



# THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

April 2011

## 2011 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Saturday, April 9, 8:00 am **East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance, New Haven**

Sunday, April 10, 8:30 am **Lighthouse Pt/ Richard English Bird Sanctuary, Killingworth**

Thursday, April 14 **Members' Night**

Saturday, April 16, 8:00 am **Beginners' Bird Walk at Lake Wintergreen, Hamden**

Saturday, April 23, 8:00 am **Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center, Ansonia**

Saturday, April 30, 8:00 am **East Rock Park with Ranger Dan**

Saturday, April 30, 9:00 am **Bird Walk for Kids at East Rock Park, New Haven**

Sunday, May 1, 7:30 am **Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, Southbury**

Sunday, May 1, 8:30 am **Chatfield Hollow/Cockaponsett State Forest, Killingworth**

Wednesday, May 4, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven**

Thursday, May 5, 6:00 pm **Annual Banquet — Donald Kroodsmas, The Singing Life of Birds**

Saturday, May 7, 6:00 am **Big Day Marathon**

Saturday, May 14, 6:30 am **Nehantic State Forest and Hartman's Park, Lyme**

Wednesday, May 18, 7:00 am **Naugatuck State Forest**

Saturday, May 21, 7:00 am **Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington**

Sunday, May 22, 7:00 am **Stratford Shore Points**

Wednesday, June 1, 8:00 am **First Wednesday: White Memorial Foundation, Litchfield**

Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12 **Twentieth Annual Summer Bird Count**

Wednesday, June 22, 7:00 pm **Birds in Words: *Birdology: Adventures with a Pack of Hens, a Peck of Pigeons, Cantankerous Crows, Fierce Falcons, Hip Hop Parrots, Baby Hummingbirds, and One Murderously Big Dinosaur* by Sy Montgomery.**

Saturday, July 9, 7:00 am **Central CT Birding Tour**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I must be crazy. I always say this when I'm doing something arduous or something I think no one else would do.

Last year, I decided to do a Big January. This is an event when some birders decide to search for birds in January. It began when birders realized that they did not do much birding in the winter months, especially January, and this was an incentive to get out and search. Also, since winters could be cold or severe, birders preferred to stay home. So, this gave us an activity in a cold month, however, not a month noted for snow.

The rules are easy. They are to identify birds, record where they were seen, and submit a list of at least 90 species. It does not sound like a big task at the beginning when at one location it is easy to net 25 to 30 species. But then, start searching for the birds missed or look for the unusual. Then it becomes an arduous task, and finding even one new species on a trip can be joyous.

Getting back to last year, I knew 90 species of birds would not be realistic given the schedule I had and that I started in mid-January which is late. But, I was enticed by the 25 to 30 bird count I had at Osbornedale State Park in Derby and set a goal of 70 bird species for myself. I knew it was a stretch but was resolved to try.

It was a very mild January and the birds were more easily found as they flew around readily. I netted 52 species and was a little disappointed by this count, but I vowed to try again next year and to begin on January first.

I did begin on January first. I was off to a good start and did most of my birding in Branford. I thought having to walk my dog in the morning would be a handicap, but I found many birds that are not easily located – Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*), Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*), Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), and Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*). Also, the Branford Land Trust property behind my dwelling was alive with birds in January considering my many walks from June through December harvested almost nothing (although I did find a Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) in the fall).

But, for all of this good luck there was much consternation. I netted the usual raptors, but where was my Sharp-shinned Hawk

(continued on next page.)



## New Haven Bird Club - 2010 - 2011

### OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Maria Stockmal m.stockmal@snet.net	203.488.3876
<i>Vice President</i>	Mike Horn mfhorn@att.net	203.288.1891
<i>Treasurer</i>	Gary Lemmon lemmon@snet.net	203.488.7813
<i>Secretary</i>	Judy Moore judymoore@optonline.net	203.387.4582

### BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Audubon CT Liaison</i>	Pat Leahy ptjleahy@yahoo.com	203.393.2427
<i>Conservation Chair</i>	Bill Batsford william.batsford@yale.edu	203.787.1642
<i>Education Chair</i>	Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe jubilee832001@yahoo.com	203.630.9640
<i>Hospitality Chair</i>	Stacy Hanks flybird@optonline.net	203.283.3898
<i>Indoor Programs</i>	Kris Johnson krisjohnson99@snet.net	203.288.3087
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Ralph Amodei ramodei@att.net	203.467.9515
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Steve Spector charsjs@sbcglobal.net	203.876.7461
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Betty Zuraw bzfeathers@sbcglobal.net	860.632.1156
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford dbatsford@footeschool.org	203.787.1642
<i>Nominating Chair</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net	203.389.6508
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Larry Bausher lpbausher@comcast.net	203.389.5918

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT!®</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net	203.389.6508
<i>Email List</i>	Ralph Amodei ramodei@att.net	203.467.9515
<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo smayo@sikorsky.com	203.393.0694
<i>Lighthouse Point Historian</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo smayo@sikorsky.com	203.393.0694
<i>Web Master</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	203.288.0621
<i>Yearbook</i>	Betty Zuraw bzfeathers@sbcglobal.net	860.632.1156

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

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

(Accipiter striatus)? I finally got him flying across the road on Rte. 1 in the last week. Hurray!

On one trip to Milford the streets to a very good birding spot behind a school were closed. It was freezing that day, and between the CT Audubon Center and Silver Sands State Park I only found one new bird! On my way home I stopped at Long Warf in New Haven and did find six more species which made me happy.

My schedule this year was better than last year so I had more time to search for birds, but I was more the weekend birder than anything else. Because of this I devised a strategy. I lined up sites to go to, but it snowed, and snowed, and snowed. I revised my strategy. But, the snow was defeating. I did not have access to trails, and when I did the snow was crusty and hard to walk through. At times temperatures were freezing and winds annoying.

But, I tried. And every time the cold was biting and the walking difficult and the birds harder to find I thought I must be crazy. Who would do this except for the at least 12 other birders who did discover over 90 species. I only netted 72, two of which I found on the last day – January 31st. I located an American Tree Sparrow (Spizella arborea) and a Red-necked Grebe (Podiceps grisegena) at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison. I wanted to find the Short-eared Owl (Asio flammeus) reported there, too, but missed it. Sometimes it goes like that.

If I had more time, I could have followed some of the reports of sightings of birds and I could have gone to places like Shepaugh Dam for the Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus). Then again there is always next year.

--Maria Stockmal

## FROM THE BOARD

### Feb. 24th meeting

The board is in favor of offering free membership to persons under 18, and this will be presented to the membership for a vote at the April meeting.

NHBC has agreed to be a participant in the Young Birders Club (run by National Audubon in Greenwich) by offering bird walks. The first one will be at Lighthouse Point Park in the fall.

### March 24th meeting

Next year's (2011-2012) indoor programs have been determined except for the banquet speaker.

The board has discussed updating the New Haven Bird Club website to make it more interactive.

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## INDOOR PROGRAMS

Monthly indoor programs run September through April. They are held on the second Thursday of the month (except on holidays) in the Jones Auditorium at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven. The social half-hour at meetings begins at 7:00 pm; the meeting and program begin at 7:30 pm. The facility is wheelchair accessible with a ramp and elevator.

*Directions:* Go north 1.4 miles from the New Haven Green on Whitney Avenue, turn left onto Huntington Street. The entrance to the station is on the right, just past the first cross street.

*Cancellation Policy:* Inclement weather or another emergency may cancel a meeting. For cancellation notices, check TV channels WTNH (New Haven) and WFSB (Hartford). Cancellation notices will also be posted online on ctbird.

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*Please Note: As per the Club's by-laws, the April meeting is traditionally the Annual Meeting, which includes presentation of a slate of officers and their election.*

### **Thursday, April 14, 2011 Members' Night**

Don't be bashful! Be sure not to miss this opportunity to add another 15 minutes of fame to your birding memoirs. Remember: you'll be among the best of birding friends. Members' Night is a chance to share your favorite photos, stories, birding haunts, and memories of birds and bird club activities with an appreciative audience. We will have slide and PowerPoint capability. Please contact Program Chair Kris Johnson: krisjohnson99@snet.net or 203.288.3087 with the details of what you would like to show. Members' Night is a lot of fun!

#### **Request for Raffle Items for the Banquet**

If you have a nice picture/painting of birds or a significant bird book or a framed photograph of a bird, please consider donating it for a raffle item for the May Banquet. Contact Kris Johnson (203)288-3087 Krisjohnson99@snet.net or bring it to the April Indoor Meeting.

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### **Thursday, May 5, 2011 — 6:00 pm Annual Banquet — Amarante's Restaurant, New Haven**

*Please Note: The banquet will be held on the first Thursday of the month, May 5, rather than the customary second Thursday.*

Be sure to join us for the Club's Annual Banquet—always great company, great food, and a great program. Reservations required; the form is included in this newsletter. Early reservations are greatly appreciated!

Please remember to bring cash to the banquet to pay for your drinks at the cash bar and to buy tickets for the always-fun raffle of interesting, exciting, and worthwhile prizes!

The program, "The Singing Life of Birds," will be presented by Donald Kroodsma. He is recognized by the American Ornithologists Union as the "reigning authority on avian vocal behavior." He has published hundreds of articles in the field of acoustic communication among birds, and he is the editor and author of books in that area, including his monumental and legendary *The Singing Life of Birds*.

This is an evening not to be missed.

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### *From the Board (Continued from previous page)*

Member At-Large Peter Vitale had to leave the board because of other obligations, and Steve Spector has been appointed by the president, Maria Stockmal, to replace him.

The board is working on updating the responsibility descriptions for the officers, committee members, and special activities to be used as guidelines for position holders and volunteers.

The board discussed taking on a conservation project at Light-house Point Park in New Haven. It concerns Dike Trail, Morris Creek, and the salt marsh. Conservation Chair, Bill Batsford, is researching the matter.

The next board meeting is Tuesday, April 26th, at 7 pm at the Regional Water Authority in New Haven. *Note the day change.*

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The deadline for submissions to the August newsletter is July 22. Send to Donna Batsford dbatsford@footeschool.org

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### **Slate of Officers and Board Members to be voted on at the April 14 Meeting**

President - Maria Stockmal  
Vice President - Mike Horn  
Treasurer - Gary Lemmon  
Secretary - Nancy Specht  
Nominating Chair - Pat Leahy  
At-large - Ralph Amodei  
At-large - Steve Spector

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### **In Memory**

The NHBC has lost long-time member Adrienne Hudson. She died at 90 on March 9 at Connecticut Hospice. Adrienne joined the NHBC in 1964 and was a member for 47 years.

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## FIELD TRIPS / OUTDOOR EVENTS

The New Haven Bird Club does not charge trip or leader fees for its outdoor programs, but participants are responsible for the cost of their food, transportation, and entrance fees (where charged), unless prior arrangements are made by the Club. Car-pooling is encouraged to avoid parking problems at some destinations and to promote conservation of our natural resources. All levels of birders are invited to all field trips, and every effort is made on all trips to help beginning birders. 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. You can check the Club's website too: <[www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)> for trip information and watch for emails sent by the Club or contact trip leaders directly.

*Cancellation Policy:* Inclement weather or another emergency may cancel a field trip. Check the sources listed above or contact the leader of the trip directly if you have any questions about a possible cancellation.

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**Saturday, April 9, 2011, 8:00 am**

**East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance, New Haven**

Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot for a bird walk from 8 to 9 am. Then join Ranger Dan and help with light trail maintenance along the river from 9 am to noon. Bring pruning shears and work gloves if you have them. Leader—Dan Barvir: 203.946.6086

**Sunday, April 10, 2011, 8:30 am**

**Lighthouse Pt/ Richard English Bird Sanctuary, Killingworth**

Meet in the Lighthouse Point Hawk Watch parking lot and bird the harbor for gulls, loons, ducks, and early returning shorebirds. We will then go to the Richard English Bird Sanctuary on Deer Lake in Killingworth, where we'll see a variety of land birds. We finish our birding tour at Hammonasset State Park in Madison. This is an all-day trip so bring lunch and dress warmly. Co-leaders—Dick English: 203.865.8610 and Mike Horn: 203.288.1891, [mhorn@att.net](mailto:mhorn@att.net)

**Saturday, April 16, 2011, 8:00 am**

**Beginners' Bird Walk at Lake Wintergreen, Hamden**

Get a jump on spring migration and see some early migrants such as Palm, Pine, and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Eastern Phoebe. The walk will be oriented to the beginning birder. Meet at the Lake Wintergreen parking lot at the south end of Main Street. Leader—Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508, [closcalz@optonline.net](mailto:closcalz@optonline.net)

**Saturday, April 23, 2011, 8:00 am**

**Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center, Ansonia**

Join our club president on a walk at this fine birding site where there often are exciting surprises. The Center has a wide range of habitats—small ponds, wetlands, thickets, fields, and woods that have had nesting Northern Goshawks and Great Horned Owls. Meet at the nature center parking lot on Deerfield Lane (off Benz Road) in Ansonia. Leader—Maria Stockmal: 203 488-3876, [m.stockmal@snet.net](mailto:m.stockmal@snet.net)

**Saturday, April 30, 2011, 8:00 am**

**East Rock Park with Ranger Dan**

Join Ranger Dan Barvir at this premier site for warblers. We will meet at the Rice Field (baseball field) end of East Rock Park. This is a great location to see a variety of spring migrants. Leader—Ranger Dan Barvir: 203.946.6086

**Saturday, April 30, 2011, 9:00 am**

**Bird Walk for Kids at East Rock Park, New Haven**

On this walk by the park's Mill River, children, accompanied by adults, will search for warblers and other spring migrants. Interested adults are also welcome to join the walk in this famous spring birding site. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Leader—Florence McBride: 203.288.6777, [j.mcbride@yale.edu](mailto:j.mcbride@yale.edu)

**Sunday, May 1, 2011, 7:30 am**

**Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, Southbury**

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 highly diverse and beautiful 650-acre habitat is owned and maintained by the National Audubon Society. Directions: Take Exit 14 off Rte. 84. Go north on Rte. 172, then turn left on East Flat Hill Rd, at the intersection with a church. Continue to Sanctuary entrance on the left. Leader—Roy Harvey: 203.888.5757, [rmharvey@snet.net](mailto:rmharvey@snet.net)

**Sunday, May 1, 2011, 8:30 am**

**Chatfield Hollow/Cockaponsett State Forest, Killingworth**

This 356-acre wooded stream valley is a popular stop throughout the year for birds and birders. At least 20 species of warblers have been recorded in the spring, along with a healthy variety of other avian migrants and nesters. The trip is classed "easy walking." Depending on the group—and the birds—we may meander over to the adjacent Cockaponsett State Forest. Directions: The park entrance is on Rte. 80 in Killingworth, between Rte. 79 and the Rte. 81 traffic circle. Meet in the parking lot at the entrance. Leader—John Himmelman: 860.663.3225, [jhimmel@comcast.net](mailto:jhimmel@comcast.net)

**Wednesday, May 4, 2011, 8:00 am**

**First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven**

Join us for a walk in one of the best places in the state to see warblers and early spring migrants. It is not unusual to see 15-20 species of warblers in this park on any given day in early May. Rarities such as Prothonotary, Kentucky, and Cape May Warbler are possible. Meet at Eli Whitney Museum parking lot by the covered bridge. Leader—Frank Mantlik. Contact—Tina Green: 203.247.2660, [tina@renaissancestudios.com](mailto:tina@renaissancestudios.com)



**Saturday, May 7, 2011, 6:00 am**  
**Big Day Marathon**

Join us for all or part of this action-packed event. We'll focus on New Haven area hotspots, seeking 110-130 species. We start at East Rock and search several other local migrant traps as well as the coast from Lordship/Stratford to Hammonasset. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot at 6:00 am or 7:30 am. Leader—Randy Domina: 203.271.3123, rhexp@hotmail.com

**Saturday, May 14, 2011, 6:30 am**  
**Nehantic State Forest and Hartman's Park, Lyme**

Join us as we explore two prime birding locations in Lyme. Nehantic State Forest is a 1,200-acre woodland, home to Hooded and Worm-eating Warblers and many other species. There are large ponds where you can find Wood Ducks, flycatchers, herons, and other species. Nearby Hartman's Park is known for its breeding population of Cerulean Warblers. Meet at the commuter lot at Exit 55, I-95 in Branford at 6:30 am or the Keeny Road entrance to Nehantic on Rte. 156 in Lyme, at 7:00 am. Leader—Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508, closcalz@optonline.net

**Wednesday, May 18, 2011, 7:00 am**  
**Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**

At the height of spring migration, join us on this mid-week, mid-month walk in a truly fine birding location. We'll hike the trails in search of migrants and residents. The mixed hardwood forest is a good location for Hooded and Worm-eating Warblers, as well as many other species. Meet at the commuter parking lot at Exit 25 off Rte. 8 in Naugatuck. Leader—Bill Banks: 203 288-0189, semismart9@aol.com

**Saturday, May 21, 2011, 7:00 am**  
**Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington**

This will be our 8th annual trip to this excellent birding spot. We'll meet at the commuter lot at Exit 55 of I-95 and carpool to the refuge. The management 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. Leader—Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508, closcalz@optonline.net

**Sunday, May 22, 2011, 7:00 am**  
**Stratford Shore Points**

We'll bird the McKinney Refuge, Great Meadows Marsh, and the two town beaches in search of migrating passerines, shorebirds, and the area's specialties. Meet in the parking lot for 600 Long Beach Blvd., located off Rte. 113 (Lordship Blvd). The turn for Long Beach Blvd. is opposite the Duchess Restaurant. Leader—Frank Mantlik: 203.984.9410, mantlik@sbcglobal.net

**Wednesday, June 1, 2011, 8:00 am**  
**First Wednesday: White Memorial Foundation, Litchfield**

White Memorial Foundation is a 4,000-acre nature preserve with extensive woodlands, conifer plantations, fields, thickets, and wetlands. The preserve is home to more than 115 breeding species and is visited by many migrant species. Notable breeding

species include Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Northern Goshawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, and Blackburnian Warbler. Meet at the visitor center parking lot. Take Rte. 202, turn left on Bissell Rd. and then an immediate right into the White Memorial. Leader—Greg Hanisek. Contact—Tina Green: 203.247.2660, tina@renaissancestudios.com

**Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12, 2011**  
**Twentieth Annual Summer Bird Count**

This is a wonderful opportunity to work on your song identification skills and to see what birds are nesting in your area. For the names of area captains and other information, contact leader Steve Mayo: 203.393.0694, smayo@sikorsky.com

**Saturday, July 9, 2011, 7:00 am**  
**Central CT Birding Tour**

Join us as we visit several excellent birding locations in the CT central valley. Our first stop will be the grasslands near Rentschler Field in East Hartford. We'll look for Grasshopper Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper, Eastern Meadowlark, and other grassland species. Our next stop will be Station 43, along the CT River in South Windsor, where we'll look for Least Bittern, Green Heron, Wood Duck and other freshwater wetland species. After a picnic lunch under the largest tree in CT—Simsbury's famous Pinchot Sycamore on the banks of the Farmington River—we'll go to another area of Simsbury, Great Pond State Forest, to look for the Mississippi Kites that have nested near there the past few years. Meet at the commuter lot at 7:00 am on Rte. 68 in Wallingford, west of I-91 at Exit 15 (at the east end of Barnes Rd.) Leader—Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508, closcalz@optonline.net



*Ring-billed Gull*  
*Photo by Mike Horn*

**SATURDAY FAMILY BIRD WALKS**

The New Haven Bird Club is excited to offer a series of free bird walks geared for families. These walks will focus on what birds and other wildlife can be found at East Rock Park over the course of the year. The winter walk was on Saturday Feb. 19th. In spring, we'll join the previously scheduled "Bird Walk for Kids" on April 30th at 9:00 am to search for warblers and other spring migrants. Summer and fall walks will be on June 25th and Oct. 1st at 8:30 am. The walks will begin at the covered bridge by the Eli Whitney Museum Parking lot. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them, appropriate clothing, and a little bit of curiosity about birds and the natural world. All ages are welcome. For more information contact: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-630-9640, jubilee832001@yahoo.com.

## Family Bird Walk Field Trip Report

The first Saturday Family Bird Walk took place at East Rock Park on Feb. 19th. It was a blustery day to say the least, but the raptors seemed to enjoy it. At one point there were 6 Turkey vultures and 3 red-tailed hawks in the air directly above us. An immature bald eagle and a couple of ravens also were held aloft by the strong breeze. Fortunately East Rock, in all its majesty, blocked the majority of the wind at ground level, allowing us to observe 2 pairs of wood ducks, a great blue heron, and a common merganser in comfort. Golden-crowned kinglets and black-capped chickadees were active along the trail; Common grackles and a very vocal house finch has us all thinking of spring. The next family bird walk will be held on April 30th in combination with the annual Bird Walk for Kids, lead by Flo McBride. All ages are most welcome.

--Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe

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## Sachuest Point and Rhode Island Coast Field Trip Report

On Saturday, February 26th, ten club members spent the day birding along our neighboring state's shores. We saw a number of interesting and unusual bird species, several of which are difficult to find in Connecticut. The highlight of the trip was a Black Guillemot that we spotted off the point at Beavertail State Park in Jamestown. The bird was striking in its nearly all-white non-breeding plumage. Unfortunately, our observation of this bird was brief as it soon lifted itself up and out of the water and flew out of sight. The second best bird of the day was a Red-necked Grebe that we found at Sachuest Point. In contrast to the Guillemot, this bird stayed in full view for us for a long time, giving all of us a chance to study its distinctive features. The third best bird of the day was a drake Eurasian Wigeon. This bird was found in a flock of American Wigeon in the marsh south of Grassy Point in the Ninigret Wildlife Refuge. Other notable sightings (in taxonomic order) included: Brant, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, all three Scoter species, all three Merganser species, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Cormorant, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk (seen at our meeting place in Branford), four shorebird species (Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Purple Sandpiper, and Dunlin), Brown Creeper, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. In total, we saw 65 species, which I believe is an all-time high for this trip. Please join us next year as we try to break the record!

--Chris Loscalzo

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## Please Consider...

If you indicated that you wanted to receive the newsletter electronically only, you will not receive a paper copy of this issue of the *Chickadee*. Others will receive a copy in the mail soon. The club encourages you to take the "email only" option to receive this newsletter as it saves paper and postage. If you would like to become an "email only" recipient, please contact the Membership Chair, Betty Zuraw, bzfeathers@sbcglobal.net or 860.632.1156.

## Stratford Great Meadows IBA and Stratford Point Field Trip Report

On Wednesday, March 2, 25 participants fought through the strong winds on the Stratford coastline and saw 41 species, going from Long Beach to the McKinney Refuge and railroad trail and concluding at Stratford Point. Highlights included the first American Oystercatcher of the year for the state (about a week early, too) in Great Meadows along with a Peregrine Falcon having a meal. About 14 Boat-tailed Grackle were spotted flying near the railroad trail, and an American Woodcock was also flushed. Quite a number of Common Grackle and Red-winged Blackbird were seen. A couple American Robin were spotted, too. We saw a lot of waterfowl including Brant, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Gadwall, American Wigeon, hundreds of American Black Duck, Mallard, Long-tailed Duck, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, and Common Loon.

The 41st species was seen after everyone except Tina had left Stratford Point. She saw the American Kestrel I spotted flying in from Long Island Sound as it landed on a pole for a break in migration. After also seeing a couple Northern Harrier and a Red-tailed Hawk some of the avid hawkwatchers on hand had been mentioning it is only six months until the next fall season starts, and that we could see a few northbound birds flying in today on the strong southerly winds - there was one for us! I wish it came a bit earlier for everyone to see. Nevertheless, it was a very nice morning, thank you all for coming.

--Scott Kruitbosch

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## Stratford Shoreline Field Trip Report

On Sunday, March 20, we had a great trip of 21 people around Stratford shoreline. Lots of waterbirds off of Long Beach; much smaller numbers and variety elsewhere. 52 species, including 14 species of ducks, with the following highlights:  
Long Beach: Rough-legged Hawk (dark morph), 4 Northern-Shovelers, many ducks, gulls, loons.  
Frash Pond: 1 Pied-billed Grebe.  
Stratford Point: 3 Northern Gannets, 2 Northern Pintail (fly over), 2 Bonaparte's Gulls, 4 American Oystercatchers (on distant breakwater).  
Short Beach: 1 Great Egret, 1 Canvasback, 50 Gadwall.  
Birdseye boatramp: 14 American Coot.

A great first day of spring morning to do some coastal birding with a great group of people.

--Frank Mantlik

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## NHBC Merchandise Available

You can purchase New Haven Bird Club merchandise - shirts, hats, mugs, etc. - from Café Press. Items are sold for only one dollar over cost to provide members with good affordable items. To view the items or make a purchase, go to the Club's website - [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org) - and click on the "NHBC Merchandise" link.

## NHBC Winter Feeder Report End of Week 15

It has certainly been a rough winter. Spring is just around the corner. I am sorry that I was not able to give you any response at the end of week 10 but computer problems kept me busy. I was able this week to review the first 15 weeks. Common and Uncommon only refers to how these species are showing up in this Winter Report. This is done so that I can input the counts easily.

Some data from the sheets.

We had 35 common species so far. We added 6 new species to the Uncommon Column: Merlin (Lynn Jones), Savannah Sparrow (Kris Johnson), Hermit Thrush (Carol Goertz), Raven, Black Vulture (Gary Lemmon) and the Broad Wing Hawk (Deborah Johnson). Even with these new species added we only had 19 of the 26 Uncommon species show during the first 15 weeks. The following species from the Uncommon Column that have not been seen are: Monk Parakeet, White Crowned Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Oriole, and Black-poll Warbler. Pileated Woodpeckers have been seen by two surveyors in the vicinity of their backyards but not at or near their feeders. Two new waterbirds were added, the Herring Gull and the Ring-bill Gull reported by Gary Lemmon. None of the other waterbirds on the list have been seen so far. The Animal Column has grown with the addition of: Feral Cats (Kris Johnson); Coyote, Gray Fox, Skunk (Gary Lemmon); Opossum, and Red Fox (Randi Gentile, Gary Lemmon).

-- Pete Vitali

*Chairman: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey*

### For Parrot Fanciers

We had an inquiry from the Flapping Feathers Parrot Club about doing a newsletter exchange. Although we don't do newsletter exchanges, I am passing along the contact info for those who are interested. The editor is Shelly Orloff, sheldono@sprynet.com

### Audubon CT is Looking for Volunteer Birdwatchers

Audubon CT is seeking citizen scientists (volunteer birdwatchers) to participate in surveys of Neotropical migrant songbirds during spring migration, one morning per week from April 20 – June 1, 2011. Volunteers should have strong bird identification skills and at least a basic ability to identify common plants. Our priority sites for the surveys are coastal sites from Greenwich to New Haven, but people interested in conducting the surveys at other sites in CT are welcome to participate as well. To volunteer or for more information, contact Michelle Frankel at mfrankel@audubon.org or 203-869-5272, ext.225.

You can see more about this and other citizen science opportunities on their website [ct.audubon.org/BirdSci\\_CitizenScience.html](http://ct.audubon.org/BirdSci_CitizenScience.html)

## BIRDS IN WORDS

Birds in Words is NHBC's book discussion group for people who like to read about their favorite hobby and then discuss the books at casual and thought-provoking sessions. Please feel free to attend any of the meetings. All are welcome! Meetings start at 7:00 pm at The Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Dr., Hamden. If you have any questions, please email or call Sara Zagorski: [szagorski@daypitney.com](mailto:szagorski@daypitney.com), 860.721.1814.

*Directions:* From Whitney Avenue northbound, turn left on Putnam Avenue, then right on Leeder Hill Drive. Park on the road and go to main desk, sign in, and get directions to the meeting room. Directions are also available at: <http://www.whitneycenter.com/directions.html>

Wednesday, June 22, 2011, 7:00 pm

The NHBC book club, Birds in Words, will be discussing *Birdology: Adventures with a Pack of Hens, a Peck of Pigeons, Cantankerous Crows, Fierce Falcons, Hip Hop Parrots, Baby Hummingbirds, and One Murderously Big Dinosaur* by Sy Montgomery. The Booklist review says it best: "Montgomery assists a hummingbird rehabilitator in the delicate raising of two tiny orphans, and meets the 'most dangerous bird on earth,' the enormous, razor-clawed cassowary in Australia, one bird whose dinosaur ancestry is blazingly apparent. She also writes from unexpected perspectives about falcons, crows, pigeons, chickens, and parrots, each intriguing tale illustrating one of the 'seven essential truths about birds,' and all revealing fresh insights about birds, interspecies communications, and environmental concerns. Inspired equally by all that we share with birds—similarities in intelligence, emotion, language, and music—and all that is mysterious (birds 'remain fundamentally wild'), Montgomery expresses profound appreciation for the living web of life in a book that both bird lovers and readers new to bird lore will find evocative, enlightening, and uplifting. " For more information contact Sara Zagorski, 860-721-1814, [szagorski@daypitney.com](mailto:szagorski@daypitney.com).

### Welcome to the following new members!

Linda Miller  
690 Leetes Island Rd.  
Stony Creek, CT 06405  
203.488.8219  
[lindaamiller@snet.net](mailto:lindaamiller@snet.net)

Wenhui & Yang Wang  
252 Hemlock Hill Rd.  
Orange, CT 06477  
203.795.5688  
[yang.wang@yale.edu](mailto:yang.wang@yale.edu)



*Great Blue Heron*  
*Photo by Mike Horn*

### Errata

In the February *Chickadee* the picture on page 7 misidentified as a Rough-Legged Hawk was correctly identified by eagle-eyed Janet Mehmel as a Red-Shouldered Hawk.

In the online edition, on the last page, both photos by Mike Horn were labeled Robins, but in fact, the bottom picture was a tree full of House Finches.



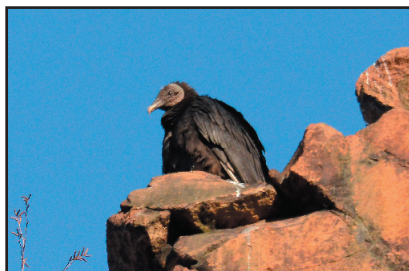
## Late-Breaking News



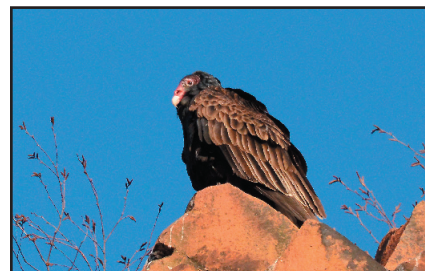
At the COA meeting on Saturday, April 9, Richard English, 65-year NHBC member, received the COA President's Award from Pat Comins for numerous and outstanding lifetime contributions to birding. Wider coverage will be in the next newsletter.



*Trumpeter Swans at Konold's Pond in Woodbridge  
Photo by Bill Batsford*



*Black Vulture on East Rock  
Photo by Bill Batsford*



*Turkey Vulture on East Rock  
Photo by Bill Batsford*

## Newsletter APRIL 2011

### NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code / Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print clearly in block letters)

\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_ Renewal

Membership Levels (check appropriate category):

\_\_\_\_ \$15 for individual \_\_\_\_ \$50 Supporting

\_\_\_\_ \$20 for family \_\_\_\_ \$5 student under 18

\_\_\_\_ \$300 for life for 1 or 2 people at same address

\_\_\_\_ Gift Membership for any of above levels. We'll

send a notice telling recipient that the gift is from

(your name): \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to New Haven Bird Club and  
send to: New Haven Bird Club, PO Box 9004,  
New Haven CT 06532-0004

All contributions are tax-deductible. If your employer  
gives matching grants, please take advantage of the  
offer. It's free and it helps NHBC's program budget.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

*The date on address labels is **your membership expiration**.*

**TO RENEW** your membership, use the form to the left.  
Please check that this is a renewal.

**TO JOIN NHBC**, use the same form. Indicate New Member.

**GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP:** Fill out the form and list the  
name of the gift-giver. We will notify the recipient of your gift.

**THE CLUB WELCOMES EVERYONE** irrespective of age,  
race, gender, sexual preference, or national origin.

**MOVING?** The post office does not forward bulk mail. If you  
move, we will not know it unless you notify us of your new  
address as well as your new phone and email if they change.  
Send that information to the Club address given on the form  
to the left or contact the Membership Chair, Betty Zuraw:  
bzfeathers@sbcglobal.net or 860.632.1156.

**CT Daily Report** A daily electronic report of rare and uncom-  
mon bird sightings in CT may be obtained by checking this  
website for directions on subscribing: <[http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds\\_lists.ctbirding.org](http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds_lists.ctbirding.org)>  
ctbirds is an open discussion email list that posts members'  
unedited comments on birds and birding in CT.

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