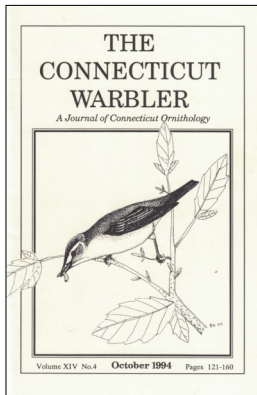


COA Bulletin

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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.

The Christmas Bird Count A Semi-Imaginary Interview with Roger Tory Peterson COA Staff

The famous artist, photographer, author, educator, and conservationist, creator of the Peterson Field Guides, including the seminal 1934 publication *Guide to the Birds*, sat down with us for a conversation about the National Audubon Society sponsored Christmas Bird Count.

COA: You have participated in Christmas Bird Counts in a number of States, including Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. What is a Christmas Bird Count?

Roger Tory Peterson: The Count is sort of a cold weather “Big Day,” but the rules are somewhat different. Three or four groups, working independently, can pool their lists, although they must stay within a circle fifteen miles in diameter. There is much plotting with dividers and maps to place the circle so it will include the very best places. Although the whole census scheme was started by Frank Chapman as a game or sport - a substitute for looking at birds over the sights of a shotgun - the rules have been modified to make the results more useful to ornithology. The weather is noted; the temperature; the wind velocity and direction - also clouds, and field conditions that result from the weather. The habitats visited are estimated - cattail swamps, ten per cent; brushy fields, thirty per cent; second growth deciduous woodlands, twenty-five per cent; and so on.

COA: Tell us something about how you go about counting birds and why this is useful for ornithology.

RTP: In a little pad, the observer jots down the exact number of everything he sees, unless the flocks are so large he can only estimate. Figures must be definite if researchers wish to learn which are the commonest birds and whether they increase or decline through the years. If a rare or unlikely bird is seen, all the substantiating details are given; otherwise the editor is likely to append a skeptical note to the record - for example: Great auk (no details-Ed.). The whole list is put in A.O.U. Check-list order (the order all the bird guides follow) and sent to Audubon Field Notes for publication.

COA: You were born in Jamestown, New York in 1908. In 1927, you moved to New York City to study art. Early on, you became a member of the Bronx County Bird Club. What role did this bird club play in elevating the Count from a sport to a useful contribution to ornithology?

RTP: I always like to think that the boys in the Bronx set the standard and developed the technique by which many other groups now get the most out of their regions.

COA: Take us through one of your Christmas Bird Count efforts.

RTP: Living in Manhattan, I started my day two hours before it was light. I got the car from the garage down on Lexington Avenue, crossed the steel bridge over the murky Harlem River and drove through the deserted streets of the lower Bronx until apartment buildings and tenements gave way to frame houses with milk bottles on their icy steps. In the glare of the headlights, as I sped along the parkway, I could see patches of dirty half-melted snow. When I parked the car near the swamp where I was to start the day, the east was just beginning to pale. There would be no bright sunrise; the sky was overcast. It was windless, also; bird voices would carry a long way this morning. Limbering my clammy fingers, I tried several screech owl wails by blowing on my clasped hands. There was no answer. I called a dozen times or more. The first song sparrow announced itself from the cattails with a husky chip, and then I caught what I was listening for - a faint wail among the tall tulip trees and sweet gums on the ridge. The banshee plaint seemed to grow louder and closer. The song sparrows and tree sparrows were now wide awake. Then a dim form flitted noiselessly across the road and disappeared in a giant sycamore tree. The little screech owl had gone to bed.

COA: The birds are beginning to announce their presence. What happened next?

RTP: Swamp birds are most vocal at daybreak, and if there is a wintering marsh wren or a rail, that is the best time to pick it up. (The first hour is always one of listening.) The best I could do in the marsh this morning were several pheasants which croaked from the reeds and a swamp sparrow. White-throats chinked from the cat brier tangles and the clicking of juncos was audible. A note of dismay in the voices of foraging chickadees called my attention to a sharp-shinned hawk hot on the tail of a frantic red-wing. I did not see the end of the precipitous chase.

COA: People wandering around and using binoculars in early morning might give the uninformed, and hence the uniformed, the wrong impression. Did you perceive any note of dismay from the people you chanced to encounter in the early hours of this bird count?

RTP: Sauntering back to my Studebaker, I was met by a young policemen in a white patrol car. He eyed my 12-power binoculars, took out his pad, and asked me to explain my presence. It was war time, and I had expected something like this. One of the local patriots, glancing out of his kitchen window, had seen me lurking among the cattails. My car, half hidden in a little side road, looked suspicious, too. Credentials were produced - including my Field Guide and a copy of last year's Christmas Count. He looked at my binoculars. "German glasses?" He asked. I said, "Yes." After squinting at a downy woodpecker with them, he offered to take me to a man who kept pheasants in a cage. Thanking him, I replied that I had already seen four cock pheasants in the swamp and that tame birds didn't count. With an enlightened "Oh!" he stepped on the starter and slowly drove away. This encounter cost me valuable time.

COA: Later, we understand that you ran into John Kieran, who joined your bird count, and he brought you luck when you found a double-crested cormorant perched out on a channel marker. Your group eventually consisted of five birders, including Irving Kassoy, Richard Herbert, and Michael Oboiko. What was the best bird of the day?

RTP: The most exciting bird of the afternoon came just as we were about to call it a day. How Herbert spotted it I do not know, for it was just a tiny white dot on a bush far out on a marshy island. A herring gull would not sit in a bush top, Dick reasoned, so it must be a snowy owl. Oboiko set up his 45-power telescope, and snowy owl it was. Kieran's expressive ears betrayed his excitement. It was the first one of these large arctic owls he had seen in several years. The list for our party was just under fifty for the day. Down in the little restaurant at the end of the Pelham Bay subway line we joined the other census takers. When the comforting effect of the warm room and a good meal had put everyone in a relaxed frame of mind the chairman rose to his feet. In his hand he held a list of all the birds that had ever been seen on a Bronx Census in the previous eighteen years. Using it, we would tabulate the day's total. We laid a bet of five cents each on the grand total, the closest guess claiming the pot. While we waited in suspense the chairman announced that the day's total was ninety-eight species and about

24,311 individuals. It was a good list but twice before we had done better. We all agreed it was becoming impossible to reach our old peak because the Bronx was deteriorating ornithologically. Where marshes had once harbored rails and snipe, huge gas tanks reared skyward. The undergrowth had been cleaned out of “the willows” in Bronx Park, and a new super-parkway swept across Van Cortlandt Swamp.

COA: As you have done any number of Christmas Bird Counts, what can you say about the changes you have observed from year to year?

RTP: Any man who keeps a feeding tray outside his window knows that one winter is not like the next. There are always the old standby visitors, of course; downy woodpeckers, nuthatches and jays at the suet; cardinals, chickadees and titmice at the sunflower seeds; tree sparrows, juncos, song sparrows and white-throats at the peanut hearts and scratched; and pheasants and quail at the chaff bed among the corn shocks. But some years there is a deluge of purple finches, the next year none. Then there will be a season of cedar waxwings.

COA: The lives of birds seem to be closely entwined with the lives of humans. Do you agree?

RTP: Perhaps so; the Christmas Bird Count will continue to give us clues. But even there are many nuggets that ornithologists can mine from this rich lode of bird information, to me and to my friends it is our way of celebrating the holidays, an ornithological ritual that has come to represent Yuletide more than Santa Claus or the Christmas tree.

COA: Roger, thank you very much. A final thought?

RTP: Although I have watched birds only since 1920, great changes have taken place in that quarter of a century. Some species have vastly increased, others have dangerously declined. The forces at work that influence the fortunes of birds are as fascinating as a detective story. To me there is no more dynamic side to ornithology than the study of bird populations.

[The complete text of Roger Tory Peterson’s discussion of the Christmas Bird Count can be found in his book, *Birds Over America*, published by Grosset & Dunlap, 1948, the chapter entitled “Census at Christmas.”]

120th ANNUAL NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT CONNECTICUT CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2019-20120 SCHEDULE

* = CONFIRMED BY COMPILER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019:

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

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

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 203-405-9113
(Western Connecticut Bird Club)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019:

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 860-693-0263 (days), 860-693-0157 (evenings), 860-707-5246 (cell)
(Hartford Audubon Society)

Litchfield Hills, CT (CTLH) Compiler: Raymond E. Belding, 1229 Winsted Road #30, Torrington, CT 06790
hoatzinl@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, 32 Wanda Drive, Beacon Falls, CT 06403 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, 930 Middletown Road, Colchester, CT 06415
rsdell@comcast.net 860-803-1626, and Doreen Jezek, 11 Casner Road, East Haddam, CT 06423
dajezek@gmail.com 859-492-1656
(Mattabeseck Audubon Society)

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2019:

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

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2019:

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2019:

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2019:

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)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020:

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)

[SNOW DATE IS THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020]

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 2020:

Guilford-Long Island Sound, CTGL Compiler: Robert Kuchta, kuchtare@gmail.com
(Menunkatuck Audubon Society)

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2020:

Old Lyme-Saybrook, CT (CTOL) Compiler: Barbara Hawes, 310 Boston Post Road, Unit #71, Waterford, CT 06385 bhawes71@gmail.com 860-710-5811

(compiled by Steve Broker)



2020 COA Annual Meeting—Save the Date!



The Connecticut Ornithological Association’s 36th Annual Meeting is being held on **Saturday, March 21, 2020** at Middlesex Community College, Middletown.

The speakers will be Nathan Pieplow, author of the Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Eastern North America and the Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Western North America, Rob Bierregaard on Ospreys, and Margaret Rubega on hummingbird tongues.

The full program will be provided in the Spring 2020 COA Bulletin and on the COA web site, along with registration instructions. As before, there will also be award presentation ceremonies, a vibrant marketplace of birding related goods and services, and an exciting raffle.

MARCH 2020						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				





2019 Big Sit at Milford Point Frank Gallo

This year, the B.W. Surf Scopers, Patrick and Jim Dugan, Tina Green, Frank Mantlik, and Tom Murray, with help from 14 visitors, tallied 93 species from the outer platform at Milford Point. This is above our 10-year average of 89.5, though well below our high of 117. Last year's 115 ended up being the highest total in the U.S. for the count. Not bad for tiny little Connecticut!

Our first two species were a Hermit Thrush calling at 4:30 when I arrived followed by a calling Greater Yellowlegs. Highlights included our first-ever Eared Grebe, a Whimbrel, a Long-billed Dowitcher, an American Golden-Plover, 4 Black Skimmers, 3 Common Eiders, 7 Bonaparte's Gulls, 8 Forster's Terns, and a Dickcissel. Our cumulative total is 191 species for 25 years of Big Sitting! From Milford Point The Big Sit! has been going for 26 years. (We missed a year.)



The B.W. Surf Scopers pause for a selfie on the platform

Photos of Some Notable Fall 2019 Birds



Parasitic Jaeger at Long Island Sound off Old Saybrook
(Nick Bonomo, Sep. 10, 2019)



Gull-billed Tern at Sherwood Mill Pond Preserve
(Dave Provencher, Sep. 27, 2019)



Black-legged Kittiwake at Sherwood Mill Pond Preserve
(Tina Green, Oct. 19, 2019)



Rufous Hummingbird at private residence in
Canterbury (Tina Green, Oct. 11, 2019)



Swainson's Hawk at Lighthouse Point Park
(Dana Campbell, Oct. 19, 2019)



Sedge Wren at Silver Sands State Park
(John Oshlick, Oct. 4, 2019)



Lark Sparrow at Lighthouse Point Park
(Linda Olsen, Sept. 9, 2019)



Western Meadowlark (subject to ARRC review) at
Sherwood Island S.P. (Frank Mantlik, Oct. 24, 2019)

COA Raptor Workshop at the Annual Migration Festival, Lighthouse Point, September 19



Steve Mayo imparting his raptor wisdom



Bird banding demonstration - Sophie Zyla holding Northern Flicker accompanied by Sarah Cahill



Dan Barvir, stepping down from the New Haven Department of Parks, Recreation and Trees and his many years of leading the Migration Festival (all photos by Laurie Reynolds)



Lori Datlow and DeWitt Allen at the New Haven Bird Club table



Sea Duck Workshop

Saturday, November 30, from 8:00 am to 11:00 am
Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison



Learn how to identify the different waterfowl species that coast in fall and winter, including loons, grebes, scoters, eider, scaup and alcids! We'll review how to differentiate between similar species. We'll start with an indoor presentation in the Meigs Point Nature Center Conference Room. After that, we'll look out into the sound to see what we can find. Meet at the Meigs Point Nature Center. Bring a scope if you have one. Advance registration is not required. The event is free and open to COA members and non-members alike. Leader and contact person: Chris Loscalzo at loscalz@optonline.net and 203 389-6508. visit our

Look for information on upcoming COA workshops (and many other birding events and walks) on the COA web site at <https://www.ctbirding.org/events/>

Connecticut Bird Atlas Update

Chris Elphick



Volunteer Appreciation Event

Recently, 50-60 atlas volunteers gathered at Hammonasset State Park for our second annual volunteer appreciation event. At the gathering, we discussed data collection so far, as well as plans for the upcoming winter atlas field season. Beforehand, Min Huang compiled a handout that summarizes much of the data collected so far. For those who were unable to attend, that handout can be seen [here](#).



As always, the data in the handout come with numerous caveats. Most importantly, not all data that have been submitted have been entered yet. Almost all data submitted via eBird should be reflected in the maps and graphs included, but data submitted on paper or via email during summer 2019 will not appear yet. After the event, I also realized that a subset of the data from winter 2018-19 have not yet been finalized, so there will also be omissions in some of the winter maps. We will prioritize getting these winter data up-to-date over the next couple of weeks so that everyone knows what species have been seen in each block prior to the start of the second winter field season.

Winter Atlas—Season 2

November 1st marks the start of the winter survey period for the Connecticut Bird Atlas. From then until the end of February, we are interested in all of your bird observations across the state.

The goals of the winter field work are generally simpler than those for the breeding season as there is no winter equivalent of breeding codes to learn and apply to each species – so, [surveying primarily involves recording the species you see and the number of each species](#). The most basic goal is to generate a list of all species that occur in a block during November and December, and a second list for January and February. Any observations that are clearly within the block boundary during these dates will count.

Ideally, we would like people to conduct 1-hour timed observations, [described here](#), as the standardized nature of these surveys will allow us to do a lot more with the data than is possible with incidental observations (but don't hesitate to submit the incidental observations, if that's what you have!).

We also have specialized surveys for both [inland](#) and [coastal](#) waterbodies – as these sites often exhibit turnover in the occurrence of species and may benefit from frequent/regular, though perhaps brief, visits to document the changes. We're also interested in documenting [sites where large groups of birds congregate to roost](#), and getting estimates of the numbers of birds that use them. Although each of these activities has a separate protocol, most of the details are similar for all of them – and largely boil down to recording the types and numbers of species seen.

We now have preliminary species lists for the winter atlas linked to each block. Just go to the map, click the "Show Winter Season" button, then click on the block of interest. In addition to preliminary block stats there is now a Preliminary Species Lists link. As always, links are preliminary, some data are still being processed, data proofing is ongoing, etc., etc. But these lists should give you a sense of where things stand for each block.

Twenty-Five Years Ago in *The Connecticut Warbler*

Compiled by Steve Broker

Volume XIV, No. 4 (October 1994)

Site Guide: Station 43, South Windsor, Connecticut, by Arnold Devine and Dwight G. Smith

Members of the Hartford Audubon Society praise Station 43 as one of the premier birding locations in north-central Connecticut. This unique locale has produced an outstanding assortment of rarities throughout the years, primarily due to its strategic location along the Connecticut River, a prime migration artery through the state's interior. Furthermore, the many terrestrial and wetland habitats at this site serve as natural magnets to attract an array of species. Birding habitats at Station 43 include deciduous woodlot, shrub wetland, old fields, agricultural land (predominantly corn and potato fields), meadows, magnificent freshwater marshes, sedge pockets, a pond, and, most importantly, the river and its floodplain. The wetland habitats are often good in summer, as they are important areas for postbreeding dispersal of bird families.

Station 43 acquired its name from the former trolley line that ran from Hartford north through the towns flanking the east side of the Connecticut River. Today the trolleys and trolley tracks are long gone, leaving only the name to remind us of that bygone era.

The list of rarities observed at Station 43 is extensive and keeps getting longer. Historically, some of the special sightings at Station 43 have included White Pelican, Wood Stork, Tundra Swan, Barrow's Goldeneye, Black Vulture, Golden Eagle, Purple Gallinule, Sandhill Crane, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Western Kingbird, Northern Shrike, and Clay-colored Sparrow. [Ed's Note: Devine & Smith/Smith & Devine are prolific contributors to *The Connecticut Warbler*, publishing a dozen site guides and numerous species accounts. See their comprehensive 1996 book, *Connecticut Birding Guide*, Thomson-Shore publishers. The Station 43 eBird Hotspot now lists 227 species, but most of the rarities listed in the article have not made it into eBird. Next time you go to Station 43, take an eBird printable field checklist.]

The 1994 Summer Bird Count, by Joseph Zeranski

The number of Connecticut Summer Bird Counts (SBCs) increased by one in 1994, with the addition of the Litchfield Hills count, bringing the total to nine. One hundred eighty-nine species, three more than in 1993, were recorded. . . The presence of four Black Vultures this summer was not entirely surprising. . . A female Peregrine Falcon has wintered in downtown Stamford for about a decade. Last year a male arrived and courtship ensued. . . Great Blue Herons were present on all counts, but the 25 on the northern Litchfield Hills SBC should represent breeding area birds. . . Of the 11 Ospreys reported (all coastal), two nested within the Greenwich-Stamford SBC and produced young. This successful breeding was possibly the first in Fairfield County this century and the only such pair along the north shore of Long Island Sound between Milford and New York City. . . The only Count Day Monk Parakeet was found north, on the Litchfield Hills SBC, and not along the coast as expected. The fate of this species in Connecticut is uncertain, and we look forward to chronicling its future. . . During a time when there is much speculation about and little hard evidence for population trends among breeding birds, amassing such data is important, particularly when it pertains to species that winter in tropical and subtropical forest environs. [Ed's Note: The snippets listed above give hints to the richness of this Summer Bird Count review article by Joe Zeranski. Individual count totals and highlights of each of the SBCs are fascinating to read 25 years after this article was published, particularly in light of the recent article in the journal *Science*, "Decline of the North American Avifauna", and related articles in *Living Bird* and elsewhere.]

Winter Record of Boreal Owl in Connecticut, by Arnold Devine and Dwight G. Smith

On 12 January 1992, A. Devine discovered a single Boreal Owl roosting about eight meters up in a conifer in Sperry Park, Middlebury, Connecticut. Pellets deposited below this and several other roost trees suggest that the Boreal Owl had been in the area at least through much of December. The owl was observed by hundreds of observers while at this site. During this time it generally assumed a pseudosleeping posture, took little notice of the visitors, and displayed no alarm.

We monitored the owl's presence almost daily, until its departure on 24 February 1992. Diurnal roost sites of the owl were located on 35 of the 44 days it was known to be in the area. . . All but one of the roost sites . . . was high within the canopy and close to the main trunk, or bole, of the [Norway Spruce] trees. Roost site selection was notable because there was always more canopy cover above the Boreal Owl than below, which Voous (1989 reference given) noted and attributed to a derived thermal economy advantage, plus avoidance of diurnal avian predators and possibly the larger owls.

This individual represents the southern most observation of Boreal Owl in Connecticut. Zeranski and Baptist (1990) lists the Boreal Owl as an accidental winter visitor in the state. . . The winter of 1991-1992 was apparently an incursion winter for several northern owl species. [Ed's Note: See the follow-up article by these authors, "Boreal Owl Food and Foraging in Southern New England" in pages 102-108 of the July 2008 issue of *TCW*.]

[See also articles on Connecticut Field Notes for March 1 - May 31, 1994, by Jay Kaplan and Frank Mantlik, and the photo challenge, by Louis Bevier. Cover art of Red-eyed Vireo is by Brian Kleinman. The October 1994 issue of *The Connecticut Warbler* can be seen in its entirety at the following link to the COA website. Download Volume 14, and scroll down to pages 121-160.]

<http://www.ctbirding.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/CTWarblerVolume14.pdf>

COA Mini-Grant Applications due 1/15/20

Every year COA offers small grants (up to \$1,000 each) to help fund projects that benefit Connecticut's birds. Applications for funding are due on or before midnight, January 15, 2020. Grants are awarded at the COA Annual Meeting in March. Follow this link for more information and links to download the forms:

<http://www.ctbirding.org/resources/coa-mini-grant/> Please note guidelines have changed. We will no longer accept applications for funding the purchase of optics.

Zepko Audubon Camp Scholarship

COA encourages young birders 14 to 17 years old to apply for the Zepko Audubon Camp Scholarship, offered through the great generosity of one of our founding members, George W. Zepko.

The Zepko Audubon Camp Scholarship nurtures interest in bird study and conservation among young birders. The 2020 scholarship covers the full cost of the Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens – Session 2 during the week of June 21-26, 2020. The cost includes housing, boat travel, and all meals. Further information and the application form can be found on the COA web site, www.ctbirding.org.



**CONNECTICUT
ORNITHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION**

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Workshops	Chris Loscalzo
The Connecticut Warbler	Greg Hanisek
COA Bulletin	Andrew Dasinger
Christmas Bird Count Compiler	Steve Broker
Summer Bird Count Compilers	Joe Zeranski, Tom Robben
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, 2020 to the editor at amdasinger@gmail.com