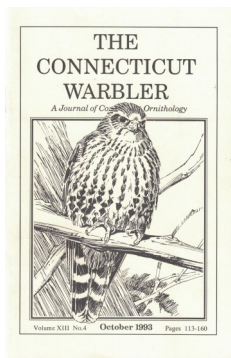


# COA Bulletin



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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.

## 119th Christmas Bird Count: Still Counting After All These Years

Steve Broker

[Birding always involves looking forward but also looking backward. In that spirit both of constancy and change, the following article on the 92nd Connecticut Christmas Bird Count is reproduced (in part) from the Winter 1991 issue of the COA Bulletin. Some things do change, and some remain the same.]

Seasonal changes progress, and thoughts turn to upcoming Christmas Bird Counts. Again, the question arises, why do we go out all day or part of a day to look for birds in mid-winter? Our answers are varied and many. The National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts are the oldest annual censusing of bird populations in America, having been conducted each year since 1900.

On Christmas Bird Counts we share fun times with old friends and new. We improve our knowledge of field identification and bird behavior. We hope for rarities. We brave the elements, birding in sunshine or rain, gentle breezes or blizzard, warmth or freezing cold as the day's conditions dictate. We may devote early morning hours to locating owls, snipe, or woodcock. We bird in areas that we may not visit at any other time of the year, as we seek to cover our count circles thoroughly. We discover the predictable and the unpredictable. For those who thrive on competition, that too may be part of the appeal of this 24-hour quest for birds.

Whatever our reasons, we know that this is one of the best times of the year to experience our enjoyment of birds. Last year nearly 900 field observers and feeder watchers participated in one or more of 17 Christmas Bird Counts in Connecticut. Collectively, we counted more than 400,000 birds representing 163 different species.

Among the birds sighted were such rarities (for early winter) as Great Egret, Barnacle Goose, Peregrine Falcon, Sora, Laughing Gull, Barn Owl, Snowy Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Common Raven, Wood Thrush, Northern Shrike, Orange-crowned, Black-and-white, and Wilson's warblers, Painted Bunting, and Brewer's Blackbird.

The mid- to late-December and early January weather of 1990-91 was generally much warmer than in previous years. Still, we had to contend with heavy rain and fog on many count days. One consequence of the difficult weather was a higher number of feeder watchers at the expense of field observers; yet, participate we did.

Some of the species trends observed in recent years continued with the 1990-91 count. Turkey Vulture, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Carolina Wren, all southern species, were again recorded in new high numbers as they continue a year-round expansion into the state. Bald Eagle and Eastern Bluebird numbers were high, reflecting their continued population recoveries. American Kestrel and Ruffed

Grouse were counted in low numbers, which is consistent with observed declines in their northeastern populations. Virginia Rail, American Coot, Marsh Wren, and Eastern Meadowlark reversed downward slides, at least temporarily. A big incursion of Northern Shrike was a highlight of the count.

So, let's do it again! Check the list of Christmas Bird Counts below, and contact the CBC compiler in your area for details on participating in this special birding event.

## **119<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT CONNECTICUT CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2018-2019 SCHEDULE**

\* = CONFIRMED BY COMPILER

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018:**

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

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

\*Woodbury-Roxbury, CT (CTWR) Compiler: Ken Elkins, Audubon Center at Bent of the River, 185 East Flat Hill Road, Southbury, CT 06488, [kelkins@audubon.org](mailto:kelkins@audubon.org)  
203-405-9113  
(Western Connecticut Bird Club)

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018:**

\*Greenwich-Stamford, CT (CTGS) Compiler: Cynthia Ehlinger, 27A Sheephill Road, Riverside, CT 06878,  
[cynthia.ehlinger@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.ehlinger@gmail.com) 203-219-1963  
(Audubon Greenwich)

\*Hartford, CT (CTHA): Compilers: Jay Kaplan, 71 Gracey Road, Canton, CT 06019 [jaybrd49@aol.com](mailto:jaybrd49@aol.com) 860-693-0263 (days), 860-693-0157 (evenings), 860-707-5246 (cell), and Steve Davis,  
[stevesuedavis@comcast.net](mailto:stevesuedavis@comcast.net) 860-242-2135.  
(Hartford Audubon Society)

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

\*Lakeville-Sharon (Trixie Strauss CBC), CT (CTLS) Compiler: Zachary Adams,  
[za4250@hotmail.com](mailto:za4250@hotmail.com) (Sharon Audubon Center/National Audubon Society, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, CT 06069, <http://sharon.audubon.org/>, 860-364-0520 or 717-926-3926  
(Housatonic Audubon Society)

\*Oxford, CT (CTOX) Compiler: Roy Harvey, 32 Wanda Drive, Beacon Falls, CT 06403, [rmharvey@snet.net](mailto:rmharvey@snet.net)  
203-888-5757 or 203-651-9818 (cell)

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

\*Salmon River, CT (CTSR) Compilers: Sharon Dellinger, 930 Middletown Road, Colchester, CT 06415, [rsdell@comcast.net](mailto:rsdell@comcast.net) 860-803-1626, and Doreen Jezek. 11 Casner Road, East Haddam, CT 06423, [dajezek@gmail.com](mailto:dajezek@gmail.com) 859-492-1656  
(Mattabeseck Audubon Society)

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

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2018:**

\*Barkhamsted, CT (CTBA) Compiler: David Tripp, Jr., 97 Hunter Court, Torrington, CT 06790, [dtrippjr@gmail.com](mailto:dtrippjr@gmail.com)  
(Litchfield Hills Audubon Society)

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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018:**

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

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2018:**

\*Bristol, CTBR Compiler: Jack Swatt, 226 Long Swamp Road, Wolcott, CT 06716, [jswattbirds@gmail.com](mailto:jswattbirds@gmail.com) 203-592-4686

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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018:**

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

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

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019:**

\*Pawling (Hidden Valley), NY/CT (NYHV) Compilers: Carena Pooth, [carena@prodigy.net](mailto:carena@prodigy.net) and Angela Dimmitt, P.O. Box 146, Sherman, CT 06784, [angeladimmitt@aol.com](mailto:angeladimmitt@aol.com), 860-355-3429  
(Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club)  
[SNOW DATE IS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2019]

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2019:**

\*Guilford-Long Island Sound, CTGL Compilers: Tom Kelly, [thomask567@aol.com](mailto:thomask567@aol.com) and Louise Kelly, [lkelly0731@yahoo.com](mailto:lkelly0731@yahoo.com) 203-430-3180  
(Menunkatuck Audubon Society)

## 2018 Connecticut Big Sit Results

Compiled by Andrew Dasinger

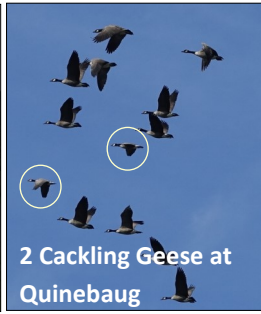
Started by the New Haven Bird Club and now hosted by *Bird Watcher's Digest*, the Big Sit was held on the second weekend of October. It is an annual tradition enjoyed by a number of teams in Connecticut stationed at some of the state's prime fall inland and coastal birding locations. Information on five of the Big Sit teams is shown below. (A number of other teams also participated in Connecticut ([link](#))). This year the weather was favorable, and record or near-record species counts were achieved at many sites.

Site	Glastonbury Meadows	Quinebaug Valley State Trout Hatchery	Station 43	Milford Point	Stratford Point
<b>Town</b>	Glastonbury	Central Village	South Windsor	Milford	Stratford
<b>Team name</b>	Glastonbury Meadow Scopers	Baugwatchers	Hartford Audubon	B.W. Surf Scopers	The Zeep Complex
<b>Site description</b>	2-level picnic table platform in elevated grassy clearing, with views of a marsh, flooded swale, abandoned pasture, corn fields, a grove of trees with weedy understory	Circle is at an elevated location on the property, which borders mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland, and looks out over several ponds, grassland and tree line along the Quinebaug River	Hartford Audubon platform overlooks Station 43 Marsh to east. To the west are farm fields (corn this year), and eventually, the Connecticut River (not visible from platform). To north and south is more wetland and brushlands.	CAS outer observation platform, with 360 degree views of ocean, river mouth, tidal marsh, mudflats, beach and sand bars, breakwater, coastal scrub, dunes	From garage roof; views of Short Beach and river mouth, Milford Pt. & sandbars, breakwater, virtually all open water, uplands and meadows, bird feeders and lawn, and the 'Coast Guard strip' and associated snags
<b>Start/finish</b>	5:30 AM to 2:30 PM	5:00 AM to 6:45 PM	6 AM to 1 PM	4:20 AM to 7:20 PM	5:30 AM to 8:30 PM
<b>Observers</b>	Bill Asteriades, Andrew Dasinger, Denise Jernigan	Robert Dixon, Jason Rieger, Doug Warner, Bob Beaumont, Aaron Bourque, Tim Thompson, Dylan Pedro	Brian and Luke Kleinman, Jay Kaplan, Ernie Harris, Maggie Peretto, Catherine Chalk, Rob and Alberta Mirer	Frank Gallo, Jim and Patrick Dugan, Frank Mantlik, Tom Murray, Dave Tripp, Fran Zygmunt, Gina Nichol, Nick Bonomo	Stefan Martin, Jory Teltser, Preston Lust, Chandler Wiegand
<b># of species</b>	71	64	56	115	105
<b>How this year ranked</b>	1st out of 7 years	1st out of 5 years	? out of 21 years	2nd out of 25 years	1st out of 1 year
<b>First species</b>	Ring-necked Pheasant	Swainson's Thrush	Wood Duck	Great Blue Heron	Savannah Sparrow
<b>Last species</b>	Palm Warbler	Pileated Woodpecker	Bald Eagle	Rusty Blackbird	Yellow-cr. Night Heron
<b>Best species</b>	Brant (16), Virginia Rail, Sora, Greater Yellowlegs (7), Pectoral Sandpiper, Chimney Swift, Pileated Woodpecker, Rusty Blackbird (3), Lincoln's Sparrow	Cackling Goose (2), N Shoveler (2), Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Black-throated Green Warbler	Com. Loon, Pectoral Sandpiper, Chimney Swift, Com. Raven, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Winter Wren, Am. Pipit, Rusty Blackbird	Sora, Gray-cheeked Thrush (3), Rusty Blackbird, Am. Bittern (2), Tennessee Warbler, plus many more	N. Pintail, Barred Owl, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Least Flycatcher, Grasshopper & Clay-colored Sparrow, Evening Grosbeak, Am. Redstart
<b>Worst misses</b>	Gray Catbird, Common Grackle	Rock Pigeon, Tree Swallow	Rock Pigeon	Gray Catbird	Killdeer, Gr Yellowlegs, Red-tailed Hawk
<b>Link to full list</b>	<a href="#">list</a>	<a href="#">list</a>	<a href="#">list</a>	<a href="#">list</a>	<a href="#">list</a>
<b>Cumulative # of species</b>	114	87	116	191	105

### Scenes from the 2018 Big Sit



Quinebaug Fish Hatchery Baugwatchers



2 Cackling Geese at Quinebaug



Glastonbury Meadows picnic table platform



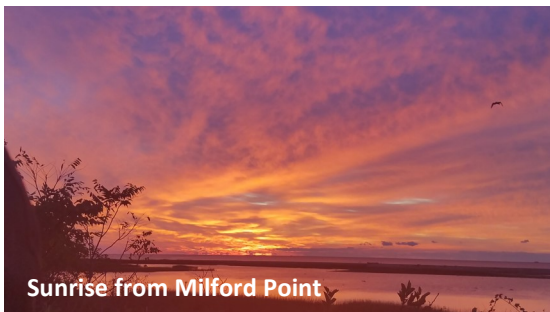
B.W. Surf Scopers on platform



Milford Point American Bittern



Sunrise at Station 43



Sunrise from Milford Point



Station 43 observers on platform



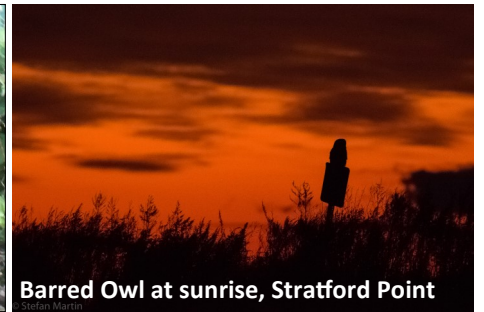
Station 43 Ruby-cr. Kinglet



The Zeep Complex @ Stratford Pt.



Clay-colored Sparrow, Stratford Point



Barred Owl at sunrise, Stratford Point

### 2019 COA Annual Meeting—Save the Date!

The Connecticut Ornithological Association’s 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting is being held on **Saturday, March 23, 2019** at Middlesex Community College, Middletown.

Look for a future announcement of the three guest speakers, whom we are in the process of selecting. The full program will be provided in the Spring 2019 COA Bulletin and on the COA web site, along with registration instructions. As before, there will also be award presentation ceremonies, a marketplace of birding related goods and services, and an exciting raffle.



Printable Calendars from 123Calendars.com

## Noble S. Proctor Memorial Bench at Branford Supply Ponds

“Always Something to See.” These words are engraved on the Stony Creek Granite bench dedicated to Noble S. Proctor on October 14, 2018 at his favorite field study site, Branford Supply Ponds. The Branford Open Space Authority and Noble’s wife, Carolyn Proctor, held the dedication on a trail bluff overlooking the water, with several dozen friends and colleagues of Noble’s in attendance. The printed program accompanying the dedication includes a listing of the 266 species of birds that Noble recorded at Branford Supply Ponds over forty years of morning naturalist walks. Each species listed includes comments on status, and multiyear comparisons of spring arrival dates are given for wood-warblers and vireos.



### COA Bulletin Treasure Hunt!

Did you know that COA’s publications, *The Connecticut Warbler*, and the *COA Bulletin*, are online at our web site, [www.ctbirding.org](http://www.ctbirding.org)? Go to the “[Publications](#)” dropdown tab and choose either the *Warbler* or the *Bulletin* to explore the rich history of our organization.



We recently completed uploading ALMOST all of the *Bulletins*, but a few have escaped our careful hunt for a complete run. We still need [Volume 7, Number 2](#) (Summer 1993) and [Volume 13, Number 2](#) (Summer 1998) – who knows what exciting content we are missing?

COA is offering a **special reward** (in addition to the gratitude of your Board and the entire membership, of course) to the first person or persons to supply or lend these issues to us for scanning: a free COA decal for your car or window. If you have one or both issues, please email [COABulletin@gmail.com](mailto:COABulletin@gmail.com) with your name and contact details, and we will arrange to scan the issues and deliver your prize decal.

In the meantime, enjoy exploring the early days of COA via the *Bulletin* – imagine there being a sufficient population of Barn Owls in Connecticut to start a banding program! See Vol. 1, No. 1, Spring 1987 for details. Or look at Vol. 8, No. 2, Summer 1994 for several articles recounting a remarkable spring migration. The adventures of a Connecticut Big Day, COA at the World Series of Birding, and a spectacular day of banding at Birdcraft will make your head spin!

### COA Annual Meeting Raffle Volunteers Needed

For the 2019 COA annual meeting, Chris Howe is the new raffle coordinator. She is in need of some able assistants to help make the raffle even better than ever. Please contact Chris by email at [CLHowe2@yahoo.com](mailto:CLHowe2@yahoo.com) or by phone at 203-389-1175 to join the raffle team. No previous raffle experience required.



## Photos of Notable Fall 2018 Birds



Roseate Spoonbill at Ravens Pond, Stratford  
(Lesley Roy, 10/23/18)



Ruff at Hammonasset Beach State Park (Christine  
Howe, 9/7/18)



Hudsonian Godwit at Hammonasset Beach State  
Park (Bill Batsford, 10/20/18)



Rufous Hummingbird at Westport (Chris Wood,  
10/28/18)



Western Kingbird at Bluff Point (Dave Provencher,  
9/29/18) - observed during morning flight



Evening Grosbeak, Andover (Chris Elphick,  
10/26/18)

## COA Sparrow Workshop, Silver Sands State Park

Chris Loscalzo

Twenty-five enthusiastic birders attended the COA Sparrow Workshop on Saturday, October 20, 2018 at Sherwood Island State Park. They began the workshop by listening to a review of the sparrows of Connecticut within the confines of the Park Office building. They were gracious in accepting the technical difficulties that we encountered that led to the presentation of the slide show on the computer rather than the overhead screen. The workshop kicked into high gear when the group went outside to look for birds in the park, utilizing Tina Green's intimate knowledge of the park's environs as our guide. There were lots of sparrows in several locations. Nine species of sparrows were observed overall, including Field, White-crowned, Vesper, Savannah, and Swamp. Notable non-sparrow species observed during the two hour plus outdoor session included Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Brown Creeper, Purple Finch, Golden- and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Eastern Meadowlark, Nashville Warbler, and late migrant Chimney Swifts. A good time was had by all. We all increased our knowledge of, and gained a greater appreciation for, the sparrows of Connecticut!



The classroom portion of the workshop (Laurie Reynolds)



A textbook Vesper Sparrow (Chris Wood)



Bald Eagle (Chris Wood)

### Upcoming Workshop

#### Sea Duck Workshop

Saturday, December 1, 2018 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am  
Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison

Learn how to identify the different waterfowl species that visit our coast in fall and winter, including loons, grebes, scoters, eider, and scaup. We'll review how to differentiate between similar species. After a discussion session, we'll look out into the sound to see what we can find. Meet at the nature center parking lot. Bring a scope if you have one. Leader and contact person:

Chris Loscalzo at [closcalz@optonline.net](mailto:closcalz@optonline.net) and 203 389-6508.



## Connecticut Bird Atlas Update



### Winter Surveys

Field work for the winter atlas has begun and runs until the end of February. For the winter atlas, the goal is to get a complete list of birds that occur in each atlas block in both early (Nov-Dec) and late (Jan-Feb) winter. A secondary goal is to map the relative abundance of each species across the state. Although birding is not always as exciting in winter as during the summer, this will be the first ever systematic, statewide survey of Connecticut's winter birds, so we hope that everyone will wrap up warm and visit their blocks. Given the way the winter finch migration is shaping up, this might be a good year to find some interesting birds as northern species move south in bigger numbers than normal.

One difference from the breeding atlas is that the winter atlas includes several different types of survey. The most important are timed one-hour surveys, which will form the core data set. If you do nothing else, focus your birding effort on these. Choose a site within your block and survey the area on foot, counting all individuals detected – much as one would do during a Christmas Count. Repeat this for up to 10 sites in your block, and survey each once during early winter, and again during late winter.

For those able to commit more time to the project we have devised three specialized surveys designed to provide better information about the numbers of birds that use inland waterbodies, shorelines (Long Island Sound, plus major rivers and lakes), and roost sites. In each case, identify a location – either a lake or pond, a point on the shore, or a place where you know birds come in to roost – and visit that site on a regular basis to count the target species. These counts need not take very long, but will provide better information on species that might be missed during one-hour counts, and a sense of how use of these locations changes over time.

For the inland waterbody and shoreline surveys, we are primarily interested in waterbirds. For the roost counts, we are interested in whatever type of species use the roost you have picked. In all three surveys, we are also interested in any birds of prey seen.

And, as with the breeding atlas, incidental observations from anywhere in the state – especially places where few people go birding – are also valuable as they may add to a block's species count.

All of the field protocols and data sheets are on the atlas web site. For one stop shopping, go to the Data Forms page, where there are links to all data forms and associated field protocols: <http://www.ctbirdatlas.org/Surveys-Data-forms.htm>.

Data can be submitted via the forms at this link, or via eBird. If you are using eBird, then share your checklist with the ctbirdatlas account and be sure to identify the type of survey you did in the checklist's comment box. This information will be essential for us to separate the different types of data when we do the analysis. Exactly how you should reference each type of survey is detailed in the protocols.

Because most people are familiar with the basic atlas block structure and data entry methods after the breeding season, and because there is no equivalent of breeding codes to explain, formal training sessions have not been planned. The web site does have guidance on counting birds, especially large flocks. If you have questions about anything, please contact the atlas team. Any common problems will be addressed on the blog.

### Summer Data

Although data analysis for the summer has been delayed while we get the winter season up and running, we have almost finished all of the data entry and have begun quality control checks. The interactive map now includes information on the time spent surveying each block this summer, and in mid-December we plan to add lists of the species detected in each block. At that time, we will be asking everyone to review the lists for their blocks to help us identify mistakes that have been made, or species records that have been missed. We will then update all of the species list and produce preliminary species maps before next summer's field season begins.

- *Chris Elphick* (on behalf of the atlas team)

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

Compiled by Steve Broker

Volume XIII, No. 4 (October 1993)

### A Third Adult Bald Eagle Takes an Active Part in Raising Young Eagles in Connecticut, by Donald A. Hopkins, Gerald Mersereau, and Michael J. O'Leary

Bald Eagles successfully nested in Connecticut (Victoria 1993) in 1993, for a second consecutive year [at Barkhamsted Reservoir]. The resident adult pair produced one chick, believed to have hatched May 1. On June 9, at the time of banding, a captive-bred chick (hatched April 28) was added to the nest. In 1993, 36 observations of the nest were made between April 3 and August 15. The earliest indication of a third adult in the area occurred July 17. [On that date] the third adult flew into the nest with a fish, which it fed to the young, then sat in the nest tree for one hour and 39 minutes before flying north.

On July 18 the third adult was seen eating a fish on the same perch upon which it was observed the previous day. The last digit on the [bird's] gold band was identified at that time. This adult departed after 10 minutes. By July 23 both young had fledged and were alternating their time between the nest and shore line. On July 24 the third adult (gold band) eagle brought food to the fledglings, in the nest and on the shore, remaining in attendance for a period of seven hours and 23 minutes. The parent eagles were not seen during this time.



The parent eagles have defended the whole length (13.5 km) of the Barkhamsted Reservoir since 1990, when they first attempted to nest. The appearance of a third adult, late in the breeding cycle, may have been the result of the parents relaxing their guard as the young grew large enough to fledge. It may also have been a result of the third bird's persistence in withstanding the challenge of the parent eagles, which may have taken place outside our view. The behaviors of the third eagle would seem to indicate a case of fidelity for a nest site outside its natal area, and a strong urge by an adult male to perform his natural parental duties. [Ed's Note: In 2018, Bald Eagles held 55 active territories in the state, with 38 successful nests producing 68 chicks (DEEP). Don Hopkins, Gerry Mersereau, Mike O'Leary, and their Bald Eagle Study Group colleagues have, along with CT DEEP wildlife biologists, monitored the nesting of Bald Eagles and banded their young since the return of eagles attempting breeding in Connecticut nearly 30 years ago. Don and Gerry were contemporaries in age. Gerry passed away in 2005, and Don died in August of this year. Don was the 1994 recipient of COA's Mabel Osgood Wright Award. See Julie Victoria's heartfelt tribute to Don Hopkins in the July/August 2018 issue of *Connecticut Wildlife*.]

### The 1993 Summer Bird Count, by Joseph Zeranski

Summer Bird Counts (SBC) are always sure to produce some surprises. This year King Rail, Red-Headed Woodpecker, Summer Tanager, and Evening Grosbeak were new Count Day treats. Additional species of note included White-winged Scoter, one of numerous non-breeding vagrant waterfowl present this year, Northern Harrier, Horned Lark, Sedge Wren, Monk Parakeet, and Barn Owl. They brought the cumulative SBC total to 225 species, of which 200 have been seen since COA assumed SBC sponsorship in 1991. Sixty-one of these species have been found annually during this three year period, while 59 species have been reported yearly on all existing SBCs. [Ed's Note: Highlights of the 1993 SBC are given along with summaries of the 8 counts held that year. Since the founding of the Greenwich-Stamford SBC in 1976, Joe Zeranski has been the driving force in elevating the Connecticut Summer Bird Count statewide. He writes, "Summer Bird Counts allow us to become much better acquainted with our summer birds and enrich our understanding of local and regional bird distribution patterns." Joe is the 2010 recipient of the Mabel Osgood Wright Award. See his *Connecticut Warbler* article (October 2017) on the 2017 CT SBC, coauthored with Patrick Comins.]

**Ruth A. Lof: 1913-1992, by George A. Clark, Jr.**

Ruth Lof was a leading bird bander and a major participant in bird study in northeastern Connecticut. [O]n the recommendation of Dr. James A. Slater of the University [of Connecticut], Ruth Lof became the master permittee for banding under the Natchaug Ornithological Society (NOS) permit. She began with a group of 11 subpermittees. Ruth remained as the master permittee into the early 1980s and thereafter assisted with the banding and record-keeping. Such banding, conducted according to standard procedures established and regulated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is a major technique for learning about the movements, mortality, longevity, and other aspects of the lives of wild birds. [Ed's Note: George Clark discusses the many accomplishments of Ruth Lof, including her introduction to bird-banding, the discoveries made by her with collaborators Winnie Burkett, Marilyn "Sam" Higgins, and Shirley Davis, her mentoring of UConn students, her rehabilitation of wild birds, and her contributions to Christmas Bird Counts. George Clark, now living in Vermont, served as state ornithologist and was professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UConn. He received the Mabel Osgood Wright Award in 1994.]

See also: Winter Scaup Population in Connecticut Coastal Waters, by John S. Barclay and James M. Zingo; Connecticut Field Notes, Spring: March 1-May 31, 1993, by Jay Kaplan; Photo Challenge, by Louis Bevier. These articles in the October 1993 issue of *The Connecticut Warbler* can be viewed in their entirety at the following link. Scroll down to pages 113-160.

<http://www.ctbirding.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/CTWarblerVolume13.pdf>

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## **COA Mini-Grant Applications due 1/15/19**

COA has a grant program to help fund and support initiatives within the state of Connecticut which specifically benefit the avian wildlife in our state. It has always been part of COA's mission to reach out to all of those in Connecticut who appreciate our state's birds and support bird management/conservation initiatives whenever possible. Applications for funding are due on or before January 15, 2019. Grants are awarded at the COA Annual Meeting in March. Follow this link for more information and links to download the forms.

<http://www.ctbirding.org/resources/coa-mini-grant/>

## **Zepko Audubon Camp Scholarship**

COA encourages young birders 14 to 17 years old to apply for the Zepko Audubon Camp Scholarship, offered through the great generosity of one of our founding members, George W. Zepko.

The Zepko Audubon Camp Scholarship nurtures interest in bird study and conservation among young birders. The 2019 scholarship covers the full cost of the "Mountain to Seas Birding for Teens" program at Hog Island Audubon Camp during the week of June 23-28, 2019. The cost includes housing, boat travel, and all meals. Further information and the application form can be found on the COA web site, [www.ctbirding.org](http://www.ctbirding.org).



# CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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