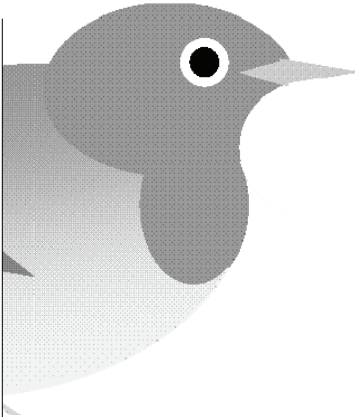
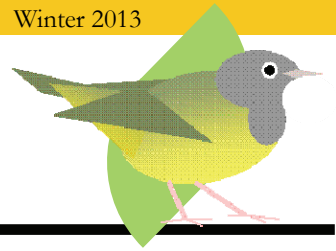


# COA BULLETIN



114TH ANNUAL NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT  
**CONNECTICUT CBC SCHEDULE 2013-2014**  
COMPILED BY STEPHEN P. BROKER

The first Connecticut Christmas Bird Count was conducted by one person, George P. Ellis of Norwalk, on Christmas Day 1900. He recorded 8 Herring Gulls, 3 Crows, 11 Tree Sparrows, 18 White-Breasted Nuthatches, and 5 Chickadees. (*CT Warbler*, Volume 2, Number 1, p.5) Things have changed quite a bit since then, but your effort and participation is still needed. Please contact one of the compilers listed below to help out with this valuable source of scientific data.

Please contact compilers directly for information about participating in a count.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CBC Schedule	1-2
Conservation News	3
Autumn Rarities	4-5
<i>CT Warbler</i> 25 yrs ago	6
COA News	7



This Dickcissel at Glastonbury Meadows in September began the arrival of fall visitors. For more photos of rare birds this season, see pages 4+ 5. Photo by Bill Asteriades.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2013:

\*Hartford, CT (CTHA): Compilers: Jay Kaplan, 71 Gracey Road, Canton, CT 06019 [jaybrd49@aol.com](mailto:jaybrd49@aol.com) 860-693-0263 (days), 860-693-0157 (evenings), and Steve Davis, [stevesuedavis@comcast.net](mailto:stevesuedavis@comcast.net) 860-242-2135. ("blizzard date", Sunday, December 15) (Hartford Audubon Society)

\*New Haven, CT (CTNH) Compiler: Chris Loscalzo, 67 Wepawaug Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525 [closcalz@optonline.net](mailto:closcalz@optonline.net) 203-389-6508 (New Haven Bird Club)

\*Storrs, CT (CTST) Compiler: Steve Morytko, 288 Varga Road, Ashford, CT 06278 [smorytko@yahoo.com](mailto:smorytko@yahoo.com) (H) 860-429-9600, (M) 860-680-5728 (Natchaug Ornithological Society)

\*Woodbury-Roxbury, CT (CTWR) Compilers: Renee Baade, 46 Obtuse Road, Newtown, CT 06470 [rbaade@juno.com](mailto:rbaade@juno.com) (H) 203-270-9953, and Ken Elkins, Audubon Center at Bent of the River, 185 East Flat Hill Road, Southbury, CT 06488 [kelkins@audubon.org](mailto:kelkins@audubon.org) (W) 203-264-5098 (Western Connecticut Bird Club)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2013:

\*Greenwich-Stamford, CT (CTGS) Compiler: Gary Palmer, 34 Field Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807 203-661-4897 [geilpalmer@yahoo.com](mailto:geilpalmer@yahoo.com) (Greenwich Audubon Society)

Lakeville-Sharon, CT (CTLS) Contact Audubon Sharon, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, CT 06069, Contact: <http://sharon.audubon.org/>, 860-364-0520 (Audubon Sharon)

\*Litchfield Hills, CT (CTLH) Compiler: Raymond E. Belding, 1229 Winsted Road #30, Torrington, CT 06790 [hoatzin1@optonline.net](mailto:hoatzin1@optonline.net) 860-482-4046 (Litchfield Hills Audubon Society)

Continued on page 2 →

# CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2013-2014

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2013 Cont.

\*Oxford, CT (CTOX) Compiler: Roy Harvey, 32 Wanda Drive, Beacon Falls, CT 06403, [rmharvey@snet.net](mailto:rmharvey@snet.net), 203-888-5757 (Naugatuck Valley Audubon Society)

\*Quinnipiac Valley, CT (CTQV) Compilers: Melissa Baston, 860-995-0656 [mbaston@tgimachine.com](mailto:mbaston@tgimachine.com) and Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, (H) 203-630-9640, (cell) 203-233-0535 [cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org](mailto:cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org) (Quinnipiac Valley Audubon Society)

\*Salmon River, CT (CTSR) Compiler: Joe Morin, 8 West Street Terrace, Cromwell, CT 06416, 860-635-2786 [joseph.morin@hs.utc.com](mailto:joseph.morin@hs.utc.com) (Mattabeseck Audubon Society)

\*Westport, CT (CTWE) Compilers: Mardi and Townsend Dickinson, 20 Blake Street, Norwalk, CT 06851-3007, [mardi1d@gmail.com](mailto:mardi1d@gmail.com) 203-846-0359 and <http://kymrygroup.com> (Connecticut Audubon Society/Birdcraft Museum)

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2013:

\*Barkhamsted, CT (CTBA) Compiler: David Tripp, Jr., 63 Dyer Avenue, Canton, CT 06019-3233, [dtrippjr@comcast.net](mailto:dtrippjr@comcast.net), 860-693-6524 (Litchfield Hills Audubon Society)

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2013:

\*Napatree, RI-CT-NY (RINT) Compilers: Shai Mitra, Biology Department, College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10314 [mitra@mail.csi.cuny.edu](mailto:mitra@mail.csi.cuny.edu) and Glenn Williams, 221 Pequot Avenue, Mystic, CT 06355 [gswilliams9@yahoo.com](mailto:gswilliams9@yahoo.com)

\*Stratford-Milford, CT (CTSM) Compiler: Steve Mayo, 27 Tuttle Court, Bethany, CT 06524, [rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net), 203-393-0694

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2013:

\*New London, CT (CTNL) Compiler: Robert Dewire, 9 Canary Lane, Pawcatuck, CT 06379, [robertdewire9@comcast.net](mailto:robertdewire9@comcast.net), 860-599-3085

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2013:

\*Edwin Way Teale, Trail Wood Sanctuary, Hampton, CT (CTEW) Compiler: Sue Harrington, 28D Anton Road, Storrs, CT 06268, [hoopoe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hoopoe@sbcglobal.net), 860-429-6257 (Connecticut Audubon Society at Trail Wood)

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2014:

\*Pawling (Hidden Valley), NY/CT (NYHV) Compilers: Carena Pooth, 22 Brothers Road, Poughquag, NY 12570, [carena@prodigy.net](mailto:carena@prodigy.net), and Angela Dimmitt, P.O. Box 146, Sherman, CT 06784, [angeladimmitt@aol.com](mailto:angeladimmitt@aol.com), 860-355-3429 (snow storm date Thursday, January 2, 2014)

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2014:

\*Old Lyme-Saybrook, CT (CTOL) Compiler: Barbara Hawes, 310 Boston Post Road, Unit #71, Waterford, CT 06385 860-710-5811 [bhawes71@gmail.com](mailto:bhawes71@gmail.com) (Potapaug Audubon Society)

\* denotes count confirmed with compiler

Conservation News**KEY BUFFER PROTECTED FOR COASTAL IBA****BY PATRICK COMINS, COA CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) celebrated the acquisition of the 155-acre Sciongay property in Westbrook, CT. DEEP, who had help from other partners including the Trust for Public Land, Town of Westbrook, Audubon, and the US EPA, celebrated the permanent protection of this property, which lies in the tidal headwaters of the Menunketesuck River. More than one mile on both sides of the river is now permanently protected, due also to an earlier project to protect the Chapman Millpond property in Clinton. This acquisition creates a vital buffer to the important tidal headwaters of the river that runs through the Salt Meadow Unit of Stewart B. McKinney NWR and empties to Long Island Sound at Duck Island Roads/Pilot's Point. The property was at risk for development to construct a community septic leaching field because of its extensive sand dune habitat, which is a nesting area for eastern box turtle and the globally endangered wood turtle. This habitat would also be perfect for a leaching system from an engineering viewpoint.

When Audubon Connecticut's Director of Bird Conservation Patrick Comins worked for the McKinney Refuge back in the late 1990s, he documented an amazing variety and abundance of warblers and other migrant birds that used the Refuge in fall migration. An early morning at Salt Meadow Unit after the passage of a cold front can be an amazing experience! Upon further investigation he discovered that there is a relatively undeveloped forested corridor that stretches from Salt Meadow Unit northwards to the Connecticut River in Middletown and beyond. This corridor can even be seen from space at night and likely is a highway for our nocturnal migrant land birds.

Eventually, under the leadership of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments, the corridor was officially recognized as the Menunketesuck Greenway, with a goal of protecting land between the Refuge and the Cockaponis State Forest to the north. In addition to Patrick's early efforts to document the importance of this migratory corridor, Audubon Connecticut also assisted The Trust for Public Land by providing bird data and other ecological justifications for the project to help secure the grant funding needed to protect the parcel. Audubon is also a lead organization in securing funding for Long Island Sound, which received additional funds to accomplish this conservation victory. That same day, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Long Island Sound Future's fund announced a grant to restore fish passage to the pond from the Menunketesuck River. This will greatly improve habitat for birds at another IBA, the Westbrook Islands Complex, including Menunketesuck, Duck and Salt Islands.



The 155-acre Sciongay Property in Westbrook is now permanently protected, preserving a key buffer, and migratory fish spawning habitat for the Salt Meadow and Westbrook Islands Important Bird Areas. Photo by Patrick Comins

For more info on this great conservation victory:

<http://www.theday.com/article/20131024/NWS01/131029854/-1/rssharbornews>

<http://www.nhregister.com/general-news/20131023/deep-buys-property-clinton-had-eyed-for-wastewater-treatment>

## AUTUMNAL VISITORS 2013: REGULAR, RARE, AND EXTRAORDINARY



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tpdphoto@optonline.net

A Black-Chinned Hummingbird visiting some pineapple sage bushes in a private yard in Fairfield County proved to be the most unexpected visitor of the autumn so far. First noticed by the homeowners on October 23, it stayed until the early morning of November 13, just after a hard freeze killed off the sage plants. If accepted by COA's Avian Records Committee, it would be a first state record for this species.

Photo by ©Townsend P. Dickinson on November 3, 2013



Jeff Feldmann discovered this adult Fork-Tailed Flycatcher from his kayak on the Connecticut River near the Hadlyme Ferry Slip on November 30.

Many birders since have been able to enjoy watching it eating berries and flying from perch to perch around the ferry parking lot and in a small swampy area nearby.

Photo by Bill Batsford

## AUTUMNAL VISITORS 2013: REGULAR, RARE, AND EXTRAORDINARY

This handsome Lark Sparrow (right) was discovered in the west end of Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison by Dan Rottino on October 26. Luckily for state birders, that was a sunny Saturday. Bob MacDonnell was one of several photographers present over the weekend to record this bird.



Lark Sparrow photo by Bob MacDonnell



Red-headed Woodpecker photo by Bill Batsford

This Red-headed Woodpecker (left) seemed quite at home on a street corner close to the Peabody Museum of Natural History in New Haven. Originally reported to CTBirds by Aaron Dollar on November 5, it has been a fairly reliable resident since then.

Keith Mueller had an interesting morning at North Farms Reservoir in Wallingford just before Halloween, when a Bald Eagle scattered all the ducks in the water, and then this drake Redhead (right) flew in and landed in front of him.



Redhead photo by Keith Mueller

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO IN *THE CONNECTICUT WARBLER*

COMPILED BY STEPHEN P. BROKER

*THE CONNECTICUT WARBLER, VOLUME VIII, NUMBER 4 (OCTOBER 1988)*

### Occurrence of the Chough in Connecticut, by Arnold Devine and Dwight G. Smith

"On November 23-24, 1987, between 1200-1220 hours a Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) was observed along Philo Curtis Road in Newtown, Connecticut by Arnold Devine. Four photographs were taken on November 24. . . When first noticed, the Chough was perched in an apple tree about 80 meters distant in company with several American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). Further observations with 8X 30 binoculars clearly revealed its red, slightly decurved bill and somewhat smaller size than the crows. The Chough persistently flipped its tail up and down for about 2 minutes upon approach. . . The origin of this Chough is unknown. It may be a 'boat assisted bird' or may have escaped from an aviary. A survey of local aviaries and aviary records did not provide any clue to its origin. . . Coincident with this rare find was the discovery on February 26, 1988 of another Eurasian corvid, a Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*) at the West Haven landfill."

[Editor's note: the Fifth Report of the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut 13: 2 1993 lists a report of a Eurasian Jackdaw in Connecticut under Records Not Accepted, Origin Questionable (identification accepted) stating, "A Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) found in the state about the same time (CW 9:24, 1989) has been nearly universally considered to be of captive origin, and this raises a question as to whether an aviculturist might have been keeping European corvids in the region." Neither Eurasian Jackdaw nor Chough is on the Connecticut Checklist of birds.]

### On the Occurrence of a Pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers in Northwestern Connecticut, by S. Dillon Ripley

"In November 1985, a single male Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) was seen in the trees around our house in Litchfield (27 miles due west of Hartford, altitude 950 feet), in the northwestern part of Connecticut. To my knowledge, this was one of the first occurrences of this species in our state's "Canadian Zone" wooded areas (Merriam 1877, Sage et al. 1913, Bent 1939, Mackenzie 1961, Luppi 1985). . .



Red-bellied Woodpecker  
photo by Bruce Finnan

A female was present in the spring of 1987; the pair was on site during the entire season. That autumn I observed that a hole was being excavated in a dense stub of an ash tree. The pair now appears to be resident. The northern limit of this species' range is quite irregular, with small outpost populations in various parts of the Northeast. . . the details provided about the species' history in Connecticut by Luppi (1985) show that in the last decade the state's population has increased dramatically, although she did not explicitly cite records from our western uplands. The Litchfield record of a pair of birds showing indications of breeding appears to be a first for the hills of northwestern Connecticut."

[Editor's note: S. Dillon Ripley graduated from Yale College in 1936, and following graduate study at Columbia and Harvard (Ph.D.) served as Director of the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History. He was Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution from 1964 to 1984. I had the great pleasure of knowing Joanne Luppi through the Mattabeseck Audubon Society, her work with Wesleyan Potters, and Wesleyan's Graduate Liberal Studies Program, when she took a course in ornithology taught by my mentor in birding, Tony Bledsoe. Joanne wrote a paper on Red-bellied Woodpeckers in Connecticut for his GLSP course, later publishing it in *The Connecticut Warbler* (with Tony then serving as associate editor of *The Warbler*).

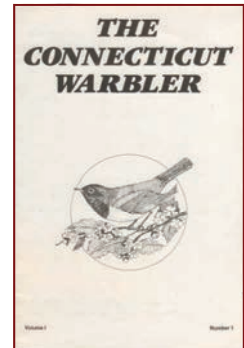
We lost a wonderful person and an accomplished fellow birder when Joanne died on June 8, 2013 at age 81.]

## COA COMPLETES INDEXING AND SCANNING PROJECT FOR *THE CONNECTICUT WARBLER*: VOLUMES 1-30 NOW INDEXED AND ONLINE

COA Board members Renee Baade and Denise Jernigan, with assistance from COA Webmaster Steve Morytko, have completed a year-long project to index and digitize the Association's flagship publication, *The Connecticut Warbler*. Both the index (presently covering Volumes 1-32) and the scanned copies of *The Warbler* (Volumes 1-30) are now available on the COA web site, at <http://www.ctbirding.org/pubs.htm>. Subsequent volumes will be added as published.

*The Connecticut Warbler* began its life in 1981 with a questionnaire to bird banders in the state, requesting their advice about a new journal to be devoted to their needs and interests. As the first Managing Editor, Carl Trichka, wrote in the initial issue, "the idea has grown into an ornithological journal format that encompasses all Connecticut projects devoted to the conservation and study of birds including field notes and special studies."

Originally published by the Connecticut Audubon Society, COA took over publication of *The Warbler* with Volume 4 in 1984. Articles have covered every aspect of bird conservation and study of interest to all people interested in birds, as well as providing the archival home for bird survey results and analyses. COA invites all of its members to explore the riches to be found in the complete run of its fine journal.



**VOLUME 1  
NUMBER 1**

### SAVE THE DATE

The **2014** COA  
**Annual Meeting**  
is Saturday,  
**March 22** at  
Middlesex Community  
College, Middletown.

Featuring:  
Pete Dunne  
Kevin Karlson  
Chris Rimmer

Watch for details in the next  
*COA Bulletin*,  
on the [COA Website](#),  
and in your membership  
renewal letter, coming soon.

### COA Mini-Grants Available! Application Deadline is January 15, 2014

COA is soliciting grant applications for projects that will support initiatives within the State of Connecticut which specifically benefit the avian wildlife of our state. It has always been part of COA's mission to reach out to all those in Connecticut who appreciate our state's birds and to support bird management and conservation initiatives whenever possible.

Grants will be awarded in amounts up to \$2500.00.  
Applications are due on or before January 15, 2014.  
Project selection will be made by the COA Mini-grant  
subcommittee, and awards will be announced at the  
COA Annual Meeting on March 22, 2014.

Guidelines and an application are available on the  
[COA website](#)

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## COA OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Tina Green, 188 Imperial Avenue, Westport, CT 06880
<i>Vice President</i>	Kathy Van Der Aue, 762 Mill Hill Road, Southport, CT 06890
<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 CHAIRPERSONS

<i>Conservation</i>	Milan Bull
<i>Finance</i>	Fred Schroeder
<i>Membership</i>	Larry Reiter
<i>Workshops</i>	Chris Loscalzo
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	Tina Green , Kathy Van Der Aue, Lisa Wahle
<i>Connecticut Warbler</i>	Greg Hanisek
<i>COA Bulletin</i>	Denise Jernigan
<i>Rare Records</i>	Jay Kaplan
<i>Christmas Bird Count Compiler</i>	Steve Broker
<i>Summer Bird Count Compilers</i>	Joe Zeranski and Patrick Comins
<i>Great Backyard Bird Count</i>	Patrick Comins
<i>Hawk Watch Compiler</i>	Steve Mayo

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 January 10, 2014 to:

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