



# THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

August 2016

## 2016 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Tuesday, August 9, 6:00 PM **Stratford Point** - note **TUESDAY EVENING** walk

Saturday, August 20, 8:00 AM **Lighthouse Point Park Bird Walk/ Prep for Migration Festival**

Wednesday, August 31, 7:00 AM **Bird Count – Hawk Watch, Lighthouse Park, New Haven; Daily September to December**

Thursday, September 1, 8:00 AM **First THURSDAY Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**

Thursday, September 8, 7:00 PM **Lesley Roy - The Beautiful Art of Birding**

Friday, September 16, 8:00 PM **Owl Prowl at Lake Saltonstall – Friday evening**

Saturday, September 17, 9:00 AM **Conservation Project – Litter Cleanup: Sandy Point IBA Bird Sanctuary**

Sunday, September 18, 8:00 AM **Annual Migration Festival, Lighthouse Point Park**

Monday, September 19, 7:30 AM **Yale University Golf Course**

Saturday, October 1, 7:30 AM **Kellogg Environmental Center/ Osbornedale St. Park**

Wednesday, October 5, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven**

Saturday-Sunday, October 8-9 **THE BIG SIT! ®**

Thursday, October 13, 7:00 PM **Corey O'Hern - Strength of Bird Nests**

Saturday, October 15, 8:00 AM **Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Saturday, October 22, 7:30 AM **Branford Supply Ponds, Branford**

## BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

The website is organized to provide a comprehensive listing of our activities as well as useful resources for new and experienced birders in Connecticut.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We have two methods of birding. We are either standing still or we are moving. Sometimes both.

There is nothing better than a stationary bird event. We stand or sit in a circle or a blind either by ourselves or with fellow birders. Birds, jokes, stories and snacks abound. This is the approach we take for our Hawk Watch, Big Sit, and Backyard Bird Count. Birding requires a

good lawn chair. Good times.

But on the other hand, there is nothing better than birding on the move. Slowly and deliberately we move through a meadow or a forest, freezing in our tracks if we hear a note or see a flash. Many of our field trips, as well as the Christmas Bird Count, follow this format. Birding requires sensible shoes. Good times.

Then there is the hybrid approach. Who has not carried a scope over beaches and dunes to then stand motionless deliberating over peeps? I, personally, like to backpack for miles so I can stand perfectly still for 20 minutes at a time listening for Boreal Chickadee and Bicknell's Thrush.

Whatever the bird, whatever the habitat, we adapt. Likewise, our club mission of conservation and education requires different approaches. The NHBC mission statement is straight-forward but, like a true mission statement, does not describe how we will go about it.

*...to make available to members and the general public more opportunities for recreation and education in bird watching. The NHBC is dedicated to the conservation of natural resources in New Haven and surrounding areas.*

We can either wait for education and conservation activities to come to us, and they do, or we go looking for them...or we create them.

We are having a busy summer as some opportunities have come our way. NHBC was invited, along with Senator Blumenthal, to a ceremony dedicating New Haven as an Urban Bird Treaty City. We also attended the dedication of West River Memorial & Edgewood Park IBA and led some bird walks for the general public.

One big event was our own creation. We presented a donation to fund student workers from New Haven's Common Ground High School to support their work on projects creating urban oases throughout New Haven. This Urban Oasis initiative will create

(Continued on next page)

## NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2016-2017

### OFFICERS

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<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Bill Batsford	203.787.1642
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<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Peter Vitali	203.288.0621
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<i>Webmaster</i>	Patrick Leahy	203.393.2427
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### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	John Triana	203.758.7203
	jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	
<i>Birds in Words</i>	Kris Johnson	203.288.3087
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<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo	203.389.6508
	closealz@optonline.net	
<i>Email List</i>	DeWitt Allen	860.949.0995
	allendatlow@gmail.com	
<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo	203.393.0694
<i>Lighthouse Point</i>	rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	
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<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo	203.393.0694
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### *(President's Message Continued from first page)*

more bird habitat in New Haven, a vision that we share. This is our backyard.

Attending these events gave me an opportunity to talk with many people from other conservation-based organizations: Menunkatuk Audubon Society, Connecticut Audubon, Audubon Connecticut, New Haven Land Trust, Yale's Urban Resource Initiative, US Fish and Game, New Haven Parks Department and Friends Organizations for Edgewood Park and Beaver Pond Park. These organizations are partners of the Urban Oasis Initiative in New Haven with large supporting roles. They are very welcoming and would love to have the New Haven Bird Club as a partner. Good times ahead.

These Urban Oasis partners bring a lot to the initiative: muscle, work, communication skills, land management expertise, to name a few. They would love to harness our bird expertise and our passion to embrace new comers and show them the birds. We have a lot to offer.

We are, first and foremost, a bird club and we go birding. As individuals we could get involved as we choose with any organization to support clean-ups, habitat restoration and trail building. On the other hand, we as a club know that without habitat there are no birds. We can easily join forces with the Urban Oasis partners and support these efforts in our backyard with our expertise and organizational skills. Success of the Urban Oasis efforts will bring an abundance of birds and we can be in a position to point that out.

The NHBC Executive Board will take a deep dive into the way we will interact and support conservation and education opportunities in our area. Under what circumstances will we make donations? Who in the club is willing to lead bird walks or give presentations? Should we organize work parties when needed? I would love to hear everyone's thoughts on this.

These great conservation and education opportunities have found us like Tree Sparrows flying into our Big Sit circle. Now it is time to move.

--Craig Repasz

## FROM THE BOARD

The next board meeting is Thursday, August 25 at 6:45 pm at the Whitney Center.

The deadline for submissions to the October *Chickadee* is September 23. Send to Donna Batsford: donnabatsford@gmail.com

If you take pictures of NHBC events or on NHBC trips, please consider sending one to the newsletter to be included with the report. Send them to Donna Batsford at donnabatsford@gmail.com

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Patricia Cullen  
Shelton

Tina Guo  
Lakeville

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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), <http://www.ctbirding.org/calendar.htm>. 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-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.

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.

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.

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### **Thursday, September 8 - Lesley Roy The Beautiful Art of Birding**

Artist, photographer, entrepreneur, and Commissioner of Arts, Culture and Tourism for the City of New Haven, Lesley Roy will present a beautiful visual story of birds. She'll share images of her bird artwork and local and migrant birds, compiled from the book *Soaring in New Haven* and from birding trips to Central and South America. She'll tell the amazing story of growing up in Bethany and loving nature so much she vocally invited a wild Raven out of a neighbor's tree and it actually flew down and landed on her outstretched arm. Her mother ran out of the house and took a photo that is as remarkable as the experience and has served as an auspicious guidepost ever since. At first learning about local birds, then traveling to other parts of the world, Lesley would return home and paint those birds with an eye toward habitat loss and the global economic strains put on the wildlife. Her art has always subtly asked the question: What place will birds hold in the future? In addition to her extraordinary bird and nature photos, Lesley will include a sampling of how bird images impact and inform her creative process.

#### **Bird Book Tag Sale to Be Held 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 or no longer need. Bring them to the September or October meeting. Proceeds from the sale go to the NHBC Conservation Fund.

### **Thursday, October 13 - Corey O'Hern Strength of Bird Nests**

Recently, in collaboration with Prof. Eric Brown from the Department of Mechanical Engineering & Materials Science at Yale and Prof. Rick Prum from the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at Yale, Corey O'Hern has begun investigating the mechanical and structural properties of bird nests. This work was featured in Episode 1 (The Nest) of the PBS Nature documentary, "Animal Homes," which aired on April 8, 2015. Tonight he'll describe preliminary studies aimed at characterizing the structural and mechanical properties of several bird nests from the Yale Peabody Museum nest collection. These studies have intrinsic intellectual value as well as technological importance for the design of novel materials with large strength to weight ratios. To date, there have been few quantitative analyses of the physical or mechanical properties of bird nests. He will describe measurements of size, shape, and more for several nests by deconstructing the nests one component at a time. For other nests, he will describe x-ray micro-computed tomography studies done to understand the structure and strength. Who better to tell us what amazing creations those nests are than Dr. O'Hern, Associate Professor with Tenure in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science at Yale University with secondary appointments in Applied Physics, Physics, and the Graduate Program in Computational Biology & Bioinformatics!

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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. Since the group began in 2009, we've read more than 32 books on just about every aspect of birds, birding, birders, and nature and had some lively meetings. 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 Rarest Bird in the World*, *The Search for the Nechisar Nightjar* by Vernon R. L. Head and *Autumn Across America* by Edwin Way Teale on Tuesday, September 20, 7-9 at Whitney Center in the 6th floor conference room. Hope to see you there.

--Kris Johnson

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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. You can also check the Club's website: <[www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://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. 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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### **Stratford Point - note *TUESDAY EVENING* walk Tuesday, August 9, 6:00 PM**

On our walk of this "Globally Important Bird Area," we will focus on shorebirds, such as the Semipalmated Sandpiper, that use the Mouth of the Housatonic River to rest and refuel during migration. Participants will also learn about threats to shorebirds as well as strategies for protecting them. 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 1207 Prospect Drive, Stratford. Go through the gate on the left hand side of the road and park near the largest building. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, [cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org](mailto:cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org), 203-630-9640 (preferred number), 203-233-0535 (cell-just morning of trip)

### **Lighthouse Point Park Bird Walk / Prep for Migration Festival Saturday, August 20, 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, 2 Lighthouse Rd., New Haven. Leader: Dan Barvir, [dbarvir@newhavenct.net](mailto:dbarvir@newhavenct.net), c.203-946-6086

### **Bird Count – Hawk Watch, Lighthouse Park, New Haven; Daily September to December Wednesday, August 31, 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 7:00 am and continues as long as the hawks keep flying. Stop by anytime. Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, 2 Lighthouse Rd., New Haven. Coordinator: Steve Mayo, [rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net), c.203-393-0694

### **First THURSDAY Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford Thursday, September 1, 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 Coastal Center, 1 Milford Point Rd, Milford. Leader: Stephen Spector, [charsjs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:charsjs@sbcglobal.net), h.203-876-7461, c.203-928-8089

### **Owl Prowl at Lake Saltonstall – Friday evening Friday, September 16, 8:00 PM**

Join us in a search for owls at Lake Saltonstall. We will be walking a short distance. Wear good shoes and bring a flashlight. Meet at the hikers parking lot at 400 Hosley Ave. in Branford. The parking lot is about 1/4 mile west from the intersection of Hosley Ave. and Brushy Plains Rd. Leader: John Triana, [jtriana1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtriana1@sbcglobal.net), h.203-758-7203

### **Conservation Project – Litter Cleanup: Sandy Point IBA Bird Sanctuary Saturday, September 17, 9:00 AM**

Join a critical conservation effort: Help remove trash from an Important Bird Area as part of the Ocean Conservancy's "International Coastal Cleanup." A clean site prevents predators, attracted by food litter, from becoming accustomed to visiting Sandy Point, one of the prime sites in CT for Piping Plovers and other beach-nesting bird species. Plus: Our data will help scientists fight ocean litter! Bring work gloves, sunscreen, and water. Meet at Morse Park parking lot, 183 Beach St., West Haven. Leader: Craig Repasz, [crepasz@hotmail.com](mailto:crepasz@hotmail.com), h.203-230-1697, c.203-745-6683

### **Annual Migration Festival, Lighthouse Point Park Sunday, September 18, 8:00 AM**

This festive event is sponsored by the New Haven Parks Dept., NHBC, and other fine organizations. There will be hawk watching; bird banding and live raptor demos; bird walks; and more. Chris Loscalzo will lead an 8:00 am walk, Mike Horn will lead one at 9:30 and Flo McBride will lead a kids' walk at 9:30. Meet at 2 Lighthouse Rd., New Haven. Leader: Ranger Dan Barvir, [dbarvir@newhavenct.net](mailto:dbarvir@newhavenct.net), c.203-946-6086

### **Yale University Golf Course Monday, September 19, 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

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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 clubhouse parking lot. The course entrance is at the end of Conrad Dr. which can be reached via Rt. 243 (Fountain St.) or Rt. 122 (Forest Rd.). Leader: Bill Batsford, [william.batsford@yale.edu](mailto:william.batsford@yale.edu), h.203-787-1642, c.203-494-4325

**Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale St. Park  
Saturday, October 1, 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 500 Hawthorne Ave., Derby. Maria Stockmal, [m.stockmal@snet.net](mailto:m.stockmal@snet.net), c.203-305-3728

**First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven  
Wednesday, October 5, 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 site inside the park, 2 Lighthouse Rd., New Haven. Leader: Frank Mantlik, [mantlik@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mantlik@sbcglobal.net), c.203-984-9410

**THE BIG SIT! ®  
Saturday-Sunday, October 8-9**

THE BIG SIT!®, established by the NHBC, has become an international event, with birders from all over the world participating in it. 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)). We meet at various points. Contact: John Triana, [jtriana1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtriana1@sbcglobal.net), h.203-758-7203

**Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison  
Saturday, October 15, 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 at the park exterior at the new parking lot on the Post Rd. 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. Leader: Flo McBride, [fmcb\\_warbler@yahoo.com](mailto:fmcb_warbler@yahoo.com), h.203-288-6777

**NHBC website: [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)**

**Branford Supply Ponds, Branford  
Saturday, October 22, 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 Supply Ponds parking lot, Chestnut Street, off Rt. 1. Leader: Maria Stockmal, [m.stockmal@snet.net](mailto:m.stockmal@snet.net), h.203-305-3728

**FIELD TRIP REPORTS**

**National Trails Day Hike: Naugatuck State Forest/ Quin-nipiac Trail - June 4**

We had a good-sized group of 14 hikers/birders. There were four members of the NHBC, four Boy Scouts with their leader and five people from the CT Hiking community.

Because of the thick canopy we knew that we would hear more birds than we would see. We started out at 9:30 after introductions, sign in and a brief talk. We moved along at a comfortable pace and would stop to listen and discuss the birds we were hearing.

We had good views of a few birds: Eastern Phoebe, Scarlet Tanager, and Chestnut sided Warbler as well as Turkey Vultures soaring over our heads while we were on Mount Sanford.

Birds we heard: Eastern Wood PeeWee, Red Eyed Vireo, Blue Headed Vireo, Veery, Wood Thrush, Hooded Warbler, Worm Eating Warbler, Oven Bird and Towhees.

It was a good sampling of Connecticut's birds in the late spring. By focusing on birdsong the hikers developed a deeper appreciation for the birds that serenade them on the trails. We finished by 11:30 after 3.3 miles and an elevation gain to 890 feet.

--Craig Repasz

**Whip-poor-will walk at Naugatuck State Forest – June 17**

It was a successful night finding at least 3 but possibly 4 Whip-poor-wills at the end of Hunter's Mountain Road in Naugatuck SF tonight. Several people also had brief views of their eye shine and one was calling as close as 10-20 feet away. We also had one American Woodcock seen and one coyote howling.

--Jack Swatt

**Cape Cod - June 9-13  
Trip Leader: Steve Broker**

Thirteen members of NHBC traveled to Outer Cape Cod, Massachusetts for 3-5 days of birding in the towns of Eastham,



*Photo by Amanda Kallenbach*

Wellfleet, Truro, and Provincetown. Our home base was the Broker cottage, "At Long Last", on Long Pond Road in Wellfleet. Some of us arrived at the Cape on Thursday, others on Friday. Departures were on Sunday or Monday morning. Lodging was arranged for

Wellfleet motels or a bed-and-breakfast, a Provincetown family cottage, and “At Long Last”. All our meals were prepared by Steve’s nephew, Aaron Finale, and his girlfriend, Samantha. The pattern was an early morning birding trip, followed by hearty breakfast and packing lunch from a cold cuts/sandwich spread, a series of late morning and afternoon stops, return to the house for bountiful dinner, and some evening birding seeking nocturnal species. Rest periods through the day were determined by overall energy levels.

Our approach to the birding was to sample representative Cape habitats rather than to chase recently posted rarities. This enabled the introduction of a number of excellent birding sites that were unfamiliar to those who had prior Cape Cod birding experience. On Friday, June 10 we visited High Head/Pilgrim Heights in North Truro, Fort Hill and Hemenway Landing, and Cape Cod National Seashore Visitor Center in Eastham, Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Center (Massachusetts Audubon Society), and the Marconi Station in Wellfleet, and evening stops at Herring River Estuary and Old County Road in South Truro (for Eastern Whip-poor-will). Saturday morning was devoted to canoeing on Wellf-



*Clapper Rail seen by all from canoes at the Herring River, Wellfleet*  
Photo by Steve Broker

leet’s Herring River in search of marsh birds. Late morning and afternoon stops were at the Beech Forest, Province Lands Visitor Center, Race Point Beach, and Herring Cove Beach in Provincetown. An evening drive to Bound Brook Island (Atwood-Higgins House) was our attempt to hear owls. Sunday began with a stop at Head-of-the-Meadow Beach in Truro, with a later morning walk to glacially formed kettle ponds in Wellfleet. Additional stops were at the dwarf oak-pitch pine forest bordering Ocean View Drive and the cliff tops facing the Atlantic Ocean (Wellfleet), Ballston Beach/Pamet River in Truro, and the Highland Light (Cape Cod Light) also in Truro. Those who remained until Monday morning visited Hatches Harbor and Macmillan Wharf in Provincetown. In all, we experienced 21 different sites.



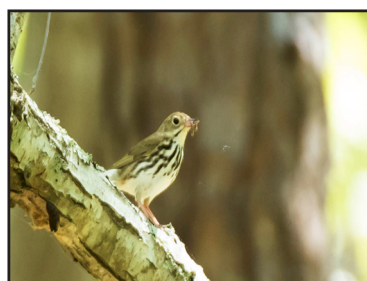
Photo by Amanda Kallenbach

Species observed (80 species total): Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Mallard, Common Eider, White-winged Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Wild Turkey, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Cory’s Shearwater, Great Shearwater, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Clapper Rail, Virginia Rail, Piping Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Bonaparte’s Gull, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great

Black-backed Gull, Least Tern, Common Tern, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Marsh Wren, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Saltmarsh Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song



*Red-breasted Nuthatch*  
Photo by Bill Batsford



*Ovenbird*  
Photo by Bill Batsford

Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Baltimore Oriole, American Goldfinch. All 21 trip reports are posted on eBird, many with accompanying photos by trip photographer Bill Batsford.

--Steve Broker

## West River Memorial and Edgewood Parks are designated as an IBA.

June 11, 2011 at the Barnard Nature Center at West River Memorial Park 200 Derby Ave in New Haven a ceremony was held to dedicate West River Memorial and Edgewood Parks as an Important Bird Area. The ceremony included speeches by Audubon Connecticut representatives, Senator Blumenthal, Mayor Toni Harp and local state representatives. A statement by Senator Chris Murphy was also read.

West River Memorial Park and Edgewood Park have been identified as an IBA for Rusty Blackbirds, a species considered globally vulnerable. Most winters, as many as 120 Rusty Blackbirds are reported at the north end of Edgewood Park using the park’s wooded wetlands to forage and also roost in the evenings. Even more, these parks also provide valuable stopover habitat for many migrating birds, with 157 bird species observed in the park including a pair of nesting Bald Eagles!

Although there were rainy conditions the event hosted canoeing, bird banding, bird walks led by Mike Horn, and Osprey Nest viewing,

--Craig Repasz

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## Making a Difference for the Birds

If you could do something significant to help migratory songbirds, you'd do it, wouldn't you?

We all know that habitat for migrating songbirds is declining in their wintering lands. But rather than shaking our heads and muttering about the vanishing rainforest, we can take action.

Most of us drink coffee; some of us drink a lot of it. The kind of coffee you buy can make a big difference for the birds. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Bird Friendly is the gold standard of coffee certifications. They encourage all coffee-drinking bird watchers to use Bird Friendly coffee.

Bird Friendly coffee is certified according to standards set by scientists at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and to earn the certification, coffee farms must meet rigorous standards for dense forest shade cover, multiple layers of forest structure, and the presence of epiphytes, which are indicators of forest plant and insect diversity. The Bird Friendly stamp is a triple certification because it also meets organic and fair-trade requirements.

*What about Organic, Fair-Trade, and Rainforest Alliance certifications? What about "Shade-Grown"?*



*Organic:* Certified organic coffee, as with other organic crops, is grown without most synthetic pesticides and fertilizers but there are no criteria for shade cover.

*Fair-Trade:* Inspired by humanitarian social concerns, this label ensures that the workers on coffee farms get paid fairly for the work they do. However, it does not indicate that any environmentally friendly practices are followed.

*Rainforest Alliance:* This certification requires alternatives to chemical and pesticide use but stops short of organic certification. It also requires erosion control, restricted water use, and ecosystem management efforts. There are some shade-cover requirements but they are not as demanding as Bird Friendly and there is no guarantee their coffee farms meet the wintering needs of migratory songbirds.

*Shade-Grown:* This label often appears on specialty coffees but this designation is not regulated and doesn't say much about the growing conditions at the farm. This is primarily a marketing buzzword as this type of coffee can be grown among sparse trees on farms that lack diverse forest structure - even under the flimsy cover of banana trees that are fed artificial fertilizers and pesticides!

*Bird Friendly:* The gold standard described above is clearly the way to go for concerned birdwatchers who love their coffee. So where can you find it?

The Fat Robin at 3000 Whitney Avenue in Hamden carries a variety of coffee roasts supplied by Birds & Beans, a Bird Friendly roaster. The owners Jim & Carol Zipp are members of our New Haven Bird Club.

Birds & Beans has an on-line service that guarantees all its coffee is Bird Friendly. If it is not possible to go to The Fat Robin, you can order on line; you can even set up a repeating order so your coffee needs are taken care of automatically.

Whole Foods Markets and Starbucks both carry some Bird Friendly coffee but their Bird Friendly coffee usually does not carry the certification label, making it hard to know what you are buying.

The Audubon Shop, 907 Boston Post Road, Madison, owned by New Haven Bird Club members Janet and Jerry Connolly, carries Café Cristina coffee grown on a farm in Costa Rica that appears to meet all the criteria for being bird friendly but is not certified as such. You can read about the farm on Café Cristina's website.

It may take a change in behavior, a little more effort, to ensure that at home you drink Bird Friendly coffee. Further, it is more expensive - but aren't the birds worth it?

--Charlotte White

Information for this article was obtained from the websites of The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, Birds & Beans and Café Cristina.

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## 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.

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

## Newsletter August 2016

*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.

**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: [http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds\\_lists.ctbirding.org](http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds_lists.ctbirding.org)