



Connecticut Ornithological Association

24th Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 29, 2008

Chapman Hall • Middlesex Community College, Middletown, CT

Schedule of Events

8:00 - 9:00 **Registration / COA Marketplace**

9:00 - 9:20 **Welcome / Business Meeting**

COA President Steve Mayo will present a brief overview of the state of COA, followed by elections of officers and board members. Jerry Connolly, Program Chairman will welcome the membership and introduce the first presenter of the day.

9:20 - 10:15 **Kevin T. Karlson THE SHOREBIRD GUIDE:
A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO FIELD IDENTIFICATION**

Kevin Karlson's program highlights a new and exciting approach to field identification, *Birding by Impression*, and how it specifically relates to shorebirds. This approach focuses on impressions of the non-changeable field characters of size, shape, and behavior/body language to form a fast, yet surprisingly effective picture of every bird seen.

Kevin's *The Shorebird Guide* (with co-authors Michael O'Brien and Richard Crossley; Houghton Mifflin, 2006) takes this "holistic" approach to shorebird ID. Several difficult species (dowitchers, Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers, Willet subspecies) previously thought near impossible to identify with certainty in the field, will be reviewed and separated in photos using basic impressions of shape and structure as well as plumage analysis. Throughout the program, Kevin shares the stunning beauty and incredible migratory journeys of shorebirds using photos that capture the essence of these global travelers.

"Here is a volume that sets a new standard in the literature of field identification".
- Kenn Kaufman's review of *The Shorebird Guide*

10:15 – 10:25 **Mabel Osgood Wright Award Presentation**

10:25 – 10:35 **Betty Kleiner Award Presentation**

This is a COA award honoring the memory of Betty Kleiner, whose name is synonymous with *The Warbler*, COA's flagship publication. The award recognizes a deserving author or artist in the field of ornithology.

10:35 – 10:55 **Break - COA Marketplace**

A time to socialize, purchase COA Raffle tickets and check out vendors' offerings of bird-related items.

10:55 - 11:55 **Jeff Wells BIRD CONSERVATION SECRETS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW**

Jeff Wells, author of the Princeton University Press publication *Birder's Conservation Handbook: 100 North American Birds at Risk*, will talk about his views on the state of birds and bird conservation in North America. In a wide-ranging presentation covering everything from global warming to lingerie, Kleenex, donut holes, and the Argentinean economy, Dr. Wells will describe the best-kept secrets of bird conservation and tell about some amazing conservation opportunities that still exist including protection of Boreal Forests - North America's Great Bird Nursery.

12:00 – 1:00 **Lunch at Founder's Hall Cafeteria followed by desert (Osgood Cake!) back at Chapman Hall**

1:00 - 1:50 **Julian Hough SEARCHING FOR THE 'MEGA'**

The Scilly Isles are an archipelago of islands, situated off the southwestern tip of the UK. For British twitchers, they are a birder's mecca, renowned for the number of rarities which are found here, particularly vagrants from America. Tired and lost, the Scillies are the first point of landfall for these tired waifs. In October, hundreds of birders descend on the islands for the rare and unusual. Familiar North American birds such as Black and White Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Red-eyed Vireo send the British twitchers into a frenzy when they are sighted. It is not just birds from the west. Siberian strays such as Radde's Warbler and Olive-backed Pipit, as well as exotic species such as Bee-eater and Hoopoe from Europe may all be found on these islands. Nowhere else in the world would you be able to see a Siberian Pallas's Warbler in the same bush as a Scarlet Tanager! For many, this is what the "Scilly Season" is all about.

Julian Hough, originally from England, now resides in New Haven, Connecticut. He is a gifted journalist, photographer and illustrator whose works have graced the pages of *Wildbird*, *Birding*, *Birders World* and *Birdwatch*, as well as Britain's top-selling bird magazine *Birdwatching*. Currently he is a member of the Avian Rare Records Committee and a frequent contributor to *The Connecticut Warbler*.

2:00 - 2:15 **Break - COA Marketplace**

2:15 - 3:15 **Dr. Robert Askins CONSERVATION OF BIRDS IN NEW ENGLAND AND JAPAN:
DIFFERENT BIRDS, SIMILAR PROBLEMS**

The deciduous forests of Japan and eastern North America are surprisingly similar. Forests in both regions are dominated by the same types of tree (oaks, beeches, maples, and pines), and the general appearance and structure of these forests are remarkably similar. Both regions have spectacular changes in foliage in autumn and attractive displays of woodland wildflowers in the spring. Even the small plants of the forest floor (violets, trilliums, anemones, and skunk cabbages) are closely related. The forest birds of these two regions are distinctly different, however. Ecologically similar species in the two regions often belong to unrelated families.

Robert Askins, who has done field work on forest birds in both Connecticut and Japan, will describe how some of the same problems affecting birds in New England are important in Japan. Although Japan is a densely populated, highly industrialized country, it has a surprising high diversity of plants and animals, and much of the interior of the country is heavily forested. As in New England, however, two of the major threats to birds are forest fragmentation and loss of open, early successional habitats. The conservation themes are similar, but the cultural responses are distinctly different in the two regions.

3:15 - 3:30 **COA Raffle and Silent Auction**

The ever-popular Raffle will conclude our day with many prizes including avian artwork and valuable birding equipment donated by artists and vendors. Raffle tickets will be available throughout the day.

For map and directions: www.mxctc.commnet.edu or call: 860-343-5800

REGISTRATION FORM

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Early Registration: ___ Persons @ **\$12.50** (pre-pay only) \$_____

(Must be received by March 24)

[Registration at the door: \$17.00]

Buffet lunch: ___ Persons @ **\$12.50** (pre-pay only) \$_____

TOTAL \$_____

Please **print** name as you would like to have it appear on name tag: _____

Address: _____

Send check & registration form to: Larry Reiter 32 West Mystic Ave Mystic, CT 06355