



# THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

October 2015

## 2015 CALENDAR

*(See inside for details)*

August 31 to December 1 **Daily Hawk Watch at Lighthouse Point**

Saturday, October 3, 7:30 am **Kellogg Environmental Center/ Osbornedale St. Park, Derby**

Wednesday, October 7, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven**

Thursday, October 8, 7:00 pm **Dave Winston - Love Your Patch!**

Saturday and Sunday, October 10-11 **THE BIG SIT! ®**

Sunday, October 11, 2:30 pm **Beginners' Bird Walk at Griswold Point, Old Lyme**

Saturday, October 17, 8:00 am **Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Sunday, October 18, 8:00 am **Beacon Cap, Bethany**

Saturday, October 24, 7:30 am **Branford Supply Ponds, Branford**

Saturday, October 31, 8:00 am **Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve, Quinnipiac River, New Haven**

November 1 through March 31, 2016 **NHBC 23rd Annual Winter Feeder Survey**

Wednesday, November 4, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island St. Park, Westport**

Thursday, November 12, 7:00 pm **Tom Wessels - Reading the Forested Landscape**

Saturday, November 14, 7:30 am **Lake Chamberlain & Cooper and Calabresi Farms, Bethany** (Rain date Sunday, November 15)

Saturday, November 21, 8:00 am **Sherwood Island State Park, Westport**

Wednesday, December 2, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison**

Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 pm **Birds in Words – H Is for Hawk by Helen MacDonald**

Thursday, December 10, 7:00 pm **Brad Winn - Meeting Shorebirds Halfway: Managing Hemispheric Travelers**

Sunday, December 13 8:00 am **Moodus Reservoir, Bashan Lake, Moodus/East Haddam area**

Saturday, December 19 **116th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We birders keep lists; life lists, state lists, trip lists and lists of birds we haven't seen yet. It is how we organize our obsession. It gives us focus on our next trip and our next bird.

Most of us keep other lists as well. Do birders become list keepers or do list keepers become birders? We have lists of orchids, saxifrage, butterflies, dragon flies, dry flies, fish, mushrooms...person-

ally I keep a list of hiking trails and mountain peaks that I have experienced. It is all about the lists, but the 'list' is really my obsession. By calling it a list it sounds like I am getting something important done like keeping a to-do list.

Our lists impact our daily activities. How many of us own vehicles with sunroofs so that we will not miss a goshawk flyover. Who is guilty of birding and driving at the same time?

Our lists also clash with each other. I know it is impossible to fly-fish and at the same time try to get a better look at a Willow Flycatcher. I miss a strike, scare off the bird and catch a snag in the willow tree instead.

My hiking list and my birding list clash all the time. I need to do one or the other or I hike too slow or bird too fast and miss both birds and destinations. I was just in Baxter State Park to hike some of the highest mountains in the northeast. At the ranger station I grabbed an official Bird Checklist for the park. What a distraction from my hiking! Listed were Common Loons, Fox Sparrows, Lincoln Sparrows, Boreal Chickadees, Great Gray Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Three Toed Woodpecker, Spruce Grouse and all of those wonderful winter finches. But I was there to hike mountains and not to bird, so I left my binoculars in the car during my hikes and campouts. But birds are everywhere and at high elevations I encountered a few Spruce Grouse, Boreal Chickadees and Golden Crowned Kinglets that had a way of jumping out a few feet in front of me.

My son is currently hiking the Appalachian Trail from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mt Katahdin in Maine. As I yearn for news about his location and well-being birds once again push themselves to the top of the list in life, as I only get texts about a bird he saw. Summer Tanager. Redstart. Only after follow-up texts did I discover these birds and my son were in North

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

## NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2015-2016

### OFFICERS

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<i>Yearbook Chair</i>	Betty Zuraw	860.632.1156
	bz4feathers@sbcglobal.net	

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	John Triana	203.758.7203
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<i>Birds in Words</i>	Kris Johnson	203.288.3087
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### *(President's Message Continued from first page)*

Carolina and Virginia. Sometimes he would send an ID question or a recording of a song he can't identify. He is getting a nice list while on the trail.

I like to look at my list and review the dates and locations and reminisce about the bird sightings. Each lifer has a story. In the end our list is all about the bird and cataloging our experiences.

Happy Birding and safe driving.

--Craig Repasz

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Justin Elicker New Haven	Laurie Reynolds North Branford
Jane Henry Branford	Peter and Barbara Rzas Seymour
Kimberly Jannarone New Haven	Paul Sprague Orange

## 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 more than 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.

We are next reading *H Is for Hawk* by Helen MacDonald and will discuss this book on Tuesday, December 8 from 7-9 at Whitney Center in the 6th floor conference room. Hope to see you there.

--Kris Johnson

## Bring Books for Tag Sale

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 October meeting. Proceeds from the sale go to the NHBC Conservation Fund.

### Duck Stamp Note

Following up on Lori Datlow's piece in the last Chickadee, she reports: "I've discovered that the federal duck stamps are sold directly to the public at post offices. Easier than ordering them at town halls and sporting good stores."

The deadline for the December *Chickadee* is November 23.

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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, and 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-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, October 8 — Dave Winston Love Your Patch!**

Birders often have a favorite "patch," a birding spot they love to visit again and again. But how do we take care of those beloved haunts, for our own and others' future enjoyment? Tonight's speaker has plenty of suggestions and he's eminently qualified to deliver them. A lifelong and Master Gardener who spent three years at the NY Botanical Garden, he has been President of the Board as well as Head Steward of Stamford's 83-acre IBA Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary since its inception in 2006. Basically, it's all about stewardship, with a long-term view being critical. But what exactly does that mean? On our patch, we must look to the protection of the soil biology, plants, insects, invertebrates, small and larger mammals, and the birds that we hold so dear. For example, how do we manage the forces of ecological succession to maintain desired habitat – because plant life changes with the succession and food quality is affected. Some plants provide berries for birds; others, food for insects, which are important food sources for birds. And different plants offer their food at different times of year: some provide berries in winter; others, in June. Ideally, we want to assure bountiful food and shelter during migration times. How do we accomplish all of this? These considerations and questions are just some that Dave will help us ask and answer as we look for ways to provide the richest possible habitats for our wildlife. Dave's talk, drawing as it does on the manifold lessons he's learned managing Cove Island's habitat, will be a veritable classroom for the rest of us.

### **Thursday, November 12 — Tom Wessels Reading the Forested Landscape**

Based on Tom's book, *Reading the Forested Landscape*, A Natural History of New England, this program introduces us to approaches that we can use to interpret a forest's history while wandering through it. Using evidence such as the shapes of trees, scars on their trunks, the pattern of decay in stumps, the

construction of stone walls, and the lay of the land, it is possible to unravel complex stories etched into our forested landscape. This process could easily be called forest forensics, since it is quite similar to interpreting a crime scene. In the words of this eminent ecologist and author, emeritus professor of environmental studies, and leader of ecology and sustainability workshops for more than 30 years: "It is wonderful to know nature through one-on-one encounters with other organisms, but it is perhaps more empowering to gain a fuller understanding of the patterns that have shaped its landscapes. Reading the landscape is not just about identifying landscape patterns; more importantly, it is an interactive narrative that involves humans and nature. For those interested in enhancing their sense of place, I know of no better way than by becoming intimately acquainted with their local forests and the fascinating stories they tell."

### **Thursday, December 10, 2015 — Brad Winn Meeting Shorebirds Halfway: Managing Hemispheric Travelers**

We have the ability to make things better for shorebirds: We know enough, and we are learning more every day, to maintain and rebuild shorebird populations back to healthy numbers. This optimism holds true for shorebirds that nest on our beaches, as well as those that are passing through on their way to and from the Far North. With the recent listing of Red Knot under the Endangered Species Act, public and regulatory attention has been drawn to a shorebird that doesn't nest here, yet whose survival is heavily dependent upon our stewardship and management practices. Brad, Director of Shorebird Habitat Management at the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences in Plymouth, MA, will talk about these long-distance migrants, "wind birds," that rely on finding high quality habitat between the tundra and the tropics. He'll show photographs of the birds and the landscapes these birds need, and will explain some strategies to ensure that these birds are still flying for centuries to come. The shorebirds are strongly in favor of these efforts.

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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 prior arrangements are made by the Club. 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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### **Daily Hawk Watch at Lighthouse Point August 31 to December 1**

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. Coordinator: Steve Mayo: 203-393-0694 or [rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net)

### **Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale St. Park, Derby Saturday, October 3, 7:30 am**

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

### **First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven Wednesday, October 7, 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, which is located at 2 Lighthouse Rd., New Haven. Leader: Frank Mantlik: 203-984-9410 or [mantlik@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mantlik@sbcglobal.net)

### **THE BIG SIT! ® Saturday and Sunday, October 10-11**

THE BIG SIT! ®, established by the NHBC, has become an international event, with birders from all over the world participating. The object is to record as many species of birds as possible in one day from one 17-foot diameter circle. The circles are located at a number of birding hot spots throughout CT. Join other birders in one of the established circles or create your own. You don't have to be a 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](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com)) or contact John Triana: 203-758-7203 or [jtriana1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtriana1@sbcglobal.net)

### **Note New Date and Time Beginners' Bird Walk at Griswold Point, Old Lyme Sunday, October 11, 2:30 pm**

Located at the mouth of the CT River, Griswold Point provides important stopover habitat for shorebirds and songbirds in the fall. On this walk, we scan the coastline for late migrating shorebirds and look for Saltmarsh and Nelson's Sparrows along the edges of the marsh. The Saltmarsh Sparrow is globally vulnerable and fall migration offers a great opportunity to glimpse this species. This walk is geared to beginners but birders of all levels and families are welcome. More advanced birders can enjoy a day out while providing support and inspiration to the newcomers. We'll meet at the town parking lot at the end of White Sand Beach Rd. NOTE: Moderately strenuous trip; we'll walk about 2 miles, partially over sand. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe: 203-630-9640 (home - preferred), 203-233-0535 (cell - only morning of trip) or [cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org](mailto:cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org)

### **Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison Saturday, October 17, 8:00 am**

Visit one of our state's best fall birding spots, where the abundance of some migrants and sightings of less common species can make for a truly memorable trip. The walking is easy, all on level ground. Meet outside the park at the new parking lot on the Post Rd. New Directions: Take Exit 61 off I-95 (the usual Hammonasset exit). At the end of the connector (traffic light), go left onto Boston Post Rd. The new parking lot is the first right, a short distance away. Leader: Bill Batsford: 203-787-1642 (home), 203-494-4325 (cell) or [william.batsford@yale.edu](mailto:william.batsford@yale.edu)

### **Beacon Cap, Bethany Sunday, October 18, 8:00 am**

Join us for a short, but strenuous, hike up to Beacon Cap on the Naugatuck Trail in Bethany. We will look for late fall migrants as we go up to a glacial erratic at the top of a hill. Even if the birding is slow, we should have good color to enjoy on the foliage overlooking Rt. 63 in Bethany. Be prepared for a steep climb. Meet at the trailhead on the north side of Rt. 42 (Beacon Rd.) in Bethany, in the East block of Naugatuck State Forest. It is about 1 mile west of the intersection of Rts. 63 and 42. Leader: John Triana; 203-758-7203 or [jtriana1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtriana1@sbcglobal.net)

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**Branford Supply Ponds, Branford**  
**Saturday, October 24, 7:30 am**

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

**Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve, Quinnipiac River, New Haven**  
**Saturday, October 31, 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 (Foxon Rd.). 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.

**NHBC 23rd Annual Winter Feeder Survey**  
**November 1 through March 31, 2016**

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 Vitalii: 203-288-0621 or vitali\_peter\_e@sbcglobal.net

**First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island St. Park, Westport**  
**Wednesday, November 4, 2015, 8:00 am**

Join a mid-week trip to this outstanding Long Island Sound birding spot. We check for loons, grebes, goldeneye, and other sea ducks. The fields are a good place to look for Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, and sparrows. Take Exit 18 off I-95 in Westport and head south on the Sherwood Island Connector. Drive into the park, meet at the main parking lot (which is to the right by the pavilion). Leader and contact : Tina Green: 203-247-2660 or tina@renaissancestudios.com.

**Lake Chamberlain & Cooper and Calabresi Farms, Bethany**  
**Saturday, November 14, 2015, 7:30 am**  
**(Rain date Sunday, November 15, 2015)**

Join a fall walk to see what can be found at these picturesque locations. Lake Chamberlain, a Regional Water Authority property, has an active bluebird population, many woodpeckers, and a number of waterfowl that visit the lake before heading further south when the lake freezes over. The walk at Lake Chamberlain is relatively easy. After birding the RWA property, we will visit the adjoining Cooper and Calabresi Farms. Forty years ago, the families of Peter Cooper, a noted New Haven environmental lawyer, and Guido Calabresi, a federal judge and past dean of the Yale Law School, purchased a 100-acre farm near Lake Chamberlain. The fields and woods have been maintained, providing habitat for a variety of woodland, edge, and grassland species. We will first bird in the extensive lower areas, then head up the

hillside for more birding and spectacular views for miles around. Hiking to the top field may be strenuous; those who decide it may be too difficult can choose to stay by the lake or in the picturesque lower fields. Meet at the parking lot on Sperry Rd., on the right just past Morris Rd. in Bethany. Leader: Patrick Leahy: 203-314-0566 or ptjleahy@yahoo.com

**Sherwood Island State Park, Westport**  
**Saturday, November 21, 2015, 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. Take Exit 18 off I-95 in Westport and head south on the Sherwood Island Connector. Meet at the park entrance. Leader and contact person: Tina Green: 203-247-2660 or tina@renaissancestudios.com

**First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison**  
**Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 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 outside the park at the new Hammonasset parking lot on the Post Rd. New Directions: Take Exit 61 off I-95 (the usual Hammonasset Park exit). At the end of the connector when you face the main park entrance at the traffic light, go left (east) onto Boston Post Rd. (Rt. 1). The new parking lot is the first right, a short distance away. Leader: Jerry Connolly: 203-710-2011 (cell), 203-421-4128 (home) or birdshop@sbcglobal.net

**Moodus Reservoir, Bashan Lake, Moodus/East Haddam area**  
**Sunday, December 13, 2015, 8:00 am**

We travel to a variety of birding hotspots in the Moodus/East Haddam area a week prior to the Salmon River Christmas Bird Count. Since the mid-1980s, our CBC team has developed great familiarity with the fields, forests, farmlands, reservoirs, and wetlands of this section of the Salmon River CBC circle. Our target species will include waterfowl, inland Common Loon, Bald Eagle, Killdeer, woodpeckers, Eastern Phoebe, Palm Warbler, and sparrows. Meet in Moodus at the Nathan Hale Plaza Shopping Center at 26 Falls Road/Rt. 149, (a short distance east of the intersection of Rt. 149 and North Moodus Road/William F. Palmer Rd. and also a little east of the intersection of Rts. 149 and 151). Leader: Steve Broker: 203-747-6843 or Ls.Broker@cox.net

**116th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count**  
**Saturday, December 19, 2015**

Join other NHBC members in this fun event, steeped in tradition. Take part for a few hours or all day. Join birders in the field or report what you see in your backyard (if you reside within the count circle). The 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 is at 5:00 pm at Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Dr., Hamden. Compiler/contact is Chris Loscalzo: 203-389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net

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## September First Wednesday Walk Trip Report

On Wednesday, September 2, Steve Spector led the First Wednesday Walk at Milford Point. 20 people enjoyed the morning and saw 36 species. Of particular note were a Saltmarsh Sparrow, 4 Clapper Rails, Black-crowned and White-crowned Night Herons, and 8 American Oystercatchers.



*Photo by Amanda Kallenbach*

## Yale Golf Course Trip Report

On Monday, September 28, 14 birders enjoyed a beautiful fall day on the Yale Golf Course. Although not terribly birdy the course is particularly gorgeous with fairways bordered by mature forest, many brushy areas as well as water hazards. We were able to tally 26 species with highlights including a conservative estimate of 60 Chipping Sparrow, several Eastern Bluebirds,



*Photo by Lori Datlow*

several Red-bellied Woodpecker (male and female), several Downy Woodpecker and White-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Phoebe and most notably excellent looks at two Pileated Woodpeckers. This was our second trip to this lovely area, a good time was had by all and we hope to visit again next year.

--Bill Batsford

## A Job Opening

Do you like having some fun with a computer?  
Do you like having fun and being involved with other people who love birds and birding?  
Would you like being right in the middle of what's going on in NHBC?  
And doing that by volunteering some time during just a couple of months each year?

If you've answered "yes" to any (or all!) of the questions above, Yearbook Editor just might be the perfect job for you. The current editor, Betty Zuraw, is retiring after 11 years of producing the yearbook. In her own words, she's saying good-bye with sadness and reluctance because it's been a wonderfully interesting job and a lot of fun to be at the heart of club activities, but her time has come to move on to the next chapter of her life.

Some computer skills are required for the job, and a program with the yearbook format already exists although knowledge of more advanced desktop publishing might make the job even easier. The work involved is just inputting information provided by the various club committees and transmitting the document to the printing company. Yearbook production is limited basically to two summer months, with inputting done at the editor's leisure during that time period. Volunteers are available to proof-read; and Betty has agreed to stay on for another year to guide the new editor in the production of the next yearbook. If you're interested or have any questions, please contact either Betty Zuraw directly (860.632.1156, bz4feathers@sbcglobal.net) or Pat Leahy, Nominating Chair (203.393.2427, ptjleahy@yahoo.com)

## Great Meadows Stewards Program

Great Meadows is one of the most significant wetlands left in the state of Connecticut. More than 270 species of migratory birds, including waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds, may be seen resting, feeding and nesting at Great Meadows at various times of the year. In fact, the noted ornithologist and artist Roger Tory Peterson considered the area to be one of the best coastal bird habitats in the United States. After numerous attempts over the years to drain and develop the area, and because of its great value as a natural resource, most of the marsh and a significant portion of upland were finally protected in 1994 by incorporating them into the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge.

The Great Meadows Unit of the refuge is open to the general public on a daily basis. It has a visitor parking area, walking trails and marsh observation platforms which make it accessible to visitors for the purposes of wildlife observation, photography and other low-impact pastimes. Although refuge staff visit the unit on a regular basis and are able to minimally maintain it, they are unable to do so more than about once per month due to the logistical challenges of having properties across the entire Connecticut coast. In the past, this meant that the site was a less

desirable place to visit with lots of trash on the ground, overgrown observation platforms and trails, and it was frequented by people who did not make proper use of the site.

To provide a more consistent maintenance and patrol routine at the site, the Great Meadows stewards program began in the winter of 2014-15 with a handful of dedicated volunteers. These volunteer stewards sign up to walk the open areas of Great Meadows, interacting with visitors, informing people about refuge rules, picking up litter, and keeping track of bird and animal species that use the area. Although stewards commit to as little as a few hours in a two-month period, the reward for the area is immeasurable. Throughout spring and summer 2015, volunteer stewards logged more than 30 hours and submitted a dozen reports. Just having feet on the ground – in the form of a volunteer patrol each week – makes a large impact on the ability to keep Great Meadows inviting, tidy and safe. The stewards program has worked so well, refuge staff and their partners at the New Haven Bird Club have decided to hold another recruitment and training session this Fall.

-- Shaun Roche and Kristina Vagos



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## MEET THE BOARD

### Andrea Kerin: Indoor Program Chair

Andrea Kerin's unmistakable "can do" spirit brings a lively dose of enthusiasm, dependability, and creativity to her position as Indoor Program Chair. Enjoying her membership in NHBC—she joined five years ago—and being an eager birding student and regular participant in Club field trips, she readily took on the job when the opening occurred. It would be a way too, she felt, to repay a favor: To a large extent it was through her discovery of NHBC that she learned, some ten years ago, that bird walks even existed. Prior to that she had, as she puts it, no idea there was such a thing as actively going out to look at birds. The groundwork for a birding future, however, had been laid in her youth: Her mother, a backyard bird watcher, shared her love of birds and nature with her daughters.

Along with her service in NHBC, Andrea is more widely committed to birds and conservation, believing it is critical that people who care get out and demonstrate that saving and sharing space with disappearing birds matters. To follow through on that philosophy, she has monitored Piping Plovers in Stratford, and for five years has worked with DEEP monitoring Chimney Swifts. As daylight turns to dusk, she records Swift activity at the multiple chimneys of Norwalk's historic Gallaher Mansion. The job has a bonus leisure perk: She can bring a comfortable lawn chair to use on the adjoining park grounds as she observes the birds.

Born in Bridgeport and currently residing in Weston, Andrea is a genuine CT native, having spent most of her life in several Fairfield County towns. She did leave, however, to go to UConn in Storrs where she earned a degree in Business Administration; and her love of travel has taken her quite far afield. She and her husband have visited Hawaii, a continually favorite destination, a number of times, and as a life-long lover of all things French, she spent several months at a French language institute in Provence, immersing herself in an intensive study of French.

While she goes birding every chance she gets, Andrea doesn't have a traditional favorite patch though her backyard, with its multiple feeders and several birdbaths, might pass for one. She says she just enjoys listening and watching for birds in whatever the venue and is always amazed at what can be seen by just pay-



ing attention. Her favorite species are Chickadees and Tufted Titmice, birds she describes as "so curious, tenacious, and spritely." Whatever it is they're saying, she adds, they say it "with conviction!" It may not be a coincidence that the same can be said of Andrea.

Andrea hasn't yet taken any specific foreign birding trips but came happily close to that experience on a vacation she and her husband recently took in the south of France. They saw stunning flocks of Pink Flamingos on the coast, and on a bird walk in the region's mountains Andrea was especially thrilled to see an Eagle Owl. She also always fits in some birding on trips to Hawaii, and after taking the NHBC overnight trip to Sachuest last February, which she describes as "fabulous," there probably will be more domestic bird travel on her horizon.

In her work life, Andrea is busy with her new career as Director of Development at the CT Audubon Society. She admits she's thrilled to be working with both colleagues and supporters who share her passion for the environment. Prior to that job, she spent most of her career in real estate, her husband Chris's field too. He's a commercial real estate appraiser. The Kerins, married 27 years, have a daughter who is a law student. Andrea's husband isn't a birder, but Andrea is pleased that he at times accompanies her on bird walks.

A variety of activities fill Andrea's remaining time. She loves playing the piano, having studied it both during her youth and as an adult, and she enjoys visiting art museums. Ever the Francophile, she loves speaking French whenever she has the chance and participates in French conversation groups and cultural associations. She and her husband enjoy hiking, with extra fun added when they're accompanied by Andrea's "two dear little Papillion dogs," one of whom is named Coco Chanel because, as Andrea reckons, a little French dog really has to be named after that famous Parisian style-setter.

Given Andrea's background in business and negotiating, her organizational skills, and her deep commitment to birds, conservation, and the simple joy of watching and learning about birds, NHBC can look forward to continuing great indoor programs.

--Betty Zuraw

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### 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. 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](mailto:ptjleahy@yahoo.com) for posting to the membership.

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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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Dear NHBC members, Migration Fest volunteers and Event Partners,

On behalf of the New Haven Park, Recreation and Trees Dept. and myself, I would like to thank you all for your support of this years 2015 Migration Fest. We could not have done without your help and commitment.

This year, over 1200 participants enjoyed Lighthouse Pt. Park and all it had to offer. We were graced with some great volunteers, good conservation organizations and a great turn out. Next year's event is scheduled for Sunday, Sept 18th, so mark it on your 2016 calendars. It has been one of my goals to showcase one of the best Hawk watching sites in the Northeast and with all your support, we are well on the way to national recognition.

This year's partnering with the Northeast Woodcarvers added a new dimension to this annual event and the fly by of the Zone-tailed Hawk rounded off a most excellent day.

I would love to write out all the names of the coordinators, walk leaders, hosts, volunteers and helpers, but as this event grows, there are just too many names for this thank you letter. You all should know I appreciate all you do for this event and birds in general. Special thanks go out to the New Haven Bird Club, Friends of Lighthouse Point, ECPC, COA, and Steve Mayo, CT Butterfly Association, Audubon CT, especially Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, Pat Comins and Katie Blake and of course all New Haven Park employees involved. Great job!!!

Looking forward to the spring migration in East Rock Park in 2016. Until then, I will continue to work on making New Haven Parks a better place for birds and birders alike.

Thank you again for all your help and guidance, we could not do it without you.

Respectfully,

Daniel M Barvir  
East Rock Park Ranger  
City of New Haven

## Northern Harrier

Northern Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*, is on the Connecticut endangered species list. They were considered common in the 1800's. In the 2000's, confirmed nesting sites have been extremely rare (1). However, many more individuals are seen in the winter (82 on the 2013-14 Christmas Bird Count).



Photo by Bill Batsford

The slender-bodied northern harrier, a medium sized raptor, has a long tail and wings, yellow legs, owl-like facial discs, a conspicuous white rump patch and yellow eyes. Adult males have blue-gray upper parts and white underparts. the females are brown above and buffy below, with brown streaking along the sides of chest. Juveniles have dark

brown backs with rusty overtones and cinnamon underparts, with no streaking. The female is larger than the male.

Sometimes called the marsh hawk, they inhabit open marshlands, meadows, pastures, cropland, grasslands, and riparian woodlands. The recovery of this species is dependent on the recovery and conservation of these habitats.

They nest on the ground, which contributes to the vulnerability of the eggs and young. During nesting season, the female, after receiving prey in flight from the male, will not return directly to the nest, but will make several false landings to confuse predators. They will also attack other predatory large birds near their nest, and will dive at humans if approached too closely.

Because the nesting activities are difficult to survey and monitor, please report any confirmed nest sites to the CT DEEP Wildlife Division at 860-675-8130 to help increase the knowledge of these birds in Connecticut.

(sources: CT DEEP, Wildlife Division; CT Ornithological Association)

--Lori Datlow

## Winter Feeder Survey

I want to welcome all members and non-members to the 2015 – 2016 Winter Feeder Survey. We had good participation last year and I hope to see more members involved this year. In a nutshell, 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 had 18 surveyors last year and again we were widely scattered around the New Haven County: Cheshire (2), Durham (1), Guilford (3), Hamden (4), Killingworth (1), Milford (1), Monroe (1), Orange (2), Wallingford (2) and Woodbridge (1).

We saw 53 species of birds last year. We saw all the species on the Common List. Some of the species seen on the Uncommon List were: American Tree Sparrow, Brown Creeper, Common Redpoll, Eastern Towhee, Hermit Thrush, Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Pine Siskin, Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rusty Blackbirds, Vesper Sparrow, Winter Wren.

This year we will start on Sunday, November 1st 2015 and finish on Saturday, April 2nd 2016. It will run for 22 Weeks. After the end of weeks 5, 10 and 15 I will send a report of what was seen. You will receive a final report after week 22.

For more information you can email me at [vitali\\_peter\\_e@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net) or phone me at 203 288-0621.

Peter Vitali  
Survey Coordinator  
Chairman NHBC Winter Feeder Survey





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

## Newsletter October 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)

----- New Member ----- Renewal

#### Dues:

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

\_\_\_\_ Couple/Family - \$20

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

\_\_\_\_ 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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: New Haven Bird Club, PO Box 9004, New Haven CT 06532-0004 or contact the Membership Chair, Mike Ferrari: [mike.ferrari@att.net](mailto: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](http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds_lists).  
[ctbirding.org](http://ctbirding.org)

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