



COA Bulletin

Volume 39, No. 2
Summer 2024

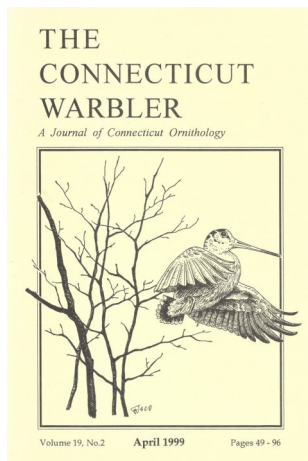
Connecticut Ornithological Association

How to Improve Your Backyard Habitat for Birds and Other Wildlife

Stefan Martin

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Backyard Habitat	p. 1-4
Summer Bird Count	p. 5
Annual Mtg. Wrap Up	p. 6
Conservation and Legislation	p. 7-8
ARCC Update	p. 9
Mig. Bird Initiative	p. 10
Photo Gallery	p. 11
25 Yrs. Ago TCW	p. 12-14
COA Info	p. 15



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.

Have you been thinking about how to improve your backyard for wildlife and birds but feel overwhelmed or don't know where to start? Hopefully, I can make this a little bit easier and give you the motivation you need or the confidence to get going. My first piece of advice is not to get overwhelmed! You don't have to spend a ton of money or energy to better your landscape for our furry and feathered friends. There are a few key elements that animals need to survive. Food, water, and cover. If your property lacks these key ingredients, you can add certain elements to help attract birds and other wildlife to your property to ensure they have a beneficial space to use.

Let's start with water. This may seem self-explanatory but let's go over some options. A pond, lake, river or stream are all great natural sources of water. If you already have either of these on your property, you are off to a great start. But fear not, if you don't have a water source on your property, you can introduce one of your own. Running or moving water tends to be the most attractive to wildlife as this helps wildlife locate it better not only by sight but by sound as well. The sound will mimic natural water sources that wildlife are instinctually attracted to and will key in on. Running or moving water also stays cleaner and fresher longer since it does not give algae as much a chance to grow. A bird bath with an agitator works quite well if you want to keep things simple. There are a few great options online that you can pick from. Solar powered agitators work great, and you don't have to worry about replacing batteries or any other source of electricity.



Cedar Waxwings enjoying a drink at the 'Magic Fountain' at Milford Point, Milford, CT

You can even make a small depression on the ground and add a small ceramic tray. Just keep in mind that this will need to be cleaned and refilled regularly. Another option would be building your own water feature. This option requires some more effort and can be as expensive as you want it to be. This option is fantastic if you are a photographer since it will offer incredible opportunities to photograph birds in what appears to be a natural setting. I will use the Milford Point 'Magic Fountain' as an example of this. We have logged over 60 species of birds coming down to bathe and drink from the natural stone constructed waterfall. This includes everything from the smallest of birds like Pine Siskin, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Lincoln's Sparrow and of course many Warbler species, to birds like Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawk and even Yellow-crowned Night Herons. Photographers from multiple states come each season to enjoy the up close and personal photo ops. But again, this doesn't have to break the bank. The main supplies you need for something like this would be a circulating water pump, a pond liner, and a shovel. The rest is up to you!



The 'Magic Fountain' at Milford Point, Milford, CT

Another key element to backyard habitat is cover or 'structure'. Most people think that tangles of vines, uncut stems, brush piles, leaf litter and fallen branches are ugly and need to be taken care of or beautified. I think we need to change the general public's perception of what is considered beautiful! To wildlife, this is a critical component to survival. I understand that this may not look too welcoming to the general public, especially up against the house or in the foundation plantings, but you can always designate a space where you can include these elements.



Black-throated Green Warbler feeding on a caterpillar

Food and cover will blend together here but ultimately, these go hand in hand. Let's start with fallen logs and leaf litter. These don't immediately jump out to folks as important habitat for bird survival but to understand the true value of this, we need to look a little deeper. Literally! Not only are these important elements for soil production and health, which in turn, provide nutrients back to the items in the landscape but they are home to insects and other small invertebrates, a vital food source for birds and

other wildlife. This is where the food chain starts. Removing this habitat component drastically reduces

the numbers of insects and other invertebrates. This is bad news since over 90% of songbirds feed their young invertebrates such as butterflies, moths, spiders, and other insects and their larvae. A lack of pollinators will also reduce fruit production, which is another critical source of food for wildlife. So, basically, if you remove the habitat that pollinators need to complete their life cycle, you remove the food! Additionally, if you have any tall perennials in the garden, leave these through the winter and into the early spring. Not only is this good structure but there's a good chance that you have overwintering insects in those stems. There are a ton of pollinators that use these through the winter to complete their life cycle.

So now we understand why this is important from a food standpoint, but let's look at this from a structural standpoint. Fallen logs or brush piles provide dynamic to the landscape. They are not only great to use as a perch to sing from or a place to find insects in, but also used to nest or escape predators. You might be surprised to learn that a lot of bird species will use brush-piles, upturned root masses or bases of fallen trees to nest in. These fallen logs or trees will also be perfect walkways for small to medium-sized mammals such as Raccoons, Mink, Red Fox and even Bobcats moving from one location to another. This is a great spot to look for tracks in the winter! Standing dead wood is another incredible habitat component in the landscape. Woodpeckers will use dead trees to excavate



Brush Piles make great habitat.

nesting cavities which will then be used by other cavity nesting birds like Tufted Titmice, Black-capped Chickadees, Eastern Bluebirds and even Great-crested Flycatchers. If you don't have any standing dead wood, you can dig a few holes around the back of the property and add some (thick and sturdy) fallen logs. If you can, try to pick some logs that are about 10ft. 'There is nothing more alive than a dead tree'. If you don't have any tangles of vines or thickets, you can mimic this with brush-piles. Brush-piles are especially important if you are going to be doing any major work

in the yard such as removing undesirable plants and re-establishing natives. When you collect the fallen twigs or branches from the yard, designate a spot to put them. These are essentially substitutes for thickets and work as great cover. If you have poison ivy growing up a tree at the edge of the yard, leave it! Not only is this great structure but it's a wonderful native food source for birds and other wildlife through the fall and winter. Not to mention an incredible splash of fall foliage.

These are just a few of the easy and inexpensive ways to add some new habitat to the landscape. If this is where you start, fantastic! You are helping to make a difference in your neighborhood for wildlife and hopefully you will be encouraged to continue.

If you want to take things a step further, you can start to outfit the yard with native trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennials. Though we just talked about substituting certain habitats, there is nothing better than the real thing. The conditions in your yard will obviously dictate which species you plant and where. When thinking about adding native species to your yard, there are a few things beyond conditions and location to consider. This is where the lines blur between food and structure. Things to consider here would be pollinator value (nectar and larval food sources), food production (berries, nuts, seeds) and growth habit. It would be wonderful to include every type of habitat in your yard but in most cases, this is not feasible. If you were going to pick one or two of these to focus on, one of the best things in my opinion would be to add thickets. For this, I would suggest looking into clonal shrubs or brambles. These are plants that spread naturally from the 'mother plant'. Some examples of clonal shrubs are Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), Red-osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) and Winged Sumac (*Rhus copallinum*). Examples of brambles would be Black Raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis* or other native *Rubus* sp.) and Greenbriers. You can also plant small groves of evergreens which



Horace's Duskywing on

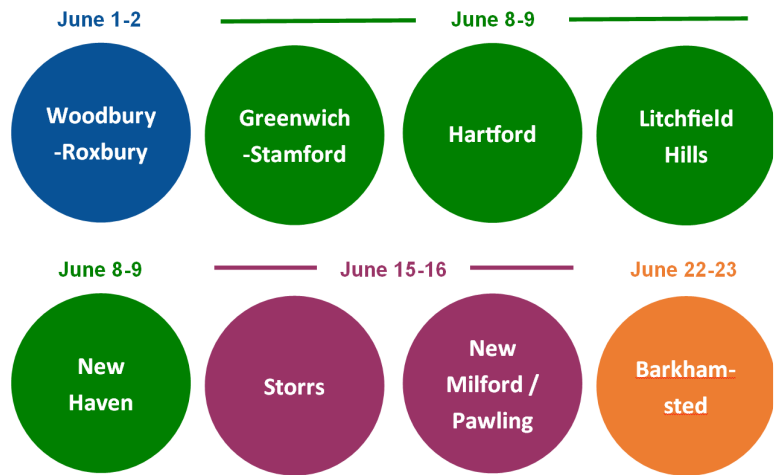
can be used by songbirds for both roosting and nesting. You might even get lucky and get an owl using it as a daytime roost. If you have the appropriate exposure and space for it, go for gold and start to chip away at your lawn by adding a pollinator garden! Not only will you be adding more nectar to your yard but you're planting your very own bird feeder! The seeds from these native perennials and grasses will be food for songbirds through the fall and winter.

Of course, there's always the option of supplemental feeding by adding bird feeders to your landscape. These can be a great addition to the yard and provide important calories during the winter months.

I hope this helps you feel a little more confident in taking those next steps to better your backyard habitat for birds and wildlife. Just remember the three pillars. Food, water, cover. It all starts here.

2024 Summer Bird Count

The eight June Summer Bird Counts (SBCs) in Connecticut are just a few weeks away. Please contact your SBC compiler(s) to join one or more of these efforts. These counts are very similar to Christmas Bird Counts on those same 15-mile circles, except that they are run in June which is the crucial time of year when most birds are breeding here. Fortunately, Connecticut is the one state that has an unbroken set of annual SBC data going back to around 1990 for most counts. This multi-decade set of SBC bird data gives us a good view of some long-term changes in our bird life and our environment. It is very important to continue these long time series of breeding bird counts since they are one of the best ways for us to measure the changing populations of our birds. These changes can be a good index of clean air, clean water and the overall health of our natural and human environments in CT.



Summer Bird Count Schedule and Contact Information

FIRST WEEKEND JUNE 1-2 <i>Woodbury-Roxbury</i>	Russ Naylor Note: both June 1 & 2 ok, but June 2 is preferred	44 Church St., Woodbury, CT 06798	203 841-7779
SECOND WEEKEND JUNE 8-9 <i>Greenwich-Stamford</i>	Thomas Burke thomaswardburke@gmail.com Gary Palmer garyjane4523@gmail.com	235 Highland Rd., Rye, NY 10580 34 Field Rd., Cos Cob, CT 06830	914 967-4922 203 661-4897
<i>Hartford</i>	Jay Kaplan jaybrd49@aol.com	71 Gracey Rd., Canton, CT 06019	860 693-0157
<i>Litchfield Hills</i>	David Tripp Jr. dtrippjr@gmail.com	97 Hunter Court, Torrington, CT 06790	
<i>New Haven</i>	Steve Mayo scmayo999@gmail.com	27 Tuttle Court, Bethany, CT 06524	203 551-1707 or 203-772-9842
THIRD WEEKEND JUNE 15-16 <i>New Milford / Pawling</i>	Angela Dimmitt angeladimmitt@aol.com	PO Box 146, Sherman, CT 06784	860 355-3429
<i>Storrs</i>	Steve Morytko smorytko@yahoo.com	288 Varga Rd., Ashford, CT 06278	860 680-5728
FOURTH WEEKEND JUNE 22-23 <i>Barkhamsted</i>	Dave Rosgen d.rosgen@outlook.com Bianca Beland bianca.m.beland@gmail.com	Participants should report all their SBC findings into eBird checklists, where Dave will retrieve them and compile the count.	959-202-8996 for text messages only

2024 COA Annual Meeting Wrap-Up

Chris Wood

Thanks to a splendid effort by our Annual Meeting team, headed up by Abby Sesselberg and Tina Green, COA was able after a three year hiatus to hold an in person get together of about 200 COA members and supporters. Sponsorship by Zeiss Optics, Milford Photo, and Sunrise Birding ensured the event's success and provided informative displays of their products. Our friends at the New Haven Bird Club, Western Connecticut Bird Club, and Litchfield Hills Audubon also provided support, testimony to the strength of the birding community in Connecticut.

By all reports, including a brief survey of attendees, the meeting was a success and based on my personal observations, everyone was delighted to see old friends and meet new ones. The speakers were entertaining and informative, giving us some insight into the important work of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (Marshall Iliff and Mike Webster) and into the lives of pigeons (Rosemary Mosco).

The popularity of our Annual Meeting appears not to have waned during the COVID hiatus and we intend that COA will continue to provide the birding community with opportunities to share experiences and expertise. The Annual Meeting, our CTBirds listserv, the *Connecticut Warbler* journal, the COA website, the quarterly COA Bulletin, and multiple workshops are all valuable resources available to Connecticut birders. We hope our members take advantage of these resources and we appreciate your continued support.



Steve Broker provided some photos of the event for our website: <https://www.ctbirding.org/events/annual-meeting/>

Conservation and Legislation

Craig Repasz

There are several pieces of legislation on the federal and state level that will protect birds and their habitat.

Two significant federal level pieces of legislation include:

The Federal Bird Safe Buildings Act of 2023 H.R.3781

Requires that federal buildings, with a few exceptions, use bird -safe features, practices, and strategies. Support this bill by contacting your Representative to support this act by following the link <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/118/hr3781/comment>.

The Plum Island National Monument Act. H.R.1584

Establishes Plum Island, New York, as a national monument for the purpose of ecological conservation, historical preservation. Support the bill by following the link <https://www.preserveplumisland.org>.

On a state level, The Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee finished its session for 2024 on March 20. They have moved several bills out of committee and to the house and senate floors. The legislative session closed on May 8, 2024.

Legislation that was not moved out of committee:

SB00190 (R) USE OF NEONICOTINOIDS was not voted on in Environment committee. Many environmental groups opposed the specific language in the bill stating that any legislation should use the stronger language of the Neonic ban bill in the 2023 session. Committee Chair Rep Gresko states that there will be a neonic bill with the stronger language from 2023 and that the bill will be a major priority in the next legislative session. In addition, a bill **SB00291 (R)** that would require that all helium and lighter than air balloons be biodegradable by 2027 did not make it out of committee.

Legislation that was voted out of committee:

SJ 193 AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS.

Puts environmental rights on the ballot for a vote by the people.

SB00292 (R) PFAS IN CERTAIN PRODUCTS. Bans intentionally added PFAS in clothes, carpets, cleaning products, cookware. PFAS are widely used, long lasting chemicals, components of which break down very slowly over time. Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals.

HB05004 (R) CERTAIN CLIMATE CHANGE MEASURES. Declares a statewide "climate crisis," along with a commitment to reach net-zero emissions no later than 2050. To get to that point, the bill authorizes a host of new studies, reports and financial incentives for municipalities and businesses to cut down on emissions. Including a plan to deploy 310,000 energy saving heat pumps around the state. The bill also has provisions for nature-based solutions, to increase carbon sequestration through re-forestation, controlling invasive species, protecting wetlands, restoring coastal habitats, and increasing climate-smart agriculture and soil conservation. These measures will improve habitat and protect biodiversity.

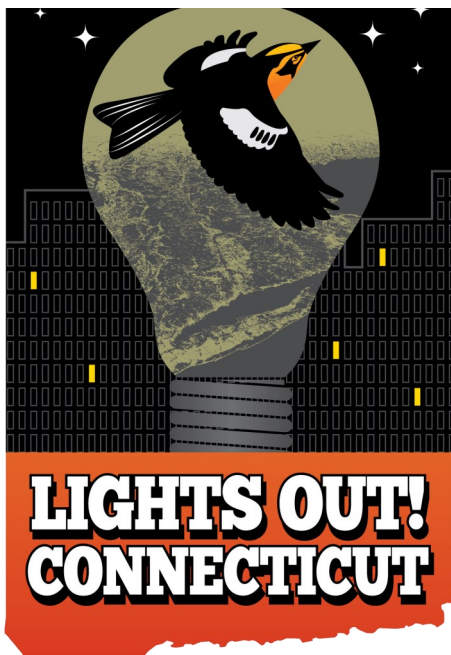
Lights Out Connecticut lobbied to have the bill address energy waste and the carbon footprint created by light pollution. LOCT sought to have Dark Sky International lighting standards as part of the bill. These proposed amendments to the bill are not included in the final draft of the bill.

HB05217 (R) RODENTICIDES. Bans second generation anticoagulant rodenticides. These rodenticides are carried by rodents into areas where they are preyed upon by raptors. The rodenticides accumulate in the birds and other predators and cause internal bleeding. The bill has been moved to the appropriations committee for approval.

HB05218 (RIPARIAN BUFFERS AND REVISION OF CERTAIN INLAND WETLANDS PROVISIONS. Authorizes CT DEEP to use funds available for stormwater infrastructure for the purpose of acquiring conservation easements located along streams and rivers. This bill will help the state acquire critical habitat for birds.

HB05225 (R) INVASIVE PLANTS CONTROL. Requires that no person shall import, move, sell, purchase, transplant, cultivate or distribute the invasive plants listed in the bill.

Connecticut State Building Code Amendments. [Lights Out Connecticut \(https://www.lightsoutct.org/\)](https://www.lightsoutct.org/) is working with Dark Sky International to submit proposed amendments to the State Building code that will require new buildings and major retrofits in the state to follow lighting principles that will cut down on light pollution. Amendment will Reduce luminaire output, require light fixtures to be shielded, require timers on lights, limit the light wavelength.



By joining Lights Out Connecticut, you can help to reduce the impacts of light pollution on migratory songbirds! You can also save energy and money, reduce your carbon footprint, safeguard your own health, and help preserve views of the night sky.

By Taking the Pledge to go lights out, you become a part of a growing community of CT residents, businesses, schools, churches, and nonprofits who pledge to **turn off their unnecessary outdoor and indoor lights from each night from 11pm to 6am during peak bird migration (Spring: April 1 - May 31; and Fall: Aug 15 - Nov 15)** to reduce the diverse risks of light pollution for migratory birds.

Behind the Scenes of the Avian Records Committee

Frank Mantlik (ARCC Chairman)

The main responsibility of the COA's Avian Records Committee of Connecticut (ARCC) is to maintain the official bird list of the state. And a big part of that is soliciting and then adjudicating on sightings of species deemed rare in the state, as identified by the Committee's Review List.

The Committee meets annually, typically in March, just after its twelve members review and vote on rarity reports numbering 40-70 records. Members volunteer their time - many hours and days - to this end. The meetings take place at Yale University's Peabody Museum (Environmental Sciences Building), where specimens can be examined, thanks to the Director of the bird collection, Kristof Zyskowski.

Voting on new records is done independently, without discussion, to avoid bias. The vote tallies are reviewed at the meeting, followed by discussion on the more difficult records. The vast majority of records are accepted in the first round of voting, but some can be considered for up to three rounds. Following each meeting, a report on the annual deliberations is published in *The Connecticut Warbler*.

In an effort to illustrate the work of the Committee, a few photographs of these annual meetings have been included.



Photos:

P Rusch, T Green, K Zyskowski, F Gallo view Bicknell's Thrush specimens; G Williams, F Gallo view Sandwich/Cabot's Tern specimens; D Tripp with Violet-green Swallow; Violet-green Swallow specimen; T Green views Summer Tanager specimens; ARCC meeting members; Eurasian Hobby specimens; New Haven pizza dinner following ARCC meeting; F Mantlik selfie and members; J Nance, D Tripp view specimens; P Rusch at laptop with Eurasian Hobby specimens

Let's Go Birding

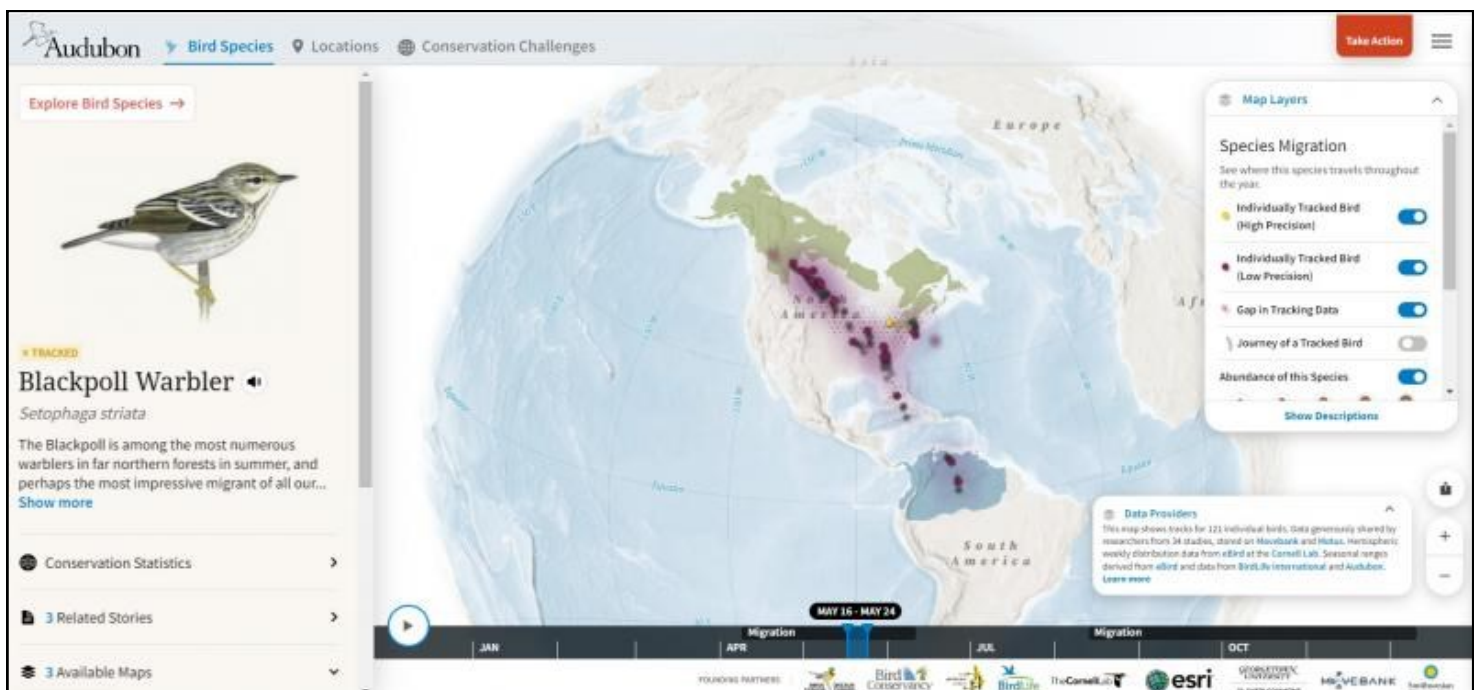
Migratory Bird Initiative and Bird Migration Explorer

Chad Witko

Senior Coordinator Avian Biology, National Audubon Society

The mission of the National Audubon Society's Migratory Bird Initiative is to secure the future of migratory birds in the Western Hemisphere by reducing direct threats and protecting critical places across the Americas in coordination with science, conservation, and policy partners. The Initiative brings together the latest spatial information on species distributions and movements across their annual cycles to identify priority areas for 458 species of migratory birds that regularly occur in the United States and Canada. The award-winning [Bird Migration Explorer](https://www.audubon.org/our-work/science/bird-migration-initiative) (<https://www.audubon.org/our-work/science/bird-migration-initiative>), the Migratory Bird Initiative's free online platform, guides viewers to the heroic annual journeys made by over 450 bird species and the challenges they face.

Audubon's national science team works to deliver conservation-relevant science in partnership with Audubon's national conservation strategy leadership and with science and conservation staff located in state and regional offices as well as external partners. Follow this link to learn more about the [National Science Team](https://www.audubon.org/our-work/science) (<https://www.audubon.org/our-work/science>)



Sample page from the Bird Migration Explorer

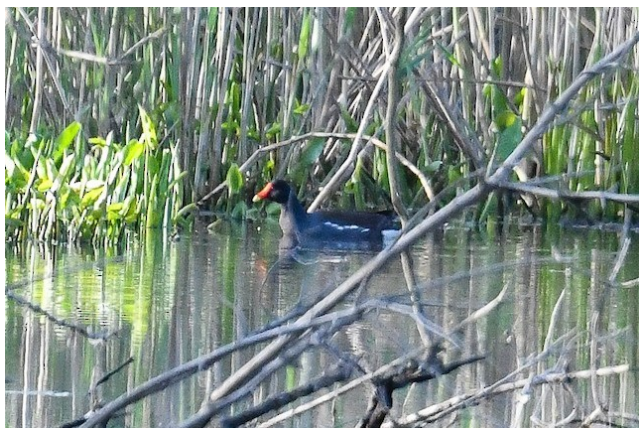
Looking to test your birding skills? Try one of these online sites...

 [Birding Quiz](http://www.birdingquiz.com/birdtest/) <http://www.birdingquiz.com/birdtest/>

 [Ebird Quiz](https://ebird.org/quiz/) <https://ebird.org/quiz/>

Spring Rarity Gallery

As of May 14th, 282 bird species have been seen in CT!



Common Gallinule, Glastonbury
(Bill Asteriades, 4 May 2024)



Upland Sandpiper, Madison
(Alex Lin-Moore, 27 Apr 2024)



White-faced Ibis, Madison
(Bill Rankin, 2 May 2024)



Red-headed Woodpecker, Norwalk — One of several in the state this year! (Jo Fasciolo, 4 May 2024)



Boat-tailed Grackle, Stratford
(Stephen Spector, 30 Apr 2024)



Ruff, Stratford
(Linda Ankertstjerne Olsen, 1 Apr 2024)

Twenty-Five Years Ago in *The Connecticut Warbler*

Compiled by Steve Broker

Volume 18, No. 2 (April 1999)

The Yellow-breasted Chat: Some News, by William Burt

Here's a note of cheer for any who might be discouraged by the disappearance of the Yellow-breasted Chat from the Connecticut nesting scene. In the course of an hour-long morning hike on June 11, 1997, I was delighted to hear the antic notes of not one, two, three, but four male chats on four discrete territories in a half-mile long tract of open country in the town of Lyme - and within one mile of the site of a nest I'd found 20 years before, (a comical occasion, that one; after two hours' burrowing through greenbrier, with a protective armoring of heavy coat and gloves and hat and goggles, I gave up the search at last and crawled back out to the open trail, only to find the nest right there before me, waist-high and in plain view beside the trail).



Yellow-breasted Chat at Nest, Richmond, Kentucky, June 1998.
@William Burt

This open country is a mosaic of marsh and pasture and vast tumbling tangles of blackberry, bayberry, and especially the wretched greenbrier (*Smilax*), and occasionally interspersed red maples and red cedars, which served as the birds' singing perches. Some of these thickets are draped with undulating blankets of wild grape, which by late spring, have screened the shrubbery from view almost completely.

The next day, June 12, again all four chats were singing on their respective territories; and the comical song-flight was observed several times.

Early in the century, seemingly because there was still sufficient open farmland to ensure a continuum of the necessary reverting thorny second-growth, the chat was considered a fairly common nesting bird in Connecticut, especially in the southern part; and it even nested regularly in Massachusetts. But it has since declined severely in New England, and more recently has disappeared almost entirely. Robert Askins, who has been watchful of this species in Connecticut, says there have been no breeding sites he is aware of anywhere in the state since 1991; and Wayne Petersen of Massachusetts tells me there has been no evidence even suggestive of nesting in that state since 1984 - though viable habitat does still remain he feels. To him, the disappearance of the chat is an enigma much like that posed by another onetime nesting bird of New England, the Loggerhead Shrike: the two disappeared at about the same time, and for reasons equally unclear. In any event, this locality in Lyme would seem a special one indeed, constituting perhaps the chat's only known remaining breeding grounds in New England.

[Editor's Note: Bill Burt expanded on this 1999 TCW article with his column in the Summer 2022 issue of the magazine *Estuary*, "Last Stand: Yellow-breasted Chat". After a review in *Estuary* of his 1970s and 1990s field discoveries of nesting Chats in Lyme, he asks the question, "And now, after another quarter century? This coming spring, in 2022: Will they be nesting then?" Bill's engaging writing and superior photographs appear in his books: "Shadowbirds: A Quest for Rails" (1994); "Rare and Elusive Birds of North America" (2001); "Marshes: the Disappearing Edens" (2007), and; "Water Babies: The Hidden Lives of Baby Wetland Birds" (2015).

The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Connecticut (based on field data from 1982 to 1986) listed 18 Atlas blocks with evidence of breeding of Yellow-breasted Chat (2 Confirmed, 7 Probable, 9 Possible). Preliminary data from the 2018-2021 Connecticut Bird Atlas indicate a significant decline in breeding Chats across the state. A similar decline is shown when comparing the results of Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlases 1 & 2. Atlas 1 (1974-79) listed 4 Confirmed, 4 Probable, and 1 Possible block with breeding evidence for Yellow-breasted Chat. In Mass BBA 2 (2007-2011), only two blocks contained breeding evidence, including 0 Confirmed, 1 Probable, and 1 Possible block results. The species description in Mass BBA2 includes the following note: "The Yellow-breasted Chat shows a significant declining Breeding Bird Survey trend in the New England/Mid-Atlantic Region and in the Eastern US overall."]

Site Guide: Nepaug Reservoir and Adjoining State Forest, by Paul Carrier. The Nepaug Reservoir and adjoining Nepaug State Forest in the towns of Canton, Burlington, and New Hartford, contain some of the best habitat within our state for finding common as well as hard to find indigenous breeding bird species. The only disadvantage to birders is an inaccessibility to certain areas owned by the Metropolitan District Commission from which the public is excluded. The MDC restricts entry into much of their property, but the following is a description of sites accessible to the public with most affording birders a good chance to hear and see Nepaug's many hidden treasures.

Situated at the southeast corner of northwestern Connecticut, Nepaug can claim most, but not all, of northwest Connecticut's breeding bird species within its boundaries. To date, over 130 bird species have been observed breeding here, and if you add to this list another 103 species that have been seen during migration, the total of 233 species is quite impressive for such an inland area.

During Connecticut's breeding bird atlas project, the Nepaug area was second only to the huge White Memorial Foundation property in Litchfield County for confirmed breeding species. This is quite impressive, due to the fact that the Nepaug area was covered by fewer than a dozen people, with only two contributing more than 10 hours during that five year period.

Although birding Nepaug can be rewarding at any time of the year, it shows its greatest potential during the breeding season. A morning of birding should tally over 90 bird species during the months of May and June, with a good day of over 100 species not unusual.

[Editor's Note: Paul Carrier describes a counterclockwise birding trip around Nepaug Reservoir, beginning at Point A and continuing to Point J, involving a sequence of 17 localities where the diversity of birds is remarkably high. He provides extensive directions for reaching each of these sites, and a comprehensive, two-page map. In addition, he recommends a side trip to Maple Hollow (Bakersville Swamp) in New Hartford, with its own detailed map and discussion of marsh birds.

In addition to the maps, there are five of Paul Carrier's original artwork depicting birds mentioned in the text. Eight pages of narrative manage to pack in the occurrence of more than 100 bird species, including herons, goatsuckers, gulls, herons, diurnal and nocturnal raptors, flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, finches, sparrows, and wood-warblers. Most interesting are the references to current or recent past records of nesting Northern Goshawks, hard to find White-eyed Vireos, the first confirmed state nesting for Cerulean Warbler in 1972, a wintering Boreal Chickadee from years ago, Pine Grosbeaks feeding in the snow under hemlocks, Brewster's and Lawrence's (hybrid) warblers, territorial singing Sedge Wren, and past nesting by American Bittern.]

See also in this issue of *The Connecticut Warbler*: The 1998-1999 Connecticut Christmas Bird Count, by Stephen P. Broker; Connecticut Ornithological Literature, compiled by James M. Zingo; Bird Behavior Notes - Crow Caches Food, by Carol Lemmon, and Black-backed Gull Catches a Skate, by Jay Kaplan; Books on Birds, by Chris Wood ("Connecticut Birding Guide" by Buzz Devine & Dwight G. Smith. 1996.); Connecticut Field Notes - Fall, August 1 to November 30, 1998, by Greg Hanisek; Photo Challenge, by Julian Hough.

Cover art of the American Woodcock is by Paul Fusco. The April 1999 issue of *The Connecticut Warbler* can be seen in its entirety at the following link to the COA website: <https://ctbirding.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/CTWarblerVolume19.pdf?x51221>. Download Volume 19, and view pages 53-105.



COA Calendar of Events

Remember to check out our COA Calendar of Events for birding opportunities and workshops!

[COA Calendar of Events](https://www.ctbirding.org/eventscal/) (<https://www.ctbirding.org/eventscal/>)



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

COA OFFICERS

President	Chris Wood, Woodbury, CT
Vice President	Cynthia Ehlinger, Greenwich, CT
Secretary	Allison Black, Norwich, CT
Treasurer	Paul Wolter, Beacon Falls, CT

COA CHAIRPERSONS

Annual Meeting	COA Board
Conservation	Open
Finance	Treasurer: Paul Wolter
Membership	Dan Rottino
Avian Records	Frank Mantlik
Research	Tom Robben
Workshops	Allison Black
Mini-Grants	Allison Black
The Connecticut Warbler	Greg Hanisek
COA Bulletin	Jo Fasciolo

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 August 20, 2023 to the editor at jo_fasciolo@msn.com