



# THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

April 2017

## 2017 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Wednesday, April 5, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford Point**

Saturday, April 8, 8:00 AM **East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance, New Haven**

Saturday, April 8, 8:30AM-5PM **Lighthouse Point to the Richard English Bird Sanctuary – The Richard English Memorial Fieldtrip**

*Note date change*

Thursday, April 20, 7:00 PM **Tom Sayer - Rebuilding Local Populations of the American Kestrel - One Box at a Time**

Sunday, April 23, 10:00 AM **Conservation Activity – East Rock Garlic Mustard Pull**

Wednesday, April 26, 7:30 AM **Lake Chamberlain, Bethany**

Saturday, April 29, 7:30 AM **Ansonia Nature Center, Ansonia**

Saturday, April 29, 9:00 AM **Bird Walk for Families at East Rock Park, New Haven**

Saturday, April 29, 7:00 AM **Birding by Ear at Lufberry Memorial Park**

Wednesday, May 3, 7:30 AM **First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven**

Saturday, May 6, 8:00 AM **East Rock Park with Ranger Dan**

Sunday, May 7, 7:30 AM **Housatonic River, Kent**

Sunday, May 7, 7:30 AM **Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, Southbury**

Wednesday, May 10, 6:30 AM **Hartman Park, Lyme**

Thursday, May 11, 6:00 PM **Annual Banquet: Gina Beebe Nichol - LESVOS: European Spring Migration Magic**

Saturday, May 13, 6:00 AM **Big Day Marathon**

Saturday, May 13, 7:00 AM **West Rock Ridge State Park, New Haven, Hamden, Woodbridge, Bethany**

Sunday, May 14, 7:00 AM **Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**

Wednesday, May 17, 7AM **Janie Pierce Park, Southbury/Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery - Wednesday walk**

Saturday, May 20, 9:00 AM **Bluebirds and Swallows at Lake Chamberlain - children encouraged**

Saturday, May 20, 7:00 AM **Barn Island Wildlife Management Area**

Wednesday, May 24, 3:00 PM **Durham Meadows & Coginchaug River, Durham Wednesday afternoon walk**

Saturday, May 27, 7:30 AM **Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale St. Park**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### *Competition and birding.*

Some may think the two go together like ice cream and anchovies or summer picnics and tornados. This past February under the guidance and planning of Chris Loscalzo we made it happen, twenty-five of us joined into teams and mixed birding and

competition into a fun- filled day called the Megabowl of Birding.

I am always competing when I bird, against a list, the weather, and time. I accepted the challenge to be a captain for the Megabowl, and I felt the pressure to bring my team together, allow for their talents and knowledge to flourish, and derive a plan and bring home the trophy. Soon I was imagining winning it all. I imagined ticker tape parades, cheering crowds and people speaking of my team in reverent whispers well into the misty futures. With my ungrounded fantasy of victory and glory, my adrenaline flowed and my heart pumped. Soon, I thought, I would engage in trash- talking with other team captains like we were two boxing heavyweights before a prizefight. Or we would face each other frozen in tacit tension like chess grandmasters as we calculated our next move.

In reality I went scouting with another team captain, I shared my scouting observations with my team and other captains. Others were posting their itineraries. There was a big exchange of information and ideas that would guarantee that the most birds would be seen on the short winter day. Is this what cut-throat competition looks like?

Birders, I find are far more cooperative and helpful than we are competitive. We post sightings and directions on CT Bird, we describe bird locations in detail so that others could get on the bird, we also allow strangers to look through our cherished optics to see a bird in all its magnified glory. We want to share our love and sense of awe with others. We want to see others pick up our passion.

*(Continued on next page)*

Friday, June 2, 8:30-10PM **Whip-poor-will Walk in Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**

Saturday-Sunday, June 3-4, 2017 **New Haven Summer Bird Count**

Saturday, June 3, 7:00 AM **Bent of the River Audubon Sanctuary - Managing for Forest and Shrubland Birds**

Wednesday, June 7, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: White Memorial, Litchfield**

## NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2016-2017

### OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com	203.230.1697
<i>Vice President</i>	DeWitt Allen allendatlow@gmail.com	860.949.0995
<i>Treasurer</i>	Andy Stack ctstacks@optonline.net	203.804.6081
<i>Secretary</i>	Mike Ferrari mike.ferrari@att.net	203.435.5712

### BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation Co-Chairs</i>	Deborah Johnson deborahleighjohnson@hotmail.com	203.430.5554
	Charles Strasser crstrasser@gmail.com	908.328.5563
<i>Education Chair</i>	Lori Datlow loridatlow@frontier.com	475-227-2820
<i>Indoor Programs Co-Chairs</i>	Andrea Kerin andrea@kerin.com	203.331.6067
	Gail Martino Gail.Martino@unilever.com	617.504.7205
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Mike Horn mfhorn@att.net	203.288.1891
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Paul Wolter pwolter6@earthlink.net	860.681.5548
<i>Membership Chair</i>	DeWitt Allen allendatlow@gmail.com	860.949.0995
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford donnabatsford@gmail.com	203.787.1642
<i>Nominating Chair</i>	NHBC Executive Board	
<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Bill Batsford william.batsford@yale.edu	203.787.1642
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	203.288.0621
<i>Webmaster</i>	Patrick Leahy ptjleahy@yahoo.com	203.393.2427

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Birds in Words</i>	Kris Johnson kriswaxwing99@gmail.com	203.288.3087
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net	203.389.6508
<i>Email List</i>	DeWitt Allen allendatlow@gmail.com	860.949.0995
<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	203.393.0694
<i>Lighthouse Point Historian</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Hospitality</i>	Stacy Hanks flybirdhanks@gmail.com	203.283-3898
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	203.393.0694
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	203.288.0621
<i>Yearbook Editor</i>	Christine Howe clhowe2@yahoo.com	203-389-1175

*(President's Message Continued from first page)*

The Megabowl event culminated with a dinner and the announcements of winners. My much-anticipated moment of glory was not to be had. Yet my team did not have a crushing defeat that would force us to hang our heads from our shoulders. We were more interested in the other teams' list and where they found their birds.

When the winning team was announced, I looked around the room. Everyone was elated. The winners were a bunch of teenagers. They did their homework and put together a tight itinerary. This planning, along with some impressive skills, chalked up the winning total. The future of birding in Connecticut is in good hands.

So in the end the competitive aspect of the Megabowl was not a big component. It did, however, add some spice to our birding and got us out for a very fun day. I was happy to bring my 'somewhere near last place' prize, a block of suet, home and share it with a few downy woodpeckers and blue jays. To the victors!

--Craig Repasz

## Notes from the Board

*Please Note: As stated in the Club's by-laws, the April meeting is traditionally the Annual Meeting, which includes presentation of a slate of officers and their election.*

### **Slate of Officers and Board Members to be voted on at the April 20 Meeting:**

President – Craig Repasz  
Vice President – DeWitt Allen  
Secretary – Volunteer needed  
Treasurer – Andy Stack  
Member-at-Large – Mike Horn  
Member-at-Large – Laurie Reynolds

We are still seeking a Secretary for 2017-2018. If you have any questions or are interested in a position, please contact Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, April 27 at 6:45 at Whitney Center.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Carol Anderson Norwalk	Mary Mushinsky Wallingford
Andrew Boone New Haven	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Nellums Wallingford
Scott and Sonya Gray-Wulff Wallingford	Tawnie Olson New Haven
Susie Hamilton New Haven	Karen and Mark Schnitzer Cheshire
Ben Sonnenberg Litchfield	

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## INDOOR PROGRAMS

Monthly indoor programs start in September and are held on the second Thursday of the month. The social half-hour at meetings begins at 7:00 pm; the meeting and program begin at 7:30 pm. Inclement weather or other emergency may cancel a meeting. Cancellation notices will be sent via the club email, and will be posted on the club website, [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org), and online on ctbirds, <http://www.ctbirding.org/calendar.htm>. Meetings are at Whitney Center, Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. The facility is wheelchair accessible. Meeting is in WC's South Building, accessed via the main door of the portico that is in view from the parking lot. Turn right down the hallway. Cultural Arts Center is a short distance on the left.

### ***Parking at Whitney Center:***

We may park on the upper level of the parking garage at the Whitney Center in any unmarked parking place. We may not park on the lower level of the parking garage. If no parking places are available please drive to the employee parking lot. Follow the driveway past the front entrances of the building. At the stop sign take a right into the employee parking area. There are no entrances at the side or back of the building so please walk around to the front. This area is well lit.

### ***Directions to Whitney Center (WC):***

From I-95 North or South: Exit to I-91 North in New Haven. Take Exit 6 (Willow St.). At end of ramp go right onto Willow and proceed on Willow to the end (to Whitney Ave.). Turn right onto Whitney; go 1.7 mi. to Treadwell St. (at Citgo Gas intersection) and make SHARP left onto Treadwell. Proceed 0.7 mi. on Treadwell, turn left onto Leeder Hill Drive (traffic light). Whitney Center is shortly on the right. Enter SECOND drive-way (South Entrance) and take immediate left into raised parking lot or continue on to the employee lot.

From I-91 South: Take Exit 6 (Willow St.) in New Haven. At end of ramp, turn right onto Willow and proceed as above.

From Wilbur Cross (Rt. 15-North or South): Take Exit 60. Right at end of ramp (Dixwell Ave./Rt.10). Go about 1 mi. to traffic light at Treadwell St. Left on Treadwell. Go 0.3 mi. to traffic light (Leeder Hill), turn right. WC is shortly on the right. Enter SECOND drive-way (South Entrance), take immediate left into raised parking lot or continue on to the employee lot.

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### ***Note date change:***

**Thursday, April 20 - Tom Sayer**

### **Rebuilding Local Populations of the American Kestrel- One Box at a Time**

Ever since the age of eight, Tom Sayers has spent much of his free time wandering the woods and fields fascinated by the complexity and diversity of the natural world. In 2009, his life-long interest in birds led him to experiment with putting up five American Kestrel nestboxes in northeast Connecticut as a way of trying to help reverse the dramatic decline of the threatened American Kestrel. Those first boxes produced seven nestlings in the first year and resulted in the formation of the Northeast Connecticut Kestrel Project ([www.nectkestrels.com](http://www.nectkestrels.com)). This presentation will take you from that very first year, with all its mistakes and challenges, up through the 2016 breeding season. Tom's presentation includes fascinating video clips of both nestlings and adult birds. Tom will discuss a wide variety of topics: the possible reasons for the American Kestrel's decline; factors which seem to influence the breeding success of the birds; what has been learned about successful nestbox placement; what we have learned from banding, radio telemetry, and geolocator studies with the birds; and the role of the European Starling in the breeding success of kestrels.

### **Annual Banquet: Thursday, May 11**

**Banquet speaker and program: Gina Beebe Nichol –  
LESVOS: European Spring Migration Magic**

The Greek Island of Lesvos is renowned for its ancient history, incomparable natural beauty and tradition of hospitality. Celebrated as the Princess of the Northwest Aegean Sea, this stunning island has become known by birders as one of the best locations in Europe to witness spring migration. In late April and early May, a continual stream of migrating birds pass over the island as they move from their wintering grounds in Africa to their breeding grounds in Europe. Keen birders return year after year to experience the migration magic of Lesvos and search out the island's special birds, including Krüper's Nuthatch, Cinereous Bunting, Cretzschmar's Bunting, Rüppell's Warbler, Scopoli's Shearwater, Isabelline Wheatear, Masked and Red-backed Shrike and more. This program will reveal the avian delights of Lesvos with vivid photographs of its birds against the backdrop of charming fishing villages, sea coasts, salt pans, sparkling rivers and lakes, and the slopes of Mount Olympus. Founder of Sunrise Birding, Gina Nichol's varied interests and love of the natural world have taken her to all seven continents. She's led bird watching tours from Alaska to Antarctica to China to Kenya and countless countries in between. This tour of Lesvos from our seats in Connecticut is bound to be an exciting adventure for us all!

*Don't miss this festive event at Amarante's Restaurant—always great company, great food, and a great program. Reservations required; form included in this newsletter or go to the website. Reservation deadline is May 1. No tickets will be sold at the door. Early reservations are greatly appreciated!*

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## BIRDS IN WORDS

Join in on "Birds in Words," NHBC's gathering of people who like reading books on their favorite hobby. Share the fun! We meet at 7 pm at Whitney Center. For details, contact: Kris Johnson: [kriswaxwing99@gmail.com](mailto:kriswaxwing99@gmail.com), 203-288-3087.

We will be discussing *The Fastest Thing on Wings: Rescuing Hummingbirds in Hollywood* by Terry Masear on Tuesday, May 2, 7-9 at Whitney Center in the 6th floor conference room. Hope to see you there.

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## FIELD TRIPS / OUTDOOR EVENTS

All levels of birders are invited to all field trips, and every effort is made on all trips to help beginners. If you are new to birding or have any special needs, please be sure to let the leader know at the start of the field trip. More details, if required, and/or updates on these trips will be given at the indoor meetings and in the newsletter. Watch for emails sent by the Club. You can also check the Club's website: <[www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)> for trip information and a Google Map link to the meeting place. Or contact trip leaders directly if you have questions about any of their trips. The New Haven Bird Club does not charge any fees for its outdoor programs, but participants are responsible for the cost of their food, transportation, and entrance fees (where charged), unless the Club makes prior arrangements. Carpooling is encouraged to avoid parking problems at some destinations and to promote conservation of natural resources.

*Cancellation Policy:* Inclement weather or another emergency may cancel a field trip. Check the sources listed above or contact the leader of the trip directly if you have any questions about a possible cancellation.

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### **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford Point**

Wednesday, April 5, 8:00 AM

Enjoy an early spring trip to one of the best local birding spots. We look out into the marsh and along the shore for waterfowl, shorebirds, waders, and raptors. Meet at Coastal Center parking lot, 1 Milford Point Rd. Leader: Stephen Spector, [charsjs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:charsjs@sbcglobal.net), home.203-876-7461, cell.203-928-8089.

### **East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance, New Haven**

Saturday, April 8, 8:00 AM

Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot (915 Whitney Ave., Hamden) for a bird walk from 8-9:30 am. Then join Park Ranger Dan Barvir to help with light trail maintenance along the river until noon. Bring work gloves & pruning shears if you have them. Leader: Dan Barvir, [dbarvir@newhavenct.net](mailto:dbarvir@newhavenct.net), cell.203-946-6086.

### **Lighthouse Point to the Richard English Bird Sanctuary The Richard English Memorial Fieldtrip**

Saturday, April 8, 8:30AM-5PM

Meet at the Lighthouse Point Park hawk watch parking lot (2 Lighthouse Rd., New Haven) and bird the harbor shore for gulls, loons, ducks, and early returning shorebirds. We then proceed to the Richard English Bird Sanctuary at the Deer Lake Scout Camp in Killingworth. We then proceed to Hammonasset Beach State Park. This is an all-day trip; bring lunch and dress warmly. This trip almost always has a high species count. Leader: Mike Horn, [mfhorn@att.net](mailto:mfhorn@att.net), home.203-288-1891.

### **Conservation Activity – East Rock Garlic Mustard Pull**

Sunday, April 23, 10:00 AM

Take part in a crucial conservation project. Help remove garlic mustard from East Rock Park, an Important Bird Area that's a vital migratory bird stopover and breeding habitat. This invasive plant is a pernicious, prolific pest that can overrun forested areas, squeeze out native spring flowers, kill butterfly caterpillars, and alter the habitat of our native birds. In 3 years, we've already made a significant improvement at this site! Long pants and sleeves are recommended. Bring work gloves if you have them. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum, 915 Whitney Ave., Hamden. Leader: Craig Repasz, [crespasz@hotmail.com](mailto:crespasz@hotmail.com), home.203-230-1697, cell.203-747-6843.

### **Lake Chamberlain, Bethany**

Wednesday, April 26, 7:30 AM

Join Past-president Bill Batsford to check out this excellent birding area. Lake Chamberlain, a Regional Water Authority property, is surrounded by coniferous forest and it has open fields and thickets. Early spring migrants likely to be seen are Palm and Pine Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-headed Vireo, and Eastern Phoebe. Bluebirds and Tree Swallows nest in bird houses. Meet at the RWA parking lot on Sperry Rd., on the right just past Morris Rd. in Bethany. Leader: Bill Batsford, [william.batsford@yale.edu](mailto:william.batsford@yale.edu), home.203-787-1642, cell.203-494-4325.

### **Ansonia Nature Center, Ansonia**

Saturday, April 29, 7:30 AM

Enjoy a walk at this great birding location. The nature center has a small pond, grassy fields, thickets, wetlands, and woods. The woods have had Northern Goshawk and Great Horned Owls nesting there, and there are often surprises. Meet at the nature center parking lot, 10 Deerfield Lane, Ansonia. Leader: Maria Stockmal, [m.stockmal@snet.net](mailto:m.stockmal@snet.net), cell.203-305-3728.

### **Bird Walk for Families at East Rock Park, New Haven**

Saturday, April 29, 9:00 AM

On this walk by the park's Mill River, children with accompanying adults are invited to help us look for warblers and other spring migrants. Other interested adults are also welcome to join the walk in this famous spring birding place. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Ave., Hamden. Leader: Flo McBride, [fmcb\\_warbler@yahoo.com](mailto:fmcb_warbler@yahoo.com), home.203-288-6777.

### **Birding by Ear at Lufberry Memorial Park**

Saturday, April 29, 7:00 AM

Ever wanted to learn to bird by ear? On this walk, we will learn mnemonics for ~25 common bird species and look for early spring migrants at Lufberry Memorial Park, a wooded patch located on a ridge above the Quinnipiac River. From "tree hugger, tree hugger, tree" to "drink your tea," you will learn a number of silly phrases that can help you to identify birds. A handout will be provided. This walk is geared to beginners but birders of all levels and families are welcome. More advanced

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birders not only can enjoy a day out but also provide support and inspiration to the newcomers. Meet at the parking lot by the park baseball field, Lufberry Memorial Park Road, off Cheshire Road in Wallingford. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, [cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org](mailto:cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org), home.203-630-9640 (preferred number), cell.203-233-0535 (cell-just morning of trip).

**First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven**  
Wednesday, May 3, 7:30 AM

East Rock Park in early May is one of the best places in the state to see migrant warblers. Fifteen to twenty species are possible on a good day. Meet at Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Ave., Hamden. Leaders: Jerry Connolly, [birdshop@sbcglobal.net](mailto:birdshop@sbcglobal.net), home.203-421-4128, cell.203-710-2011; John Oshlick, [john.oshlic@yahoo.com](mailto:john.oshlic@yahoo.com), cell.203-584-1955; Bill Batsford, [william.batsford@yale.edu](mailto:william.batsford@yale.edu), home.203-787-1642, cell.203-494-4325.

**East Rock Park with Ranger Dan**  
Saturday, May 6, 8:00 AM

Join Ranger Dan Barvir at this premier site for warblers and other spring migrants. Meet at the Rice Field (baseball field) end of East Rock Park on English Drive. Leader: Dan Barvir, [dbarvir@newhavenct.net](mailto:dbarvir@newhavenct.net), cell.203-946-6086.

**Housatonic River, Kent**  
Sunday, May 7, 7:30 AM

Today we enjoy the riparian woodlands along the Housatonic in Kent, CT. We meet at the parking area on the southwest corner of Bull's Bridge Rd. and Rt. 7 (Kent Rd.) south of Kent. We carpool from there, paralleling the Housatonic via Schaticoke Rd, and Skiff Mountain Rd to River Rd, listening and looking for spring migrants. The area is famed for warblers, including Cerulean, Worm-eating, and many others. Veery, Swainson's and Wood Thrushes and Pileated Woodpecker are also possible. Bring lunch or eat in charming Kent. Leader: Renee Baade, [rbaade@juno.com](mailto:rbaade@juno.com), home.203-270-9953, cell.203-526-7667.

**Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, Southbury**  
Sunday, May 7, 7:30 AM

Explore a prime birding location along the Pomperaug River in Southbury where more than 100 species of birds have been observed in a single day. This beautiful and highly diverse habitat is owned and maintained by the National Audubon Society. The trip involves moderately strenuous hiking. Meet at 85 E Flat Hill Rd, Southbury, CT. Take Exit 14 off Rt. 84. Go north on Rt. 172, then turn left onto East Flat Hill Rd. (church on corner). Continue to sanctuary entrance on left. Leader: Roy Harvey, [rmharvey@snet.net](mailto:rmharvey@snet.net), cell.203-888-5757.

**Hartman Park, Lyme**  
Wednesday, May 10, 6:30 AM

Hartman Park is known for its breeding population of Cerulean Warbler. There is also a power cut which may have Prairie, Blue-winged, Magnolia and other warblers. Both Cuckoos have been seen here as well. Meet at I-95; exit 55 commuter lot. Leader: John Oshlick, [john.oshlic@yahoo.com](mailto:john.oshlic@yahoo.com), cell.203-584-1955.

**Big Day Marathon**  
Saturday, May 13, 6:00 AM

Take part in all or part of this event. We'll focus on New Haven area hotspots, seeking 100-130 species. We start at East Rock and search several other local migrant traps, as well as the coast from Lordship to Hammonasset. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Avenue, Hamden. Leader: John Oshlick, [john.oshlic@yahoo.com](mailto:john.oshlic@yahoo.com), cell.203-584-1955.

**West Rock Ridge State Park, New Haven, Hamden, Woodbridge, Bethany**  
Saturday, May 13, 7:00 AM

Less well known as a hotspot for spring migrants and nesting species than is East Rock, West Rock is, in fact, one of the premier places in Connecticut to observe and study birds at this time of year. Lacking the closely associated lake, river, slope, and ridge top environs seen at East Rock, West Rock is far more spread out: seven miles of uninterrupted ridge top, west-facing, and east-facing slopes; the West River and three impounded lakes (Watrous, Dawson, Konold's Pond) in Woodbridge/Bethany; Wintergreen Brook and Lake Wintergreen in New Haven/Hamden. New Haven Summer Bird Count results for West Rock and Konold's Pond are most impressive for an expanding Great Blue Heron rookery and for nesting cuckoos, Peregrine Falcon, flycatchers, vireos, Common Raven, thrushes, wood warblers, tanagers, Indigo Bunting, and orioles. In 2016, West Rock was recognized as an Important Bird Area in Connecticut. Meet at the entrance gate to the park on Wintergreen Road opposite the West Rock Nature Center and just south of the Route 15 West Rock Tunnels (east side). Meet at 7:00 am sharp. Once we enter the park, the gate is locked to late-comers. We car pool north to ridge top for spectacular views of the West River Valley and Konold's Pond, followed by our survey of the 4.5 miles further north for migrants and species establishing nesting territories. Leader: Steve Broker, [LS.Broker@cox.net](mailto:LS.Broker@cox.net), home.203-272-5192, cell.203-747-6843.

**Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**  
Sunday, May 14, 7:00 AM

Join us at the peak of spring migration on this moderately strenuous and long hike in a fine birding location. We'll search for migrants and residents. We often see more than 15 species of warblers on this trip, including resident Hooded, Chestnut-sided, Prairie, and Worm-eating Warblers. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Many other birds are residents here, too. Meet at the commuter lot at Exit 25 off Route 8, Naugatuck. Leader: Chris Loscalzo, [closcalz@optonline.net](mailto:closcalz@optonline.net), cell.203-389-6508.

**Janie Pierce Park, Southbury/ Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery - Wednesday walk**  
Wednesday, May 17, 7AM

Kept in its natural state, Janie Pierce Park (200 Transylvania Road, Southbury) is approx. 60 acres of scenic woodland that surround Transylvania Pond located in Southbury. We will hike around the Transylvania Lake there. It is a fairly easy less than 2 mile walk but know that it is mainly a boardwalk and tree root trail. Afterwards we will drive to Earth Tones, a native plant nursery and landscape establishment nearby where we will have

someone talk to us briefly on native plants and have a look around at her stock. Meet at the I-84 exit 14 commuter lot. Leader: Renee Baade, [rbaade@juno.com](mailto:rbaade@juno.com), home.203-270-9953, cell.203-526-7667.

### **Bluebirds and Swallows at Lake Chamberlain - children encouraged**

Saturday, May 20, 9:00 AM

For a number of years members of the New Haven Bird club have been maintaining about 50 boxes on Regional Water Authority properties in Bethany and Woodbridge. Please join Pat Leahy, Dewitt Allen and Mike Ferrari on Saturday, May 20 from 9-11 to view activity in the bluebird and tree swallow boxes on Lake Chamberlain. We will be explaining how we build and take care of the houses. We will also be showing what is going on in a couple of special viewing boxes where we can see inside without bothering the new families. This program will be open to all, welcoming children and grandchildren as well as more experienced birders. We will make a special effort to show our younger participants how these wonderful birds live. Meet at the RWA parking lot, Sperry Road near Morris Rd., Bethany. Leaders: Pat Leahy, [ptjleahy@yahoo.com](mailto:ptjleahy@yahoo.com), home.203-393-2427, cell.203-314-0566; DeWitt Allen, [allendatlow@gmail.com](mailto:allendatlow@gmail.com), cell.475-227-2820; Mike Ferrari, [mike.ferrari@att.net](mailto:mike.ferrari@att.net), cell.203-435-5712.

### **Barn Island Wildlife Management Area**

Saturday, May 20, 7:00 AM

This will be our thirteenth annual trip to this excellent birding spot. We'll meet at the commuter lot at Exit 55 of I-95 and carpool to Barn Island. The area consists of large expanses of salt marsh, tidal pools, wetlands, woodlands, and open fields. We should see wading birds, shorebirds, and area residents such as Saltmarsh Sparrow, Marsh Wren, White-eyed Vireo, American Redstart, Willow Flycatcher, Bobolink, and many other species. Meet at I-95 exit 55 commuter lot at 7 AM or at 96 Palmer Neck Rd, Stonington (Bobolink fields) at 8 AM. Leader: Carolyn Cimino, [sailcarm@aol.com](mailto:sailcarm@aol.com), cell.860-447-3565.

### **Durham Meadows & Coginchaug River, Durham Wednesday afternoon walk**

Wednesday, May 24, 3:00 PM

We explore this pristine freshwater marsh and riverine system at four different access points and for target species: (1) Durham Skating Pond, Route 68 (Virginia Rail, Swamp Sparrow, American Kestrel); (2) Frederick White Farm, Durham Fairgrounds vicinity off Maple Street (Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Savannah Sparrow, Spotted Sandpiper); (3) south Durham Meadows, Route 17 (Virginia Rail, Willow Flycatcher); (4) Coginchaug River, Route 147 (Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Sora). Along the way numerous other species are to be encountered, including vultures, woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, wrens, wood warblers, and sparrows. This trip is geared in part to photographers, as later afternoon light augments the beauty of the meadows and adjacent agricultural lands. Meet at the Durham Skating Pond gravel parking lot on Route 68 just downhill from Route 17 in Durham. Leader: Steve Broker, [LS.Broker@cox.net](mailto:LS.Broker@cox.net), home.203-272-5192, cell.203-747-6843.

### **Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale St. Park** Saturday, May 27, 7:30 AM

Join us on a visit to this excellent birding location where we look for late spring migrants and early nesting species. The center and park have open fields, woods, ponds, and streams. Meet at 500 Hawthorne Avenue, Derby. Leader: Maria Stockmal, [m.stockmal@snet.net](mailto:m.stockmal@snet.net), home.203-488-3876.

### **Whip-poor-will Walk in Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**

Friday, June 2, 8:30-10PM

Jack Swatt, New Haven Bird Club member and DEEP volunteer Whip-poor-will monitor will lead a walk, listening and looking for Whip-poor-will at the Naugatuck State Forest. We will meet at 8:30 PM at the parking lot at the end of Hunter's Mountain Road. Jack will give a short talk on the status of Whip-poor-wills in the northeast and Connecticut. We will then wait for dusk to fall while we listen for the distinctive call. A sighting?-who knows! Bring a flashlight and plenty of bug spray. Leader: Jack Swatt, [jswattbirds@snet.net](mailto:jswattbirds@snet.net), cell.203-592-4686. (Rain date: Saturday, June 3 at 8:30 pm.)

### **National Trails Day Hike at Naugatuck State Forest** Saturday, June 3, 8AM

*Trip cancelled.*

### **New Haven Summer Bird Count**

Saturday-Sunday, June 3-4, 2017

This is a wonderful opportunity to work on your song identification skills and see what birds are nesting in your area. For the names of area captains and other information, contact leader Steve Mayo, [rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net), home.203-393-0694.

### **Bent of the River Audubon Sanctuary - Managing for Forest and Shrubland Birds**

Saturday, June 3, 7:00 AM

On this trip we will look for shrubland and forest nesting birds at the Bent of the River Audubon Sanctuary. At this Important Bird Area, approximately 100 acres of fields are managed for shrubland nesting birds, including Blue-winged Warbler, Indigo Bunting, and Prairie Warbler. The IBA also includes roughly 600 acres of forest and supports species such as Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Black-throated Green Warbler and Worm-eating Warbler. We will listen and look for these species and talk about what goes into managing their habitats. This walk is geared to beginners, but birders of all levels and families are welcome. More advanced birders not only can enjoy a day out but also provide support and inspiration to the newcomers. Meet at parking lot just beyond entrance, 185 East Flat Hill Rd in Southbury. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, [cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org](mailto:cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org), home.203-630-9640 (preferred number), cell.203-233-0535 (cell-just morning of trip).

### **First Wednesday Walk: White Memorial, Litchfield** Wednesday, June 7, 8:00 AM

The White Memorial Foundation is a 4,000-acre nature

preserve with extensive woodlands, conifer plantations, wetlands, thickets, and fields. The preserve is home to more than 115 breeding species and is visited by many migrant species. Notable breeding species include: Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Northern Goshawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, and Blackburnian Warbler. Meet at the visitor center parking lot off Bissell Road, off Rt. 202. Leader: Greg Hanisek, [ctgreggh@yahoo.com](mailto:ctgreggh@yahoo.com), home.203-754-4401, cell.203-525-1558.

## Trip Reports

### Field Trip Report—Rhode Island Coast—February 25

Seventeen club members ventured east to our neighboring state of Rhode Island for a full day of birding. We drove through a fog, but it cleared as we arrived at our first destination: Beavertail State Park in Jamestown. The visibility was fine and it was unseasonably warm, making the birding easier than usual at this coastal location. Here, we saw Harlequin Duck, Common Eider, and all three scoter species, with Black Scoter being the most abundant. We also saw a lone Purple Sandpiper and a Northern Gannet. Some of us were fortunate to see a Razorbill as it flew out of the harbor and out to the sound. Our next stop was at Easton and Green End Ponds in Newport. There, we saw Ruddy Duck, Lesser Scaup, and all three merganser species. It was a short drive from there to Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge. There, we saw more Harlequin Duck, Common Eider and scoters, and a large flock of Purple Sandpiper. It was pleasing to see so many of this species as it has been in a steady decline for years. We added Ruddy Turnstone to our trip list at Third Beach just west of the refuge and then were pleased to find the drake Barrow's Goldeneye off Seaside Drive in Jamestown during our brief stop there. Our next stop was Moonstone Beach where we observed a light phase Rough-legged Hawk perched on a radio antenna out in the marsh. We didn't stay there long, as we decided that we would observe the birds in Trustom Pond from the observation platform at the refuge rather than from the beach. That turned out to be a good decision as we were able to see the waterfowl well from that vantage point. And, there were lots of waterfowl, including a number of rare species. Highlights included four Tundra Swans (two adults and two juveniles), Redhead, and a drake Eurasian Wigeon. There were also Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Ruddy Duck, and both Great and Double-crested Cormorant. We observed a total of 21 species of waterfowl at Trustom Pond. It was a memorable experience and the highlight of our day. We were also able to observe the Rough-legged Hawk that we had seen earlier, but now it was also soaring and hovering over the marsh. It is a beautiful bird, indeed. The walk to and from the observation platform added some additional species to our list, including Golden-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, and Field Sparrow. From there, we went to Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge. By then, the fog had rolled in again, limiting our visibility. We were able to briefly see, though, the adult Lesser Black-backed Gull that is once again wintering there. Our last birding location was Weekapaug Marsh, but the fog was pretty dense there. We

got good looks at a few Common Loons that were riding the currents in the canal but didn't see much else. As we drove home, we counted up the number of species observed on the trip and found that we had seen 70 species in total, an impressive and satisfying number, fitting for such a memorable day. We look forward to returning to these excellent birding locations in Rhode Island again next year.

--Chris Loscalzo

### First Wednesday Stratford Shore trip – March 1

An eager and adventurous group of 12 birders defied the lousy weather to explore the birdlife along Stratford's shoreline. The weather was unusually mild, 47-50F, with overcast and light rain showers, a couple of brief heavy thundershowers (luckily while in vehicles), SSW wind at 10 mph, and DENSE FOG (unfortunately). We met at Frash Pond, where the fog lifted just enough to be able to scope a variety of ducks including 10 Canvasbacks and 3 Ruddy Ducks. A Belted Kingfisher appeared out of the fog and flew overhead. Next we saw 9 American Coots at the Birdseye boat ramp, then a few got to see an early-returning Wilson's Snipe. (A return visit at trip's end resulted in all seeing two Snipe fly overhead). Sniffens Lane produced a "flock" of 16 Common Loons on the Housatonic River directly below us, as well as a vocal flock of Brant. A visit to Short Beach provided great views of returning Killdeer and a lingering flock of cryptically-colored Snow Buntings on the upper beach. Next, a hunting Northern Harrier, 5 Black-bellied Plovers, and a close lone Snow Bunting were found at Stratford Point. A visit to Long Beach provided views of male Long-tailed Ducks, a fly-by White-winged Scoter, and flocks of Sanderlings and Dunlin.



The unrelenting fog made viewing LI Sound virtually impossible, so we no doubt missed seeing various sea ducks, loons, etc. Even still, it was a productive morning. We tallied 48 species. Walking the beach and meadows in the fog was a neat experience.

--Frank Mantlik

## BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)

There are now Google Map links for the meeting places of trips.

## Mega Bowl Summary

The first annual Mega Bowl of Birding in New Haven County was held on February 5, 2017 (Super Bowl Sunday). Twenty-four birders participated in the event and a good time was had by all. Birders teamed up in groups of 3-5 people and went to birding locations throughout the county, from Southbury to New Haven and from Milford to Madison. They saw an impressive total of 103 species and garnered 237 points in doing so. Birders got creative in coming up with names for their teams. The names of the teams were as follows: the Abominable Snow Buntings, the Avianophiles, the CT Young Birders' Club Darth Waders, the Suet Blockers, Winging It, and the Winter Wrenegades! By a narrow margin, the CYBC Darth Waders pulled off an upset and came up with the most species and earned the most points of any team. Their



name has been inscribed on the Mega Bowl Trophy! They saw a total of 82 species on the day and amassed 175 points.

At the end of the day, the participants met at the Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby for a scrumptious dinner (prepared expertly by my wife, Marianne) and to receive awards and prizes. Wil Schenck won an award for being the youngest participant and Bill Batsford won an award for being the most senior participant (all of the other participants were *very* young, according to Bill). Prizes were given to every participant through the generosity of the proprietors of The Fat Robin in Hamden and The Audubon Shop in Madison. A number of rare and uncommon birds were seen during the day, including: Eurasian Wigeon, Black Scoter, Barrow's Goldeneye, Ring-necked Pheasant, Rough-legged Hawk, Killdeer, Iceland Gull, Long-eared Owl, Brown Creeper, White-crowned Sparrow, Black-crowned Night-heron, Wilson's Snipe, and Eared Grebe. Although all birds are equally valuable in the eyes of a birder, for this event species were given a point-value from 1 to 5 based upon their abundance or rarity in early February in New Haven County. Collectively, the teams saw 100% of the 1-point birds, 90% of the 2-point birds, 80% of the 3-point birds, 30% of the 4-point birds, and 3% of the 5-point birds. Seeing the Eared Grebe earned each team 7 points (and every team went to see this rarity at Nathan Hale Park in New Haven) as the species had not been recorded previously in New Haven County in February.

We are looking forward to running the Mega Bowl again next year. It will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2018, the day before the Super Bowl. I hope that many bird club members will participate in this fun and friendly event.

--Chris Loscalzo

## NHBC Winter Feeder Report 2016-2017 Week 15

We have finished the 15<sup>th</sup> week of the survey and we did not see any Pine Siskins or Common Redpolls during these last 5 weeks. Again, the numbers of birds per species were relatively low and only 5 of the Uncommon Species were seen. The weather may have played a part in that it changed daily as it did last year. We went from warm (40° to 65°F) to cold (10°-30°F) back to warm every few days with sporadic heavy and light snow and periods of heavy and light rain, but basically it was warm. Maria Stockmal was the only surveyor to see any Purple Finches and she had 1 for weeks 11, 13, 14 and 15. Male Red-wing Black Birds have returned.

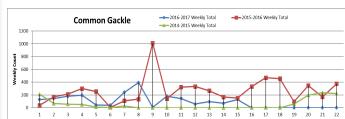
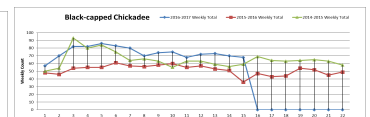
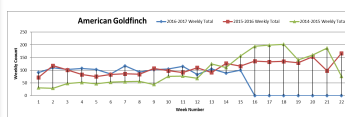
We had 34 of the 34 **Common Species** show up for a score of 100%. Four surveyors had Fox Sparrows, three surveyors had Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Chipping Sparrows, and Northern Mocking Birds, two surveyors had Brown-headed Cowbirds and one surveyor had Wild Turkey. 4 surveyors had more than 25 Common Grackles with one of them having 120 during one week.

There were no new species added to the **Uncommon List** and we had 5 of 38 species during this five-week period for 13% which is very low. Species seen were **Brown Creeper** (Charlotte K. White, Laurie Reynolds, Bev Proppen and Maris Fiondella), **Cedar Waxwing** (Tim and Kate Rodgers), **Eastern Towhee** (Maria Stockmal), **Pileated Woodpecker** (Charlotte K. White, Martha Asarisi), **Red-breasted Nuthatch** (Carol Dunn, Maris Fiondella, Laurie Reynolds, Tim and Kate Rodgers, Pete Vitali, Charlotte K. White).

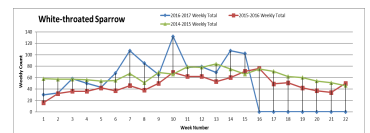
The only **Waterfowl** seen during these weeks are **Northern Pintail** and **Mallards** by Nancy Morand.

13 of 25 **Animals** were seen during these five weeks for a 52% sighting. They were **Gray Squirrel**, **Chipmunk**, **Coyote**, **Feral Cat**, **Flying Squirrel**, **Mole**, **Opossum**, **Rabbit**, **Raccoon**, **Red Fox**, **Skunk** and **White-tailed Deer**.

The **graphs of 5 Species** are included below for weeks one to fifteen. Black-capped Chickadees, Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows seem to be doing better this year than last year. American Goldfinch and Common Grackles are lower than at the same time last year.



Note: Common Grackle chart range is 1200. Major spike at week 9 (2015-2016) throws the graph off.



--Pete Vitali  
Chairman: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey



**NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB**  
**P.O. BOX 9004**  
**NEW HAVEN, CT 06532-0004**

## Newsletter April 2017

*The date on address labels is your membership expiration date.*

### NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code / Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

Membership Levels (check appropriate category):

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual - \$15

\_\_\_\_\_ Family - \$20

\_\_\_\_\_ Supporting - \$50

\_\_\_\_\_ Student under 18 - Free

\_\_\_\_\_ Life Membership - \$300 for 1 or 2 people at same address.

Additional gift to support NHBC programs: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to New Haven Bird Club and send to:  
New Haven Bird Club,  
PO Box 9004  
New Haven CT 06532-0004

You can also join or renew membership at the NHBC website with credit card or PayPal.

The NHBC membership year is from July 1 to June 30. New members joining between January 1 and June 30 are given full membership for the rest of the current year and for the whole next membership year.

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

New Haven Bird Club is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All dues and donations are fully tax deductible. If you work for a company that gives matching grants, please take advantage of the offer. It's free and helps NHBC's program budget.

The Club welcomes everyone irrespective of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, or national origin.

If your address, phone or email change, please send that information to: New Haven Bird Club, PO Box 9004, New Haven CT 06532-0004 or contact the Membership Chair, DeWitt Allen: 860.949.0995 or [allendatlow@gmail.com](mailto:allendatlow@gmail.com).

NHBC does not release its membership list or email addresses to other organizations.

The NHBC website offers information about the Club, its programs, and other Club and member news. The web address is [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org). If you have any questions about the Club, you can send an email to: [ask.nhbc@gmail.com](mailto:ask.nhbc@gmail.com).

The New Haven Bird Club is on Facebook. Please like the page "New Haven Bird Club." You can upload your photos, discuss Club events, and post your recent sightings.

CTBirds is an open discussion email list provided by the Connecticut Ornithological Association (COA) to discuss birds and birding in the state. To subscribe, go to: [lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds\\_lists.ctbirding.org](http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds_lists.ctbirding.org)



# New Haven Bird Club Annual Banquet

**Thursday, May 11, 2017**



**Amarante's Sea Cliff, 62 Cove Street, New Haven**

**Cocktails and Hors D'oeuvres 6:00 - 7:00 PM**

**Buffet Dinner and Program 7:00 - 10:00 PM**

The dinner is \$35/person for members and guests. There will be a cash bar.  
Don't forget to bring money for the raffle.

## **Buffet Dinner Includes**

Two entrée selections, Green salad, Two chef made buffet salads,  
Accompaniments, Penne ala vodka, Artisan Bread,  
Dessert towers with pastries, bars, cookies and fruit, coffee, tea

## **LESVOS: European Spring Migration Magic**



The Greek Island of Lesvos is renowned for its ancient history, incomparable natural beauty and tradition of hospitality. Celebrated as the Princess of the Northwest Aegean Sea, this stunning island has become known by birders as one of the best locations in Europe to witness spring migration. In late April and early May, a continual stream of migrating birds pass over the island as they move from their wintering grounds in Africa to their breeding grounds in Europe. Keen birders return year after year to experience the migration magic of Lesvos and search out the island's special birds, including Krüper's Nuthatch, Cinereous Bunting, Cretzschmar's Bunting, Rüppell's Warbler, Scopoli's Shearwater, Isabelline Wheatear, Masked and Red-backed Shrike and more. This program will reveal the avian delights of Lesvos with vivid photographs of its birds against the backdrop of charming fishing villages, sea coasts, salt pans, sparkling rivers and lakes, and the slopes of Mount Olympus.

Founder of Sunrise Birding, Gina Nichol's varied interests and love of the natural world have taken her to all seven continents. She's led bird watching tours from Alaska to Antarctica to China to Kenya and countless countries in between!

**Reserve on the website [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org) or mail the form below.**

**New Haven Bird Club Annual Banquet — Thursday, May 11, 2017**

**Reservation deadline is May 1, 2017. No tickets will be sold at the door.**

NAME(S): (As they should appear on name tag)

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# of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35.00 = Total Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail reservation with your name, address and check payable to "NHBC" to:  
NHBC, c/o DeWitt Allen, 287 Forest Street, Hamden, CT 06518 860-949-0995, [allendatlow@gmail.com](mailto:allendatlow@gmail.com)