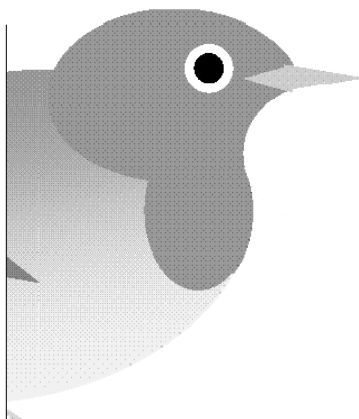
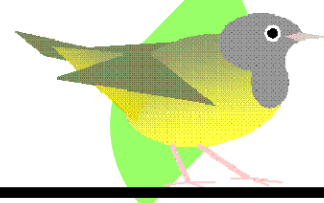


COA BULLETIN



COA's 2009 SUMMER BIRD COUNT

Joseph Zeranski

This June the 19th Connecticut Summer Bird Count [SBC] will be held. For anyone not familiar with the SBC, it is conducted in a manner similar to the well-known Christmas Bird Count, but is held over a two day period in much more comfortable conditions.

Increasingly the SBC is providing priceless data on long-term population changes and interesting range alterations. As in prior years, we expect exciting new finds and more evidence of population changes.

But for most observers this is a great opportunity to bird locally at a time when our "native" birds are most active, colorful and ever so vocal. If you have not participated before, please do so now. More eyes (and ears) are always welcome.

The SBC dates and compilers are given below. For more information on a SBC you are interested in joining, please contact the compiler for details and for any late date changes. The 2009 results will be found in the October issue of *The Connecticut Warbler*.

Barkhamsted Summer Bird Count (*founded 1992*)

Count Dates: June 27 - 28 (Sat. & Sun.)

Area covered: Barkhamsted, Burlington (northern 1/4), Canton, Colebrook (south half), Granby (southwest 1/4), Hartland, New Hartford, Harwinton (northern edge), Torrington (northern 1/4), and Winchester.

Contact: *David Rosgen* (121 Laurel Way, Winsted, CT 06098-2534; dros-gen@optonline.net)

Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count (*founded 1976*)

Count Dates: June 13 & 14 (Sat. & Sun.)

Area covered (Connecticut, 65% of area): Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, & Stamford; (New York, 35% of area) Armonk, Bedford (in part), Port Chester, Rye, and White Plains (in part).

Contact: *Thomas W. Burke* (235 Highland Road, Rye, NY 10580; tom.burke@rsmi.com), *Brian O'Toole* (otoole29@yahoo.com)

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SUMMER BIRD COUNT (CONTINUED)

Hartford Summer Bird Count (*founded 1991*)

Count Dates: June 13 & 14 (Sat. & Sun.)

Area covered: Bloomfield, East Hartford, Farmington (in part), Glastonbury (in part), Hartford, Manchester (in part), Newington (in part), Rocky Hill (in part), South Windsor, Wethersfield, and Windsor.

Contact: *Jay Kaplan* (71 Gracey Road, Canton, CT 06019; jaybrd49@aol.com)

Litchfield Hills Summer Bird Count (*founded 1994*)

Count Dates: June 13 & 14 (Sat. & Sun.)

Area covered: (in whole or in part): Cornwall, Goshen, Kent, Litchfield, Morris, Sharon, Torrington, Warren, and Washington.

Contact: *Bob Barbieri* (860-542-3980)

New Haven Summer Bird Count (*founded 1991*)

Count Dates: June 13 & 14 (Sat. & Sun.)

Area covered: Branford (western), East Haven, Milford, New Haven, North Haven, Orange, West Haven, and Woodbridge (in part).

Contact: *Steve C. Mayo* (27 Tuttle Court, Bethany, CT 06524; rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net)

New Milford/Pawling Summer Bird Count (*founded 2003*)

Count Dates: June 20 & 21 (Sat. & Sun.)

Area covered: (Connecticut, 1/3 of area): Sherman, New Fairfield, New Milford (west of route 7), and portions of Brookfield & Danbury; and (New York, 2/3 of area) Patterson, Pawling, Putnam Lake, Carmel, southern Wingdale, and Poughquag.

Contact: *Angela Dimmitt* (PO Box 146, Sherman, CT. 06784; BaDimmitt@aol.com)

Storrs Summer Bird Count (*founded 1990*)

Count Dates: June 20 & 21 (Sat. & Sun.)

Area covered: Andover, Ashford, Chaplin, Coventry, Mansfield, Tolland, Willimantic, West Willington, Willington, and Windham.

Contact: *Steve Rogers* (75 Charles Lane, Storrs, CT 06268; climbrogers@charter.net)

Woodbury-Roxbury Summer Bird Count (*founded 1978*)

Count Date: June 7 (Sun.)

Area covered: Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Middlebury, New Milford, Newtown, Roxbury, Southbury, Washington, and Woodbury.

Contact: *Russ Naylor* (44 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798)



THE 2009 BETTY KLEINER MEMORIAL AWARD

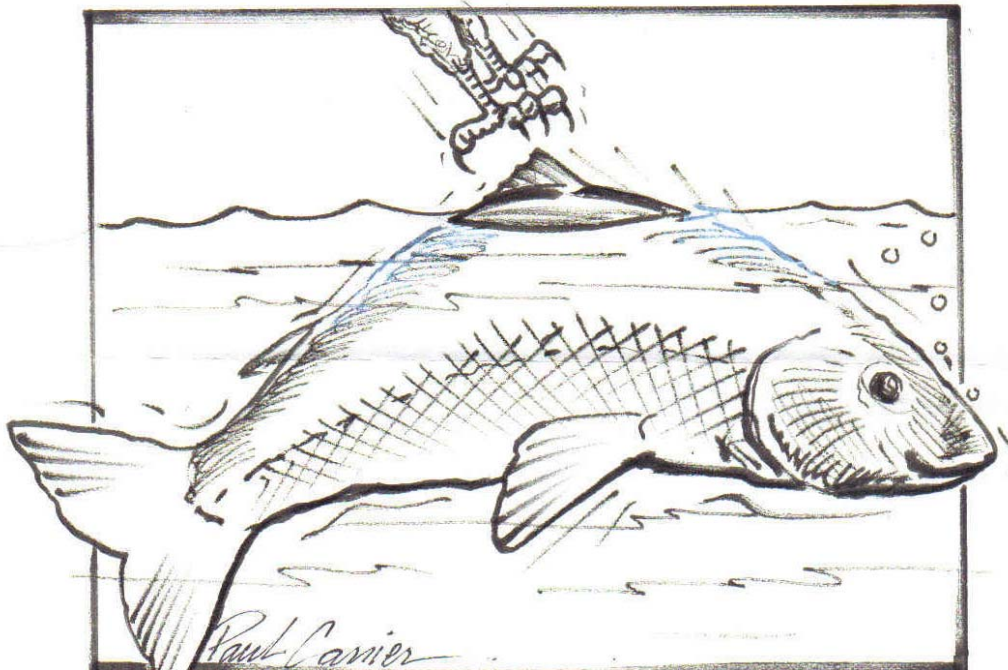
By Steve Mayo

Betty Kleiner served as editor of *The Connecticut Warbler* for almost 2 decades. The COA wished to remember Betty by establishing an award for the best article, artwork or other product, published in *The Connecticut Warbler*.

The Connecticut Warbler is an extremely high quality, well respected and well recognized journal. This is the direct result of regular contributions of expert and enthusiastic birders. There are many excellent articles from which to choose an award. This year's award goes to an informative, humorous and original article by Glenn Williams.

Volume 27 No. 3, contains an article entitled, "Pelagic Birding In Connecticut Or How The Duke of York Ruined My State List." Glenn explains how geological features and Colonial history have affected Connecticut birding. It provides state-centric twitchers with hints for how to chase pelagic birds within Connecticut's arbitrary boundaries. It may not be always optimistic, but it is a very entertaining article.

COA presented the 3rd Annual Betty Kleiner Memorial Award to Glenn Williams at this year's annual meeting..



An Osprey's Worst Nightmare ...

THE CONNECTICUT WARBLER 25 YEARS AGO

Compiled by Stephen P. Broker

From Volume IV Number 2 (April 1984):

"1st Organizational Meeting":

"The first organizational meeting of the C.O.A. will be held at the Peabody Museum, Yale University, New Haven, CT, on Tuesday, August 14, 1984.

"All members in good standing of the C.O.A. are invited to attend. This meeting will review the proposed By-laws for the organization and set forth a slate of officers and board directors to be voted upon by the membership present."

"First Connecticut Record for the Ross' Gull" (by Anthony H. Bledose, Raymond Schwartz and Dennis Varza):

"On 11 April 1984 Dennis Varza and Ray Schwartz sighted an unusual gull at the mouth of the Oyster River, West Haven, Connecticut while searching for Little Gulls at low tide in flocks of migrating Bonaparte's Gulls. Varza and Schwartz were scanning the flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls when they saw a small gull with very light wings and wingtips, sleeping amidst the Bonaparte's Gulls. Approaching to about 15 meters, they noted that the bird had a short bill, equal in length to the distance between the bill and the eye, and dark smudges in front of the eyes and at the sides of the head. This combination of characters prompted them to approach more closely. The bird flushed and revealed light gray underwings, a broad white trailing edge to the wing, and a wedge-shaped tail. Suspecting that they had seen a Ross' Gull, (*Rhodostethia rosea*), Varza and Schwartz telephoned other observers, but the gull departed before the other birders arrived, and it was not relocated that day.

The next day, just before low tide the gull appeared again on the exposed mudflats of the Oyster River estuary, and by the end of the day, nearly 50 observers had seen it and its identification was confirmed. During the next two weeks, several hundred observers from Connecticut, nearby states, and as far away as Florida gathered at the Oyster River for an opportunity to see the Ross' Gull outside its normal range of Siberia and the Arctic Ocean. Its last appearance was on 22 April and by then nearly 200 people had seen it. Several observers photographed the Ross' Gull, and a drawing of the bird by David Sibley appears on the cover of this issue. A detailed description of the Oyster River Ross' Gull is on file with the Records Committee of the Connecticut Ornithological Association.

". . . The Connecticut Ross' Gull was the seventh North American record away from the Arctic Ocean and the small breeding colony at Churchill, Manitoba. . . Observers in Connecticut, New York, and other northeast states should be aware of the possibility, and indeed, given enough time, the probability of another local occurrence of Ross' Gull."

CONNECTICUT BIRDING EVENTS CALENDAR NOW ONLINE

PATRICK COMINS

The Connecticut Birding Events calendar is now available through the COA's website. This calendar serves as a clearing house for bird-related events across the state.

It's an easy URL to remember and bookmark, so check in and see what's happening this weekend with your local chapter or bird club or the nature center at the other end of the state. The schedule is chock full for May and June so check it out!

<http://www.ctbirding.org/calendar.htm>

Connecticut Birding Events, brought to you by the Connecticut Ornithological Association.

Jun 2009 (Eastern Time)

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| 31 7am - LHAS trip to | 1 | 2 | 3 8am - New Haven Bird 6:30pm - Birding by 7pm - Intro to CT | 4 | 5 8pm - Audubon | 6 6am - CT Audubon's 6:30am - HAS Station 7am - HAS 7am - NHBC West 7:45am - Spring 8am - CT Audubon's 9:30am - CT Audubon |
| 7 Woodbury Roxbury 7am - Birding By Ear 7am - HAS Bantam 7am - HAS Ethel 9am - First Sunday 10am - Duck day at 1pm - Audubon | 8 | 9 6:30pm - Hartford | 10 | 11 8am - CT Audubon's 6:30pm - CT 6:30pm - Osprey | 12 CT Bioblitz @ Goodwin College on Riverside In New Hampshire Birding By Ear: Learning How | 13 Greenwich Stamford Hartford Audubon Litchfied Hills Summer New Haven Summer 7:45am - Spring 8am - Breeding Birds 2:30pm - CT Audubon |
| 14 In New Hampshire Greenwich Stamford Hartford Audubon Litchfied Hills Summer New Haven Summer | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 6pm - CT Audubon | 19 In New Hampshire Avian Ecology: Populations | 20 New Milford-Pawling Storrs Summer Bird 6:30am - HAS Hurd 7am - Audubon 8am - Connecticut |
| 21 In New Hampshire New Milford-Pawling Storrs Summer Bird 7:30am - HAS Birds 2pm - Nature Walk on | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 8am - CT Audubon's | 26 | 27 Barkhamsted Summer 7:30am - HAS/NHBC 8am - White Memorial 2:30pm - CT Audubon |
| 28 Barkhamsted Summer 1pm - Audubon | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

SUMMER WORKSHOPS

As in past years, COA is sponsoring two summer workshops in which some of our experienced COA members share their knowledge on two important topics: identification of birds by their songs and other vocalizations, and identification of shorebirds.

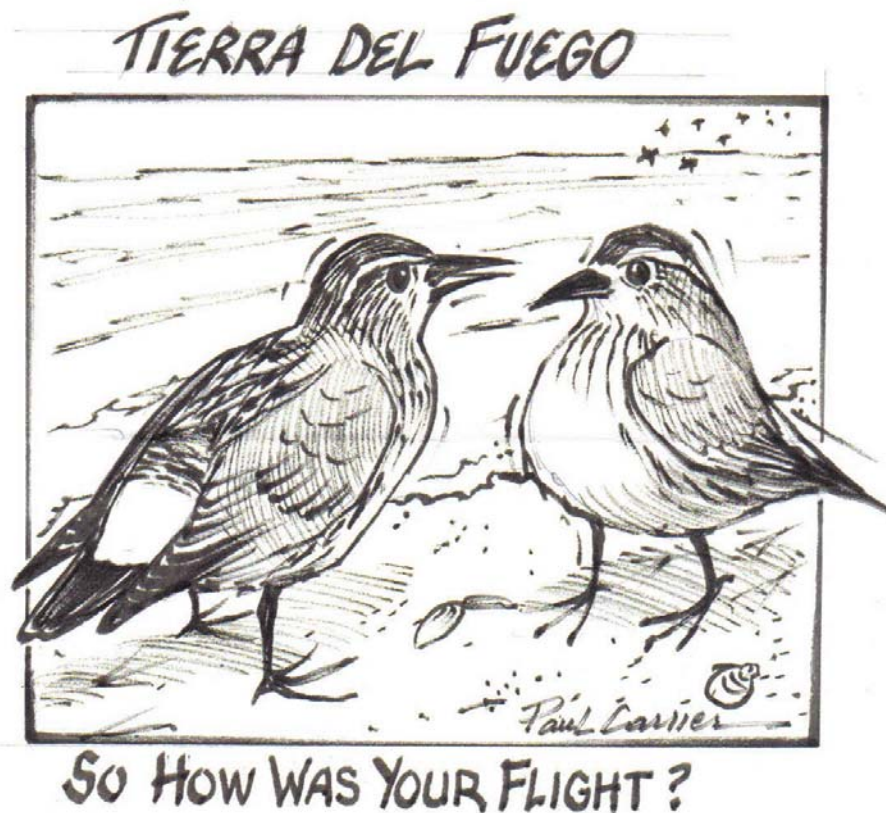
Birding by Ear, Sunday, June 7 @ 7 am, Bent of the River Sanctuary, Southbury, CT

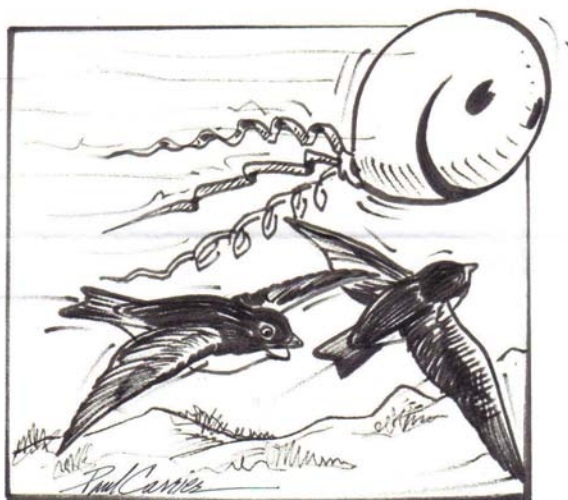
Led by Patrick Comins, Randy Domina, and others

Early June at Bent of the River is a great time and place to hear the wide diversity of Connecticut's nesting songbirds. The workshop leaders are prepared to address all levels of experience, from the beginning birder on up.

Shorebird Workshop, August, date and locations tbd; past trips have started at Sandy Point, West Haven, CT (see COA web site for additional details as they become available)

This one's a little farther out, so the details have yet to be finalized - but it's always a popular event. At Sandy Point, be prepared to get your feet wet, depending on the timing of the tides. Birders of all levels of experience are encouraged to attend. The leaders will form several groups (e.g., experienced, intermediate, beginner) so that everyone gets information at an appropriate level.





HOW DOES HE FLY WITH NO WINGS?

Spring Migration Gleanings from CTBirds:

Week of 4/20—Western Meadowlark (probable 1st state record); Pine Siskins everywhere, evidence of nesting; **21** (!) warbler species reported

Week of 4/27—5 additional warbler species, Chuck-will’s-widow, many first-of-year arrivals

Week of 5/4—6 more warbler species, including Prothonotary (multiple), Yellow-br. Chat and Kentucky; Western Tanager

Week of 5/11—2 more warbler species (Mourning & Golden-winged); Mississippi Kite (returning?); Clay-colored Sparrow

Week of 5/18—King Eider; grassland birds from Cabela’s in E. Hartford, Blue Grosbeak

Week of 5/25—2nd highest CT Big Day (177 species, only 9 short of the record!)

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)

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 August 10, 2009, to:

Andrew Dasinger
 Dasingerfamily@cox.net
 21 Beechwood Lane
 South Glastonbury, CT 06073

COA OFFICERS

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| <i>President</i> | Patrick Comins, 185 East Flat Hill Road, Southbury, CT 06488, 203-264-5098 |
| <i>Vice President</i> | Larry Reiter, 32 West Mystic Ave., Mystic, CT 06355, 860-536-4667 |
| <i>Secretary</i> | Steve Broker, 50 Hidden Place, Cheshire, CT 06410, 203-272-5192 |
| <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

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Conservation</i> | Milan Bull |
| <i>Electronics</i> | Dori Sosensky |
| <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 |
| <i>Science Advisory</i> | Milan Bull |

Visit COA on the web
at www.ctbirding.org

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