

COA Bulletin



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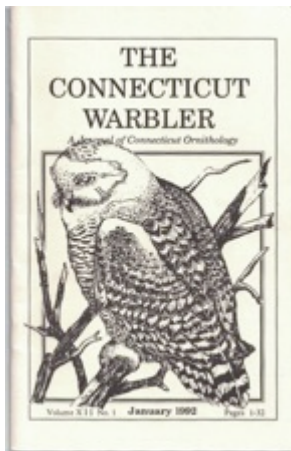
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COA is an all volunteer organization with the mission of promoting interest in Connecticut birds, and collecting, preparing, and disseminating the best available scientific information on the status of Connecticut birds and their habitat. While COA is not primarily an advocacy organization, we work actively to provide scientific information and to support other conservation organizations in the state.



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
KATHY VAN DER AUE**

I've been honored to serve as your president for the past two years. In looking back over the two years I think I am proudest of the efforts we made to open a dialogue between COA and our state DEEP, which includes parks, wildlife and the environment. Before I came to office, I believe they thought of the birding community as a bunch of dart throwing, never satisfied whiners. We tried to meet them with open minds ready to work together for the benefit of wildlife, a voiceless constituency of theirs entitled to consideration, especially in matters affecting the state parks. I think DEEP now considers COA to be a resource of dedicated birders who have daily experience in the field and a source of accurate information on wildlife and habitat issues.



My letter in the fall Bulletin gave you information about what had been done to date. I'd like to give you an update on that information.

Thomas Kapusta, the pigeon enthusiast who set up bird traps near Cove Island Park to capture and kill Red-tailed and Cooper's Hawks was sentenced to one year probation and a \$5,500.00 fine in addition to performing 90 hours of community service at a local animal shelter. While nowhere near the maximum sentence allowed, this is more than the customary slap on the wrist, which decision may have been influenced by our letter appended to the sentencing report at the request of the US Attorney.

The Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge was approved, as was the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument, both of which we supported. The commercial fishing industry has asked President Trump to reverse the Coral Canyon and Seamounts National Monument, which will eventually restrict commercial fishing in the area. No word on how that request has been received.

(continued on Page 11)

COA ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 18, 2017

FEATURED SPEAKERS



John Kricher: "The Trade Off"

In this wide-ranging talk, John Kricher contrasts the lives, ecology, and natural history of long-distance migrant passerine birds, the orioles, tanagers, thrushes, flycatchers, and wood-warblers, with passerines that are permanent residents of lowland tropical forests. He discusses factors that likely have resulted in some species adapting to long-distance migration, and the costs and benefits that ensue. Characteristics such as life span, clutch size, foraging behavior, habitat choice, and wing shape all vary between long-distance migrants and tropical resident species. This lively, thought-provoking, and thoroughly illustrated talk explains why.

John Kricher is Professor of Biology at Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts, where he teaches ecology, ornithology, and vertebrate evolution. His most recent book is *The New Neotropical Companion* (2017), a third edition, fully revised and full color throughout, of John's highly successful book, *A Neotropical Companion* (second edition 1997). John also has written *Tropical Ecology*, (Princeton University Press 2011), now the leading textbook on the subject of global tropical ecology. He has authored *The Balance of Nature: Ecology's Enduring Myth* (Princeton University Press 2009), and *Galapagos: A Natural History* (Princeton University Press 2006). Other books include three North American ecology field guides (*Eastern Forests*, *Rocky Mountain and Southwestern Forests*, *California and Pacific Northwest Forests*) all part of the Peterson series. The widely used previous edition of *A Neotropical Companion* was translated into Spanish through the Birders' Exchange Program of the American Birding Association. He has also produced three recorded lecture series, one on dinosaurs, one on ecology, and one on the biology of birds, all published by Modern Scholar. John is a Fellow in the American Ornithologists' Union (now the American Ornithological Society) and has served as president of the Association of Field Ornithologists and president of the Wilson Ornithological Society.

William Burt: "Water Babies: Young and Adult Birds of Wetlands"

The "babies" are the downy young of ducks, grebes, gallinules and shorebirds, herons, and the other birds of wetlands - those that get their feet wet, as it were - and challenging they are, to birder and photographer alike: quick-footed, wary, and well-camouflaged, to say the least; and temporary (you have only a week or two each year in which to find them). But above all else, they are endearing. From the comic-monster herons to the fuzzy ducklings and stick-legged sandpipers, these tots have personality, and spunk. You see it in their faces, every one. You'll see the parent birds in this slide presentation, too. Each downy chick is juxtaposed with the adult it will become. To photograph these youngsters and adults, William Burt prowled through their wetland breeding grounds each spring and summer for some 7 years, all over North America, from the Arctic Circle to the Gulf of Mexico.



William Burt is a naturalist, writer, and photographer with a passion for wild places and elusive birds - especially marshes, and the shy birds within. His feature stories are seen in *Smithsonian*, *Audubon*, *National Wildlife*, and other magazines. He is the author of 3 previous books. Burt's photo exhibitions have showed at some 35 museums across the U.S. and Canada. He lives in Old Lyme, Connecticut.

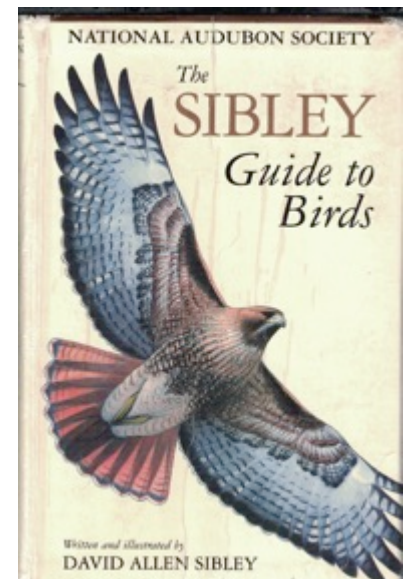
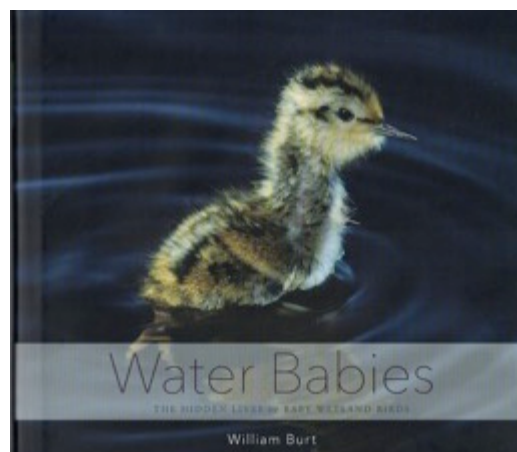
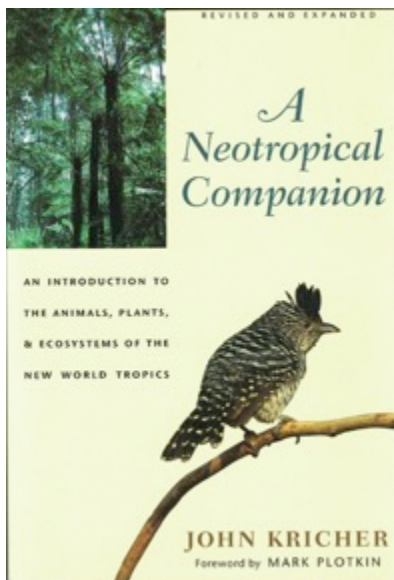
David Allen Sibley: "The Genesis of the Sibley Guides"

The Sibley Guide to Birds first was conceived in the late 1970s, when David Sibley was only a teenager, and it took more than 20 years to bring it to completion. In this lecture David talks about the long but enjoyable journey from idea to finished book.

David Allen Sibley is the author and illustrator of the series of successful guides to nature that bear his name, including the *New York Times* best seller *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. He has contributed art and articles to *Smithsonian*, *Science*, *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, *Birding*, *BirdWatching*, and *North American Birds*, and he wrote and illustrated a syndicated column for *The New York Times*. He is the recipient of the Roger Tory Peterson Award for Lifetime Achievement from the American Birding Association, as well as the Linnaean Society of New York's Eisenmann Medal. He lives in Concord, Massachusetts.



David Allen Sibley
Credit: Erinn Hartman



COA is offering a new hat at the upcoming annual meeting. The embroidered Connecticut Warbler design is the same, but the color of the hat is khaki with a forest green brim. Cost is \$20 cash and carry only.

Connecticut Ornithological Association
33rd Annual Meeting
Saturday, March 18, 2017
Chapman Hall, Middlesex Community College
100 Training Hill Road, Middletown, CT

- 8:00-8:45 Registration/COA Marketplace – includes continental breakfast, Birds and Beans coffee, and tea.
- 8:45-9:15 Welcome/Business Meeting. Kathy Van Der Aue, COA President, presents a brief overview of the year's activities, followed by election of officers and board members.
- 9:15-10:15 **John Kricher - "The Trade Off"** The Professor of Biology at Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts, who teaches ecology, ornithology and vertebrate evolution, contrasts the lives, ecology, and natural history of long-distance migrant passerine birds with passerines that are permanent residents of lowland tropical forests.
- 10:15-10:40 Presentation of COA Awards.
- Mabel Osgood Wright Award – presented annually to a person or persons in Connecticut who have made a significant contribution to the knowledge, study, and conservation of birds.
 - Betty Kleiner Award – honors the memory of Betty Kleiner, whose name is synonymous with *The Connecticut Warbler*, COA's flagship publication. The award recognizes a deserving author or artist in the field of ornithology.
 - COA Mini-grants Award – awarded annually to the applicants whose projects most benefits Connecticut birds.
- 10:40-11:10 Break – COA Marketplace – time to socialize, purchase COA Raffle tickets, and check out vendors' offerings of bird-related items.
- 11:15-12:15 **William Burt – Water Babies: Young and Adult Birds of Wetlands** Bill is a naturalist, writer and photographer with a passion for wild places and elusive birds. The "babies" are the downy young of ducks, grebes, gallinules and shorebirds, herons and other wetland birds – each is juxtaposed with the adult it will become. This talk is the result of 7 years of prowling wetland breeding grounds all over North America.
- 12:20-1:25 Lunch at Founders' Hall Cafeteria. Hot buffet lunch, including a vegetarian option.
- 1:30-2:30 **David Allen Sibley – The Genesis of the Sibley Guides** The well-known author and illustrator of the series of guides to nature that bear his name talks about how *The Sibley Guide to Birds* first was conceived in the late 1970s when he was just a teenager. David talks about the long but enjoyable 20-year journey from idea to finished book. Book signing immediately following his talk.
- 2:45-3:30 COA Raffle – the ever-popular Raffle concludes our day with many prizes, including avian artwork and valuable birding equipment donated by generous artists, vendors, and friends of COA. Raffle tickets are available throughout the day.

For map and directions: <http://mxcc.edu/community/directions> or call 860-343-5800

Please bring this copy of the program with you to the Annual Meeting. Additional copies may be accessed online at: <http://www.ctbirding.org>

REGISTRATION FORM
COA Annual Meeting
March 18, 2017, Middlesex Community College
Chapman Hall, Middletown, CT

Send in your form now before the meeting fills up!

Registrations postmarked after **Monday, March 6, 2017** will not be processed but will be brought to the meeting to be treated as “walk-ins.”

COA Members: _____ Persons @ \$30.00 \$_____

Non-Members: _____ Persons @ \$40.00 \$_____

Students: _____ Persons @ \$15.00 \$_____

Hot Buffet Lunch: _____ Persons @ \$17.00 \$_____

(pre-pay only)

Number of vegetarian entrees: _____

Total \$_____

Please print name(s) as you would like to have it/them appear on name tag(s).

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Send check made out to “COA” and form to:
Connecticut Ornithological Association
314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06824

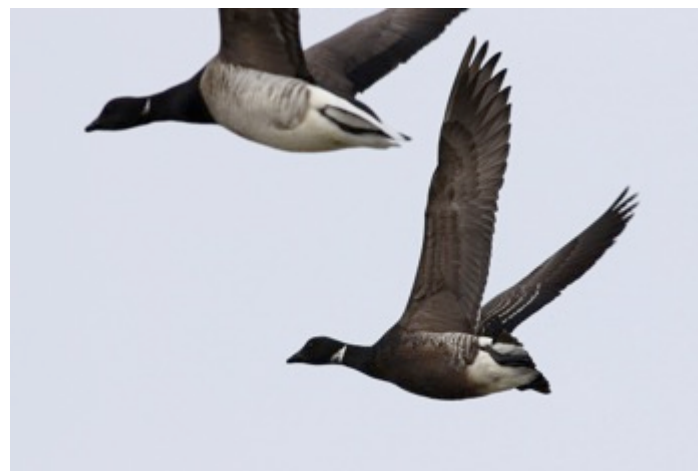
RECENT SIGHTINGS WATERFOWL



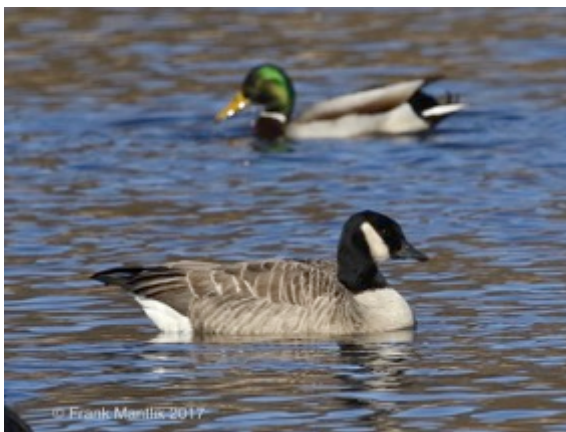
Pink-footed Goose, Westport, January 5, 2017.
Photo by Frank Mantlik.



Ross's Goose, Burying Hill Beach, Westport,
January 29, 2017. Photo by AJ Hand.



Black Brant (Left) and Black Brant with White/Pale-bellied Brant (Right), Eastern Point, Groton,
February 5, 2017. Photos by Nick Bonomo.



Cackling Goose, Stratford, January 1, 2017.
Photo by Frank Mantlik.



Blue-winged Teal (female), Birdseye Boat Ramp,
Stratford, January 7, 2017. Photo by Christine Howe.

RECENT SIGHTINGS WATERFOWL, GREBE, & GULLS



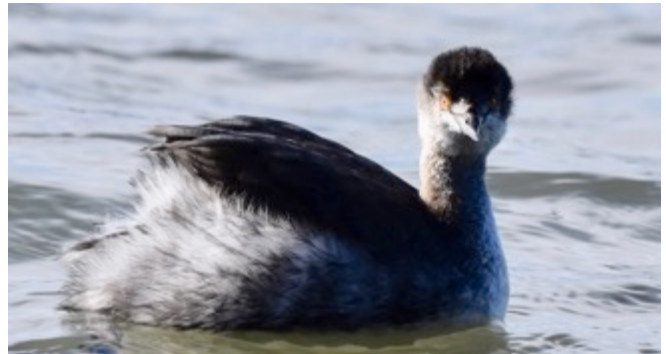
Northern Shoveler, Birdseye Boat Ramp, Stratford, January 16, 2017. Photo by Bruce Finnan.



Tufted Duck (hen), Captain's Cove, Bridgeport, February 3, 2017. Photo by Christine Howe.



Hooded Merganser pair, Indian River, Clinton, January 30, 2017. Photo by Gilles Carter.



Eared Grebe, Black Rock Fort & Fort Nathan Hale, New Haven, February 1, 2017. Photo by Gilles Carter.



Iceland Gull, Seaside Park, Bridgeport, January 3, 2017. Photo by Frank Mantlik.



Glaucous Gull, Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison, December 23, 2016. Photo by Christine Howe.

RECENT SIGHTINGS DIURNAL AND NOCTURNAL RAPTORS



Bald Eagle, Hartford Reservoir No. 6, Hartford County, January 15, 2017. Photo by Julia Sheldon.



Rough-legged Hawk, Cassidy Road, Southbury, January 27, 2017. Photo by Franklin Nejame.



Left: Great Horned Owl, Sherwood Island State Park, Westport, January 29, 2017. Photo by Franklin Nejame.

Right: Long-eared Owl, New Haven County, February 2017. Photo by Steve Broker.

RECENT SIGHTINGS WINTER PASSERINES



Northern Shrike, Southbury Rod & Gun Club Farm, Southbury, January 16, 2017. Photo by Russ Smiley.



Vesper Sparrow, Woodbury, January 6, 2017. Photo by Chris Wood.



Savannah 'Ipswich' Sparrow, Long Beach, Stratford, December 2016. Photo by Chris Wood.



Baltimore Oriole, Hamden, January 4, 2017. Photo by Christine Howe.



Western Tanager, Chaplin Road, Windham County, December 23, 2016. Photo by Mark Danforth.



Evening Grosbeak, Undermountain Road, Canaan, January 22, 2017. Photo by Steve Broker.

**Twenty-Five Years Ago in
The Connecticut Warbler
Compiled by Steve Broker
Volume XII, No. 1 (January 1992)**



Roland Clement &
long-time friend, artist
Robert Verity Clem,
Chatham, MA,
July 18, 2009.
Photo by Steve Broker.

The Mabel Osgood Wright Award, by Roland C. Clement.

Mabel Osgood Wright (1859-1934) was unquestionably a “grande dame” of the early years of the Audubon movement. Born in New York City, she became a resident of Fairfield soon after her marriage to James O. Wright.

In 1897 she published *Citizen Bird*, a book that surprised and delighted a generation of bird lovers, not only in its own right, but because it introduced the bird illustrations of Louis Agassiz Fuertes. She later wrote *Birdcraft*, a popular guide to bird identification and song, also illustrated by Fuertes. Another work, *The Friendship of Nature*, was one of the first calls for animal rights.

In 1898 she was a founding member, and the first president, of the Audubon Society of the State of Connecticut (now Connecticut Audubon Society). She served in this capacity for twenty-six years!

She was also a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Audubon Societies (precursor to the National Audubon Society) from its founding in 1905, until 1928. In this capacity she was friend and colleague to the entire first generation of Audubon workers, including Elliott Coues, T. Gilbert Pearson, the first professional director of the Audubon movement, and particularly, Frank M. Chapman, with whom she worked as assistant editor of *Bird-Lore* (precursor to *Audubon* magazine) from 1899 to 1911. [Ed’s note: This article was written by Roland Clement following the awarding of COA’s first Mabel Osgood Wright Award to Ann Gaylord of Niantic, Connecticut, as described in Volume 11, Number 1 of *The Connecticut Warbler*. Roland: “How quickly we lose touch with one another, reinventing instead of building on the contributions of those who preceded us.”]

Jerauld A. Manter, 1889-1990, by James A. Slater.

The death of Jerauld Armington Manter in the 101st year of his age, covers the period of bird observation and recording in Connecticut that began with the study of birds over the barrel of a shotgun, and has reached the present period of high powered telescopes, sophisticated field guides, specialized song and call recordings and, perhaps too often, frantic building of lists and one-upmanship.

Professor Manter is known primarily for the two editions of *Birds of Storrs, Connecticut and Vicinity* that was published in 1965 and 1975. These two contributions brought together not only the field notes that Mr. Manter had made over a lifetime of studying birds in eastern Connecticut but also earlier work by some of his predecessors in the Storrs area and especially the notebooks of the Rev. Jones of Eastford. [Ed’s note: Author of the article James Slater (1920-2008), notes that Professor Manter taught courses in biology, including entomology and ornithology, at the Storrs campus now known as University of Connecticut. A generation later, Slater served as head of UConn’s entomology and zoology departments. He was equally far ranging in his interests, including authoring the definitive *The Colonial Burying Grounds of Eastern Connecticut and the Men Who Made Them*, other articles on Puritan gravestone art, and a treatise on collectable milk glass.]

[Ed’s note: see also Site Guide: River Road, Kent, Connecticut, by Arnold [“Buzz”] Devine and Dwight G. Smith; Connecticut Ornithological Association Surveys of Bird Populations – 1991, by Robert A. Askins; The Crowned Sparrows, by Roland C. Clement; Recoveries of Birds Banded in Connecticut, by Carl J. Trichka, and other articles.]

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE KATHY VAN DER AUE

(Continued from Page 1)

The final plan for the Northeast Rail Corridor has been released, and while they have chosen the least disruptive of the three plans, the chosen plan is problematic for a number of reasons, especially in the Old Lyme and shoreline areas for proposals involving the taking of precious marshland habitat. So, we will continue to watch this and comment when appropriate.

We are supporting very limited tree removal at Bluff Point, clearing required by the FAA for the Groton/New London Airport.

We also have been heard by the Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality in their deliberations regarding the siting of solar and wind arrays. This is a conservation dilemma, for on the one hand we support renewable energy, but we oppose some of the locations chosen. We have been heard at least on the solar side, and they have recommended siting in brownfields and previously developed land rather than the grassland areas which are disappearing so quickly from our state.

We also have signed on to a number of petitions sponsored by national groups which urge Congress to protect birds and the environment. We are blessed with congressional leadership that supports environmental quality, but adding our name to national petitions may help sway others.

We have a big challenge ahead in that we plan to work together with DEEP and other organizations to create a new Connecticut Breeding Bird Atlas. We will need the time and expertise of all of us to get this enormous task completed. There will be much more to come on this in the future. I know we can count on you.

It has been my great pleasure to serve you these past two years, and I know Steve Broker, my Vice President, will do a great job during his term.

For our New England Snowbirds
spending Winter in the American
subtropics and tropics.
Greater Flamingo, Culebra,
Puerto Rico.
Photo by Hank Golet.



CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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www.ctbirding.org



COA OFFICERS

President	Kathy Van Der Aue, 762 Mill Hill Road, Southport, CT 06890
Vice President	Stephen P. Broker, 50 Hidden Place, Cheshire, CT 06410
Secretary	Denise Jernigan, 618 Hopewell Road, South Glastonbury, CT 06073
Treasurer	Paul Wolter, 8 Sybil Creek Place, Branford, CT 06405

COA CHAIRPERSONS

Annual Meeting	Tina Green, Bob Dixon, Maureen Wolter
Membership	Larry Reiter
Workshops	Chris Loscalzo
Finance	Paul Wolter
Mini-Grants	Kathy Van Der Aue
Electronics	Scott Kruitbosch, Gina Nichol
Avian Records	Jay Kaplan
Conservation	Patrick Comins
Research	Tom Robben
Nominating	Tina Green
The Connecticut Warbler	Greg Hanisek
COA Bulletin	Steve Broker
Publicity	Lynn Jones
Christmas Bird Count Compiler	Steve Broker
Summer Bird Count Compilers	Joe Zeranski & Patrick Comins
Great Backyard Bird Count	Patrick Comins

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 April 15, 2017 to Stephen P. Broker
COABulletin@gmail.com
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