



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

April 2015

2015 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Wednesday, April 1, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**

Saturday, April 4, 8:30 am **Lighthouse Point to the English Bird Sanctuary, Killingworth**
The Richard English Memorial Field Trip

Saturday, April 4, 8:30 am **Beginners' Bird Walk at Little Pond, Litchfield**

Thursday, April 9, 7:00 pm **Patrick Comins – Ornithology and Meteorology**

Saturday, April 11, 8:00 am **East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance, New Haven**

Saturday, April 18, 8:00 am **Ansonia Nature Center, Ansonia**

Wednesday, April 22, 8:00 am **President's Walk at Lake Chamberlain, Bethany**

Thursday, May 14 – **Annual Banquet**

Wayne Petersen – Svalbard: An Arctic Naturalist's Paradise

Saturday, May 2, 8:00 am **East Rock Park with Ranger Dan, New Haven**

Saturday, May 2 **East Rock Park Garlic Mustard Pull**
(following the Bird Walk with Ranger Dan)

Saturday, May 2, 9:00 am **Bird Walk for Families at East Rock Park, New Haven**

Sunday, May 3, 7:30 am **Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, Southbury**

Wednesday, May 6, 7:30 am **First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven**

Saturday, May 9, 6:00 am **Big Day Marathon**

Sunday, May 10, 7:30 am **Racebrook Tract, Orange and Woodbridge**

Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 am **River Road, Kent**
"Travels along a riparian woodland corridor"

Thursday, May 14 **Annual Banquet: Wayne Petersen – Svalbard: An Arctic Naturalist's Paradise**

Saturday, May 16, 7:00 am **Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**

Sunday, May 17, 6:30 am **Nehantic State Forest and Hartman's Park, Lyme**

Saturday, May 23, 7:00 am **Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington**

Sunday, May 24, 7:00 am **West River Ravine, Bethany**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Well, it seemed for a long time that winter would not quit and make way for spring. Sea ducks, Snowy Owls, winter Finches et. al. are exciting in November and December, but as March turns to April?

We have had exciting Indoor Programs to tide us through the winter. John Himmelman entertained us with stories and anecdotes from "Birds: Their Side of the Story";

Kevin Burgio related the sad story of the extinction of the Carolina Parakeet; Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle whetted our Warbler appetites with their program on Warbler ID, focusing on their exciting system for learning Warbler songs. Many of us, I am sure, got their phone app on Warblers to help us this spring.

As I write this message the snow has largely melted (to be replaced by pot holes on our roads and mud on our trails), and although it has happened before, hopefully we won't have an Easter snowstorm. Signs of spring are unmistakable – Red-wings are singing, Osprey have returned, Woodcock are peenting! Spring migration will come into full swing – and our Outdoor Program will reflect that with numerous April and May outings.

As long as winter has seemed to me, my term as NHBC President has passed very quickly. It has certainly been my pleasure and privilege to join an extremely distinguished list of New Haven Bird Club ex-Presidents. Because of the contributions of Board members, trip leaders and many "behind the scenes" volunteers, the New Haven Bird Club continues to evolve and flourish. My thanks go out to all members who have made these past two years so enjoyable for me!

--Bill Batsford

Saturday, May 30, 8:00 am **Kellogg Environmental Center/ Osbornedale St. Park, Derby**

Wednesday, June 3, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park and Forest, Cornwall**

Saturday, June 6 and Sunday, June 7 **New Haven Summer Bird Count**

Saturday, June 6, 8:00 am **National Trails Day Hike at Naugatuck State Forest**

Saturday, June 13th, 8:30 am **Beginners' Bird Walk: Grassland and Shrubland Bird Tour**

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2014-2015

OFFICERS

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|
| <i>President</i> | Bill Batsford william.batsford@yale.edu | 203.787.1642 |
| <i>Vice President</i> | Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com | 203.230.1697 |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Andy Stack ctstacks@optonline.net | 203.397.0818 |
| <i>Secretary</i> | Paul Wolter pwolter6@earthlink.net | 860.681.5548 |

BOARD MEMBERS

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|--------------|
| <i>Conservation Chair</i> | Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com | 203.230.1697 |
| <i>Education Chair</i> | Winie Wirth wirthwitte@att.net | 203.859.2971 |
| <i>Hospitality Chair</i> | Stacy Hanks flybirdhanks@gmail.com | 203.283-3898 |
| <i>Indoor Programs</i> | Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com | 203.230.1697 |
| <i>Member-at-Large</i> | DeWitt Allen allendatlow@gmail.com | 860-949-0995 |
| <i>Member-at-Large</i> | Mike Horn mfhorn@att.net | 203.288.1891 |
| <i>Member-at-Large</i> | Andrea Kerin andrea@kerin.com | 203-331-6067 |
| <i>Membership Chair</i> | Mike Ferrari mike.ferrari@att.net | 203.435.5712 |
| <i>Newsletter Editor</i> | Donna Batsford donnabatsford@gmail.com | 203.787.1642 |
| <i>Nominating Chair</i> | Patrick Leahy ptjleahy@yahoo.com | 203.393.2427 |
| <i>Outdoor Programs</i> | Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net | 203.389.6508 |
| <i>Publicity Chair</i> | Larry Bausher lpbausher@comcast.net | 203.389.5918 |
| <i>Yearbook Chair</i> | Betty Zuraw bz4feathers@sbcglobal.net | 860.632.1156 |

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> | Mike Ferrari mike.ferrari@att.net | 203.435.5712 |
| <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>Summer Bird Count</i> | Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net | 203.393.0694 |
| <i>Web Master</i> | Patrick Leahy ptjleahy@yahoo.com | 203.393.2427 |
| <i>Winter Feeder Survey</i> | Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net | 203.288.0621 |

BIRDS IN WORDS

Join in on “Birds in Words,” NHBC’s gathering of people who like reading books on their favorite hobby. Since the group began, we’ve read 25 books on just about every aspect of birds, birding, and birders and had some lively discussions. Share in the fun. We meet at 7 pm at Whitney Center. For details, contact: Kris Johnson: kriswaxwing99@gmail.com, 203-288-3087.

The next meeting of the NHBC Book Group, Birds in Words will be on Tuesday, May 19, 7:00 pm, in the sixth floor conference room to discuss *North with the Spring* by Edwin Way Teale.

All members of the club are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there.

--Kris Johnson

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Thomas Charest Milford | Susan Clemens New Haven | John Robinson New Haven |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|

A Nest of One’s Own

You can now have an Osprey nest of your own...to monitor, that is. Since DDT was banned in 1972, our Connecticut Osprey population has slowly recovered from a low of eight nests in 1970 to over 414 nests and 150 fledged chicks in 2014, but they still need our help. New Haven Bird Club members can make a difference in the Ospreys’ fight for survival with several new hands-on projects for nest monitoring and platform repair:



Photo by Bill Batsford

- The CT Audubon Society, in conjunction with the CT DEEP, has started a citizen-scientist project called “Osprey Nation.” They are compiling an on-line Google Earth map of Osprey nest sites. You can report nest locations to osprey@ctaudubon.org, and check out nest sites near you at <http://www.ctaudubon.org/2015/03/osprey-nation/#sthash.xS93an6V.dpbs>
- With over 400 nests to monitor, Osprey Nation needs help to gather data about such things as number of chicks hatched/ successfully fledged, date of arrival in spring, etc. This is the perfect time to start. Choose a nest with a red pin on the online map, and sign up at osprey@ctaudubon.org. It’s easy! Just visit your nest about twice a month and report online or by snail-mail. Over 240 nests need monitors! Data will be reported to DEEP biologists.
- The Ct Audubon Society is also repairing old Osprey platforms, using platforms pre-made by the CT DEEP. If you see a platform in trouble around the state, report it to Osprey Nation!

--Winifred Wirth, Education Chair

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 another emergency may cancel a meeting. For cancellation notices, check the website www.newhavenbirdclub.org. Cancellation notices will also be posted online on ctbird. Meetings are at Whitney Center, Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. The facility is wheelchair accessible.

Directions to Whitney Center (WC):

From I-91 North or South: Take Exit 6 (Willow St.) in New Haven. At end of ramp go right onto Willow; proceed to the end (to Whitney Ave.). Turn right onto Whitney; go 1.6 mi. Turn left onto Putnam Ave. (Playwright Restaurant is on left).

On Putnam go approximately .7 mi, (3 traffic lights) and turn right onto Leeder Hill. Go .6 mi. on Leeder Hill to the South Entrance (big sign) of WC on the left. Turn in and take an immediate left into a raised parking area.

Meeting is in WC's South Bldg., 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.

From I-95 North or South: Exit to I-91 North in New Haven. Take Exit 6 (Willow St.). At end of ramp, turn right onto Willow and proceed as above.

From Wilbur Cross (Rte. 15) northbound: Take Exit 61 (Whitney Ave). Turn left at end of ramp, go 2.4 mi., turn right onto Putnam.

From Wilbur Cross (Rte. 15) southbound: Take Exit 61 (Whitney Ave. New Haven). At end of ramp go right. Proceed to Putnam.

Thursday, April 9 — Patrick Comins Ornithology and Meteorology

No one escapes the weather, least of all birds. Because they basically spend their entire lives outside, weather has a huge influence on their movements and migration. The more that birders understand about the impact of weather on birds, the more productive their birding decisions will be. From something as mundane as knowing to keep feeders full to invite birds during an impending snowstorm to the nearly endless possibilities that a land-falling tropical storm can bring, weather calls the shots. A forecast in autumn for a passing cold front? Watch for south-bound hawks and other migrants heading to their wintering grounds. A warm front that stalls over the coast on a spring morning? That could mean a fallout of warblers. Lakes to the north of us starting to freeze? Get ready for migrant or wintering waterfowl. These are just a few of the numerous kinds of birding scenarios Patrick will discuss as he explores the implications of weather patterns for birds—and for birders who want to use weather as a tool for better birding.

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 9 Meeting:

President – Craig Repasz
Vice President – DeWitt Allen
Treasurer – Andy Stack
Secretary – Mike Ferrari

Thursday, May 14 – Annual Banquet Wayne Petersen – Svalbard: An Arctic Naturalist's Paradise

The stunning Svalbard archipelago, belonging to Norway but a mere 600 miles from the Arctic Circle, is a naturalist's paradise offering a superabundance of seabirds and two iconic arctic mammals, Walrus and Polar Bear. You will be dazzled by Wayne Petersen's superb wildlife photos, including Northern Fulmar, Black-legged Kittiwake and Thick-billed Murre. Beyond spectacular scenery and wildlife, Svalbard is an excellent laboratory to study the Polar Bear, known to be at risk of extinction unless the current trend in global warming is reversed. Melting ice and rising ocean temperatures also may have a devastating impact on marine plankton and fish populations. Thus, not only the Polar Bear, but also avian inhabitants such as the mysterious Ivory Gull and tiny Dovekie as well as more abundant avian species such as Thick-billed Murre and Atlantic Puffin may be threatened. Wayne Petersen as Director of the Massachusetts Important Bird Areas (IPA) Program and co-editor of the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas 1 & 2 (2003, 2013) offers expert insight to the conservation crises locally and internationally. He received the American Birding Association's prestigious Ludlow Griscom Award for outstanding contributions in regional ornithology.

See the enclosed flyer or go to the NHBC website to sign up for the banquet.

BIRDERS' EXCHANGE

The New Haven Bird Club is collecting binoculars, scopes or Neotropical field guides that we will donate to the Birders' Exchange Program which is part of ABA. This organization donates all binoculars and other equipment to worthy individuals involved in crucial bird conservation projects and education work in Central and South America.

At each indoor meeting there will be a box on the sign-in table where you can place your equipment donation.

FIELD TRIPS / OUTDOOR EVENTS

The New Haven Bird Club does not charge trip or leader fees for its outdoor programs, but participants are responsible for the cost of their food, transportation, and entrance fees (where charged), unless prior arrangements are made by the Club. Carpooling is encouraged to avoid parking problems at some destinations and to promote conservation of our natural resources. All levels of birders are invited to all field trips, and every effort is made on all trips to help beginning birders. 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. You can check the Club's website www.newhavenbirdclub.org for trip information and watch for emails sent by the Club or contact trip leaders directly if you have questions about any of their trips.

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.

First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford Wednesday, April 1, 8:00 am

Join us on this early spring trip to one of the best local birding spots. We'll look out into the marsh and along the shore for waterfowl, shorebirds, waders, and raptors. Meet at the Coastal Center parking lot. Leader: Steven Spector. Contact person: Tina Green: 203-247-2660 or tina@renaissancestudios.com.

Lighthouse Point to the English Bird Sanctuary, Killingworth - The Richard English Memorial Field Trip Saturday, April 4, 8:30 am

Meet at the Lighthouse Point Park hawk watch parking lot and bird the harbor shore for gulls, loons, ducks, and shorebirds. We will then go to the Richard English Bird Sanctuary on Deer Lake in Killingworth, and finish our birding tour with a visit to Hammonasset State Park. This is an all-day trip; bring lunch and dress warmly. Leader: Mike Horn: 203-288-1891 or mhorn@att.net.

Beginners' Bird Walk at Little Pond, Litchfield Saturday, April 4th, 8:30 am

Every spring Rusty Blackbirds, a species recognized as globally vulnerable by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, use the grounds of the White Memorial Foundation IBA before moving on to their nesting areas. We will look for this and other species on a walk around Little Pond and enter our sightings into ebird.org to increase awareness about habitats used by this species during migration. 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. Park along South Lake Street at the south end of White Memorial. Please consider carpooling as parking is limited. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe: 203-630-9640 or cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org

East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance, New Haven Saturday, April 11, 8:00 am

Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot for a bird walk from 8 to 9:30 am. Then join Park Ranger Dan Barvir to help with light trail maintenance along the river until noon. Bring pruning shears and work gloves, if you have them. Leader: Dan Barvir: 203-946-6086.

Ansonia Nature Center, Ansonia Saturday, April 18, 8:00 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 on Deerfield Lane (off Benz Road.) in Ansonia. Leader, Maria Stockmal: 203-488-3876 or m.stockmal@snet.net.

President's Walk at Lake Chamberlain, Bethany Wednesday, April 22, 8:00 am

Join club 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, Eastern Phoebe, and Blue-headed Vireo. Bluebirds and Tree Swallows nest in birdhouses. Meet at the RWA parking lot, Sperry Road. Leader: Bill Batsford: 203-787-1642, william.batsford@yale.edu

East Rock Park with Ranger Dan, New Haven Saturday, May 2, 8:00 am

Join Ranger Dan Barvir at this premier site for warblers and other spring migrants. We will meet at the Rice Field (baseball field) end of East Rock Park on English Drive. Leader: Ranger Dan Barvir: 203-946-6086.

(Please read next entry associated with Dan's walk).

East Rock Park Garlic Mustard Pull Saturday, May 2 (following the Bird Walk with Ranger Dan)

Dan's bird walk will end around 11:30, and after a lunch break, we'll get to work pulling garlic mustard in a heavily infested area of the park. 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. The rampant growth can be daunting, but with many hands and an organized approach, we can help reclaim the park. Long pants and sleeves are recommended. Bring work gloves if you have them. After the bird walk, meet at the Eli Whitney Museum. Contact: Craig Repasz: 203-230-1697 or crepasz@hotmail.com

Bird Walk for Families at East Rock Park, New Haven
Saturday, May 2, 9:00 am

On this walk by the park's Mill River, children, accompanied by adults, will search for warblers and other spring migrants. Other interested adults are also welcome to join the walk in this famous spring birding site. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Leader: Florence McBride: 203-288-6777 or j.mcbride@yale.edu.

Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, Southbury
Sunday, May 3, 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. Take Exit 14 off Rte. 84. Go north on Rte. 172, then turn left onto East Flat Hill Rd. (church on corner). Continue to sanctuary entrance on left. The trip involves moderately strenuous hiking. Leader: Roy Harvey: 203-888-5757 or rmharvey@snet.net.

First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven
Wednesday, May 6, 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 the covered bridge near the Eli Whitney Museum. Leaders: Bill Batsford, Frank Mantlik, and John Oshlick. Contact person: Tina Green: 203-247-2660 or tina@renaissancestudios.com.

Big Day Marathon
Saturday, May 9, 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 at 6:00 or 7:30 am. Leader: to be determined. Consult the website or newsletter. John Oshlick: 203-584-1955 or john.oshlick@yahoo.com

Racebrook Tract, Orange and Woodbridge
Sunday, May 10, 7:30 am

Celebrate Mother's Day with us as we walk the trails at this former Regional Water Authority property in search of spring migrants and summer residents. There are extensive woods, riparian habitats, open fields and a powerline cut. Meet at the Tract parking lot on Racebrook Road (Route 114) just north of Derby Turnpike (Route 34). Leaders: Chris Loscalzo and Judy Moore. Contact person: Chris Loscalzo: 203-389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net

Check the NHBC website for cancellation of a program or field trip.

www.newhavenbirdclub.org

River Road, Kent
"Travels along a riparian woodland corridor"
Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 am

The New Haven Bird Club traveled to River Road in May 1991 and documented the first nesting of Yellow-throated Warbler in Connecticut. Subsequent NHBC trips to River Road have produced a nice variety of Northwestern Connecticut nesting species. We return this year to River Road at the peak of the spring migration. In his 1978 publication, 25 Birding Areas in Connecticut, Noble Proctor wrote, "It is readily apparent that on the right day this area can contend with any inland area for spectacular birding." The remarkable diversity of species to be found in this woodland bordering the Housatonic River includes ducks, herons, vultures, diurnal raptors, sandpipers, cuckoos, hummingbirds, kingfishers, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, wrens, gnatcatchers, thrushes, waxwings, wood-warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, and orioles. Many specialty breeders in northwestern Connecticut are seen here, including Acadian and Least Flycatchers, Yellow-throated and Blue-headed Vireos, Winter Wren, and Cerulean, Golden-winged (rare), and Worm-eating Warblers. We bird River Road by car odometer with territorial birds staked out beforehand. Prior to the trip, try to read Chapter 10: River Road, Kent in Connecticut Birding Guide (Devine & Smith. 1996). Bring your Sibley Guide to Trees if you have a copy. Meet at the Amity Shopping Center at 112 Amity Road, New Haven at 7:00 am. The carpool leaves no later than 7:15 am. Travel is by Routes 63, 67, and 7. We arrive in Kent at the old train station by 8:30 am. The train station is several hundred yards north of the intersection of Routes 7 & 341, on Route 7 (Main Street), the east side of the road. Leader: Steve Broker: 203.272.5192 (cell: 203.747.6843), ls.broker@cox.net.

Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck
Saturday, May 16, 7:00 am

Enjoy the peak of spring migration in this superb birding location where we'll search for both migrants and residents. The mixed hardwood forest is a great spot for Hooded and Worm-eating Warblers and many other species. Last year on this trip we saw many different warbler species including Bay-breasted, Hooded, Blackburnian, and Lawrence's. Meet at the commuter lot at Exit 25 off Rte. 8, Naugatuck. This is a moderately strenuous and long hike. Leader: Chris Loscalzo: 203-389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net

Nehantic State Forest and Hartman's Park, Lyme
Sunday, May 17, 6:30 am

Today we explore two prime birding locations in Lyme. Nehantic State Forest, a 1,200-acre woodland, is home to Hooded and Worm-eating Warblers and numerous other species. There are large ponds where we can find waterfowl, flycatchers and other species. Nearby Hartman's Park is known for its breeding population of Cerulean Warblers. Meet at 6:30 at the commuter lot at Exit 55 off I-95 in Branford or at 7:00 am at the Keeny Road entrance to Nehantic State Forest on Rte. 156, Lyme. Leaders: Bill Batsford and Chris Loscalzo. Contact person: Chris Loscalzo at 203-389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net

**Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington
Saturday, May 23, 7:00 am**

This will be our eleventh 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 management 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. Leaders: Bill Batsford and Chris Loscalzo. Contact person: Chris Loscalzo: 203-389-6508, closcalz@optonline.net

**West River Ravine, Bethany
Sunday, May 24, 7:00 am**

Come to look and listen for birds in a variety of habitats within a small area. We'll do a loop trail that includes a powerline right-of-way, a deep ravine, and the typical deciduous and coniferous forests between the two. There are steep areas going down and up the ravine so wear sturdy shoes. Meet at the Regional Water Authority recreation parking lot on the south side of Hatfield Hill Rd. This is on the section of Hatfield Hill Rd. between Rte. 69 and Downs Rd. Leader: John Triana: jtriana1@rwater.com.

**Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale St. Park, Derby
Saturday, May 30, 8:00 am**

Join us on a visit to this excellent birding location where we'll look for late spring migrants and early nesting species. The center and park have open fields, woods, ponds, and streams. Meet at the Kellogg Center parking lot, 500 Hawthorne Avenue. Leader: Maria Stockmal: 203-488-3876 or m.stockmal@snet.net.

**First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park and Forest, Cornwall
Wednesday, June 3, 8:00 am**

Greg, one of the best birders in the state, will lead the walk in this scenic and spacious forest in the northern part of the state. Nesting species here include Blue-headed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Canada Warbler and Black-throated Blue Warbler. Meet at the Park entrance on Rte. 4 in Cornwall, four miles west of Goshen. Leader: Greg Hanisek. Contact: Tina Green: 203-247-2660 or tina@renaissancestudios.com

**New Haven Summer Bird Count
Saturday, June 6 and Sunday, June 7, 2015**

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: 203-393-0694 or rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net

**National Trails Day Hike at Naugatuck State Forest
Saturday, June 6, 8:00 am**

National Trails Day is celebrated across the country with hikes, trail work, and naturalist events. NHBC will commemorate the day with a birding hike on the oldest hiking trail in CT, the Quin-

nipiac Trail. We'll leave from the Downes Road parking area entrance of Naugatuck SP and go through the mountain laurel, beech, birch, hickory and oak forest; then up and over Mt. Sanford, at an elevation of 890 feet, for beautiful views to the east. Possible birds to be seen are Veery, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, hawks, and warblers. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, and bring water and trail snacks. The hiking is a bit strenuous. Leader: Craig Repasz: 203-230-1697 or crepasz@hotmail.com.

**Beginners' Bird Walk: Grassland and Shrubland Bird Tour
Saturday, June 13th, 8:30 am**

On this trip we will look for grassland and shrubland birds, including Bobolink, American Kestrel, Blue-winged Warbler, and Indigo Bunting. Grasslands and shrublands are uncommon in CT so it is a treat to see and hear species associated with these habitats. We will meet at the Bent of the River Important Bird Area, then carpool to Good Hill Farm IBA, stop at Southbury Training School and return to the Bent to explore that Audubon Sanctuary. This walk is geared to beginners, but families and all levels of birders are welcome. More advanced birders will enjoy a great day out but will also provide support and inspiration to the new-comers. The Bent is at 185 East Flat Hill Rd., Southbury. Meet in the parking lot at the entrance. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe: 203-630-9640 or cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org

Hammonasset Beach State Park Trip Report

On Sunday, February 1, Paul Wolter led a group of 12 birders in Hammonasset Beach State Park. This trip was rescheduled from Saturday, January 31 because of weather. Species seen: Brant, Canada Goose, American Black Duck, Mallard, Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Dunlin, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon), Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Black-capped Chickadee, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, American Tree Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch.



Photo by Mike Ferrari

First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park Trip Report

Greg Hanisek led the walk at Hammonasset Beach State Park on February 4th attended by ten enthusiastic birders. The deep snow cover was a challenge, and we had to work hard for the 38 species seen by most of the group. We managed to find 12 waterfowl species on open fresh water and a relatively calm Long Island Sound. The highlights included nice views of two Fox Sparrows near the nature center and two Bald Eagles, one of which flew right over our heads in the campground area of the park. Species seen: Canada Goose, American Black Duck, Mallard, American Black Duck x Mallard (hybrid), Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Dunlin, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, gull sp., Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Horned Lark, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, American Tree Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, House Finch.

Thanks to those who attended and to our leader, Greg Hanisek!
--Tina Green

Rhode Island Coast Field Trip Report

Five brave club members ventured to the RI coast on this cold and wintry Saturday, February 14, despite the threat of an approaching storm. Confident that there'd be time for some good birding before the snow began to fall, we met at the commuter lot in Branford at 7 am and headed northeast. We were not disappointed. We saw lots of great birds.

Our first stop was at Seaside Drive in Jamestown. A drake Barrow's Goldeneye had been seen there several times earlier this winter. When we arrived, we were discouraged to find much of the bay frozen over. However, after a short search, we found the Barrow's Goldeneye in a small patch of open water. He was a handsome bird, with distinctive markings. We also saw Surf Scoter at this location. Our next stop was at Beavertail State Park. Here, we were treated to excellent views of Common Eider, Black Scoter, and Harlequin Duck, all feeding and floating in the water close to shore. We also saw Brant, Great Cormorant, Long-tailed Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Bufflehead, Red-throated and Common Loon, Horned Grebe, and Purple Sandpiper here. We made a good study of an adult Iceland Gull that has been wintering at the park and compared and contrasted it with the nearby Herring Gulls. We were pleased to see two Killdeer on the beach as we drove north away from the park on the way to our next destination.

Given the forecast, we elected to head west along the coast next, rather than go further from home by going to Sachuest Point. We probably missed out on seeing a Snowy Owl by doing so, but we ensured that we would get back to CT before the blizzard hit. So, we drove west, stopping on Cards Pond Road on our way to Moonstone Beach. The road has several farm fields and

is a good place to see grassland species and sparrows. We saw a Snow Bunting in a flock of Horned Lark along the road and some of us got to see a coyote run across the road, too. We didn't stay long at Moonstone Beach, but we did see a Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, and Red-shouldered Hawk flying over the marsh while we were there. Our next stop was the nature center at Trustum Pond NWR. Uncommon species seen there included a male Purple Finch, a male Eastern Towhee, and a flyover Black Vulture.

A visit to Ninigret NWR led to our seeing the Lesser Black-backed Gull there. Presumably, this is the same individual that has been there for the past several winters. Much of the bay was frozen over there, but the small amount of open water was full of waterfowl, mostly Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, and Bufflehead. There were Greater Scaup and American Wigeon, and a few other species as well.

Our last stop was the best and most surprising. We visited Weekapaug Ponds and Canal and the nearby farm on Noyes Neck Road. Once again, there was limited open water, but the waterfowl were concentrated into a small area, making for some exciting viewing. We were delighted to see eight (!) Redhead duck at this location, as well as a drake Eurasian Wigeon. There was also a pair of Northern Pintail, a female Common Merganser in the pond, and a Snow Goose that flew in briefly to join the Canada Goose flock there. At the farm, there was a huge grain pile that was partially uncovered and was mobbed by hundreds of birds desperate for food, given the snow covered fields and frozen waters. We saw hundreds of geese and ducks there, including the Snow Goose, five Northern Pintail, and American Black Ducks. There was also a huge flock of Horned Larks there. It took a while, but we eventually found some rarities in that flock, namely a Lapland Longspur and an American Pipit. The number and variety of birds seen at this grain pile was truly astounding.

So, on a trip where we didn't see alcids or owls, we had a great time and saw lots of great birds. We saw a total of approximately 70 species on this cold and threatening day.

--Chris Loscalzo

Gull and Gannet Frenzy Trip Report

Frank Mantlik led 13 other birders on the NHBC Gull and Gannet Frenzy on Saturday, March 28. A cold, windy, snowy wintry-like day, despite the calendar saying it's Spring. The temp was 32°F, wind from NNW @ 15-20 mph, and steady snowfall, with 1" accumulation on grassy surfaces. The group met at Lordship Seawall, then visited Long Beach, Stratford Point, and Short Beach. There were decent numbers of usual gull species, a nice variety of waterfowl, and a few surprise land birds. We identified 40 bird species. Highlights were: nineteen species of waterfowl, including all three Scoter species, Northern Shoveler (pair), Northern Pintail (pair), plus Bonaparte's Gulls, Tree Swallows, Snow Bunting, and Eastern Meadowlark (2).

You can view the complete eBird list at:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S22557995>

--Frank Mantlik

End of Week 15 Winter Feeder Report

We have finished the 15th week of the survey, and we now have Pine Siskins (Dean Rupp and Carol Goertz) and Common Redpolls (Carol Goertz). Boy! What a 5 weeks! Snow every week-end and real cold below freezing temperatures. I'm surprised that any birds survived. We had many surveyors reporting not seeing species that were present weeks before. I hope they got smart and headed south. Quite a few surveyors had double digit numbers for American Goldfinch which we historically have not seen. Also quite a few reported seeing raptors near or at their feeders and the taking of various species by them.

We had 34 of the 34 Common Species show up for a score of 100%.

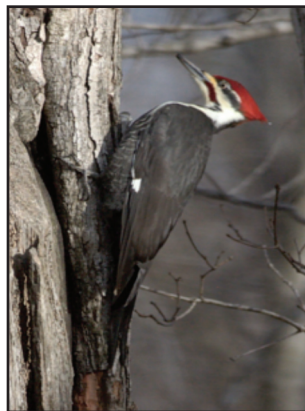
There were no new species added to the Uncommon List and we had 11 of 32 during this five week period for 35%. Species seen were American Tree Sparrow (Bev Proppen, Dean Rupp, Edward Sprowson), Broad-wing Hawk (Edward Sprowson), Brown Creeper (Bev Proppen, Dean Rupp), Common Redpoll (Carol Goertz), Monk Parakeet (Carol Dunn), Pileated Woodpecker (Dean Rupp), Pine Siskin (Carol Goertz, Dean Rupp), Raven (Dean Rupp), Red-breasted Nuthatch (Edward Sprowson), Red-shouldered Hawk (Carol Goertz, Amy Hopkins, Dean Rupp), Turkey Vulture (Edward Sprowson), Winter Wren (Andy Verderame).

No waterfowl were seen during these five weeks since most of the rivers, ponds and lakes were frozen.

8 of 23 animals were seen during these five weeks for a 39% sighting. They were Gray Squirrel, Black Squirrel, Feral Cat, Mole, Opossum, Rabbit, Red Fox, Red Squirrel, and White-tailed Deer.

The graphs of 5 Species are included for weeks one to fifteen. American Goldfinch has spiked during these five weeks, Black-capped Chickadee is about average, Common Grackle are non-existent with only 1 sighting during these five weeks, Dark-eyed Juncos are spiking, and White-throated Sparrows are about average.

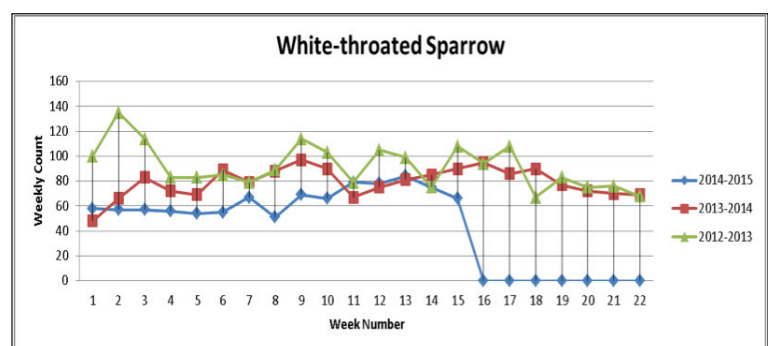
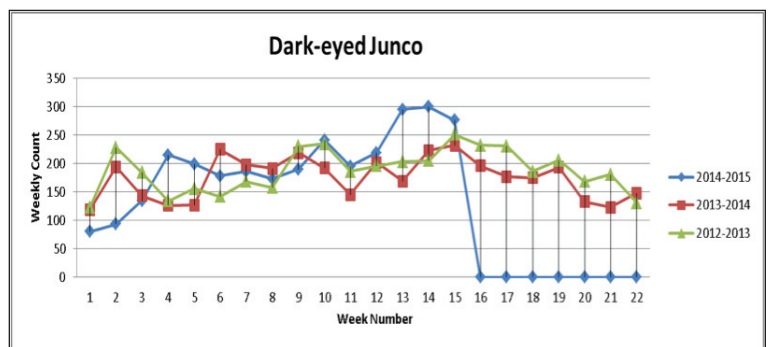
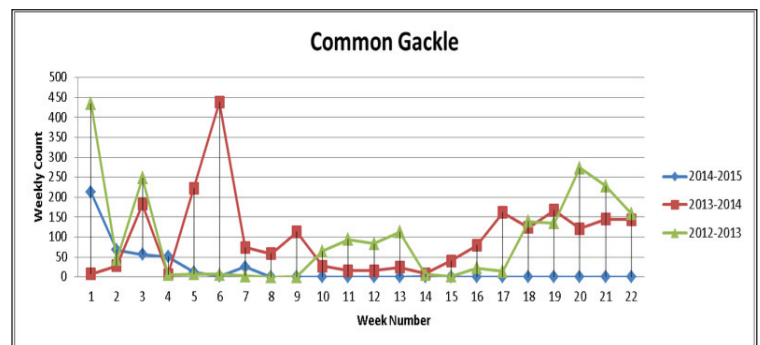
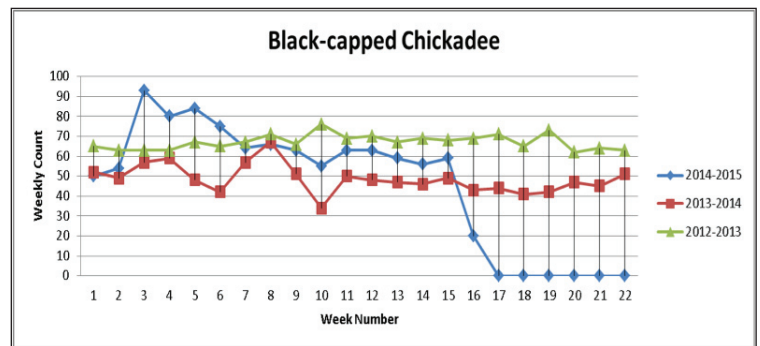
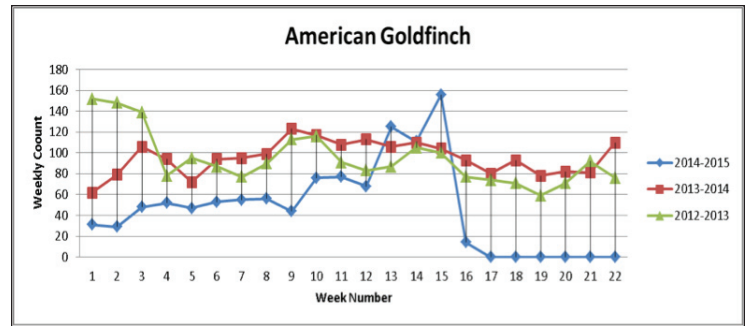
Dean Rupp sent this photo of a Pileated Woodpecker in his yard at the end of January.



Some of the graphs are showing counts for week 16 and this is due to the postal surveyors report form had weeks 10 to 16 on it rather than 10 to 15 and I posted it to the spreadsheet which automatically adds it to the graphs.

--Pete Vitali

Chairman: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey





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

Newsletter April 2015

The date on address labels is your membership expiration date.

NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip +4 _____

Phone _____

Email _____

(Please print clearly in block letters)

Dues:

_____ Individual - \$15

_____ Couple/Family - \$20 # of family members _____

_____ Supporting - \$50 # of family members _____

_____ Student under 18 - Free

_____ Life Membership: A one-time payment of \$300
for 1 or 2 people at same address.

_____ Additional gift to support the NHBC \$ _____

_____ I would like to volunteer to help the club.

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

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 also for the following 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 your employer 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 preference, or national origin.

If your address, phone or email change, please send that information to the Club address given on the form to the left or contact the Membership Chair, Mike Ferrari: mike.ferrari@att.net or 203.435.5712.

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

The New Haven Bird Club is now on Facebook. So log onto facebook and like the page "New Haven Bird Club." You can post your photos, see other photos, participate in a discussion and check out the upcoming events.

CTBirds is an open discussion email list to discuss birds and birding in the state. To Subscribe, go to:
http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds_lists.ctbirding.org

The CTDailyReport list is used to distribute summaries of rare and uncommon bird sightings. To Subscribe, go to:
http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctdailyreport_lists.ctbirding.org

NHBC website: www.newhavenbirdclub.org



New Haven Bird Club Annual Banquet

Thursday, May 14, 2015



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

Cocktails 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Dinner and Program 7:00 – 10:00 PM

The dinner is \$35/person for members and \$40/person for nonmembers with a cash bar.

Don't forget to bring money for the raffle.

Dinner Options: Chicken Florentine - sautéed boneless chicken served with a sauce of lemon and white wine over a bed of spinach

Beef Tenderloin - grilled and served with a brown sauce

Vegetarian by Request

“Svalbard: An Arctic Naturalist's Paradise”

Wayne Petersen



The stunning Svalbard archipelago, belonging to Norway but a mere 600 miles from the Arctic Circle, is a naturalist's paradise offering a superabundance of seabirds and two iconic arctic mammals, Walrus and Polar Bear. You will be dazzled by Wayne Petersen's superb wildlife photos, including Northern Fulmar, Black-legged Kittiwake and Thick-billed Murre. Beyond spectacular scenery and wildlife, Svalbard is an excellent laboratory to study the Polar Bear, known to be at risk of extinction unless the current trend in global warming is reversed. Melting ice and rising ocean temperatures also may have a devastating impact on marine plankton and fish populations. Thus, not only the Polar Bear, but also avian inhabitants such as the mysterious Ivory Gull and tiny Dovekie as well as more abundant avian species such as Thick-billed Murre and Atlantic Puffin may be threatened.

Wayne Petersen as Director of the Massachusetts Important Bird Areas (IPA) Program and co-editor of the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas 1 & 2 (2003,2013) offers expert insight to the conservation crises locally and internationally. His lengthy list of writing contributions, membership on advisory committees to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species, the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and other organizations contributed to his receiving the American Birding Association's prestigious Ludlow Griscom Award for outstanding contributions in regional ornithology.

Reserve on the website www.newhavenbirdclub.org or mail the form below.

New Haven Bird Club Annual Banquet — Thursday, May 14, 2015

The deadline for reservations is May 1, 2015. No tickets will be sold at the door.

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

DINNER SELECTION: (Mark 1 for each person)

Beef _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____

Beef _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____

Beef _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____

of Persons _____ X \$35.00 (members) = Due \$ _____

of Persons _____ X \$40.00 (nonmembers) = Due \$ _____

Total Due _____

Please mail your Main Course choice plus your name and address with a check made out to NHBC in the full amount to:
NHBC Banquet, C/O Henrietta Lachman, 5 Apple Tree Lane, Norwalk, CT 06850 - 203-846-4754, lachmanr@optonline.net