



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

October 2017

2017 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Starts Friday, September 1, 7:00 AM **Bird Count – Hawk Watch, Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven; Daily September to December**

Wednesday, October 4, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven**

Saturday-Sunday, October 7–8 **THE BIG SIT!®**

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

Thursday, October 12, 7 PM **Steve Broker – Return of the Peregrine**

Saturday, October 14, 8:00 AM **Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Saturday, October 21, 7:30 AM **Lake Chamberlain; Cooper and Calebresi Farms**

Tuesday, October 24, 7:00 PM **Birds in Words – Cape Cod by Henry David Thoreau**

Saturday, October 28, 7:30 AM **Branford Supply Ponds, Branford**

Sunday, October 29, 8:00 AM **Cheshire Hotspots**

Wednesday, November 1, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport**

Saturday, November 4, 8:00 AM **Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve; joint trip with the New Haven Land Trust**

Thursday November 9, 7:00 PM **Dr. Andrea Townsend – How Will Climate Change Affect Warblers?: A Case Study Using Black-throated Blue Warblers**

Wednesday, December 6, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Saturday, December 9, 7:00 AM **Lake Wintergreen, Hamden**

Sunday, December 10, 8:00 AM **Surveying New Haven's Area K for the Christmas Bird Count**

Thursday December 14, 7:00 PM **Dr. Shary Siksay – Funky Feathered Feet**

Saturday, December 16, all day **118th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I was making crackers, and while looking down on the flax, sunflower and, pumpkin seeds I had sprinkled over the thinly rolled dough, I started to think about my platform bird feeder. I then realized I think a lot about bird food. And so my meandering bird food thoughts began...

I am happy to spend money on birdseed. It is really a self-indulgence. The chickadee, titmouse and finch populations are doing fine in the northeast. The birds will be OK without my efforts but I would not be OK with a bird-less deck and backyard. As a club we are kicking off another winter feeder watch season soon with an army of birders bivouacked in their homes engaged in intense reconnaissance on their back yards.

There is more to bird food than just birdseed. Birds attract more birds like the Coopers Hawk to our backyards. I get a thrill seeing a coops sitting on my bird feeder.

Bird conservationists are concerned with other forms of bird food. These past two years the NHBC has increased its involvement with the New Haven Urban Oasis program. This effort helps put pockets of bird-friendly habitat loaded with plantings in locations throughout the city so that birds in migration have stop-over habitat. Our effort, now headed up by our conservation co-chairs is moving rapidly forward. These oases are filled with berry-producing shrubs and oak trees that are full of acorns and green caterpillars.

I have recently started to research and concern myself with a whole new category of bird food – fish. Menhaden specifically. This fish is also called bunker or peanut bunker when it is small. Menhaden have had a great couple of years in Long Island Sound. This abundance is pretty important and has caused some great trends for our birds. In fact, this past year was one of the best years for Northern Gannet. The menhaden is a filter feeder living on phytoplankton and zooplankton. They move fundamental food elements quickly up the food chain, feeding a large variety of life from seals to birds. It is a common sight along our coast and in our salt marshes to see osprey flying with a 15-inch menhaden. Of course, these fish are also eaten by gulls, terns, herons and egrets.

Sport fishermen also love these fish. When menhaden are doing well, striped bass and bluefish are also doing well. Menhaden are not a target for sport fishing, but they might be used as bait. The impact on these fish populations is slight.

(Continued on next page)

New Haven Bird Club Website
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2017-2018

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(President's Message Continued from first page)

On the other hand, commercial fishing that is unchecked and unregulated can crash menhaden populations. These fish are being harvested for their oil to be used in fish meal fertilizers and fish oil supplements. Although there is no real commercial fishing for menhaden in Long Island Sound, these fish have been overharvested in the Chesapeake Bay, where Atlantic menhaden do most of their breeding. Birders know all too well that the bird we see in Connecticut is impacted by what happens elsewhere in the country and elsewhere on the planet. We have already learned this hard lesson with the collapse of the red knot population due to over harvesting of horseshoe crabs.

We bird locally and think globally. The birds will not be OK without our efforts and we will not be OK with a bird-less Connecticut.

My crackers are now ready and cool enough to eat. I open a can of sardines and place one on my cracker and wonder why I have these trains of thought.

The January 11, 2018 Indoor meeting is cancelled. Instead this date will be reserved as a snow day for the January 4 Special Event. The special event on Jan 4 is a presentation by Prof. Chris Elphick on the Connecticut Bird Atlas Project. Some members may remember the last atlas project back in the 1980's. The new atlas project will be one of the biggest birding events this quarter century. I would like to thank Flo McBride for underscoring the importance of the CT Bird Atlas presentation and her willingness to give up her spot. We look forward to her presentation in the 2018-2019 season.

--Craig Repasz

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, 203-288-3087.

The next book we are reading will celebrate Henry David Thoreau and his 200th birthday this year (July 12, 1817). The book is *Cape Cod* by Henry David Thoreau. We will be discussing it on Tuesday, October 24th, in the 6th floor conference room at Whitney Center from 7-9.

Notes from the Board

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

Deadline for submissions to the December *Chickadee* is November 20. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at donnabatsford@gmail.com

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

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, 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.

Thursday, October 12 – Steve Broker Return of the Peregrine

Steve discusses the five known nest sites of peregrines in Connecticut during the period 1850-1948. He then summarizes his ongoing studies of the peregrines that have been nesting at West Rock Ridge State Park in Woodbridge since his discovery of a pair of falcons there in 1999. Peregrine life history strategies are the focus of these studies: territoriality, behavior, vocalizations, foraging, mating, nest site selection and preparation, egg-laying, care of nestlings, nest success, and the changing local population of adults. In the 2000 breeding season, the West Rock peregrines produced the first egg to be laid on a Connecticut cliff in 60 years. Steve Broker has worked in science education for the past 45 years. He taught high school science in the New Haven Public Schools for 23 years and participated in the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute for many years as a fellow, representative, and a member of the Yale National Initiative. His university teaching as adjunct lecturer included courses in ecology and forest & wetland ecology (University of New Haven), biology (Quinnipiac University), and teaching of science (Yale Teacher Preparation Program). Steve is President of the Connecticut Ornithological Association and a past President of the New Haven Bird Club (1991-1993).

Bird Book Tag Sale at the November Meeting!

Here's your chance to clean house. Sort through your bird- and nature-related books (kids' books too!) that you can part with. Bring them to the September and/or October meeting. Proceeds from the sale go to the NHBC Conservation Fund.

Thursday November 9 – Dr. Andrea Townsend How Will Climate Change Affect Warblers?: A Case Study Using Black-throated Blue Warblers

Dr. Townsend will describe general warbler behavior patterns that have been observed linking climate change to their behavior, fitness, and population trends. Based on a 25-year mark and recapture study, and using climate data from the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in New Hampshire, she will also specifically present results of her own work with Black-throated Blue Warblers, *Setophaga caerulescens*. Dr. Townsend and her fellow researchers assessed the effects of spring temperature (i.e., local weather) and the El Niño Southern Oscillation index (a global climate cycle) on the fecundity and population growth of Black-throated Blue Warblers. They found that local and global climatic conditions affected warbler populations in different—and sometimes unexpected—ways.

Thursday December 14 – Dr. Shary Siksay Funky Feathered Feet

While most bird talks focus on the obvious - gorgeous plumage, the intricacy of mating calls and dances, and other fascinating aspects of birds' lives, Dr. Shary Siksay's lecture will focus on the "funky feathered feet," going through the morphology, form, and function of avian feet. All types of avian feet will be discussed in terms of their evolution, how they help the species to adapt and survive, and why certain species are susceptible to the specific injuries she sees most often. Time permitting, she will also go through some interesting local and recent cases, including a great horned owl with his head "on upside down" and a poisoned bald eagle. Dr. Siksay works as a small animal and exotics veterinarian.

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> 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.

Bird Count – Hawk Watch, Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven; Daily September to December Starts Friday, September 1, 7:00 AM

Lighthouse Point Park on New Haven Harbor is one of the premier locations in southern New England for observing migrating raptors as well as a wide variety of songbirds. The watch starts daily at 7 AM and continues as long as the hawks keep flying. Stop by anytime. Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven. Coordinator Steve Mayo, 203-393-0694, rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net.

First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven Wednesday, October 4, 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 parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven. Leader: Steve Broker, 203-272-5192 (home), 203-747-6843 (cell), or LS.Broker@cox.net.

THE BIG SIT!® Saturday-Sunday, October 7–8

THE BIG SIT!®, established by the NHBC, has become an international event, with birders from all over the world participating. The object is to record as many species of birds as possible in one day from one 17-foot diameter circle. The circles are located at a number of birding hot spots throughout CT. Join other birders in one of the established circles or create your own. You don't have to be a hardcore birder to join in the fun. *Bird Watcher's Digest* runs the event now. For details, go to the *Bird Watcher's Digest* website (www.birdwatchersdigest.com). Contact: John Triana, 203-758-7203 or jtriana1@sbcglobal.net.

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

Here's a chance to visit an outstanding birding spot that boasts a variety of habitats—open fields, woodlands, and ponds. We'll

look for fall migrants, including warblers, sparrows, flycatchers, and vireos. Meet at the Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale State Park, 500 Hawthorne Avenue, Derby. Leader: Maria Stockmal, 203-305-3728 or m.stockmal@snet.net.

Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison Saturday, October 14, 8:00 AM

Visit one of our state's best fall birding spots, where the abundance of some migrants and sightings of less common species can make for a truly memorable trip. The walking is easy, all on level ground. Meet outside the park at the new parking lot on the Post Rd. New Directions: Take Exit 62 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. Meet at Hammonasset Beach State Park parking area on Boston Post Road, Madison, just left (east) of the main entrance road. Leaders: Flo McBride, 203-288-6777 or fmcb_warbler@yahoo.com; Bill Batsford, 203-787-1642 (home), 203-494-4325 (cell), or william.batsford@yale.edu.

Lake Chamberlain; Cooper and Calabresi Farms Saturday, October 21, 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

beautiful lower fields. Meet at Lake Chamberlain Regional Water Authority parking area on Sperry Road south of Morris Road, Bethany. Leader: Pat Leahy, 203-393-2427 (home), 203-314-0566 (cell), or ptjleahy@yahoo.com.

Branford Supply Ponds, Branford
Saturday, October 28, 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 Branford Supply Ponds parking lot, Chestnut Street, off Route 1, Branford. Leader: Maria Stockmal, 203-305-3728 or m.stockmal@snet.net.

Cheshire Hotspots
Sunday, October 29, 8:00 AM

We bird several hotspots in the Town of Cheshire, including Boulder Knoll, Broad Brook Reservoir and associated trails, Fresh Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary (Cheshire Land Trust), and the Farmington Canal Lock 12. Boulder Knoll is good for sparrows in fall. Broad Brook reservoir annually hosts 200-400 Ruddy Ducks, one of the highest concentrations of this diving duck in the state. Fresh Meadows and the Canal Line offer a diversity of bird species through the year. Meet at Boulder Knoll Community Farm, 875 Boulder Road, Cheshire. Directions: Drive North on Route 10 Whitney Avenue and enter Cheshire at Old Lane Road (on right). Drive 0.7 miles and turn right on Cook Hill Road. Drive 1.0 miles and turn left on Half Moon Road. Drive 0.4 miles and turn right on Boulder Road. Drive 0.4 miles (passing Boulder Knoll Montessori School) and turn left into small parking lot at Boulder Knoll kiosk and power line. See also large red barn 0.2 miles ahead on right. Leaders: Steve Broker, 203-272-5192 (home), 203-747-6843 (cell), or LS.Broker@cox.net; Melissa Baston, 860-995-0656 or mbaston@tgimachine.com.

First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport
Wednesday, November 1, 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 Sherwood Island State Park: take Exit 18 off I-95 in Westport and head south on the Sherwood Island Connector. Drive into the park and meet at the main parking lot. Leader: Tina Green, 203-247-2660 or tina@renaissancestudios.com.

Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve; joint trip with the New Haven Land Trust
Saturday, November 4, 8:00 AM

Quinnipiac Meadows/Eugene B. 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 Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve. Go south on Quinnipiac Avenue from Rt. 80 (Foxon Road). Turn right at 1040 Quinnipiac Avenue, just past the railroad overpass, and go through the gate onto the property. Leader: Mike Horn, 203-288-1891 or mfhorn@att.net.

First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison

Wednesday, December 6, 8:00 AM

At 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 Hammonasset Beach State Park parking area on Boston Post Road, Madison, just left (east) of main entrance road. Leader: Jerry Connolly, 203-421-4128 (home), 203-710-2011 (cell) or birdshop@sbcglobal.net.

Lake Wintergreen, Hamden
Saturday, December 9, 7:00 AM

Join us for a pre-CBC walk around Lake Wintergreen in Hamden. Depending on conditions, we may take a walk up to Baldwin Drive to have a look over to Woodbridge and Konold's Pond. Meet at the DEEP parking lot on Main Street, Hamden, at the north end of Lake Wintergreen. Leader: John Triana, 203-758-7203 or [triana1@sbcglobal.net](mailto: triana1@sbcglobal.net).

Surveying New Haven's Area K for the Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 10, 8:00 AM

We survey Area K one week prior to the December 16 New Haven Christmas Bird Count. This highly productive area includes Ora Avenue/Proto Drive/Morris Creek Marshes, Cosey Beach, Lighthouse Point Park, Beacon Hill and the Trolley Line, Furnace Pond, and the lower Farm River. Area K typically produces 75-80 species on count day, including waterfowl, loons, herons, raptors, shorebirds, woodpeckers, and such songbirds as wrens, thrushes, sparrows, flocking birds, and finches. Meet at south of Tweed-New Haven Airport, near the end of Ora Avenue/Proto Drive, off Coe Avenue, East Haven. When you see a fork in the road, take it! (Actually, we meet at the fork.). Leader: Steve Broke, 203-272-5192 (home), 203-747-6843 (cell) or LS.Broker@cox.net.

118th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count
Saturday, December 16, all day

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 PM at the Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. Compiler: Chris Loscalzo, 203-389-6508 or clscalzo@optonline.net.

Trip and Activity Reports

Milford Point - Saturday, August 12 Trip Report

On Saturday, August 12 a great turnout of 30+ birders enjoyed experiencing the wonders of Milford Point during a rising tide at the peak of shorebird migration. The weather was dry (despite an earlier forecast for rain and thunder), warm, and pleasant.

The highlights among the 51 bird species recorded were: 11 species of shorebirds, including 60 American Oystercatchers,



Photo by Chris Wood

2000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, close views of 3 juvenile Short-billed Dowitchers. Also, we saw about 250 Common Terns on/near the offshore breakwater, 4 summering Brant, a hunting Peregrine Falcon, an immature Cooper's Hawk, and

'swarms' of swallows feeding low over the lagoon. One experienced observer also saw a probable Northern Gannet.

Besides the birds, we studied some of the plants, and watched the changes that occur during the tidal cycle. It was a delightful mid-day at a great Connecticut Audubon Society sanctuary and public open space!

The full eBird checklist can be seen at:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/email?subID=S38611525>

--Frank Mantlik

EcoWalk at Long Wharf Nature Preserve

21 people attended the Eco-Walk at Long Wharf Nature Preserve / Urban Oasis on Saturday morning August 26. Other than the presenters only 1 was a NHBC member, which is a good thing (potential new members and interested conservationists). It was a gorgeous late summer day, and a great pleasure to show off this piece of restored land in the heart of urban New Haven; at least half the attendees had never been there before, and everyone who signed the guest log expressed interest in learning more about the NHBC and attending this type of event.

Prior to the bird walk led by Bill Batsford, several organizations offered information about this site and the importance of protecting and maintaining our bird-friendly environments. Katie Blake from Audubon Connecticut explained the Urban Oasis program, sharing an updated map of the 22 locations in the New Haven area. Common Ground High School graduate Joaquin Davis spoke of his 4 internship summers there, transforming it from a construction and trash dumping ground to the trails that now lead along three different ecosystems from the shore line beach and mudflats, merging with the tidal marsh, and up into the upland trees and shrubs that provide food for migratory songbirds. Prof. Jo-Marie Kazniak of Sacred Heart University explained all about horseshoe crabs and Project Limulus, and everyone was amazed at the history and current importance of this living dinosaur.

Charles Strasser, NHBC's Conservation Co-Chair, gave us an important insight to the harmfulness of prevalent invasive species and also informed of the difficulty of eradication (it's not as easy as just pulling plants out of the ground) because of the way these plants alter the soil and prevent desirable plant species from returning. He later also gave a great demonstration on how not to hold a horseshoe crab if wanting to retain use of one's fingers! The group followed Bill Batsford onto the tidal flats and saw lots of black bellied



Photo by Joel Tolman

plover and common terns, a few snowy egrets, and two ospreys showed up with a fish. The beauty of the day and the enthusiasm of the group made for a great morning.

The websites for the other participants are:

Audubon Connecticut: CT.Audubon.org

Project Limulus: sacredheart.edu, then search; or Google search Project Limulus

Common Ground High School and Farm: commongroundct.org

--Deborah Johnson



Photo by Lynne Chase

Building the Bird Blind at Great Meadows

A hand full of NHBC Members put on their work clothes, packed a lunch and headed out to the Great Meadows Unit of the Stewart B McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. They were met by Sean Healey and Shaun Roche of the USFWS with their truckload of materials. The goal was to construct an observation blind at Warehouse Pond just off the parking lot on Long Beach Blvd Stratford.

The foundation joists had been constructed this past winter by NHBC Members and were put in place this summer. Soon the party of eight was working. With his carpentry skill and experience Pat Leahy quickly rose to be our foreman. After an hour of toting, sawing and drilling the deck was down and anchored. The sides went up just as fast. The crew took a break for lunch and to watch two immature Yellow Crowned Night Herons. In three hours we had run out of material but had a functioning blind.

At a future date the blind will be completed with framed



Photo by Pat Leahy

viewing windows and a top. Please stop by to see the blind and enjoy the birds.

The construction crew - Louisa Cunningham, Mike Ferrari, Charles Strasser, Catherine Leahy, Craig Repasz, and Pat Leahy.

--Craig Repasz

Birds and Botany at Farm River State Park

On Sunday, September 17, 5 New Haven Bird Club members joined Charles Strasser at Farm River State Park. Although small in number, the group had a great combination of knowledge and enthusiasm so our time spent there did good work to further wildlife conservation. Thanks to cumulative efforts we were



Photo by Peter Vitali

able to add three new species of bird to the Ebird hotspot for Farm River State Park. We also had the chance to explore a small parcel of land along the Long Island Sound with a high level of botanical endemism and to get acquainted with one of the Connecticut State Park system's hidden gems.

Annual Migration Festival at Lighthouse Point Park

On Sunday, September 17, people flocked to Lighthouse Point Park for the many activities at the Migration Festival. The Club had a display table and children's activities and our members led bird walks. This year we also sponsored the Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy whose display was very popular.



Photo by Peter Vitali

The New Haven Bird Club and Instagram

I am pleased to inform you that the NHBC can now be found on Instagram, which is also known as IG. IG is a social media sharing smart phone app and website. It is simpler than Facebook because the only feature it has is to share pictures and short videos with your friends. This app creates an exciting opportunity for organizations such as our own to develop more public community around our area of focus and to bring in younger audiences. IG can be found both online as a website and on devices like cell phones and tablets as an app. You can have an IG account running simultaneously on both your personal computer and your cell phone.

However, the club Instagram will only be as good as the pictures the club is able to post. Unfortunately, despite having founded the Club IG, I do not have many good pictures of my own of birds. Therefore, I am asking you, the NHBC general membership to help me out by sending me pictures. I seek to develop a small archive of bird photos taken around the Greater New Haven area that I can use to periodically post to the club IG.

If you so choose to submit photos for the IG 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

Winter Feeder Survey 2017-2018



I want to welcome all members and non-members to the 2017 – 2018 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 51 species of birds last year, down 1 from the previous year.

We had 20 surveyors this year, and again we were widely scattered around the New Haven County: Bethany (1), Durham (1), East Haven (1), Guilford (3), Hamden (5), Killingworth (1), Milford (1), Monroe (1), North Branford (1), Orange (1), Wallingford (2) and Woodbridge (2). 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 Sunday, October 29th, 2017 and finish on Saturday, March 31st, 2018. It will run for 22 Weeks. After the end of weeks 5, 10 and 15, I will send a report of what was seen. You will receive a final report after week 22.

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

Peter Vitali
Survey Coordinator
Chairman NHBC Winter Feeder Survey

Welcome New Members

David J. Witkovic
Waterbury

Kathleen Ayers and family
New Haven

Cecily Celmer-Shubin and family
West Haven

Matthew J. Male, Lauren Agnelli, and Georgia Male
Chester

Robert Mitchell
North Haven

Beverly and Gary Wininger
Ansonia



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

Newsletter October 2017

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: lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds_lists.ctbirding.org