

# COA Bulletin



## Give Thanks to Our Dedicated Christmas Bird Count Compilers, Past and Present! Steve Broker

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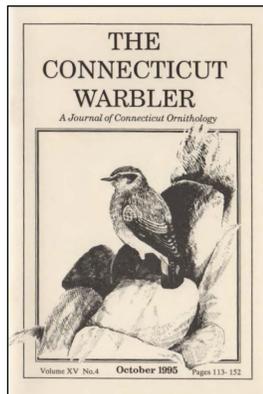
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Ever since Frank Chapman conceived of the first Christmas Bird Count more than 120 years ago, the CBC has been a great traditional event for bringing early winter birds and bird-loving people closer together. This year, the 121st edition of the National Audubon Society sponsored Christmas Bird Count, we are running a total of twenty counts in Connecticut during the designated period of December 14 through January 5 (see the complete schedule below). Those who have some prior experience with Christmas Counts are well aware that many of their field observer colleagues have been doing the same counts and birding the same areas year after year. This is particularly evident for those who have taken on the responsibility as count compiler for their 15-mile diameter circle. As we prepare for the latest edition of the Christmas Bird Count, let's recognize some of the longest serving compilers over the past decades in our state.

**Bob Dewire** assumed the role of compiler for the New London CBC in 1963-64. He succeeded **Dick Goodwin**, who held that position for the previous nine years. Bob has led the New London count for 58 consecutive years, a record unmatched by any other Connecticut CBC compiler over the past 75 years. **Bob Moeller** began heading up the Lakeville-Sharon CBC in 1972-73. He continued in this leadership position through the 2016-17 CBC for a total of 45 years. At Litchfield Hills, **Neil Currie** served as compiler for 11 consecutive years, beginning in 1966-67. Neil then handed the torch to **Ray Belding**, who this year leads the CTLH count for the 44th consecutive year. **Stephen Davis** first co-compiled the Hartford count in 1974-75. He continued as compiler for a total of 43 years. In 1980-81, he was joined by **Jay Kaplan**, who now serves Hartford in his 39th year as count organizer.

Also logging 39 years as a Connecticut CBC compiler is **Gary Palmer**, whose leadership has been with the Greenwich-Stamford count. **Dave Tripp, Jr.** and **Dave Rosgen** introduced the Barkhamsted CBC in 1984-85, and Dave Rosgen served as co-compiler for the next six years. Dave Tripp, Jr. continues to lead this northern CBC and this year participates as compiler for the 36th consecutive year. The inaugural year for the Quinnipiac Valley CBC was 1971-72, when **Will Schultz** began a 34 year run as compiler. The coastal count at Stratford-Milford has been led by such birding luminaries as **Carl Trichka**, **Dennis Varza** (15 years), and **Fred Sibley**, with **Steve Mayo** now seeing his 31st year as compiler of this count.

**Chris Loscalzo** has been compiler or co-compiler of the New Haven count for 26 years, preceded by and overlapping with **Steve Broker**, who served for 21 years. **Fred Sibley** was compiler at New Haven for 10 years, beginning in 1975-76. **Jim Mockalis** originated the mid-state CBC at Salmon River in 1975 and was joined shortly thereafter by **Dave Titus**, who went on to fill the role of compiler for 23 years. Dave brought **Joe Morin** into a leadership role in 2003-04, and Joe served as



COA is an all volunteer organization with the mission of promoting interest in Connecticut birds, and collecting, preparing, and disseminating the best available scientific information on the status of Connecticut birds and their habitats. While COA is not primarily an advocacy organization, we work actively to provide scientific information and to support other conservation organizations in the state.

compiler at Salmon River for 13 years. At Woodbury-Roxbury, four compilers have served terms of at least a decade, going back to 1971: **Aldro Jenks** (18 years), **Ed Hagen** (10 years), **Chris Wood** (18 years), and **Ken Elkins** (10 years). The Old Lyme-Saybrook CBC also has had four compilers with at least a decade of service as compilers: **Noble Proctor** (12 years), **Jay Hand** (17 years), **Patty Pendergast** (10 years), and **Barbara Hawes** (14 years). The Pawling, NY/Hidden Valley, CT count was led by **Sibyll Gilbert** for 16 years, beginning in 1985-86. Sibyll was joined in time by **Angela Dimmitt**, who now celebrates her 23rd year as co-compiler. Pawling/Hidden Valley now is led by the team of Angela Dimmitt (tabulating results for the Connecticut portion of the count circle) and **Carena Pooth** (19 years tabulating the New York count circle results). The Oxford count has enjoyed lengthy compiler service by two birders: **Buzz Devine**, who stepped into the role of compiler for Oxford in 1979-80 and has tallied the Oxford results for 22 years; **Roy Harvey**, who now leads this count, for his 17th year. **Frank Mantlik** led the Westport count for a total of 22 years. Westport has been headed up by **Mardi and Townsend Dickinson** for the past 11 years. **Shai Mitra** introduced the tri-state Napatree CBC (Rhode Island/New York/Connecticut) in 2002-03, and Shai has been compiler at Napatree for the 19-year existence of this easternmost CBC that includes coastal portions of Connecticut. **Glenn Williams** has been Shai's co-compiler for the past ten years.

Additional compilers who have achieved more than ten years as compiler of their counts are: **Marilynn 'Sam' Higgins** (19 years) and **Sue Harrington** (14 years) at Edwin Way Teale, Trail Wood; **Shirley Davis** (17 years), **Steve Rogers** (18 years), and **Steve Morytko** (12 years) at Storrs; **Corrie Folsom O'Keefe** (11 years) and **Melissa Baston** (10 years) at Quinnipiac Valley; **Joe Zeranski** (12 years), **Tom Baptist** (11 years), and **Brian O'Toole** (14 years) at Greenwich-Stamford. It should be noted that several of the names listed above have served as compiler for more than one CBC count circle.

It's easy to get the impression that Connecticut's long-serving Christmas Bird Count compilers have over the years developed a fondness both for getting out in the field for this annual exercise in day-long birding and also carrying out the far less flashy logistical work of organizing area captains and teams, distributing the necessary CBC paperwork, and ultimately submitting tabulated results to National Audubon. This is an accurate impression. Thanks go at this season to our dedicated CBC compilers. Let us all do our very best in having another great Christmas Bird Count in our state in this time of challenge!

## **121<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT CONNECTICUT 2020-2021 SCHEDULE**

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020:**

#### Storrs, CT (CTST)

Compiler: Steve Morytko, 288 Varga Road, Ashford, CT 06278, smorytko@yahoo.com (M) 860-680-5728 (Natchaug Ornithological Society)

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020:**

#### New Haven, CT (CTNH)

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

#### Woodbury-Roxbury, CT (CTWR)

Compiler: Ken Elkins, Audubon Center at Bent of the River, 185 East Flat Hill Road, Southbury, CT 06488 kelkins@audubon.org 203-623-6625, (Western Connecticut Bird Club)

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020:**

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

#### Hartford, CT (CTHA)

Compiler: Jay Kaplan, 71 Gracey Road, Canton, CT 06019, jaybrd49@aol.com 860-693-0157 (H), 860-707-5246 (cell) (Hartford Audubon Society)

Litchfield Hills, CT (CTLH)

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

Lakeville-Sharon (Trixie Strauss CBC), CT (CTLS)

Compiler: Zachary Adams, za4250@hotmail.com, Sharon Audubon Center/National Audubon Society, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, CT 06069, <http://sharon.audubon.org/> 860-364-0520 or 717-926-3926

Oxford, CT (CTOX)

Compiler: Roy Harvey, 320 South Meriden Road, Cheshire, CT 06410-2962, rmharvey@snet.net 203-651-9818 (cell)

Quinnipiac Valley, CT (CTQV)

Compilers: Melissa Baston, mbaston@gmail.com 860-995-0656 and Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, cfolsom.okeefe@audubon.org 203-233-0535 (Quinnipiac Valley Audubon Society)

Salmon River, CT (CTSR)

Compilers: Sharon Dellinger, rsdell@comcast.net 860-803-1626, and Doreen Jezek, dajezek@gmail.com 859-492-1656 (Mattabeseck Audubon Society)

Westport, CT (CTWE)

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

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2020:**Barkhamsted, CT (CTBA)

Compiler: David Tripp, Jr., 97 Hunter Court, Torrington, CT 06790 dtrippjr@gmail.com (Litchfield Hills Audubon Society)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020:**Napatree, RI-CT-NY (RINT)

Compilers: Shai Mitra, Biology Department, College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10314, shaibal.Mitra@csi.cuny.edu and Glenn Williams, 221 Pequot Avenue, Mystic, CT 06355 gswilliams9@yahoo.com

Norwich, CT (CTNO)

Compiler: Allison Black, NorwichCBC@gmail.com, 860-334-9959

Stratford-Milford, CT (CTSM)

Compiler: Steve Mayo, 27 Tuttle Court, Bethany, CT 06524 rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net 203-551-1707

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021:**Pawling (Hidden Valley), NY/CT (NYHV)

Compilers: Carena Pooth, carena@prodigy.net and Angela Dimmitt, P.O. Box 146, Sherman, CT 06784 angeladimmitt@aol.com, 860-355-3429 (Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club)

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 2021:**Bristol, CT (CTBR)

Compiler: Jack Swatt, 226 Long Swamp Road, Wolcott, CT 06716, jswattbirds@gmail.com 203-592-4686

New London, CT (CTNL)

Compiler: Robert Dewire, 9 Canary Lane, Pawcatuck, CT 06379, robertdewire9@comcast.net 860-599-3085

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021:**

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

Old Lyme-Old Saybrook, CT (CTOL)

Compiler: Matt Bell, mbell@ctaudubon.org,

**NOTE:** The Guilford-Long Island Sound CBC will not be held this year (compiled by Steve Broker)

## The Big Sit! Returns to the New Haven Bird Club

**Craig Repasz**

All eBird checklists from The Big Sit! held on October 10 and 11, 2020, have been received. We have clear winners.

We have seen the Facebook pictures and posts. To be sure, everyone had a good time.

The Big Sit! was started by the New Haven Bird Club in 1992. Nine years later Birdwatcher's Digest took over management of the event and with their resources grew the event to 234 circles in ten countries. Due to changes at Birdwatcher's Digest, management of The Big Sit! was given back to the New Haven Bird Club this year.

We are a small club and had to use a combination of approaches to keep The Big Sit! going. We built a website to inform the participants, we used eBird for data handling and Facebook for comments, chats, and photos. Many organizations still use The Big Sit! to raise funds for conservation. Most importantly it was the circle compilers and participants who jumped in to keep the tradition alive.

eBird added an important aspect to The Big Sit! It offers a simple user interface, an ease of effort tracking, an ability to capture GPS coordinates and location management, and accessibility to the data that could be invaluable to scientists studying bird migration on a continental scale. Data can be exported from eBird and shared as a spreadsheet. Please let us know if you would like this year's data; email us at [TheBigSitNHBC@gmail.com](mailto:TheBigSitNHBC@gmail.com).



View from Salt Meadow, Stewart B McKinney NWR, Big Sit! Circle



A high point established on Long Island Sound, CT

This year The Big Sit! had three countries participating: Costa Rica (one circle, 47 species), Guatemala (three circles, 147 species), and the United States of America (98 circles, 358 Species). Hopefully in the future we can attract Big Sit! circles in other countries and on other continents.

Number of Circles in 2020 (includes circles that reported on both days) – **102**

The Best Overall Count (most species). B.W. Surf Scopers' Big Sit! at Milford Point (CT) – **107 species**

Longest Duration of a Circle – **16 hours** by Estero Llano Grande State Park in Hidalgo County TX.

The Big Sit! Total Number of Species Reported – **472**

The Big Sit! Total Number of Birds Reported – **194,484**

### Some Unique Approaches

Friends of Goose Pond in Indiana did two Big Sits. One was actual (as per normal rules). The other was virtual through Zoom and FaceBook Live. Due to social distancing, they could not invite folks like they normally do.

They broadcast on Zoom for 12 hours. They had birders on property connected via Zoom sharing scope views. Remote viewers also tuned in via Zoom to see the actual "Big Sitters" and see what the virtual "Big Sitters" were seeing. Viewers could hear the conversations, stories etc.

**Snacks**

The Big Sit! is nicknamed the “Tailgate party of birding.” Tailgating means food is involved. So next year let’s see how each circle does snacks. Here are few photos from Connecticut.



Connecticut Big Sit! snacks

**Moving Forward**

This was the New Haven Bird Club’s first year back with managing The Big Sit! We all had challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic. We think we are off to a great start. We hope to see the event expand to more circles in more states and countries.

Please let us know if you have ideas on how to improve the event by emailing [TheBigSitNHBC@gmail.com](mailto:TheBigSitNHBC@gmail.com). Together we can continue the fun and provide a very important snapshot of bird distribution during the October migration.

**Overall Count Results by Species (Connecticut circles)**

Date	Total Time (min)	eBird Circle Location	Country-State/Province	Team Name	Species	Other Taxa
11 Oct 2020	895	Milford Point-Outer Platform	US-CT	B.W. Surf Scopers	107	6
11 Oct 2020	600	Lighthouse Point Park	US-CT	LPP Hawkwatch Big Sit	66	9
11 Oct 2020	478	Glastonbury Meadows	US-CT		65	0
10 Oct 2020	740	Jared Elliot Preserve	US-CT	Connecticut Wobblers	65	1
11 Oct 2020	617	Salt Meadow NWR Big Sit!(R) circle, Menunketesuck River, Westbrook US-CT 41.28166, -72.47414	US-CT	Connecticut Wobblers	54	1
10 Oct 2020		17 Hunters Ridge Rd,	US-CT		28	1
10 Oct 2020	200	Jared Elliot Preserve	US-CT	CM's First Big Sit	17	0



## Fall 2020 Photo Gallery



Pacific Golden-Plover at Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Stratford (Bruce Finnan, 30 Oct 2020)



Great Blue Heron (white form) at River Road bridge, Cos Cob (John Oshlick, 27 Sep 2020)



Yellow Rail at Milford Point Coastal Center (Linda Olsen, 15 Oct 2020)



King Rail at Allen's Meadow Park, Wilton (Bruce Finnan, 14 Oct 2020)



Golden Eagle at East Shore Park, East Haven (Nick Bonomo, 18 Nov 2020)



White-winged Dove at Harkness Memorial SP, Waterford (Jeri Duefrene, 11 Oct 2020)

## Fall 2020 Photo Gallery



Rufous Hummingbird at Powder Hill Rd., Middlefield (Frank Mantlik, 19 Oct 2020)



Leucistic hummingbird at Wickham Park, Manchester (Maggie Peretto, 28 Oct 2020)



Bell's Vireo at Silver Sands State Park, Milford (Gerry Hauser, 23 Oct 2020)



Bullock's Oriole at home feeder, Ledyard (Deborah Vessels, 15 Nov 2020)



Townsend's Warbler at Nathan Hale Park, New Haven (John Oshlick, 26 Oct 2020)



Connecticut Warbler at Lighthouse Point Park, East Haven (Frank Mantlik, 2 Oct 2020)

# CT Bird Atlas Update

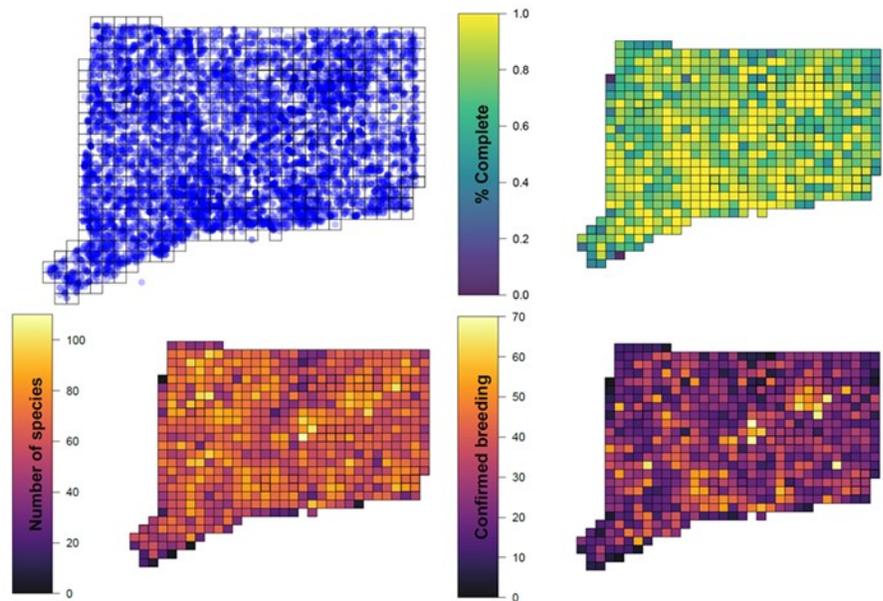
## Chris Elphick



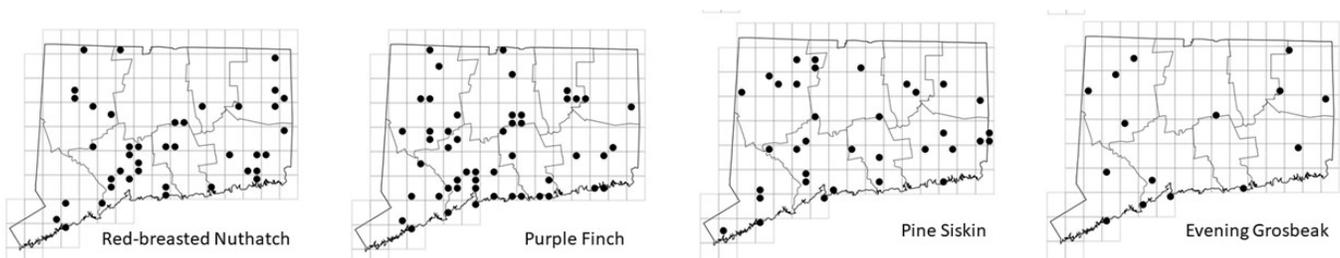
The winter of 2020-21 was supposed to be the final field season for the Connecticut bird atlas. Of course, little has gone to plan this year, and we have since extended the entire project for a fourth year, to accommodate periods of restricted travel and the many other disruptions to everyone’s lives.

For the breeding atlas, we nonetheless made great progress this year; we now have at least some data from almost every block, and many blocks have reached our completion benchmarks (Figure 1). As a result, the number of species reported in each block has increased considerably and the clear biases due to reduced survey effort in certain parts of the state have started to disappear. There are, of course still some gaps to fill, but we are well-placed to complete that work next year. Much of the focus next summer, however, should be trying to confirm as many species as possible. This year’s emphasis on atlasing in July and August increased the number of confirmed records compared to previous years, but the unevenness of confirmations is clearly apparent in the confirmed breeding map, where blocks that are home to some of our most committed data collectors can be identified quite easily!

**Figure 1.** Summary of breeding season progress for the Connecticut bird atlas. Top left: blue dots show locations of data submissions. Top right: block completion at the end of the 2020 breeding season; yellow indicates 100% completion, while dark blue blocks are those that have received little or no survey effort. Bottom left: number of species reported in each block (all breeding codes combined). Bottom right: number of species confirmed as breeding in each block. Note that 2020 data submitted by mail or email has not yet been included, so maps underestimate true values for some blocks.



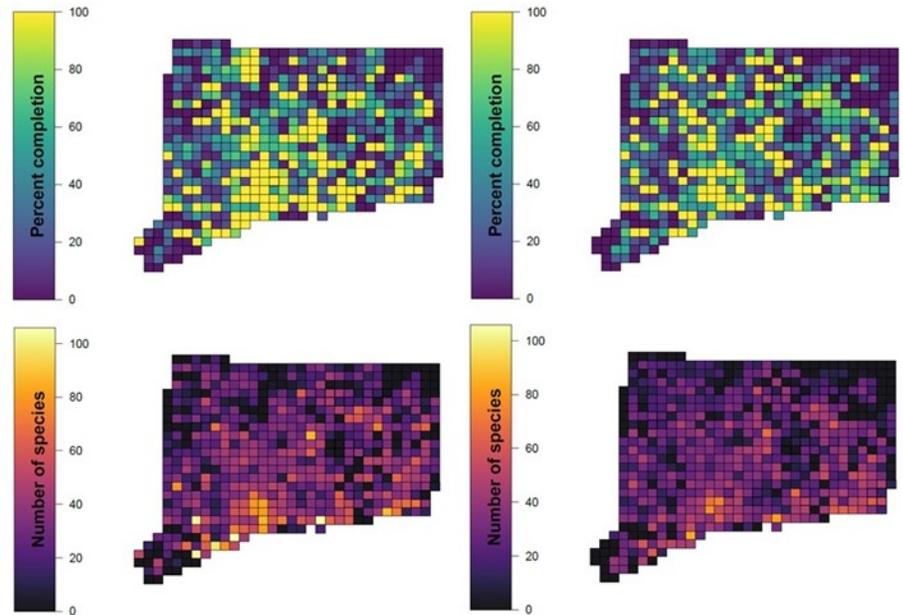
Given the success of this summer’s breeding surveys, we have high hopes for the winter field season that is now underway. The incentive to get out and search new areas is further enhanced as this winter is proving to be a bonanza year for many northern species that we often do not see in Connecticut (Figure 2). There are finches galore – siskins, grosbeaks, crossbills, redpolls; red-breasted nuthatches in abundance; and hopes that even more unusual fare will follow.



**Figure 2.** Preliminary data maps for four irruptive species that are making incursions into Connecticut this winter. These maps were made in early November, and will already be out of date by the time they are published.

Our highest priority is to ensure at least some winter survey effort in every block by the end the season. As of mid-November, about 15% of atlas blocks still have no winter data at all: 88 blocks in early winter (Nov-Dec) and 93 blocks in late winter (Jan-Feb). These blocks tend to be located inland, in areas where fewer people live, but there are blocks with little or no surveys in all parts of the state (Figure 3), so lots of opportunities to help fill gaps.

Figure 3. Summary of winter season progress for the Connecticut bird atlas. Top row shows block completion for the early (Nov-Dec; left) and late (Jan-Feb; right) winter periods; yellow indicates 100% completion, while dark blue blocks are those that have received little or no survey effort. Bottom row shows the number of species reported in each block for early (left) and late (right) periods.



Not surprisingly, the winter data maps do still largely reflect where people have spent time birding, with much of the variation in the number of species reported directly related to how much time has been spent in a block. As survey effort progresses this winter, however, we hope to see these fingerprints of birder activity diminish and the true patterns of species occurrence emerge.

For the winter atlas, we have a target of 10 hours in the early winter and another 10 in the late winter, cumulative over the years of the project. Plotting data from the first two winters, helps explain the rationale for these goals – once the amount of time in a block passes 10 hours, there are diminishing returns, with relatively few new species added (Figure 4).

In fact, the data suggest that spending just a couple of hours in a block can be enough to find a substantial number of the species that occur there. So, even a single morning birding in a previously unvisited block will reap great returns.

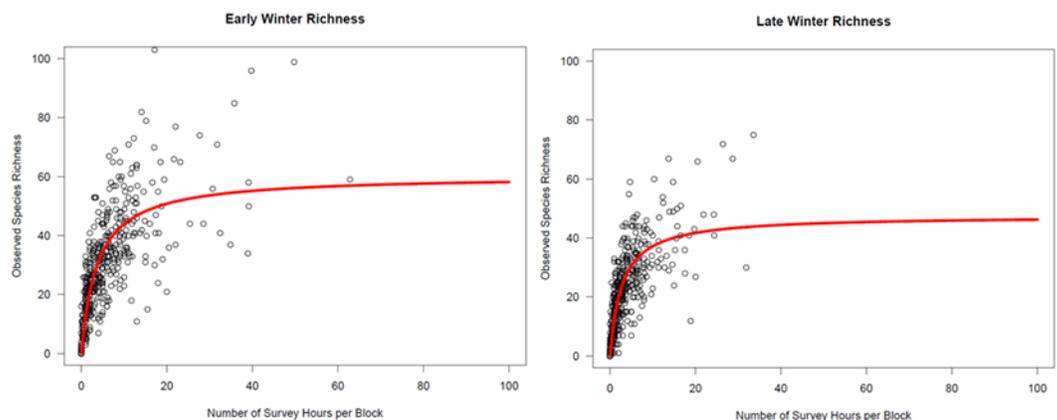


Figure 4. Number of species seen during the winter season relative to the time spent surveying. Each dot represents a different block; red line shows the average relationship. After approximately 10 hours the rate at which species are added, on average, is very slow.

To learn more about the atlas, to find out how you can volunteer, to read up on the winter survey protocols, and to review preliminary data for each block, please visit [www.ctbirdatlas.org](http://www.ctbirdatlas.org).

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

Compiled by Steve Broker

Volume XV, No. 4 (October 1995)

### A Third Adult Bald Eagle Replaces a Nesting Eagle, by Donald A. Hopkins, Gerald S. Mersereau, and Michael J. O'Leary

In 1990 a pair of Bald Eagles first attempted nesting in northwestern Connecticut, but these birds were not successful until the spring of 1992 (Hopkins 1992). On 17 July 1993 a third adult was seen at the nest (Hopkins *et al.* 1993). This adult was present during the pre-fledgling period of the young eagles and was last confirmed in the nesting area in 7 August 1993. At that time the third adult was identified as having a U.S. Fish and Wildlife band in the right leg, and a gold or orange band on the left leg [and] was sexed as a male. . . The parent eagles have a USF&W band only on the right leg.

During the 1994 breeding period a third adult [this one with no gold band] again appeared in the nesting area. This bird was chased away by the male parent. . . The next appearance of a third adult in the nesting area was on 18 June 1994. This individual was large enough to be a female and had a USF&W band on the right leg and a gold one on the left. On 19 June this adult flew into the nest and proceeded to feed the young, and did so again on 4 July. [The authors sighted this third, gold-banded adult Bald Eagle again on four subsequent occasions, including once when the adult male brought in a fish and delivered food to two young fledglings and this third adult when they jumped into the nest.]

The 1995 nesting period began with the two [original] adults copulating on 4 March and 12 March. . . On 2 April a third adult was observed in the vicinity of the nest, flying near the nest tree. On 23 April the third adult, the female with the gold band, was observed in the nest, brooding and feeding the nestling. At that time a brown smudge was observed on the left rear of the crown of this bird. This mark remained on the eagle throughout the summer and made it possible to identify this eagle in the nest, without observing leg bands. . . The original female, which had been present during the incubation period, failed to appear in the nesting area for the balance of the summer. The exact circumstances of the displacement of the original parent is unknown. We believe the third adult with the gold band was misidentified as a male eagle in the summer of 1993. [Our] partial reading of the band would suggest that the third adult may have come from Maine.

[Ed's Note: the scattered observation dates cited in this article are typical of long-term observations of nesting raptors, particularly those that can only be observed at great distance with spotting scope. The references above were published in previous issues of *The Connecticut Warbler*. I learn from Bald Eagle Study Group charter member Mike O'Leary that B.E.S.G. has a wealth of information on the return of the Bald Eagle as a breeding species in Connecticut. These valuable data span a period of more than 30 years.]

### Book Review by Alan H. Brush

[Alan Brush's book review is on two recently released works in the Houghton Mifflin ornithological series: *Woodpeckers*, by Winkler, Christie, and Nurney (1995), and; *Crows and Jays*, by Madge and Burn (1994)].

The species descriptions [in *Woodpeckers*] include all the topics one might expect: identification, distribution, habitat, descriptions, geographic variation, measurements, and, where known, voice, habits, breeding information, and usually several references.

The size of the volume reflects the success of the family. In addition to the systematic portion there are approximately 35 pages providing information on various aspects of natural history. Woodpeckers are widely distributed and have some unusual habits. Their vagility [the tendency of an organism to move about freely, spread within an environment, or migrate] is low however, and consequently most birders will not see most of these species. There is also a welcome discussion of morphology and mechanics. Remember, these birds are not only adapted to hopping up vertical surfaces, they also use their beaks as chisels to dig in hard surfaces, and they have extensible tongue mechanisms that are themselves remarkable in design. The section on behavior is also eminently readable

and there is a lot of interesting natural history here.

The second volume considered here is different yet again. . . the crows and jays are just about everyone's (universal?) favorites. With their enormous variety of color, size, and fascinating behavior they appear in literature, myths and as part of our entree to the natural world. This volume is a treasure trove. It is the only source I know of that illustrates American, Northwestern, and Fish Crows together on the same plate. With the recent expansion of Fish Crows in this area, the plate is certainly welcome. [Ed's Note: the Northwestern Crow, *Corvus caurinus*, is confined to the Pacific Northwest from Alaska to northwestern Washington. Alan Brush has written numerous book reviews for *The Connecticut Warbler*.]

### **The 1995 Summer Bird Count, by Joseph Zeranski.**

This was a unique year for Summer Bird Counts (SBCs) with two species recorded that have yet to be documented in the state of Connecticut. This unlikely event occurred with reports of Mississippi Kite and Gull-billed Tern. Unfortunately in neither case were the birds photographed nor could they be relocated, with the exception of a brief kite sighting several days later. This is illustrative of the fortuitous nature of birding experienced by SBC observers. . .

It will take a number of years to verify declines in breeding birds, but apparent population drops are occurring in species such as American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant (suffering from both reduction in DEP releases and a decline in overgrown fields and brushy thickets), American Woodcock, Brown Thrasher, and Rufous-sided Towhee [Eastern Towhee].

In a similar vein, species that are expanding should be noted. During the last quarter of this century Double-crested Cormorants have expanded tremendously. Close behind, as an expanding nester, has been Red-bellied Woodpecker over a slightly longer period. More recently, with help from the DEP, Wild Turkey seems to be trying to occupy almost every decently sized second growth woodland in the state. Additional species that may be beginning to expand include Hooded Merganser, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and possibly White-eyed Vireo. Definite increases have occurred for a number of other species, including several raptors, although to lesser degrees. [Ed's Note: Joe Zeranski contributed immeasurably to the study of birds in Connecticut, with his statewide leadership of the Summer Bird Count being just one of many contributions. Joe died in Greenwich on December 8, 2019. See the Spring 2020 issue of the *COA Bulletin* for remembrances of Joe by his long-time friend and colleague, Tom Baptist.]

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## **COA Mini-Grant Applications Due 1/15/21**

The deadline for 2021 Mini-Grant applications is midnight on January 15th, 2021.

The grants in amounts of up to \$1,000.00 are available for funding of projects which "benefit Connecticut's birds." Successful projects have been such things as osprey nest platforms and habitat improvements using native, bird friendly plants. Grants are typically awarded at our COA annual meeting in March. If we are again unable to gather in person, we will send the checks after the committee makes its decisions in mid-February. Full details and applications can be found at <https://www.ctbirding.org/resources/coa-mini-grant/>

COA Mini Grant Application Form	
Applicant Name:	
Address (City, State, Zip Code):	
Amount of Funding Requested:	
Project Title:	
Brief Description of Project: (attach additional sheets, if needed):	
Specific Goals and Objectives of Project: (attach additional sheets, if needed):	
Deliverables (include a list of specific products/activities to be accomplished in Project. Attach additional sheets, if needed):	

# CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

314 Unquowa Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824  
www.ctbirding.org



## COA OFFICERS

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Treasurer	Paul Wolter, Beacon Falls, CT

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COA Bulletin	Andrew Dasinger
Christmas Bird Count Compiler	Steve Broker
Summer Bird Count Compilers	Tom Robben, Patrick Comins
Great Backyard Bird Count	Patrick Comins
Mini-Grants	Kathy Van Der Aue

The COA Bulletin is the quarterly newsletter of the Connecticut Ornithological Association, published in February, May, September, and December. Please submit materials for the next issue by February 1, 2021 to the editor at [amdasinger@gmail.com](mailto:amdasinger@gmail.com)