Record Attendance at Annual Meeting

COA's eighth Annual Meeting was held in Stamford on March 28th. For the second year in a row, attendance at the meeting set a record, with 164 participants compared to 156 last year. Members and guests arrived from New York and Massachusetts, as well as from all across Connecticut. Long distance travellers made the trip from as far away as Maryland and even Washington state.

Under the guidance of chairperson Debra Miller, Program Committee members ran a well-planned meeting with great attention to detail. Tish Noyes and Connie Wood took care of registration, and George Zepko ran a very successful raffle. Mardi Crane handled the local arrangements with Courtland Gardens Residence, whose excellent facilities were made available to COA free of charge.

COA president Frank Mantlik served as master of ceremonies and kept everything running smoothly. He introduced a lineup of interesting and informative speakers who presented various perspectives on the meeting's theme, Birds of the Connecticut Coastline. See the separate article in this issue for a summary of their remarks.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the second annual Mabel Osgood Wright award to Roland Clement of Guilford. COA director Milan Bull (continued on page 2)
COABulletin

Annual Meeting . . .

presented the award, which COA created to honor significant contributions to Connecticut ornithology. Milan's remarks on Roland's many accomplishments will appear in the next issue of The Connecticut Warbler. In his short acceptance speech, Roland expressed some concern about the fact that for the second year in a row the award had been given to an octogenarian. He said that he thought COA's most important task is to interest young people in birds and their environment. "I don't want to discourage the youngsters," he said. "Anybody can do what I did if they live long enough."

The day concluded with a raffle of donated items including a tripod given by The Audubon Shop of Madison and binoculars given by Bausch and Lomb, as well as items given by Jeff Fengler, Bill Gaunya, Joe Morin, and Tish Noyes. George Zepko spent virtually the entire day at his post selling raffle tickets, and his dedication paid off -- $370.00 was raised by his efforts.

The Annual Meeting is not only COA's major fund-raising event, it is also a special opportunity for COA members and their guests to get together for an informative and entertaining program. Many thanks are due the people who helped make this special event possible -- the knowledgeable speakers who volunteered their time and the hard-working members of the Program Committee who pulled everything together.

Next year's Annual Meeting will be held on March 27th at Connecticut College in New London. Be sure to save the date.

Field Studies

Research Committee field studies on the following species are continuing, and there is still time for COA members to participate. To receive detailed information on these research projects, contact individual project leaders directly. For a report on last summer's studies, see the January, 1992 Connecticut Warbler.

FOX SPARROW Study of migration routes. Advisor: Gordon Loery, White Memorial Conservation Center, Box 368, Litchfield, CT 06759; Phone 567-0857.

NIGHTHAWK Survey of breeding populations. Advisor: George Clark, Box U-433, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269-3043; Phone 486-4459.

WHIP-POOR-WILL Survey of breeding populations. Advisor: George Clark (see above).

FOREST BIRDS Monitoring populations in state forests and parks. Advisor/Southern CT: Robert Askins, Dept. of Zoology, Conn. College, New London, CT 06320; Phone 439-2149. Advisor/Western CT: Gordon Loery (see above).

Two Directors Resign

Due to overwhelming work schedules, Mark Mushkat and Fred Sibley have had to resign from COA's board. Both will be sorely missed, as they are hardworking, dedicated COA friends. We thank them for all their help and hope that they find time to go birding and will someday be able to return to serve again on the board.

Corrections

Two articles in the Spring 1992 issue of the Bulletin contained statements which require either correction or clarification. The article on the Boreal Owl which win- tered in Middlebury contained two errors. In recounting the history of the occurrence of this species in Connecticut, the article stated that the whereabouts of three specimens are unknown, but the 1906 specimen from Kent is in the Peabody Museum. The article also said that the Middlebury bird would probably be accepted as the first documented state record, but the species is already on the official state list, which means that at least one previous documented record exists.

In the Conservation Watch article, the word euthanize was used to describe a Department of Environmental Protection proposal to control Mute Swan populations by adding eggs. Although the article made it clear that only eggs were to be euthanized, the DEP is concerned that some readers may have gotten the impression that authorization was being sought to euthanize adult swans. This is not the case.

The Newsletter of the Connecticut Ornithological Association is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November.

Please submit materials for the next issue by August 1, 1992 to Jay Knox, Editor, 43 Bridge Road, Weston, CT 06883.
COA was fortunate to have a fine and diverse group of speakers at its recent Annual Meeting. Each of the speakers approached the meeting's theme -- Birds of the Connecticut Coastline -- from a different perspective, and the results were highly informative.

**Paul Merola**, Wildlife Biologist for the Department of Environmental Protection, presented an overview of the DEP's efforts to protect and restore coastal habitat. Although he mentioned a number of areas of concern, such as the sharp decline in the state's Black Duck and Greater Scaup populations, Paul also described the DEP's increasing success in tidal wetlands restoration. By such techniques as the filling of mosquito-control ditches and the elimination of one-way tide gates, wet areas which until recently had been dominated by phragmites are being returned to salt marshes which support spartina and other plants needed by wildlife.

**Michael Aurelia**, Director of the Inland Wetlands Agency of the Town of Greenwich, recounted the geologic and the human history of Stratford's Great Meadows Salt Marsh. Because Michael grew up near the marsh and is a geologist who has studied it over a number of years, he was able to give a unique perspective on the past and possible future of this fragile and beautiful habitat. The fate of Great Meadows hangs in the balance between plans to bisect it with towers for airport landing lights and efforts to protect it by including it in the Stewart McKinney National Wildlife Refuge.

**Tom Baptist**, Conservation Coordinator for the Town of Greenwich, described the diverse group of islands which lie off the coast of Greenwich. He said that the town had had some success with the mixed use of some of the islands for wildlife as well as people. Great Captain's Island, for example, has a thriving heron rookery on one end and a popular town beach on the other. Some islands have been designated as preserves. Tiny Bluff Island, which once had been used as a launching pad by water skiers, is now the westernmost nesting site in Long Island Sound for American Oystercatchers.

**Milan Bull**, Connecticut Audubon Society Director, gave a slide tour of Chimon Island in Norwalk Harbor, related its history, and described the biological field work which led to its protection. Once the site of a resort hotel and cottages, the island was on the international real estate market when Connecticut Audubon began its research there. Instead of becoming an exclusive condominium community complete with helipad, as developers envisioned, Chimon Island is now home to one of the largest heron and egret rookeries on the East Coast.

**Buzz Devine**, of the DEP's Hazardous Waste Management Division, presented a birder's tour of the greater New Haven Harbor area. He illustrated his talk with excellent slides of the area's birding sites and their varied avian inhabitants.

**Gerald Mersereau** gave an informative lecture on Ospreys and their often unfortunate (for the Ospreys) relationships with human beings. His talk was filled with fascinating Osprey lore, as well as anecdotes about the mistreatment of these persecuted birds both here and abroad from the beginning of this century to the present.

**Louis Bevier**, Editor of the forthcoming Connecticut Breeding Bird Atlas, discussed keeping a birding journal. Using examples from his own journals, Louis demonstrated a systematic method for recording bird sightings and experiences in the field.

**Mardi Crane**, who is a volunteer bird bander and Director of Community Relations at Courtland Gardens Residence, gave a talk on diseases birders may be exposed to in the field. She covered prevention, symptom-recognition, and treatment of such illnesses as Lyme disease, rabies, malaria, and equine encephalitis.

**Les Mehrhoff**, Biologist with the State Biological and Natural History Survey, discussed the role of birds in dispersing the seeds of "aggressive aliens" — introduced plant species, such as purple loosestrife and bittersweet, which are crowding out native vegetation in many areas of the state. Les asked birders to report on which species of birds feed on the fruits of non-native plants.

Thanks to all of these speakers for contributing their time and expertise to COA.
Summer Bird Counts
by Joseph Zeranski

This June, the COA will again sponsor Summer Bird Counts (SBCs). Gaining in popularity, largely due to word-of-mouth, this birding activity can provide long-term information about our nesting species. The majority of observers who helped out in 1991 will be participating again this year. Any birders who have not been on a SBC before are urged to join in. This summer it will be revealing and exciting to discover which new species will be found, and compared to last year, what changes will occur on individual counts.

In 1991 five SBCs were held; all will be repeated this year. In addition, with enough interest and support, two new summer counts may be initiated. Although it is desirable that SBCs be conducted within established Christmas Bird Count (CBC) circles by experienced teams, birders thinking of organizing new SBCs are encouraged to touch base with COA’s SBC Committee: c/o Joe Zeranski (661-9607), 163 Field Point Rd., Greenwich, Ct. 06830.

The following established SBCs will be held. Please contact their compilers for additional information, including exact dates.

GREENWICH-STAMFORD SBC Area Covered: Greenwich, Stamford, Darien, & New Canaan (65% of area); in New York (35% of area), Port Chester, Rye, Armonk, and sections of White Plains & Bedford; Compiler: Thomas Burke (914-967-4922), 35 Highland Rd., Rye N.Y., 10580.

HARTFORD SBC Area Covered: Hartford, West Hartford, Bloomfield, Windsor, South Windsor, Manchester, East Hartford, Wethersfield & Rocky Hill; Compiler: Kathie Murphy (582-5802), 274 Morningside Drive East, Bristol Ct., 06010.

NEW HAVEN SBC Area Covered: New Haven, North Haven, East Haven, Branford, Orange, Milford, West Haven & (in part) Woodbridge; Compiler: Steve Mayo (877-0445), 36 Beach Ave., Milford Ct., 06460.

STORRS SBC Area Covered: Mansfield, Ashford, Chaplin, Willington, Tolland, Coventry & Windham; Compiler: Steve Rogers (429-5532), 58 Pinney Hill Rd., Willington Ct., 06279.


In addition, the following two CBCs are considering initiating SBCs. It is important that area birders offer their support to their compilers if these counts are to be held.

WESTPORT SBC Area Covered: Westport, Norwalk, & nearby towns; Compiler: Frank Mantlik (838-1694), 17 Seabreeze Pl., South Norwalk Ct., 06854.

OLD LYME-SAYBROOK SBC Area Covered: Old Lyme, Saybrook and nearby towns; Compiler: Jay Hand (434-6755), 76 Sill Lane, Old Lyme Ct., 06371.

Directors Elected...

currently the chairman of COA’s Conservation Committee and is also active in a number of other conservation organizations. For many years he was co-compiler of the Greenwich-Stamford Christmas Bird Count. Tom works as the Conservation Coordinator for the Town of Greenwich and lives in Redding with his wife and daughter.

Lauren Brown has been Director of Adult Education for the Connecticut Audubon Society for the past eight years. Her responsibilities for Audubon include planning field trips, many of which are birding excursions. During her service as Director, Lauren became interested in ornithology. Lauren is a botanist by vocation and has two major publications to her credit — "Grasses" and "Weeds in Winter." She is actively involved in conservation and preservation organizations, such as the Branford Land Trust. One of Lauren’s major challenges is taking care of her two-year-old daughter. Lauren and family live in Branford.

Jay Buss was recently elected to his second term on the COA Board of Directors. He continues as the Finance Committee Chair, with responsibility for preparing the annual budget and overseeing our investments. He also serves on the Publications Committee and prepares each issue of The Connecticut Warbler for mailing. A resident of Fairfield, Jay is an associate professor of economics at Fairfield University. He became interested in COA through his participation in annual Christmas Bird Counts.

Albert Collins is a newly-elected member of the COA Board, serving his first term with the organization. He has recently been appointed membership chairman. Al has been birding for the past five years since "retiring" from two more strenuous outdoor activities: alpine climbing and bike racing. Al considers
himself an active recreational birder and does most of his birding along the Fairfield County coast. Al works in New York as a partner in a computer software company, where he is mainly responsible for business operations and client management. Al and his wife Diane live in Stamford.

Buzz Devine is a first term member of COA's Board of Directors. He served on the Rare Records Committee from 1985 to 1988. Buzz is employed by the DEP Hazardous Waste Section as an Environmental Analyst. For the past 15 years he has been active in Audubon and birthing organizations, serving as past President for the Naugatuck Valley Audubon Society, and currently as President of the Western Connecticut Bird Club. Buzz has researched various owl species since 1976, initially as a Master's thesis topic on Screech Owls that subsequently expanded to a study of other species. This research led to the discovery of the Boreal Owl in Middlebury on January 12, 1992. Buzz has co-authored numerous manuscripts on owl ecology and behavior, as well as preparing Site Guides (with Dwight Smith) for the Connecticut Warbler. Buzz resides in Plymouth.

Jay Knox is first term board member, although he has been attending board meetings for the past year in his capacity as editor of the COA Bulletin. When Jay became the Bulletin's editor a year ago, he did a complete redesign of the publication and began using desktop publishing software for production. Jay has been an avid birder since 1984, when he visited Florida and was amazed by the beauty of the birds there -- almost none of which he could identify. Jay lives in Weston and is an independent computer consultant who specializes in database design and programming.

Gordon Loery is returning for his second term on the COA Board. Gordon is fortunate to be employed at one of the best inland birding locales in the state -- the White Memorial Foundation. He has served on the Foundation's staff since 1956 and has been Director of Research for the past ten years. Gordon's main ornithological focus involves collecting long-term quantitative data on avian population trends. This objective is accomplished by banding and censusing local bird populations. His population research on Black-capped Chickadee has resulted in two major publications in the journal Ecology.

Steve Mayo is an industrial hygienist and is employed at Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford. Steve just started his first term as a member of the Board. As a member of the New Haven Bird Club, Steve has served on numerous committees. He has been co-compiler of the Milford-Stratford Christmas Bird Count since 1988 and also the New Haven Bird Club's Summer Bird Census. Steve lives in the Woodmont section of Milford and is lucky enough to live within walking distance of a good birding locale -- Merwin Point. Anyone familiar with Milford Point recognizes Steve as a permanent birding fixture there.

Stuart Mitchell resides in Portland with his wife Jan. Stu is returning for a second term as a member of COA's Board of Directors. Stu and Jan have been rehabilitating raptors (hawks and owls) since 1969. This hobby has turned into a full-time project; during a normal year the Mitchells care for 100 to 125 birds of prey. Stu is concerned about the welfare of raptors, and, with Jan's assistance, he has developed two workshop programs. The programs, "Raptors" and "Eagles", are designed to educate and entertain the public, as well as to promote conservation methods for raptor protection. Stu has also been active in various environmental and wildlife organizations, notably Raptor Research and the Hartford Audubon Society.

Gary Palmer is beginning a second term on the Board. Gary, who retired in 1987, has been birding for thirty years. For the past twenty years he has co-compiled the Greenwich-Stamford Christmas Bird Count and, since its inception in 1976, the Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Census. Gary has been involved in various breeding bird surveys conducted at the Greenwich Audubon Center. As an active member of the Greenwich Audubon Society for 25 years, Gary has served in several officer and board member positions. Gary and his family reside in the Cos Cob section of Greenwich.
Volunteers Needed
The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection is seeking volunteers to help it protect and monitor the breeding activities of two important species. "Weekend wardens" are needed to help minimize human disturbance of nesting Piping Plovers and Least Terns at popular beaches and observers are needed to monitor the progress of nesting Ospreys. To volunteer, contact Julie Victoria of the DEP at 566-5599.

Another opportunity to volunteer is offered by the Soundkeeper Fund, which is dedicated to protecting the Long Island Sound Estuary. For more information, or to report polluters, call 854-5330.

COA Receives Award
COA was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the Town of Fairfield in April for the efforts of members Charles Barnard and Frank Mantlik in erecting Barn Owl and American Kestrel nestboxes at Pine Creek Open Space this winter. COA hopes to encourage nesting by these two rare, beneficial, and beautiful raptor species and will expand this program statewide. We, in turn, thank the Town of Fairfield for their cooperation, particularly staffers Ken Placko and Douglas Schellinkhout.

Trips & Events
ABA/AFO Joint Meeting
The American Birding Association and the Association of Field Ornithologists will hold a joint meeting at Connecticut College in New London from October 2nd to 4th, 1992. The program will include a symposium on neotropical migrants, workshops on field techniques, and evening lectures. Field trips are scheduled for October 3 and for the four days following the meeting. Non-members may attend this joint event, but space is limited so early registration is advisable. Registrations will be processed in the date-order received starting on June 8. For information write to Robert Askins, Box 5461, Dept. of Zoology, Connecticut College, 270 Mohegan Ave., New London, CT 06320.

Cliff Swallow Exhibition
The Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History has recently opened a spectacular new exhibition entitled "Mixed Blessings: The Complex Social Life of Cliff Swallows." Dominating the exhibition is a realistic, full-size cast of a cliff face covered with nests filled with specimens of Cliff Swallows, their fledglings, and their parasites and predators. One hundred fifty sculpted and hand-painted models of swallows, suspended in a swooping pattern, lead visitors into the exhibit area. The exhibition explores the complex dynamics of living in a group and illustrates the advantages and disadvantages of the swallows' colonial lifestyle. This major show will run until January 3, 1993. The Peabody Museum is located at 170 Whitney Avenue in New Haven and is open from 10 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday and from noon to 5 pm on Sunday.

Norwalk Islands
Nature, environmental, and birding groups can charter the 16-passenger pontoon boat Conservator for trips this summer to the Norwalk Islands. These islands, which comprise a major part of the McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, are rich in birdlife. To make reservations, call Marcia Hegeman of the Saugatuck Valley Audubon Society at 846-4181.

Lyme Wildlife Art Show
The second annual Lyme Invitational "Wildlife in Art" Show will be held Saturday and Sunday, June 6th and 7th, at the Lyme Art Association Gallery on Lyme Street in Old Lyme, Connecticut. Show hours are 10:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. The show will feature 20 nationally acclaimed wildlife artists, who work in a variety of media. Emphasis is on innovative and imaginative representations of all wildlife -- from insects and fish to birds and mammals. Admission to the show is $3.00, with the proceeds to The Nature Conservancy's Connecticut River conservation projects.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
COA encourages local bird clubs to send announcements of field trips and other events to Jay Knox, Bulletin Editor 43 Bridge Road, Weston, CT 06883
COA Bulletin

Summer Field Report

Please tear off the form which appears below, and use it to submit your Summer Field Report. List noteworthy sightings on separate sheet(s) of lined paper, giving species, date, number of individuals, and location. Use abbreviations when possible; for example, five Common Loons seen at Sherwood Island State Park on Feb. 26 should be entered as "Com. Loon 2/26 (5) SISP."

For common species, please record dates and locations of first, last, and maximum sightings. Rare and uncommon species, for which reports of all sightings are needed, are listed below. The compilers would greatly appreciate receiving your report with species listed in phylogenetic order; use the COA Connecticut Field List as a guide. Note: Detailed descriptions should be submitted for any species on the Field List which is denoted by * (rare) or # (hypothetical) or for any species not on the Field List. All reports will be preserved. Editorial commentary is welcomed.

Owl Bibliography

COA member Doug Smith is collaborating with Richard Clark on a revised edition of a bibliography of owls of the world and requests that authors of articles or publications on owls who want their work to be listed send reprints to Richard J. Clark, The Owl Bibliography, c/o Dept. of Biology, York College, York, PA 17405-7199.

COA Bulletin

COA OFFICERS

President  Frank Mantlik, 17 Seabreeze Place, South Norwalk, CT 06854  838-1694
Vice President  Robert Askins, CT College/Biology, New London, CT 06320 447-1911 x7444
2nd Vice Pres  Tom Baptist, 103 Sunset Hill Road, Redding, CT 06896 938-8078
Treasurer  Carl Trichka, 65 Glover Street, Fairfield, CT 06430 259-2623
Secretary  Alison Olivieri, 184 Fair Oak Drive, Fairfield, CT 06430 259-7725

COA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Bylaws  Joseph Zeranski, 163 Field Point Road, Greenwich, CT 06830 661-9607
Conservation  Tom Baptist, 103 Sunset Hill Road, Redding, CT 06896 938-8078
Education  Alison Olivieri, 184 Fair Oak Drive, Fairfield, CT 06430 259-7725
Finance  Jay Buss, 272 Knollwood Drive, Fairfield, CT 06430 259-6768
Membership  Al Collins, 25 Mitchell Street, Stamford, CT 06902 323-3055
Nominating  Debra Miller, 14 Oakridge Drive, Franklin, MA 02038 (508) 520-1289
Program  Debra Miller, 14 Oakridge Drive, Franklin, MA 02038 (508) 520-1289
Publications  Betty Kleiner, 5 Flintlock Ridge, Simsbury, CT 06070 658-5670
Rare Records  George Clark, Biology Box U-43, UCONN, Storrs, CT 06269 486-4459
Research  Robert Askins, CT College/Biology, New London, CT 06320 439-2149

THE CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
314 Unquowa Road
Fairfield, CT 06430

Address correction requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Fairfield, CT
Permit Number 275

DATED MATERIAL ... PLEASE DO NOT DELAY