



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

December 2016

2016 - 2017 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

October 31 through April 2, 2017 **NHBC Winter Feeder Survey**

Tuesday, December 6, 7:00 PM **Birds in Words**

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**

Wednesday, January 4, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: Harkness State Park, Waterford**

Thursday, January 12 **Patrick Comins - 308: A Photographic Big Year**

Saturday, January 21, 8:00 AM **Milford Hotspots in Winter**

Saturday, January 28, 8:00 AM **Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Wednesday, February 1, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Sunday, February 5 **The Mega Bowl of Birding in New Haven County**

Thursday, February 9 **Members Night**

Saturday, February 25, 7:00 AM **(Snow date, Sunday 2/26/17) Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast**

PARKING AT WHITNEY CENTER

We may park on the upper level of the parking garage at the Whitney Center in any unmarked parking place.

We may not park on the lower level of the parking garage.

If no parking places are available please drive to the employee parking lot. Follow the driveway past the front entrances of the building. At the stop sign take a right into the employee parking area. There are no entrances at the side or back of the building so please walk around to the front. This area is well lit.

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.newhavenbirdclub.org

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's All About the Bird.

We get together with family and friends for Thanksgiving and count our blessings over a bird. The turkey becomes the focal point, for all of our gratitude. The turkey can stand as a monument to our abundance. For some, the turkey itself and the anticipated sandwiches consumed for days after Black Friday is what we are grateful for.

I love Thanksgiving, cooking comfort foods that fill the house with wonderful smells; taking walks and naps; watching football and sipping scotch by a fire. Most importantly, expressing gratitude reminds me that I live in abundance regardless of the amount of my possessions.

I prefer, however, to count my blessings over many birds and what they represent:

Evening Grosbeaks- They were first birds to come to my bleach bottle bird feeder. The yellow, black and white feeding frenzy that came to the feeder got me hooked on birds.

Rose Breasted Grosbeak- While sitting in the woods of East Rock Park with my then six-year-old son, this bird landed on a branch in front of us. He yelled, "HEY DAD LOOK." The bird was scared off, but I was happy to see that my son was awed by nature.

Eastern Towhee- While hiking with my wife we came across a Towhee kicking up leaves. She took my binoculars and watched it for ten or fifteen minutes. My lesson learned, stop and take in the bird, enjoy it, don't just check it off the list.

Sharp Shinned Hawk, no wait it is a Coops, let's just put down Accp. Sp. - These two birds always spark debate and deliberation on the late fall and winter bird walks. I enjoy listening to these conversations as they reveal the depth of knowledge and experience of our members.

Hérons and Egrets- Statuesque birds that allow us to stare. It was the market hunting of these birds for their feathers to be used in women's hats that brought these species to the brink of extinction. The women's groups responding to the crisis organized and formed the beginnings of the National Audubon Society. These groups put pressure on the government to establish sanctuaries and legal protection in the Weeks-McClean act and later the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and launching a

(Continued on next page)

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(President's Message Continued from first page)

conservation movement to protect our birds and other wildlife.

Piping Plover, Bald Eagles, Oyster Catcher, Osprey- In Connecticut their numbers are up. This success stands on top of a lot of hard work. Volunteers (including many NHBC members), professionals from many non-profits, and government agencies, including CT State and Federal agencies that came together to execute plans to erect platforms, protect nesting sites, and to eliminate monofilament fishing line from their feeding areas. Job well done, although a sustained effort is still required.

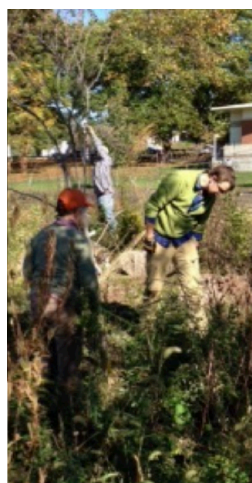
Saltmarsh Sparrow- This bird, I hope, becomes a new rallying point for bird conservation. According to current population trajectories, climate forecasts, and predicted environmental changes this bird will be extinct in 50 years. With sea level rise predictions this bird will lose its nesting habitat. Somehow we need to allow for migration of the saltmarshes inland. Fortunately public awareness about this threat is rising faster than the sea levels in Long Island Sound. Hopefully in the next five years some concrete action can be taken to mitigate or reverse the grim prediction.

Black-capped Chickadee- A simple bird, a stalwart bird that always comes to my feeder moments after a watch out the window at my feeder. They remind me that the world is a better place because of the birds.

Happy Holidays

--Craig Repasz

New Haven Bird Club Tackles Invasives at West River IBA/Urban Oasis



On October 23 a few members from NHBC joined forces with members from Menunkatuck Audubon chapter and the Urban Resource Initiative to form a small hard-working task force to tackle the invasive mugwort at the West River Urban Oasis site which is part of the West River Important Bird Area (IBA).

The site was created by the Urban Oasis Partners by planting indigenous grasses, forbs and shrubs. The plants would attract a greater diversity of insects as well as producing an abundance of seeds for birds migrating through New

Haven. The cost and effort put into the oasis was being swallowed up by the unchecked growth of mugwort.

Volunteers worked for over two hours to remove the tall weeds from the site. The area will require a few more work parties in the spring to cut back the new growth of mugwort. With the removal of the mugwort the target species will be able to flourish.

If you are interested in participating in future conservation initiatives, please contact Craig Repasz (crepasz@hotmail.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, 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.

Thursday, January 12 - Patrick Comins 308: A Photographic Big Year

Patrick Comins didn't set out to do a big photo year in 2014, but by mid-January it was game on. The madness didn't stop until New Year's Eve 2014 with a trip on a cod boat on a bitterly cold day. By sundown he had captured #308, a Dovekie that landed close to the boat. Along the way Patrick captured some bad photos of common birds, some good photos of uncommon birds,

and decent photos of some spectacular rarities such as Whiskered Tern, Northern Wheatear and Cassin's and Couch's Kingbirds. Come share the adventure and learn something about bird ID when we hear why some distant or even blurry photos can qualify as identifiable. Patrick is the Director of Bird Conservation at Audubon Connecticut since 2000, overseeing Connecticut's Important Bird Areas and other conservation areas.

Thursday, February 9 Members Night

This is always a popular evening. We all love it! It's so much fun to share our prized photographs, stories of exciting encounters with wild birds, and descriptions of those special places where we always find the unique migrants. And those of us who are too shy to present sure enjoy seeing the photos, listening to those stories and planning visits to the perfect birding locations. Both slide and Power Point capability will be available. Please call Andrea Kerin at 203-331-6067 or email andrea@kerin.com with details of what you'd like to show.

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, December 6, 7-9 at Whitney Center in the 6th floor conference room. Hope to see you there.

--Kris Johnson

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Phillip and Phyllis Adzima
Milford

Linda Mastrianna
Wolcott

Dennis Deziel
New Haven

Dorie Petrochko
Oxford

Justin Fappiano and family
North Haven

William Root and family
Woodbridge

Liz Hellwig
Hamden

Lisa M. Wexler
New Haven

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.

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 song-birds. Meet at the parking area on Post Road just left (east) of main entrance road. Leader: Jerry Connolly, birdshop@sbeglobal.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.

First Wednesday Walk: Harkness State Park, Waterford **Wednesday, January 4, 8:00 AM**

Today we'll explore this beautiful coastline park. It has ponds, fields, shrubs—and lots of shoreline. We will look for raptors, loons, grebes, all three scoters, Eiders (King Eider has been seen here), Bufflehead, and Goldeneye. Snow Bunting and Horned Lark are likely too. Meet at the Harkness parking lot, 275 Great Neck Rd., Waterford. Leader: Tina Green, tina@renaissancestudios.com, c.203-247-2660.

Milford Hotspots in Winter **Saturday, January 21, 8:00 AM**

We'll look for waterfowl, birds of prey, and winter passerines as we visit Milford hotspots that will likely include Milford Point, Mondo Ponds, and Caswell Cove. Dress warmly and plan to carpool. The trip ends by noon. Inclement weather will probably cancel the trip. Check with the leader if you have weather concerns. Meet at the commuter lot off Exit 35 of I-95. Leader: Frank Mantlik, mantlik@sbeglobal.net, c.203-984-9410.

NHBC website: www.newhavenbirdclub.org

Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison **Saturday, January 28, 8:00 AM**

Join us as we visit this premier CT birding location for a mid-winter excursion. We'll be looking for sea ducks, shore-birds, grassland species and winter finches as we check several areas in the park, including the campgrounds. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot. Leader: Paul Wolter, pwolter6@earthlink.net, c.860-681-5548.

First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison **Wednesday, February 1, 8:00 AM**

Enjoy a mid-week field trip to Hammonasset Beach State Park, one of the state's best birding locations in any season of the year. We will look for sea ducks, grassland species, and rarities. Meet at the parking area just left (east) of main entrance road. Leader: Greg Hanisek, ctgreg@yahoo.com.

Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast **Saturday, February 25, 7:00 AM (Snow date, Sunday 2/26)**

This all-day trip includes stops at Sachuest Point NWR, Beavertail State Park, Moonstone Beach, Trustum Pond, and other great birding sites on the RI coast. We will see lots of sea ducks including all three scoter species, Common Eider, and Harlequin Duck. We'll look for birds of prey, including Rough-legged Hawk and several owl species. We'll also be on the lookout for alcids and rare gulls. Dress warmly—it's likely to be cold and windy on the coast. The walk is a bit strenuous. Bring lunch and a scope, if you have one. Meet at the Branford commuter lot, Exit 55 off I-95. Leader: Chris Loscalzo, closcalzo@optonline.net, c.203-389-6508.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale St. Park, Derby **Trip Report**

Saturday, October 1 was a misty rainy day with four adventurous people searching the trails for birds. We had 38 species in all and had one surprise when we saw a white squirrel low in a tree.

Species seen: Mallard, Double-crested Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Herring Gull, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow,



White Squirrel
Photo by Bill Batsford

Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird,

Nashville Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

--Maria Stockmal

Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison Trip Report

Flo McBride led the trip to Hammonasset on Saturday, October 15. 45 species were seen: Canada Goose, American Black Duck, Mallard, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Greater Yellowlegs, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon), Great Horned Owl, Red-bellied



Great Horned Owl
Photo by Alan Malina

Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Gray

Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Northern Cardinal, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch.

First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island St. Park, Westport Trip Report

20 participants joined me for the New Haven Bird Club 1st Wednesday on this glorious autumn day. We tallied 61 species in just over four hours covering the model airplane field, the feeders near the nature center, Sherwood Point for some sea watching, the Mill Pond, the spruce grove, and the west platform area and small ponds.

Highlights of the day were the somewhat late Osprey, Snowy Egret, and Black-and-White Warbler as well as a Yellow-breasted Chat. Only a few people had very brief looks at the chat but all of us heard it several times.

Thanks to everyone who came out and battled the traffic to join me for today's walk. I love sharing the park!

--Tina Green

1st Wednesday Walk Coordinator

Fargeorge Wildlife Refuge Trip Report

22 people attended the New Haven Land Trust - New Haven Bird Club joint fieldtrip on Saturday Nov 5 to the New Haven Land Trust's Fargeorge Wildlife refuge off of Quinnipiac Avenue in New Haven. The weather was chilly and a little cloudy to start. Temperature = 30°F to 45°F Beginning to End. The Tide was Dead Low to start. We had no wind at all so there were no active migrators.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Some of the highlights were: lots of Ruby- and Golden-crowned Kinglets (See Picture), a Woodcock, and a Purple Finch. A grand time was had by all. A great thank you goes to the good folks at the New Haven Land Trust.

Total Species Seen = 43. The following is a list of bird species seen and /or heard by the attendees: Mute Swan, American Black Duck, Mallard, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Woodcock, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

--Mike Horn

Sherwood Island State Park Trip Report

Our annual Sherwood Island field trip on November 19 was well attended by a minimum of 45 birders on a glorious sunny and mild day where temperatures reached into the 60 degree range. Most of the usual expected bird species were present although we had to work hard for most. The weather was probably just too darn nice! But the resident Great Horned Owl pair was cooperative for all to get long looks and many photos. We also had a late Snowy Egret on the Mill Pond keeping company with ten Great Blue Herons and the Lesser Black-backed Gull was in its usual spot just east of Sherwood Point. We tallied 46 species in three and a half hours and had a great time sharing conversation and the birds. Thanks to all who came!

Species seen: Brant, Canada Goose, American Black Duck, Mallard, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed

Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, American Pipit, Palm Warbler, Fox Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

--Tina Green

Notes from the Education Chair

Walking around my neighborhood recently, I heard the unmistakable tapping of a nearby woodpecker. I easily located the culprit, drumming away near the peak of a house. I chased it away, but was dismayed to see two tennis ball size holes on this house; the house next to it had at least ten!

As birders, I will venture that the woodpecker family ranks high on everyone's 'favorite' list. Unfortunately, this behavior causes destruction that is both unsightly and costly as homeowners struggle to protect and repair their property.

According to the Ct Dept of Environmental Protection, the drumming is most prevalent in the spring and fall. It is related to both territorial (male) behavior, to attract a mate, and breeding. Woodpeckers do sometimes nest in these holes. Long, narrow furrows indicate a search for insects.

Many people who have paid for repairs to siding one year will be angry to discover more damage the next year. I have one friend considering aluminum siding of her house after a \$7000 repair bill a couple of years ago.

I'm sorry to report that there are no foolproof solutions. (Please contact me if you know of any - I'll be happy to amend this statement!)

Here are some suggestions from the Wildlife Division fact sheet (Dealing with Woodpecker Problems) that might help:

1. Frighten the offenders with twirly shiny strips, windsocks, CDs, or flash tape.
2. Recorded distress calls of woodpeckers combined with predator calls, or movement detectors that also include sound.
3. Place bird netting, vinyl or aluminum siding or metal flashing in areas most affected.
4. Cover holes or fill them as soon as possible.
5. Suet (not in summer) may draw them away from the house if food-seeking damage is occurring.
6. Don't cut down or remove dead trees on your property unless it is a safety hazard to buildings and people. These provide a natural nesting, drumming and food source.

On another matter - as the holidays approach, please consider giving duck stamps as gifts. They are beautiful, miniature works of art, and the money goes directly to fund conservation efforts. They are available at the post office.

--Lori Datlow

NHBC Winter Feeder Report 2016-2017 End of Week 2



This year we started with 21 surveyors reporting, 7 via Postal Mail and 14 via email. We are located all over New Haven County and one surveyor in Fairfield County. We have finished the first 2 weeks of the survey.

What a year this has started out to be. With 8 surveyors reporting by email out of 21 (the others send their reports in after the 5th week) some of the early winter species we have seen are Purple Finches, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Carolina Wrens, Dark-eyed Junco and White-throated Sparrows. One surveyor also reported that she had a Black Vulture at the feeders.

There is still time to join. The survey runs from Monday, October 31st 2016 thru Sunday, April 2nd 2017. It is a weekly survey, but the number you report can be from a few minutes on one day or from many sightings on several days of the week. It is very flexible.

We have 3 types of Surveyors:

1. Postal Surveyors: Those who use Postal Mail to send and receive. I send you the forms via Postal Mail and you send them back via Postal Mail. No email capability
2. Email surveyors: Those who use email to send and receive.
3. Email/Postal surveyors: Those of you who can receive email but cannot download the forms and print them or cannot use email to send the data. I send the forms to you via Postal Mail and you send them back via Postal Mail. All other communication is via email.

We record the highest number of individual birds seen of that species in that week. For example: for the daily count if you see 5 Juncos at 8:00 AM, 10 at noon, and 6 at 3:00PM, count 10 Juncos as your count for the day. For the weekly count if on the first day of a week you have 1 Blue Jay, and on another day, you have 5 Blue Jays, record 5 in the cell for that week. In cases where individual birds can be differentiated, record the total counted for both sexes for the week. For example, if you have a female Cardinal on one day of the week and a male on another, then record 2 for the week, since you know that 2 different individuals were seen.

Any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me via email. My home phone number is in the NHBC Year book but my new phones have "Call Blocking" on them and if we do not recognize the caller name or number the call is blocked. Instead call my cell phone: 203 988-1841 and leave a message. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

The email address is: vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net.

Happy Birding,
Pete Vitali

The Mega Bowl of Birding in New Haven County!

Held on Super Bowl Sunday!!!

Come join in on a fun and friendly event! Compete with other birders and win prizes and get your team's name inscribed on the prestigious Mega Bowl Trophy!

When: Sunday, February 5th, 2017 from 6 am to 4 pm. (Dinner from 4 pm to 6 pm)

Where: New Haven County from Milford to Madison (and north to Waterbury and Meriden), CT

Why: to have fun birding, socialize with other birders, and raise money for the New Haven Bird Club (the event host) and other environmental organizations of your choice

How it works:

Birders join together in groups of 3 or 4 people and go birding wherever they like within New Haven County on the day of the event. They record the birds they observe and earn points for each species recorded. Each species has a point value from 1 to 5 with 1 point for the most common species and 5 points for the rarest species. The point values are determined by how common or rare the species is in New Haven County in February. If a team is the first team of the day to find a rare (5-point) bird, they will be awarded an additional 3 points for calling it in right away so that other teams will have the opportunity to observe it.

The teams will meet at the end of the event and have dinner and share stories. The meeting will be at the Kellogg Environmental Center at 500 Hawthorne Avenue, Derby. A delicious dinner will be served. The results will be tabulated and a winning team will be determined. The winning team will get its name inscribed on the Mega Bowl Trophy! Prizes will be awarded to every team that earns 100 points or more. Special prizes will be awarded to the teams with the highest point total, the highest species total, and other accomplishments to be determined. Every team will earn a prize. Some prizes will be obtained through the generous support of The Fat Robin in Hamden and The Audubon Shop in Madison.

Teams will have to strategize where to go to get the most points. Some teams might start along the coast and then go inland, while others might do the opposite. Birders could choose to go to local birding spots that they know well, or to other areas to see specific species that are typically found there. They can visit any public site (such as a state or town park), but they must obey standard birding etiquette rules and obey all property signs and rules of the road.

Participants have the opportunity, but not the obligation, to raise money for the event by having friends, family members, or employees pledge a certain amount of money for each point their team earns. A voluntary donation is an option, as well. The money raised will go to the New Haven Bird Club and any other environmental organization of the team's choosing.

The Mega Bowl is inspired by the Superbowl of Birding held each January in Northeast New England by Mass Audubon. The organizers of that event have generously given their consent for us to hold our own, similar event.

Anyone interested in participating in the Mega Bowl will need to register in advance. The deadline for registration is January 27th. Participants may sign up as a team, or individuals can submit their names and they will be put in contact with other individuals looking to become members of a team. The participants are encouraged to be creative in coming up with a name for their team.

In the event of inclement weather on the 5th, the event may be held on Saturday, February 11th.

The official rules for the event are available on the NHBC website and the Mega Bowl Checklist of bird species will be posted in the near future.

Chris Loscalzo

Mega Bowl Coordinator

Contact information: 203 389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net

FROM THE BOARD

The New Haven Bird Club Board meets every month to discuss issues and ideas to keep the club running and further our mission of enjoying and protecting birds in the New Haven area. All are welcome to attend the meetings. Come see what happens behind the scenes. Perhaps you may find that your skills, experience and talents could be helpful to the club either on the board or with a special ad hoc project. The next meeting is Nov 17, 7:00 pm at the Whitney Center Bakke Conference Room. (Just off the main auditorium)

Currently we have some vacancies on the Board:

Indoor Programs Chair - Selects the speakers for the club's indoor meetings, and organizes the annual banquet. This is a great opportunity to reach out to writers, artists, photographers, international birders and ornithologists and extend invitations to speak. There is plenty of support from the Board and the club

that would help the person assume the role of Indoor Program Chair.

Conservation Chair - Supports and promotes the club's conservation efforts. The club currently supports Important Bird Area and Urban Oasis conservation efforts by organizing small work parties to fight invasive plants and to clean up habitat. The Chair would interface with other organization to further conservation efforts.

Nominating Committee - Currently this role is being fulfilled by the Board. The responsibilities are to fill vacancies on the board and to compile a slate of candidates for the club's officers to be voted on at the annual meeting.

Secretary - Takes and distributes minutes at Board meetings. The secretary is a club officer and is elected for a two-year term.

Please contact Craig Repasz (crepasz@hotmail.com)



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

Newsletter December 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