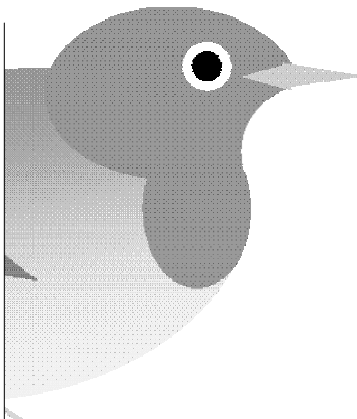
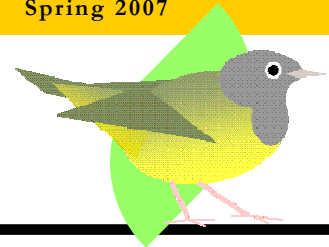


COA BULLETIN



23RD COA ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 14, 2007

The Connecticut Ornithological Association invites you to attend its 23rd Annual Meeting on **Saturday, April 14, 2007**, at Middlesex Community College in Middletown, CT. As in past years, the on-campus site will be Chapman Hall (for map and directions, visit www.mxctc.commnet.edu or call: 860-343-5800). To save on printing and postage costs, no separate announcement will be mailed to membership.

Note: This Bulletin will be your only printed announcement.

Plan to arrive between 8:00 and 9:00 AM for registration. We will begin with a message from COA Vice President Steve Mayo and an introduction to the day's events by COA Program Chairman Jerry Connolly. Our speakers for the day include:

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- Shawn Carey, video producer, Migration Productions — the premiere bird-related multi-media presentation company in New England,
- Don Kroodsma, renowned specialist in the interpretation of bird songs, author of *The Singing Life of Birds*, and Professor Emeritus of Biology, University of Massachusetts,
- Robert DiCandido, NYC-based bird walk leader, environmental consultant, and photographer, and
- Chris Elphick, Assistant Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut.

Speaker bios and descriptions of their talks are on pages 3 and 4.

The cost for the meeting is \$10.00 for advance registration (received by April 9); walk-in registration on the day of the meeting is \$15.00. A hot and cold buffet lunch is available for \$12.00, and must be paid for in advance.

The Program of Events can be found on page 3. The registration form is on page 7. Please send your check & registration form to COA Director: Renee Baade, 46 Obtuse Rd., Newtown, CT 06470

THE COA WORKSHOPS COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

The Workshops committee is looking to improve COA offerings, and increase the instructional nature of our workshops. To this end we are looking for volunteers. We have two aims:

First, we would like to work on a way to divide participants into groups, and tailor what is taught in each group to that group's skill level. Our goal is to develop a group of leaders who will plan and implement workshops geared towards transferring specific skills and knowledge to serve the needs of beginners, intermediate, and advanced birders who attend the workshop. We envision workshops with a more intensive teaching focus, geared towards helping birders become more self-sufficient in their birding abilities.

Second, we are asking for volunteers who will lead specific workshops and develop a program specifically geared toward a beginner, intermediate or an advanced birder. This strategy will require more leaders but will open up leadership opportunities for people who are still refining their birding skills. In the past, workshops have been led by the very best birders in the state. While we hope that these excellent leaders will continue their teaching, there are many beginning birders who could learn a great deal from even the intermediate birders in our membership. Dividing workshops into ability based sections, and increasing the number of leaders, will also allow groups to be smaller so participants have more access to the teacher and to good views of the birds found.

To make the preparation for workshops as easy as possible for leaders, we are planning ways to give more advance notice of upcoming workshops, and in fact are looking to standardize the weekend of our current workshops so that potential leaders can have workshop dates a year in advance.

Currently COA is offering workshops in Birding by Ear, Shorebirds & Terns, Hawks, and Sparrows; and in the past we have had people lead workshops on Gulls and on Ducks.

If you would be willing to be a leader for one of these workshops or have any suggestions about workshops that would enrich our schedule, please contact me at rhexp@hotmail.com and put the word "bird" in the subject line.

It was a Gull workshop with Patrick Comins that started my interest in COA, and I look forward each year to our programs. I hope that this effort will make a great program even better.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Domina
COA Workshops



ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

APRIL 14, 2007

8:00–9:00	Registration/COA Marketplace	12:00–1:00	Lunch at Founder's Hall Cafeteria; return to Chapman Hall for dessert
9:00–9:20	Welcome / Business Meeting Steve Mayo, COA Vice President Jerry Connolly, Program Chairman	1:00–2:00	Asian Birds West to East and Back Again Robert DiCandido, PhD
9:20–10:15	Video Presentations from Migration Productions Shawn Carey	2:00–2:15	Break—COA Marketplace
10:15–10:25	Mabel Osgood Wright Award Presentation	2:15–3:15	The Spotted Owl of the Connecticut Shore? Sparrows, Sea Level, and the Need for Preemptive Conservation Planning Chris Elphick
10:25–10:35	Betty Kleiner Award Presentation	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
10:35–10:55	Break—COA Marketplace (socialize, purchase COA raffle tickets, and check out vendors)		
10:55–11:55	The Singing Life of Birds Don Kroodasma		

COA ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKERS BIOS AND PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

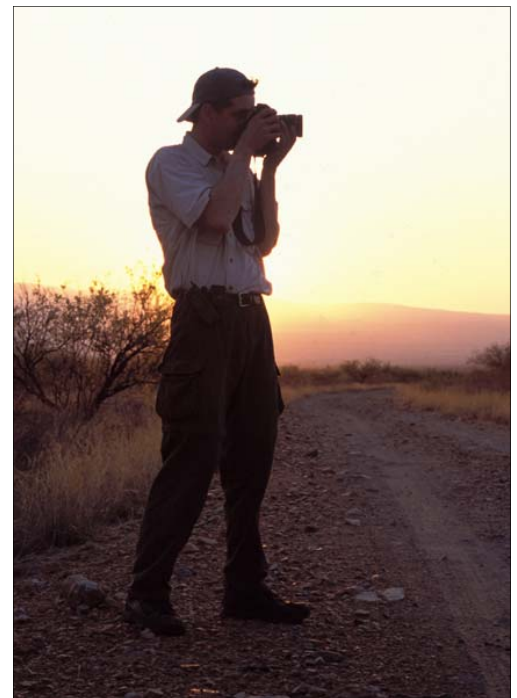
Shawn Carey

Video Presentations from Migration Productions

Looking Skyward: A Passion for Hawkwatching (Video on DVD)
Hawkwatching has become one of the most popular types of "bird watching." This video examines why people watch hawks, explains some of its long, storied history, and explores some of the prime locations for viewing hawk migration (Hawk Mountain and Cape May). Footage includes a wide range of raptors in flight as well as interviews with Pete Dunne, Bill Clark, and others.

Birders' Exchange Video (ABA)

The Birders' Exchange Video is a video brochure designed to explain how people can help in donating used equipment (binoculars, tri-pods, scopes, cameras, etc.) that in turn is sent to people in Central and South America that have little or no equipment. The video explains how the program was started, how you can help, who receives the donated equipment, and why it's so important that we help with such a project. The Birders' Exchange program is run by Betty Petersen with help from ABA.



Don Kroodsmas
The Singing Lives of Birds

Writer Donald Kroodsmas is a renowned specialist in the interpretation of bird songs, and author of *The Singing Life of Birds*. Come listen to birds as you've never listened before, using what they have to say as a window on their minds, using what they have to say not just to identify them but to identify with them. Hear a song sparrow work through his repertoire, or listen to conversations among crows and jays. Don will also explore the mysteries of bird-song – how birds learn to sing, why some sing and some don't, and why songs vary from bird to bird and even from place to place. We'll learn to truly listen to our most common birds in ways many of us have never imagined possible.



Robert DeCandido, PhD
Asia Birds: From East to West and Back Again

Southeast Asia is home to birds that have no close relatives in the new world, most notably the Babblers (family Timaliidae). These include Wren-Babblers and Scimitar-Babblers. Other types of Babblers include the Laughing-thrushes, Mesias, Sibias, Minlas, Fulvettas and Yuhinas. Some Southeast Asian birds might be more familiar such as the Shrikes, Forktails (thrushes), Barbets and Parrots. And then there are the raptors: Hawk-eagles, Bazas, Harriers, Honey-buzzards, Kites and Fish-Eagles. Bob will show images of these birds that have been taken with film and digital media, and including those that have been digiscoped. He'll discuss what is happening to the forests of Borneo and mainland Malaysia/Thailand; and detail his discovery of a globally significant raptor migration watch site in Thailand.

Chris Elphick, PhD
The Spotted Owl of the Connecticut Shore?
Sparrows, Sea-Level, and Need for Preemptive Conservation Planning

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows are not the most glamorous of Connecticut's birds, but they are one of the highest conservation priorities in the state, with a significant portion of the world population found along the shore of Long Island Sound. Chris has been directing a study on these sparrows, and other saltmarsh birds since 2002. The countless field hours and wealth of data collected make Chris uniquely qualified to speak on the natural history of our tidal marsh-nesting sparrows, and the conservation challenges they face in their southern New England stronghold.



***SONGBIRD JOURNEYS: FOUR SEASONS IN THE LIVES OF MIGRATORY BIRDS*, BY MYOKU CHU**

REVIEWED BY JAMES BAIR

Songbird Journeys presents much of the latest research on songbird migration in an accessible format. The focus is on the Americas and on songbirds, so there is a lot about Bobolinks and little about hawks or terns. Readers may see this as an update on earlier works by James Baird and others. And we are due for an update.

With continued improvements in radio technology, batteries, radar, and satellite communication, scientists have been able to track even small songbirds on their migrations. Still, much of what we know comes from the dogged observers who track birds across state and international boundaries in all kinds of habitat. The book narrates the adventures of such heroes as Bill Cochran, Richard Graber, and Sidney Gathreaux.

Mostly *Songbird Journeys* is a fascinating account of numerous Nearctic passerines and their movements. Although the book begins by describing observers on oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico, much of the book opens up possibilities for bird observers all over North America—where to go, how to report sightings, and how to predict a “fallout.” The book also brings us up to date on the latest studies on how migrating birds navigate, a far more sophisticated combination of methods than previously believed. It demonstrates that the smallest migratory warbler in its own way is as tough as any raptor as it runs its biannual migratory gauntlet. It also details recent studies of how territories in wintering grounds (somewhat akin to nesting territories) affect survival rates and how such habitats in the Caribbean and Latin America need to be protected. While there is more about birds that winter in the tropics or South America, it also details the movements of winter finches.

For bird observers, the best feature of this book may be its lists of books and online resources. While we know that some web sites are ephemeral, the book gives good places to start, especially Internet addresses with weather radar postings for reading flocks of “angels.” The color plates by Evan Barbour closely resemble the work of Roger Tory Peterson.

Songbird Journeys tells of the feeding, predation, and impressive survival of songbirds on their annual long distance journeys. Thorough and readable, this little volume is impressive in its storytelling and its scope of information, but the birds it describes are the most impressive of all. (Note to fall hawk watches—read this and you will see that “dicky birds” can be pretty cool, too!)

MONITORING AVIAN PRODUCTIVITY AND SURVIVORSHIP 2006 SEASON

BY EDWARD RAYNOR

Katherine Becker and I began the 2006 M.A.P.S. (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) field season with a weeklong training session for interns at the Sharon Audubon Center’s Ford Pond riparian area. The goal of this training session was getting the field assistants accustomed to processing the birds at the banding station and setting up the twelve mist-nets within an hour of sunrise. As the week progressed, we learned valuable tips on aging, sexing, bird identification, and mist-net operation. Another responsibility for M.A.P.S. interns included logging natural history observations and bird activity into a daily journal. The training session was held during the last week of May when spring migration is still occurring. Spring migrants that were banded during the training session included the project’s first Tennessee Warbler and Lincoln’s Sparrow, as well as two Wilson’s Warblers and Swainson’s Thrushes.

MONITORING AVIAN PRODUCTIVITY AND SURVIVORSHIP (CONTINUED)

The official banding season began on May 30th at a Sharon Audubon Center site located in edge habitat off the Hendrickson Bog Meadow Trail. We also monitored a forest site at the Sharon Center throughout the summer. A male Northern Parula was detected throughout June and July, but breeding was not confirmed at the forest site.

We monitored a banding station in nearby Bangall, New York, at Audubon New York's Buttercup Farm Sanctuary. Secondary succession songbird species, freshwater wading birds, and waterfowl inhabited this busy site. Also, Yellow-throated Vireo and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were two unique captures at this productive site (Virginia Rails were also observed at this location with young).

Two of the project's seven banding stations were located south of Sharon at Audubon Connecticut's Bent of the River Sanctuary in Southbury, Connecticut. We monitored an old-growth forest site and a grassland/riparian site. Highlights of captures at these sites were two male Hooded Warblers, several Worm-eating Warblers, and a lone male Indigo Bunting.

One site, the Miles Wildlife Sanctuary, was easily set up before sunrise due to the banding station being located within walking distance from our living quarters. Louisiana Waterthrushes, Scarlet Tanagers, and several woodpecker species were the highlights of this deciduous forest site.

Last but not least was the Great Mountain Forest banding site located in Norfolk, Connecticut. The Great Mountain Forest is the largest privately owned tract of forest in Connecticut, preserving over 6,000 acres. It consists of Eastern Hemlock, Red Spruce, Black Cherry, and American Beech. A sphagnum bog contained Canada Warbler and Northern Waterthrush, as well as the always-vocalizing Winter Wren. This site holds characteristics of a boreal forest more typical of northern New England. Among the ten species of warblers recorded at this beautiful site were: Magnolia (scarce), Blackburnian (abundant), Black-throated Green (abundant), Black-throated Blue, and Yellow-rumped Warbler (scarce). Three Nashville Warblers captured near the end of the season suggest that this species potentially breeds in the Great Mountain Forest or adjacent areas in Connecticut.

Katherine and I learned valuable skills that will help us continue our careers in wildlife biology. Along with monitoring bird survival and recording natural history observations, the banding interns developed the time efficient methods to travel to their sites and set up mist-nets within an hour after sunrise. Also, maintaining equipment, precise record keeping, and getting along over the summer were important skills acquired over the three-month field season.

Northwestern Connecticut has not been fragmented through sub-division developments and highways to the same degree as southwestern Connecticut. Moose, black bear, and bobcat can be seen in this area with luck and patience. Breeding warbler species in this region may include Nashville Warbler and Northern Parula, but further research is necessary to confirm their status.

Note: Katherine Becker of New Hartford, Connecticut, currently is an undergraduate at the State University of New York at Cobleskill where she studies wildlife biology. Edward Raynor of Fairfield, Connecticut, is a recent graduate from the environmental studies program at the University of Maine at Machias. The continent-wide M.A.P.S program is a research project sponsored by Institute for Bird Populations.

COA ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Early Registration: _____ persons @ **\$10/person** (pre-pay only) \$ _____
 (must be received by 4/9; registration at the door: \$15/person)

Hot & cold buffet lunch: _____ persons @ **\$12/person** (pre-pay only) \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please **print** name(s) as you would like it (them) to appear on name tag:

Address: _____

Send check payable to COA & registration form to: Renee Baade, 46 Obtuse Rd., Newtown, CT 06470

COA MEMBERSHIP FORM

JOIN COA FOR THE BEST OF BIRDING IN CT

New Member Renewal Gift

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail address* _____

COA is always in need of volunteer help. If you are interested, please check the areas below that you would like to know more about::

Computer skills Events Field trips Finance Workshops Science

Membership Category:

Student (\$15)

Individual (\$25)

Family (\$35)

Contributing (\$50)

Donor (\$75)

Benefactor (\$100)

Lifetime (\$1000; payable in 3 annual installments)

Send this form with your check or money order 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 by law

The COA Bulletin is the quarterly newsletter of the Connecticut Ornithological Association, published in February, May, September, and December. Please submit materials for the next issue by March 31, 2006, to:

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Download a pdf version of the COA Bulletin (in color!) at:


www.ctbirding.org

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<i>Treasurer</i>	Fred Schroeder, 215 Lonetown Road, West Redding, CT 06896, 203-938-9165
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	Jack Wells, 103 Sheephill Road, Riverside, CT 06878

COA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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<i>Electronics</i>	Gina Nichol
<i>Finance</i>	Steve Oresman
<i>Membership</i>	Roy Harvey
<i>Workshops</i>	Randy Domina
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	Jerry Connolly
<i>Connecticut Warbler</i>	Greg Hanisek
<i>COA Bulletin</i>	Andrew Dasinger
<i>Rare Records</i>	Jay Kaplan
<i>Refuge Relations</i>	Dori Sosensky



**COA Annual Meeting
Announcement and Registra-
tion Form Inside**




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