



# THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

April 2018

## 2018 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

### Note New Date:

Wednesday, April 11, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**

Thursday, April 12, 7:00 PM **John Triana - The New Haven Bird Club at 110**

Saturday, April 14, 8:00 AM **East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance**

Thursday, April 19, 7-9:00 PM **CT Bird Atlas Training Session at Whitney Center Cultural Arts Center**

Saturday, April 21, 7:30 AM **Hamden Earth Day, Hamden Middle School**

Saturday, April 28, 10-3:00 **Beaver Ponds Park, New Haven**

### Note New Date:

Saturday, April 28, 9 AM – 2 PM **Spring Migration Festival & Earth Day, New Haven**

### Note New Date:

Sunday, April 29, 9:00 AM **Bird Walk for Families at East Rock Park, New Haven**

Monday, April 30, 7:30 AM **Lake Chamberlain, Lake Dawson, and Lake Watrous**

Tuesday, May 1, 7:00 PM **Birds in Words: *The Evolution of Beauty* by Richard O. Prum**

Wednesday, May 2, 7:30 AM **First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven**

Saturday May 5, 8:00 AM **East Rock Park with Ranger Dan**

Saturday May 5, 9–11 AM **If You Plant Them They Will Come**

Sunday, May 6, 7:00 AM **Bent of the River Important Bird Area, Southbury**

Wednesday, May 9, 6:30 AM **Hartman Park, Lyme**

Thursday, May 10, 6:00 PM **Annual Banquet - Amarante's Restaurant, New Haven**

Saturday, May 12, 6:00 AM **Big Day Marathon**

Sunday, May 13, 7:30 AM **Sleeping Giant State Park**

Sunday, May 13, 7:00 AM **Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**

Saturday, May 19 7:00 AM **Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington**

Sunday, May 20, 7:30 AM **Housatonic River, Kent**

Saturday, May 26, 7:30 AM **Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale State Park**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Typical



On a hike in Sleeping Giant I see that the woods, like my yard, are a mess. The past couple of nor'easters have left the area in shambles. There are trace amounts of snow here and there on a bare stick and across the muddy landscape. On my way to my hike I saw my neighbor raking his lawn and

picking up twigs. Perhaps these are the chores I should be doing.

This time of year, we birders are impatient. We want our FOYs (first of year birds) and while we are looking for them we want vagrants and our favorite migrants. When will the first Eastern Phoebe show up? Will I see Northern Gannets in the Sound on my next trip? Is the Varied Thrush still in Simsbury?

This year early spring carries more anticipation and impatience than ever. Many members are anticipating the start of the Connecticut Bird Atlas Surveys. People are already on their blocks reporting nesting hawks, owls and ravens, all before the summer breeding season. Such enthusiasm for such a project in NHBC members is typical...and it is part of our history.

I just finished writing a chapter on the history of the New Haven Bird Club for our upcoming book. I had a lot of help from our historian, archivist and past president, John Triana. This information just pours out of him. If you can only come to one indoor program this year, come to his presentation scheduled for the April 12 Indoor meeting. The New Haven Bird Club has a fascinating past.

The landscape was very different when the club came into existence in April 1907. The Club members took trolleys to the

*(Continued on next page)*

Thursday–Monday, May 31–June 4 **The Outer Cape (Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro, and Provincetown, Cape Cod, Massachusetts)**

Saturday, June 2, 7:30 AM **Branford Supply Ponds**

Saturday, June 2, 8:00 AM **Pond Mountain Trust, Kent**

Wednesday, June 6, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park**

Saturday–Sunday, June 9–10 **New Haven Summer Bird Count**

Friday, June 22, 8:30–10 PM (note evening time) (Rain Date, Saturday, June 23) **Whip-poor-will Walk in Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**

## NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2017-2018

### OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Craig Repasz crepsz@hotmail.com	203.230.1697
<i>Vice President</i>	DeWitt Allen allendatlow@gmail.com	860.949.0995
<i>Treasurer</i>	Andy Stack ctstacks@optonline.net	203.804.6081
<i>Secretary</i>	Alan Malina Alm5565@msn.com	203.248.5754

### BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation Co-Chairs</i>	Deborah Johnson deborahleighjohnson@hotmail.com	203.430.5554
	Charles Strasser crstrasser@gmail.com	908.328.5563
<i>Education Chair</i>	Lori Datlow loridatlow@frontier.com	475-227-2820
<i>Indoor Programs</i>	Gail Martino gmm1227@yahoo.com	617.504.7205
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Mike Horn mfhorn@att.net	203.288.1891
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Laurie Reynolds warmstove@hotmail.com	203.434.2134
<i>Membership Chair</i>	DeWitt Allen allendatlow@gmail.com	860.949.0995
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford donnabatsford@gmail.com	203.787.1642
<i>Nominating Chair</i>	NHBC Executive Board	
<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Bill Batsford william.batsford@yale.edu	203.787.1642
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	203.288.0621
<i>Webmaster</i>	Patrick Leahy ptjleahy@yahoo.com	203.393.2427
<i>Yearbook Editor</i>	Christine Howe clhowe2@yahoo.com	203-389-1175

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Birds in Words</i>	Kris Johnson kriswaxwing99@gmail.com	203.288.3087
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net	203.389.6508
<i>Email List</i>	DeWitt Allen allendatlow@gmail.com	860.949.0995
<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	203.393.0694
<i>Lighthouse Point</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Historian</i>	Stacy Hanks flybirdhanks@gmail.com	203.283-3898
<i>Hospitality</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	203.393.0694
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	203.288.0621

*(President's Message Continued from first page)*

birding hotspots. Trips to Edgewood would extend past the West River and up Mitchel Hill long before Westville expanded out, squishing between Yale Avenue and Forest Rd, and before the Yale bowl was built. We had a lot more meadows and shrublands back then. Although our landscape has changed, and our bird populations have shifted, the basic character of the NHBC members has not. Back in April of 1907 the founding members had just finished voting on the constitution and bylaws, and before the ink was dry in recording secretary A.A. Saunders' meeting minutes, the discussion turned to field trips and bird surveys. Surveying the birds in spring migration and mapping the location of nesting populations were some of the first activities of the Club the spring of 1907.

Through the years we have had many surveys and mapping and data collection. Back in the early '80s many of the Members jumped at the opportunity to participate in the first CT Bird Atlas. So, when the block adoption process for the second Connecticut Bird Atlas was rolled out it was no surprise that the New Haven Bird Club members jumped right in. Within weeks 80% of the blocks in the New Haven region had been adopted, mainly by Club members.

The New Haven region, with Steve Broker at the helm, filled up the fastest. Many members also adopted blocks outside of the New Haven region...typical.

--Craig Repasz

### **NHBC Publicity Chair Position**

Pete Vitali will be stepping down from his position as Publicity Chair. Pete's work in this role was to get the NHBC's announcements and events out to newspapers, social media and email lists. His devotion and efforts will be missed. Pete will continue his work on the Winter Feeder Survey.

If anyone is interested in serving on the Board of Directors in the Publicity Chair role please contact any of the officers or board members.

--Craig Repasz  
President

### **Notes from the Board**

The next board meeting will be Thursday, April 26 at 6:45 PM at Whitney Center.

Deadline for submissions to the June *Chickadee* is May 27. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at [donnabatsford@gmail.com](mailto:donnabatsford@gmail.com).

**Photos Wanted** (for a presentation at our annual dinner in May) – During NHBC events, please take photos of your fellow birders and send them to Donna Batsford ([donnabatsford@gmail.com](mailto:donnabatsford@gmail.com)) or Laurie Reynolds ([warmstove@hotmail.com](mailto:warmstove@hotmail.com)).

NHBC is offering a **Ride Share Program** for members who need a ride to the Indoor Programs. We are also looking for members to pick up a non-driving member. Contact: Laurie Reynolds: 203-434-2134, [warmstove@hotmail.com](mailto:warmstove@hotmail.com).

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## Indoor Programs

Indoor programs start in September and are held on the second Thursday of the month. There are no indoor programs in June, July, or August. The social half-hour at meetings begins at 7:00 pm; the meeting and program begin at 7:30 pm. Inclement weather or other emergency may cancel a meeting. Cancellation notices will be sent via the club email, and will be posted on the club website, [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org), and online on ctbirds, <http://www.ctbirding.org/calendar.htm>. Meetings are at Whitney Center, Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. The facility is wheelchair accessible. Meeting is in Whitney Center'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.

### ***Parking at Whitney Center (WC):***

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.

### ***Directions to Whitney Center:***

From I-95 North or South: Exit to I-91 North in New Haven. Take Exit 6 (Willow Street). At end of ramp go right onto Willow and proceed on Willow to its end at Whitney Avenue. Turn right onto Whitney; go 1.7 mi. to Treadwell Street (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 driveway (South Entrance) and take immediate left into raised parking lot or continue on to the employee lot.

From I-91 South: Take Exit 6 (Willow Street) in. At the end of the ramp, turn right onto Willow and proceed as above.

From Wilbur Cross (Rt. 15-North or South) Take Exit 60. Turn right at end of ramp (Dixwell Ave./Rte.10). Go about 1 mile to traffic light at Treadwell Street and turn left. Go 0.3 mi. to traffic light (Leeder Hill), turn right. WC is shortly on the right. Enter SECOND driveway (South Entrance); take immediate left into raised parking lot or continue on to the employee lot.

**Remember to check the Club's website for updated information on all programs: [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org).**

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### **Thursday April 12 - John Triana The New Haven Bird Club at 110**

Members of the New Haven Bird Club are part of an extraordinary group of people dedicated to birds and their conservation. The New Haven Bird Club started in 1907 with a few dozen members, including school teachers, prominent citizens, and high school students. Over the last 110 years, there have been ups and downs. Our history includes some of the biggest names in ornithology, many authors, a pioneer in nature photography, the "Father of the Everglades," and the beginnings of bird banding in the United States. Ten years have

passed since the New Haven Bird Club's centennial. John Triana, Club Historian and past President will come in to refresh everyone on the Club's past 110 years.

### **Annual Banquet Thursday, May 10 – 6:00 PM Amarante's Restaurant, New Haven**

### **Banquet speaker and program: Dr. Richard Prum – The Evolution of Beauty**

Don't miss this festive event! See page 11 for details, including reservation information.

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## Birds in Words

Join in on "Birds in Words," NHBC's gathering of people who like reading books on their favorite hobby. Share the fun! We meet at 7 pm at Whitney Center. For details, contact: Kris Johnson: [kriswaxwing99@gmail.com](mailto:kriswaxwing99@gmail.com), 203-288-3087.

We will be meeting from 7-9 PM at Whitney Center in the 6th Floor Conference Room on May 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss *The Evolution of Beauty* by Richard O. Prum.

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## Welcome New Members

The Browns  
Essex

Denyse Miller  
Seymour

Justin Perillo  
Branford

Larry Stowe  
Wallingford

Matthew Goldenberg  
New Haven

Genevieve Nuttal  
Quaker Hill

Cate and Dave Rauch  
Meriden

Janis Underwood  
New Haven

Julie Hart and Daniel Schlaepfer  
Branford

Elaine Payne  
Cromwell

Jeremy Schulick and Jennifer Stock  
New Haven

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## Outdoor Programs

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](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)> for trip information and a Google Map link to the meeting place. 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.

### NHBC Conservation Activities

The NHBC routinely works to preserve and restore bird populations and their habitats, and this year the Conservation Committee will highlight several events in which we partner with city, state and private conservation and education organizations to enhance birding habitats while simultaneously enjoying the birds seen on these properties. Partners include the City of New Haven, local Land Trusts, Friends' organizations (as Friends of East Rock Park and Friends of Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge), and the Urban Oases program. The Conservation Committee also provides information and displays at several local events.

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#### *Note New Date:*

##### **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**

**Wednesday, April 11, 8:00 AM**

Enjoy an early spring trip to one of the best local birding spots. We look out into the marsh and along the shore for waterfowl, shorebirds, waders, and raptors. Meet at the Coastal Center parking lot. Meet at CT Audubon Coastal Center, 1 Milford Point Road, Milford. Leader: Kathy Van Der Aue, 203-259-2426 (home), 203-331-7517 (cell), or [kathyvda@gmail.com](mailto:kathyvda@gmail.com).

##### **East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance**

**Saturday, April 14, 8:00 AM**

Meet for a bird walk from 8 – 9:30 AM. Then join Park Ranger Dan Barvir to help with light trail maintenance along the river until noon. Bring work gloves and pruning shears if you have them. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Avenue, Hamden. Leader: Dan Barvir, 203-946-6086 or [dbarvir@newhavenct.net](mailto:dbarvir@newhavenct.net).

#### *Note New Date:*

##### **Spring Migration Festival & Earth Day**

**Saturday, April 28, 9 AM – 2 PM**

Information on birds, important bird plants for sale, music, food, fun for all ages. Bird walks at 9, 10, and 11 AM. Co-sponsored by Connecticut Audubon and the New Haven Department of Parks, Recreation and Trees. Event is held at East Rock Park, Trowbridge Environmental Center, corner of Orange Street and Mitchell Drive, New Haven.

#### *Note New Date:*

##### **Bird Walk for Families at East Rock Park, New Haven**

**Sunday, April 29, 9:00 AM**

On this walk by East Rock Park's Mill River, children with accompanying adults are invited to help us look for warblers and other spring migrants. Other interested adults are also welcome to join the walk in this famous spring birding place. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Avenue, Hamden. Leader: Flo McBride, 203-288-6777, [fmcb\\_warbler@yahoo.com](mailto:fmcb_warbler@yahoo.com).

##### **Beaver Ponds Park, New Haven**

**Saturday, April 28, 7:30 AM**

Beaver Ponds Park is one of the many Urban Oasis sites in New Haven. Friends of Beaver Park and the other Urban Oasis partners have maintained an area of rich plantings to offer the birds a food oasis. The park itself is excellent habitat, offering fresh water wetlands, forests, and fields. We can hope for Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Common Merganser, and a variety of sparrows and warblers. In the shadow of West Rock Ridge, Raven and Peregrine are also possible. NOTE: In addition to the spring migration bird walk, the NHBC Conservation Committee will join the prime movers of the restoration and on-going development of Beaver Ponds Park for planting of new hardy plants on the site. Information on the harmful effects of invasive species as well as the benefits of their bird-supporting alternatives will be discussed. Co-leaders for the planting are Nan Bartow ([nanbartow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nanbartow@sbcglobal.net)) and Bill Bidwell, joined by summer interns from the Urban Resources Initiative and other Friends of Beaver Ponds Park. Meet at the public parking lot on Munson Street across from Hillhouse High School, New Haven. Leader: Craig Repasz, 203-230-1697 (home), 203-745-6683 (cell), or [crepasz@hotmail.com](mailto:crepasz@hotmail.com); Co-leader for planting: Nan Bartow, [nanbartow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nanbartow@sbcglobal.net).

##### **Lake Chamberlain, Lake Dawson, and Lake Watrous**

**Monday, April 30, 7:30 AM**

Join us for a walk on Regional Water Authority properties in Woodbridge and Bethany, some of which are off limits to the public. Pat Leahy has been maintaining a bluebird trail on several of the properties surrounding the reservoirs. Please be prompt! It will be difficult to join the group on route. We will carpool and proceed to trails on Lake Dawson, Lake Watrous, and an old farm field on Sperry Road before returning to Lake Chamberlain. Lake Dawson has one of the few small colonies of Cliff Swallows in CT. Bluebirds, swallows and spring migrants are plentiful. Meet at Lake Chamberlain Regional Water Authority parking area on Sperry Road south of Morris Road, Bethany. Leaders: Pat Leahy, 203-393-2427 (home), 203-314-0566 (cell), or [ptjleahy@yahoo.com](mailto:ptjleahy@yahoo.com); Bill Batsford, 203-787-1642 (home), 203-494-4325 (cell), or [william.batsford@yale.edu](mailto:william.batsford@yale.edu).

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**First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven**  
**Wednesday, May 2, 7:30 AM**

East Rock Park in early May is one of the best places in the state to see migrant warblers. Fifteen to twenty species are possible on a good day. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Avenue, Hamden. Leaders: John Oshlick, 203-584-1955, john.oshlic@yahoo.com; Renee Baade, 203-270-9953 (home), 203-526-7667 (cell), or rbaade@juno.com; Bill Batsford, 203-787-1642 (home), 203-494-4325 (cell), or william.batsford@yale.edu.

**East Rock Park with Ranger Dan**  
**Saturday May 5, 8:00 AM**

Join Ranger Dan Barvir at this premier site for warblers and other spring migrants. We will meet at the Rice Field (baseball field) end of East Rock Park on English Drive, New Haven. Leader: Dan Barvir, 203-946-6086 or dbarvir@newhavenct.net.

**If You Plant Them They Will Come**  
**Saturday May 5, 9-11 AM**

Eli Whitney Museum staff share information on the master landscaping plan for the museum's space along the Mill River adjoining East Rock Park, while the NHBC Conservation Committee provides—and seeks helpers for—planting bird-friendly plants at newly-invasive-eradicated areas of East Rock Park and the Eli Whitney Museum property. A bird walk follows, along the loop beginning & ending at the covered bridge. Meet under the awning at the front of the Eli Whitney Museum, 915 Whitney Avenue, Hamden. Co-leader is Alexis Brown, Principal Gardener and Artisan in Residence at the Eli Whitney Museum. Leader: Deborah Johnson, 203-430-5554 (talk/text) or deborahleighjohnson@hotmail.com.

**Bent of the River Important Bird Area, Southbury**  
**Sunday, May 6, 7:00 AM**

Explore a prime birding location along the Pomperaug River in Southbury where more than 100 species of birds have been observed in a single day. This beautiful and highly diverse habitat is owned and maintained by Audubon Connecticut. The walk is open to birders of all levels and families are welcome. We will not only see and hear birds, but will also talk about how they are identified and their habits. More advanced birders not only can enjoy a day out but also provide support and inspiration for newcomers. Meet at Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, 185 East Flat Hill Road, Southbury, CT. Take Exit 14 off of Rte. 84. Go north on Rte. 172, then turn left onto East Flat Hill Road (church on corner). Continue to sanctuary entrance on left. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-405-9116 (office), 203-233-0535 (cell), or cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org.

**Hartman Park, Lyme**  
**Wednesday, May 9, 6:30 AM**

Hartman Park is known for its breeding population of Cerulean Warbler. There is also a power cut which may have Prairie, Blue-winged, Magnolia and other warblers. Both Cuckoos have been seen here as well. Meet at the commuter parking lot, I-95 exit 55. Leader: John Oshlick, 203-584-1955 or john.oshlic@yahoo.com.

**Big Day Marathon**  
**Saturday, May 12, 6:00 AM**

Take part in all or part of this event. We'll focus on New Haven area hotspots, seeking 100-130 species. We start at East Rock and search several other local migrant traps, as well as the coast from Lordship to Hammonasset. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Avenue, Hamden. Leader: John Oshlick, 203-584-1955 or john.oshlic@yahoo.com.

**Sleeping Giant State Park**  
**Sunday, May 13, 7:30 AM**

Sleeping Giant looms large and dominates the landscape north of New Haven. The park hosts diverse habitats: riparian woods, rivers and streams, stands of white pines, mature deciduous forests, and cliffs and meadow edge. Although it is famous for its ankle-twisting and heart-pumping terrain, we will explore the gentle trail on the north side. We will first explore the Mill River for Waterthrush, Eastern Phoebe, and swallows. We will then carpool to the entrance on Mansion Road to hike on easy trails through forest, thicket, and a meadow edge to look for Veery, Wood Thrush, migrating warblers, and Pileated Woodpecker. On the return back to Tuttle, we can move to the base of the cliffs at the quarry to look for nesting Ravens and possibly Peregrine Falcon. Meet at the Sleeping Giant State Park entrance on Tuttle Avenue, Hamden. Leaders: Jim Sirch, james.sirch@yale.edu; Craig Repasz, 203-230-1697 (home), 203-745-6683 (cell), or crepasz@hotmail.com; DeWitt Allen, allendatlow@gmail.com.

**Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**  
**Sunday, May 13, 7:00 AM**

Join us at the peak of spring migration on this moderately strenuous and long hike in a fine birding location. We'll search for migrants and residents. We often see more than fifteen species of warblers on this trip, including resident Hooded, Chestnut-sided, Prairie, and Worm-eating Warblers. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and many other birds are residents here, too.

Meet at the commuter lot at Exit 25 off Route 8, Naugatuck. Leader: Chris Loscalzo, 203-389-6508 or closcalzo@optonline.net.

**Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington**  
**Saturday, May 19 7:00 AM**

This will be our 14th annual trip to this excellent birding spot. We'll meet at the commuter lot at Exit 55 off I-95 and carpool to Barn Island. The area consists of large expanses of salt marsh, tidal pools, wetlands, woodlands, and open fields. We should see wading birds, shorebirds, and area residents such as Saltmarsh Sparrow, Marsh Wren, White-eyed Vireo, American Redstart, Willow Flycatcher, Bobolink, and many other species. Meet at the commuter lot, I-95 Exit 55, at 7 AM, or at 96 Palmer Neck Road, Stonington (Bobolink fields) at 8 AM. Leaders: Carolyn Cimino, 860-447-3565 or sailcarm@aol.com; Bill Batsford, 203-787-1642 (home), 203-494-4325 (cell), or william.batsford@yale.edu.

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**Housatonic River, Kent**  
**Sunday, May 20, 7:30 AM**

Today we enjoy the riparian woodlands along the Housatonic in Kent, CT. We carpool from our meeting location, paralleling the Housatonic via Schaticoke Rd, and Skiff Mountain Rd to River Rd, listening and looking for spring migrants. The area is famed for warblers, including Cerulean, Worm-eating, and many others. Veery, Swainson's and Wood Thrushes and Pileated Woodpecker are also possible. Bring lunch or eat in charming Kent. Meet at the parking lot on the southwest corner of Bull's Bridge Road and Rte. 7 (Kent Rd), Kent. Leader: Renee Baade, 203-270-9953 (home), 203-526-7667 (cell), or rbaade@juno.com.

**Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale State Park**  
**Saturday, May 26, 7:30 AM**

Join us on a visit to this excellent birding location where we look for late spring migrants and early nesting species. The center and park have open fields, woods, ponds, and streams. Meet at Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale State Park, 500 Hawthorne Avenue, Derby. Leader: Maria Stockmal, 203-305-3728 or m.stockmal@snet.net.

**The Outer Cape (Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro, and Provincetown, Cape Cod, Massachusetts)**  
**Thursday–Monday, May 31–June 4**

This weekend of birding and fellowship is being made available to 15 club members by advance registration. Late spring birding on the Outer Cape always is productive. Our birding localities during the three-day period include Fort Hill (Eastham), Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary/Massachusetts Audubon Society, Wellfleet Harbor, the Herring River and Herring River Estuary, the kettle ponds and the dwarf oak forests off Ocean View Drive (Wellfleet), Head of the Meadow, Pilgrim Heights, and High Head (North Truro), and Foss Hill, the Beech Forest, Race Point, Herring Cove, and MacMillan Wharf (Provincetown). Our base of operations is "At Long Last," the Broker cottage in Wellfleet. Lodging options are: (1) motel in Wellfleet—for suggestions contact the trip leader; (2) camping at the Broker yard near Long Pond, Wellfleet. Discuss tent/sleeping bag needs in advance. Leader: Steve Broker, 203-272-5192 (home), 508-349-2806 (Wellfleet cottage), 203-747-6843 (cell), or LS.Broker@cox.net.

**Branford Supply Ponds**  
**Saturday, June 2, 7:30 AM**

Visit this first-rate birding spot to look for resident species and visitors. The area has varied habitats with woods, shrubby areas and a powercut. A variety of waterfowl can be found in the ponds. Meet at Branford Supply Ponds parking lot, Chestnut Street, off Rte. 1, Branford. Leader: Maria Stockmal, 203-305-3728 or m.stockmal@snet.net.

**Pond Mountain Trust, Kent**  
**Saturday, June 2, 8:00 AM**

Pond Mountain Trust, Inc. includes 796 acres of deciduous woodlands, pockets of conifers, meadows, streams, wetlands, and Fuller Pond. The Trust is part of the Macedonia Forest Block Important Bird Area, which was identified for its

importance to Cerulean Warbler, Wood Thrush, and other forest nesting birds. The trip involves moderately strenuous hiking, but is open to birders of all levels; families are welcome. We will not only see and hear birds, but also talk about how they are identified and their habits. More advanced birders not only can enjoy a day out but also provide support and inspiration for newcomers. Meet at the grassy parking lot on Fuller Mountain Road, Pond Mountain Trust, Kent. Directions: Take Rte. 341 to Kent. After crossing the Housatonic River, go 1.5 miles and take a right on Macedonia Brook Road. After 0.8 miles, veer right onto Fuller Mountain Road. At 0.85 miles, the parking lot will be on the right. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-405-9116 (office), 203-233-0535 (cell), or cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org.

**First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park**  
**Wednesday, June 6, 8:00 AM**

Greg Hanisek, one of the best birders in the state, will lead the walk in this scenic and spacious forest in the northern part of the state. Nesting species here include Blue-headed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Canada Warbler and Black-throated Blue Warbler. Meet at the entrance to Mohawk Mountain State Park on Route 4 in Cornwall, four miles west of Goshen. Leader: Greg Hanisek, ctgregh@yahoo.com; Contact: Tina Green, 203-247-2660 or tina@renaissancestudios.com.

**New Haven Summer Bird Count**  
**Saturday–Sunday, June 9–10**

This is a wonderful opportunity to work on your song identification skills and see what birds are nesting in your area. For the names of area captains and other information, contact Steve Mayo. Meet at various points. Contact: Steve Mayo, 203-393-0694 or rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net.

**Whip-poor-will Walk in Naugatuck State Forest,**  
**Naugatuck**  
**Friday, June 22, 8:30–10 PM (note evening time)**  
**(Rain Date, Saturday, June 23)**

Jack Swatt, New Haven Bird Club member and DEEP volunteer Whip-poor-will monitor, will lead a walk to listen and look for Whip-poor-will at the Naugatuck State Forest. Jack will give a short talk on the status of Whip-poor-wills in the northeast and Connecticut. We will then wait for dusk to fall while we listen for the distinctive call. A sighting? Who knows! Bring a flashlight and plenty of bug spray. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Hunter's Mountain Road, Naugatuck. Leader: Jack Swatt, 203-592-4686 or [jswattbirds@snet.snet](mailto:jswattbirds@snet.snet).

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**Trip and Activity Reports**

**Mega Bowl II Summary**

The second annual Mega Bowl of Birding in New Haven County was held on February 3, 2018 (the Saturday before the NFL Super Bowl). Twenty-eight birders participated in the event, and everyone had a great time. Birders teamed up in groups of 3-5 people and went to birding locations throughout the county, from Southbury to New Haven and from Milford to Madison. They saw an impressive total of 102 species (nearly

identical to last year's total). There were seven teams that participated in the event. Teams returning from last year (with some changes in personnel) were the Avianophiles, the CT Young Birders' Club Dearth Waders, Winging It, and the Winter Wrenegades. New teams included the Greylags, the Lost Birders, and the Snowy Owlkins. Just like last year, the CYBC Dearth Waders came up with the most species and earned the most points of any team. Their team's name will be inscribed on the Mega Bowl Trophy for the second year in a row. They saw a total of 72 species and amassed 147 points. At the end of the day, the participants met at the Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby to enjoy a delicious dinner (expertly prepared by my wife, thank you Marianne!), share stories, and receive awards and prizes. By a wide margin, Ayla Elkins won the award for being the youngest participant (she's only six years old!) and Judy Moore won the award for being the most senior participant (although she looks much younger than her stated age). Prizes were given to every participant through the generosity of the proprietors of The Fat Robin in Hamden and The Audubon Shop in Madison. A number of rare and uncommon birds were seen during the day, including: Barrow's Goldeneye, Black-bellied Plover, Iceland Gull, Snowy Owl, Lapland Longspur, White-crowned Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, Harlequin Duck, and Ross' Goose. The Ross' Goose was worth seven points to each team that went to see it, as it had never been recorded in New Haven County before in early February. Last year, an Eared Grebe staked that claim. We can't help but wonder what rarity will show up next year to earn that distinction.

I made a few minor changes to the event from last year to this year, and the changes resulted in an even better time for all participants. I plan on making a few more changes for next year's event in order to make it even more fun for everyone. Thank you to all of the birders who participated this year. I hope that you will participate again next year. And, if you haven't come out for this event yet, please consider doing so next year. You'll be glad you did!

--Chris Loscalzo  
Mega Bowl Coordinator

### Hammonasset Beach State Park Trip Report



On Wednesday, February 14, Greg Hanisek led the "First" Wednesday Walk (which had been postponed from the week before due to weather) at Hammonasset Beach State Park. 48 species were seen: Brant, Canada Goose, Gadwall, Mallard,

American Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Great Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Dunlin, Purple Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon), Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Peregrine Falcon, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*), American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cedar

Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*), White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch.

### Rhode Island Coast Field Trip Report

On February 24 seventeen members of the New Haven Bird Club spent the day in our neighboring state of Rhode Island. We visited several outstanding birding locations and saw lots of great birds. The weather was unusually warm for this time of year, with the temperature ranging from 45 to 55 degrees. It was cloudy and breezy most of the day, but a light rain fell in the late afternoon.

Our first stop was at Beavertail State Park in Jamestown. Almost immediately after getting out of our cars, we saw three Razorbills swimming and diving off shore. Two of them stuck around for a long time, affording us excellent views of this remarkable alcid species. We also saw numerous Harlequin Duck and Common Eider here, as well as a few Purple Sandpipers and a Great Cormorant. We were off to a good start!

Our next stop was at Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge. The highlight here was not one, but two Snowy Owls. The first was roosting in a cleared field. The second was roosting on a rock along the beach close to the trail north of Island Rocks. We also saw Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone, Purple Sandpiper, and all three Scoter species here.

Next, we went to Scarborough Beach State Park in Narragansett. It took some looking, but we were eventually able to find one of the Black-headed Gulls that have been seen there. It was feeding just offshore with lots of other gulls and waterfowl.

From there, we drove to Trustum Pond National Wildlife Refuge. We hiked from the ranger station to Osprey Point and observed the birds in the pond from the platform there. There was a nice variety of waterfowl in the pond, including Redhead, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, Gadwall, American Wigeon, and a Red-necked Grebe.

The rain had started to fall by then, so we stopped only briefly at Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge. But, that was long enough to find our old friend, the Lesser Black-backed Gull there. This particular individual has been wintering in the same cove at Grassy Point for the past 15 years or so. We are always glad to see this bird.

Our last stop, as the light was fading, was at the Weekapaug breachway. It took some time, but we eventually found the first year King Eider hidden in the Common Eider flock near the end of the canal. We also saw a female Black Scoter there.

All total, we observed 61 species on this fine day. We'll be sure to head out there again next year!

Sincere thanks to all who participated on this long but satisfying trip.

--Chris Loscalzo

### First Wednesday Walk: Stratford Shore Trip Report

The New Haven Bird Club's postponed "First Wednesday" walk took place Friday, March 9, following the mid-week snowstorm. The 16 participants enjoyed all the Stratford



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

coastal hotspots, tallying 51 species. Highlights included: Snowy Owl and adult Kumlien's Iceland Gull at Long Beach; 5 Canvasbacks, pair Common Ravens, and striking breeding-plumage adult Great Cormorant at Fresh Pond; White-winged Scoter and 3 Black-bellied

Plovers at Stratford Point; 2 Green-winged Teal and 6 American Coots at Birdseye boat ramp; and singing Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles at various sites.

--Frank Mantlik

### Richard English Memorial Trip Report

On Saturday, March 31, the Richard English Memorial Trip began at Lighthouse Point Park, continued to Hammonasset Beach State Park, then went to Deer Lake/Richard English Bird Sanctuary. We had beautiful weather and lots of birds.

Highlights included a Gannett at Hammo, a Brown Creeper, Pine and Yellow-rumped Warblers and lots of Brant (106). We had lots of fun and the Saturday before Easter seems a grand time to have the trip.

56 species: Brant, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Mallard, Surf Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Wild Turkey, Red-throated Loon, Northern Gannet, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, gull sp., Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, crow sp., Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

--Mike Horn

### Barnard Nature Center Water Use Program Report

On March 20 a successful event was held at the Barnard Nature Center in New Haven to inform attendees about various aspects of water—especially wastewater and storm water run-off. Presenters included the Conn Fund for the Environment; Neighborhood Housing Services; Yale Forestry & Environmental Science; GNHWPCA (Water Pollution Control), RWA (Regional Water Auth.), Barnard Environmental Studies Magnet School, and NHBC.

Bio-swailes are being installed through the Yale campus and throughout much of New Haven, ~325 this year; site plans for the location of the bio-swailes are available from GNHWPCA. Also, anyone interested can still sign up for assistance planning a rain garden and/or receiving a rain barrel(s): contact 203-562-0598.

--Deborah Johnson

### NHBC Gets Audubon Grant

NHBC has received a grant from Audubon for improvements to the IBA/Urban Oasis at West River Memorial Park.

The grant in general is geared to increase awareness of Important Bird Areas and the birds they support, to Improve, restore & protect habitat, and to create bird-friendly habitat in the New Haven Harbor Watershed.

NHBC's proposal more specifically is for expansion of the West River Urban Oasis and parts of the West River Memorial Park, which runs along the West River and Ella T Grasso Blvd. A large part of the grant is for educational materials, including a bird guide for this specific area, geared primarily to children and novices, and also for signage in the park highlighting individual birds commonly seen in the area.

There are now several groups involved with the West River; partnerships strengthen the drive and the ability to meet stated goals. Other involved groups include Menunkatuck Audubon, Conn Fund for the Environment, Friends of Edgewood Park, West River Watershed Coalition, Neighborhood Housing Services, Barnard Environmental Magnet School, and New Haven Parks.

Terms of the grant require fund matching, which has been approved by the board.

Labor will become a part of the match, and volunteers are sought. Work will begin in April with the day of service, and continue throughout 2018.

### Volunteers Needed for Great Meadows Marsh - Stratford

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking volunteers to serve as stewards at the Great Meadows Unit of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge off Long Beach Boulevard in Stratford.

Great Meadows is one of the most significant wetlands left in our state, with over 270 species of birds using it at various times of the year, as well as terrapins, fish, crustaceans and other wildlife. It is open to the public, with 1.5 miles of trails, viewing platforms and other improvements that allow visitors to see wildlife 365 days per year.

Volunteer stewards help to keep Great Meadows accessible to the public by: patrolling the area on foot and interacting with visitors, informing people about wildlife and the refuge, keeping the area tidy and free of litter, and tracking bird and animal species that use the area. The steward program is conducted in a partnership with the New Haven Bird Club, Friends of McKinney NWR, Audubon Connecticut and others.

A volunteer training and orientation session will be held on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 9am at the Audubon Office at Stratford Point, 1207 Prospect Drive, Stratford, CT 06615. All are welcome to attend, and registration by sending an email to [shaun\\_roche@fws.gov](mailto:shaun_roche@fws.gov) is appreciated. Immediately following the training session, there will be a work session at Great Meadows to clean and make further improvements to the area.



## NHBC Winter Feeder Report 2017-2018 Week 15

We have finished the 15<sup>th</sup> week of the survey. We saw 22 for 22 Common Species and 12 for 12 Semi-common Species. Again, the numbers of birds per species were relatively low and only 7 of the Uncommon Species were seen. We did not see any Pine Siskins or Common Redpolls during these last 5 weeks. The weather may have played a part in that it changed daily as it did last year. We went from warm (40° to 65°F) to cold (10°-30°F) back to warm every few days with sporadic heavy and light snow and periods of heavy and light rain, but basically it was *cold*.

From the Common list we had very few Robins, Brown-headed Cowbirds and hardly any Grackles. No one reported any great flocks (100 or more) of birds at their feeders whereas in previous years we had large flocks of Grackles, Brown-headed Cowbirds and European Starlings descend on the feeders. In weeks 14 and 15 the American Goldfinches came back and were reported in numbers between 10 and 20 by 8 of the surveyors.

The new Semi-common list had all 12 species show up with 12 out of 18 surveyors reporting Northern Flickers. We had Purple Finches, Red-winged Blackbird, Rock Doves, and Wild Turkeys reported by four surveyors, with Chipping Sparrows, Fox Sparrows, Northern Mockingbird, Red-tailed Hawks reported by two surveyors during this five-week period. Eastern Bluebird and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were reported by three surveyors and Sharp-shinned Hawk by four surveyors.

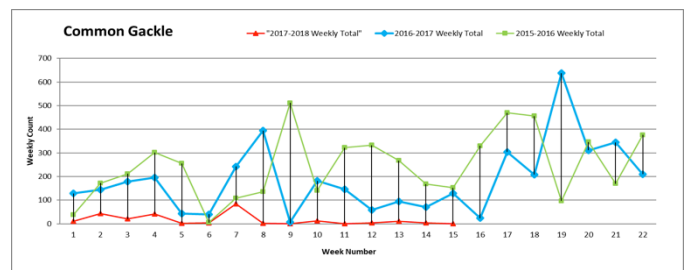
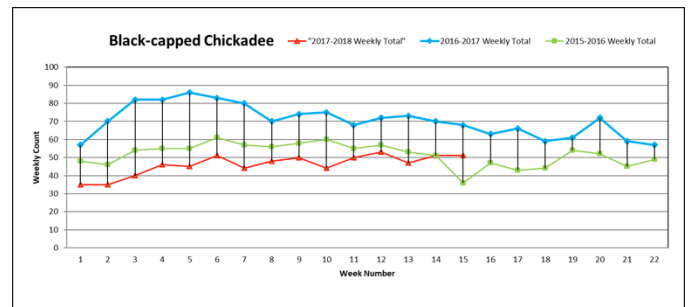
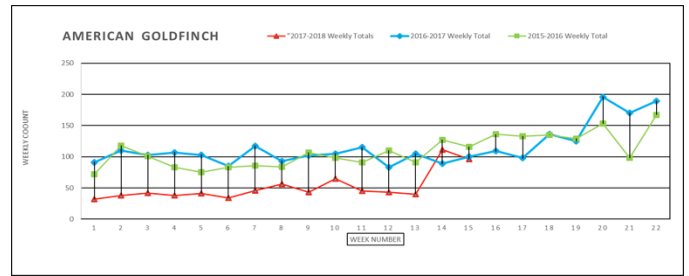
There were no new species added to the Uncommon List and we had 7 of 39 species during this five-week period for 18%, which is very low. Species seen were American Tree Sparrow, Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing, Hermit Thrush, Monk Parakeet, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch.

No Waterfowl were reported.

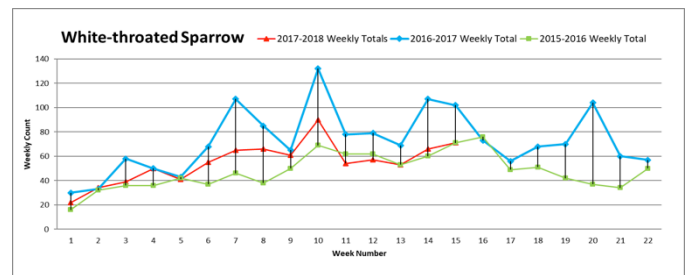
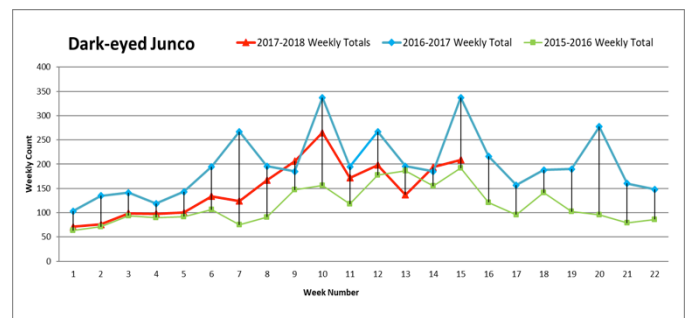
13 of 25 Animals were seen during these five weeks for a 52% sighting. They were Gray Squirrel, Brown Rat, Chipmunk, Feral Cat, Flying Squirrel, Opossum, Rabbit, Raccoon, Red Fox, Red Squirrel, Skunk, Vole and White-tailed Deer.

The graphs of 5 Species are included for weeks one to fifteen. American Goldfinch numbers jumped up at week 14 and stayed up in week 15. Black-capped Chickadee had a slight increase where as Common Grackles were less than 10 with week 15 being zero. Dark-eyed Junco and White-throated Sparrows our winter species were a little lower than last year but above 2015-2016. They seem to peak at week 10 and then their numbers start to come back up around week 15.

--Pete Vitali  
Chairman: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey



Note: Common Grackle chart range was 1200. Major spike at week 9 (2015-2016) throws the graph off so I reduce it by 500 to 700.



## NHBC Can Now Be Found on Instagram

To submit photos please include the following information:

1. Species of bird
2. Area where the picture was taken (Backyard, city park, State Forest, etc.)
3. When the picture was taken

4. Your name and whether or not you would like to be credited as the photographer.

--Charles Strasser  
Conservation Committee Co-Chair  
[crstrasser@gmail.com](mailto:crstrasser@gmail.com)

## Connecticut Bird Atlas Participation

The New Haven Bird Club came out in force for the Connecticut Bird Atlas Block adoptions.

The CT Bird Atlas website block adoption process was launched on March 2. In a few weeks the number of block adoptions in the New Haven Region has topped over 85% completion. Please look at the before and after maps below. The black box indicates the block has been adopted.

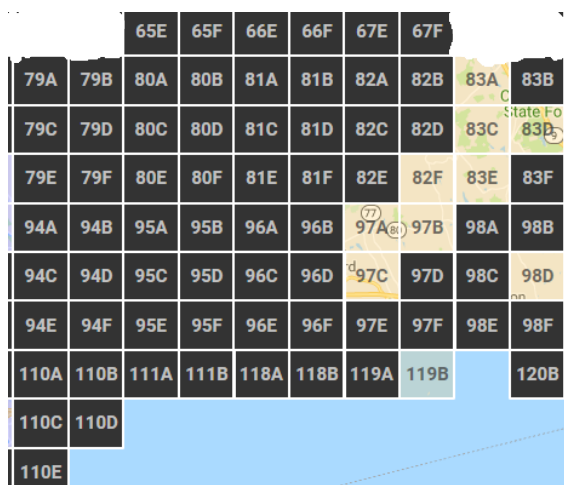
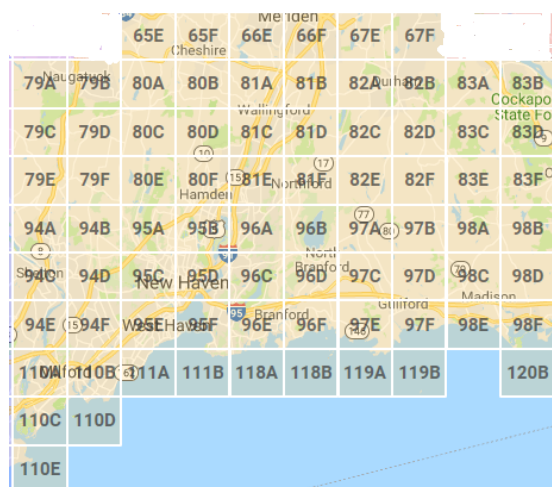
There are 78 blocks in the New Haven region with Steve Broker as the Regional Coordinator. To date 67 blocks have been adopted; most have been adopted by NHBC members. NHBC members have also adopted many blocks in other regions.

Overall there are 601 blocks in the state. The blocks have been divided into eight regions.

There will be a training session at the Whitney Center Cultural Arts Center Thu, April 19 from 7:00-9:00pm. The session will review the protocol, how to use the technological tools, and the breeding codes.

There are still many blocks available throughout the state. As we move into the second and third year we as a bird club could consider block buster events. A block buster is when a few individuals conduct surveys on a block so that the block receives the 20-hour minimum coverage.

Please see the web site for more details: [ctbirdatlas.org](http://ctbirdatlas.org).



## NHBC Participates In and Sponsors West River Walks on CT Trails Day

June 2 and 3 will be a two-day exploration of a large segment of the West River that flows through New Haven. All are invited!

On Saturday we begin at the Pond Lily Preserve behind Walgreens where a 1790's dam was removed three years ago to facilitate the health of the river. We follow West Rock Ridge as we walk through the West River Open Space and then the "Narrows" where we see remains of long-ago mills and manufacturing sites. We come to Amrhyh Field and cross Blake St into historic Westville Village where manufacturing existed into the 1970's, pass an apartment complex and an artist's residence/studio. We cross Whalley Ave. and end our walk at Edgewood Park's Gazebo near the site where during the Revolutionary War, British soldiers following the river from West Haven overwhelmed a group of patriots and began their march into New Haven. From here we can share rides back to our starting point. Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water. Leaders are Anna Marshall, Arabelle Schoenberg, and Craig Repasz; Sponsors are West River Watershed Coalition, Connecticut Fund for the Environment, and New Haven Land Trust.

On Sunday we continue our walk down the West River. We meet at the northeast end of Olmsted-designed Edgewood Park at the Sunday Farmer's Market and end our walk at the West River Tide Gates on Route 1. We pass tennis and basketball courts, cross the West River near Coogan Pavilion & Skate Park. As we ascend the bluff to visit the Holocaust Memorial we pass rhododendrons planted in the 1930's by Beatrix Ferrand, America's first woman landscape designer. We continue until we cross Edgewood Ave. to visit the oldest section of the park with its playground and sundial sprinkler. This first section was designed by Donald Mitchell in the late 1800's. We go to the Duck Pond re-engineered eight years ago to accommodate brackish water and tidal action caused by the reopening of the Tidal Gates. From there we cross Chapel St. to the CT Tennis Center. We follow the river to Route 34 where we cross the river and go into West River Memorial Park to view the Barnard Nature Center, the Urban Oasis, and canoe launch at the Lagoon. The nearby osprey nesting platform has a 24/7 webcam. As we walk south along the Lagoon past rugby and soccer fields to Route 1 we may be lucky enough to spy New Haven's resident eagle pair. We continue to a view of the river and West Rock as painted by Frederic Church in 1849. We end our walk at The Tide Gates which have been reopened in recent years to allow salt water and fish to pass through thus restoring the brackish river and improving its ecological health. We will arrange rides back to our starting point. (Those who prefer can walk back to our starting point following the west side of the river via Marginal Drive and Edgewood Park's Sensory Trail.) Leaders are Stephanie Fitzgerald, Doreen Abubakar and NHBC's Mike Horn. Sponsors are the West River Watershed Coalition, Friends of Edgewood Park, West River Partnership, and New Haven Bird Club. CT Trails day is organized and produced by Connecticut Forest & Park Association ([ctwoodlands.org](http://ctwoodlands.org)).

--Deborah Johnson



# New Haven Bird Club Annual Celebration

**Thursday, May 10, 2018 6-10 PM**

**Amarante's Sea Cliff, 62 Cove Street, New Haven, CT**

The dinner is \$35/person for members and guests.  
Don't forget to bring money for the raffle.



**Dinner, Dessert, Cash Bar and Speaker**

## Dr. Richard Prum – The Evolution of Beauty



Deep in tropical jungles around the world are birds with a dizzying array of appearances and mating displays: Club-winged Manakins who sing with their wings, Great Argus Pheasants who dazzle prospective mates with a four-foot-wide cone of feathers covered in golden 3D spheres, Red-capped Manakins who moonwalk. In thirty years of fieldwork, Dr. Prum has seen numerous display traits that seem disconnected from, if not outright contrary to, selection for individual survival. To explain this, he dusts off Darwin's long-neglected theory of sexual selection in which the act of choosing a mate for purely aesthetic reasons—for the mere pleasure of it—is an independent engine of evolutionary change. Mate choice can drive ornamental traits from the constraints of adaptive evolution, allowing them to grow ever more elaborate. It also sets the stakes for sexual conflict, in which the sexual autonomy of the female evolves in response to male sexual control. Most crucially, this framework provides important insights into the evolution of human sexuality, particularly the ways in which female preferences have changed male bodies, and even maleness itself, through evolutionary time. The *Evolution of Beauty* presents a unique scientific vision for how nature's splendor contributes to a more complete understanding of evolution and of ourselves. Richard O. Prum is William Robertson Coe Professor of Ornithology at Yale University, and Head Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History. He has conducted field work throughout the world, and has studied fossil theropod dinosaurs in China. He received a MacArthur Fellowship in 2010.

### RSVP by mailing the form below:

**New Haven Bird Club Annual Banquet — Thursday, May 10, 2018, 6-10 PM**

**Reservation deadline is May 1, 2018. No tickets will be sold at the door.**

NAME(S): (As they should appear on name tag)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35.00 = Total Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any food allergies or preferences so we can communicate that to the chef:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please RSVP with your name, address and check payable to "NHBC" to:

NHBC, c/o DeWitt Allen, 287 Forest Street, Hamden, CT 06518 860-949-0995, [allendatlow@gmail.com](mailto:allendatlow@gmail.com)



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

**Newsletter April 2018**

#### **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](mailto:allendatlow@gmail.com).

NHBC does not release its membership list or email addresses to other organizations.

The NHBC website offers information about the Club, its programs, and other Club and member news. The web address is [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org). If you have any questions about the Club, you can send an email to: [ask.nhbc@gmail.com](mailto:ask.nhbc@gmail.com).

The New Haven Bird Club is on Facebook. Please like the page "New Haven Bird Club." You can upload your photos, discuss Club events, and post your recent sightings.

CTBirds is an open discussion email list provided by the Connecticut Ornithological Association (COA) to discuss birds and birding in the state. To subscribe, go to: [lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds\\_lists.ctbirding.org](http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds_lists.ctbirding.org)