



COA's Fall Field Day at Birdcraft Museum

The Connecticut Ornithological Association's 9th annual Fall Field Day will be held on Saturday, September 19th at The Connecticut Audubon Society's Birdcraft Museum in Fairfield from 8 AM until 3 PM. A full day of indoor and outdoor activities is planned for all ages in rain or shine. Fall Field Day fees are \$5.00 for adults (no charge for under age 16) if you pre-register. Cost of walk-in registration held from 7:30 - 11:00 AM is \$7.00. A continental breakfast will be provided.

From 8:00 - 10:00 AM there will be an ongoing bird banding demonstration led by veteran bird bander Carl Trichka. Also, from 8:00 - 10:00 AM and again from 10:30 AM until noon, there will be bird walks to various habitats. Participants should meet at the registration desk at Birdcraft. Walks will be led to local sites by COA trip leaders.

From 9:00 - 10:45 AM there will be a children's bird walk led by Flo McBride. From 10:30 - 11:30 AM, Chris Nevins of the Birdcraft staff will present an informative indoor program entitled "The Gray Lady and the Birds." This is an informative program on Mabel Osgood Wright and her role in founding the conservation movement in Connecticut.

From 11:00 AM until noon there will be a butterfly walk. Participants should meet at the registration desk. During this time there will also be a program for children. "Feathered Friends" will include role playing and a scavenger hunt to help children better understand the lives of birds. Lunch is from 12:00 - 1:00 PM. Participants may bring their own lunch or purchase lunch at the Birdcraft Museum. Afternoon programs

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HOTLINE HIGHLIGHTS

Boat-tailed Grackle Stratford Apr 22-July 2
White-faced Ibis Madison May 10-July 1
Tricolor Heron Madison May 12-July 28
Least bittern So. Windsor May 25-July 18
Black Skimmers W haven May 27-present
Western Kingbird Madison May 30
Yellow-breasted Chat Storrs June 12-16
Lesser Black-backed Gull Manchester July 18-27
Northern Bobwhite Stonington July 27

RARE BIRD ALERT: 203-254-3665

President's Message

When I became president of COA it was my wish to bring new efforts and projects to life in the organization. I hoped to give to the members benefits that would make them very pleased to be part of COA. I also hoped to make COA a more dynamic entity in conservation, education, and research in Connecticut. I also realized that I wasn't going to do this alone, very far from it. The biggest problem that any president of an organization such as this faces is the shortage of dedicated volunteers. There is a lot of hard work involved in what COA does and there is no compensation other than the satisfaction of a worthwhile job well done. The limiting factor in carrying out new efforts in COA has been the number of people doing the work. But what we lack in numbers we have admirably made up in Herculean effort. The dedicated and generous people who have shouldered the burden have made possible all that we have done and hope to do. Now I would like to take a moment to share with you where COA is at present and where we hope to go in the future.

Every birder wants to know more about finding and identifying birds. In order to help our members do this we began a year long series in The Connecticut Warbler on birding strategy for our state. We have also tapped into the knowledge and talents of our members to create an ongoing identification series on look-a-like species and "stealth" vagrants to watch for. This text and art series is starting to get

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COA Bulletin

President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

national recognition for its quality and content. Along this vein we are rolling out a special issue of *The Connecticut Warbler* containing color art work on identification issues that have recently been hotly debated in the northeast. We will also be starting a new series in *The COA Bulletin* on finding particular species in Connecticut, species that are rare or uncommon. We are also in the early planning stage of periodic lectures and slide shows on birding issues for Connecticut.

We are all concerned about the decreasing number of the world's birds and the degrading environment in which we live. While COA is essentially a small organization we are making what efforts we can to help protect the environment, conserve avian life, and improve habitat. This is one area in which we still have long way to go but thanks to a dedicated committee made up of excellent people we are beginning the journey. You will hear more about these efforts in the near future.

While COA will be moving on conservation issues as an organization it still desperately needs you to act as an individual; writing letters, supporting organizations dedicated to environmental protection, and speaking with elected officials about your concern for our environment, and participating in research and surveys such as the summer bird counts. The individuals who organize these projects and those who participate deserve recognition and praise. We hope to keep you informed on critical issues so you will be able to be a factor in conservation on your own. You are our most important asset in the effort to protect the birds of Connecticut. Many research projects are currently underway in Connecticut and more are planned. COA has actively supported a number of them financially and also by helping to organize volunteers. Finding funds and people are never easy and the efforts we have made so far speak well of the individuals who have made COA support possible. There is a tremendous reservoir of knowledge about birds and their status in Connecticut stored in the membership of COA. We hope to be able to tap that knowledge and make it available to state officials and conservation organizations. This is one area where birding can lead the way in conservation. Who knows birds and their numbers better than birders?

**The Newsletter of the
Connecticut Ornithological Association
is published quarterly in
February, May, August, and November.**

**Please submit materials for the next
issue by November 1, 1998 to
Dwight Smith, Editor,
241 Shepard Ave., Hamden, CT 06514.**

In the time I have been president COA has done remarkable things thanks to remarkable people. I wish we had done much more but then I always set my sights a wee bit high. While we have a great deal still to do I know we are headed in the right direction and have superb human resources available to tap. Our goal is to make COA the best statewide birding organization in the country and to make COA members the best served membership in the country. We initiated the membership survey to see just where you want us to go and to see what we are doing now if you will approve. The executive committee of COA will be holding a special meeting to discuss the results of the survey and what you have told us is important to you. As I said, there is still a great deal to do. Personally, I don't think there is anything wrong with setting your sights a wee bit high.

Avian Records Update

by Frank Mantlik

While past reports of the Avian Records Committee appearing in *The Connecticut Warbler* have contained information on the Committee's operation and methodology, we still periodically receive queries on this matter. The Committee has been discussing ways to be more open and accountable to the COA membership and others who submit reports of rare birds.

To this end, we are considering possibly offering an open meeting, at which COA members could "sit in" to witness the operation and deliberations. To help us gauge how much interest there would be in such a meeting, please send a postcard expressing interest along with your name, address, and phone/e-mail to:

Frank Mantlik, ARCC Chairman, P. O. Box 3161,
Westport, CT 06880

The amount of response we receive will determine the format and location of such an open meeting. Also, look for the Eighth Report of the ARCC in the October issue of *The Connecticut Warbler*.

Articles Wanted

I am very interested in seeing your articles on birds and birding in the COA Bulletin. Any and all topics re Connecticut birds are appropriate and I will see that they appear in a timely manner. Why not share your birding adventures, explorations, and opportunities with the rest of us? Thanks, as always, for your continued input.

COA Bulletin

Birding the Imataca Forest and the Escelera---in the state of Bolivar, southeastern Venezuela

by Polly Brody

When I joined a ten-day tour, offered by WINGS, in February, I had placed the Harpy Eagle at the top of my "hope life." There was a reasonable chance of seeing that bird, as a pair or two were known to be resident in the Imataca Forest. It is the world's largest eagle--a magnificent predator of the forest canopy, whose staple diet includes monkeys and sloths.

Our leader, Jeff Kingery, is an expert on Venezuelan avifauna. The tour was brief, so necessarily focused: Harpy Eagle, Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock, and Tepui endemics were its objectives. However, by the time I returned to Connecticut, we had seen gems of a great and unanticipated variety, 98 of which were brand new for me.

We flew from Caracas to Puerto Ordaz, on the south bank of the Orinoco River. From here we drove to El Palmar, a small town just outside the Imataca Forest. We arrived a half hour before sundown, in time for a bit of birding at a nearby pasture pond. Here we found a lovely Capped Heron, its white plumage made handsome by the accents of jet black forecrown and bright blue facial skin. With it was an immature Rufescent Tiger-Heron and several Green Ibises.

The next day started with a radiant Crimson-Topaz hummingbird, perched on its territorial twig in a shrub above the Rio Grande riverbank. A half hour walk brought us to the coveted Harpy Eagle. We heard it before we saw it. There sat a fledged but still dependent youngster, high in a massive tree, calling for its dinner. Sadly, during the two hours we waited, the adult bird did not fly in to feed it. Nevertheless it was thrilling to watch this rare raptor, studied at leisure through scope and binoculars.

I assumed this bird would be the day's highpoint, but not so! Two other beauties awaited. We had been hearing a hidden, sylvan voice uttering melodious, violin-like notes. Jeff said: Musician Wren. This secretive bird is seldom seen as it forages in thick cover on the rainforest floor. We were a small and experienced group. Silently we followed Jeff into the forest, and silently waited in a semi-circle. The enchanting voice came nearer and then the bird materialized, in a magic spot of sunlight on a mossy log. It stood and peered about, and then it sang! We all saw its beautiful fox-rufous head and bib, the dramatic black and white nuchal stripes and bare, blue orbital patch.

At the day's end, I discovered the other beauty, a male Pompadour Cotinga. Unfortunately, it flew off before others

saw it, but it was a "life bird" for me, if not for the trip list.

The following morning we again birded in the Imataca Forest near Rio Grande. We visited a lek of Golden-headed Manakins, saw a lovely Rose-breasted Chat up close, and encountered a noisy clan of Red-throated Caracaras. After lunch alfresco, during which Guianan Toucanets, Black-bellied Cuckoo, and both Green and Purple Honeycreepers entertained us, we drove to our next destination, southward toward the Tepui region of Bolivar, near the Guianan border.

We arrived at Henry's after dark. Henry's is a comfortable, family-operated establishment catering to birding and ecotour groups. It is the only such accommodation in the area. It provides bunk beds and clean bathrooms (cold water showers) and good, family-style meals.

As we sat down to delicious pumpkin soup, Henry rushed in to say a Spectacled Owl was hooting in the yard. Of course we all rushed out. The handsome, large bird sat obligingly in the beams of our flashlights. This was my first look at this Latin American owl, although I had heard its hoots on other trips.

The next days were invested in birding along the margins of a paved road which was called the Escelera (stairway). Undisturbed forest, of the montane sub-tropical type, supported a spectacular array of birds. Three times we were granted good looks at male cocks-of-the-rock. These fiery orange, chicken-sized birds were the Guianan species. We saw one female. Her drab brownish plumage was quite unlike the declarative male.

All kinds of "life birds" presented themselves to my delighted eyes: the Red-banded Fruiteater, endemic to the pan-tepui and a usually elusive cotingid; the endemic Roraiman Barbtail; scope looks at a White Bellbird, whose voice carried to us across a valley from its perch a half mile away on the facing slope; eyeball to eyeball views of the male Scarlet-horned Manakin, its black body contrasting with a head and bilobed crest of brilliant red.

Roadside trees were filled with frugivorous birds. Among them were Paradise Tanagers--this one you have to see to believe! It is decked out with an apple-green face, turquoise underparts, velvety-black mantle, wings, and tail, accented with a crimson/lemon lower back and rump! Travelling with these were: Yellow-bellied Tanagers, Black-hooded Thrush,

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HOTLINE REPORTS

To report sightings of rare, unusual, or migrating birds, call one of the following:

Frank Gallo 203-966-6756

Mark Santyr 860-429-4038

Frank Mantlik 203-854-9780

COA Bulletin

Birding the Sierra Imataca

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Roraiman Antwren.

My eyes were swiveling here and there after Tepui Swifts when suddenly my right eye field was filled with black filaments. I was told they were floaters. In the evening, I was seeing white flashes. Now my alarmed tourmates warned me that I probably had experienced a retinal tear! Nothing could be done to obtain medical help as we were a full day's drive from the nearest airport. Helicopter evacuation was out of the question. I made personal peace with whatever fate was in store for my eyesight, and went on birding! Luckily, five days later, back in Connecticut, the eye surgeon was able to mend the retinal hole he found, by laser surgery.

The Escelera kept giving us Tepui regional specialties: Greater Flower-piercer, Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, Olive Manakin, McConnell's and Swainson's Flycatchers. A roadside bush was buzzing with testy hummingbirds: Brown Violetears, Fork-tailed Woodnymphs, White-chested Emeralds, and a Velvet-browed Brilliant. All of them were "duking it out," over and around this flowering shrub.

One noon we drove up to the Gran Sabana--a high altitude savannah--to view the distant tepuis. These are free-standing, forested plateaus which are isolated by totally different lowland rainforest. Each Tepui has its own endemic birds and no doubt other fauna. The only way to get on these mountains is by helicopter, thus they so far retain their pristine ecological identities. We gazed at them through binoculars, admiring their steep-sided bulks and wispy waterfalls.

Our last full day was spent in a lowland wood near Henry's. Here among other species, we saw: Pectoral Sparrows, Fasciated Antshrike, Pygmy Antwren and a Lined Forest-Falcon. Using his tape, Jeff lured to us the hoped-for White-plumed Antbird. This forest also gave us the Capuchinbird. This large relative of Cotingas has rufescent plumage and a naked, bluish-gray crown and face. Its vocalizations resemble the bawling of cattle!

At the end of this day, we sat in deck chairs on Henry's veranda and watched Black Nunbirds, Dusky Parrots, and the handsome Caica Parrots come to roost in the yard's trees. A family of Red Howler monkeys settled in across the road in their own bedtime tree!

Early the next morning, in the hour we had after breakfast, we were treated to one of the trip's best birds: a pair of Red-fan Parrots flew into a backyard tree. They commenced to preen each other, high on a bare, protruding stub. What a photographic opportunity! This large gorgeous parrot is lime-green above, but adorned with a rose and sky-blue barred nape ruff and underparts---a fitting finale before we took our leave of Henry's and bid goodbye to Venezuela.

COA Fall Field Day *(continued from page 1)*

will include more bird walks from 1:00 - 3:00 PM, as well as an insect walk scheduled for 2:00 - 3:00 PM. The insect walk is suitable for all ages. All walks meet at the registration desk. From 1:00 - 2:00 PM Fred Sibley of the Peabody Museum at Yale University will offer an indoor program on identification of fall warblers. Fred will utilize bird skins from the Peabody collection to demonstrate plumage differences between spring and fall warblers. From 1:00 - 2:00 PM there will also be a children's program entitled "Birding in My Backyard." Participants will have the opportunity to paint a bird house or feeder to take home as well as discuss bird identification of familiar backyard visitors. Don't miss what promises to be an exciting, educational and fun-filled day with COA members and friends from throughout the state! Additional information on Fall Field Day is available by calling Fran D'Amico at (203) 237-2734 (evenings), Rachel Keneally at (203) 268-6904.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

7:30-11:00 Registration. Birdcraft Museum. Continental breakfast will be served.

8:00-10:00 Bird banding demonstration. Veteran birder Carl Trichka will be working the nets on the grounds at Birdcraft.

8:00-10:00 Bird Walks. Choose your habitat! Meet at registration desk at Birdcraft. Walks will go out to various local sites led by COA Trip Leaders.

9:00-10:45 Kids Bird Walk. An introduction to birding for the younger members of your family. Flo McBride

10:30-11:30 Indoor Program: "Gray Lady and the Birds" An informative program on Mabel Osgood Wright and her role in founding the conservation movement in Connecticut. Chris Nevins

10:30-12:00 Bird Walks. Choose your habitat! Meet at registration desk at Birdcraft. Walks will go out to various local sites led by COA Trip Leaders.

11:00-12:00 Program for Kids: Feathered Friends - A program to include role-playing and a scavenger hunt to help kids better understand the lives of different bird species. For children of all ages.

11:00-12:00 Butterfly Walk. Adults and children are welcome. Meet at the registration desk.

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COA Fall Field Day (continued from page 4)

12:00-1:00 Lunch. Bring your own picnic, or purchase lunch at Birdcraft.

1:00-2:00 Indoor Program: Fred Sibley will give a program on Fall Warblers using bird skins to show the differences between fall and spring warblers.

1:00-2:00 Program for Kids: Birding in My Backyard Bird identification for those familiar visitors, participants will have an opportunity to paint a bird house or a feeder to take home.

1:00-3:00 Bird Walks. Choose your habitat! Meet at registration desk at Birdcraft. Walks will go out to various local sites led by COA Trip Leaders.

2:00-3:00 Insect Walk. Adults and children are welcome on this afternoon walk to look for butterflies and other insects. Meet at the registration desk.

Black-capped Chickadees nest 25 feet apart.

by Paul Carrier

At the entrance to my driveway, on either side, I planted two White Birch trees when I first moved to Harwinton back in 1975. Now, in 1998, they are both more than 10" in diameter and over 30' high. Two years ago, I put up a small bird house on each, hoping to attract maybe a pair of Black-capped Chickadees or possibly a Tufted Titmouse to one of the boxes. The first year no birds were interested.

In 1997, a House Wren filled both boxes with sticks, but raised a successful brood in another box just 50 feet away in a Red Cedar tree. This year, in March 1998, I noticed two pair of Black-capped Chickadees looking interested at both boxes, hoping one would win out and occupy a box. To my surprise, in the month of May, I noticed both boxes were being visited by Chickadees! Could there be a pair of Chickadees occupying each box?

I decided to put some time into this, and began observing what was actually going on. On June 6th, I sat just 25 feet from each box, recording numbers of visits to each, and in what direction each box occupant went after each visit. I wanted to determine if each pair showed a different territory, and tried

to determine exactly where each territory might be. After five hours of observing, over a three day period, I discovered the answer to my questions, and a whole lot more.

For descriptions sake, let's call the box to the South box A, and the box just 25 feet North of that box we will call Box B. Box A is made of 4" PVC plastic pipe, which has been painted to look like a Bird tree. This box was placed against the trunk, 12 feet above the ground. Box B is more conventional; It is made of Red Cedar with a slanted roof. This box is also 12 feet off the ground mounted against the trunk facing East away from the road, which is just 6 feet to the West.

After my first hour of observation, I discovered Box A was visited 26 times, and box B had 20 visits. Most offerings were of the leaf worm type, and most were green. Their were two visits offering small moths, but the rest were definitely leaf worms. At the conclusion of my 6 hours total, this observed offering of leaf worms did not change.

Notably, 16 departures from box B, and 21 from box A were to the exact same direction of due East. The remaining 9 headed either South East or North East, and both crossed each others directions, showing that they indeed did not have a definite defended territory. This example played itself out again on the other four hours of observations, proving these two pairs of Chickadees were not defending any defined territories.

My question was now answered, but I discovered another question that was not apparent from the beginning. Was there actually two separate pairs of Chickadees nesting here, or might there be only one male with two different females? This answer was much more difficult to discover, for how was I to separate four different birds apart without the aid of colored leg bands? I began to notice individual markings or characteristics that might help me with this solution, and after time, I came up with some help. The females of both boxes seemed to have a bit smaller head size, and both were noticeably shabbier than the male. Also, the two females always went directly into the boxes, and the males did not. Both males always landed at the entrance first, tipped into the hold, then departed.

If my suspicion was correct, and I could prove there was but one male visiting both boxes, I would have to separate the two males visiting the boxes from each other. Of interest here is box A had only 1/3rd the visits from a male as did box B. The first suspicion that they were the same male came when I observed the male from box B leave that box and fly directly to box A, dipping into the box with some left over offerings. Also of note was I never saw both males at the same time, but often both females were present at their respected boxes.

Another opportunity came when a Blue jay landed at box B, and started to extract young furry caterpillars from the back

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Black-capped Chickadees *(continued from page 5)*

of the box. The ensuing attention by the resident Chickadees gave me an opportunity to count them, and I could only count three birds at one time. I can't guarantee there was not four, but three was all I counted.

As usually is the case, when you do finally get your questions answered, you discover more questions to be solved. These questions were:

If this were two different pairs of Chickadees nesting just 25 feet apart, would they then have defended separate territories?

When the boxes were being chosen in April, I noticed 4 individual birds, probably two mated pairs. Did they start out as two pairs and one male disappeared with the remaining male taking over the responsibility of the second box? I suspect this to be true, for the lone male only visited the other box 1/3rd of the time, possibly devoting most visits to his original box.

As things worked out, I never got the opportunity to find out any more information, for on June 10th, both boxes fledged their young, with an estimate of 4 from box A, and 5 from box B being fledged. All seemed to do well, flying into my yard, hiding amongst the branches of a large Red Cedar tree and the dense bushes nearby. I did notice a Blue jay exiting one of the bushes followed by two adult Chickadees. Whether he had a young bird with him I don't know, but the parents were busy feeding their young well into the day.

I did some research into the status of Black-capped Chickadees being polygamous and pairing information, This is what I found:

Stokes field guide (1996) states: "They defend separate territories."

Lives of North American birds (1996) Kaufman, states: "Both members of a pair help defend nesting territory."

Life histories of North American Birds (1964) Bent, states: "After the winter, birds pair off and defend their territories."

The Black-capped Chickadee (1991) Susan Smith, states: "The Black-capped Chickadee is strongly monogamous" and "The first record of any polygamy was in 1967". Of note was a description by observation of a male taking over the responsibility of another nest with an absence of a male, but giving his original nest more attention. Interestingly, this is the same scenario that I suspected in my two nests!

In conclusion: I would like to state that this document was never intended to be an in depth scientific study, but is intended to document the observation and possible fact that Black-capped Chickadees might be polygamous, and the fact that they will nest as close as 25 feet apart.

"Needed"

Someone from COA to mail *The Connecticut Warbler*, four times a year. The job consists of affixing labels to each journal issue and packaging according to U.S. Postal regulations, then taking it to the Post Office in Fairfield, CT. *The Warbler* is printed in New Haven, but can be delivered to your home. Mailing labels will be sent to you when *The Warbler* is ready. The usual months for mailing are January, April, July, and October.

If you or someone you know is interested in doing this job, please contact Betty Kleiner at 860-658-5670. You will be doing COA a great service. Thank you!

COA Shorebird Workshop

On Sunday, August 30th, the Connecticut Ornithological Association will sponsor a fall shorebird workshop at the Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center at Milford Point. The workshop is designed for all levels of birding expertise. Beginners will receive tips on shorebird identification and natural history; more advanced birders may study plumage differences and behavior.

The workshop will take place at one of Connecticut's premier shorebird hotspots at what could be the peak of the fall migration period for shorebirds and terns. Participants should meet in the Center's parking lot at 8:00 am for this morning trip. There is no charge for the workshop, which is cosponsored by the Connecticut Audubon Society's Coastal Center.

Additional information is available by calling trip leaders Frank Mantlik at (203) 854-9780 (evenings) or Jay Kaplan at (860) 693-0157 (evenings) or (860) 693-0263 (days).

Bald Eagle Chicks Banded

On May 21 two Bald Eagle chicks were leg banded by Wildlife Division biologists at Barkhamsted. MDC employee Jim Starkey climbed 90 feet up a white pine to get the chicks which were placed in a sac and lowered to the ground. The eaglets were weighed and measured, examined by UCONN veterinarians and returned to the nest. These two chicks add up to a total of nine that have been hatched by this pair of Bald Eagles since 1992.

(from an article in the July/August 1998 issue of *Connecticut Wildlife*)

COA Bulletin

Trips & Events

The Audubon Shop

Birdwalks at Hammonasset State Park, on Saturdays, 8-10:30 am, beginning September 12, every Saturday through November. Meet at The Audubon Shop in Madison at 7:50 am. Binocular rentals available. Beginners welcome. Call Jerry Connolly at 203-245-9056 for details.

Hawk Watch at Lighthouse Point Park, on Sunday, October 11, from 8:30 - 11:15 am. Learn to identify hawks and falcons in flight. Fee \$2. Meet at Lighthouse Park at 8:30. For more info call Jerry Connolly at 203-245-9056 for details.

Harford Audubon Society

Salt Meadows Unit Stewart B. McKinney NWR, Westbrook, CT, on Saturday, September 12. Meet at the parking lot of the Salt Meadows Unit at 6 am. To get there take exit 64 off I-95 (Horse Hill Rd, Rt. 145) take a right from northbound or left from southbound onto Horse Hill Rd. Take a left at the blinking light onto Old Clinton Rd. Entrance is well-marked about one mile on right. Call leader Patrick Comins at 860-646-6600 for details.

Hawk Watch at Booth Hill, East Hartland, on Saturday and Sunday, September 12 and 13, and September 19 and 20. Bring a chair, food, drink, and spend the day watching for Broadwings, Ospreys, Ravens, and perhaps an eagle. Meet at 8:30 am. Call leader Paul Carrier at 860-485-9654 for details.

Beginner Bird Walk at Station 43, on Sunday, September 20, from 8 am. This event will take place several times during the year to view seasonal variations. Meet at the corner of Newberry Rd. and Main Street at 8 am. Call leaders Len Kendall at 860-658-7592 or Roger Preston at 860-658-8010 for details.

Great Pond in Simsbury, on Saturday, September 26. Join leaders Len Kendall and Roger Preston for this trip in search of waterfowl and shorebirds. Meet at the entrance parking lot at 8 am. Call as above for details.

Station 43, South Windsor on Saturday, October 10 for sparrows and raptors. Meet at the corner of Newberry Road and Main Street at 7:30 am. Call leader Carl Ekroth at 860-972-6372 for details.

Hammonasset for beginning birders, on Sunday, October 18. For beginning and even more advanced birders. Trip begins at the park entrance at 8 am. Call leader John Gaskell at 860-669-1862 for more details.

Rhode Island Shoreline on Saturday, October 31. Check out the Rhode Island shoreline from Point Judith west towards Connecticut. Meet at Point Judith at 8 am. Call leader Paul Desjardins at 860-623-3696 for details.

Bantam Lake Area, Litchfield, on Saturday, November 14. Explore White Memorial Foundation and Bantam Lake area in search of migrating ducks, coots, and early winter birds. Bring warm clothing, lunch, and be ready for fun on this possibly all day trip. Meet at the Litchfield Green at 8 am. Call leader Paul Carrier at 860-485-9654 for details.

"In Search of Birds of Prey, a North American Journey" on Tuesday, October 20, at 7:30 pm, at the McAuley Residence Auditorium, 275 Steele Road, West Hartford. Slide show by renown birder and photographer Jim Zipp.

"Belize" on Tuesday, November 17, at the McAuley Residence Auditorium, 275 Steele Road, West Hartford, at 7:30 pm. Birder, naturalist, and photographer Sam Fried will be premiering his newest program based on his adventures in Belize.

New Haven Bird Club

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, on Sunday, August 23. Meet at 7:30 am at the commuter lot in Orage at Rte 34 and the Wilber Cross Parkway (Rte 15). Join leaders Chris Loscalzo (203-389-6508) and Pat Leahy (203-393-2427) for this birding search for avocet, whimbrel, godwits, and other rare shorebirds. Bring lunch and proper footwear for wet and muddy walking. (*birding trips continued on page 8*)

In passing: Charles G. Sibley, former professor of ornithology at Yale University passed away on April 18. Sibley was famous for his work on avian taxonomy and systematics. He was past chairperson of the AOU and also an elected fellow of the National Academy of Science.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COA encourages local bird clubs to send announcements of field trips and events to Dwight Smith, Bulletin Editor
241 Shepard Ave., Hamden, CT 06514

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Trips and Events *(continued from page 7)*

Connecticut Audubon Society

The CAS announces the following field trips and has generously offered to extend its members rate to COA members. Call Andy Griswold at 860-767-0660 or 1-800-996-8747 for more details on these trips.

Cape May NJ: Fall Migration, from September 18-20. Join leaders Greg Hanisek and CAS Director of Development Alison Olivieri to enjoy the diversity of hawks, shorebirds, and warblers at the peak of their fall migration. Cost for CAS members is \$345, nonmembers \$380. Cost includes transportation from Connecticut, hotel, most meals, admissions, and leaders. Single supplement \$120.

Morocco Bird Migration, from October 10-24. Join other CAS members for this introduction to birding and other experiences in North Africa. Tour includes imperial cities of Morocco, as well as the mountains and valleys on to the very edge of the Sahara. We anticipate a tremendous array of birdlife, both resident and migrant. CAS members \$2195, nonmembers \$2230. Single supplement \$180. Cost includes ground transportation, hotels, ornithologist guide, most meals, and Moroccan mountain guide. Airfare additional.

Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, from October 16-18. Join leaders Matt Black (New Canaan Nature Center) and CAS leader Clay Taylor, both experts at hawk and butterfly identification. Trip includes a side stop at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary in New York to check out shorebird and waterbird migration. CAS members \$355, nonmembers \$395. Single supplement \$100. Includes transportation from Connecticut, most meals, accommodations, entry fees, and leaders.

Central Coast Birds, on Saturday, October 17, from 9:30 am -12:30 pm. Travel from New Haven Harbor to Milford Point Coastal Center in search of waterfowl, late shorebirds, and raptors. Miley Bull, CAS Director of the Fairfield Center will delight you with his knowledge of the natural world. CAS members \$8, nonmembers \$12.

Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven, on Sunday, October 18, from 8 am to 11 am. Join leader and well known bird photographer Frank Mantlik for this trip to witness the birding fall migration at one of Connecticut's premier spots. Warblers, sparrows, jays, swallows, and raptors, especially accipiters and falcons will highlight this trip. CAS members \$8, nonmembers \$12.

REGIONAL HOTLINES

Connecticut (203) 254-3665
Rhode Island (401) 949-3970
Eastern Massachusetts (617) 259-8805
Western Massachusetts (413) 253-2218
Vermont (802) 547-4861
New Hampshire (603) 224-9900
Maine (207) 781-2332
New York Metro (212) 979-3070
Northern New Jersey (908) 766-2661
Cape May, New Jersey (609) 884-2626

Natural History of Hammonasset, on Saturday, October 24, from 9 am to noon. Join the staff of National Audubon's Bent of the River preserve on this search for the usual and unusual in one of Connecticut's top ten birding spots. Leaders are Hunter Brawley and Jim Nolan. Tour originates in Madison. CAS members \$8, nonmembers \$12.

The Fat Robin

Lighthouse Point Hawk Watch Trips, on weekends, from mid-September into October. Perhaps even hawks in the hand this year as we do bird banding activities. For more info call Jim Zipp at The Fat Robin, 203-248-7068.

Devil's Den & Katharine Ordway Preserves

Advance registration is required for all walks and programs. To register and find out where to meet call the Devil's Den Office at 203-226-4991.

Fall Migrant Bird Walk on Saturday, September 19, from 7-9:30 am. Michael Corcoran and Cia Marion will identify birds in their annual migration. Bring binoculars.

Identify Migrating Raptors at Deer Knoll with Larry Fischer on Thursday, October 8, from 9:30-11:30 am. Bring binoculars.

Hawk Watch with Larry Fischer on Saturday, November 7, from 9:30-11:30 am at Deer Knoll.

Owl Prowl with Larry Fischer on Saturday, November 7, from 7:30-9:30 pm. Bring binoculars and flashlight.

COA Bulletin

Field Reports Requested

Birding observations by COA birders form the basis for the seasonal reports on the status of resident and migrating birds in the state which appear in *The Connecticut Warbler* and *Audubon Field Notes*. COA members are encouraged to report their sightings by filling in Species Report Forms. The forms can be obtained by calling Greg Hanisek at 203-574-3636.

Report periods and due dates are; Fall period from August 1 through November 30, report due December 10; Winter from December 1 to February 28, report due March 10; Spring from March 1 to May 30, report due June 10; Summer from June 1 to July 30, report due August 10. Please submit reports to Greg Hanisek, 175 Circuit Ave., Waterbury, CT 06708. Contributors should complete separate forms for each species observed. Sort the forms into phylogenetic order, using the COA *Connecticut Field List* as a guide. Detailed descriptions should be given for species on the *Field List* denoted by * (rare) or # (hypothetical) or for species not on the *Field List*. All reports will be preserved. Comments are welcomed.

Joining COA

The Connecticut Ornithological Association welcomes new members. COA is the only statewide organization devoted exclusively to birds and birding, and its members range from beginning birders to professional ornithologists. Joining COA is guaranteed to improve your knowledge of Connecticut birds and increase your enjoyment of Connecticut birding.

Membership costs as little as \$12.00 per year and includes a copy of *The Ten Best Birding Sites in Connecticut*, the quarterly *COA Bulletin*, the quarterly *Connecticut Warbler*, and invitations to COA events such as field trips and field days. Membership dues also support COA's rare bird hotline, conservation initiatives, and research projects. New members receive a copy of the official *Connecticut Field List* and a COA decal.

Present COA members who have not yet renewed for the current year can use the form below. Check the mailing label on the other side of this page to see whether your membership is current. If not, please send in the form today.

COA Bulletin

COA OFFICERS

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|-----------------------|--|
| President | Dave Provencher, 43 Branch Hill Rd, Preston, CT 06365 860-885-1239 |
| Vice President | Mark Szantyr, 2C Yale Road, Storrs, CT 06268 860-429-4038 |
| Treasurer | Jim Zipp, 400 Mt. Sanford Road, Hamden, CT 06518 203-272-1439 |
| Secretary | Andrew Brand, 59 Brooksvale Ave, Hamden, CT 06518 203-230-1718 |

COA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Bylaws | Joseph Zeranski, 163 Field Point Rd, Greenwich, CT 06830 203- 661-9607 |
| Conservation | Paul Fusco, 4 Old Country Road, Oxford, CT 06484 203-584-9830 |
| Field Trips | Jay Kaplan, 71 Gracey Rd., Canton, CT 06019 860-693-0157 |
| Membership | Lise Hanners, Devil's Den Preserve, Box 1162, Weston, CT 06883 203- 226-4991 |
| Program | Fran D'Amico, 508 Preston Avenue, Meriden, CT 06450 203-237-2734 Rachel Keneally, 290 Silver Hill Rd., Easton, CT 06612 203-268-6904 |
| Publications | Betty Kleiner, 5 Flintlock Ridge, Simsbury, CT 06070 860-658-5670 |
| Rare Records | Frank Mantlik, 261 Chestnut Hill Rd, Norwalk, CT 06851 203-854-9780 |
| Research | Robert Askins, CT College/Biology, New London, CT 06320 860-439-2149 |
| Education | Patrick Comins, 116 High St., Manchester, CT 06040 860-646-6600 |
