



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

October 2014

2014 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Thursday, October 9, 7:00 pm **Theresa Feo - Feather Development and Differentiation**

Sunday, October 12 **THE BIG SIT! ®**

Saturday, October 18, 8:00 am **Hammonasset State Park, Madison**

Saturday, October 25, 8:00 am **Branford Supply Ponds, Branford**

November 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015 **NHBC 22nd Annual Winter Feeder Survey**

Saturday, November 1, 8:00 am **Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve, Quinnipiac River, New Haven**

Wednesday, November 5, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: Westport Hotspots, Westport**

Thursday, November 13, 7:00 pm **Mark Seth Lender Bird Whispering: The True Relationship of Humans and Wildlife**

Saturday, November 15, 7:00 am. **Lake Chamberlain & Cooper and Calabresi Farms, Bethany**

Saturday, November 22, 2014, 8:00 am **Sherwood Island State Park, Westport**

Saturday, November 29, 6:25 am **Bombay Hook NWR, Leipsic, Delaware and Eastern Neck Island NWR, Rock Hall, MD - Birding and Photography: Snow Geese and Tundra Swans**

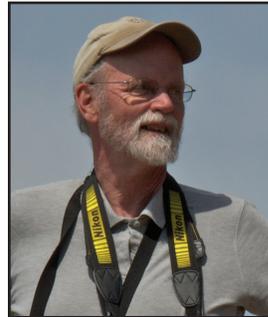
Wednesday, December 3, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison**

Thursday, December 11, 7:00 pm **Sean Murtha - Birds and Art of Long Island**

Saturday, December 20 **115th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count**

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2014-15, this will be your last newsletter. The renewal form is on the last page of this newsletter or can be found on the website.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I considered the content of my president's message the contrast between the desire to increase my lists – Connecticut year, New Haven County year, ABA life, etc – and that to “simply” see what I could find on my own seemed an appropriate subject. We are fortunate to have so many resources available to us – ctbirds, eBird with its many notifications and so forth. There

always seems to be interesting (I know, they are all interesting!) birds reported to seek. Today I ventured to Rocky Hill meadows to see American Pipits – not yet on my Connecticut year list. Now they are on my list – but more importantly, finding and then closely observing them was sheer pleasure.

Of course this subject has been addressed by many writers. I commend to your attention Pete Dunne's “Catbird Seat” column in the spring issue of *Living Bird*. He much more eloquently than I expresses the rewards of closely watching birds. Pete Dunne writes:

I wrote an article not long ago in which I presented the birding community as having an avocation trapped between two poles. At one pole are those who see birding as a game whose objective is to generate big species lists. The other is populated by those who regard the acquisition and refinement of identification skills as the one true focus of our avocation.

I received a letter from a reader who, while speaking his own mind, might well have been speaking for most bird watchers. He observed that his primary reason for birding was neither of my stated ambitions. All this gentleman asks of bird study is the simple pleasure of watching birds.

The simple pleasure of watching birds – can it be stated any better than that? So increase your lists, chase rarities to your heart's content, check your position on eBird's “Top Hundred” lists, work on your shorebird or sparrow identification skills – but don't neglect the simple pleasure of birdWATCHING!

--Bill Batsford

NHBC website: www.newhavenbirdclub.org

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2013-2014

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<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

FROM THE BOARD

The next board meeting is Thursday, October 23, at 6:45 pm at the Regional Water Authority in New Haven.

The deadline for submissions to the December newsletter is November 24. 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

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.

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

We are very excited that we have a revamped way of communicating all of the NHBC affairs with our membership (and non-members) – our updated and newly-launched website 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. A series of maps of local “hotspots” will be especially useful for visiting birders while providing a valuable resource for local birders as well. A “What’s New” section allows you to submit items – news, pictures, etc – to Pat Leahy at ptjleahy@yahoo.com for posting to the membership.

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 24 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 Wednesday, December 10, 7:00-9:00 pm, in the sixth floor conference room to discuss *A Feathered River Across the Sky*; *the Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction* by Joel Greenberg.

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

--Kris Johnson

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 TV channels WTNH (New Haven) and WFSB (Hartford). 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 (AT&T bldg is at that intersection). 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, October 9 — Theresa Feo Feather Development and Differentiation

Clothes may make the man, but feathers make the bird. Birds sport thousands of feathers that come in myriad shapes and sizes for various uses including flying, attracting a mate, and even carrying water. The diversity of feathers is stunning but it is not always clear how the different feather shapes are produced. Teresa Feo will present her ongoing research to uncover how feathers grow into different shapes. She is a 4th year Ph.D. candidate in Richard Prum's Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at Yale. Through her focus on feather development she has worked extensively with Chris Clark (a previous speaker for the NHBC) on a project to document hummingbird courtship displays and feather sounds.

Thursday, November 13 — Mark Seth Lender Bird Whispering: The True Relationship of Humans and Wildlife

While you are watching birds, the birds are very likely watching you. We often misapprehend our relationship with wildlife, ignoring warnings, mistaking curiosity for aggression, seeing sameness when there is difference, difference when confronted with sameness. Above all, we are quick to assume that we are the species in control when the opposite is just as likely to be true. Mark Seth Lender, who has spent decades watching—and being watched by—birds and other wildlife, will share his observa-

tions, writing, and photographs of birds and other animals. Mark is a producer, essayist, and photographer for *Living on Earth*, Public Radio's program about wildlife and the environment. He presents his own material on air, and has covered stories on animals of all kinds from around the world. A CT resident, he is the author of *Salt Marsh Diary*, *A Year on the Connecticut Shore*, and he has a column in *Shoreline Times*.

Thursday, December 11, 2014 — Sean Murtha Birds and Art of Long Island

Artist Sean Murtha is most inspired by the north shore of Long Island Sound where he was raised and still resides. Settling early into the two areas of painting that would remain a lifelong interest—wildlife and landscape—he is dedicated to the landscapes and birds of the Sound. He sketches birds from life and tonight will describe his working methods and show examples of both field sketches and finished paintings from throughout his development. He will also discuss the relevance of birds as a subject in art, in both the past and modern times. Sean studied painting at Brooklyn's Pratt Institute and has worked at the American Museum of Natural History where he produced a number of dioramas and became devoted to painting en plein air, or directly from nature. Currently employed at Greenwich's Bruce Museum, he also maintains a home studio, continues to create dioramas on a freelance basis, and regularly sketches landscapes and birds in the field. Sean is a member of a several art associations, has exhibited widely, and is the recipient of a number of awards.

Notice! 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.

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.

Daily Hawk Watch at Lighthouse Point September 1 to November 30, 2014

Lighthouse Point 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. Coordinator: Steve Mayo: 203-393-0694 or rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net

THE BIG SIT! ® Sunday, October 12, 2014

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 hard-core 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) or contact John Triana: 203-758-7203 or jtriana1@sbcglobal.net.

Hammonasset State Park, Madison Saturday, October 18, 2014, 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 as it is on level ground. Flo has been leading this trip for years and it has been great every year. Meet at the park entrance. Leader: Florence McBride: 203-288-6777 or j.mcbride@yale.edu.

Branford Supply Ponds, Branford Saturday, October 25, 2014, 8:00 am

Join us at this first-rate birding spot to look for fall migrants and resident species. A variety of waterfowl can be found in the ponds. There is varied habitat, with woods and shrubby areas. The walking is easy, although it is hilly in some areas. Meet at the Supply Ponds parking lot on Chestnut Street in Branford. Leader: Maria Stockmal: 203-488-3876 or m.stockmal@snet.net

NHBC 22nd Annual Winter Feeder Survey November 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015

This is a yearly census to determine the number and frequency of birds visiting feeders in the greater New Haven area. You are invited to watch and record the activity at your feeder at least

once a week for the entire time period. Contact: Peter Vitali at 203-288-0621 or vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net.

Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve, Quinnipiac River, New Haven Saturday, November 1, 2014, 8:00 am

This is a joint trip with the New Haven Land Trust. Join us as we visit the Trust's property along the Quinnipiac River. With its varied habitat, this location is a good place to see raptors, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Sightings here have included Snow Goose, Bald Eagle, and American Woodcock. Directions: Go south on Quinnipiac Ave. from Rt. 80. Turn right just past the RR overpass and go through the gate onto the property. Leader: Mike Horn: 203-288-1891 or [mfhorn@att.net](mailto:mhorn@att.net).

First Wednesday Walk: Westport Hotspots, Westport Wednesday, November 5, 2014, 8:00 am

We'll visit Compo Beach, Sherwood Mill Pond Preserve, Burying Hill Beach, and the CT Audubon Tree Farm, all excellent birding locations. We'll look for gulls, waterfowl, sparrows, and late fall migrants. Meet at the commuter lot off Rt. I-95 at Exit 18. From there, we'll carpool to each location. Leader and contact person: Tina Green: 203-247-2660 or tina@renaissancestudios.com.

Lake Chamberlain & Cooper and Calabresi Farms, Bethany Saturday, November 15, 2014, 7:00 am.

Join us on this 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 farm fields and woods have been maintained, providing habitat for a variety of woodland, edge, and grassland species. We will enter and bird in the extensive lower areas, then head up the hillside for more birding and spectacular views for miles and miles around. Hiking to the top field may be strenuous for some. People who decide that the climb might be too difficult can choose to stay by the lake or in the lower fields. Meet at the parking lot on Sperry Rd. Leader: Patrick Leahy: 203-314-0566 or ptjleahy@yahoo.com.

**Sherwood Island State Park, Westport
Saturday, November 22, 2014, 8:00 am**

Spend some time at one of Fairfield County's top-notch birding locations. We will look for a wide range of species from waterfowl to finches and everything in between. Meet at the park entrance. Leader and contact person: Tina Green: 203-247-2660 or tina@renaissancestudios.com.

**Bombay Hook NWR, Leipsic, Delaware
Eastern Neck Island NWR, Rock Hall, MD
Saturday, November 29, 2014 at 6:25 am
Birding and Photography: Snow Geese and Tundra Swans**

We enter Bombay Hook's main gate at 6:25 am SHARP and tour the many ponds, pools and fields where we may see and photograph as many as 100,000 Snow Geese and many other fall migrants, from raptors to shorebirds. We will also visit other spots in the area including Eastern Neck Island NWR where we'll see Tundra Swans. There are a variety of motels and B&Bs in the area. For suggestions about accommodations and other travel details, contact the trip leaders. Directions: To get to Bombay Hook from the south end of Smyrna, go north on US 13 to the Smyrna-Leipsic Road. Take it east for about 5 miles until it joins Rt. 9. Go south about 100 yards to Whitehall Neck Rd. A brown

National Wildlife Refuge sign there points down Whitehall Neck Rd. Proceed east down the road through the refuge entrance gate to the headquarters building where we will meet. Leaders: Mike and Pat Horn 203-288-1891 or mhorn@att.net.

**First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison
Wednesday, December 3, 2014, 8:00 am**

Any time of year, Hammonasset is a true gem. Enjoy a mid-week trip to explore this birding hotspot for fall migrants. The varied habitat attracts shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds. Meet at the park entrance. Leader: Jerry Connolly. Contact: Tina Green: 203-247-2660 or tina@renaissancestudios.com

**115th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count
Saturday, December 20, 2014**

Join other NHBC members in this fun event. Take part for a few hours or all day. Results of the count are sent to the National Audubon Society for inclusion in an international census of early winter bird populations. The compilation dinner starts at 5:00 pm at the Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. Compiler and contact person: Chris Loscalzo: 203-389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net

Winter Feeder Survey 2014-2015



I want to welcome all members and non-members to the 2014 – 2015 Winter Feeder Survey. We had good participation last year and I hope to see more members involved this year. In a nut shell, all that you have to do is to record

the largest number of birds of a species that you see at one sighting at your bird feeders during one day of the week and report that number to me. You do not have to do it every day or at the same time of day, but at least one day during the week or weekend. Anytime you look out at your bird-feeders just record the number of birds of a particular species that you see.

We started at 22 surveyors last year but lost 2 for unknown reasons during the year. Again we were widely scattered around the New Haven County: Cheshire (2), Durham (1), Guilford (3), Hamden (6), Killingworth (1), Milford (2), Monroe (1), New Haven (1), Orange (2), Wallingford (2) and Woodbridge (1). We have 3 using Postal Mail, 3 receiving email but replying using Postal Mail and 15 using email and myself.

We saw 44 species of birds last year, down 6 from the previous year. The only species not on our list that was seen last year was Woodcock and this was seen by Ellie Tessmer. Those on the Uncommon List seen during the last 7 weeks were: Brown Creeper (Maris Fiondella, Carol Goertz, Charlotte K. White), Cedar Waxwing (Tim Rodgers), Eastern Phoebe (Winie Wirth), Eastern Towhee (Bev Propen), Hermit Thrush (Carol Goertz, Winie Wirth), Monk-parakeet (Winie Wirth), Red-shouldered Hawk (Carol Goertz, Bev Propen), Rusty Blackbirds (Nancy Rosenbaum, Ed Sprowson), Woodcock (Ellie Tessmer), Yellow Rumped Warbler (Andy Verderame).

This year we will start on MONDAY, November 2nd 2014 and finish on SUNDAY, April 5th 2015 (Easter Sunday). It will run for 22 Weeks. I will try to inform participants at the end of weeks 5, 10 and 15. You will receive a final report after week 22.

For more information you can email me at "vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net" or phone me at: 203 288-0621.

Peter Vitali
Survey Coordinator
Chairman NHBC Winter Feeder Survey

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Elizabeth Beirne
Milford

Suzanne M. Cooney
Hamden

Thomas Keegan
Jim Pettinely
Hamden

Cheryl Mallinson
Meriden

Beth Roberts
Meriden

Christine Berman
North Haven

Paul & Jeanne Harpin
Hamden

Christine Lattin
Dan Keniston
New Haven

Aidan Morgan
Meriden

Sarah Simpson
Waterbury

Adelaide Cianci
Branford

Dan & Janet Kazienko
Hamden

Phyllis Morra
North Haven

Beginner's Bird Walk at Sandy Point Important Bird Area (IBA)



On August 8th, Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe led a beginner's bird walk at the Sandy Point IBA for 21 participants. It was a beautiful evening, albeit a little buggy, and we were able to get good looks at a number of different shorebird species. During the

walk we talked about the challenges of identifying shorebirds (how do you tell greater yellowlegs from lesser yellowlegs) and also the importance of Sandy Point to beach-nesting birds, such as the Piping Plover, Least Tern, and American Oystercatcher. The following species were observed: Double-crested Cormorant, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Ruddy Turnstones, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Greater Black-backed Gull, Common Tern, Peregrine Falcon, American Crow, Barn Swallow, Song Sparrow, and American Goldfinch. If you would like Corrie to share her e-bird checklist with you, contact her at cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org.



--Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe

Menunketesuck Flats and Marsh Field Trip

On Saturday, August 14 an enthusiastic group of 20+ birders met at the Westbrook Town Hall parking lot for a great morning of birding. We started out by checking out the Patchogue River marsh behind the town hall. We saw an adult Little Blue Heron, two Lesser Yellowlegs, and a Spotted Sandpiper in the marsh. There were Osprey roosting on a platform as well as flying over the marsh. In the trees between the town hall and the marsh were a few interesting species including Northern Flicker, Cedar Waxwing, and White-breasted Nuthatch. We then took the short walk to the beach. When we got there, we looked out onto the sound. We soon saw a Black Tern flying and feeding over the water with a group of Common Terns. Its dark gray wings and dark body made it easy to recognize as a different species. From there, we walked out onto the mud flats at low tide. We saw a number of shorebirds there, including Willets (many Eastern, but also one of the Western race), Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated Plover and Sandpiper, Black-bellied Plover, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, and American Oystercatcher. We also saw Least Terns and Laughing Gulls at this location. We observed several of the egrets that nest on nearby Duck Island roosting on the trees there. Our last stop was the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge Salt Meadow Unit. It was quiet there, both out in the marsh and in the woods, but we did see a few interesting birds, the most unusual being an all-white

Tree Swallow, flying over the marsh. This leucisitic or albino bird was quite striking. Other birds seen on this portion of the trip included juvenile Little Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawk, Eastern Kingbird, and Yellow Warbler. All in all, it was a most pleasant trip. The weather was superb, with comfortable temperatures and a light breeze, and the birds were fascinating, as always.



--Chris Loscalzo

Audubon Coastal Center – Milford Point Trip Report

First Wednesday Walk led by Stephen Spector on September 3. 47 species were seen: Brant, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, American Black Duck, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, White-winged Scoter, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Clapper Rail, American Oystercatcher, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Lesser Yellowlegs, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon), Mourning Dove, Peregrine Falcon, Blue Jay, American Crow, Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Saltmarsh Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch, House Sparrow.

Yale Golf Course Trip Report

On September 15 twenty-five people attended an unusual Monday morning bird walk on a spectacular fall day at the Yale Golf Course. Birds were fairly sparse, but we located a couple of mixed flocks which afforded fleeting views of a number of warblers and vireos, including Black-and-White, Black-throated Green, Northern Parula, and Blue-headed Vireo. Northern Flickers posed cooperatively for scope views and Eastern Bluebirds gave several close-up views. Overall, a total of 34 species were seen.



Photo by Gege Li



Photo by Gege Li

A great time was had by all at this lovely area on a beautiful, crisp day. We thank Peter Pulaski and the Yale Golf Course for allowing us to bird this beautiful course. We hope to have further Monday morning trips here in the future.

--Bill Batsford

Branford Supply Ponds Trip Report

On September 27 twenty-five participants met at the Branford Supply Ponds under clear blue skies, and collectively we saw 42 species in two and a half hours as we walked the park trails on this Saturday morning trip. The Ponds held a few Mallards, a single Wood Duck, one Canada Goose, and a small family of Mute Swans. The walk started with an active group of migrating warblers and vireos found foraging in the sunlit trees by the road and the field. We were able to have good and multiple views of Nashville, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Red-eyed Vireos and an Eastern Wood Peewee actively fly catching. The trails through the woods were quiet as expected, with the breeding season long since over. However the resident Chickadees, Titmice, Carolina Wrens, White-breasted Nuthatches and Downy Woodpeckers were seen and heard. A small area of shallow water in a sunlit clearing by the red trail proved a productive stop as the group waited patiently for the birds to appear. We were rewarded with brief views of a skulking Lincoln's Sparrow, a pair of Indigo Buntings in their winter plumage, and a first of the season White-throated Sparrow. The trail under the power lines proved to be quiet, but we saw some raptors taking advantage of the rising warm air. Two Ospreys, a Red-tailed Hawk and both a Sharp-shinned and a Cooper's Hawk were seen overhead.

Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale St. Park Trip Report

On a rainy Saturday morning, October 4, Maria Stochmal led a small group of intrepid birders at Osbornedale State Park/Kellogg Environmental Center. Species seen: Spotted Sandpiper, House Wren, Palm Warbler, Cooper Hawk, Common Yellowthroat, Swamp Sparrow, American Robin, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Gray Catbird, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, Song Sparrow, American Crow, Black-capped



Photo by Donna Batsford



Photo by Donna Batsford

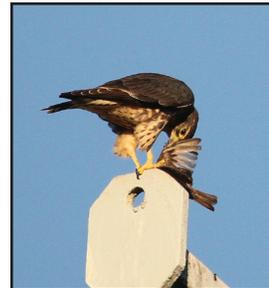
Chickadee, Northern Cardinal, Double-crested Cormorant, Herring Gull, European Starling, Carolina Wren, Northern Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing.

Hamden Eagles Safe at Home

Jim Sirch, chairman of the Hamden Land Conservation Trust, informed us of the obtaining and securing of the 39-acre Garguilo Family property on State Street across from the W B Mason warehouse. This is where our bald eagles are. This means that their nest and roost sites are safe forever.

Recently, there have been as many as 10 eagles on the property because of the run of bunker and bluefish. The best time to see these magnificent birds is currently about a half an hour before sunset.

As this is migration season, other raptors are coming through too. Pictured here is a merlin enjoying some starling tartar. Also here is daddy bird on a branch near the nest. Note his leg bands.



-- Mike Horn

Save the date for the Annual Banquet on Thursday, May 14 Svalbard: An Arctic Naturalist's Paradise Presented by 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 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.



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

Newsletter October 2014

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