



# THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

August 2017

## 2017 CALENDAR

*(See inside for details)*

Saturday, August 12, 11:00 AM **Shorebirds and Terns at Milford Point**

Saturday, August 19, 8:00 AM **Lighthouse Point Park Bird Walk / Prep for Migration Festival**

Saturday, August 26, 9:00 AM **Happenings at Long Wharf Nature Preserve and Urban Oasis Demonstration Site**

Starts Friday, September 1, 7:00 AM **Bird Count – Hawk Watch, Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven; Daily September to December**

Wednesday, September 6, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**

Monday, September 11, 7:30 AM **Yale University Golf Course**

Thursday, September 14, 7 PM **Patrick Lynch – Field Guide to Long Island Sound**

Sunday, September 17, 8 AM - 3 PM **Annual Migration Festival, Lighthouse Point Park**

Sunday, September 17, 9:00 AM **Farm River Birds & Botany**

Saturday, September 30, 7:00 AM **Edgewood Park, New Haven**

Wednesday, October 4, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven**

Saturday-Sunday, October 7–8 **THE BIG SIT!®**

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

Thursday, October 12, 7 PM **Steve Broker – Return of the Peregrine**

Saturday, October 14, 8:00 AM **Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Saturday, October 21, 7:30 AM **Lake Chamberlain; Cooper and Calebresi Farms**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Musings During the Summer Dogdays

We have many photographers in the club. They are out with their equipment during the entire birding year snapping off as many pictures as possible. Sometimes they set up lighting equipment around a feeder to get the perfect shot once the bird arrives. We love to see their painstakingly composed photos. There are colorful natural backgrounds. There is balance and contrast, texture and tones. Did you ever freeze staring at a picture of an orchard oriole perched in an apple tree in full bloom? Or a cardinal on a snow-covered branch of winterberry? In fact, I just bought yet another book on hawks because my friend and NHBC member has his photo on the cover and many of his photos are throughout the book. Yes, I bought the book only for the pictures.

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Recently I was with other NHBC members standing in a wooded area of Edgewood Park at an Urban Oasis site in the middle of a hot steamy July day. The time of year, and that time of day limited what we heard. There were some vocalizations from catbirds, robins, unidentified fledglings and an osprey screaming. The dog day harvest flies had started their buzzing from the tops of trees that added to the mix of other sounds, the birds, the traffic, and the human voices.

“Birds are really hard to spot this time of year. It is all birding by ear.”

“Well after the leaves come out it is all birding by ear.”

Our ears like our eyes or the camera lens takes in much more than just our quarry. Much attention has been given to soundscape in the academic literature. Also called acoustic ecology, soundscapes consist of non-human living nature sounds, sounds of weather, human sounds and sounds from our technology. Any birding trip will incorporate all of these elements. Wind in the trees, insects buzzing or chirping, our companions chatting, cars and someone talking on a cell phone.

I fondly recall times at Sandy Point, the wind blowing off the sound and waves murmuring together to create a lo-fi undefined backdrop of texture for the other sounds. The atmosphere was such that no sound from I-95, slithering and hissing in sight, could be heard. In hi-fi were the “tututu” of the Greater Yellowlegs, “cherry-up” from the Semipalmated Plover and of course the gulls. Now that is a soundscape.

*(Continued on next page)*

New Haven Bird Club Website  
[www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)

## NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2017-2018

### OFFICERS

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	Charles Strasser crstrasser@gmail.com	908.328.5563
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<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)*

I hold many of these birding memories of sight and sound in my memory and often recall them during moments of stress. There is a lot of dissonance around us today. I could use more breezes, waves and shorebirds, more tranquil soundscapes.

*After a still winter night I awoke with the impression that some question had been put to me, which I had been endeavoring in vain to answer in my sleep, as what- how- when- where? But there was dawning Nature, in whom all creatures live, looking in at my broad windows with serene and satisfied face, and no question on her lips. I awoke to an answered question, to Nature and daylight.*

Henry David Thoreau  
*Walden. The Pond in Winter*

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I just received our new Yearbook in goldfinch yellow. Another fine job by Chris Howe our Yearbook editor, Bill Batsford our Outdoor Program Chair, Gail Martino Indoor Program Chair, Conservation co-chairs Charles Strasser and Deborah Johnson, DeWitt Allen our vice president and membership chair, and Pat Leahy our webmaster. Thanks to all of them for their tremendous efforts and contributions to the Yearbook.

I am very excited to start another birding year of sights and sounds with the club.

--Craig Repasz

### **Long Wharf EcoWalk Saturday, August 26, 9 – 11 AM**



Environmental Happenings at Long Wharf Nature Preserve, with AudubonCT, Common Ground, and Project Limulus. On Saturday, August 26 the NHBC hosts an environmentally focused family-friendly morning learning about the Urban Oases projects in New Haven, the work of the Land Trust and Save-

The-Sound on this piece of “disturbed” but “recovered” land in the heart of downtown New Haven, and of course a bird walk on the Oasis to Oyster Point and back along the harbor shore line, where we hope to see early shorebird migrants.

Come down to the Wharf to walk and learn in-depth about the complex ecosystem of Long Wharf Nature Preserve and the research and conservation efforts being done there. These 15 acres are home to incredible bird species, American horseshoe crabs from the Long Island Sound, and critically important native marsh and upland plant species. Experts, researchers, and stewards who work in Long Wharf Preserve will be present to tell us about their projects and about why this ecosystem is so valuable. Participants include interns from both the Urban Resources Initiative and Common Ground High School who have maintained this site all summer, Horseshoe Crab/Project Limulus researchers, and the conservation efforts of the NHBC. Bird walk leader Bill Batsford. No need to RSVP: Contact Deborah Johnson 203-430-5554 (talk/text) or [deborahleighjohnson@hotmail.com](mailto:deborahleighjohnson@hotmail.com). Meet 9am at entrance to Preserve. Off-street parking in lot at 351 Long Wharf Drive across from Vietnam Veterans' Memorial.

--Deborah Johnson

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## Indoor Programs

Indoor programs start in September and are held on the second Thursday of the month. There are no indoor programs in June, July, or August. 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), <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 Whitney Center'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 (WC):***

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:***

From I-95 North or South: Exit to I-91 North in New Haven. Take Exit 6 (Willow Street). At end of ramp go right onto Willow and proceed on Willow to its end at Whitney Avenue. Turn right onto Whitney; go 1.7 mi. to Treadwell Street (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 driveway (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 Street) in. At the end of the ramp, turn right onto Willow and proceed as above.

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

**Remember to check the Club's website for updated information on all programs: [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org).**

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### **Thursday, September 14, 2017 – Patrick Lynch Field Guide to Long Island Sound**

Patrick J. Lynch is an author, illustrator, photographer, and artist. Lynch retired from Yale University after 45 years as an interactive media designer, medical illustrator, biomedical and scientific photographer, video producer, a director of media and communications departments, and a designer of interactive multimedia teaching, training, and informational software and Web sites. Lynch is the author or co-author of eight books published by Yale University Press, including his latest book, *A Field Guide to Long Island Sound*.

#### **Bird Book Tag Sale at the November Meeting!**

Here's your chance to clean house. Sort through your bird- and nature-related books (kids' books too!) that you can part with. Bring them to the September and/or October meeting. Proceeds from the sale go to the NHBC Conservation Fund.

### **Thursday, October 12, 2017 – Steve Broker Return of the Peregrine**

Steve discusses the five known nest sites of peregrines in Connecticut during the period 1850-1948. He then summarizes his ongoing studies of the peregrines that have been nesting at West Rock Ridge State Park in Woodbridge since his discovery of a pair of falcons there in 1999. Peregrine life history strategies are the focus of these studies: territoriality, behavior, vocalizations, foraging, mating, nest site selection and preparation, egg-laying, care of nestlings, nest success, and the changing local population of adults. In the 2000 breeding season, the West Rock peregrines produced the first egg to be laid on a Connecticut cliff in 60 years. Steve Broker has worked in science education for the past 45 years. He taught high school science in the New Haven Public Schools for 23 years and participated in the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute for many years as a fellow, representative, and a member of the Yale National Initiative. His university teaching as adjunct lecturer included courses in ecology and forest & wetland ecology (University of New Haven), biology (Quinnipiac University), and teaching of science (Yale Teacher Preparation Program). Steve is President of the Connecticut Ornithological Association and a past President of the New Haven Bird Club (1991-1993).

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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. Watch for the announcement of the next book and meeting date.

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## **Notes from the Board**

The next board meeting will be Thursday, August 24 at 6:45 at Whitney Center.

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## Outdoor Programs

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. 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.

### NHBC Conservation Activities

The NHBC routinely works to preserve and restore bird populations and their habitats, and this year the Conservation Committee will highlight several events in which we partner with city, state and private conservation and education organizations to enhance birding habitats while simultaneously enjoying the birds seen on these properties. Partners include the City of New Haven, local Land Trusts, Friends' organizations (as Friends of East Rock Park and Friends of Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge), and the Urban Oases program. The Conservation Committee also provides information and displays at several local events.

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#### **Shorebirds and Terns at Milford Point Saturday, August 12, 11:00 AM**

This will be a trip to study shorebirds and terns, which should be here in concentrations now. We will walk out on the sand flats at mid-tide, then see the numbers of birds build as the tide rises. Wear waterproof shoes or sandals, and apply sunscreen. We'll finish by 3 PM. Meet at CT Audubon Coastal Center, 1 Milford Point Road, Milford. Leader: Frank Mantlik, 203-984-9410 or [mantlik@sbcglobal.com](mailto:mantlik@sbcglobal.com).

#### **Lighthouse Point Park Bird Walk / Prep for Migration Festival Saturday, August 19, 8:00 AM**

Join Park Ranger Dan Barvir on a late summer bird walk at Lighthouse Point Park on New Haven Harbor. Then, beginning around 9:30 AM, we'll perform some light trail maintenance and cleanup. This is a great way to enjoy looking at birds and at the same time help preserve their habitat. Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven. Leader: Dan Barvir, 203-946-6086 or [dbarvir@newhavenct.net](mailto:dbarvir@newhavenct.net).

#### **Happenings at Long Wharf Nature Preserve and Urban Oasis Demonstration Site Saturday, August 26, 9:00 AM**

This event is organized with the New Haven Land Trust, Save the Sound, and Audubon Connecticut. An environmentally-focused family-friendly morning learning about the Urban Oases projects in New Haven, the work of the Land Trust on this piece of "disturbed" but "recovered" land in the heart of downtown New Haven, and, of course, a bird walk. We hope to see early shorebird migrants as we walk to the Oasis at Oyster Point and back along the harbor shore line. Bird walk leader is Bill Batsford; other participants include the summer interns from both the Urban Resources Initiative and Common Ground High School who have maintained this site all summer, Horseshoe Crab/Project Limulus researchers (read Red Knot), and the conservation efforts of the NHBC. Meet at the entrance to the Preserve. Off-street parking is available in the lot at 351 Long Wharf Drive, New Haven, across from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Coordinator: Deborah Johnson, 203-430-

5554 (talk/text) or [deborahleighjohnson@hotmail.com](mailto:deborahleighjohnson@hotmail.com); Bird Walk Leader: Bill Batsford, 203-787-1642 (home), 203-494-4325 (cell), or [william.batsford@yale.edu](mailto:william.batsford@yale.edu).

#### **Bird Count – Hawk Watch, Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven; Daily September to December Starts Friday, September 1, 7:00 AM**

Lighthouse Point Park on New Haven Harbor is one of the premier locations in southern New England for observing migrating raptors as well as a wide variety of songbirds. The watch starts daily at 7 AM and continues as long as the hawks keep flying. Stop by anytime. Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven. Coordinator Steve Mayo, 203-393-0694, [rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net).

#### **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford Wednesday, September 6, 8:00 AM**

Join us as we look for shorebirds and terns at this excellent local birding location. We should also find raptors, waterfowl, long-legged waders, and migrating passerines. Ten or more species of shorebirds are possible, including American Golden Plover. Meet at the CT Audubon Coastal Center, 1 Milford Point Road, Milford. Leader: Kathy Van Der Aue, 203-259-2426 (home), 203-331-7517 (cell), or [kathyvda@gmail.com](mailto:kathyvda@gmail.com).

#### **Yale University Golf Course Monday, September 11, 7:30 AM**

The golf course is located on more than 700 acres, with woods and ponds surrounding the course. It's a great place to see birds year-round. We'll be visiting the course when there are no golfers, so we'll be able to walk the cart paths and wooded trails without being disturbed or disturbing others. We'll be looking for fall migrants such as raptors, warblers, vireos, and sparrows, as well as resident bluebirds and woodpeckers. Meet at the Yale University Golf Course clubhouse parking lot, 200 Conrad Drive, New Haven. Conrad Drive can be reached via Rte. 243 (Fountain Street) or Rte. 122 (Forest Road). Leader: Bill Batsford, 203-787-1642 (home), 203-494-4325 (cell), or [william.batsford@yale.edu](mailto:william.batsford@yale.edu).

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**Annual Migration Festival, Lighthouse Point Park  
Sunday, September 17, 8 AM – 3 PM**

This festive event is sponsored by the New Haven Department of Parks, Recreation and Trees; the NHBC; and other fine organizations. There will be hawk watching, bird banding, live raptor demonstrations, bird walks, and more. Chris Loscalzo will lead a walk at 8 AM, Mike Horn will lead a 9:30 AM walk, and Flo McBride will lead a kid's walk at 9:30 AM. Meet at Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven. Leader: Dan Barvir, 203-946-6086 or [dbarvir@newhavenct.net](mailto:dbarvir@newhavenct.net).

**Farm River Birds & Botany  
Sunday, September 17, 9:00 AM**

We'll use the setting of this small State Park, located just across the New Haven line in East Haven, as an outdoor naturalist classroom. We will learn about birds and botany, including the plants birds depend on for food and shelter, from a member of the Connecticut Botanical Society. Information from the CT Natural Diversity Database will be presented. This is one of the smallest State Parks in Connecticut, and we'll walk short distances to see the birds and the plants. Walk led by Mike Horn, Friend of the Farm River Estuary. Meet 9 AM at the entrance; 2 hours. Bring a folding chair or sit-upon. Meet at Farm River State Park, 116 Short Beach Road (Rte. 142), East Haven. Contact: Charles Strasser, 908-328-5563, [crstrasser@gmail.com](mailto:crstrasser@gmail.com).

**Edgewood Park, New Haven  
Saturday, September 30, 7:00 AM**

Edgewood Park and West River Memorial Park make up an Important Bird Area and include a two mile section of the West River. These parks look particularly "hot" on the radar maps for New Haven that show areas most used by birds in fall migration. We will see what we can find! The walk is open to birders of all levels, and families are welcome. We will not only see and hear birds, but will also talk about their identification and habits. More advanced birders not only can enjoy a day out but also provide support and inspiration for newcomers. Meet at the Edgewood Park parking lot off West Rock Avenue, just south of Whalley Avenue, New Haven. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-405-9116 (office), 203-233-0535 (cell), or [cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org](mailto:cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org).

**First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven  
Wednesday, October 4, 8:00 AM**

Join us on a visit to this premier local birding location, renowned for its migrating raptors and passerines. If the weather conditions are favorable, we may see hundreds of hawks in flight over the park. Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven. Leader: Steve Broker, 203-272-5192 (home), 203-747-6843 (cell), or [LS.Broker@cox.net](mailto:LS.Broker@cox.net).

**THE BIG SIT!®  
Saturday-Sunday, October 7-8**

THE BIG SIT!®, established by the NHBC, has become an international event, with birders from all over the world

participating. The object is to record as many species of birds as possible in one day from one 17-foot diameter circle. The circles are located at a number of birding hot spots throughout CT. Join other birders in one of the established circles or create your own. You don't have to be a hardcore birder to join in the fun. Bird Watcher's Digest runs the event now; for details, go to the Bird Watcher's Digest website ([www.birdwatchersdigest.com](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com)). Contact: John Triana, 203-758-7203 or [jtriana1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtriana1@sbcglobal.net).

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

Here's a chance to visit an outstanding birding spot that boasts a variety of habitats—open fields, woodlands, and ponds. We'll look for fall migrants, including warblers, sparrows, flycatchers, and vireos. Meet at the Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale State Park, 500 Hawthorne Avenue, Derby. Leader: Maria Stockmal, 203-305-3728 or [m.stockmal@snet.net](mailto:m.stockmal@snet.net).

**Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison  
Saturday, October 14, 8:00 AM**

Visit one of our state's best fall birding spots, where the abundance of some migrants and sightings of less common species can make for a truly memorable trip. The walking is easy, all on level ground. Meet outside the park at the new parking lot on the Post Rd. New Directions: Take Exit 61 off I-95 (the usual Hammonasset exit). At the end of the connector (traffic light), go left onto Boston Post Rd. The new parking lot is the first right, a short distance away. Meet at Hammonasset Beach State Park parking area on Boston Post Road, Madison, just left (east) of the main entrance road. Leaders: Flo McBride, 203-288-6777 or [fmcb\\_warbler@yahoo.com](mailto:fmcb_warbler@yahoo.com); Bill Batsford, 203-787-1642 (home), 203-494-4325 (cell), or [william.batsford@yale.edu](mailto:william.batsford@yale.edu).

**Lake Chamberlain; Cooper and Calabresi Farms  
Saturday, October 21, 7:30 AM**

Join a fall walk to see what can be found at these picturesque locations. Lake Chamberlain, a Regional Water Authority property, has an active bluebird population, many woodpeckers, and a number of waterfowl that visit the lake before heading further south when the lake freezes over. The walk at Lake Chamberlain is relatively easy. After birding the RWA property, we will visit the adjoining Cooper and Calabresi Farms. Forty years ago, the families of Peter Cooper, a noted New Haven environmental lawyer, and Guido Calabresi, a federal judge and past dean of the Yale Law School, purchased a 100-acre farm near Lake Chamberlain. The fields and woods have been maintained, providing habitat for a variety of woodland, edge, and grassland species. We will first bird in the extensive lower areas, then head up the hillside for more birding and spectacular views for miles around. Hiking to the top field may be strenuous; those who decide it may be too difficult can choose to stay by the lake or in the beautiful lower fields. Meet at Lake Chamberlain Regional Water Authority parking area on Sperry Road south of Morris Road, Bethany. Leader: Pat Leahy, 203-393-2427 (home), 203-314-0566 (cell), or [ptjleahy@yahoo.com](mailto:ptjleahy@yahoo.com).

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**Branford Supply Ponds, Branford**  
**Saturday, October 28, 7:30 AM**

Visit this first-rate birding spot to look for fall migrants and resident species. The area has varied habitats with woods, shrubby areas and a powercut. A variety of waterfowl can be found in the ponds. Meet at the Branford Supply Ponds parking lot, Chestnut Street, off Route 1, Branford. Leader: Maria Stockmal, 203-305-3728 or m.stockmal@snet.net.

**Cheshire Hotspots**  
**Sunday, October 29, 8:00 AM**

We bird several hotspots in the Town of Cheshire, including Boulder Knoll, Broad Brook Reservoir and associated trails, Fresh Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary (Cheshire Land Trust), and the Farmington Canal Lock 12. Boulder Knoll is good for

sparrows in fall. Broad Brook reservoir annually hosts 200-400 Ruddy Ducks, one of the highest concentrations of this diving duck in the state. Fresh Meadows and the Canal Line offer a diversity of bird species through the year. Meet at Boulder Knoll Community Farm, 875 Boulder Road, Cheshire. Directions: Drive North on Route 10 Whitney Avenue and enter Cheshire at Old Lane Road (on right). Drive 0.7 miles and turn right on Cook Hill Road. Drive 1.0 miles and turn left on Half Moon Road. Drive 0.4 miles and turn right on Boulder Road. Drive 0.4 miles (passing Boulder Knoll Montessori School) and turn left into small parking lot at Boulder Knoll kiosk and power line. See also large red barn 0.2 miles ahead on right. Leaders: Steve Broker, 203-272-5192 (home), 203-747-6843 (cell), or LS.Broker@cox.net; Melissa Baston, 860-995-0656 or mbaston@tgimachine.com.

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**New Haven Summer Bird Count**  
**June 3 and 4, 2017**

The weather held up until a very light rain on Sunday afternoon of the Count weekend. We had good coverage and 42 participants! The early count weekend resulted in plenty of lingerers: Brant, Red-Breasted Merganser, Lesser Scaup, Black Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Common Loon, shorebirds galore, and Mourning Warbler. Historically rare nesters or possible nesters, included Gadwall, Broad-winged Hawk, Common Nighthawk (New Haven AND Orange), Salt-marsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Bobolink. Finally, for the remotely possible nester/lingers we had Common Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Hermit Thrush (in suitable habitat). The most notable miss was Black-throated Green Warbler, only found each year, in single-digit numbers (the woods of Lake Saltonstall could have used a thorough scrubbing for that one). Other less notable misses included Black Skimmer, American Kestrel, Glossy Ibis, Purple Martin, Winter Wren and Swamp Sparrow. Thanks to all the participants, we certainly didn't miss much.

Count (15-Mile diameter circle) Center: 41°18'N 72°56'W. Elevation: Sea level to 700 feet. Area covered: Branford (western), East Haven, Milford, New Haven, North Haven, Orange, West Haven, and Woodbridge (in part).

Some of the unusual, are bolded. Adults and then nestlings or unfledged young are designated as X (+ X).

Brant 10, Canada Goose 429 (+25), Mute Swan 32, Wood Duck 35, Gadwall 2, Am Black Duck 4, Mallard 124 (+19), **Lesser Scaup 2, Black Scoter 1, White-winged Scoter 1, Common Merganser 1, Red-breasted Merganser 1**, Wild Turkey 22, Common Loon 2, Double-crested Cormorant 97, Great-Blue Heron 36 (+31), Great Egret 35, Snowy Egret 23, Green Heron 7, Black-crowned Night Heron 14, Yellow-crowned Night Heron 3, Glossy Ibis 2, Black Vulture 13, Turkey Vulture 45, Osprey 91, Bald Eagle 7 (+1), Osprey 64 (+12), Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Cooper's Hawk 4, Red-shouldered Hawk 8, **Broad-winged Hawk 1**, Red-tailed Hawk 29, Clapper Rail 1, American Oystercatcher 12, Black-bellied Plover 10, Semipalmated Plover 13, Piping Plover 12 (+2),

Killdeer 19, Spotted Sandpiper 4, Greater Yellowlegs 4, Willet 11, Ruddy Turnstone 6, **Red Knot 1**, Dunlin 1, **Short-billed Dowitcher 2**, Semipalmated Sandpiper 216, White-rumped Sandpiper 5, Ring-billed Gull 110, Herring Gull 258, Great Black-backed Gull 42, gull sp 34, Common Tern 3, Least Tern 2, Rock Pigeon 80, Mourning Dove 289, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 25, Black-billed Cuckoo 5, cuckoo sp 2, Barred Owl 1, Com Nighthawk 2, Chimney Swift 164, RT Hummingbird 7, Belted Kingfisher 3, Red-Bellied Woodpecker 105, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1**, Downy Woodpecker 60 (+2), Hairy Woodpecker 27, Northern Flicker 44, **Pileated Woodpecker 12**, Peregrine Falcon 6, Monk Parakeet 4, Eastern Wood-Pewee 88, Willow Flycatcher 49, E Phoebe 25, Great Crested Flycatcher 71, E Kingbird 35, Yellow-Throated Vireo 9, Warbling Vireo 122, Red-eyed Vireo 109, Blue Jay 222 (+1), American Crow 109, Fish Crow 29, crow sp. 18, Com Raven 9, Tree Swallow 167, N Rough-winged Swallow 101, Barn Swallow 149, Black-capped Chickadee 107, Tufted Titmouse 117, Red-breasted Nuthatch CW, White-breasted Nuthatch 42, Carolina Wren 42, House Wren 87, Marsh Wren 15, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 9, E Bluebird 8, Veery 22, **Hermit Thrush 1**, Wood Thrush 49, Am Robin 883 (+3), Gray Catbird 274, N Mockingbird 55, European Starling 715, Cedar Waxwing 308, Ovenbird 88, Worm-eating Warbler 15, Louisiana Waterthrush 7, Blue-winged Warbler 39, Black and white Warbler 28, **Mourning Warbler 1**, Common Yellowthroat 75, American Redstart 14, Yellow Warbler 128, Chestnut-sided Warbler 1, Pine Warbler 22, Prairie Warbler 7, Eastern Towhee 40, Chipping Sparrow 147, Field Sparrow 4, Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 211, Scarlet Tanager 34, N Cardinal 183, Rose Breasted Grosbeak 39, Indigo Bunting 44, **Bobolink 3**, Red-winged Blackbird 490, Com Grackle 496, Brown-headed Cowbird 88, Orchard Oriole 12, Baltimore Oriole 1313, House Finch 151, Am Goldfinch 122, House Sparrow 399.

We had 42 participants.

For additional information including totals for all SBCs, refer to the COA's Connecticut Warbler.

--Steve Mayo

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## eBird

eBird is a free online checklist program launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. Its main purpose is to collect observations from an international network of recreational and professional bird watchers for research purposes, to understand bird distribution across the western hemisphere. Observers enter when, where and how they went birding, then the presence and absence of bird species. The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World is the default checklist. Local experts review unusual records that are flagged by filters. eBird data is stored in a secure facility and archived daily; it is accessible to anyone via the eBird web site and other applications developed by the global community. Originally focused on the Western hemisphere, by 2010, the listing went worldwide. By April of 2017, there have been 400 million sightings recorded in eBird and 3 million bird photographs. There are over 100,000 active users.

For users, the site automatically keeps track of all your personal lists—a life list, location lists, and lists of any time duration—under “My eBird.” You can summarize your sightings in a nearly infinite number of ways. Observers can obtain reports of their observations by life, year or month. One can search for aggregated data for individual locations and get notification of species seen. eBird Alert notifies you about any unusual bird that has been reported in your region of interest, and provides a link to the location and to the checklist so you can get more information about the sighting.

eBird has become very popular in the birding community, I think, for two primary reasons. There is great satisfaction in contributing to a valuable research project, that of understanding in great detail bird populations, distributions, and migrations. This allows scientists to track bird populations in a given area, to study how these populations change over time, to map a more precise range for individual species and to understand how they migrate. A major benefit for individual birders is to use the data for planning bird trips. We can look at any location or hotspot to see recent sightings. We can look at individual species to see where they have been reported for a given time period. eBird has changed, for many of us, how we record birds from a given trip. My previous practice was to record only new or unusual sightings for a personal list but eBird wants us to record all sightings for a given location with estimated numbers. It is important in eBird to use specific locations to record bird sightings, to maximize specificity of location for research purposes, rather than, for example, record a day’s outing at several locations. Each location within a longer trip would be broken out as a separate eBird report. It is also possible to upload images and audio files for birds on your list. There are various privacy settings, and it is possible to

submit as an anonymous birder. It is possible to download your personal lists to your home computer.

eBird is primarily designed as a research tool and a map of birding locations and checklists. The ability to keep individual lists is less well developed. It does allow the individual birder to keep checklists of all birds entered on eBird, and these can be categorized by locations and time. Unless you started to use eBird at the beginning of your birding career, it will not truly give you a life list nor is it possible to build and edit custom reports.

### eBird mobile

eBird is a free app for a smart phone or tablet (both iOS and Android) that allows you to record bird sightings in the field and seamlessly link observations to eBird. First, you enter the location for the sightings, either a recent personal location, from a map or a public hotspot. Then an observed species, either found on a checklist or through a smart search, is entered with number observed. Comments may be added. At the end of the birding in this location, one can submit the list to eBird by a tap. I find it is easy to make mistakes in the field; one can edit the list and clean it up at the end of the day before submitting. Or, it is also possible to edit the report after it has been submitted to eBird. Observations can be entered from any location around the world. Checklists can be customized for individual locations and time of year. GPS can be used to ensure accuracy of the location. Map tools are available to locate thousands of eBird hotspots. More than 50 % of sightings sent to eBird are now sent through eBird mobile.

### Birdseye app

BirdsEye provides real-time access to bird observations submitted to the eBird database at the Cornell Lab, where a particular bird has been observed, and give you directions using the eBird data. BirdsEye will give you a list of birds seen nearby and a map of birding hotspots for any location in North America (the contiguous 48 states, Canada, and Alaska). The basic application includes images and audio for 470 of the species that are most frequently observed in North America. Additional content is available for more elusive birds—for a total of over 1000 species. Bird sounds come from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s Macaulay Library archive, the largest collection of bird and animal sounds in the world. Images are from the VIREO collection at The Academy of Natural Sciences. Acclaimed birder and author Kenn Kaufman wrote text for each species account. Downloading the app is free, but to make it useful, one has to add features for an extra cost. For example, the North American subset costs \$2.50 per month. A world membership costs \$35 to \$49 per year and includes 6000+ species. This is a non-profit application and the fees cover the development costs.

--Robert White

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## NHBC Awards Grant to High School Student

For the second year, the NHBC has awarded a \$1,500 grant to a Common Ground High School student in a leadership position in the Urban Oasis program. This supports the Club objectives of educating young people about the environment and encouraging the conservation of natural resources. Craig Repasz presented the grant to Joaquin Jones at the Beaver Hills Urban Oasis site. You can read more in the New Haven Independent article:

[http://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/beaver\\_hillssecret\\_garden/](http://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/beaver_hillssecret_garden/)



*Photo by Joel Tolman*



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

**Newsletter August 2017**

#### **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)