

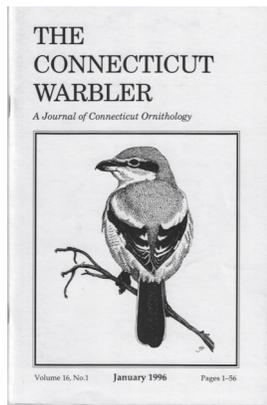
# COA Bulletin



## COA's 37th Annual Meeting

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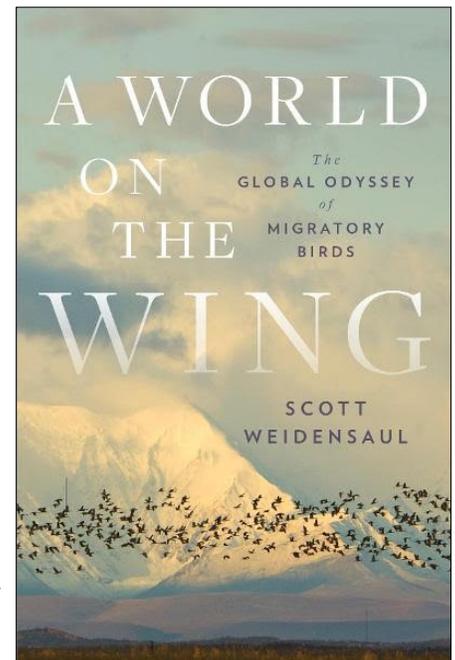
COA is an all volunteer organization with the mission of promoting interest in Connecticut birds, and collecting, preparing, and disseminating the best available scientific information on the status of Connecticut birds and their habitats. While COA is not primarily an advocacy organization, we work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

The Connecticut Ornithological Association's 37th Annual Meeting will be held by Zoom Webinar on **March 20, 2021** from 10:00 am to 12:15 pm. Members will receive an email invite to register and a link to the registration will be posted on CT Birds. Registration will be \$10 and will be available later in February.

Our keynote speaker is Scott Weidensaul presenting **A World of Wings: Migratory Birds on a Changing Planet**. Based on his forthcoming book *A World on the Wing*, author and researcher Scott Weidensaul takes you around the globe - with researchers in the lab probing the limits of what migrating can do, to the shores of the Yellow Sea in China, the remote mountains of northeastern India where tribal villages saved the greatest gathering of falcons on the planet, and the Mediterranean, where activists and police battle bird poachers- to learn how people are fighting to understand and save the world's great bird migrations.

Scott Weidensaul is the author of nearly 30 books on natural history, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist *Living on the Wind*, *Return to Wild America* and *The First Frontier*. Weidensaul is a contributing editor for Audubon, a columnist for Bird Watcher's Digest and writes for a variety of other publications, including Living Bird. He is also an active field researcher, studying saw-whet owl migration for more than two decades, as well as winter hummingbirds, bird migration in Alaska, and the winter movements of snowy owls through Project SNOWstorm, which he co-founded.

A brief business meeting will precede the keynote address. COA President Chris Loscalzo will present a short overview of the year's activities, followed by election of officers and board members, an update on the CT Bird Atlas, and announcement of COA Awards.



## Connecticut Ornithological Association

## 37th Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 20, 2021

*Virtual Meeting hosted on Zoom*

- 10:00-10:20 Welcome & Business Meeting. Chris Loscalzo, COA President, will present a brief overview of the year's activities, followed by election of officers and board members.
- 10:20-10:30 CT Bird Atlas update (Chris Loscalzo)
- 10:30-11:00 Presentation of COA Awards (Chris Loscalzo)
- 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 Awards—awarded annually to applicants whose projects most benefit Connecticut birds.
- President's Awards
- Zepko Audubon Camp Scholarship—awarded annually to a young birding enthusiast through a written application process.
- 11:00-12:00 Keynote Speaker. Scott Weidensaul—*A World on the Wing: Migratory Birds on a Changing Planet*
- Even as scientists make astounding discoveries about the navigational and physiological feats that enable migratory birds to cross immense oceans or fly above the highest mountains, go weeks without sleep or remain in unbroken flight for months at a stretch, humans have brought many migrants to the brink. Based on his forthcoming book *A World on the Wing*, author and researcher Scott Weidensaul takes you around the globe—with researchers in the lab probing the limits of what migrating birds can do, to the shores of the Yellow Sea in China, the remote mountains of northeastern India where tribal villages saved the greatest gathering of falcons on the planet, and the Mediterranean, where activists and police battle bird poachers—to learn how people are fighting to understand and save the world's great bird migrations.
- Scott Weidensaul is the author of nearly 30 books on natural history, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist *Living on the Wind*, *Return to Wild America* and *The First Frontier*. Weidensaul is a contributing editor for Audubon, a columnist for Bird Watcher's Digest and writes for a variety of other publications, including Living Bird. He is also an active field researcher, studying saw-whet owl migration for more than two decades, as well as winter hummingbirds, bird migration in Alaska, and the winter movement of snowy owls through Project Snowstorm, which he co-founded,
- 12:00-12:15 Concluding Remarks by newly elected COA President

ATTENDANCE REQUIRES ONLINE ACCESS AND PRIOR REGISTRATION!

Registration information will be sent to members and posted on the COA web site in February.

Registration fee is \$10.00 per individual or family membership

## Mega Bowl of Birding in CT Summary

**Chris Loscalzo, Mega Bowl Coordinator**

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Mega Bowl of Birding in CT, held on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, was a great success. Sixty CT birders participated in the event, spread out over much of the state. The top scorers in the 7 counties for which there were participants (nobody signed up for Windham County) were: Karin Dionne in Tolland; Maggie and Jack Peretto in Hartford; Andy Gullberg and Lou Carpino in Litchfield (special mention to Chris Wood who was in a virtual tie with Andy and Lou); Kathy Bishop in New London; Jannie Shapiro in Middlesex; Asher, Eli and Kyle Holton in New Haven; and Aiden Kiley, James Leone, Nicolas Main, and Will Schenck in Fairfield.

There were nine teams that scored 100 or more points. They were: The CYBC DARTH Waders in Fairfield with 93 species and 230 points(!), The Great Horned Holtons in New Haven with 79 species and 162 points, the GoGo Birds in Fairfield with 69 species and 158 points, Team Grogan in Fairfield with 69 species and 149 points, the Snowy Owlkins with 72 species and 138 points, the Masked Ducks with 72 species and 133 points, the Winter Wrenegades with 68 species and 125 points, the So Long and Thanks for the Pish with 62 species and 118 points, and Solo Vireo with 59 species and 100 points (all of the last five teams were in New Haven County).

Rare birds sighted on the day included: Tundra Swan, King Eider, Tufted Duck, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Clapper Rail, Wilson's Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, American Pipit, Boat-tailed Grackle, Baltimore Oriole, Tennessee Warbler, and Cape May Warbler.



Boat-tailed Grackle (Nicolas Main)



Wilson's Snipe (Carol and Gary Lemmon)



Black-crowned Night-Heron (Jo Fasciolo)

99 Species were seen in Fairfield County, 101 species were found in New Haven County, and a total of 130 species were found in the state overall. An impressive collective effort!

All of the top scorers from each county received prizes. Most received 8" x 10" framed photos of some amazing birds. Additional prizes went to the following birders, picked via a random drawing: Cody Limber received the 1-point bird prize (for seeing a Canada Goose!), Severin Uebbing received the 2-point bird prize (for seeing a Common Merganser), Jim Sherwonit received the 3-point bird prize (for seeing an Iceland Gull), and Shane Grogan received the 4-point bird prize (for seeing a Ruddy Duck). The 5/7-point bird prize went to David Woolery. In addition, Jo Fasciolo, DeWitt Allen, and Judy Moore received prizes.

The top scorers from each county and the top scoring team overall selected the CT-based conservation organizations that are to receive donations from COA on behalf of the Mega Bowl event. \$300 is going to A Place Called Hope, \$300 is going to the CT Audubon Society Coastal Center at Milford Point, \$100 to the Audubon CT Bent of the River Sanctuary, \$100 to the Boyd Woods Bird Sanctuary in Litchfield, \$100 to Wickham Park in Manchester and \$100 to the Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby. Next year, we hope to bring back the in-person compilation dinner. But I think everyone was reasonably satisfied with the Zoom meeting we held in its place this year.

Thanks and accolades go to all of the 60 hardy CT birders who braved the cold, wind and snow to participate in this year's Mega Bowl. We hope to see more people out there with us next year!

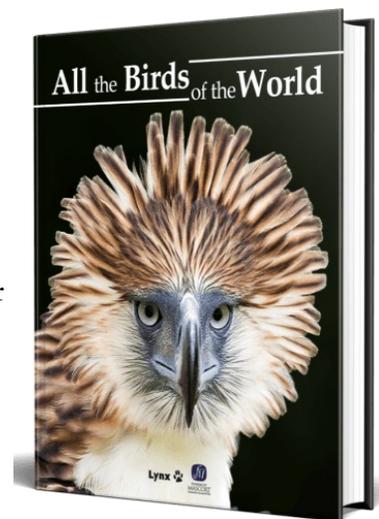
## CT Bird Atlas Big January

This past January we at COA decided to do something a little differently. Instead of a normal Big January (just what is normal these days?) where birders take to the field to try and see the most bird species they can during the month of January, we decided to promote a competition to help the CT Bird Atlas Project. We asked birders to focus on the late winter period under-surveyed atlas blocks and to perform 1 hr surveys in these needy blocks. We also provided prizes to winning participants thanks to the generosity of a very generous anonymous donor, COA, and Min Huang of CTDEEP.

29 birders submitted surveys under the rules of the competition. These selfless individuals combined for 472 one hour surveys. That is the equivalent of over 47 blocks being taken from 0% complete for late winter to 100% complete! Of course the hours were spread over many blocks and as a result the late winter atlas map now has many more blocks with substantial survey data. I simply must take this opportunity on behalf of myself, COA, and the whole Atlas Team to thank everyone who participated. Your efforts are very deeply appreciated. And to those who performed surveys in blocks that weren't eligible for the competition, our deepest thanks as well. This project is citizen science at its finest, and it wouldn't be happening without all of you!

Now, the winners! The competition set the following guidelines to award prizes; First place would be the volunteer who performed the most surveys. Second place would be the volunteer who performed the second most surveys. The young birder who performed the most surveys would be the third guaranteed prize winner. Finally, four participants who performed a minimum of five one hour surveys would be picked by random for the final three awards. And they are:

- **Chris Howe**, First Place (Diamondback 8x42 binoculars by Vortex and a copy of the new book "All the Birds of the World" by Lynx Press.)
- **Shelley Harms**, Second Place (a copy of "All the Birds of the World")
- **Eli Holton**, Young Birder (a copy of "All the Birds of the World" and a signed print of the 2021 Connecticut Junior Duck Stamp Art by winner Julia Phillips)
- **Marianne Loomis**, by random draw (a copy of "All the Birds of the World")
- **Frank Mantlik**, by random draw (a copy of "All the Birds of the World")
- **Larry Lunden**, by random draw (A signed print of the 2021 Connecticut Junior Duck Stamp Art by winner Julia Phillips)
- **Jim Sherwonit**, by random draw (A signed print of the 2021 Connecticut Junior Duck Stamp Art by winner Julia Phillips). Jim has generously offered to have the print awarded to another participant and we are in the process of contacting another individual randomly chosen.



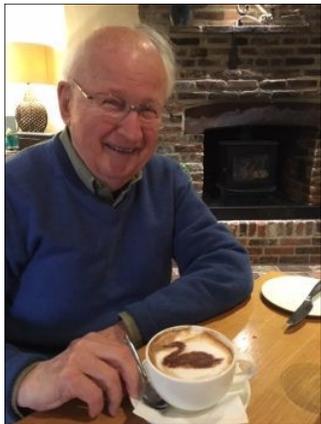
Congratulations to all the winners! Thank you everyone.

### Dave Provencher

CT Bird Atlas Team Member  
Southeast Region Coordinator  
Member COA Board of Directors



## In Memoriam: Fred Schroeder



We are sharing this tribute to the life of Fred Schroeder, which was published by the Connecticut Audubon Society:

Connecticut Audubon is remembering Frederick D. Schroeder, a friend and birding companion as well as a former regional board member and one of the organization's longest active members.

Mr. Schroeder, who lived in Redding, died January 16 at age 86. He and his wife, Jean, were part of a celebration at Connecticut Audubon's 2019 annual meeting of the organization's most loyal members – *40-plus people who had been members for 45 consecutive years or more.*

He worked locally to conserve birds in his hometown, banded birds in Fairfield, volunteered statewide as a board member of the Connecticut Ornithological Association, and was a longtime member of Connecticut Audubon's Fairfield Board of Governors. His love of birds was founded on deep friendships within the birding community.

"We will miss Fred, a man of great intelligence and sly wit who donated so many thousands of hours to conservation activities," Kathleen Van Der Aue, the chair of Connecticut Audubon's Board of Directors, said. "His integrity and skill in accounting made him the ideal treasurer for many birding organizations. His common sense approach and knowledge of the law made him a valuable asset to our Connecticut Audubon Board and several others. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Jean, his wife of 62 years, and the rest of his family."

Milan Bull, Connecticut Audubon's senior director of science and conservation, said that he and Mr. Schroeder were friends for more than three decades.

He said: "From field trips to East Africa, Galapagos, and Texas, to local birding expeditions, Fred has always been the kind of guy who, no matter the circumstance always had just the right sense of humor and good will to keep everyone smiling — including encountering a poisonous snake in the grass in Kenya which terrified Jean!

"He was a gentleman's gentleman with a big heart, a gracious demeanor, and a wonderful intellect that could turn a difficult problem into a simple solution. For his character, ability and generosity he will always be remembered by his friends at Connecticut Audubon, and by me."

Mr. Schroeder was a member of the bird banding team at Birdcraft Sanctuary in Fairfield, and a frequent supportive presence at Connecticut Audubon events and programs. Among his many conservation activities, he served as treasurer of the Connecticut Ornithological Association.

"I've had so many memorable experiences with Fred," Kathleen Van Der Aue said. "While a lot of these centered around meals (always accompanied by a good wine), best were the quiet times, such as when we were working on a citizen science project studying the effects of forest fragmentation on thrushes. We sat in the woods identifying birds by their songs, a skill Fred encouraged me to learn that has enormously enhanced my birding. He also was instrumental in getting my husband to buy my first pair of Swarovskis when we were in Costa Rica on my birthday.

"I think my favorite memory was when we were on a Connecticut Audubon trip to Italy. Fred and I were up at dawn birding, leaving our spouses slumbering on peacefully. We noticed a Chickadee-like bird called a Willow Tit acting somewhat agitated and saw that its attention was centered on a rusty hole in a tennis net stanchion. A man was cutting the grass with a large tractor nearby and we watched breathlessly as the four nestlings fledged from the hole, one at a time, and were safely hustled to a nearby tree by the anxious parents."

Connecticut Audubon Executive Director Patrick Comins said Mr. Schroeder was "a wonderful man" who helped him get his start in the conservation field:

"Fred was absolutely selfless in his service to birds and the environment. He was particularly influential in conservation issues related to grassland bird management and served as a steward for the Town of Redding's important Bobolink nesting areas. Fred provided several decades of critical service to the Connecticut Audubon Society, the Connecticut Ornithological Association and to his home town of Redding — a true champion for the birds and their habitats."

## Winter Photo Gallery



Tundra Swan at Sterling Pond (David Mathieu, 10 Jan 2021)



Black Guillemot at Bluff Point State Park, Groton (Susan Hochgraf, 3 Jan 2021)



Ross's Gull at Hammonasset Beach State Park (Micky Komara, 16 Jan 2021)



California Gull at Bradley Point Park, West Haven (Jo Fasciolo, 16 Feb 2021)



Brown Pelican at Connecticut River Museum, Essex (Mark Danforth, 27 Jan 2021)



Black-headed Gull at Dodge Paddock and Beal Preserve, Stonington (David Mathieu, 8 Jan 2021)

## Winter Photo Gallery



Pine Grosbeak at Canaan Mountain Rd (Barry Marsh, 20 Jan 2021)



Hoary Redpoll at Nod Brook WMA, Avon (Chris Wood, 15 Jan 2021)



Cape May Warbler at Norwalk River Esplanade (David Woolery, 3 Jan 2021)



Prairie Warbler at Norwalk River Esplanade (Christopher Veale, 19 Jan 2021)



Northern Parula at Branford Water Treatment Plant (John Oshlick, 10 Jan 2021)



Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco at Chaplin, CT (Phil Rusch, 19 Feb 2021)

### COA Workshops

#### COA Gull Workshop

Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 7:00 pm, 1.5 hrs  
Free ZOOM Meeting: Link to be provided



Join us as we learn about the gulls of Connecticut. Nick Bonomo will share his considerable knowledge about how to identify members of this extraordinarily challenging group of birds. Nick's presentation will be in two parts: the first half of the talk will teach us how to identify gulls as they go through their various cycles or molts until they reach adulthood. The second half of the talk will review how to identify all of the gull species that can be found in CT, including rarities. This is an outstanding presentation that should not be missed!

Additional workshops are planned in 2021. Stay tuned for future announcements via CTBirds and the COA web site. We look forward to resuming field portions of these workshops at some point as conditions permit.



### COA Membership Renewal Reminder

This year COA is starting the transition to online membership renewals. When you renew your membership online you'll be making even more impact with your contribution. Renewing online saves the printing and mailing costs needed for sending out membership reminder letters, reduces paperwork, and saves COA volunteers visits to the post office and the bank, which is especially important during the pandemic. (Renewal notices were e-mailed to members in mid January)

To renew online visit: <https://www.ctbirding.org/account-help/>

The link will take you to a page describing the account creation process with a link to start it. You will need to use a credit card, debit card, or PayPal account to purchase a membership.

WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT AND RENEW ONLINE IN ORDER TO EASE OUR TRANSITION TO THE ONLINE DATABASE.

.....  
If you are unable to create an account and will pay by check, please make checks payable to: Connecticut Ornithological Association and send with this form to the COA address below. Note that memberships and donations submitted by USPS will not be as promptly attended to; some delay in a response to your form should be expected.

Connecticut Ornithological Association  
314 Unquowa Road,  
Fairfield, CT 06824

#### 2021 Renewal Form

- Individual      \$25/yr
- Student        \$15/yr
- Family         \$35/yr
- Contributing   \$50/yr
- Donor          \$75/yr
- Benefactor     \$100/yr
- Life             \$1000 (payable in three annual installments)

\_\_\_\_\_ Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ Donation

\_\_\_\_\_ Gift Membership

(please add name, address, & email)

\_\_\_\_\_ Total

## **Salt Marsh Restoration at the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge - Great Meadows Unit**

**Rick Potvin, US Fish and Wildlife Service**

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP), collectively known as the “trustees”, are working on a Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) process concerning hazardous waste deposited within and around Stratford, CT. The sites include the Lordship Point Superfund Site, where 4.8 million pounds of lead shot were deposited due to an operating firing range., and the Raymark Industries site, which featured the accumulation of lead, copper, asbestos and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). Upstream of Stratford, on the Housatonic River in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, PCB waste generated at a General Electric plant found its way into the river and ground water.

The trustees are tasked with establishing the extent of natural resource damage, the best methods to repair the damage, and finally addressing the damages by implementing remedial or restoration actions.

Through the NRDA process, which solicited public comment about the possible restoration activities, the trustees chose to restore approximately 30 acres of salt marsh on Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge - Great Meadows Unit (GMU). The NRDA process provided approximately \$750,000 dollars to restore natural resources, which were damaged because of the releases mentioned above. Audubon Connecticut joined the trustees in this restoration project and will bring approximately \$500,000 from a National Wildlife Federation grant, which makes total funds available at this time at \$1.2 million.

The trustees are planning to begin fieldwork on the restoration beginning in the fall of 2021. The restoration will concentrate on six projects or goals for the restoration, which include:

1. Restore a tidal connection to a man-made 0.5-acre pond and existing wetlands dominated by common reed totaling approximately 0.7 acre, which would be connected to an existing intertidal creek channel to provide regular tidal exchange. This creek connection of tidal influences should control common reed and other invasive species and improve habitat for diamond-backed terrapins.
2. Remove fill and construct a channel in a tidally-restricted and filled area southeast of the GMU parking lot. Channel construction is needed in the poorly drained, common reed-dominated southern portion of this area. Regular tidal exchange would allow for access and use by fish and other free-swimming aquatic organisms.
3. The restoration of an approximately 3.8-acre common reed-dominated area on the southeast side of the GMU, adjacent to the walking trail, that is restricted by a culvert and allows for the common reed to thrive. Currently, tidal flooding occurs primarily via two locations along the marsh border through a 2-ft-diameter unrestricted culvert under the walking trail to the east. The culvert will be removed to establish tidal flows.
4. The area just west of the large man-made pond, south of the GMU parking lot was filled in the later 1930s and 1940s to accommodate future buildings. The elevation of this area will be lowered approximately 5 feet to restore 2 acres of low and high marsh. The new elevation range of the marsh restoration will take into account sea-level rise.
5. Remove the defunct culvert and flap gate that currently discharges flows from the landward man-made pond that connects a stormwater basin to the saltmarsh. The removal of the culvert will increase tidal flows in the area and decrease the mosquito population in the area. The large observation deck will no longer be accessible. This observation deck will be removed and replaced by two new observation platforms to increase and support wildlife-dependent recreation.
6. A overall project goal is to control common reed, autumn olive, and other non-native, invasive plant species within the GMU. Invasive plant control will be accomplished by one or more cuttings of common reed, cutting of autumn olive, and one or more herbicide applications to control these non-native plants.

(Continued on page 10) —>

It is expected this project will benefit the state endangered marsh pink and the state species of special concern diamondback terrapin. The saltmarsh sparrow, being threatened by sea level rise, will also benefit from restoration due to the creation of additional nesting habitat. The project area is also the location of mosquito production areas in GMU. The restoration will allow saltwater to enter these areas where freshwater is now trapped that encourages mosquito production. Establishing tidal flows in these areas will provide access for fish to feed on mosquito larvae and reduce the available freshwater, which will reduce mosquito populations.

In summary, this project will provide habitat improvements for species of concern, provide public health benefits with the reduction of mosquito populations, and provide more opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation.



## **Twenty-Five Years Ago in *The Connecticut Warbler***

Compiled by Steve Broker

Volume XVI, No. 1 (January 1996)

### CONTENTS (in part)

**Sixth Report of the Connecticut Rare Records Committee, by Mark Szantyr, Frank W. Mantlik, and David Provencher**

**\*The Connecticut Rare Records Committee: An Overview, by Louis R. Bevier**

**\*Documenting a Rare Bird, by Louis R. Bevier**

**\*Guidelines for Submission of Rare Records, by Julian Hough**

**\*Vagrant Birds and the Question of Origin, by Greg Hanisek**

**\*First Pacific Loon for Connecticut, by Greg Hanisek**

**\*Razorbill in Connecticut, by David R. Provencher**

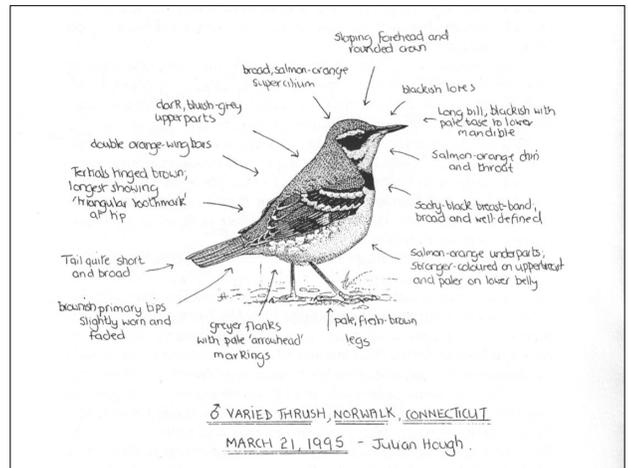
Editor's Notes: This entire issue of *The Connecticut Warbler* was devoted to the work of the Connecticut Rare Records Committee (now known as the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut) and to the documentation of avian rarities in the state. The Sixth Report of ARCC cleared a several year backlog of reported sightings. The committee's "principal aim is to provide a complete and accurate record of rare birds seen in Connecticut." The authors explained that all records and committee deliberations are archived at the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History in Storrs. Additions to the official state list of birds included Pacific Loon, Bridled Tern, Razorbill, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Mountain Bluebird, plus then established populations of Monk Parakeet, bringing the statewide total to 396 species. Four additional species that moved from the Hypothetical list (written descriptions only) to full status (with accompanying photographs) were Tufted Duck, Arctic Tern, Bohemian Waxwing, and Black-throated Gray Warbler. Forty-seven reports were accepted by the twelve member committee, and 32 reports were not accepted. The report provides a detailed look at the deliberations of ARCC and the reasons for either accepting or not accepting each report. The current review species list, updated in January 2020, still shows 23 species with reports considered in 1996 but has dropped 23 species from the 1996 list because of significantly increased sightings or for species that have since expanded their normal ranges into Connecticut.

Louis Bevier's overview of CRRC recognized the founding members of this COA committee: Dennis Varza, Joe Zeranski, George Clark, and Fred Sibley. He noted that "a major aim of the CRRC has been to improve the quality of documentation for [avian] records." Review List species typically "average fewer than five occurrences annually," and also include difficult to identify species and species new to the state. A separate list contains Connecticut's rare breeding species. His comments about rare subspecies are of interest given the present day spate of reports of subspecies to ctbirds. The last AOU (now AOS) Check-List of North American Birds to treat subspecies was the Fifth Edition (1957). The term Hypothetical is defined by CRRC "to designate species credibly reported in the state but lacking extant photograph or specimen." In 1996, Labrador Duck and Greater

Prairie-Chicken (Health Hen) were the only hypothetical species on the official state list. This article ends with short biographies of then sitting members of CRRC and also lists those who had served previously on CRRC.

Louis Bevier's follow-up article, Documenting a Rare Bird, provides important advice on how all birders can contribute to producing records of bird distributions and benefiting bird conservation. "For most of us, the basic form of documentation is the written description based on notes *taken while studying a bird.*" A field sketch from Julian Hough's observation of a Varied Thrush in Norwalk, Connecticut on March 21, 1995 exemplifies thorough documentation of an avian rarity. Photographs, and audio recordings further enhance bird reports. The article concludes with suggested publications that describe how to prepare comprehensive bird reports.

Julian Hough follows with Guidelines for Submission of Rare Records, calling for written descriptions that include "all relevant details of the bird" and sketches or photographs, regardless of skill of sketch or quality of photo. An important section of this article explains why some reported sightings are not accepted by CRRC: "(1) the written information did not conform to the currently accepted criteria used to identify that particular species", or (2) the submission lacked sufficient detail." The article concludes with a now widely used outline for rare record reports.



Greg Hanisek's Vagrant Birds and the Question of Origin addresses "two broad categories: (A) birds that have escaped from captivity, and (B) birds that have arrived by artificial means." In the first category, he uses the examples of such "cage birds" as parrots, tropical finches, and escapee African Pin-tailed Whydahs, along with a favorite raptor of falconers, the Harris's Hawk of western North America. He also considers such waterfowl commonly kept in captivity as Barnacle Goose, also known to occur as a long-distance migrant. In the second category, he mentions "poor candidates for long-range vagrancy, especially across oceans." Did they hitch a ride on a ship? Did they hop a ride on a railroad boxcar, as Rock Wrens (not presently on the Connecticut state list) have been known to do?

Two case studies of rare occurrences follow in this issue: the first Connecticut record of Pacific Loon (seen by Greg Hanisek on December 3, 1992 on Long Island Sound at West Haven), an identification that was complicated by the fact that the very similar Arctic Loon was previously considered conspecific with Pacific Loon, and; the first well documented Connecticut record for Razorbill (found by Dave Provencher on December 16 & 17, 1993 on Long Island Sound in Waterford. Each of these authors (also members of CRRC/ARCC) provides detailed descriptions of the distribution and status of the species they found.

This issue of *The Connecticut Warbler* provides birders with invaluable information on documenting and reporting bird sightings as part of one's own note-taking or making submissions to a state review committee. Unlike previous Twenty-Five Years Ago columns, I have treated the issue as a book review rather than extracting edited quotes from the articles. The Connecticut Ornithological Association would do well to consider republishing the issue, similar to the way the January 2005 issue on "Connecticut Birds by the Season" was republished (and now is in the process of being updated), and perhaps with further comments by the current Avian Records Committee of Connecticut.

See also Books on Birds, by Alan H. Brush, and Connecticut Field Notes, by Greg Hanisek. The cover drawing of Northern Shrike is by Julian Hough. The January 1996 issue of *The Connecticut Warbler* can be seen in its entirety at the following link to the COA website. Download Volume 16, and view pages 1-56.

<https://ctbirding.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/CTWarblerVolume16.pdf>

**CONNECTICUT  
ORNITHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION**

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Fairfield, CT 06824  
www.ctbirding.org



**COA OFFICERS**

President	Chris Loscalzo, Woodbridge, CT
Vice President	Tom Robben, Glastonbury, CT
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Treasurer	Paul Wolter, Beacon Falls, CT

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Avian Records	Jay Kaplan
Research	Tom Robben
Workshops	Chris Loscalzo
The Connecticut Warbler	Greg Hanisek
COA Bulletin	Andrew Dasinger
Christmas Bird Count Compiler	Steve Broker
Summer Bird Count Compilers	Tom Robben, Patrick Comins
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 April 30, 2021 to the editor at [amdasinger@gmail.com](mailto:amdasinger@gmail.com)