and inland bodies of water in the northeastern United States. This began immediately following the passage of Hurricane Ida's remnants into the Canadian Maritimes, which might have forced several kittiwakes to migrate inland, such as by following the Saint Lawrence River, rather than directly out to sea.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*)

A juvenile was seen from a boat off East Haven on 3 Sep 2021 (2021-37 Nick Bonomo*‡). It was a third state record.

Common (Kamchatka) Gull (*Larus canus kamtschatschensis*)

One was found on 1 Apr 2021 at Seaside Park in Bridgeport (2021-22 Jeremy Nance*‡). It was relocated on 5-8 Apr in West Haven (John Oshlick‡); one found by Patrick Dugan was present from 10 Feb to at least 5 Mar 2022 at Cove Island Sanctuary and Cummings Park in Stamford, where one also was present in winter 2019 (2022-11 Frank Mantlik‡). Kamchatka Gull is a vagrant from East Asia that, while still quite rare in our part of the world, is being detected in the Northeast with increasing frequency. The exact cause for this increase in records is unknown but may include some combination of improved birder awareness, easier digital photo documentation, recent establishment of identification criteria, and an actual increase in the species' vagrancy.

Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*)

One was seen off Stonington Point on 4 Aug 2020 in conjunction with the passage of Tropical Storm Isaias (2021-16 Russ Smiley*‡); a specimen of an adult female at the University of Connecticut Museum was found on 28 Aug 2011 in North Windham in conjunction with Tropical Storm Irene (2021-18 Diane Novak*).

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

One was found on 4 Jun 2021 at Milford Point, then seen by many (2021-33 Frank Mantlik*‡). A photo appeared in *The Connecticut Warbler* Vol 42, No 1.

Great Shearwater (*Ardenna gravis*)

One was seen on 4 Aug 2020 from Stonington Point in Stonington in conjunction with the passage of Tropical Storm Isaias (2021-23 Russ Smiley*‡).

Frigatebird Sp. (*Fregata* sp.)

One, believed to be an immature, was seen briefly in flight on 10 Jan 2022 in East Lyme (2022-29 Andrew Dasinger*). The circumstances of the observation did not allow identification to species.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

The state's second was found on 12 May 2021 on the Saugatuck River at Grace Salmon Park (and later Longshore Club Park) in Westport. It was seen by many through 15 May (2021-26 Frank Mantlik*‡). A photo appeared in *The Connecticut Warbler* Vol 41, No 4.

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*)

As part of a widespread post-breeding dispersal north of its normal range, at least one immature was seen from 31 Jul to 22 Sep 2021 at various coastal locations from West Haven to Old Saybrook (2021-34 John Oshlick*‡, Frank Mantlik‡); an immature was found on 7 Aug 2021 at Allyndale Road in Canaan, not far from the Massachusetts line (2021-35 Buzz Devine*‡). A photo of the coastal bird appeared in *The Connecticut Warbler* Vol 42, No 1.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

A subadult was seen by multiple observers as it passed over the Lighthouse Point hawk watch in New Haven on 19 Sep 2021 (2021-41 John Oshlick*‡, Alex Lin-Moore).

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)

The state's first was seen well flying and perched for a single observer on 7 Mar 2021 along the West Haven shoreline (2021-19 Amy Peck*‡). There are now at least eight New England records. A photo appeared in *The Connecticut Warbler* Vol 41, No 4.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

One was found at a feeder on private property in Old Saybrook on 7 Oct 2021 (2021-44 Anne McNulty*‡, Phil Rusch‡, Chris Veale‡, Bruce Finnan‡). It associated with flocks of House Sparrows, and remained in the neighborhood through at least 2 Jan 2022. Identification was straightforward, but the issue of origin resulted in



This handsome Harris's Sparrow, shown here on 26 Oct 2021, was a second record for Allen's Meadow Park in Wilton. (John Hannon)

extensive investigation by Rusch, co-secretary of ARCC. This Old World native has been long-established in a small North American range in the St. Louis area and historically showed little evidence of range expansion or vagrancy. However, in its closest native areas in the United Kingdom it is not migratory and has been in decline for decades, suggesting trans-Atlantic passage by natural means was unlikely. Rusch's research showed that – unbeknownst to most Eastern birders – range expansion in North America has been increasingly significant. The species is now well-established hundreds of miles from its historic base, primarily northward but also with records both east and west. There is now an accepted record for New Jersey, and a formerly unaccepted record from Massachusetts is being re-evaluated. ARCC determined that the Old Saybrook bird fit this trend of natural range expansion.

Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*)

A female/HY was seen on 24 Feb 2021 at Ellington Cemetery in Ellington (2021-15 David Mathieu*‡); at least one adult was seen 21 Feb-14 Mar 2021 at feeders in West Cornwall (2021-20 Larry Master*‡); an apparent worn adult male was seen from 26 Feb to at least 10 Mar 2021 at Sherwood Island State Park in Westport (2021-14 Frank Gallo‡, Chris S. Wood). Hoary Redpoll continues to be a tough species to evaluate for the committee. Even when photos are obtained, some birds, especially more heavily streaked individuals, continue to cause headaches. The inherent wisdom is to err on the side of caution, but this often means that these well-streaked individuals (always HY females?) are likely to escape the net. However, when assessing

these records, the committee also feels that it is not productive to label them as “just a Common”, but to accept the limitations posed by certain individuals of certain species and decide that the bar of reasonable doubt was not met. Aging and sexing redpolls in early winter may be possible since adults have a complete post-breeding molt and will have relatively fresh tertial fringes, wing and tail feathers compared to HY, which will have these corresponding feathers more worn and pointed. However, birds in late February or March may be more difficult to age since adults and SY individuals will be equally worn at this date. (Text by Julian Hough)

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco (*Junco hyemalis oregonus*)

An adult male visited a feeder in Chaplin from 3 Feb to 22 Mar 2021 (2021-12 Phil Rusch*‡). A photo appeared in *The Connecticut Warbler* Vol 41, No 3.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

One was seen 22-25 Oct 2021 at Allen's Meadow Park in Wilton, a location that has a previous record of this western species (2021-46 Alan Welby*‡, Kate Wong‡).

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)

One was found on 23-27 Oct 2021 at H. Smith Richardson Wildlife Preserve in Fairfield (2021-47 Mary Walsh*‡, Don McGregor‡).

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*)

An adult male was in a private yard in Westport on 3 Oct 2021 (2021-42 Chase McCabe*, Aidan Kiley‡, Jo Fasciolo); a male was found at Hammonasset Beach State



A decade-long plunge in sightings resulted in ARCC returning Little Gull to the state Review List. (Nick Bonomo)



This immature male Western Tanager, shown here on 3 Jan 2022, was a long-stayer at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison. (Bruce Finnan)

Park in Madison on 24 Oct 2021 (2021-48 Anna Zizak*‡, John Oshlick‡, Rick Gedney).

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)

An adult male was seen on 9 Feb 2021 in Rockville (2021-10 Aidan Persaud*).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

An SY bird visited a feeder in Hamden for about 15 minutes on 4 Mar 2021 (2021-13 Arthur Shippee*‡); an adult male visited a feeder in the Weatogue section of Simsbury on 3-4 May 2021 (2021-24 Cindy Kiesewetter*‡, Jamie Meyers‡); an HY male was seen on 18 Nov 2021 at East Shore Park in New Haven (2021-56 John Oshlick*‡); an SY male found on 1 Jan 2022 by Nic Main at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison was present to at least 24 Jan 2022 (2022-01 Greg Hanisek*, Severin Uebbing‡).

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

An adult male visited the Dodd's feeder at Lord's Point, Stonington, from 26 Feb to 4 Apr 2021 (2021-17 Phil Rusch, Sue Palmer‡, Dave Provencher‡).

Records Not Accepted

Say's Phoebe (*Sayoronia saya*) One was reported to have been heard only on 19 Oct 2019 in Waterford (2019-23).

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)

The extreme brevity of an observation on 13 Nov 2019 in Waterford led to the committee's decision (2019-24).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

One was reported to have been seen flying by Meigs Point at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison on 30 Oct 2021 in the company of two Red-throated Loons (2021-52). The brevity of the observation was of concern for a species with a history identification difficulty in the state.

Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonicus*)

One was reported to have been seen briefly on 12 Mar 2021 at Bluff Point State Park in Groton (2021-21). Again, brevity of the observation contributed to the committee's action.

Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*) One photographed on 19 Jan 2013 in Barkhamsted did not meet the exacting requirements for confirmation (2020-44).

Records Not Accepted (Origin)**Yellow-fronted Canary (*Crithagra mozambicus*)**

This species, a commonly kept cage bird, was present from 14-23 Sep 2021 at Stratford Point. It is a native of sub-Saharan Africa (2021-62 Frank Mantlik*‡).

Greg Hanisek, 175 Circuit Ave., Waterbury, CT 06708

Jay Kaplan, 71 Gracey Road, Canton, CT 06019

Co-secretary Frank Gallo, 35 Urban St. New Canaan, CT 06840

Co-secretary Phil Rusch, 16 Singleton Road, Chaplin, CT 06235

First ARCC Historical Report

By Phil Rusch

This is the First Historical Report of the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut (ARCC). The report presents the results of many hours of research reviewing specimens and documents at the Biological Research Collections (BRC) at the University of Connecticut (UConn) in Storrs and the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA.

This report results from the committee's attempt to document and review records of Review List species found prior to the formation of ARCC in 1985. It was decided to treat all records prior to January 1, 2000 as "historic". This report documents 13 first state records for Connecticut.

In the 25th and 26th reports, the committee reviewed several historic records including: 6 records, 5 specimens and 1 photo documentation of Sooty Tern from 1979's Hurricane David; the first specimen record from Connecticut and New England of Black-headed Grosbeak from 1978; a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher photo-documented record from 1977; and the first state record, photo documented, of Gray Kingbird from Old Lyme in 1974.

The committee decided to treat this large batch of 47 records from the BRC at UConn and one from the MCZ at Harvard as a special report. Future historical reports are planned for specimen records from Yale's Peabody Museum (YPM), the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) in Washington, DC, the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York, the Field Museum Of Natural History (FMNH) in Chicago, and the University of Iowa Ornithological Collections (SUI) in Ames, Iowa.

Format:

This report will vary slightly from prior reports since most of the records are of specimens. Each record has been designated a unique ARCC file number. As this report spans the years of 1849-1979, the ARCC file number will use the designations H1-01 to H1-48. H1 referring to Historical Report No, 1, and 01 to 48 referring to the individual record. The species are listed in order according to the latest American Ornithological Society (AOS) checklist. Multiple records of a particular species will be listed by the ARCC reference file number. Months of the year are shortened to the first 3 letters. In addition, the catalog number of the specimen and the collector, if known, will be listed.

Committee Membership:

Members, in addition to the author, who voted on records in this report are Nick

Bonomo, Tina Green, Greg Hanisek, Julian Hough, Jay Kaplan, Frank Mantlik, and Glenn Williams.

Accepted Records:

King Eider (*Sometaria spectabilis*).

H1-01: One female was collected in Old Lyme on 1 Jan 1971 by R. Billard. Round Skin UCONN 6820. Photos of the specimen on file. King Eider was removed from the review list in 2000.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

H1-06: One was collected in Portland on 8 Sep 1894 by FRH Gould. Round skin UCONN 1512. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-07: One was collected in Portland on 5 Oct 1912 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 1513. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-08: One was collected in Portland on 30 Sep 1911 by JH Sage. Round skin UCONN 1514. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-09: One was collected in Portland on 27 Sep 1894 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 1515. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-10: One was collected in South Windsor on 14 Oct 1920 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 1516. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-11: One was collected in Portland on 24 Sep 1901 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 9368. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-12: One was collected in Portland on 9 Oct 1877 by JH Sage. Mounted Specimen UCONN 11260. Photos of the mounted specimen on file.

H1-13: One was collected in Portland on 10 Oct 1877 by JH Sage. Mounted Specimen UCONN 11261. Photos of the mounted specimen on file.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

H1-02: One was collected in East Hartford on 27 Sep 1886 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 1973. Photos of the specimen on file. This becomes the first documented state record.

H1-03: One was collected in Portland on 2 Oct 1903 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 9401. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-04: One was collected in Portland on 21 Oct 1890 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 9402. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-05: One was collected in Portland on 24 Nov 1895 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 9403. Photos of the specimen on file.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

H1-14: One was collected in Noank/Groton on 10 Sep 1903 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 1977. Photos of the specimen on file. Parasitic Jaeger was removed from the review list in 2002. This becomes the first documented state record.



Long-tailed Jaeger (*Louis Bevier*)

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

H1-15: One was found deceased on Groton Long Point in Groton on 30 Sep 1979 by an unknown collector. Round Skin UCONN 7815. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-16: One was collected in Portland during the fall of 1875 by JH Sage. Mounted Specimen UCONN 9265. Photos of the mounted specimen on file. Originally identified as Parasitic Jaeger, in 1988 Louis Bevier correctly identified it as Long-tailed. There is a specimen from 30 August 1873 collected in Wallingford that would constitute the first state record except it cannot be located. Therefore, this becomes the first documented state record of this species

Dovekie (*Alle alle*)

H1-31: One was found deceased in Ashford on 11 Nov 1968 by ? Paige. Round Skin UCONN 2001. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-32: One was found deceased in Brooklyn on 5 Nov 1969 by R Dubos. Round

Skin and partial skeleton UCONN 4195. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-33: One was found deceased in Stamford on 15 Nov 1974 by unknown. Round Skin UCONN 7281. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-34: One was collected in Portland on 10 Nov 1849 by Wood. Mounted Specimen UCONN 9262. Photos of the mounted specimen on file. This becomes the first documented state record.

H1-35: One was collected in Branford on 14 Jan 1891 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 9415. Photos of the specimen on file.

Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*)

H1-20: One was collected in Portland on 22 Dec 1894 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 2042. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-21: One was collected in Branford on 12 Jan 1891 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 2043. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-22: One was collected in Branford on 12 Jan 1891 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 2044. Photos of the specimen on file.



Dovekie (1849)



H1-23: One was collected in Essex on 11 Dec 1894 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 2045. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-24: One was collected in Essex on 11 Dec 1894 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 2046. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-25: One was collected in Rocky Hill on 18 Nov 1893 by WE Treat. Round Skin UCONN 2048. Photos of specimen on file.

H1-26: One was collected in Portland on 13 Dec 1894 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 2049. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-27: One was collected in Portland on 22 Dec 1894 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 2050. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-28: One was collected in Portland on 13 Dec 1894 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 2051. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-29: One was found deceased in Stamford/Darien near exit 8 / Interstate 95 in Darien on 31 Dec 1976 by a CT State Trooper. Round Skin UCONN 7490 /

Skeleton UCONN 8771. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-30: One was collected in Portland on 22 Dec 1894 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 9414. Photos of the specimen on file.

Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*)

H1-36: One was collected in Branford in Dec 1887 by J. Trumbell. Round Skin UCONN 9416. Photos of the specimen on file. This becomes the first documented state record.

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*)

H1-18: One was collected in Stratford on 20 Jun 1968 by Walt Bulmer. Round Skin UCONN 1999. Photos of the specimen on file. Little Gull was removed from the review list in 1998. This becomes the first documented state record.

Leach's Storm Petrel (*Hydrobates leucorhous*)

H1-37: One was collected at Portland on 18 Oct 1904 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 9298. Photos of the specimen on file.

H1-38: One was collected at Portland on 16 Sep 1903 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 9299. Photos of the specimen on file. This becomes the first documented state record.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

H1-40: One was found deceased in Stafford on 3 June 1976 by E. Stuart Mitchell. Round Skin UCONN 7479. Swallow-tailed Kite was removed from the review list in 2004. Photos of the specimen on file. This becomes the first documented state record.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

H1-39: One was collected in Essex on 1 Nov 1892 by JH Sage. Round Skin



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (William Burt)



UCONN 9350. Photos of the specimen on file. This becomes the first documented state record.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)

H1-46: One was seen and well described by George T. Griswold and Arthur G. Powers in Hartford on 12 Jan 1938. A detailed description noting the key field marks was found in the field notes of Griswold. His account also appeared in *The Auk* Volume 55; pp 533-534. The bird was seen four times by Griswold and Powers as it moved from the edge of the business district into a residential area. This constitutes the earliest of the three accepted records. There are also two unreviewed sight records and 3 missing specimens of this species.

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*)

H1-47: one was seen and described in detail by George T. Griswold at Podunk Swamp in South Windsor on 25 Jan 1934. Griswold kept meticulous field notes from 1911-1954. These field notes are located at UCONN in the BRC Library. An account also appears in *The Auk* Volume 51; pp 521. The committee looks forward to investigating the field notes in the future for other well documented historical sightings. This is currently the only accepted record of Northern Hawk Owl from Connecticut. There are two additional unreviewed sight records, 1 missing specimen, and 1 newly discovered unreviewed specimen.

Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*)

H1-41: One was collected in South Windsor on 22 Feb 1924 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 2487. Photos of the specimen on file. This becomes the first documented state record.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

H1-42: One was collected in Durham on 27 Jan 1907 by JH Sage. Round Skin UCONN 9353. Photos of the specimen on file.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) H1-19: One was sighted at Griswold Point on 25 May 1974 by William Burt. Photos were obtained and are on file.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

H1-19: One was sighted at Griswold Point on 25 May 1974 by William Burt. Photos were obtained and are on file.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

H1-45: One was collected in Old Saybrook in Nov 1878 by James Chalkers. Round Skin MCZ 249184. Photos of the specimen on file.

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*)

H1-43: One was collected in Stratford on 29 Aug 1968 by Walt Bulmer. Round Skin UCONN 6614. Photos of the specimen on file. This becomes the first documented state record.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

H1-44: One was collected in Stratford on 24 Mar 1968 by Walt Bulmer. Round Skin UCONN 6618. Photos of the specimen on file. This becomes the first documented state record.

Records Not Accepted**Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*)**

H1-48: One was seen in flight and described by George T Griswold and C. Viebert at the former site of Bissel's Ferry in Windsor on 2 Dec 1932. This record is another find from the field notes of GT Griswold. The Committee felt that the description did not adequately eliminate Northern Saw-whet Owl.

Corrections To Prior ARCC Reports**A review of all 26 prior published reports found the following:****3rd ARCC Report:**

The species name on 1985-34 and 1988-06 has been changed from Mew Gull to Common/Short-billed Gull. There is not adequate information to identify either of these records to a single species.

4th ARCC REPORT:

Wilson's Plover is incorrectly listed as 89-13. The correct number is 1989-04.

7th ARCC REPORT:

Pin-tailed Whydah is incorrectly listed as 95-23. The correct number is 1995-33.

8th ARCC REPORT:

King Eider is incorrectly listed as 1992-28. The correct number is 1996-28. Boat-tailed Grackle and Blue Grosbeak are both listed as 1997-43. Boat-tailed Grackle will remain 1997-43. Blue Grosbeak will become 1997-42.

10th ARCC REPORT:

Boat-tailed Grackle is incorrectly listed as 1999-57. The correct number is 1999-56. A Yellow-headed Blackbird, 1999-07, was not accepted after 3 rounds of voting. The record was never published with the Annual Report.

11th ARCC REPORT:

Barnacle Goose is incorrectly listed as 2002-02. The correct number is 2002-06. Gray Jay is incorrectly listed as 2002-22. The correct number is 2002-21. Summer Tanager (2001-02) 21 Sept 2000 in Waterbury. Record was accepted but never published in the annual report. Anhinga (2002-30) 1 June 2002 in Redding. Record appears to have been accepted 10-0, but the record was never published in the annual report.

12th ARCC REPORT:

Gyr Falcon (2002-36) was not accepted-ID? But never published in the annual report. These records were accepted by the committee due to the removal of the species from the review list. However, no ARCC number was assigned. This corrects that oversight.

Black-throated Gray Warbler was assigned ARCC number 2001-10.

Swainson's Hawk from 24 Sep 2002 was assigned ARCC number 2002-37

Swainson's Hawk from 1 Nov 2002 was assigned ARCC number 2002-25

Swainson's Hawk from 23 Sep 2002 was assigned ARCC number 2002-29

Eared Grebe from 16 Jan 2003 was assigned ARCC number 2003-01

The Second ARCC Historical Report will appear in the July Connecticut Warbler.

Eared Grebe from 22-23 Jan 2003 was assigned ARCC number 2003-02
 Eared Grebe from 23 Apr 2003 was assigned ARCC number 2003-03
 Parasitic Jaeger from 15 Sep 2002 was assigned ARCC number 2002-32
 American White Pelican from 3 Nov 2003 was assigned ARCC number 2002-04
 American White Pelican from 11-13 Nov 2005 was assigned ARCC number 2005-01.

13th ARCC REPORT:

Barnacle Goose is listed in the report without an ARCC number. The correct number is 2006-36.

Anhinga (2002-30) 1 June 2002 in Redding. Record was accepted, but never published in the annual report.

15th ARCC REPORT:

Trumpeter Swan is listed in the report without an ARCC number. The correct number is 2010-02.

18th ARCC REPORT:

White Ibis is incorrectly listed as 2011-31. The correct number is 2012-31

22nd ARCC REPORT:

White-crowned Sparrow, 2017-11. The committee chose not to discuss the sub-specific designation of this individual.

24th ARCC REPORT:

Black Rail is listed in the report without an ARCC number. The correct number is 2018-04.

A specimen of MacGillivray's Warbler (2018-32) from the American Museum of Natural History was discussed at length. This specimen was previously reviewed by the committee (1989-01). Both times the record was unable to be identified to species.

Connecticut Field Notes

By Greg Hanisek and Frank Mantlik



This Western Kingbird, seen here on Nov. 11, 2021, was present from Sept. 20, 2021 until Jan. 12, 2022, when it was found dead. (Bruce Finnan)

Fall Season Aug. 1 to Nov. 30, 2021

After a flock of six **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** visited the state in spring, five were found on Aug. 28-Sept. 10 at Rocky Hill Meadows with a couple of brief visits to nearby areas (JMe, m.ob.). There were records of the now-regular and widespread Greater White-fronted Goose from four locations, the first on Oct. 27 at Broad Book Mill Pond in East Windsor (PR et al.). A **Pink-footed Goose** was found at Broad Book on the same day (JFe), and a different one was nearby in Somers on Oct. 31 (DM et al.). A Cackling Goose was at Beaver Pond Park, New Haven Nov. 14-27, and was seen by many (KL). A Greater White-fronted Goose X Canada Goose hybrid returned to Wooster Pond, Stratford Nov. 26 (FM, AK). Two Tundra Swans were at North Cove, Old Saybrook, on Nov. 28 (KO). A Eurasian Wigeon arrived on Oct. 10 to begin a long stay at 14-Acre Pond in Norwalk (JFa et al.). A female was at Jonathon Law High School pond, Milford Nov 11-16 (SS). A Gadwall was a



This LeConte's Sparrow, seen here on Sept. 23, 2021, made a five-day stay at H. Smith Richardson Wildlife Preserve in Fairfield. (Mary Walsh)

good inland find Aug. 24 at Kelly Pond in Goshen (BD). A flock of 27 Black Scoters dropped onto Bantam Lake in Litchfield on Oct. 19 (MDo).

The first southbound Common Nighthawks were reported from four widespread locations on Aug. 15 (LD et al.). By Aug. 19 reports were widespread. About 1000 passed over Winsted on Aug. 27 (CPa). A flock of 50 was still on the move Oct. 13 in Westport (SMr). An Eastern Whip-poor-will was still vocal on Aug. 19 in North Madison (MDi). An **American White Pelican**, now annual but always exciting, was at Paderewski Park in Plainville on Aug. 17 (NN) and at nearby Batterson Pond in Farmington on Aug. 21 (MDa). Then one was present on the Branford coast Aug. 25-30 (GN et al.). A late Sora was flushed by mowing Nov. 29 at Bafflin Sanctuary in Pomfret (AR). A **Common Gallinule** was present Sept. 28-Oct. 23 at Ferry Landing Park in Old Lyme (JGa, m.ob.). One was at West River Park in New Haven on Oct. 5 (PFa). A road-killed **Purple Gallinule** was found on Nov. 11 in Stonington (fide PR). On Sept. 20, single **Yellow Rails** were taken into veterinary care after being picked up in Wilton and Kensington (KW). One was alive and well on Oct. 17 at Trout Brook Valley Conservation Area in Easton (JN). High counts for **Sandhill Cranes** were 11 over Great Pond, Simsbury, on Nov. 24 (JMe); a total of eight at the

Lighthouse Point hawk watch in New Haven on Nov. 27 (SMa et al.); and a flock of seven at Wood Creek Pond in Norfolk on Sept. 29 (CK).

An **American Avocet** was an exciting find on Aug. 13 at Milford Point (JN et al.). A Hudsonian Godwit on Aug. 21 at Long Beach in Stratford (KG) was a precursor to an almost unimaginable flight of 174 observed from Shippan Point in Stamford on Aug. 23, the day after the passage of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Henri (PDu, DW). Also that day at least seven flew over the Mount Tom area in Bantam (AF) and one was at Southport Beach in Fairfield (AK). A late Stilt Sandpiper was at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison (hereafter HBSP) on Oct. 22-23 (PT et al.). Baird's Sandpipers, mostly singles, ranged from Aug. 14 to Oct. 20 (FM, MB et al.). The high count was three on Aug. 27 at Milford Point (JN). Away from typical locations, one was a nice find on Aug. 17 at Nod Brook WMA in Avon (BT, JMe). Buff-breasted Sandpipers, almost all singles, ranged from Aug. 26 to Sept. 13 at typical locations (JOs, mob.). Long-billed Dowitchers were present Aug. 10-26 at HBSP (JOs, m.ob.); Sept. 6 in Old Lyme (DP); and Oct. 25-Nov. 7 in Stratford (FM et al.). The latest Spotted Sandpiper was at Griswold Point in Old Lyme on Nov. 30 (JA).

Although Hurricane/Tropical Storm Henri didn't deliver the hoped-for trove on pelagic species, an Aug. 22 watch at Stonington Point produced some remarkable counts of gulls and terns: 2200 Laughing Gulls; 27 Bonaparte's Gulls; 135 Black Terns; 350 Roseate Terns; 9000 Common Terns; and 42 Forster's Terns (GW et al.). There also was a single Parasitic Jaeger (JO et al.), three Red Knots, four Stilt Sandpipers and a White-rumped Sandpiper (JHo et al.). At Lordship in Stratford there were two Red-necked Phalaropes (FM).

Two Long Island Sound rarities, a juvenile **Sabine's Gull**, the state's third, and a juvenile **Black-legged Kittiwake**, were attracted to huge schools of small Menhaden (also known to fishermen as "peanut bunker") off of East Haven on Sept. 3 and Sept. 4, respectively (NB). Other kittiwakes were at HBSP on Sept. 8 (CCi), at Griswold Point on Oct. 9 (PR, NB), two at Stonington Point on Oct. 26 (PR) and three at Shippan Point, Stamford, on Oct. 30 (AC). Laughing Gull numbers built to 2500 at Millstone Point, Waterford on Sept. 8 (DP). The high count of Royal Terns was seven at HBSP on Aug. 26 (MP). The latest one was there Nov. 10 (SMi). A late Common Tern was found on Nov. 6 at Harkness Memorial State Park in Waterford (JA). A Black Skimmer was at Boulder Pond at HBSP on Aug. 12 (MK). Scattered August reports of **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** included a high of four from the New London-Fisher's Island ferry on Aug. 5 (WB). An unidentified storm-petrel flew by rainy Stonington Point on Oct. 26 (PR).

A flyover flock of seven Great Egrets was an unexpected inland sight on Aug. 7 in Avon (DB). On Sept. 18 Plum Bank Marsh in Old Saybrook outdid its reputation as the best place for Little Blue Herons when a boat trip revealed at least 50 - 35+

adults and 15 white immatures (JOg). A late Tricolored Heron was at Milford Point marsh Oct 5 (FM). After many years of declining numbers, Cattle Egrets staged an irruption. After the first report on Oct. 17 in Durham (JGr), three were present at Seaside Park in Bridgeport Oct. 30-31 (JN et al.), with apparently the same group moving to Sherwood Island State Park in Westport on the latter date (TG et al.). Up to two were then at HBSP on Nov. 1, with scattered reports as late as Nov. 13 (JS et al.) and at Silver Sands State Park in Milford on Nov. 2, with scattered reports as late as Nov. 7 (CLe, GL et al.). Also on Nov. 2 there were four in Fairfield (AK, JLe et al.). Reports then emerged far from the coast with two in Woodstock Nov. 4-6 (JLa et al.), wrapping up with one Nov. 20-23 in Ellington (DM et al.). Other single reports during this event came from Monroe (JFa), Old Lyme (JA et al.) and Stratford (SMr).

The **Roseate Spoonbill** found in the New Haven area in late July turned up at Shell Beach in Guilford on Aug. 2 (GH, BB). Reports then stretched from West Haven to HBSP through Aug. 26 (JFl et al.), with an outlier Aug. 30-31 in the Fenwick section of Old Saybrook (MB, PR). There were no more reports until Sept. 19-22 with one back in Branford (GC, PS, MA). What was probably a different individual was found on Aug. 7 far inland at Canaan in Litchfield County (BD et al.). Sept. 19 was a red-letter day for the Lighthouse Point hawk watch in New Haven, which recorded its first ever **Mississippi Kite** and a **Swainson's Hawk** (SMa, AS, AL). That quality flight was followed by quantity on Sept. 30 when the watch recorded 4996 Broad-winged Hawks and 50 Bald Eagles (SMa, NB et al.). The first report of a Snowy Owl came from the Stratford-Milford area on Oct. 31, and observations continued though the period there and occasionally in adjacent Bridgeport (FM, m.ob.). The only inland sighting was on Nov. 25 at Wononscopomuc Lake in Salisbury (ZP).

An intergrade Northern Flicker, showing characteristics of both the Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted forms, was in Avon on Sept. 19 (DL). A **Western Kingbird** was early on Sept. 5 in Hamden (JZ). Others were in Hebron on Sept. 20 (LR) and at HBSP on Nov. 9, where it remained well into winter (TW, m.ob.). An Eastern Kingbird was late on Sept. 27 at Larsen Sanctuary in Fairfield (AB). The first Olive-sided Flycatcher report came from White Memorial Conservation Area in Litchfield on Aug. 12 (MDo), and the last was at Greenwich Audubon Center on Oct. 2 (MG). The first Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported from Cheshire on Aug. 15 (VQ). One was late Oct. 2 & 3 in Stratford (LO). A Northern Shrike found Nov. 16 at Major Donnelly Park in South Windsor stayed through winter (KD, m.ob.). A Barn Swallow was very late Nov. 17 at Smith Neck Road in Old Lyme (LB). A **Sedge Wren** was found at Trout Brook Valley on Nov. 5 (JN). Boreal finches were generally absent, with just a few scattered Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks, but five Red Crossbills were noted in Salisbury on Oct. 29 (JE). Another was there on Nov. 20 (RW). A Lapland Longspur was early Oct. 2 at Long Beach, Stratford (MW).



This subadult Swainson's Hawk riveted a nice crowd of observers on 19 Sep 2021 at Lighthouse Point Park hawk watch in New Haven. (Cody Limber)

Grasshopper Sparrows were late finds Nov. 8 at Walnut Beach in Milford (TM) and Nov. 13 at Sherwood Island (JJ). A **Lark Sparrow** was a good find on the early date of Aug. 25 in Ledyard (DP). Others were reported from Stratford Point on Sept. 14 (FM) and in Glastonbury on Sept. 29 (AP, DJ), an unusually strong showing. The surge in **Clay-colored Sparrows** continued with reports from at least 21 locations (m.ob.). A **Harris's Sparrow** attracted many admirers Oct. 22-27 at Allen's Meadow in Wilton, which has a previous record of this western rarity (AW, JB et al.). Another notable rarity, a **LeConte's Sparrow**, was much sought-after Oct. 23-27 at Smith-Richardson Sanctuary in Westport (MW et al.). A Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow was early on Sept. 25 at HBSP (MB). The first Lincoln's Sparrow was a bit early on Sept. 3 at Trout Brook Valley in Easton (JN). The lone **Yellow-headed Blackbird** report came from Trout Brook Valley on Nov. 11 (LH). Baltimore Orioles were present to the end of the month with singles Nov. 23-25 at Rocky Neck State Park in East Lyme (BM), and at Milford Point on Nov. 27 (MM, DS). The first four Rusty Blackbirds were reported from Lighthouse Point on Sept. 29 (FM et al.). A flock of 52 Boat-tailed Grackles found Nov. 20 in Bridgeport was not relocated (JJ).



Black-legged Kittiwakes are rare, but even rarer are ones sitting on land, as this one did on 8 Sep 2021 at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison. (Carolyn Cimino)

Aug. 15 proved to be a good warbler migration day, with about 160 individuals of 12 species performing morning flight off the tip of Willard's Island at HBSP (NB). As expected at that date, American Redstarts dominated; Cape May Warbler and Worm-eating Warbler were noted. Also that day the first report of a Wilson's Warbler came from Hoydens Hill in Fairfield (CPe). The Bluff Point morning flight produced 3000 warblers, including 750 American Redstarts, on Sept. 11 (GW), and 4200 warblers on Sept. 29 (PR). The first report of a Connecticut Warbler came from Bluff Point in Groton on Sept. 3 (DP). Two were at Trout Brook Valley on Sept. 18 (JN). A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was a terrific find in a Westport yard on Oct. 3 (CM). A second one was discovered Oct. 24 at HBSP (AZ).

Late warblers were highlighted by a Black-throated Blue Warbler found Nov. 25 in New Preston, where it became the first record on a state Christmas Bird Count, and stayed at a feeder into February (OS). Other noteworthy lingerers included: an Ovenbird Nov. 25 at Barn Island in Stonington (PDe); Black-and-White Warblers Nov. 20 at Pine Creek in Fairfield (AK) and Nov. 28 at Stratford Greenway (NB, JR); American Redstarts Nov. 5 at Bauer Farm in Madison (CI) and Nov. 29 in Windsor (JA); and Yellow Warblers Nov. 19 in Old Lyme (NB) and Nov. 23 in Westport (TG).

A **Summer Tanager** was in a Bloomfield yard on Sept. 24 (BK). A **Western Tanager** was found on Nov. 18 at East Shore Park in New Haven, historically a good spot for lingering songbirds (JOs). The first **Blue Grosbeak** for the season was found on Sept. 10 at Sherwood Island in Westport (TG et al.). There were reports from five other locations, with two at Bates Wood Park in New London on Sept. 26 (DP) and up to three on Oct. 1 in Allen's Meadows Park in Wilton (SZ et al.). The last report was from Ledyard on Oct. 18 (BA).

Exotics:

A European Goldfinch was found on Oct. 11 at Smith-Richardson Sanctuary in Fairfield (MW).

Observers:

John Anderson, Mark Aronson, Bob Askins, Joe Attwater, Bill Banks, Doug Beach, Joe Bear, Matt Bell, Lucas Bobay, Nick Bonomo, Will Brooks, Alex Burdo, Gilles Carter, Carolyn Cimino (CCi), Al Collins, Charles Crabtree (CCr), Mike Davis (MDa), Paul Desjardins (PDe), Buzz Devine, Mike DiGiorgi (MDi), Karin Dionne, Mike Doyle (MDo), Patrick Dugan (PDu), Laura Dykstra, Jonathan Eckerson, Jack Faller (JFl), Peter Fang (PFa), Jo Fasciolo (JFa), Andrew Farnsworth, Jeff Fongler (JFe), Paul Fusco (PFu), Frank Gallo, John Gaskill (JGa), Kat Gillis, John Graham (JGr), Tina Green, Michael Grossman, Greg Hanisek, Ernie Harris, Larry Havey, Janet Holt (JHl), Julian Hough (JHo), Chuck Imbergamo, Denise Jernigan, Jack Jerrild, Jay Kaplan, Aidan Kiley, Micky Komara, Catherine Kosak, Brian Kulvete, Justin Lawson, Dave Lawton, Carol Lemmon (CLe), Gary Lemmon, Alex Lin-Moore, Chris Loscalzo (CLo), Bob MacDonnell, Frank Mantlik, John Marshall (JMa), Dave Mathieu, Stefan Martin (SMr), Steve Mayo (SMa), Chase McCabe, Jamie Meyers (JMe), Sean Milnes (SMi), Melanie Morrison, Tom Murray, Jeremy Nance, Russ Naylor, Nicolette Nelson, Gina Nichol, John Ogren (JOg), Kris Ohlencamp, Linda Olsen, John Oshlick (JOs), Carol Parent (CPa), Annette Pasek, Maggie Peretto, Zac Peterson, Chris Petherick (CPe), Dave Provencher, Victor Quintanilla, Laurie Reynolds, Jason Rieger, Phil Rusch, Andy Rzeznikiewicz, Abby Sesselberg, Jannie Shapiro, Kris Skully, Paul Smith, Olauf Soltau, Steve Spector, Donna Swift, Pat Tamborra, Brian Toal, Mary Walsh, Karen Wilk, Glenn Williams, Dave Winston, Renee Wendell, Tony Woodall, Sara Zagorski, Jim Zipp, Anna Zizak

THE CONNECTICUT WARBLER

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Photo Challenge

By Greg Hanisek



Yes, there were three birds in the January Challenge photo, but here we're offering a tighter crop with just two birds. The large shorebird on top shows off the black axillaries (wing pits) diagnostic of the Black-bellied Plover. It's the smaller bird flying below that's the subject of the photo quiz. However, the plover provides a couple of clues: obviously size comparison, but also the lack of flashy alternate (breeding) plumage. The latter suggests the subject bird also has shed its fanciest seasonal garb. What does that leave us? This sandpiper is smaller than the plover but its seems obviously bigger than the small Calidris sandpipers known as "peep." As far as distinguishing features, the bill isn't long or decurved, the legs aren't sticking out behind and the wings lack flashy white markings. It seems like a bird without field marks, which in itself is quite telling. Put all this together with a pale gray rump and tail, and you're left with one increasingly rare species. This Red Knot was photographed by Russ Smiley flying by Stonington Point on 6 Dec 2021, a date within this species' expected seasonal range.



Next Challenge Photo

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Send manuscripts to the Editor. Please type double spaced with ample margins, on one side of a sheet. Submit a copy on a computer disk, if possible. Style should follow usage in recent issues. All manuscripts receive peer review.

Illustrations and photographs are needed and welcome. Line art of Connecticut and regional birds should be submitted as good quality prints or in original form. All submitted materials will be returned. We can use good quality photographs of birds unaccompanied by an article but with caption including species, date, locality, and other pertinent information.

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Contents

Volume 42, No 2, 2022

- 25 **The Mabel Osgood Wright Award**
Denise Jernigan
- 28 **27th Report of The Avian Records Committee of Connecticut**
Greg Hanisek and Jay Kaplan
- 39 **First ARCC Historical Report**
Phil Rusch
- 49 **Connecticut Field Notes**
Greg Hanisek and Frank Mantlik
- 56 **Photo Challenge**
Greg Hanisek