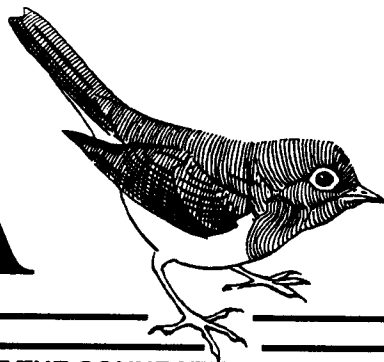


COA



Bulletin

Fall 1999 NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION Vol 14 No 3

1999 Fall Hawk Watches

by Neil Currie

The fall hawk migration will soon be upon us. As I write this reminder in mid-July, I only hope the cloud and wind conditions will be as perfect in September as they are today.

This reminder is not needed for most birders. However, there are more and more individuals becoming birders and the new ones may not be aware of the spectacle that takes place in Connecticut each fall. This is also a call for birders to keep an eye to the sky even in their back yards.

From about September 12 through September 20, Broad-winged Hawks in large numbers will be moving over Connecticut. If you see migrating Broadwings, try to get a count and mail the information to me: Neil Currie, 10 Mountain Laurel Lane, Sandy Hook, CT 06482.

In Connecticut there are several established hawk watch sites. At Lighthouse Point in New Haven and at Quaker Ridge at the National Audubon's sanctuary in Greenwich there are watcher/counters on hand every day from early September through mid-November. For seeing large numbers of hawks and a variety of hawks on many of the days in this period these two spots are among the best in the nation. If you visit one of them you will see also large numbers of other birds in migration.

Other lookouts are manned during the broadwing migration in September (12-20). These lookouts, the compilers, and the telephone numbers are as follows:

Booth Hill in West Hartland - Paul Carrier -
1- 860-485-9654. *(continued on page 2)*

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HOTLINE HIGHLIGHTS

Chuck-will's wadow	Chester	May 2
Mississippi Kite	Redding	May 12
Red-necked Phalarope	New Canaan	May 19
White-winged Tern	Milford	May 20
Swallow-tailed Kite	Weston	June 5
King Rail	Stratford	June 6-July 11
Ruff	Stratford	June 29
Sandhill Crane	Greenwich	July 24
Royal Tern	Milford	July 25
Arctic Tern	West Haven	Aug 8

RARE BIRD ALERT: 203-254-3665

COA Fall Field Day

by Fran D'Amico

The COA will hold its Annual Fall Field Day at White Memorial Foundation in Litchfield on Saturday, September 18. A full day of activities (8:00 am to 3pm) is planned for birders of all ages on this 4,000 acre property. White Memorial Foundation (WMF) offers one of interior Connecticut's most diverse, year-around birding sites with woodlands, fields, pastures, thickets, streams, and ponds. In addition to the outdoor opportunities, WMF operates a Museum, which will be open all day (9am to 5pm).

All members should come to the Mott-VanWinkle Classroom on arrival, where COA's desk will be open beginning at 7:30 am for walk-in registrations and for preregistered attendees to pick up a schedule of the day's events. Morning refreshments will be provided. Lunch will be on your own, so plan on bringing a picnic lunch and enjoy the grounds.

All field trips will leave from the Registration area at the Mott-VanWinkle Classroom. Starting at 8:00 am there will be bird walks leaving from the Classroom that will offer different habitats. Walks will go out to areas such as Little Pond, Catlin Woods and Cemetery Pond. Of note this year is that the dry summer, while not kind to waterfowl, has turned Cemetery Pond into a virtual mudflat, which has been attracting shorebirds. *(continued on page 2)*

COA Bulletin

COA Fall Field Day

(continued from page 1)

There are two indoor bird identification programs planned to help birders refine their birding skills. One of the programs will be on the identification of sparrows, in which both beginners and more advanced birders will find useful tips on the important field marks for the species presented. The other workshop will be on the identification of fall warblers, which aren't as tricky to identify, when you know what to look for. And that's what this workshop hopes to provide. Both programs will be at the Mott-Van Winkle Classroom.

Kids programs begin at 9:00 am with a bird walk and talk aimed at introducing birding to your fledglings. Other events for children may include programs on pond critters, plants and trees. If you are planning to bring children, it would be very helpful to preregister and include the children's ages so that we can have an exciting and diverse day available for them. Kids may also accompany adults on the insect walks.

More details will be available in the brochure, which will be mailed to members in late August.

Fall Field Day fees are \$5.00 for adults (no charge for children under 18) if you preregister by September 11. Registration on the day of the event is \$7.00. Members will receive registration material in the mail. Remember to include the number of children and their ages and names. Preregistration can be mailed to: Fran D'Amico, 508 Preston Avenue, Meriden, CT 06450.

For additional information, please call Fran D'Amico at 203-237-2734 or Ron Bell at 203-387-3815. Also, stay tuned to the Connecticut Rare Bird Alert at 203-254-3665 for additional information and updates concerning this event. The festivities go on rain or shine. See you there!

Directions to While Memorial Foundation: Take Route 8 to Exit 42 (Route 118, Litchfield and Harwinton) and follow Route 118 west for 4.8 miles to Route 202 in Litchfield. Follow Route 202 west for about 2.0 miles to

**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, 1999 to
Dwight Smith, Editor,
241 Shepard Ave., Hamden, CT 06514.**

Bissell Road on the left. Turn left onto Bissell Road and immediately turn right onto a well-marked dirt road. Follow the bright yellow COA signs to the Mott-Van Winkle Classroom, which is a separate building on the left just before the Museum/Visitors Center.

Fall 1999 Hawk Watches

(continued from page 1)

Beelzebub Road in South Windsor

Phyllis Kitchin 860-644-1858

Johnnycake Mountain Farm in Harwinton

Joyce Grohoski---1-860-589-1276

Chestnut Hill in Litchfield

Neil Currie-1-203-426-9861

Good Hill in Woodbury

Al and Betty Root-1-203-263-3510

Botsford Hill in Bridgewater

Neil Currie-1-203-426-9861

Whippoorwill Hill in Newtown

Neil Currie-1-203-426-9861

Huntington State Park in Redding

Larry Fischer-1-203-426-3901

East Shore Park in New haven

Neil Currie-1-203-426-9861

Maltby Lakes in West Haven

David Fiske-1-203-393-0065

Lighthouse Point in New Haven

Ron Bell-1-203-387-2815

Quaker Ridge in Greenwich

call National Audubon in Greenwich

If you have a computer with access to the internet you can follow daily the progress of the September broadwing migration. The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and National Audubon Society's BirdSource provides this service on the internet. Just log onto their web site at <http://birdsource.cornell.edu/bwha>. You will see the International Broad-winged Hawk Survey. Click on Survey Results to see the maps and progress of the migration.

Thanks for your interest and participation.

Articles

We desperately need timely articles for the COA Bulletin. I can use articles on birds and birding for each and every issue so please send in your latest events, adventures, bird behavior items and any other appropriate materials. I will see that the articles get published ASAP, generally in the issue following.

COA Bulletin

Federal Funding for Wildlife and Open Space

by Patty Pendergast

Important legislation that will bring federal dollars to Connecticut for protection of wildlife and open space acquisition is in the making.

This could be the year that Congress votes to pass legislation that will permanently protect our natural heritage. Both Democrats and Republicans are sponsoring legislation to devote significant revenue towards conservation efforts.

There are two proposals that stand out from the many bills put forth----The Conservation and Reinvestment Act, House of Representatives Bill #701/Senate Bill #25 (CARA) and the Permanent Protection for American's Resources 2000 Act, House of Representative Bill #798/Senate Bill #446 (Resources 2000).

Both proposals will address funding for open space, wildlife management, and coastal resources and wetlands protection by using revenue from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was created by Congress in 1965 to channel revenue from the use of natural resources open space protection, wildlife conservation and recreational opportunities. LWCF is funded by royalties from the drilling of off-shore oil and gas reserves. The fund is authorized to receive \$900 million annually for federal, state, and local programs. Past reality has shown that much of the royalty receipts have been redirected by Congress to the general treasury to balance the budget.

All of the conservation funding proposals Congress is considering include provisions to assist the states with their wildlife and conservation needs. The proposals differ in the amount of funding the states would receive and in how those allocations would be determined. Connecticut would stand to receive varying amounts and the following is a breakdown of these two proposals.

CARA HR 710/S 25-Stateside LWCF \$3,756,098 (open space), Federal.

LWCF \$591,139 (open space), Wildlife Conservation \$2,694,487 (state non game wildlife management), Impact Assistance \$3,865,271 (coastal rehabilitation from infrastructure projects), Urban Parks \$3,387,709 (local park acquisition and development).

Resources 2000 HR 798/S446--State LWCF \$6,148,\$1,007,594, Wildlife Conservation \$3,214,543, Ocean Fisheries \$4,754,940, Urban Parks \$3,368,361, Historic Preservation and Federal Lands Restoration \$2,478,312, Endangered Species Act Habitat Preservation

\$508,388. *Amounts are based on estimated total Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease revenues of \$28 billion for the year 2000.

When contacting your Congressional delegation be sure to include these comments in any reference to either proposal:

*Mention your interest in wildlife watching and outdoor recreation;

*The need to assure permanent, dedicated funds not requiring annual Congressional appropriation;

*Assure these programs do not reduce or divert funds that are currently available for other conservation purposes;

*Must include funding for state fish and wildlife agencies that would support conservation, recreation, and education programs for a diverse array of fish and wildlife species, with an emphasis given to non game species;

*A firm guarantee of funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund at the Authorized \$900 million level and divide those funds equally between federal and state programs without unreasonably restricting the use of those funds; and

*Provide funds for coastal conservation efforts in a manner that does not create an incentive for coastal states and their local governments to support inappropriate new offshore oil and gas development, and include strong guidelines to ensure that the funds are used for the restoration and enhancement of coastal natural resources.

Our House Representatives-Resources 2000 HR798 CARA HR 710

1st District: Rep. John Larson -202-225-2265 in Connecticut-860-278-8888, address-1419 Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515, email-john.larson@mail.house.gov

2nd District" Rep. Sam Gedge-202-225-2076 in Connecticut-860-346-1123/886-0139, address 2304 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515, email-bozrah@mail.house.gov

3rd District: Rep. Rosa DeLauro-202-225-3661 in Connecticut-203-562-3718 address 341 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515

4th District: Rep. Christopher Shays-202-225-5541 in Connecticut 203-357-8277/579-5870 address 1126

(continued on page 4)

HOTLINE REPORTS

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

Frank Gallo 203-966-6756

Jim Hunter 203-259-5778

Bruce Stevenson 203-762-5902

COA Bulletin

Federal Funding for Wildlife and Open Space

(continued from page 3)

Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515-
email-rep.shays@mail.house.gov

5th District: Rep. James H. Maloney-202-225-3822 in Connecticut, Waterbury 203-735-5005, Meriden 203-630-1903, Danbury 203-790-6856, Derby 203-735-5005, 1213 Longhouse Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515

6th District: Rep. Nancy Johnson, 202-225-4476 in Connecticut 860-223-8412, 2112 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515.

Our Senators- Resources 2000 S446 CARA S25

Senator Christopher Dodd, 202-224-2823 in Connecticut 860-258-6940, 444 Russell Building, Washington, DC 20510, email-sen_dodd@dodd.senate.gov

Senator Joseph Lieberman, 202-224-4041 in Connecticut 860-549-8463, 706 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510, email-sen_lieberman@lieberman.senate.gov

Volunteering for Connecticut's Coastal National Wildlife Refuge Program

Making a Difference...

Connecticut's Coastal National Wildlife Refuge, Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, needs your support, hard work, and expertise. Be a volunteer and help make a difference. The eight units of the McKinney NWR need your help counting wildlife, banding birds, constructing nest boxes, maintaining trails, leading nature walks, and assisting refuge visitors.

The volunteer program offers you four areas of opportunities. These are biological, visitor interpretation, education and orientation, maintenance, and miscellaneous skills.

Areas of Opportunities for Volunteers

Biological... Sound, responsible refuge management is the product of an in-depth scientific foundation. Volunteers help the refuge staff census wildlife populations. You can monitor endangered species or count waterfowl, shorebirds, hawks, and songbirds. Help wildlife populations by building nesting boxes for bluebirds, kestrels, and Wood

Ducks. These interesting opportunities await you at the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge and you, in turn, will make a significant contribution to wildlife.

Visitor Interpretation, Education, and Orientation...

Stewart B. McKinney NWR was the first National Wildlife Refuge in Connecticut. Hundreds of people visit these coastal refuges each year. Help lead a nature walk for a school group or lead a group of visitors. Our staff will train you on how to identify birds, trees, plants and habitats and you can pass this valuable knowledge about our natural resources to your community and visitors alike. Orient visitors to refuge and wildlife by walking the trails or manning the visitor center at Salt Meadow Unit of the McKinney NWR. You can make a big difference in helping our environment by getting involved.

Maintenance...

Maintain refuge trails by mowing, clearing brush, and building observation boardwalks. Help improve refuge facilities such as the historic manor house at the Salt Meadow Unit. Assist in boundary posting, fence building or the many other daily tasks necessary to make the refuges the special place they are.

Miscellaneous Skills... Are you a photographer, artists, or have skills with the computer? Do you have a knack for something that you can share? Help Connecticut's wildlife by donating this talent to a National Wildlife Refuge. We need your skill, come join the Volunteer team.

Interested in Helping Wildlife....

By volunteering at the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge in Connecticut, you will help preserve our valuable wildlife heritage and join a team of dedicated people interested in saving our environment. If you have a little or a lot of time you could donate, give us a call and talk to one of our staff. We will explain our program and schedule you to start on a wild adventure.

Call: Bill Kolodnicki
Refuge Manager
860-399-2513

or write:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Stewart B. McKinney NWR
P.O. Box 1030
Westbrook, CT 06498

email: r5rw sbmnwr@fws.gov



The Building of a Shelter

by Paul Carrier

Woodpecker species are well known for their ability to carve out nests and shelters within trees. The typical example is usually within a stout trunk or branch standing vertical, but occasionally the site chosen will have a pronounced horizontal tilt.

From my work with nesting Bluebirds and Tree Swallows, I have seen a preference by these two species for slanted entrance holes. The reasons for this preference are debatable, but most agree they discourage competitors and enemies alike from getting easy access to their nests. This downward slant can also help keep the rain and elements out, thus eliminating the chances for a wet, damp nest, which usually spells disaster.

Eight years ago, I cut down an overhanging maple branch that was shading my garden; Not a good cut, but enough to do the job. In the Fall of 1997, a male Downy Woodpecker decided to carve out a winter shelter within the remaining stump. Being an unusual location and angle for such a task, I decided to observe as much of his labors as I could, for I felt what was left of the branch would never accommodate even this smallest of Woodpeckers.

I would like to describe this snag below, which is also illustrated in (Figure A). This snag is 18 feet above ground, protruding 5 feet out from the trunk at an astonishing 20 degree angle. The section this Woodpecker started working from below is no more than 2 1/4 inch thick, hardly enough to sustain a hole, much less a chamber. The underside of this snag was relatively flat, produced when the branch had ripped off before the cut was completed (see Figure B).

Working on his shelter did not seem to be of major concern, for it was over 3 weeks before his tail disappeared completely inside. I was also amazed at the small size of the entrance hole, just enough to fit into, but not enough to turn

around. After each working spell, which averaged about 5 minutes, he would back out and fly away to feed or preen.

One day I observed this bird tilt into the hole and disappear, then shortly exit the chamber head first! He must have excavated the inner chamber large enough to turn around in, but how could this be from such a narrow snag? During the winter of 1997-98, I did see this bird once inside his shelter, though he could have used it every night.

Answers were to be found when next fall this snag fell down, breaking into many pieces. By putting the pieces back together, I began to discover just how skillful and industrious this little woodpecker really is.

The entrance hole was a bit oblong, averaging just over 1 inch in width. From here, it turned directly horizontally, (see Figure B), widening slightly as it went in. Surprisingly, the top part of the chamber was only 1/8th from breaking out at the top. How did he realize he could make a chamber within this snag, and not break through the top? The snag widened slightly as the chamber progressed inward, following the snag's 20° angle almost perfectly, a feat accomplished by having a knowledge or sense of angles, measurements, and shapes.

How did this smallest of woodpeckers calculate, assess, and become convinced this snag would provide a viable piece of real estate to exploit its labors on and end with a fine winter shelter?

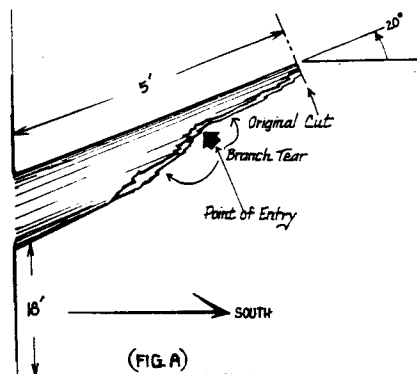


Figure A.

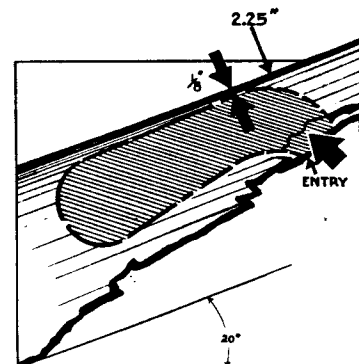


Figure B.

COA Bulletin

Lawns *Can* Attract Birds

by Eleanor Loft

Since lawns have been frowned on so many times for ecological reasons, I decided to make a list of the birds I have seen feeding on our lawn.

First, I should say I agree with arguments against a lawn if it means using pesticides. We have never used them on our lawn, nor chemical fertilizers since our first years here. Our mower is set at 3 inches and the cuttings, rich in nitrogen and potash, are left to fertilize the lawn (except for what are swept up to use as mulch in the flower garden).

I guess that you would call it a country lawn, because while mowed when necessary, it does have wildflowers in it, such as heal-all, devil's paint brush, buttercup, clover, and dandelions (which are dug up whenever there is time).

This is my list of birds that at some time in the 22 years we have lived here have fed on our lawn. And thanks to them we no longer are plagued by Japanese beetles and aphids.

Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Rock Dove, Gray Catbird, Cowbird, American Crow, Northern Flicker, Common Grackle, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Mockingbird, Mourning Dove, Eastern Phoebe, Red-winged Blackbird, Chipping, Fox, Song, Tree, and White-throated Sparrows, Eurasian Starling, Eastern Towhee.

Connecticut Warbler

Our state ornithology journal *The Connecticut Warbler* is in search of a few good articles. Seriously, if you have been accumulating observations of behavior, food habitats, seasonal events or other research topics why not consider writing them up and sending them in to Betty Kleiner, Editor of *The Connecticut Warbler*.

Articles Wanted!!

I am always in need of articles for the COA bulletin on bird and bird related topics. I am equally happy with the articles sent to me for inclusion in each issue. Any bird and birding topic is sure to interest our readers so please send in your latest sightings, field trips, explorations, or even information about upcoming events of your local birding, garden and other nature focus clubs. I will see that your articles get published in timely fashion in the Bulletin. And thanks, as always, for your participation.

Year of the Raven

by Dwight G. Smith

Ravens are back in Connecticut with a vengeance. Nests have been reported at a number of localities throughout the state, from the northwest to the south east. We have about 8 confirmed nesting locales so far, including nesting pairs at Sleeping Giant, Naugatuck, and Mansfield area. Along with Buzz Devine and Trevor Becker, I am presently measuring nest sites and accumulating related ecological data such as habitat selection and associated raven nesting activities in the state. Any sightings, nest locales, and other information you could pass on to us would be greatly appreciated and acknowledged. Thanks very much. Please send info to: Dwight Smith, Biology Department, Southern Connecticut State University, 501 Crescent Street, New Haven, CT 06515

Peregrine Falcons Nesting at Bridgeport

Peregrine Falcons are moving up along the coast this year, apparently, with the latest nesting spot located under one of Bridgeport's many bridges along the Interstate 95 sector. The nesting locale was just visible from Stratford Avenue, and was under the I-95 bridge at the Bridgeport-Stratford line.

Midwinter Waterfowl Populations

The winter survey of waterfowl conducted by DEP Wildlife Division staff revealed several changes in the status of Connecticut's waterfowl populations. Mallard counts were down and continued below average, but Black Ducks were up, although still lower than the five year average, and this species is continuing its long-term decline. Most diving ducks increased. Scaup counts were well above last year and also above the five year average but they too, are in the midst of a long-term decline. Other species such as Canvasback, Common Goldeneye, and Merganser showed good numbers. Canada Goose and Mute Swan populations were also at or above average.

Summarized from an article in Connecticut Wildlife March/April 1999 issue.

COA Bulletin

Trips & Events

Hartford Audubon Society

The Salt Meadows Unit of Stewart B. McKinney NWR in Westbrook, CT, on Saturday, September 11. This early morning trip should yield migrant land birds. Take exit 64 off I-95 (Horse Hill Rd.) turn right from I-95 North or left from I-95 South, to the blinking light. Turn left on Old Clinton Rd., go 1 mile to entrance (on the right). Meet at 6:00 am. Trip leader Patrick Comins (860) 342-3783.

Jamaica Bay Car Pool Trip, on Saturday, September 11. An early trip to Jamaica Bay in New York City to search for shorebirds and other migrants. Watch for skimmers, herons, and migrant land birds. Call leader John Gaskell for car pool arrangements at (860) 669-1862.

Hawk Watch Booth Hill, East Hartland, on Saturday and Sunday, September 11 & 12 and again on September 18 & 19. Bring a chair, food, and drink, and spend the day watching for Broad-wings, Ospreys, Ravens, and perhaps and eagle. Met at 8:30 am. Leader Paul Carrier (860) 485-9654.

Simsbury River Walk, on Sunday, September 12. This is the first of a series of seasonal walks at this site. We plan to search for some of the 130 or so species found at this site during the year. Autumn sparrows, hawks flying over, and various ducks on the Farmington River are possible. Meet at 8:00 am at the boat house. Leader Stephanie Lovell (860) 521-2621

Beginner's Bird Walk, on Sunday, September 19, at Station 43, South Windsor. Meet at the corner of Newberry Rd. and Main Street at 8:00 am. Leaders Len Kendall (860) 658-7952 and Roger Preston (860) 658-5010.

Great Pond, Simsbury, on Saturday, September 25. Join our leaders on this fall trip searching for migrants including waterfowl and shorebirds. Great Pond has produced some good birds in recent years including Hudsonian Godwit. Meet at entrance parking lot at 8:00 am. Leaders Len Kendall (860) 658-7952 and Roger Preston (860)-658-5810

Westmoor Park, West Hartford, on Sunday, September 26. Morning walk to this new location in West Hartford. It includes a variety of habitats, field, woods, and pond to explore. Meet at the parking lot at 8:00 am. Westmoor Park is located at 119 Flagg Road, off Albany Avenue. Leader Stephanie Lovell (860) 521-2621

Station 43, South Windsor, on Saturday, October 2. Meet at the corner of Newberry Rd. and Main Street at 7:30 am to search for sparrows and raptors, in particular. Leader Carl Ekroth (860) 872-6372.

Lewis Farm, Suffield--birding and maintenance party, on Saturday, October 16. Bring your work gloves, binoculars, and lunch, and help the Sanctuary committee keep Lewis Farm beautiful and clear of brush. This is a great way to learn which plants are beneficial to birds and wildlife. Meet at Lewis Farm at 8:30 am. Leader Jon Smallley (860) 561-0195.

Hammonasset for Beginning Birders, on Sunday, October 17. Trips designed to help beginners sharpen their birding skills. Emphasis will be on identification techniques. More advanced birders who are willing to help are encouraged to join. Trip begins at the park entrance at 8:00 am. Leader John Gaskell (860) 669-1862.

Rhode Island Shoreline, on Saturday, October 30. Check out Rhode Island's shore from Point Judith west towards Connecticut. Look for waterfowl, Northern Gannets, hawks, and wintering shorebirds. Meet at Point Judith at 8:00 am. Leader Paul Desjardins (860) 623-3696

The Fat Robin

Saturday morning trips to Lighthouse Point Park in search of hawks and other fall migrants. Call Jim Zipp at 248-7068 for dates and details.

The Audubon Shop

Hammonasset Beach State Park birding trips in search of fall migrants and hawks, beginning September 11. Continuing every Saturday through Thanksgiving. Beginners welcome. Call Jerry Connolly at 245-9056 for info. Fee \$2.

A birder's view of amphibians and reptiles, by Peter Warny, Jr. Given by the Menunkatuck Audubon Society. Free. Meet at 7:30 on Wednesday, September 8. Call Jerry Connolly at 245-9056 for details.

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)

Audubon Society of Greenwich

For more information about these events, contact the Audubon Society of Greenwich, 613 Riversville Road, Greenwich, CT, 06831, phone 203-869-5272

Songbirds on the move, on Saturday, September 11, from 10:00 am. Join our naturalist and discover how many songbirds you can locate by sight and sound on the Center grounds. Members free, nonmembers \$3.

Annual Hawkwatch Weekend, on Saturday, September 18 and Sunday, September 19. Join the activities at the Quaker Ridge Hawkwatch site within the Center grounds. Events include hawkwatching and other activities. Members free, nonmembers \$3 adults, seniors and children \$1.50.

Connecticut Audubon Society

Please contact Andy Griswold, Director, Connecticut Audubon EcoTravel, 67 Main Street, Essex, CT 06426 for info on these trips and other events sponsored by the CAS. Andy's phone number is 860-767-0660, Fax 860-767-9988, e-mail at CTAUDUBON@aol.com. Web Site: www.ctaudubon.org.

Fall Bird Watching on Block Island, from October 1 to October 3. Leaders Frank Mantlik and Andy Griswold will share their knowledge and enthusiasm for finding and enjoying migrants during this fall migration peak period. Stay in one of the interesting old inns. Cost \$395 which includes transportation to Block Island, ferry fees, hotel, most meals, evening lecture, bird banding demonstrations. Please contact Andy Griswold for reservations and more info.

Hidden Coves of the Lower Connecticut River Valley, on Saturday, October 30, from 1pm to evening. Explore the towns and areas around Lyme and up through Haddams in search of newly arrived winter residents and late fall migrants. At sunset, witness over one million grackles heading for their roosts along the banks of the Connecticut River. Afterwards, participants will dine at the four star Restaurant *Du village of Chester*. CAS members \$75, nonmembers \$85.

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

Audubon Society Galapagos Tour, from November 3 to 12. Spectacular opportunities for observation and photography. Tour cost including air from New York is \$3690. For reservations and more info contact Andy Griswold.

Tour of Trout Brook Preserve, on Saturday, November 6, from 10 am to 12:30 pm. The Aspetuck Land Trust, in cooperation with other organizations, has been successful in preserving 640 acres of Trout Brook Valley in Weston and Easton. This trust land is especially important because it is centered on a 10 square mile area of undeveloped land creating unfragmented forest habitat important to migrating songbirds. Bruce LePage from the Aspetuck Land Trust will lead us on a rigorous hike on a primitive trail. Waterproof shoes are recommended. CAS members \$10, nonmembers \$15.

Along the Thames River, on Saturday, December 4, from 9 am to noon. Dr. Robert Askins, Professor of Zoology at Connecticut College, will share with us an area he has surveyed since 1982 along the Thames River in New London. The group will be looking for new winter arrivals, particularly diving ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Canvasbacks, Lesser Scaup, and possibly Redheads along Smith Cove and Mamacoke Island. Dress warmly and bring a spotting scope. CAS members \$10, nonmembers \$15.

Exploring Hammonasset, on Saturday, December 11, from 9 am to noon. Check out Hammo for the wintering birds which start arriving at this time of year. You never know what might turn up, especially if there is a recent cold front. Expert birder and artist Rob Braunfield will lead the trip to explore Hammo's various habitats. As always, we will search the cedars for Great Horned Owls, the fields for Horned Larks, and off Meig's Point for ducks and loons. CAS members \$10, nonmembers \$15.

Secretary
Waterbury

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. X 381

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 *The 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

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)

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Telephone* _____ Occupation* _____

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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

COA Bulletin

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