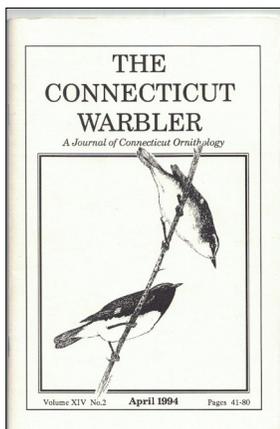


# COA Bulletin



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Summer Bird Count p. 1-2
- Ann'l Meeting Wrap-up p. 3-4
- 2019 Mini Grants p. 5
- CT Bird Atlas Project p. 6
- Photo Gallery p.7
- Workshops p. 8
- Photo Gallery p. 9
- 25 Years Ago in TCW p. 10-11
- LI Sound Blue Plan p.11



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 habitats. While COA is not primarily an advocacy organization, we work actively to provide scientific information and to support other conservation organizations in the state.

## Connecticut Summer Bird Count

Joe Zeranski, Patrick Comins, and Tom Robben

The eight Summer Bird Counts (SBCs) in Connecticut are ready to go ahead again this June.

The SBC, started in the 1970s, is one of several multi-decade citizen science initiatives underway in Connecticut. Others include the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) (well over 100 years old), the Connecticut Bird Atlas (first done in the 1980s), hawk watches (e.g. 49 years of data from Lighthouse Point), and the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) (initiated in 1966). They provide treasure troves of information on bird population trends. In addition, eBird has become an unbelievable repository of data, supported by everyone from backyard feeder watchers to seasoned birders. For many, it is immensely satisfying to combine an appreciation of nature with a quantitative approach to birding, knowing that the data can ultimately lead to a deeper public understanding and motivation to protect and preserve the environment. COA is a leader in this regard, articulated in its founding mission of “collecting, preparing, and disseminating the best available scientific information on the status of Connecticut birds and their habitat”. COA supports and advocates for science through the SBC, the Connecticut Bird Atlas, and other field work. Let’s continue to lead and to set this standard high. Thank you all! Keep up your great work!

If you want to contribute to an SBC this year (with or without simultaneous contribution to the Connecticut Bird Atlas), please contact the compiler of the local SBC circle, as follows:

FIRST WEEKEND IN JUNE 2019: *June 1-2*

**Woodbury-Roxbury**, June 1 or 2 (June 2 Sunday is the official date and preferred). Contact: Russ Naylor, 44 Church St., Woodbury, CT 06798; 203 841-7779.

SECOND WEEKEND: *June 8-9*

- **Greenwich-Stamford**. Contact: Thomas Burke, 235 Highland Rd., Rye, NY 10580; 914 967-4922, [thomaswardburke@gmail.com](mailto:thomaswardburke@gmail.com), and Gary Palmer, 34 Field Rd., Cos Cob, CT 06830; 203 661-4897, [garyjane4523@gmail.com](mailto:garyjane4523@gmail.com)
- **Hartford**. Contact: Jay Kaplan, 71 Gracey Rd., Canton, CT 06019; 860 693-0157, [jaybrd49@aol.com](mailto:jaybrd49@aol.com)
- **Litchfield Hills**. Contact: David Tripp Jr., 97 Hunter Court, Torrington, CT 06790; [dtrippjr@gmail.com](mailto:dtrippjr@gmail.com)

- **New Haven.** (NEW date) Contact: Steve Mayo, 27 Tuttle Court, Bethany, CT 06524; 203 551-1707, [rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net)

THIRD WEEKEND: *June 15-16*

- **New Milford / Pawling.** Contact: Angela Dimmitt, PO Box 146, Sherman, CT 06784; 860 355-3429, [angeladimmit@aol.com](mailto:angeladimmit@aol.com)

FOURTH WEEKEND: *June 22-23*

- **Barkhamsted.** John Marshall and Dave Rosgen. Contact: John Marshall, 60 Wilson Dr., Watertown, CT 06795; 203 232-4393, [johnmarshall47@gmail.com](mailto:johnmarshall47@gmail.com)
- **Storrs.** (NEW date) Contact: Steve Morytko, 288 Varga Rd., Ashford, CT 06278; 860 680-5728, [smorytko@yahoo.com](mailto:smorytko@yahoo.com)

Except for Woodbury-Roxbury, all of these counts have a two-day window, but you do not have to bird both days.

SBCs operate like Christmas Bird Counts. If you want to participate in an SBC this year, please contact one of the SBC Compilers listed above, and agree on an area to cover. Within an SBC you will count birds in one of its Areas, headed by an Area Captain, who will report all the area observations to the SBC's Compiler, who will report all their compiled results for their SBC this year to the State Compiler (Joe Zeranski supported by Patrick Comins and Tom Robben), where the statewide compilation will be completed, analyzed, and the final report written.

For more details, including how to do Atlas work while doing your SBC work, go to: <https://bird-censusing.blogspot.com/> (and scroll down) or email to [robben99@gmail.com](mailto:robben99@gmail.com). Chris Elphick has also posted suggestions about how to collect SBC data in a way that maximizes benefits for the atlas, at these two pages: <http://ctbirdatlas.org/blog/index.php/2018/06/02/summer-bird-counts-and-the-atlas-project/> and <http://ctbirdatlas.org/blog/index.php/2018/06/08/download-the-summer-bird-count-circle-map/>

One key point is that your ebird Checklist, to be used for both an SBC and the Atlas, must be specific to an Atlas block. That is to say, if someone is surveying in one block and they cross into another block, they should start a new eBird checklist.



## COA Annual Meeting Wrap-up

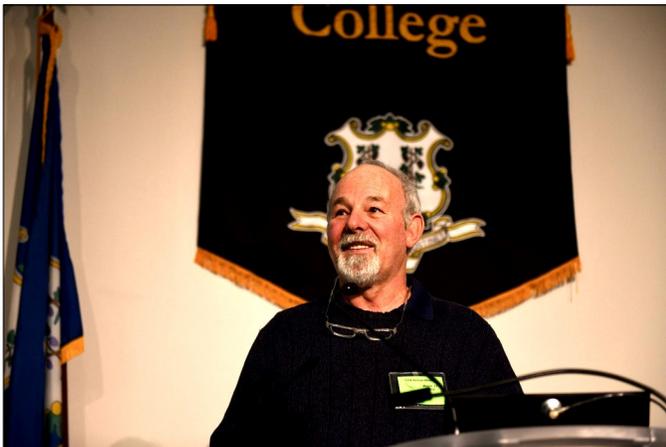
The COA's 35th Annual Meeting was held on March 23 at Middlesex Community College, attended once again by a near capacity crowd of birders from Connecticut (and nearby states). A tremendously talented panel of invited speakers shared their deep knowledge of (1) New England's Common Loons, (2) the Northeast's endangered Roseate Tern population, and (3) Connecticut's rich array of birds and where/when/how to find them.



Eric Hanson, biologist with Vermont Center for Ecostudies, chronicled the amazing recovery of loons throughout the Northeast over the past 30 years, the threats that they face, and the conservation actions that have brought them back, including capture and rescue stories. He described their fascinating behaviors and natural history, including new research on how loons find a territory, what is being conveyed in the yodel call, and new findings on their migration pathways.



Frank Gallo shared an in depth look into where, when and how to find birds in Connecticut, the details of which are given in his new book, *Birding in Connecticut*. As his presentation demonstrated, the book is packed with information: clear site maps, color photos, species accounts, bar charts on seasonal abundance, and QR code links to continually updated information on species occurrence at each location, an innovation you're not likely to find in other books like this one.



Dr. Jeff Spendelow, based on decades of field work, shared his discoveries on the life history of Roseate Terns in the Northeast, answering questions which are critical to the effective monitoring and management of this endangered species. He started his presentation with the "Young of Year" documentary filmed in 2016, followed by showing some new results which help explain what these birds do after they first depart their natal colony sites until recruiting into the breeding population several years later.



Chris Elphick provided an update on the Connecticut Bird Atlas project, now in its second year of data collection.

### Annual Awards and Recognition



George Zepko congratulating Cayleigh Goberman, recipient of the George Zepko Hog Island Camp Scholarship. COA wishes her well on her trip to the wild woods and coast of Maine this summer.



Jeff Spendelow received the 2019 Mabel Osgood Wright Award, presented by Steve Broker. A full account of Jeff’s contributions to Connecticut ornithology will be covered in an upcoming issue of *The Connecticut Warbler*.

### The Betty Kleiner Award

The Betty Kleiner Award was established by COA in 2007 to honor the first editor of our flagship publication, *The Connecticut Warbler*. It recognizes the best article, artwork or other product published in each volume of the *Warbler*.



Denise Jernigan presented Chris Wood the Betty Kleiner Award for his insightful article in *The Connecticut Warbler*

I would like to thank my fellow members of the Betty Kleiner Award subcommittee, Maureen Wolter and Doug Warner - we agreed that there were several very good candidates for this award in Volume 38 of the *Warbler*, and also agreed that there was one article that stood out for its thorough research, clear writing, thoughtful analysis and generous and appropriate use of photographs and charts.

That is the article by Chris Wood in the January issue, "Since the Breeding Bird Atlas - Observations on some Positive Trends."

Please join in congratulating this year's winner of the Betty Kleiner Award - Chris Wood of Woodbury.

Denise Jernigan

## 2019 Mini-Grant Awards

COA received 15 applications totaling \$21,490 in requests for funding. The Board approved \$6,000 for funding Mini-Grants this year. To date COA has given over \$25,000 to projects benefiting Connecticut's birds. Thank you to all members for your support of this program. Your membership dues make it possible.

These are the successful applicants:



\$400.00 to **CREC Discovery Academy**: for a student project to add bird friendly plants to the school's existing bioswale for improvement of habitat. They want the garden to be certified as a NWF Wildlife Habitat.



\$750.00 to **Wakeman Town Farm**: for expanded nesting opportunities including Bluebird houses.



\$750.00 to **A Place Called Hope**: to vaccinate their birds against Eastern Equine Encephalitis after having lost one of their birds to this disease.



\$400.00 to **Karen Schnitzer**: to remove invasives and plant native plants to improve habitat and provide shelter and food at the meadow edge of her condominium complex.



\$1,000.00 to **Robin Ladouceur**: to build and install receptacles for collection of monofilament fishing line at popular fishing sites.



\$250.00 to **New Haven Parks and Recreation**: for bird food at three IBA feeding stations in their parks.



\$750.00 to **Friends of Greenwich Point**: to plant native evergreen trees at Tod's Point to enhance habitat known to be frequented by wintering owls.



\$450.00 to **Salem Land Trust**: for materials to build bird-houses at a land trust workshop.



\$500.00 to **Roaring Brook Nature Center**: to help with expenses associated with avian emergency care at their new wildlife rehabilitation clinic.



\$750.00 to the **New Haven Bird Club**: for binoculars for their summer camp program for New Haven school children.

Thanks to Angela Dimmitt, Terry Shaw and Chris Wood.

**Kathy Van Der Aue**, Chair, Mini-Grant Committee.



Dan Ferrier used a mini-grant of \$700, awarded in 2018, to replace 2 dilapidated Osprey nesting platforms in Old Lyme and Old Saybrook



## Connecticut Bird Atlas Project

By Craig Repasz

CT Bird Atlas Volunteer Coordinator

Dear CT Birders

The CT Bird Atlas Project will focus on Block Busting activities in the second year of the Atlas breeding surveys. The idea behind Block Busting is a group of people will go to orphaned blocks or blocks that have received little to no coverage. The group spreads out in the block and birds for a few hours. The twenty-hour survey requirement could be easily met with these activities and could quickly complete the block.

There are many organizations and informal individual groups who could support the CT Bird Atlas by Block Busting. The birders may not be familiar with the terrain, state forests and parks and other open space that is available. If you and a group of friends are interested in Block Busting in an area new to you please contact me at [ctbirdatlasvol@gmail.com](mailto:ctbirdatlasvol@gmail.com).

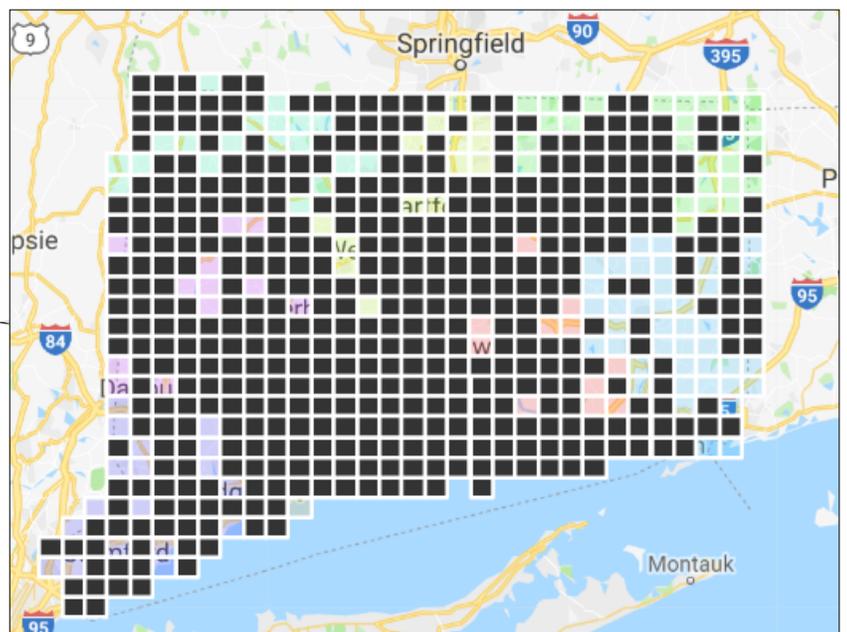
I will provide charts that list the open spaces in the orphaned blocks in an area of interest.

We should target to have the Block Busting events in the months of June and July, well after our fabulous warbler migration is over.

A representative of an organization or group planning a block busting event will need to do some research and work with the Regional Coordinator and the CT Bird Atlas Volunteer Coordinator to help assure that they will have a fun and productive event.

Craig Repasz

CT Bird Atlas Volunteer Coordinator



Block map showing orphaned blocks (colored; as of May 12)

Great Photos of Some Overshooting Spring Migrants

...and some late breaking news on rails



Prothonotary Warbler at Eli Whitney Museum, New Haven (Chris Howe, 5/2/19)



King Rail at Hammonasset Beach State Park (Russ Smiley, 5/13/19)



Yellow Rail recording at Ragged Creek marsh, Old Saybrook (Jason Reiger, 5/12/19)



Kentucky Warbler at Lake Mohegan, Fairfield (Franklin Nejame, 4/28/19)



Blue Grosbeak at Hammonasset Beach State Park (Jannie Shapiro, 5/8/19)



Yellow-throated Warbler at Milford Point (Nick Bonomo, 4/19/19)



Summer Tanager at Greenwich Point Park (Cynthia Ehlinger, 5/3/19)

## COA Gull Workshop Stratford Point

The COA Gull Workshop held on March 24 at Stratford Point was a great success. Sincere thanks to Nick Bonomo for his comprehensive and informative presentation. Observational highlights after the educational session included two Iceland Gulls at Long Beach (including an adult out plankton feeding with Ring-billed Gulls and Herring Gulls in the sound), flyover Great and Double-Crested Cormorant, Osprey, Tree Swallow, Eastern Meadowlark and Savannah (Ipswich race) Sparrow at Stratford Point, Northern Gannet, Osprey, and White-winged and Surf Scoter. A good time was had by all. Now, if we can just remember what we learned about gull ID!!

Chris Loscalzo



Nick Bonomo and attendees at the indoor lecture portion of the workshop

### Future Workshops

#### Combined COA/CT Botanical Society (CBS) Bird/Plant Workshop

**Saturday, July 20th, 2019 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am**

**Wimisink Preserve, Sherman**

Spend a morning with plant enthusiasts and learn about the plants upon which birds depend while we birders show them the birds that visit the plants that they know and love. On this joint event of the CT Botanical Society and COA we'll visit a freshwater wetland where bitterns and other marsh birds have bred. We may also visit the nearby Herrick Trail to look for woodland species. Meet at the parking lot to the Wimisink Preserve on Route 39, just south of Route 55 (1/2 mile west of Route 7 in Sherman). The workshop is free and open to COA members and non-members alike. Leaders: John Anderson, CBS, C: 860-248-1053; Chris Loscalzo at: [loscalz@optonline.net](mailto:loscalz@optonline.net) and 203 389-6508.

#### Shorebird Workshop

**Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am**

**CT Audubon Society Coastal Center at Milford Point, Milford**

Sharpen your shorebird identification skills at one of the best places to see shorebirds in the state. There will be an indoor presentation followed by outdoor field study. The event is co-sponsored by COA and the Connecticut Audubon Society. Meet at the coastal center parking lot. The workshop is free and open to COA members and non-members alike. Leaders: Patrick Comins, *et al.* Contact person: Chris Loscalzo at [loscalz@optonline.net](mailto:loscalz@optonline.net) or 203 389-6508.

### Gallery of Some Great Waterbird Finds this Spring



Little Gull at Southport Beach (Jory Teltser, 4/11/19)



White Pelican at Shell Beach, Guilford (Tina Green, 4/28/19)



California Gull at Bradley Point Park, New Haven (Frank Mantlik, 4/21/19)



Redheads at River Road, Southbury (Chris Wood, 3/19)



Red-necked Grebe at Union Pond, Manchester (Maggie Peretto, 5/5/19)



Tundra Swan at Glastonbury Meadows (Bill Asteriades, 2/10/19)

**Twenty-Five Years Ago in *The Connecticut Warbler*  
Compiled by Steve Broker**

**Volume XIV, No. 2 (April 1994)**

**Mabel Osgood Wright Award 1994, presented by Neil Currie at the annual meeting of the Connecticut Ornithological Association on March 26, 1994.**

Donald Hopkins, as an amateur ornithologist, most of your time has been devoted to the study of raptors. In the early 1970s it had become apparent to you that hawks were migrating through Connecticut in surprisingly large numbers, and that a few other birders were aware of this also. You were inspired at that time to organize, with your friend Jerry Mersereau, the New England Hawk Watch. With the help of the Connecticut Audubon Council and friends, you did just this. The purpose of the New England Hawk Watch was to observe the migration of hawks through New England, if possible to discover their routes and numbers, and to observe the behavior of these migrants.

Throughout the years you have also carefully monitored the lives of Bald Eagles, especially at Barkhamsted Reservoir. During these studies, you became aware that a pair of eagles at Barkhamsted were exhibiting mating and nesting behavior. You watched as a nest was built. Finally, in 1992, the first nesting of Bald Eagles in Connecticut in many years took place. Two eaglets were successfully raised, not by you, but by their parents.

Most importantly, through your work in organizing and maintaining the New England Hawk Watch, hundreds of birders in New England and in Connecticut have become aware of the inspiring spectacle of migrating hawks. Don, you started it all. For all of this, the Connecticut Ornithological Association is honored to award to you the Mabel Osgood Wright Award for 1994. [Ed's Note: Neil Currie, presenter of this award, was himself a recipient of the Mabel Osgood Wright Award in 2005.]

**Ludlow Griscom (1890-1959): A Man of Many Accomplishments, by William E. Davis, Jr..**

Ludlow Griscom is a legendary figure in the development of rapid sight identification of birds, and the tales of his birding adventures are legion. What is not as well known, however, is the broad spectrum of Griscom's accomplishments. From a variety of executive positions he wielded power and influence on the development of the conservation movement and ornithology, as well as strongly influencing the rapid development of recreational birding.

Griscom's interest in birds began early, with his first recollections of birds dating to age four. By the time he had graduated from Cornell [University, becoming the first recipient of an advanced degree in ornithology in North America in 1915] he had developed the methods and skills in rapid sight identification of birds that were to amaze his birdwatcher friends, and irritate the older ornithologists, whose tradition was to study birds "down the barrel of a shotgun." At that time, ornithology was beginning a transition from an emphasis on the museum, collection-based, study of the taxonomy and distribution of birds, to the study of live birds in the field involving a more holistic ecological approach. Griscom, the consummate showman, reveled in the competition and one-upmanship which rapid field identification produced. He was influential in popularizing the sport of birding and list making. His forceful and aggressive personality, his tendency to be dogmatic, and a rather militaristic bearing, produced a polarization among his bird watching acquaintances and professional colleagues. People either loved or intensely disliked him.

[Ed's Note: Bill Davis's article discusses Griscom's association with the American Museum of Natural History, the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard, his field work in Central America, Newfoundland, and Labrador, his leadership with Massachusetts Audubon Society, National Audubon Society, Nuttall Ornithological Club, and other organizations, his emphasis on conservation, and his many publications. Davis's book, *Dean of the Birdwatchers: A Biography of Ludlow Griscom* (1994. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 234pp.) is an es-

sential read about this extraordinarily gifted individual but also about the history of ornithology and the development of birding in America.]

These articles in the April 1994 issue of *The Connecticut Warbler* can be viewed in their entirety at the link below; scroll down to pages 41-80. See also: Book Review, by Roland Clement; an article on hybrid Common x Roseate Terns at Falkner Island, by James Zingo, Christopher Church, and Jeff Spendelow (Jeff, the 2019 recipient of the MOW Award); the 1993-94 Connecticut Christmas Bird Count, by Steve Broker; Connecticut Field Notes, by Jay Kaplan; Answer to Photo Challenge 8 by Louis Bevier; and cover art of Black-throated Blue Warblers, by Mark Szantyr.

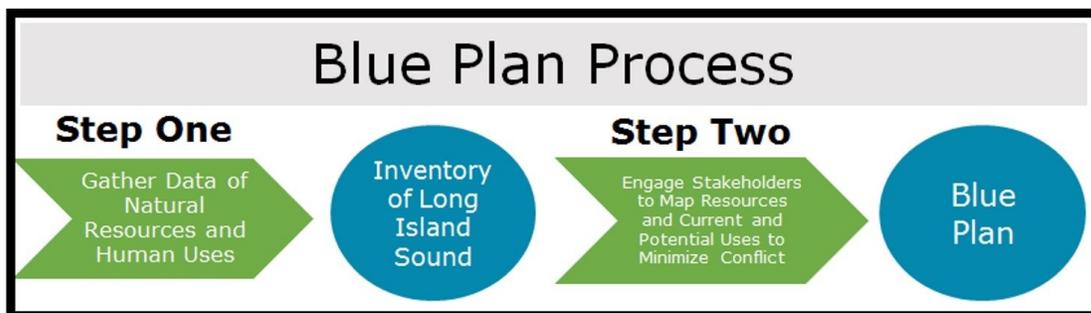
<http://www.ctbirding.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/CTWarblerVolume14.pdf>



The purpose of the Long Island Sound Blue Plan is to protect traditional uses, minimize conflicts, and maximize compatibility, now and in the future. This includes preserving Long Island Sound's ecosystems and resources, and facilitating a transparent, science-based decision-making process.

The draft Long Island Sound Blue Plan is now available and open for public comment until June 21st. COA, Connecticut Audubon, Audubon Connecticut and others have already provided a lot of input into ecologically significant areas, but there are some areas that may have been missed. For more information on upcoming public meetings and how to provide input, please see:

[https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2705&q=574290&deepNav\\_GID=1635](https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2705&q=574290&deepNav_GID=1635)



**CONNECTICUT  
ORNITHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION**

314 Unquowa Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824  
www.ctbirding.org



**COA OFFICERS**

President	Chris Loscalzo, Woodbridge, CT
Vice President	open
Secretary	Denise Jernigan, South Glastonbury, CT
Treasurer	Paul Wolter, Branford, CT
Assistant Treasurer	Peter DeGennaro, Plainville, CT

**COA CHAIRPERSONS**

Annual Meeting	Tina Green, Maureen Wolter, Terry Shaw
Conservation	Craig Repasz
Finance	Paul Wolter
Membership	Larry Reiter
Avian Records	Jay Kaplan
Research	Tom Robben
Workshops	Chris Loscalzo
The Connecticut Warbler	Greg Hanisek
COA Bulletin	Andrew Dasinger, Kathy Van Der Aue
Christmas Bird Count Compiler	Steve Broker
Summer Bird Count Compilers	Joe Zeranski, Tom Robben
Great Backyard Bird Count	Patrick Comins
Mini-Grants	Kathy Van Der Aue

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 July 15, 2019 to the editor at [amdasinger@gmail.com](mailto:amdasinger@gmail.com)