



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

October 2016

2016 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

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

Wednesday, October 5, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: Light-
house Point Park, New Haven**

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

Thursday, October 13 **Corey O'Hern, Ph.D: Strength of Bird
Nests**

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

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

Wednesday, November 2, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk:
Sherwood Island St. Park, Westport**

Saturday, November 5, 8:00 AM **Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve,
Quinnipiac River, New Haven**

Thursday, November 10 **Jim Zipp - Birds, Birders and Bird
Photographers: The Lines Have Blurred**

Saturday, November 12, 7:30 AM **Lake Chamberlain, Cooper
and Calabresi Farms, Bethany**

Saturday, November 12, 6:25 AM **Bombay Hook NWR,
Leipsic, Delaware and Eastern Neck Island NWR, Rock Hall,
MD**

Saturday, November 19, 8:00 AM **Sherwood Island State Park,
Westport**

Wednesday, December 7, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk:
Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Thursday, December 8 **Frank Gallo: Connecticut's Owls**

Saturday, December 17 **117th Annual New Haven Christmas
Bird Count**

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR 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.

*There are now Google Map links for
the meeting places of trips.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Birds of a Feather find each other.

"Excuse me, you look like someone who might know. Is it possible to see Yellow-Rump warblers up here?"

I was asked this question out of the blue by a stranger while I was in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

A few times a year I volunteer for the US Forest Service in the White Mountain National Forest. I am based out of an Appalachian Mountain Club backcountry hut where I sleep, resupply and engage the public. These huts accommodate hikers overnight with bunks, meals, water, games and books. Many of these amenities are available to hikers just passing through as well as overnight guests. I had stopped at the hut to put on the official uniform and sort through my gear before I hiked up to a ridge that is about five thousand feet in elevation. Before I could pull my uniform out of my pack a fellow hiker walked over to me holding open the stained, dog-eared hut copy of the Sibley Guide to Eastern Birds and asked his question.

His question started a long and lively conversation about the butter butts: their nesting, song, migration, the pending split of the species into two species, Audubon's Warbler and Myrtle Warbler. We discussed other warblers that nest at that elevation, Magnolias and Blackpolls, as well as other birds in the high elevation boreal forest, the Ravens, Bicknell's Thrush, Boreal chickadees and Spruce Grouse.

We both were smiling ear to ear as we chattered back and forth. He then politely said, "I must get going."

"Of course. I could talk about birds all day but we both must be on our way." I replied.

Then I realized that there was nothing about me that could indicate to a stranger that I loved birds or that I knew anything about birds. I had no binoculars, no tee shirt with birds, no patches nor badges nor pins. I was only wearing hiking clothes and anything official like my uniform and two way radio was still in my pack. I have found a large percentage of hikers in these mountains are unaware of the birds that serenade them on the trails.

I had to ask. "How did you know I am interested in birds?"

"I guess we have a way of knowing."

(Continued on next page)

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2016-2017

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(President's Message Continued from first page)

I guess we birders are part of a clan, a flock. I have studied enough cultural anthropology to know that groups of humans will adopt traits that identify us as a member of the flock. We oftentimes dress in similar ways in muted, earthy colors. We wear binoculars as birder bling. We wear hats and tee shirts with birds, club logos or birding locations that can identify us as well as where we have been and what we have seen. (The last one I have seen was "got crossbills.") We have a way of speaking. I have never heard a non-birder use the terms MODO or get excited about a passing cold front. To non-birders a sharpie is something you write with. We drive similar cars, all good in bad weather and all having high clearance for those off road access routes that could destroy exhaust and transmission systems.

This hiker did not hear me speak or see what I drove. I was dressed the same as him. Do I look a certain way?

We are a diverse looking group so there is no physical stereotype. What is it? Do we emit a scent or pheromones? I am truly perplexed, and this may be a mystery of the same magnitude as fully understanding how migrating birds navigate.

It has also occurred to me that this hiker took a guess and just got lucky. I am happy he did. I truly enjoyed my conversation with him as I enjoy my conversations with all birders.

I wondered if I had met any of you for the first time in the same way if we would be able to tell that we were fellow birders. I don't know but do know we would have a great conversation.

We belong to a great flock!

--Craig Repasz

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, 203-288-3087.

We will be discussing *Bird Droppings; Writings About Watching Birds & Bird Watchers* by Pete Dunne. on Tuesday, November 15, 7-9 at Whitney Center in the 6th floor conference room. Hope to see you there.

--Kris Johnson

FROM THE BOARD

The next board meeting is Thursday, October 27 at 6:45 pm at the Whitney Center.

The deadline for submissions to the December *Chickadee* is November 21. 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

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, and online on ctbirds, <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.

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!

Bird Book Tag Sale to Be Held at the November Meeting!

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, November 10 - Jim Zipp Birds, Birders and Bird Photographers: The Lines Have Blurred

See how photographing birds has changed over the years, from film based photography to digital and now even iPhones! In today's digital world it's become a lot easier, with more and more birders photographing birds as well as watching them. Jim will show lots of photographs of birds we all love so much, recorded in U.S. locations ranging from here at home to Alaska, as well as hot-spot birding destinations like Mexico and Costa Rica. There will be a few tips and suggestions along the way to help you take better images or simply help you enjoy watching our feathered friends. Jim has been photographing birds for more than 40 years. Thousands of his images have appeared in publications including *National Geographic*, *Time*, *Audubon*, *Birdwatching*, *Wildbird*, *Discovery*, *Nature Conservancy* and ABA's *Birding*, as well as in numerous books, calendars and field guides. For more than 20 years he and his wife Carol have also owned and operated The Fat Robin Wild Bird Shop in Hamden.

Thursday, December 8 - Frank Gallo Connecticut's Owls

When the sun retreats, owls awaken to go in search of prey. Some say that owls are wise, others that they sparked legends of ghosts. Naturalist Frank Gallo will help uncover the mysteries of these amazing nocturnal hunters, especially those species that co-exist in our area. It's a hoot! Frank is a leading expert on where to find birds in Connecticut. Through his birding tours, lectures, and classes he has inspired countless birders to discover and appreciate the region's rich bird life.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Cheryl Blum
Westbrook

Robert Greiner and family
North Haven

Patrick Lynch
North Haven

Maryann Leach
Branford

Lesley Roy
New Haven

Charles Strasser
Hamden

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. Watch for emails sent by the Club. You can also check the Club's website: <www.newhavenbirdclub.org> for trip information and a Google Map link to the meeting place. 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.

Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale St. Park, Derby 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. Leader: Maria Stockmal, 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, 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 BWD website (www.birdwatchersdigest.com). Contact: John Triana, jtriana1@sbcglobal.net, h.203-758-7203 or www.birdwatchersdigest.com.

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, fmc_b_warbler@yahoo.com, h.203-288-6777.

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, h.203-305-3728.

First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island St. Park, Westport Wednesday, November 2, 8:00 AM

Join a midweek 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. Meet at the main parking lot inside the park off the Sherwood Island Connector, Exit 18 off I-95 in Westport. Leader: Tina Green, tina@renaissancestudios.com, c.203-247-2660.

Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve, Quinnipiac River, New Haven Saturday, November 5, 8:00 AM

Fargeorge Preserve is always full of surprises. We have had everything from Woodcock to Eagles to Snow Geese, lots of fall migrants, wintering ducks and more. It is a varied habitat with excellent views of the lower Quinnipiac River. Meet at Quinnipiac Meadows. 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, mhorn@att.net, h.203-288-1891.

Lake Chamberlain, Cooper and Calabresi Farms, Bethany Saturday, November 12, 7:30 AM

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

species. We will first bird in the extensive lower areas, then head up the hillside for more birding and spectacular views for miles around. Hiking to the top field may be strenuous; those who decide it may be too difficult can choose to stay by the lake or in the picturesque lower fields. Meet at the RWA parking area on Sperry Road south of Morris Rd. in Bethany. Leader: Pat Leahy, ptjleahy@yahoo.com, h.203-393-2427, c.203-314-0566.

Bombay Hook NWR, Leipsic, Delaware and Eastern Neck Island NWR, Rock Hall, MD
Saturday, November 12, 6:25 AM

We will meet at the refuge headquarters building just past the main gate at 6:25 AM SHARP (Bathrooms open 24/7) and tour the many ponds, pools and fields where you may see and photograph as many as 100,000 Snow Geese as well as many other fall migrants from raptors to shore birds. We will also visit other spots in the area including Eastern Neck Island NWR where we will find Tundra Swans. There are loads of motels in Dover and there are Bed & Breakfasts in the area close by. We recommend the Best Western in Smyrna, DE about 6 miles from Bombay Hook. It is at exit 114 on DE Rt 1 off of US Rt 13 near the exit on the South side of Smyrna. Phone 302-659-3635. Please contact the trip leaders for details. Meet at Bombay Hook NWR, 2591 Whitehall Neck Rd, Smyrna, DE. To get to Bombay Hook NWR from the South end of Smyrna, proceed North on US 13 to the Smyrna – Leipsic Road. Take it East for about 5 miles until it joins up with Rt 9. Go South about 100 yards to Whitehall Neck Rd. You will see a big brown National Wildlife Refuge sign pointing down Whitehall Neck Rd. Proceed East down the road through the refuge entrance gate to the headquarters building where we will meet at 6:25 SHARP. Leader: Mike and Pat Horn, mfhorn@att.net, h.203-288-1891.

Sherwood Island State Park, Westport
Saturday, November 19, 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, off the Sherwood Island Connector, Exit 18 off I-95 in Westport. Leader: Tina Green, tina@renaissancestudios.com, c.203-247-2660.

First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison
Wednesday, December 7, 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 parking area on Post Road just left (east) of main entrance road. Leader: Jerry Connolly, birdshop@sbcglobal.net, h.203-421-4128, c.203-710-2011.

117th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count
Saturday, December 17

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: Chris Loscalzo, closcalzo@optonline.net, h.203-389-6508.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

September First Thursday Walk Report

On a rainy September 1st Thursday morning at Milford Point, ten weather-defying birders headed out to the main sandbar, targeting especially its western end, to search for migrating shorebirds. On the way out we found a singing Marsh Wren that posed nicely in the Spartina near the beach. More entertainment was provided by at least 4 juvenile Yellow-crowned Night Herons hunting at the Spartina edges. Small numbers of Semipalmated Plovers, Semipalmated Sandpipers (mainly juveniles), and Sanderling were scattered on the main sandbar's southern edge, and a few hundred Tree Swallows passed heading west, but the far western fugitive sandbars (sandbars that are tidal and disappear with every high tide) had our sought-after migrants in good numbers and variety. We counted 52 American Oystercatchers (they gather here each fall before migration) and around 125 Black-bellied Plovers. Mixed in were 4 Short-billed Dowitchers, 2 juvenile Red Knots, 6 Ruddy Turnstone, and 2 American Golden Plover. After we found a first Golden Plover, a rather uniform brown-buff bird with small bill and dovish head—a good contrast to the adjacent Black-bellied Plovers—we were alerted by Frank Mantlik, who was scoping the sandbars from Short Beach in



Photo by Frank Mantlik

Stratford, to the presence of an adult with dark back and under parts dark from neck to vent, a dark cap with a striking white supercilium and descending white line down the side of its face and neck. On our return, made exciting by a water hazard created by the intruding tide washing over part of the sandbar, we were treated to the sight and sound of a pair of dueling Peregrine Falcons. Not bad for a rainy morning.

--Steve Spector

Winter Feeder Survey

2016-2017



I want to welcome all members and non-members to the 2016 – 2017 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 saw a total of 52 species of birds this last year.

We had 20 surveyors and we were widely scattered around the New Haven County: Cheshire (1), Durham (1), East Haven (1), Guilford (3), Hamden (5), Killingworth (1), Milford (2), Monroe (1), North Branford (1), Orange (1), Wallingford (2) and Woodbridge (1). We have 3 using Postal Mail, 3 receiving email but replying using Postal Mail and 13 using email and myself.

This year we will start on Monday, October 31 (Halloween), 2016 and finish on Sunday, April 2, 2017. 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@sbc-global.net or phone me at 203 288-0621.

Peter Vitali

Survey Coordinator

Chairman NHBC Winter Feeder Survey

Thanks to Event Volunteers

The New Haven Bird Club made an appearance this year at The Ct Folk/ Green Expo held Sept 10 in New Haven's beautiful Edgerton Park. I'd like to thank the members who came to help me with the many festival attendees who stopped by our table to discuss birds, birding, and the club. This was a high traffic event, and the club was well received.

The next week at The Annual Hawk Migration Festival, I was once more assisted by club members. I am very grateful for the company and help.

Hopefully we will soon be seeing some new faces on our walks and indoor programs.

--Lori Datlow

Urban Oases

Something great is happening in our neighborhood. Small areas of public land throughout New Haven are being transformed into islands of bird habitat in a sea of urban development.

The idea is to create super areas that are overly abundant with plants that produce fruit and seeds and that host insects. Many hours have been put in already to remove invasive non-native vegetation, plant indigenous trees, shrubs, and perennials, and erect deer netting. These 'Urban Oases' may not support large populations of nesting birds but will provide critical stop over areas during spring and fall migrations. Think migration hotspots.

The initiative to create these areas has been spearheaded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Audubon Connecticut (the state office of the National Audubon Society), in partnership with: Common Ground High School, Urban Farm and Environmental Center; Yale Urban Resources Initiative; the City of New Haven Department of Parks, Recreation and Trees; Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Long Island Sound Study; Yale Peabody Museum; Menunkatuck Audubon Society; New Haven Public Schools; and local neighborhood groups.

Some of these Urban Oases sites are within Important Bird Areas (IBA), Lighthouse Point Park and the new West River Memorial/ Edgewood Parks dedicated on June 11, 2016. Other Urban Oases sites are in Beaver Ponds Park and East Shore Park to name a few.

Audubon Connecticut has conducted invertebrate and bird surveys to determine the success of the planting and management efforts. If the area hosts a more diverse, indigenous population of plants there will be an increase in insects. And insects are bird food, food that is needed during migration.

What can a Member of the New Haven Bird Club can do to support the Urban Oases?

Go birding!

1) Visit one of the Urban Oases sites and report your sightings to eBird

- Beaver Ponds Park
- Cherry Ann St
- Dover Beach
- East Shore Park
- Edgewood Park
- Lighthouse Point Park
- Long Wharf Preserve
- Southern Connecticut State University
- West River Memorial Park


Visit an Urban Oases and keep a record of all the birds of each species you see. Then submit your observations for just the urban oases to eBird.org. Directions to the Urban Oases are here.

- What to bring: binoculars, a field guide or bird identification app, appropriate clothing based on the weather, and your phone.
- When you arrive at the site, record the date and time.
- Mornings, particularly in April – May and August – Octo-

ber when migrating songbirds are passing through Connecticut, are recommended.

- Plan on spending at least five minutes at the site, giving birds' time to adjust to your presence.
- Record the number of birds of each species that you see. Make a note if a bird is flying over (f/o) the site versus foraging in the vegetation.
- You can count birds at just one or several Urban Oases and make as many visits as time permits.

Entering Your Observations into eBird:

1. Go to: ebird.org and click on **Submit Observations**.
2. You will need to set up an account if you do not already have one.
3. The first time you enter data for an Urban Oases you will need to **Find it on a Map**. After that, the site will appear under: **Choose from your Locations**.
4. Enter: New Haven in the box beneath Find it on a Map. Then enter the name of the park in the **Zoom to** box and hit return.
5. You will see a map of the park. Click on the  icons until you find the Urban Oases, then click: **Continue**.
6. Select: **Stationary** as the Observation Type, then fill out the date, time, duration, and party size for your visit to the Urban Oases. Click: **Continue**.
7. Now you will enter the number of birds that you saw of each species. If you saw a sparrow, woodpecker, warbler, or blackbird, but were unable to identify it, you can enter a number under sparrow sp., woodpecker sp., etc.
8. If a bird flew over the site, **click add details** and write: flyover.

9. If you feel that you identified all the birds that you saw at the Urban Oases, click "**Yes**" indicating that you are submitting a **complete checklist**. Then click **Submit**.

2) Help with a bird survey.

There is one more survey date - Oct 05. This date falls in the middle the warbler and sparrow migrations and expertise is needed. Please contact Craig Repasz 203-745-6683 crepasz@hotmail.com

What else can we do?

Many of the Urban Oases sites have local neighborhood support groups like the Friends of Beaver Ponds Park that will fight invasives, water new plantings, and work on trails. However West River Memorial Park Urban Oases site is not receiving any such love except from one stalwart volunteer from Menunkatuck Audubon Society and he needs help.

The area has new planting of native shrubs, flowers, and grasses. The area has now been inundated with mungwort that has choked out meadow flowers (yes the area is great for butterflies) and fruit bearing shrubs. If we can get a group of five to ten people to spend a few hours with volunteers from Menunkatuck Chapter and with the support of New Haven Parks and Recreation, we can clean the area of the mugwort and give these new plantings a fighting chance. We may need volunteers to monitor the site in the spring.

We would like to set this work party sometime in October. Please contact Craig Repasz (crepasz@hotmail.com)

--Craig Repasz



New Haven Area Urban Oases

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.



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

Newsletter October 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**. If you have any questions about the Club, you can send an email to: 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