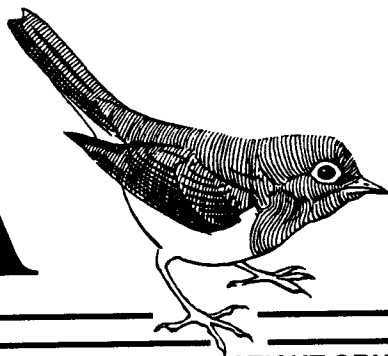


# COA



# Bulletin

Spring 1999 NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION Vol 14 No 1

## COA Annual Meeting

The COA annual meeting is now in the last stages of planning. Details of the time and place of the meeting will be mailed to all COA members as the information is finalized so keep checking your mailbox and remember to reserve your time for this very important annual event.

## President's Award Created

The need to have a formal way of acknowledging long term service to COA recently came to light. The only award that COA has historically bestowed has been the Mabel Osgood Wright Award. That award, however, is intended for ornithological achievement in Connecticut, not specifically for service rendered to COA. To correct this lack of recognition, a new COA award has been created and is called the President's Award. The recipient will be nominated by the president and the Awards Committee's endorsement will be requested. The award will be for the substantial contribution of personal time, effort, and expertise to COA that has materially and demonstratively benefited the organization. The award will be given when merited, not necessarily annually, but would be presented only once per year and possibly to more than one recipient. This will be at the discretion of the President. The creation of this award is long overdue and the first recipient will be presented at the upcoming annual meeting. This is an important opportunity to thank those individuals who have given so much to COA through the years.

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## HOTLINE HIGHLIGHTS

- Franklin's Gull** Woodmont Nov 15
- Sandhill Crane** Sandy Hook Nov 19
- Black-headed Gull** Stamford Nov 30-now
- Northern Shrike** Canaan Dec 2- Jan 22
- Gr. W-fronted Goose** Bloomfield Dec 3-21
- Harlequin Duck** Stamford Dec 13-Jan 25
- Purple Gallinule** Stamford Dec 18
- Red-headed Wpr** E. Haddam Dec 20-now
- Y-legged Gull (prob)** Manchester Jan 18-2
- Golden Eagle** E. Haddam Jan 30

**RARE BIRD ALERT: 203-254-3665**

## President's Message

by Dave Provencher

As we head into the next century we often stop to assess where we have been and where we are headed as individuals. This should be true of organizations such as the Connecticut Ornithological Association as well. As I, in my present role as President, reflect on COA's past and future I cannot help but feel a certain level of excitement and urgency in what lies ahead for Connecticut birds and birders. There are so many issues that need attention and few individuals willing and dedicated to acting on those issues. COA's past as well as its present accomplishments often fill me with pride and satisfaction. This association began as a modest group of individuals dedicated to birding in Connecticut and publishing a newsletter, the Connecticut Warbler. That modest undertaking has grown remarkably and that newsletter has become a top regional journal receiving national recognition. The amount of time and effort it takes to produce this journal is daunting yet the team headed by Betty Kleiner not only manages to produce a quality issue each quarter, they manage to continually improve it. The identification articles in the Connecticut Warbler are a direct response to the wishes of the membership and recently a special color issue was produced at great effort and expense. We hope additional color issues will be

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# COABulletin

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

forthcoming from time to time. While the journal is a major benefit of membership it is not the only thing COA is about. We are presently taking a leading role in conservation in our state. I believe that it is incumbent upon those who cherish the natural world that they not only enjoy it but act to preserve it. COA is currently working on many issues of bird and habitat conservation and protection. Helping to bring the international Important Bird Area project to Connecticut is just one of them. 1999 will be a year of great activity and undertakings for our organization. We will continue to produce the Connecticut Warbler and will strive for its continuous improvement. We will expand our commitment to bird and habitat conservation so that future birders will be able to experience the marvelous world of Connecticut birds and birding events that we presently enjoy. We will expand our efforts in research and education. Summer bird counts, breeding bird surveys, supporting DEP research efforts, and working with other conservation organizations to increase our knowledge of the state of Connecticut are all among the priorities for this year. There is much to do. There is much that must be done. 1999 is full of promise and potential. It will take dedication and effort to meet those promises and realize that potential. Dedication and effort not only from those who have been working so hard in the past and continue to do so but from others who have not yet stepped forward to join us in our mission, the mission to make COA the best state birding organization in the country, Connecticut birders the best birders in the country, and to make Connecticut a leader in bird and habitat conservation. Sound a bit ambitious? I hope so. As I have said before, I think we should set our goals a little high. It is better to set your goals high and do your best to reach them than to set them low and stop when you do reach them. So, its time to look at the past and acknowledge accomplishments and successes and learn from failures and missed opportunities. More importantly, it is time to look at what the future holds and to realize we have a say in that future. Let us make 1999 a memorable year full of great birds, great friends, and great accomplishments. Lets show everyone just what COA can really do!

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

**Please submit materials for the next  
issue by May 1, 1999 to  
Dwight Smith, Editor,  
241 Shepard Ave., Hamden, CT 06514.**

## Changes in COA By-laws

A change to the COA bylaws was adopted by the Board of Directors at the January meeting. The change alters the maximum continuous term of service for the President and Vice-president from two years to four. The bylaws remain unchanged for the other officers and the Board of Directors. The text of the change to Article V, Elections Section 4. Limitations is as follows;

*Directors and Officers must be members in good standing. The president and vice-president(s) shall not serve more than four (4) full consecutive terms in any one office and the Directors shall not serve more than two (2) full consecutive terms.*

This change is intended to give greater continuity to the activities of the organization, bring COA more in line with the practices of other organizations, and reflects the need to effectively utilize those individuals who volunteer their time and energy for the benefit of COA and its membership. This change allows the President and Vice-president to serve up to four consecutive years and maintains the length of service of the members of the Board of Directors at six consecutive years.

## Summer Jobs in Nature at the Audubon Center in Greenwich

A limited number of jobs are available this summer teaching children about nature at the National Audubon Society's Environmental Education Center in Greenwich. Jobs include supervising groups of up to 13 campers, develop lesson plans and lead daily hikes. Jobs run from 7 weeks, June 21 to August 6. Thirty hours per week from 9:30-3:00 pm from Monday through Friday. Call Marilyn Smith at 203-869-5272 for more info.

## 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.

# COABulletin

## COA Annual Elections and Floor Nominations

Every year the Connecticut Ornithological Association elects its officers and one third of the Board of Directors at the annual meeting. The slate of candidates is put together by the Nominating Committee and presented to the attending members for a vote. There is a mechanism in the bylaws that allows the submission of other candidates to the attending members for a vote in opposition to the Nominating Committee's slate. The text of that membership in choosing the leadership of COA.

### Article V, Elections Section 5. Voting

*Should one or more candidates be nominated from the floor in opposition to the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee, each new nomination shall be seconded by three (3) members in good standing and such nominations shall be submitted in writing to the Recording Secretary at least two (2) weeks prior to the annual meeting. There shall be no voting by proxy.*

Should any member wish to submit floor nominations at the upcoming annual meeting they must submit those nominations in writing to Andy Brand, Secretary, at least two weeks prior to that meeting. Any such submission will be voted on in opposition to the Nominating Committee's candidate(s) and the attending members will select the winner by a majority vote.

## Waterfowl Workshop

The Connecticut Ornithological Association will hold a roving waterfowl workshop on Sunday, April 11. Participants should meet at the Sandy Point, West Haven parking area at 7:30 am. Area covered will include Sandy Point west to Stratford. For information, contact workshop leader Greg Hanisek at 203-574-3636 or COA Field Trip Chairman Jay Kaplan at 860-693-0157 (evenings) or 860-693-0263 (days).

## Volunteer Needed

If you live in southwest Connecticut and are willing to donate a couple of hours of your time to COA, four times a year, we really need your help. The editor of The Connecticut Warbler is looking for someone to label and mail the quarterly journal. You will receive a salary equal to that of all other COA officers. Please contact Betty Kleiner at 860-658-5670 or e-mail Betty at CTWARBLER@compuserve.com.

## New Wildlife Funding Bills

by Patty Pendergast

We have introduced the Wildlife Funding bill and have seen various versions come out in the legislature.

1. An Act Concerning Dedication of Certain Sales Tax Revenue to the Conservation Fund. Proposed Bill HR 6104, Introduced by Representative Andrew Roraback
2. An Act Concerning Support of Natural Resources Protection Programs. Proposed bill S 782. Introduced by Senator Maryann Handley

This is legislation that will be very difficult to actually pass, but it is hoped that by raising the issue this year, there will be general funding allocated to the wildlife division. Currently one third of Wildlife Division funding comes from the state and most of that through fees from hunting and fishing licenses, stamps and excise taxes. Two thirds of the funding comes from federal dollars and 97% of that again is generated through federal excise taxes on hunters and fishers. Three percent comes from a combination of the Endangered species Act and Federal Partnerships for Wildlife.

The Wildlife Division was \$250,000 under budget this year, but managed to fill the gap by moving money from other areas. They will not be able to do that in the future. Federal hunting related dollars are diminishing. The hunting community has asked that federal funds from various hunting related excise taxes stay with the game programs this session. DEP estimates that the Wildlife Division will be behind close to a million dollars in the next budget cycle.

That will mean lay offs - Rationally most of those cuts will come in the Non-game Division because the majority of funding supports Havestable Game Programs.

We need to take up these issues with our legislators and soon.

### HOTLINE REPORTS

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

Dave Provencher 860-885-1239

Frank Gallo 203-966-6756

Mark Santyr 860-455-0787

Frank Mantlik 203-854-9780

## A Winter Trip down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon

by Dwight G. Smith

I got the call in mid-December from Chuck LaRue, an old friend of mine who works out of Page, Arizona, for the National Park Service. "Would I be interested in helping out on a winter wildlife survey. The only catch was that it would be for a couple of weeks and that we would be rafting down the Colorado River and through the Grand Canyon in the middle of winter?". "Well sure, why not," I responded, confident that I was not quite too old for such an adventure. And sure, I had seen Colorado River rafting expeditions on any number of TV shows, so I more or less knew what the expedition would entail. "How many are going?" I asked. "Well, these expeditions normally include seven ornithologists and a boatman, but the flu has just swept through this part of Arizona, so the actual number of participants may be considerably less. At any rate, we will have food and gear for eight people." Chuck responded. Could he count on me? "Well sure." I again responded. After all, I had well over a month off before the spring semester would begin, so all I really needed to do was organize the air flight and get my gear in order. Besides, it would be a free trip---in fact I would get paid for my efforts so I might as well pitch in and go along for the adventure. A couple of further questions revealed the extent of the winter survey trip. We would put in at Lee's Ferry (below the Glen Canyon Dam) and take out two weeks later at Pierce's Ferry on Lake Mead. Our primary job was to count birds along the river but we would also survey patches of riparian habitat and keep track of other wildlife as time permitted.

I caught a flight to Phoenix, and rented a car to Flagstaff. Chuck said that he could pick me up at Phoenix, but I wanted to enjoy a few hours driving through the Arizona sunshine, especially given that the temperature in the Phoenix area was 65 degrees which contrasted rather favorably to the 15 degree temperature I had left behind in Connecticut. We outfitted at the warehouse in Flagstaff and loaded all of the gear including the raft/boat onto a government truck. It was then that I found out that the whole crew would consist only of four people, as everyone else had either called in sick or decided that a winter trip was not in their best interest. At least I would be guaranteed a lot of room on the raft and a lot of food. Of course, we would have to help load and unload all of the equipment each night and I would share a major responsibility in keeping track of the birds including surveying many of the habitat patches on my own while Chuck surveyed other habitat patches across

the river at the same time. Oh well.

We rigged the boat at Lee's Ferry on January 6. This consisted of offloading the two aluminum shells and placing them on blocks, then unrolling the two, 20 foot reinforced pontoons and putting them on either side of the frames. We strapped these to the frames and then filled them with air, then tightened the straps again. As they filled with air the basic outline of the raft took shape. It consisted of a forward frame that held the river bags with our equipment and a stern frame that held the motor and still other equipment. Once rigged, we loaded the food, gasoline for the motor, a spare motor, and other equipment for the trip. I could not believe the amount of equipment that was taken on board and stowed and stacked on the two frames. Four huge (2 x 6 foot) boxes of food, the spare 30 hp outboard motor, two huge containers of gasoline, numerous other items of equipment and a couple of bright red cans that were carefully stowed towards the back of the boat. "What are those for, I asked?" Those are the waste cans, I was told. "Can't I simply take a shovel and bury the stuff up in the sand?" Absolutely not, everything, without exception, is to be carried back out at the end of the trip." Oh well, now that is really roughing it, I thought.

Rigging and loading the equipment on board took most of the day, after which the truck pushed the heavily loaded boat/raft into the water and we tied up for the night and celebrated the rigging.

The next morning I was up very early (still being on Connecticut time) and took a walk through the Lonely Dell Ranch, which had served as the homestead for the ferry boat operators from the middle years of the last century down through the early years of this century, at a time when paved highways were nonexistent and this was the only safe way to cross the Colorado River for hundreds of miles upstream and downstream. Now preserved as a park, the ranch and riparian area can sometimes pay birding dividends in mid-winter. This time however, birding was limited to a few Yellow-rumped Warblers, White-crowned and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Juncos, and Ravens. As the sparrows were hugging the vegetation I started looking around for the cause of their concern. Sure enough, a male Sharp-shinned Hawk was skirting just over the tree line as it conducted its own early morning tour of the ranch. Only a little further along, I spotted an immature Cooper's Hawk that was causing similar concern while overhead an immature Bald Eagle was drifting slowly over the ranch and nearby ridge.

Birding the waters of the Colorado River at Lees Ferry was much more productive. This area is known to be a hot spot for waterbirds and today was no exception. Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Common Goldeneye, Green-winged Teal, Lesser and Greater Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Bufflehead, Ring-

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# COABulletin

## Colorado River Birding in Winter

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necked Duck, and Great Blue Heron were all tallied feeding or resting on the clear, cold waters of the Colorado River.

We pushed off at 9 am on 8 January and the adventure began. The weather was bright and sunny and mild, considering that this is only the first part of January. Once on the river, we were immediately busy recording all the waterfowl and other waterbirds that we passed, entering them in the log. To keep track of the dozens and sometimes hundreds of ducks along the river we tabulated only those that we passed or that flew overhead heading upriver (since none seemed to want to fly overhead heading downriver this made our tabulation work immensely easier). During the first few minutes especially there always seemed to be ducks flying overhead or close alongside the boat, heading upriver. Within a few minutes a procedure of sorts was adopted and we calmed down a little as everything seemed to fall into a kind of routine.

I was so busy bringing my binoculars up, identifying the next flight of ducks and then recording them on that data sheet that I hardly noticed that the first rapid was coming up. Suddenly the front of the raft pitched steeply down, bringing in a flood of water over the front that threatened to swamp the heavily loaded boat. Next the raft reared up, standing almost on its stern (or so it seemed) before again pitching back down into the next dip. I was tossed about and completely soaked from the waves coming in over the front and thought that we were surely going to be swamped, but in a few seconds the rapid was in back of us. Neither Chuck nor Bryan Dirker, our boatman, took any notice of the rapid that we had just passed, and later, I was to find that we would go through several of these rapids each day. I was told that the really impressive rapids---the man killers---were a few days away and by that time I would get use to going through these small rapids.

The rest of the first day fell into a routine of identifying and counting birds. The binoculars were constantly in hand, scanning the waters ahead and the sides and tops of the canyon walls for birds. Both immature and mature Bald Eagles were tallied, loafing and fishing along the river while high overhead an occasional Golden Eagle was spotted as it hunted along the canyon rim. A banded pair of Trumpeter Swans was one of the highlights of the first day. This pair was apparently from one of the transplanted colonies in Wyoming that were spending at least a part of their winter in the sheltered waters of the Grand Canyon. Although technically, we were in Marble Canyon now rather than in the Grand Canyon.

We occasionally stopped at a couple of small, narrow

riparian patches that border the gorge and walk quietly through them to get a tally of wintering birds. These patches are mostly of willow, hackberry, and tamarisk and occasionally can hold some surprise birds. In some areas the riparian patches are broad and well vegetated, but in other areas they can be narrow and steep. Walking them is difficult for two reasons. First, the old tamarisk is so thick that you have to crawl about on your hands and knees to get through some of the old growth. A second reason is that if you slip and slide down the steep hillside, you can slide right into the river. Since the water temperature is a mind-numbing 40 degrees or so, and the bottom falls off steeply this can be both numbing and dangerous.

The patches we checked today included Say's Phoebe, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Song, White-crowned and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, House Finch, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Canyon, and Bewick's Wren, and Oregon Junco. Several raptors spotted about the patches were Red-tailed, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Today's eagle tally included 8 adult and 2 immature Bald Eagles along the river. Our river watch was also enlivened by the appearance of an occasional American Dipper.

The first day on the river ended just about sundown, although we could not actually spot the sun going down while we were deep in the gorge of Marble Canyon. Setting up camp consisted of tying down the raft and offloading the food, cooking equipment, and personal gear. Dinner was New York strip steak and potatoes cooked on the grill, all handled by the boatman. Since the trip originally scheduled eight, we each had to eat or attempt to eat four oversized strip steaks. I did well at this task. Almost as soon as the food was out and cooking, the small mammals of the canyon floor came out to greet us. A whole host of mice descended on camp, looking in a very tame and appealing way for handouts. Across the river a couple of Ravens also put in an appearance and waited patiently. I, of course, immediately set about discarding little bits of food but this was quickly discouraged. It seems that in summer the super abundant mice at these camps consistently attract snakes, mostly rattlesnakes. Having heard this, I quickly forgot all about feeding the mice and other small critters around camp. After dinner we planned out the next day's river trip and completed the process of logging the day's results into the various logbooks. Sleeping consisted of throwing out a tarp on the sand high enough above the water line, then tossing the sleeping bags on top and jumping in. While the daytime temperature was about 40 degrees, by night it dropped right down to about 25 degrees, so I really wasn't in the mood to move around very much after we turned off the camp light. It gets amazingly dark and quiet down at the bottom of the

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## Colorado River Birding

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canyon.

We camped at River Mile 47 and hiked around the riparian area in the freezing twilight. The birds of these riparian patches are pretty similar, regardless of what patch we are surveying. The only new species that are starting to show up at the moment are Mountain Chickadees, Bushtits and Red-naped Sapsuckers. We did have a treat in the morning as we discovered that a mountain lion and her cub had visited the river near our camp sometime during the night. Sometime down the river our boatman pulled the boat up on a sandy spit of land at the base of the cliff. "Don't leave any footprints as we climb up rock face." Bryan advised. We climbed for half an hour and then peaked in an overhang on the cliff face. Just inside, slightly fallen back was an Anazazi earthenware jar, sitting there just as its owner had left it a thousand years before. The brown and black jar was nearly a foot high and in almost perfect shape. American Indian objects like this are worth perhaps \$20,000 on the market, especially the European market but to Bryan---who discovered it while climbing about the cliff face---the ancient jar was far more valuable sitting in its protective enclave overlooking the river and so we left it behind as a kind of totem to guard this stretch of river.

The next day on the river was marked by another milestone as we passed the confluence of the Little Colorado River with the Colorado River. Somewhere around River Mile 65 the bright blue waters of the Little Colorado enter from the plateau to our left. Now we are technically in the Grand Canyon (the previous gorge is known as Marble Canyon, although, of course, the gorge is continuous. Some of this stretch of river is becoming more familiar as I have spotted and surveyed it from Desert View Tower on the south rim, which now broods over us, although at a seemingly long distance up and away. Birds of note today were a Barrow's Goldeneye and more Bald Eagles. We camped at the Cardenas Marsh campsite, which can also be reached by trails from the south rim and is a fairly well traveled area. Cardenas Marsh features the last stand of Goodings Willows on this part of the Grand Canyon. Last spring, a Long-eared Owl pair successfully nested on the ground in and among these thick, brushy willows but today we could only scare up a couple of kinglets during our morning survey.

From Cardenas Marsh the next few days on the river were notable mostly for going through the inner gorge of the Grand Canyon. This stretch is marked by steep walls and an almost unending series of rapids, some, such as Crystal Rapids and Upset Rapids are large and dangerous. We

mostly miss the watery winter sun, which now shines only along a few bends in the river. Because it is cold, we quickly get into the habit of stopping and having lunch at these sunlit patches along the gorge.

Along this stretch of the Grand Canyon bird work is slower now as most of the ducks and other waterfowl winter in the upper reaches. Even the wintering birds of the riparian patches are few in number and variety. An occasional Say's Phoebe or Black Phoebe are the more interesting birds recorded. Lunch is at Fossil Canyon, where we are treated to more mountain lion tracks. They have proven and will continue to be extremely plentiful this winter as we find evidence of mountain lion tracks and even fresh kills around almost all of our camps. Our nightly campsites also feature tracks of coyote, bobcat, gray fox, and ring-tailed cats. We made camp at River Mile 179, just above Lava Falls, which we will run in the early morning.

Lava Falls is undoubtedly the most famous rapid on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. Created a few million years ago, when a major lava flow partly emptied into the canyon, the rapid is noted for its drop of nearly 40 feet and its attendant ferocity. We climbed up the hillside to scout it out before attempting the run, then loaded the raft and carefully tied everything down. After checking the requisite life belts (worn at all times on the river) we were off but the trip down the falls proved to be all too brief (but very wet). Guess that we are getting adjusted to going through rapids, so we take less notice of even the biggest. Of course, it helps immensely that our boatman is a genuine veteran with 375 river trips to his credit.

The remainder of the trip proved to be equally interesting in its intensity, equally entertaining in the varied scenery and geology, and somewhat less exciting as by now we were more or less experienced at going down the river. A few new birds were tallied each day to add to the overall species list, such as Phainopepla, Northern Mockingbird and Common Grackle. At about River Mile 270, we were treated to a sudden quietness---the rushing waters of the Colorado River smoothly and invisibly transitioned into the upper waters of Lake Mead---no more going to sleep with the sound of the Colorado River flowing by. We took out at Pierce's Ferry after 285 miles on the river.

## New Canyon Birds

Chuck LaRue and Dwight G. Smith

Two new birds to the master list of birds that have been observed in the Grand Canyon, a Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandicas*) seen January 11, 1999 above Cardenas Marsh and an Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) heard on January 16 at River Mile 197.

# COABulletin

## Trips & Events

### The Fat Robin

**Spring Bird Walks at East Rock Park and along the Farmington Canal.** Call Jim and Carol Zipp at 203-248-7068 for details about these local bird walks.

### Hartford Audubon Society

**Beginner's Bird Walk at Station 43** on Sunday, March 14. Bring your binoculars, field guides, and questions! Meet at the corner of Newberry Road and Main Street at 8:00 am. Call leaders Len Kendall at 860-658-7952 or Roger Preston at 860-658-8010 for details.

**Western Connecticut Shoreline**, on Saturday, March 20. Explore the coastline for late wintering birds and early spring arrivals. Dress warmly and bring lunch. Meet at the Long Wharf Information Center, New Haven, at 8 am. Call leader Carl Ekroth at 860-872-6372 for details.

**Hammonasset for Beginning Birders**, on Sunday, March 21. These trips offer the beginner another location at which to sharpen their skills. Emphasis will be on identification techniques. Time will be spent studying and enjoying the birds. More advanced birders who are willing to help are encouraged to join us. Each trip begins at the park entrance gate at 8 am. Take exit 62 off I-95, head south to the park entrance. Call leader John Gaskell for details at 860-669-1862.

**Sachuest Point, Rhode Island**, on Sunday, March 28. Sachuest Point is home to the largest wintering flock of Harlequin Ducks in New England with up to 60 birds possible. Other ducks and seabirds are common and we may see Gannets as well as many other birds that are harder to find in Connecticut. Meet at the Sachuest Point parking lot at 8:30 am. Call trip leader Paul Desjardins at 860-623-3696 for details.

**Birding and Maintenance Party at Lewis Farm**, Suffield, on Saturday, April 10. Support your sanctuary and help with spring cleanup. Bring your binoculars and work implements. Come anytime from 8:30 am on. Call leader Jon Smalley at 860-561-0195 for more info.

**Hawk Watch at Penwood State Park**, on Saturday, April 17 and Sunday, April 18. Meet at 8:30 am at Penwood State Park, main parking lot. We will be looking for northbound raptors. Call leader Paul Carrier at 860-485-9654 for details.

### Hartford Audubon Society Wildlife Lecture Series

All of the HAS wildlife lecture series are held in the McAuely Residence Auditorium, 275 Steele road, West Hartford, on Tuesdays, beginning at 7:30 pm.

**"Birding the Four Corners of North America."** by Shawneen Finegan on Tuesday, March 16. Shawneen will take us from the Tortugas to Alaska and Colorado to Cape May to share her many beautiful slides and adventures to these varied North American birding spots. Shawneen is a gifted artist and photographer and is a trip leader for Wings and Cape May Bird Observatory.

**"The Flight of the Condor."** by Fred Sibley and Roland Clement, on Tuesday, April 20. Two of Connecticut's foremost ornithologists will present the natural history and rare footage from the 1960's of this endangered species.

### New Haven Bird Club

**Southwestern Connecticut Coastline**, on Saturday, March 13. This trip will focus on ducks and winter shorebirds. The trip will start at 8 am at the Information Booth at Long Wharf and head southwest. Stops at St. John's by the Sea, Oyster River, Merwin Point, and Milford Point are all probable. Call trip leader Tom Kilroy at 203-929-6683 for details.

**Shoreline from Lighthouse to Lordship**, on Saturday, April 10. Winter loons, gulls, ducks, and early shorebirds. Meet at the Hawkwatch parking lot at Lighthouse Point Park at 8:30 am. Can be cold and windy so come prepared. Bring lunch. Call leader Dick English at 203-865-8610 for details.

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## 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)*

### New Haven Bird Club

East Rock Park Trail Maintenance, on Sunday, April 11. Meet at the parking lot by Lake Whitney for a bird walk from 8-9 am. Then join park ranger Dan Barvir and help with light trail maintenance for about 2 hours along the river. Bring work gloves and pruning shears if you have them. Trash bags will be provided.

**Branford Supply Ponds** on Sunday, April 25. Look for the first of the spring migrants at the ponds. Beginning of walk considered difficult by some. Meet at Exit 54 commuter lot off of I-95. Call trip leader John Himmelman at 860-663-3225 for details.

**West Rock Ridge**, on Saturday, May 1. Early warblers, woodpeckers, and some great woodland birds. Participants meet at the West Rock Nature Center parking lot on Wintergreen Avenue at 7:30 am. Call leader Pat Leahy at 203-393-2427 for details.

**White Memorial Foundation** on Saturday, May 8. Warblers, rails, swallows, hawks, flycatchers and possibly cuckoos on this walk. Stay as long as you like. Bring lunch. Moderate hiking. Meet at the WMF parking lot at 8 am. Call leader Lee Schleisinger at 914-937-4685 for details.

**Central Park Bird Walk, New York City**, on Sunday, May 9. Bird the lakes and woods of Central Park in the heart of New York City. Meet at 8 am at the East 70th Street entrance to the park. Call leader John Holland at 212-348-4367 for details.

**Cape Cod Spring Weekend**, on May 15 & 16. Come and explore the outer cape with us for shorebirds and seabirds. This trip will focus on the Wellfleet and Provincetown areas. Call leader Steve Broker at 203-272-5192 for details including lodging information.

### 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.

## 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

**Birds and Butterflies in Trinidad**, March 6-14. Nine days on Trinidad offers the perfect introduction to birding the South American rain forests. Antbirds, parrots, hummingbirds, toucans, tanagers, flycatchers, caciques, numerous other species during the day and nightjars, tropical owls, and pottos at night. A little star gazing is also in order along with 750 butterfly species. Space is limited so please sign up early. Clay Taylor is trip leader. CAS and COA members \$1895 including airfare. Nonmembers add \$30.

**Costa Rica** from March 8-17. Ten days of fascinating birds in fascinating habitats--Baribbean lowlands, cloud forest, dry forest, classic primary rain forest. Specialties include resplendent quetzal, macaw, king bulture, jabiru, abundant hummingbirds. Leaders Jay Hand, Carlos Gomez. Limit 14 per trip so please sign up early. Cost \$2895, nonmembers add \$30. Airfare additional.

### The Audubon Shop

**Bird Walks at Hammonasset**, beginning Saturday, April 17, and every Saturday thereafter. See returning shorebirds, waterbirds, birds of prey and songbirds, Fee: \$2 meet at The Audubon Shop at 7:50 am. Call Jerry at 203-245-9056 for details.

### Museum of Natural History at Storrs

**Birds Live and Spectacular** on March 6 and 7, from 1-5 pm. Hosted by the State Museum of Natural History at UConn, this show for all includes live eagles, hawks, and other birds. Hands on activities for kids, exhibits, demonstrations. Admission \$5 per adult, \$2 per child. For information call 860-486-4460



# COABulletin

## 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.

### JOIN COA FOR THE BEST OF CONNECTICUT BIRDING

*Please print or type*

New Member    Renewal    Gift

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Memberships above the individual level can include a spouse or partner)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone\* \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation\* \_\_\_\_\_

Bird Club or Audubon Chapter\* \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Count Name\* \_\_\_\_\_

Level of Birding Experience\*    Beginner    Novice    Intermediate    Advanced    Expert

Membership Category    Individual (\$12)    Family (\$18)    Contributing (\$25)    Sustaining (\$40)

*\*Optional*

*Send this application with your check to:*

**Connecticut Ornithological Association, 314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06430**

*COA does not release its membership list to other organizations. Dues are tax deductible as allowed under the law.*

MEMBERS: PLEASE GIVE THIS FORM TO A BIRDING FRIEND

# COABulletin

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## COA OFFICERS

**President** Dave Provencher, 43 Branch Hill Rd, Preston, CT 06365 860-885-1239  
**Vice President** Mark Szantyr, 662 Phoenixville Road, Chaplin, CT 06235 860-455-0787  
**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** Stephen Oresman, 49 Sunswyck Rd., Darien, CT 06820 203- 656-3907  
**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, 10 Arch Street, Apt. B, Norwalk, CT 06850 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  
**RBA** Frank Gallo, 144 Oenoke Ridge Rd., New Canaan, CT 06840 203-966-9577

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