



COA Bulletin

Volume 38, No. 1

Spring 2023

Connecticut Ornithological Association

Curlew Sandpiper: COA's 2022 Bird of the Year

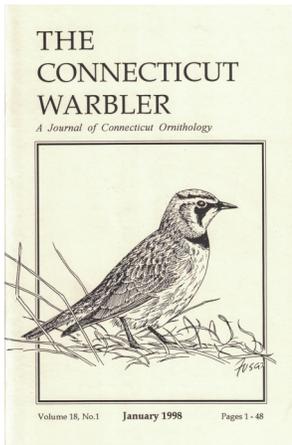
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Frank Mantlik found this Curlew Sandpiper on July 18, 2022, and noted that this Curlew Sandpiper was the only one currently in the USA and Canada. In fact, it was the only one on eBird in all of the Americas for a month or more! This continent-wide rarity (and the large number of people who saw it) made this the #1 Bird of the Year for Connecticut in 2022. Thank you, Frank Mantlik, for finding this rare beauty!



Photo credit: Frank Mantlik



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.

About the Bird of the Month and Bird of the Year Project

Connecticut is a small state, squeezed between Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Long Island and the rest of New York State. It lacks many habitat types (deserts, high mountains, etc) and has no ocean coast, but somehow, every year birders in the state find great birds! The year 2022 was no exception.

The following summarizes our one-year project, an experiment with Bird(s) of the Month (BOTM) and Bird of the Year (BOTY) for Connecticut in 2022.

The project team consisted of members of the Connecticut Ornithological Association Board and COA's Avian Records Committee of Connecticut: A. Dasinger, C. Ehlinger, F. Gallo, R. Gedney, G. Hanisek, C. Imbergamo, D. Jernigan, F. Mantlik, C. Repasz, P. Rusch, and C. Wood, chaired by M. Bull and T. Robben.

This team selected a Bird of the Month for each month in 2022, and then at the end of 2022 voted on the "top" three of all those BOTM birds to be our Bird of the Year. That BOTY voting yielded the following three top birds, with Curlew Sandpiper being the highest scoring at 25 points, and hence the #1 BOTY, the Bird of the Year for 2022:

- Curlew Sandpiper-July BOTM (6 of our team considered it their top bird for 2022, and 3 considered it their second bird). <https://www.ctbirding.org/bird-of-the-month-july-2022/>
- Arctic Tern-May BOTM (3 of the team considered this their top bird for 2022, and 5 considered it their second bird). <https://www.ctbirding.org/bird-of-the-month-may-2022/>
- Smith's Longspur-October BOTM (1 person considered this their top bird for 2022). <https://www.ctbirding.org/bird-of-the-month-october-2022/>

(continued on next page)

Here are some details on those top three birds for Bird of the Year

#1 Curlew Sandpiper: 25 points, BOTM for July 2022

(See description above.)

#2 Arctic Tern: 20 points, BOTM for May 2022

Arctic Terns navigate from one end of the planet to the other, and in mid-May many Arctic Terns are usually migrating north over the ocean, on their way to breed in more northerly New England and beyond. Do these great navigators ever get lost? Rarely, perhaps this year, when the weather caught up with them, with both strong easterly winds and fog, resulting in a downing/fallout of many individuals across inland Connecticut for the first time in such numbers since birders here have kept records. That rarity in CT and Long Island Sound is what made this a strong contender for BOTY.



Photo credit: Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) Bantam Lake, 05.13.2022 Larry Master

#3 Smith's Longspur: 10 points, BOTM for October 2022

Bill Rankin initially found and reported the Smith's Longspur at Sandy Point, New Haven, CT. Here is his eBird report and photos:



1 Smith's Longspur *Calcarius pictus*

I first heard the di-di-di-dit calls of a longspur while watching larks cavort on the wing, and then this bird landed away from the flock on bare ground. I did a double-take when I didn't see the expected rusty coloration of a Lapland Longspur, but it flew off again before I could get photos. I then spent the next ten minutes tracking it carefully through the dunes as it flew and called intermittently, finally appearing again on bare ground. Key visual ID points in the bins: overall straw-colored bird with distinctive longspur facial triangle and finely streaked breast. (I heard another, more distant di-di-di-dit while watching this bird, which alerted me to the Lapland Longspur still in the Lark flock. It was nice to see the other bird for a sanity check!)



Although not rare in the midwest, there have been very few reports of this species in Connecticut, perhaps 3 valid

COA's Big January

Steve Mayo

The Connecticut Ornithological Association Big January event is a friendly competition based on the total number of bird species identified within Connecticut during January, 2023. Birders could submit total numbers for the entire state of Connecticut, for any counties within Connecticut, and/or for any Towns. Species that qualified were those that currently are accepted to the State List, or are observed during January that would represent first state records. Results from eBird showed approximately 180 Connecticut species observed in January. Rare species were often present for some time, and were seen by multiple observers, thanks to the generosity of CT birders. Some examples were Harlequin Duck, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Murre, Black Guillemot, Short-billed Gull, Common Gull (European), Townsend's Solitaire, Clay-colored Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee, and Dickcissel. Below are the results that were reported and received.

State-wide

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Sara Zagorski | 148 |
| Jo Fasciolo | 147 |
| Linda Olsen | 147 |
| Adam Fasciolo | 145 |
| Mary Walsh | 144 |
| Aidan Kiley | 144 |
| Frank Mantlik | 139 |
| Chase McCabe | 138 |
| Carol Lemmon | 136 |
| Gary Lemmon | 136 |
| David Mathieu | 126 |
| Laurie Reynolds | 126 |
| Craig Heberton | 125 |
| Paul Smith | 118 |
| Christine Tamborra | 118 |
| Patrick Tamborra | 118 |
| Bill Banks | 117 |
| Jennie Leonard | 114 |
| John Oshlick | 107 |
| Jay Kaplan | 105 |
| Sara Faulkner | 105 |
| Angela Dimmitt | 104 |
| Kimberly Jannarone | 97 |
| Arthur Shippee | 87 |
| Maria Stockmal | 84 |
| Alison Wilcox | 65 |
| Chris Wilcox | 65 |
| Wayne Roberts | 30 |

Fairfield County:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Aidan Kiley | 144 |
| Chase McCabe | 138 |
| Mary Walsh | 133 |
| Frank Mantlik | 126 |
| Jo Fasciolo | 121 |
| Adam Fasciolo | 119 |
| Linda Olsen | 119 |
| Arthur Shippee | 44 |
| Wayne Roberts | 29 |

New Haven County:

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| John Oshlick | 94 |
| Paul Smith | 90 |
| Carol Lemmon | 90 |
| Gary Lemmon | 90 |
| Kimberly Jannarone | 81 |
| William Banks | 80 |
| Arthur Shippee | 68 |

Hartford County:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Jay Kaplan | 96 |
| Sarah Faulkner | 85 |
| Andrew Dasinger | 79 |
| Joan Heffernan | 74 |

Tolland County

| | |
|--------------|----|
| Dave Mathieu | 73 |
|--------------|----|

Litchfield County

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Fran Zygmunt | 73 |
| John Marshall | 72 |
| Shelley Harms | 70 |
| George Wallace | 67 |
| Angela Dimmitt | 59 |

New London County:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Chris Tamborra | 118 |
| Pat Tamborra | 118 |

Towns

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Stratford: Frank Mantlik | 96 |
| Glastonbury: Andrew Dasinger | 75 |
| New Haven: Severin Uebbing | 65 |
| Salisbury: George Wallace | 65 |
| Salisbury: Beth Wallace | 65 |
| Salem: Chris Tamborra | 48 |
| Salem: Pat Tamborra | 48 |
| Greenwich: Wayne Roberts | 29 |

39th COA Annual Meeting, March 25, 2023

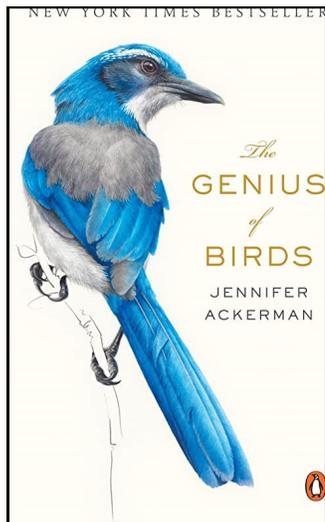
The COA board decided on a Zoom meeting again, which will take place on **Saturday March 25, 2023 at 6:30 pm**. Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aEaiDi19TQCUXZNxayRr-Q (\$10 fee; online only using a credit card or PayPal). To pay directly with a credit card, scroll down from the PayPal link to the “Pay with Debit or Credit Card” link. Assistance with registration and using the Zoom application is available by emailing zoom@ctbirding.org

Keynote Speaker: Jennifer Ackerman

Science writer and author of *The New York Times* bestseller *The Genius of Birds*, *The Bird Way*, and the forthcoming *What an Owl Knows* (2023)

A bird-lover since childhood, Jennifer Ackerman has been writing about birds and nature for more than three decades. She is the author of nine award-winning books, including *The Genius of Birds* (Penguin Press, 2016), an international bestseller that examines how research has completely revised our view of the creatures we used to regard as ‘bird brained’. Her most recent book, *What an Owl Knows: The new science of the world’s most enigmatic birds* (forthcoming from Penguin Press, June 2023), explores recent findings on the biology, behavior, and conservation of owls.

The Bird Way (Penguin Press, 2020) explores new scientific research that is dramatically shifting our understanding of birds—how they live and how they think. It was selected as “A Nature Book of the Year” by the *London Sunday Times* and was a finalist for the Edward O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award. Jennifer’s books have been translated into 30 languages, and her articles and essays have appeared in *National Geographic*, *the New York Times*, *Scientific American*, and many other publications.



“I grew up in Washington, D.C., one of five girls. My dad was an avid birdwatcher and took me out birdwatching on the C&O Canal and the Potomac River on weekends. We would get up before dawn and head out to listen and to watch the birds as the light rose. After a year or two, my dad gave me my first field guide, a worn and well-thumbed copy of Peterson’s Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America. I’ve loved birds ever since and have been lucky enough to travel around the world—from Hokkaido to Sweden, Borneo to Austria, Australia to Brazil—following ornithologists and other scientists into the field to learn about their research. My favorite bird is the Black-capped Chickadee because it’s so smart and bold and sassy, is a fabulous communicator, and has an amazing memory.”

Jennifer gives highly popular talks at conferences and nature festivals around the world, focusing on our new understanding of birds, their highly efficient brains and intelligent behavior, and how this is redefining our definitions and perceptions of intelligence itself. What does it mean to be intelligent? What can we learn from birds about our own nature and our place in the natural world? What are the implications of this radical new understanding for conservation of species and the environment? Jennifer has presented at hundreds of venues, including the Vancouver International Bird Festival, the Aspen Ideas Festival, the World Science Festival, the Cambridge Science Festival, the Hay Festivals of Medellín and Cartagena de Indias, and the Delta Birding Festival at the Ebro Delta in Spain.

We are excited to hear from acclaimed author Jennifer Ackerman. You won’t want to miss it! See next page for full meeting agenda.

39th COA Annual Meeting (continued)

Agenda

- Zoom Waiting Room Opens 6:15 PM
- **Welcome** 6:30 PM – Angela Dimmitt, Moderator
- **Introduction** – Tom Robben, President
- COA 2023 Awards
- **Betty Kleiner Award** honors the memory of Betty Kleiner, whose name is synonymous with *The Connecticut Warbler*, COA’s flagship publication. The award recognizes a deserving author or artist in the field of ornithology. Presented by Chris Wood, Vice-President
- **Mabel Osgood Wright Award** presented annually to a person or persons in Connecticut who have made a significant contribution to the knowledge, study, and conservation of birds. Presented by Chris Wood, Vice-President
- **COA Mini-Grants** presented by Kathy Van Der Aue
- **George Zepko Audubon Camp Scholarship Award** presented by Jo Fasciolo
- **President’s Awards** presented by Tom Robben, President

- **COA 2022 Report and Final Words** – Tom Robben, President
- **Election of COA Officers and New Board Members** – Denise Jernigan, Secretary
- **Introduction of new President and new President’s comments**
- 10 Minute Break

- **Introduction of Guest Speaker** – Abby Sesselberg
- **Keynote** – Jennifer Ackerman presents *The Genius of Birds* (with Q&A following)
- **Closing** – Angela Dimmitt

7:30 PM **Our Keynote Speaker**, Jennifer Ackerman, will follow the business meeting.

COA Membership Renewal Reminder

To renew online visit: <https://www.ctbirding.org/account-help/>

The link will take you to a page describing the account creation process with a link to start it. You will need to use a credit card, debit card, or PayPal account to purchase a membership.

WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT AND RENEW ONLINE IN ORDER TO EASE OUR TRANSITION TO THE ONLINE DATABASE.

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| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Individual | \$25/yr |
| Student | \$15/yr |
| Family | \$35/yr |
| Contributing | \$50/yr |
| Donor | \$75/yr |
| Benefactor | \$100/yr |

COA Gull ID Workshop

Friday, March 31 @6:30 PM

Gull ID Workshop via Zoom by Stefan Martin

Plus In-Person Guided Field Trips on April 1 & 2

Registration for the field trips and online workshop are independent and must be made separately.

Register in advance for the Zoom meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0rdumtqDluEtG8NEeH3woZYnm0DbQVJIBO>



After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Register for a field trip by email. Details to come.

Zoom Workshop Presenter: Stefan Martin is the Conservation Manager at the Connecticut Audubon Society, joining the staff in 2018. His current role involves habitat restoration and enhancement to sanctuary properties with a focus on increasing biodiversity. He also leads guided bird walks and actively contributes to eBird.

He is a past board member of the Connecticut Ornithological Association and is vice president of the Connecticut Butterfly Association. Stefan is well-known and respected in birding and butterfly communities.

COA Conservation Committee Report

Craig Repasz and Emily Keating

Refuge Relations

Friends Meetings are scheduled for Friends of Stuart B. McKinney NWR on Feb. 23, 2023 and Friends of Silvio O. Conte NWR on March 8, 2023.

Lights Out CT

The COA Lights Out CT subcommittee testified in favor of the Lights Out CT bill (HB 6607) on Feb. 15, 2023 at the CGA Environment Committee Public Hearing. It will require state owned and leased buildings to shut off lights from 11:00pm- 6:00am during peak migration periods.

There are seven presentation events planned, to date, for 2023.

We are working with the Pollinator Pathway group, Aspetuck Land Trust, Sacred Heart University, Pequot Library (Southport) and Connecticut Audubon Society to have a series of events focused on lights out and dark skies in the Fairfield Region.

We are working with the USFW Service Urban Partnership program in Hartford and New Haven. These cities are renewing their Urban Bird Treaty City designation. This credential has Bird Friendly Glass and Lighting provisions.

In 2023 we will partner with the following organizations: Audubon CT, CT Audubon, CT Chapter Sierra Club, Menunkatuck Audubon, New Haven Bird Club, Hartford Audubon, Litchfield Hills Audubon, International Dark Skies, New Haven Urban Partnership, Conte Urban Partnership (Hartford/Springfield), American Bird Conservancy, Yale Peabody Museum.

Federal

Plum Island National Monument.

An email was sent to President Biden urging him to use the Antiquities Act and declare Plum Island as a National Monument. Everyone is encouraged to reach out and send an email to President Biden via the email generator:

www.preserveplumisland.org. This is a link to school children in the state appealing to the President: <https://www.facebook.com/savethesoundct/videos/538992188098952/>.

The Island is in pristine condition due to a high security laboratory located there. The island has excellent habitat for birds in Long Island Sound.

The Preserve Plum Island Coalition has changed its mission statement, adding that they will also pursue obtaining the National Monument Designation.

RAWA- Recovering America's Wildlife Act

This bill would amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes. It was introduced on April 7, 2022, in a previous session of Congress, but it did not receive a vote.

Although this bill was not enacted, its provisions could have become law by being included in another bill. It is common for legislative text to be introduced concurrently in multiple bills (called companion bills), re-introduced in subsequent sessions of Congress in new bills, or added to larger bills (sometimes called omnibus bills).

Great American Outdoors Act

This piece of legislation was passed by the United States Congress, signed by President Donald J. Trump, and activated into Public Law (Public Law No. 116-152) in 2020. It has two major components: fully and permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$900 million per year, and providing \$9.5 billion over five years (\$1.9 billion annually) to address a maintenance backlog at American national parks.

Due to budget shortfalls, the provision to address the maintenance backlog on federal property at McKinney and Conte may be needed to pay seasonal interns.

State

Hammonasset Beach State Park

Some landscaping and maintenance practices have led to habitat problems as reported by Micky Komara. Emily Keating and the COA Conservation Committee will work on the issues raised. A working group with Friends of Hammonasset and Menunkatuck could be established.

Grassland Habitat and Mowing Issue

A letter has been drafted to be sent to municipalities that own and manage grasslands. The letter asks that mowing be delayed so that Bobolink nests would not be disturbed. The COA conservation Committee will send the letters during the late winter before the spring migration and arrival of meadow nesting birds. COA will be working with the CT Chapter of the Sierra Club on the issue. A task force is needed to compile a list of towns that are mowing.

Woodbridge Country Club

A 150-acre municipal country club could go to developers. Currently birders in the area enjoy the rich successional habitat. The COA Conservation Committee will help facilitate the preservation of this property. We do recognize that the success of the preservation will rely on efforts by the citizens of Woodbridge. An article describing the property and recent efforts to preserve the property can be found in the New Haven Bird Club's Newsletter. [NHBC eNews December 22 \(newhavenbirdclub.org\)](http://NHBC.eNews.December.22.newhavenbirdclub.org) page 8.

State Legislative Priorities:

Items of concern for the safety and welfare of bird populations in Connecticut are: banning neonic pesticides; banning rodenticides; banning horseshoe crab harvests; banning balloons; restoration of habitat; Blue Plan amendments; and legislation to address light pollution.

Winter Photo Gallery



Ross's Goose, Day Hill Rd., Windsor
(Alex Sauerbrunn, 18 Jan 2023)



Harlequin Ducks, Peoples State Forest
(Chris Wood, 31 Jan 2023)



Eurasian Wigeon, Stratford Point
(Linda Olsen, 17 Jan 2023)



Common Gull, Windham Walmart
(David Mathieu, 22 Jan 2023)



Clay-colored Sparrow, Long Beach Blvd., Stratford
(Chris Wood, 17 Jan 2023)



Green-tailed Towhee, Veteran's Park, Fairfield
(Chris Wood, 17 Jan 2023)



Painted Bunting, Lord's Point, Stonington
(Sue Palmer, 22 Dec 2022)



Yellow-headed Blackbird, Hoffman Rd., Ellington
(David Mathieu, 10 Dec 2022)

CT Mega Bowl of Birding

The seventh annual Mega Bowl of Birding in Connecticut was held on Sunday, February 5th, 2023. Fifteen teams explored areas throughout the state in search of birds. Collectively, these teams found 116 species and by virtue of their participation, raised over \$500 for CT birding and environmental organizations. From beginner to expert, all the birders in Mega Bowl VII enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to participating again next year. But what is the Mega Bowl of Birding?

The Mega Bowl is an event that celebrates birds, birders, and birding. Its design has evolved over time: it started out as a competition for birding teams to see how many species they could see in New Haven County in one day in early February. Now, it is less a competition and more a personal challenge for birders of all ages and skill levels to see what birds they can find in their local areas. Instead of birding in an entire county, birders are encouraged to look for birds in a circle with a 5-mile radius that includes their residence or within their home town (the latter option should catch fire in the years ahead). Participants note the species they observe on the relevant checklist, coastal or inland. Each species has a point value, ranging from 1 to 7 points, depending on the rarity of the species in that area. The more species observed and the more points attained, the greater the contribution that is made to the organization of the team's choice. In the years before the pandemic, the participants met at a celebratory dinner where great food was served and awards were presented for a variety of reasons, ranging from age to different levels of accomplishment. We plan on bringing back the awards and compilation dinner next year.

Birders can bird alone or with friends or family members. The team that observed the most species and garnered the most points this year was the father/daughter team of Ken and Ayla Elkins. Their achievement complements well the remarkable victory of the CT Young Birders Club team in Mega Bowl I. The looks of accomplishment on the faces of the young birders were priceless and their achievement might have helped them find success in their subsequent endeavors. As a birder with more than 50 years of experience, I enjoy the challenge that the Mega Bowl gives me to find as many species as I can and I take pleasure in observing all the species I encounter over the course of a day in mid-winter. This year, the highlight for me was finding a brightly colored male Pine Warbler. What a cheerful observation on a cold winter's day!



Ken and Ayla Elkins (photo by Laurie Reynolds)

The Mega Bowl of Birding is free and open to all birders in Connecticut. Mega Bowl VIII will be held on February 3rd, 2024. Start thinking now about how you will want to participate: as a solo birder or as part of a team, in your home town or in a 10-mile diameter circle (78.5 square miles in area) that includes your residence (or the residence of one of your teammates). Watch for announcements for the event later this year on the ctbirds list serve and the COA website. Have fun birding and generate a donation for a birding organization that is dear to you. I hope to see you at the next Mega Bowl dinner!

Chris Loscalzo,
Mega Bowl Founder and Coordinator
Woodbridge



Red-shouldered Hawk and Canada Goose by Mark Wantroba

Twenty-Five Years Ago in *The Connecticut Warbler*

Compiled by Steve Broker

Volume XVIII, No. 1 (January 1998)

A Connecticut Birding Year - Part 1, by David Provencher

This is the first installment of a four-part, year long series on birding in Connecticut. The intent of these articles is to make your birding in Connecticut more productive and hopefully, more enjoyable. . . In each article we will discuss where to go, when to go, and why to go to birding sites and locales to find the bird species most likely to be present in Connecticut at that time.

[Ed's Note: Dave Provencher recommends the use of a site guide for the state, such as *Connecticut Birding Guide* (Devine and Smith, 1996). An equally detailed guide, also published in 1996, is *Finding Birds in Connecticut* (Rosgen & Billings). In 2018, Wesleyan University Press published *Birding in Connecticut* by Frank Gallo. All three guides are invaluable resources for birders in Connecticut.]

Shrike Identification Notes (Pitfalls?), by Avian Records Committee of Connecticut

In this and subsequent issues of *The Connecticut Warbler*, members of the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut have chosen a species or group of species whose identification has proven problematic. We have researched the keys to help in the identification process, keeping with marks that are of use in the field in normal conditions.

[Ed's Note: in this first installment by ARCC, identification notes are given for Northern Shrike and Loggerhead Shrike, including features of their bills, black masks and surrounding areas, tones of gray, undersides, and relative sizes of heads, wings, tails, and overall body size. Annotated drawings are by Mark Szantyr. The twenty-sixth ARCC Report (*TCW*, April 2021) states, "This species, once a regular migrant and winter visitor throughout the Northeast, has become very rare along with the precipitous decline of the most northerly subspecies, *L. l. migrans*."]

Ornithology at Falkner and Goose Islands: Overview and Historical Records, by James M. Zingo

Historical records and long-term data are essential for successfully following trends in avian distribution and abundance, and thus essential for effective population management. This paper attempts to provide an overview of ornithological studies at Falkner and Goose Islands as well as a review of the birds found on these islands and in surrounding waters prior to the recent intensive studies.

[Ed's Note: this comprehensive seventeen page article on Falkner and Goose Islands off the coast of Guilford, Connecticut is one of the most thoroughly researched articles ever published in *The Connecticut Warbler* that blends historical ornithological records with then contemporary (1970s -1990s) field studies. Jim Zingo's overview of the Falkner Island Tern Project, started by Jeff Spendelow and Fred Sibley in 1978 and continuing today, makes for particularly interesting reading. Since 1985, Falkner Island has been part of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. The McKinney NWR website states that it "protects some of the last remaining undeveloped coastal habitats in Connecticut."]

Bird Behavior Notes - Raptor Hunting During Plowing, by Dwight G. Smith

In this behavioral note I report several observations that I have made of hawks following tractors during plowing to take small mice scared out of their burrows. Two observations were made in Cache Valley, Utah and a third observation of this raptor behavior was in the farm fields near Durham, Connecticut.

[Ed's Note: Dwight Smith's Durham observation involved three Red-tailed Hawks that "flew into the newly plowed furrows and 'walked' among them, intently searching for prey. . . Of nine prey catching attempts observed, at least four resulted in captures."]

Bird Behavior Notes - Like Moths to a Flame, by Jay Kaplan

In my studies of ornithological literature, I recall with great interest, accounts of thousands of songbirds perishing each spring and fall due to collisions with lighted towers and tall buildings along their migration routes. Recently, I had the opportunity to observe, first hand, how such events may occur.

[Ed's Note: While working after hours at Roaring Brook Nature Center, Jay Kaplan describes hearing light thumps against the office window. He looked up "to see a Dark-eyed Junco fluttering against the glass as though trying to enter the building. While observing this individual, I heard yet another thump on the gift shop window, followed by similar fluttering against that window pane." He concludes, "these are not large windows, measuring 42 by 22 inches. One wonders how many other minor collisions between birds and buildings may occur throughout the northeast during peak songbird migration."

For a current look at efforts to reduce window collisions by birds, see the April 20, 2022 post on [ctbirds.org](https://www.ctbirds.org), "Lights Out Connecticut to Help Protect Millions of Migratory Birds" by Lights Out Connecticut co-chairs Craig Repasz and Meredith Barges: <https://www.ctbirding.org/lights-out-connecticut-to-help-protect-millions-of-migratory-birds/>

See also in this issue of *The Connecticut Warbler*. Connecticut Ornithological Literature, compiled by James M. Zingo; Books on Birds, by Alan H. Brush (The Princeton Field Guide to the Birds of Australia. 1996. Princeton University Press); Connecticut Field Notes, by Greg Hanisek; Photo Challenge, by Julian Hough. Cover art of Horned Lark is by Paul Fusco. The January 1998 issue of *The Connecticut Warbler* can be seen in its entirety at the following link to the COA website. Download Volume 18, and view pages 1-48.

<https://ctbirding.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/CTWarblerVolume18.pdf?x82746>



A special issue of *The Connecticut Warbler*, "Connecticut Birds: Distribution and Status by Season," compiled by Frank Gallo and based on work done by Greg Hanisek, has been sent to all current COA members. It is an impressive and important resource for understanding bird life in our state. It is also a great opportunity to publicize COA's role in supporting avian research. This issue will not be available online, even in the COA Members Only Content page, at least for the next couple of years, to encourage sales of the publication.



Connecticut Ornithological Association

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COA OFFICERS

| | |
|----------------|--|
| President | Tom Robben, Glastonbury, CT |
| Vice President | Chris Wood, Woodbury, CT |
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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
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| Conservation | Craig Repasz |
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| Membership | Larry Reiter |
| Avian Records | Jay Kaplan |
| Research | Tom Robben |
| Workshops | Chris Loscalzo |
| Mini-Grants | Kathy Van Der Aue |
| The Connecticut Warbler | Greg Hanisek, Manny Merisotis |
| COA Bulletin | Andrew Dasinger |
| Christmas Bird Count Compiler | Steve Broker |
| Summer Bird Count Compilers | Tom Robben, Patrick Comins |
| Great Backyard Bird Count | Patrick Comins |

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 April 30, 2023 to the editor, Andrew Dasinger, at amdasinger@gmail.com