



BULLETIN

VOLUME I No. 1 SPRING

Dear COA Members:

Here is our first try at a newsletter. We hope to turn it out quarterly, about March, June, September, and December first. The purpose is to further the objectives of the COA, as stated in the bylaws: (1) to promote an interest in and an appreciation of birds and, (2) to facilitate cooperation within the ornithological community -- amateur and professional.

We hope the BULLETIN will encourage more active involvement on the part of all of our members, and serve as a means of communication between us.

The newsletter will be on a trial and error basis -- content and format always subject to change. It will not be fancy -- cost is a concern. Content will be largely announcements of all sorts -- meetings, trips, colorbanding of birds, etc; requests for information; just about anything. We invite your suggestions and any material you may wish to share with COA members. There is no guarantee to print all, but we'll do our best. As has been said, the newsletter is of the members, by the members, and for the members.

Todd Weintz has generously volunteered to be the Editor. Todd is an avid birder, not just in Connecticut, but all over North America.

Sincerely,

Neil Currie, President

P.S. I am pleased to tell you the response to the 1986 new membership campaign, the renewal campaign, and to the "Wish List" mailing have been more than gratifying. Thank you! We are particularly hopeful that the several Audubon Chapters will help promote membership. We now have upwards of 300 members and the "Wish List" campaign has raised over \$1,000. A concerned group of members has placed the COA in a solid position for the year 1987.

1987 ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Remember -- the COA will be holding its annual meeting on Saturday, April 11, 1987, at Connecticut College in New London. A full day of events, including bird walks, workshops, the business meeting, and keynote address has been scheduled.

All are invited to attend. For further information, contact George Zepko at 347-1133, or write to Box 966, Middletown, CT 06457.

The New England Hawk Watch is April 18-19, 25-26.

COMMON BARN OWL INFORMATION WANTED

George W. Zepko, Clayton Taylor, and Marcia M. Klattenberg have been banding Common Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) at their nests under the direction of Dr. Fred C. Sibley. Starting in 1980 with only one nest, they are now monitoring and banding the young from four nests in Middletown and Middlefield, Connecticut.

To date they have banded 93 young and 2 adults, and have received two reports of their banded birds being found. One was from Madison, Connecticut, and the other from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

Barn Owls rarely spend the winter at inland Connecticut sites, although some occasionally spend the winter in towns along the Connecticut shoreline. They will be returning to their nesting locations toward the end of March and their presence will be apparent from their loud screams given during the night.

Although there are not many Common Barn Owl pairs nesting in Connecticut, there are certainly more than the four pairs cited above. If you have any information about Barn Owl nesting locations in Connecticut, or even recent Barn Owl sightings, George Zepko would like to hear from you. If you want your information to be kept confidential, he will honor your request.

Please send your Common Barn Owl information to: Barn Owl Nesting Project, Box 966, Middletown, CT 06457, or call George Zepko at 203-347-1133. Be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number.

At the end of the year, those people who have supplied information about Connecticut Barn Owls will receive a copy of the status report for the year.

NEW! ... THE 300-CLUB

How many species can a single observer find in Connecticut in one day? How many in a year? How big a list can any of us compile within Connecticut's borders, three million acres of rather varied Transition Zone country? That depends, on you and a lot of other variables.

It is to help answer some of these questions that COA will sponsor a 300-Club. The rules of the game will be announced soon. We think anyone willing to bird actively in Connecticut can rather soon attain a State List of 250 species, the number one would expect to find somewhere in our state. Some extra leg work should push that total to 275, but after that it takes time and a good deal of extra work, and luck, to achieve the recognition of actually seeing 300 or more species.

The goal of the 300-Club is to encourage more birders to be aware of the rich diversity of birds that live in our state, and, hopefully, the importance of keeping them here. Three hundred is a target at which to aim. It should help beginners be aware this is possible; and knowing who has achieved this benchmark may both encourage and spur others to go and do likewise. In itself, belonging to the 300-Club may not mean much more than wearing another arm patch; but getting there will be indicative of some interesting characteristics, and is sure to be half the fun!

REVIEW LIST

Connecticut Ornithological Association
Connecticut Rare Records Committee

The following is a list of bird species for which the COA Rare Records Committee (RRC) would like to receive information on sightings within Connecticut boundaries. This Review List is updated periodically by the RRC, most recently on 2/25/87. All the species listed are currently supported on the official state list by specimen or photograph.

Any records of these, or other very unusual species, would be most welcomed for review by the RRC. Each such record should be as thorough as possible, including at least the observer(s) name(s), address, and phone; date and location of sighting; conditions and circumstances of sighting; full description of the bird; comparisons with similar species; and, if possible, a field sketch or photograph. Records should be sent to (and official report forms are available from): Frank Mantlik, RRC Secretary, 17 Seabreeze Place, So. Norwalk, CT 06854 (203-838-1694).

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|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Eared Grebe | Purple Gallinule | Boreal Owl |
| Western Grebe | Sandhill Crane | Chuck-will's-widow |
| Northern Fulmar | Wilson's Plover | Black-backed Woodpecker |
| Black-Capped Petrel | Black-necked Stilt | Gray Kingbird |
| Cory's Shearwater | American Avocet | Scissor-tailed Flycatcher |
| Greater Shearwater | Spotted Redshank | Sedge Wren |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel | Eskimo Curlew | Northern Wheatear |
| Wht.-faced Storm-Petrel | Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | Varied Thrush |
| Leach's Storm-Petrel | Curlew Sandpiper | Yellow-throated Warbler |
| Northern Gannet | Ruff | Prothonotary Warbler |
| American White Pelican | Red-necked Phalarope | MacGillivray's Warbler |
| Brown Pelican | Red Phalarope | Western Tanager |
| White Ibis | Parasitic Jaeger | Black-headed Grosbeak |
| Tundra Swan | Franklin's Gull | Painted Bunting |
| Gt. White-fronted Goose | Black-legged Kittiwake | Clay-colored Sparrow |
| Harlequin Duck | Ross' Gull | Lark Bunting |
| Barrow's Goldeneye | Sooty Tern | Henslow's Sparrow |
| Black Vulture | Dovekie | Harris' Sparrow |
| Am. Swallow-tailed Kite | Thick-billed Murre | Smith's Longspur |
| Gyr Falcon | Razorbill | Chestnut-collared Longspur |
| Yellow Rail | Black Guillemot | Boat-tailed Grackle |
| Black Rail | Atlantic Puffin | Hoary Redpoll |
| Corn Crake | Northern Hawk-Owl | |

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

It is my hope that the BULLETIN will encourage all COA members to be more involved with what goes on in the birding/ornithological world here in Connecticut.

For the BULLETIN really to work I'll need your input ... suggestions and ideas ... announcements ... news ... requests for help or information. Please don't hesitate to call me or mail your thoughts.

The next issue (scheduled for early June) will be late because your Editor will be in Alaska birding. But if the material is waiting when I return, I promise an issue by the end of the month.

Thanks to all who helped with this first effort!

Todd Weintz, 50 Water Street, Norwalk, CT. 06854 (H) 322-8662 (W) 866-2687

THE CONNECTICUT RARE BIRD ALERT

As an example of this organization's growing involvement in statewide ornithological programs, the COA has agreed to co-sponsor the Connecticut Rare Bird Alert with the Audubon Council of Connecticut. The two groups will split the ongoing costs, with COA providing the organization and the Council the start-up costs.

With great dedication, Bob Dewire has virtually single-handedly run this popular program for over ten years. He deserves much credit for performing this demanding service.

This "Alert" will now be strengthened with expanded financial and manpower resources. The answering machine will be moved to near the Fairfield and New Haven County lines, where, in the midst of many of the state's active birders, it is anticipated that it will receive strong local support. Well-known birders Frank Mantlik of Norwalk and Tom Rochivansky of Westport will be responsible for day-to-day operations, including manning the tape.

Mark Szantyr of Waterbury and Dennis Varza of Fairfield will use COA's existing rare bird netbird to supply the "Alert" with reports. This network is a semi-informal group of active birders who will, on short notice, pass on rare bird reports and go after the bird. With this active group behind it, the "Alert" should omit very little of significance. In addition, there will be a 24-hour reporting tape for those observers not part of the network.

Mike Aurelia, A.C.C. Treasurer, Joe Zeranski (Chairman), representing COA, and Tom Burke, the New York Rare Bird Alert Compiler, will be the group which co-ordinate and oversees the overall operations, especially financial, of the "Alert." Thanks to the Birdcraft Museum of the Connecticut Audubon Society for housing the tape machine.

The new Connecticut Rare Bird Alert is expected to be in operation by the end of March. The new number should be available then by calling the old number 572-0912.

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