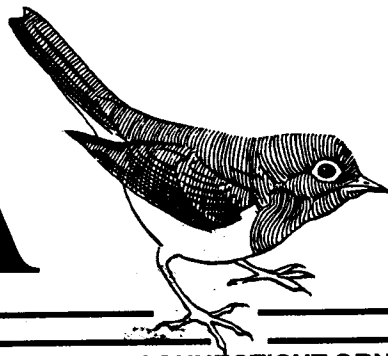


# COA



# Bulletin

Summer 1999 NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION Vol 14 No 2

## 1999 Summer Bird Counts

by Joe Zeranski

This summer COA's annual summer bird count will be the seventh since this count's inception in 1993. Through these June counts we are developing even more awareness of the distribution patterns of our nesting birds. Each year's data is added to that from previous years and the results become more comprehensive.

The SBC is challenging and enjoyable and is one of only a small handful of state-wide birding events. Last year 201 species and over 100,000 individuals were recorded. The SBC offers you a fine opportunity to learn about the nesting birds in your own neighborhood. Your participation would be very much appreciated and, as a matter of fact, is crucial to our success. The following compilers organize and run their respective counts. To join in, please call a nearby compiler now and offer your help. For additional information including criteria for setting up new SBCs, contact COA's SBC coordinator Joe Zeranski at 203-661-9607.

### Summer Bird Counts

<b>Barkhamsted</b>	Dave Rosgen (860-283-8378)
<b>Greenwich-Stamford</b>	Tom Burke (914-967-4922)
	Gary Palmer (203-661-4897)
<b>Hartford SBC</b>	Paul Cianfaglione (860-521-7204)
<b>Litchfield Hills</b>	Bob Barbieri (860-495-1236)
<b>New Haven</b>	Steve Mayo (203-393-0694)
<b>Quinnipiac</b>	Wilford Schultz (203-265-6398)
<b>Salmon River-</b>	Joseph Morin (860-635-2786)
<b>Storrs</b>	Steve Rogers (860-429-1259)
<b>Woodbury-Roxbury</b>	Russ Naylor (860-263-2502)

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## HOTLINE HIGHLIGHTS

<b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b>	Stonington	Mar 6
<b>Black Vulture</b>	New Canaan	Apr 2
<b>Common Teal</b>	Milford	Mar 17-23
<b>Common Eider</b>	Madison	Mar 27
<b>Boat-tailed Grackle</b>	Stratford	Apr 3
<b>Little Gull</b>	Woodmont	Apr 6-19
<b>Orn-crowned Warbler</b>	Hamden	Apr 23-24
<b>Gr. W-fronted Goose</b>	So. Windsor	Apr 24
<b>Tricolored Heron</b>	Madison	Apr 24-27
<b>Caspian Tern</b>	Old Lyme	Apr 25, 27

**RARE BIRD ALERT: 203-254-3665**

## President's Message

As I stood in the bright April sunlight and felt the fresh breeze on my face I was reminded how it's all about rediscovery. The spring migration had started and it was time to search for the returning migrants. I was in Nehantic State Forest, one of my favorite places to search for the return of the birds of summer. This forest lies in the Connecticut River Valley, just a couple of miles from Long Island Sound. I usually drive the forest road and make many stops to listen for the songs of the first arrivals. There is a renewal for the soul in hearing those first songs again. At my first stop, the rapid burst of an Ovenbird greeted me. While this dweller of the forest floor announced his arrival on territory a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher flitted about in the branches overhead and mumbled the complex phrases that seem so fitting to this little bundle of constant motion. I listened for a while and moved further along the road. The next stop was at the crossing of a slow moving stream and the forest road. Swamp Sparrows trilled in the surrounding wet areas. I listened for a moment and the White-eyed Vireo sang nearby. This was the first one that I had heard this year. Rediscovery. As a smile slowly spread across my face a Common Yellowthroat sang as well. Another rediscovery. A Wild Turkey gobbled from a distant hillside and a Northern Waterthrush buried deep in the swamp sang out. These were not new species for the year but a pleasant

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## President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

encounter none the less. Birders often keep track of how many and which species they find each day. It's a kind of rediscovery each day. I usually keep track of how many warbler species I can find. I readily admit to having a soft spot for these little ambassadors of spring. Each time I see a new warbler species for the year I am reminded of the miraculous migration that they have undertaken. The first Northern Waterthrush I hear reminds me of encounters I have had with them in the West Indies where so many of them spend most of their year. As I move along I hear the sweet song of a Yellow Warbler. A little pishing and I am face to face with a blaze of golden glory. Each year when I look at the Yellow Warbler for the first time I am astounded at just how indescribably gorgeous these creatures are. Rediscovery. As I watched this little fellow a Palm Warbler moves in and rediscovers me. Yellow-rumped Warblers chip in the branches overhead and a Black-and-white Warbler crawls around a tree to see me better. I've been here before, many times. I never tire of it, however, and I plan on being here many more times. Often think of past discoveries at each stop. A familiar song rings out and I turn around to see an American Redstart spreading his brightly colored tail and flashing it from side to side. Another rediscovery. Did I see this particular bird last fall in South America? I wonder but can't possibly know. That's OK, there is magic and mystery in not knowing. During the course of the morning I make many stops and take several forays into the forest. Pine Warblers, a Prairie Warbler, Rusty Blackbirds, and a Broad-winged Hawk building a nest are just some of the discoveries. I reach the end of the forest road and turn around and head for home and the responsibilities waiting for me there. As I drive back I think about the birds I have rediscovered today. I also think of the birds I will encounter in days to come. I am reminded of something else I discover each time I search the woods for the birds of Spring, a peaceful sense of belonging. When I return home, deep in the woods of eastern Connecticut, I am greeted by the clear song of a Louisiana Waterthrush and the green eyes and beautiful smile of my young daughter. Some rediscoveries get better each time you experience them!

**The Newsletter of the  
Connecticut Ornithological Association  
is published quarterly in  
February, May, August, and November.**

**Please submit materials for the next  
issue by August 1, 1999 to  
Dwight Smith, Editor,  
241 Shepard Ave., Hamden, CT 06514.**

## DEP Funding Update

by Patty Pendergast

The two pieces of legislation submitted to draw attention to the critical funding needs of the Department of Environmental Protection - Wildlife Division, particularly the Non Game Programs will not be voted on this session. Those of you who wrote or came to Hartford to testify for the Appropriations and Environment Committees deserve a lot of credit for getting involved in the process. Our efforts did serve to raise the visibility of the issue.

State Representative Terry Backer (Long Island Soundkeeper) has been working hard during the state capital budget deliberations to get more money for the Wildlife Division. While we won't get as much as we need, a few extra projects will get some support in the coming year.

On the federal level, there is movement afoot to expand the Land and Water Conservation Funding royalties from offshore drilling, to include stateside funding for Open Space Acquisition and provide additional federal funds for non game programs in state environmental protection agencies. There are several bills afloat right now and our own Senator Lieberman is putting together a version of his own. Stateside open space funding is a no-brainer to state and even federal legislators. However, they still don't hear enough from the wildlife watchers amongst us to know that our underfunded wildlife divisions are in critical need of support. An easy and productive effort right now is to contact Senator Joseph Lieberman's office soon and tell his aides you are a birdwatcher - or dragonflies, or butterflies or herps or whatever and explain that you are concerned about conservation programs for migratory birds and that his LWCF bill should include provisions for stateside supplemental funds for these programs. His Environmental Aides are knowledgeable and will know what you are talking about.

Senator Lieberman's contact information:

In CT office-Enviro Aide: Cindy Lemek 860-549-8463.

In DC office-Enviro Aide: Alyse Campaign 202-224-6253.

Email-goes to-senator\_lieberman@lieberman.senate.

Or call or email our other federal representatives:

Senator Chris Dodd-In Hartford 860-258-6958 or

email: sen\_dodd@dodd.senate.gov

Rep. Rosa DeLauro-In New Haven 203-562-3718 or

email: delauro.ct03@mail.house.gov

Rep. Sam Gejdenson-In Middletown 860-346-1123 or

email:bozrah@mail.house.gov

Rep. Jim Maloney-Waterbury 203-573-1418

Rep. John Larsen- In Hartford 860-278-8888

# COA Bulletin

## Trying Again

by Roland Clement

The conservation movement has been with us a full century, but birds still decline in numbers. COA's participation in the Important Bird Areas program which originated in Europe and is now sponsored by the National Audubon Society, Partners in Flight, and several other participating citizen groups and governmental agencies offers a new opportunity for focusing public attention on habitat preservation needs if our diminishing but still fascinating wildlife diversity is to be preserved. It is crucial that Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection is part of the group.

The program, outlined at the March 20, 1999 annual meeting of COA at CCSU, New Britain, involves (1) Identifying and prioritizing a list of key habitats essential to bird populations, (2) Monitoring changes which may affect the effectiveness of these areas over time, and (3) Conserving the designated IBAS that are essential to preserving the biodiversity we increasingly value.

Steps 1 and 2, above, are relatively easy, since identifying sites will initially be mostly one of collating existing information from the Breeding Bird Atlas and other publications. Our categories and priorities will become more sophisticated the longer we work at it. In addition to monitoring habitat changes, however, we would do well to monitor the effectiveness of the program itself, and begin by not overstating its promise.

The tough task is, as always, that of actually conserving key habitats by asking most of the people of the State aware of what is at stake, winning their support, and gradually making such habitat conservation a land-use priority. Not many people realize that conservation is mostly the task of modifying the social institutions that guide our land-use decisions.

A clue to the magnitude of our task is evident in the need to retrofit the Connecticut Legislature's criteria for instituting the post of State Ornithologist! As the current incumbent of this non-compensated office explained with refreshing candor at our annual meeting, this 1909 Act is focused almost entirely on advising how to counter the deprivations of "pest birds" to agriculture.

Give a hand.

## Connecticut Birding Guide,

by Arnold "Buzz" Devine and Dwight Smith is now available in a revised edition. Look for the sandy cover of this revision at your favorite nature store.

## Cat-birding

by Elaine Nye

If you would like to travel to foreign parts but don't like airplanes, love to see pelagic birds but hate bouncing up and down in small boats, don't want to spend much or travel far from home - try the CAT. No, it doesn't have claws and eat birds, though some would say it has had a nasty habit of becoming nocturnal in its early weeks of operation. It is actually the replacement boat for the well-known "Blue-nose" ferry and travels between Bar Harbor, Me. and Yarmouth, N.S., Canada (yes, Canadians would like us to remember that it is a foreign country). The boat is Australian-built, formerly running between Melbourne and Tasmania, a black predatory-looking catamaran, as big as a football field and very fast (up to 55 knots). It should be able to do the trip in 2 1/2 hours; if you stay on board, the round-trip will take about 6 hours, with luck.

I took this trip in mid-August last year - though almost gave up in frustration as we left Bar Harbor 3 hours late. The previous day the boat had experienced engine problems, made only one round-trip instead of the advertised two and had arrived back in Bar Harbor around 2 a.m. Undaunted by this knowledge, we showed up at the dock at 7:30 for an expected 8 a.m. departure. At 10 a.m., just as hope was fading, we were invited to board. At 11 a.m. we still had not moved. No announcements were made so I was dispatched to find someone with information. Surprisingly few people were complaining - most had tried to take the previous day's non-existent 2nd trip, I think, and were now asleep in the comfortable lounge, oblivious of the fact that they were still in Bar Harbor. The ferry company gets 2 out of 10 for public relations, but I eventually did get assurance from the Captain (no less!) that we would get back to Maine in daylight if we stayed on board. By this time the engine was running (unevenly) and filling the lounge with acrid smoke. However, we birders had found the only outdoor spot available to passengers, behind the Bridge - the designated "smoking area". It is a small, but sheltered area if you stand forward directly behind the Bridge, whose windows you can see through. The birding there is actually rather good  
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## HOTLINE REPORTS

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

Frank Gallo 203-966-6756  
Mark Santyr 860-429-4038  
Frank Mantlik 203-846-8601

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## Cat-birding *(continued from page 3)*

(just as well, we were by now feeling distinctly disenchanted and asking each other whose bright idea this had been!) Birds moving in the same direction as the boat are fairly easily identified, those going the other way flash by very fast, so brush up on those i.d. skills.

On our trip, we saw thousands of Red and Red-necked Phalaropes, hundreds of Wilson's Storm-petrels and Greater Shearwaters, a few Leach's Storm-petrels, Sooty Shearwaters, Gannets, and one Kittiwake. We also saw whales, many porpoises and an Ocean Sunfish. There's food on board to sustain you - though it attempts to be rather gourmet (don't expect a hamburger and fries), it is quite good. Fog can be a problem, but in our case it lifted 1/2 hour out of port. The CAT later ran over a fishing boat in fog, so it is a controversial craft, but a novel way to spend a few hours far offshore in reasonable comfort. Hopefully they have now overcome any lingering teething difficulties. In the end, we thoroughly enjoyed our day. A same-day round trip in summer costs about \$45.00, free parking is available on the dock. Much more expensive if you take your car and/or don't return the same day. Might as well go and see the Puffins on Machias Seal island while you're down east.

## "Jewels of Ecuador" A Field Guides Tour

by Polly Brody

Led by Rose Ann Rowlett and Mitch Lysinger, our group birded both the western and eastern Andean slopes, and sampled a couple of arid, intermontane valleys. We encountered a diversity of species, ranging from those above treeline in the Paramo (at 13,000-13,500 feet elevation) down to birds in lowland forests within the mid-tropical zone (at about 3,500 feet to 3,000 feet elevation).

The first ten days of our trip were wet, wet, wet! Incessant rain caused us to become quickly adept with binoculars and umbrella, used simultaneously. The soaked ground made trails slippery and difficult but of graver consequence, those days of rain brought mountain slopes, denuded of vegetation, to landslide condition.

We experienced three landslides! These impacted our itinerary, but fortunately not ourselves! The last of the three occurred right in front of our bus (parked safely away from the fall-line) and totally blocked the highway we were travelling to reach Guayaquil. A seven-hour detour was forced upon us. Add to this a flight cancellation, which

cost us a day getting from Quito to southern Ecuador, and you can imagine how tested our leaders were. Nevertheless, we did see some great birds and had fun.

Day 1 - Yanacocha, a temperate, montane forest zone on the northern slope of Volcan Pichincha, offered us some lovely specialties: Buff-winged Starfrontlet, Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, and Sapphire-vented Puffleg were the hummingbird jewels. My hoped-for lifer, the Black-chested Mountain-Tanager showed up, along with the more common Hooded Mountain Tanager. Crowned and Brown-backed Chat-Tyrants were seen, and the Paramo Pipit put in an appearance. But no luck with the coveted Sword-billed Hummingbird. Not to worry, we were told. There were three further high altitude opportunities for this bird farther on in our itinerary.

Day 2 - enroute to Bellavista, the temperate western slope of the Andes western cordillera, down to about 7,500 feet. In the morning, at one stop along the route, we were treated to close-up views of three Brush-Finches: White-winged, Rufous-naped, and Stripe-headed. The handsome Plushcap was present, as were Rufous-chested Tanagers.

A charming pair of diminutive Tufted Tit-Tyrants cavorted in the roadside shrubbery, and we watched a female Green-tailed Tranbearer (a hummer) visit her nest site.

At about 1 p.m. the rain recommenced and our bus got mired in the mud of a primitive mountain road leading up to Bellavista Lodge. Most of the group hitched a ride to the lodge in a pick-up truck which Mitch had commandeered there, after an obliging farmer gave him a lift to the lodge on his motorcycle! I and two others chose to walk, in order not to miss an afternoon's birding. My solo stroll of about 5 km in the rain, was amply rewarded by the mixed flocks of birds I encountered along the dirt road's margins: Pearled Treerunner, Streaked Tuftedcheek, Rufous Spinetail, Capped Conebill, and several lovely Tanagers: Golden, Blue-winged Mountain, Beryl-spangled, and Flame-faced. The piece de resistance was a Chestnut-crowned Antpitta (life bird) which I whistled into a thicket edge and briefly saw, before it flushed.

In the waning daylight minutes of this day, we all enjoyed the hummers coming in for their bedtime snack at the deck feeders: Buff-tailed Coronets, Gorgeted Sunangel, Fawn-breasted Brilliant, and a Tawny-bellied Hermit.

Day 3 - Bellavista to Mindo. An early walk near the lodge was not very productive although we did enjoy a flock of Turquoise Jays. At the lodge, we had scope views of female Green-and-black Fruiteaters and Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan. We wended our way down to Mindo, (elevation 3,900 ft.) where the day ended with a Golden-headed Quetzal.

Day 4 started badly. Only one four-wheel drive vehicle had

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been arranged for our party of a dozen! The jeep track up to a ridge we were to bird along, was pitted, eroded, and grease-slicked. Our second vehicle was a decrepit truck which proved unable to manage and conked out after the first quarter mile! So the Mindo manager had to ferry us in two trips with his modern land-cruiser. Despite this, and our division into sub-sets, most of us saw a good assortment of birds: Ornate Flycatcher, Golden-rumped Euphonia, Crimson-rumped Toucanet, Barred Puffbird, Tricolored Brush-Finch, and my one lifer for the day: the Glistening-green Tanager.

Day 5 - the Choco Patch. Before daybreak, we started off with spot-lighted views of a Lyre-tailed Nightjar, its long, ribbon-like tail pennants clearly visible in flight.

The rest of this day was devoted to the lowest elevation forest we would visit--in the mid-tropical zone. As soon as we arrived at this lowland site, a rich variety of birds was apparent...our first truly abundant presence of mixed species. We ticked off tanagers right and left: Bay-headed, the gorgeous Blue-necked, Golden-hooded, Guira, and White-shouldered. Also present: Black-winged Saltator, Streak-headed and Spotted Woodcreepers, Streaked Antwren and Dot-winged Antwren, Pale-mandibled Aracari, Yellow-tufted and Blue Dacnis, and two hummingbirds: Green Torntail and Purple-crowned Fairy. There were also: Purple-throated Fruit Crows, Guyaquil, Black-cheeked, Red-rumped, and Linneated Woodpeckers, several parrots, and some nifty Swallow-tailed Kites along with one Gray-headed Kite. This was bird-watching of the caliber I had anticipated since my first trip to Ecuador! As the day wore on, we enjoyed good in-flight views of a Black Hawk-Eagle, and close-ups of Orange-billed Sparrows and a male Scarlet-browed Tanager.

At lunch, I spotted a Gray-capped Cuckoo (a first). The bird everyone sought, however, was the Scarlet-breasted Dacnis. It was seen at last by a sub-set of our group (luckily the set in which I was included!) Rose Ann was ecstatic, as it was a life bird for her too. This day it did not rain on our party!

Day 6 - enroute to San Isidro. Over the next four days it poured! Only brief segments of time were free of rain and/ or fog. Our route was via Papallacta Pass, where we endeavored again without success to find the Sword-billed Hummingbird...staking out all trumpet flowers we would locate, to no avail. At our lunch stop, some did manage to see the Mountain Avocetbill hummingbird--not me. My life birds this day were: Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Rufous-breasted Chat-Tryant, Bar-bellied Woodpecker and Black-capped Tanager. At lower altitude, we all enjoyed views of Torrent Duck (a family) and encounters with Orange-eared and Saffron-crowned Tanagers, and an Emerald Toucanet.

Day 7. We viewed wet renditions of Blue-crowned

Mot-mot, Red-headed Barbet, Copprey-chested Jacamar, Blackish Antbird, Black Caracara, and Yellow-throated Bush Tanager.

Day 8. We viewed a variety of flycatchers from the sanctuary of a gazebo on the lodge grounds: Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulet, Flavescent Flycatcher, Handsome (it is!) Flycatcher, Pale-edged Flycatcher, and Smoky Bush-Tyrant. A pair of Long-tailed Antbirds also showed up. The best bird of this day for me was a Spotted Barbtail, which I managed to find for us as we took a brief, rainless walk along the road beyond our lodgings.

Day 9 - Guacamayo Ridge trail. On this slippery but worthwhile hike, we managed to see some lovely birds: the Grass-green Tanager, the Crested Quetzal, Black-capped Hemispingus, Common Bush-Tanager, Citrine Warbler, Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant, and even a Gray-breasted Wood-Wren. Our star bird was the rare and lovely White-rimmed Brush-Finch, adeptly coaxed into view by Rose Ann playing a tape of its voice.

On the drive back to Quito via Papallacta, we once again missed the Sword-billed hummer! A pasture stroll did net us beautiful Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanagers and Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager. Also a White-chinned Thistletail. At the pass we tried in vain for Giant Conebill and Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant. The treeline Polylepis stands were empty of birds! We did find Silvery Grebe and Andean Duck on a small mountain lake.

Day 10 would have been a total loss--due to a cancelled flight to Loja--except for our brief return to Papallacta Pass where, coasting along a sweeping paramo slope, I saw my first Andean Condor! It was a regal, adult bird, in its big sky element.

Day 11. Finally having reached Cuenca last night, instead of Loja, we commenced birding this day across the intermontane valley enroute to Zamora. Now in southern Ecuador, more of the species were new to me. These were arid, open country birds: Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant, Short-eared Owl, Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant, Peruvian Meadowlark, and Chiguanco Thrush.

After a long drive, we reached the old Loja-Zamora road...one-lane and only partially paved, it had no traffic but ourselves and was very birdy. Here we saw: Cock-of-the-Rock, Torrent and Black-capped Tyrannulets, Short-billed Bush-Tanager, Golden-crowned Flycatcher, and the beautiful Vermilion Tanager.

Day 12. Blocked by our second landslide! This one cut off passage to the Ri Bombuscaro entrance to Podocarpus Park--a highpoint site on our itinerary! Two men and one lithe woman elected to clamer with Mitch over that tangle of felled trees and boulders, and get into the park. The rest of us went with Rose Ann, across a footbridge over the river, and birded a semi-cleared trail on the other side.

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Despite the patchy nature of the habitat, we saw nice birds: Paradise, Green-and-gold, Spotted, and Golden-eared Tanagers; Collared Trogon, Scale-backed Antbird, Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, and even the secretive and desired Olive Finch!

Later, at the high end of the park--the Cajanuma entrance--we found the Tourmaline Sunangel and my contribution, the radiant Rainbow Starfrontlet. So the day was a happy one.

Day 13 was far from an unlucky one; it was one of our most satisfying. We birded at elevation between 9,200 and 9,500 feet. The first gem came with a flock crossing our mountain road: two Golden-crowned Tanagers, their intense purplish plumage contrasting with gold-capped black ears. Walking the trail above, we ignored drizzle, to revel in: Ash-colored and Bamboo Tapaculos, Plain-tailed Wrens duetting, a Chestnut-naped Antpitta which hopped out on the path to afford super looks, Rufous Wren families at eye-level foraging in the company of Gray-hooded Bush-Tanagers. Flammulated Treehunter, Yellow-billed Cacique, and Blue-backed Conebill completed the morning's additions to my life list.

In the afternoon the weather cleared, the pluvial system moved away. Now we could admire the impressive vistas of forested mountains descending to their intermontane valley beyond. We explored that valley at day's end and added two more memorable birds: Elegant Crescent-chest (a form of tapaculo) and the Collared Antshrike.

Day 14 - enroute to Cuenca. Highlights were both Andean and Peruvian Pygmy-Owls. Oh yes, let me not forget the flock of Golden-plumed Parakeets which lunched in a fruiting tree above our lunch-break site! The day's disappointment was neither sight nor sound of the sought-for Ocellated Tapaculo.

Day 15, our last. Morning spent in Las Cajas--a paramo-elevation park. Again, no Sword-billed hummer, but consolation in a Great Sapphirewing. Also: Mouse-colored Thistletail, Blue-mantled Thornbill, Tit-like Dacnis and not least, finally a pair of Giant Conebills, singing!

## Articles Wanted!!

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

## Birdhouse Online

There is a new bird website for birders. Sponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Nest Box Network, the aim of this website is to provide opportunities to share observations and info about birdhouses. It will offer info about birdhouse basics, e.g., what birdhouses attract what bird species. Info that you include on this website will be shared by other birders all over the country and may also be of use to scientists at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. It is free as well. To access this website, <http://birds.cornell.edu> and click on Birdhouse Online. (extracted from an article in *Connecticut Wildlife March/April 1999 issue*).

## Bald Eagle Count in Connecticut

Fifty volunteers from private organizations as well as DEP people and others that share this interest participated in a January count of Bald Eagles in Connecticut. This count is part of the annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey, conducted every winter in Connecticut since 1979.

A total of 60 Bald Eagles including 33 adults and 27 immatures were tabulated in the state during the count, despite the poor weather conditions. This number is up from the 49 eagles tallied during the 1998 count. However, this may be partly due to the fact that many eagles may not have migrated south. The Wildlife Division extends its sincere thanks to all who participated in this count. Volunteers are needed for next year's survey, so even though it is still some months away, now is the the time to send a letter with your name, address, and telephone number to Julie Victoria, Nonharvested Wildlife Program Biologist, 391 Route 32, North Franklin, CT 06254 (from an article in the *Connecticut Wildlife March/April 1999 issue*).

## Swallow-tailed Kite in Greenwich, Connecticut

by Dwight G. Smith

This is to report the sighting of a Swallow-tailed Kite on 20 April 1999, at about 4:20 pm, near the North Street, Greenwich, and Merritt Parkway intersection. The kite flew above the parkway, skirted, circled, and then continued flying off towards the northwest. Did anyone else spot this bird?

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## Trips & Events

### Hartford Audubon Society

**Lewis Farm Sanctuary**, on Saturday, May 22. Call leader Betty Kleiner at 860-658-5670 for directions and details about this birding trip.

**West Hartford Reservoir and Powerline**, on Sunday, May 30. Search for late migrants and nesting species in a wide variety of habitats. Meet at 6:30 am at the entrance to Reservoir No. 6. Call leader Paul Cianfaglione at 860-521-7204 for details.

**Station 43, South Windsor**, on Saturday, June 5. A search for Least Bittern, Sora, and Virginia Rails, and Marsh Wrens. Meet at the intersection of Main Street and Newberry Road in South Windsor at 6:30 am. Call leader Carl Ekroth at 860-872-6372 for details.

**Annual Spring Picnic**, on Tuesday, June 8. Northwest Park Nature Center, Windsor. Time 6:30 pm. Pack a picnic supper and bring your friends and family to the Annual Spring Picnic. This meeting will be informal. Plans for the coming year will be discussed by the President and committee chairpersons. Arrive early and do a little birding before the festivities begin. Northwest Park is becoming known for the rarities that have shown up in recent years. This is always a fun evening.

**Summer Bird Count**, on Saturday and Sunday, June 12 & 13. Join Hartford Audubon's troops as we participate in the COA 9th Annual Summer Bird Count. Species and numbers are counted on this 2-day tally within our Christmas Count circle. Bird one day or both and help accumulate breeding data for the state. Call Paul Cianfaglione for more info at 860-521-7204.

**People's State Forest, Barkhamsted**, on Sunday, June 13. This trip will produce nesting warblers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren, and Blue-headed Vireo. We will meet at 6:30 am. Call leader Paul Cianfaglione at 860-521-7204 for meeting place and directions.

**Milford Point**, on Saturday, August 21. Come and enjoy migrant shorebirds and terns at this Connecticut hot spot. Meet at the Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center at 6:45 am to catch the tide right. Call leader Patrick Comins at 860-646-6600 for details.

### The Fat Robin

**East Rock Park or Farmington Canal** bird walks, every Saturday morning through June 5 with Jim and Carol Zip. Meet at The Fat Robin for 8:00 am departure. Fee \$2.

### Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center

Each of the programs below are geared for family fun and recommended ages 6 and up. For more details about these events please call 860-536-1216.

**Evening Dinner Hike for Owls, Insects, other nocturnal animals**, on Friday, June 4. Listen for owls, insects, and peepers. Bring dinner and backpack and we'll take a break along the trails to have it. Time 6-7:30 pm at the center. Leader Kim Macklin. \$4 members, \$6 nonmembers.

**Warbler Watching** on Thursday, June 3, from 3:45-5 pm. Join us as we learn some of the distinctive characteristics and songs of warblers. Afterwards, we will walk the Nature Center's trails looking for warblers and other birds. Please dress to spend time outside and bring binoculars. Leader Kim Macklin. Fee \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers.

**Invite a Hummingbird to Dinner**, on Thursday, June 10, from 3:45-5 pm. Find out how to make hummingbirds feel welcome around your house. Instructor Sandy DeRosa. Fee \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers.

### The Audubon Shop

**Bird Walks at Hammonasset Beach State Park**, every Saturday through June. Shorebirds, seabirds, birds of prey and songbirds. Fee \$2. Meet with Jerry at The Audubon Shop at 7:50 am. Call Jerry at 203-245-9056 for details on these field trips.

*(more trips and events on page 8)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COA encourages local bird clubs to send announcements of field trips and events to Dwight Smith, Bulletin Editor  
241 Shepard Ave., Hamden, CT 06514**

# COA Bulletin

## Trips and Events *(continued from page 7)*

### Flights of Fancy Adventures

Headed up by Sam Fried and Donna Mages, these adventure tours specialize in small group, high quality, low cost birding and natural history. Write Sam Fried at 901 Mountain Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002, or call him at the following phone number: 860-243-2569, email: magesfried@aol.com for more details.

**Reefs, Ruins, and Rainforests**, from July 31-August 8, 1999. Belize, Central America: birds, animals, botany, archaeology in Mayan ruins, cave tubing, and superb snorkeling amidst crystal clear Caribbean coral reefs; limited to 20 participants.

**California Pelagics**, from October 1-10, 1999, featuring five different ocean trips in search of pelagic species plus land birding. Limited to 10 participants. Price \$1695, incl. meals, from San Jose, California.

**Birding Northern Belize**: March 30-April 9, 2000: April 5-15, and April 15-20, 2001. Incredible and easy tropical birding along rivers and Mayan ruins, visiting Crooked Tree, Lamanai Outpost Lodge & Chan Chich Lodge. Limited to 12 participants. Price \$2500 (2000), \$2600 (2001), all inclusive, from Belize City, Belize.

**Prince William Sound & Copper River Delta, Alaska**: April 28-May 8, 2000. See thousands of sea birds from our ship, the Discovery, then witness the largest shorebird migration in North America. Limited to 10 participants. Price \$2200, from Cordova, AK.

**Ecuador: Amazon & Andes Grande**: July 8-23, 2000. Birding both slopes of the Andes and five days at Sacha Lodge in the Amazon Basin. Limited to 8 participants. Price \$3250 from Quito, Ecuador.

**Future Trips**: Galapagos Islands, Ecuador; Noel Kempff Mercado National Park, Bolivia. Each of these trips are in the stages of planning and beyond. Call Sam Fried for details on the times and other info for these forthcoming trips.

## REGIONAL HOTLINES

Connecticut (203) 254-3665  
Rhode Island (401) 949-3970  
Eastern Massachusetts (617) 259-8805  
Western Massachusetts (413) 253-2218  
Vermont (802) 547-4861  
New Hampshire (603) 224-9900  
Maine (207) 781-2332  
New York Metro (212) 979-3070  
Northern New Jersey (908) 766-2661  
Cape May, New Jersey (609) 884-2626

## The Menunkatuck Audubon Society

**The Art of Bird Photography**. Famed bird photographer Art Morris will present a slide presentation with emphasis on light, composition, and equipment. He has published a book on shorebirds and has hundreds of photo credits in field guides and other nature magazines. Wednesday, June 9, from 7:30-9:00 pm at the Nathanael B. Greene Community Center, Guilford. Call Jerry at 203-245-9056 for details.

## New Haven Bird Club

**Milford Point Field Studies** on Saturday, May 29, beginning at 8:30 am. Join us at this great birding spot for shorebirds. Call leader Nancy Rosenbaum at 203-288-8997 for details.

**9th Annual Summer Bird Count**, on Saturday and Sunday, June 5 & 6. Call Steve Mayo at 203-393-0694 for info.

**Osborndale State Park, Derby**, on Saturday, June 12, beginning at 8:00 am. This is a great place for spring migrants and will be excellent for beginners. Great place for warblers, Bobolinks, and Orchard Orioles. Meet at the Nature Center. Call leader Tom Kilroy at 203-929-6683 for details.

**Falkner Island Boat Trip**, in July (date to be announced). The boat leaves the Stony Creek Dock at 6:00 pm and heads out to the island. Jeff Spendelow will join the trip at the island and explain his research on the Common and Roseate Tern colony. Call leader Pat Leahy at 203-393-2427 for details.



# COA Bulletin

## Field Reports Requested

Birding observations by COA birders form the basis for the seasonal reports on the status of resident and migrating birds in the state which appear in *The Connecticut Warbler* and *Audubon Field Notes*. COA members are encouraged to report their sightings by filling in Species Report Forms. The forms can be obtained by calling Greg Hanisek at 203-574-3636.

Report periods and due dates are; Fall period from August 1 through November 30, report due December 10; Winter from December 1 to February 28, report due March 10; Spring from March 1 to May 30, report due June 10; Summer from June 1 to July 30, report due August 10. Please submit reports to Greg Hanisek, 175 Circuit Ave., Waterbury, CT 06708. Contributors should complete separate forms for each species observed. Sort the forms into phylogenetic order, using the COA *Connecticut Field List* as a guide. Detailed descriptions should be given for species on the *Field List* denoted by \* (rare) or # (hypothetical) or for species not on the *Field List*. All reports will be preserved. Comments are welcomed.

## Joining COA

The Connecticut Ornithological Association welcomes new members. COA is the only statewide organization devoted exclusively to birds and birding, and its members range from beginning birders to professional ornithologists. Joining COA is guaranteed to improve your knowledge of Connecticut birds and increase your enjoyment of Connecticut birding.

Membership costs as little as \$12.00 per year and includes a copy of *The Ten Best Birding Sites in Connecticut*, the quarterly *COA Bulletin*, the quarterly *Connecticut Warbler*, and invitations to COA events such as field trips and field days. Membership dues also support COA's rare bird hotline, conservation initiatives, and research projects. New members receive a copy of the official *Connecticut Field List* and a COA decal.

Present COA members who have not yet renewed for the current year can use the form below. Check the mailing label on the other side of this page to see whether your membership is current. If not, please send in the form today.

### JOIN COA FOR THE BEST OF CONNECTICUT BIRDING

*Please print or type*

New Member    Renewal    Gift

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_

*(Memberships above the individual level can include a spouse or partner)*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone\* \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation\* \_\_\_\_\_

Bird Club or Audubon Chapter\* \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Count Name\* \_\_\_\_\_

Level of Birding Experience\*    Beginner    Novice    Intermediate    Advanced    Expert

Membership Category    Individual (\$12)    Family (\$18)    Contributing (\$25)    Sustaining (\$40)

*\*Optional*

*Send this application with your check to:*

**Connecticut Ornithological Association, 314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06430**

*COA does not release its membership list to other organizations. Dues are tax deductible as allowed under the law.*

MEMBERS: PLEASE GIVE THIS FORM TO A BIRDING FRIEND

# COA Bulletin

## COA OFFICERS

**President** Dave Provencher, 43 Branch Hill Rd, Preston, CT 06360 860-885-1239  
**Vice President** Patty Pendergast 112-1 Main St., Chester, CT 06412 860-526-4686  
**Treasurer** James Zipp 400 Mount Sanford Rd., Hamden, CT 203-248-7068  
**Secretary** Andrew Brand, 59 Brooksvale Ave, Hamden, CT 06518 203-230-1718

## COA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

**Bylaws** Joseph Zeranski, 163 Field Point Rd, Greenwich, CT 06830 203-661-9607  
**Conservation** Paul Fusco, 4 Old Country Road, Oxford, CT 06484 203-584-9830  
**Field Trips** Dave Provencher, 43 Branch Hill Rd., Preston, CT 0606360 860-885-1239  
**Membership Program** Lise Hanners, Devil's Den Preserve, Box 1162, Weston, CT 06883 203-226-4991  
Fran D'Amico, 508 Preston Avenue, Meriden, CT 06450 203-237-2734  
Rachel Keneally, 290 Silver Hill Rd., Easton, CT 06612 203-268-6904  
**Publications** Betty Kleiner, 5 Flintlock Ridge, Simsbury, CT 06070 860-658-5670  
**Rare Records** Frank Mantlik, 261 Chestnut Hill Rd, Norwalk, CT 06851 203-846-8601  
**Research** Robert Askins, CT College/Biology, New London, CT 06320 860-439-2149

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