



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

December 2011

2011 - 2012 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

November 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012 **NHBC 19th Annual Winter Feeder Survey**

Saturday, December 3, 9:00 am **Family Bird Walk at Silver Sands State Park, Milford**

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

Thursday, December 8, 7:00 pm **Chris Rimmer - Bicknell's Thrush: Conserving a Bird of Two Worlds**

Saturday, December 10, 8:00 am **Ora Avenue/ Proto Drive/ Tweed-New Haven Airport, New Haven**

Saturday, December 17 **112th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count**

Wednesday, January 4, 2012, 7:30 am **First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport**

Thursday, January 12, 2012, 7:00 pm **Jonathan Truern-Trend - Birding Babylon**

Sunday, January 15, 2012, 7:30 am **Stratford/Milford Birding Tour**

Saturday, January 28, 2012, 7:30 am **Barkhamsted Reservoir & Vicinity (Hart To Hart: New Hartford To Hartland)**

Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison**

Saturday, February 4, 2012, 8:00 am **Hammonasset State Park, Madison**

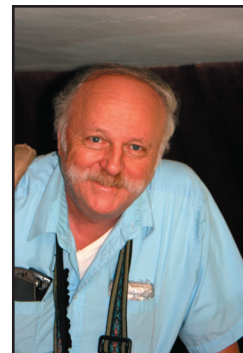
Thursday, February 9, 2012, 7:00 pm **Dr. Sylvia Halkin - Squirrels: Birders' Enemy #1? Or Intriguing Survivors?**

Saturday, February 25, 2012, 7:00 am **Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi folks,

As most of you know, the late Richard English was a kind and generous soul who loved the New Haven Bird Club devoutly. He has established an annuity which will pay the Club roughly \$2,500 a year forever starting in 2012 (half year) and full payments from 2013 on. Thank you from all of us, Dick.



Another major item. We are losing our happy home in Jones Auditorium at the Ag Station starting Sept 2012 through the summer of 2014 – about 2 years – while they do some major remodeling. If any of you have suggestions as to where we can meet, please let me know so that we can follow them up. Contact me at mfhorn@att.net or 203-288-1891. So far we have, as suggestions, The Jewish Community Center on Amity Road just over the New Haven line in Woodbridge and the Unitarian Church on Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

Thank you,
Mike Horn

FROM THE BOARD

The next board meeting is Thursday, January 26, at 6:45 pm at the Regional Water Authority in New Haven.

The deadline for submissions to the February newsletter is January 30. Send to Donna Batsford: donnabatsford@gmail.com

Join us now on [facebook](#)

Birding has come to popular culture. The New Haven Bird Club is now on Facebook. So log onto facebook and like the page "New Haven Bird Club." You can post your photos, see other photos, participate in a discussion and check out the upcoming events.

Visit the NHBC Website at www.newhavenbirdclub.org

The site has a lot of useful information and links to other sites of interest and use to birders, including a link to the site that sells clothing, hats and totebags with the NHBC logo.

New Haven Bird Club - 2011 - 2012

OFFICERS

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SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT!®</i>	John Triana	203.758.7203
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<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo	203.389.6508
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<i>Yahoo Group</i>	Ralph Amodei	203.467.9515
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<i>Lighthouse Point</i>	rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	
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<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo	203.393.0694
	rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	
<i>Web Master</i>	John Triana	203.758.7203
	j triana1@sbcglobal.net	
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali	203.288.0621
	vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	
<i>Yearbook</i>	Betty Zuraw	860.632.1156
	bz4feathers@gmail.com	

The NHBC website is www.newhavenbirdclub.org

Welcome to the following new members!

Eileen Dunn
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eileenbd@me.com

Randy Given
3 Kathleen Way
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Mary Kordak
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adam.manny@yale.edu

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Branford, CT 06405
203.481.0179

Sol Satin
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Madison, CT 06443
413.265.3943

Daniel Snyder
PO Box 422
Southport, CT 06890
203.455.4748
snyderdacker@pequotlibrary.org

Notice! Birder Tag Sale at the March Meeting!

Bring bird books and avian art to the January and February meetings; we'll sell them at the March meeting. Proceeds go to NHBC's Conservation Fund.

FROM THE NHBC CONSERVATION CHAIR

In October 2011 after collecting a number of binoculars and also bird books of Central and South America through the generosity of members of the bird club, I sent off a package to Birders Exchange, a program of the American Birding Association. I had been able to collect eight pairs of binoculars and five or six books from members over the past two years. This gift of items to Birders Exchange will be distributed through their program to organizations or individuals in Latin America or the Caribbean who are working on behalf of a bird conservation or bird education program.

Now that we have done this once, I am hopeful that bird club members will remember to look for the box marked BEX on the Sign in Table at the indoor programs. This box is there to collect more binoculars and books for this wonderful cause. So, whenever you upgrade your binoculars, or if you have an extra pair just hanging around, please donate them so we can send a second or even third box to Birders Exchange. I will collect items if you are unable to attend the meetings. Remember every item donated will help educate the people living in Central and South America and help the birds we are devoted to survive better in their other habitat.

--Kris Johnson

INDOOR PROGRAMS

Monthly indoor programs start in September and are held on the second Thursday of the month 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.org.

Thursday, December 8, 2011 — Chris Rimmer Bicknell's Thrush: Conserving a Bird of Two Worlds

The Bicknell's Thrush is one of North America's most rare and vulnerable songbirds. Nesting only in mountaintop forests of Vermont and other northeastern states, and wintering primarily on the island of Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti), Bicknell's Thrush faces numerous threats to its long-term survival. On its breeding grounds, these include acid precipitation, ski area development, communications tower construction, wind power development, mercury contamination, and climate change. The species' limited winter habitats likewise are under siege, from deforestation caused by human population pressures. Since 1992, Chris, Director of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE), has led efforts to conserve the Bicknell and the habitats on which it depends. He'll discuss this rare and fascinating songbird and VCE's study of it at both ends of its migratory range. Chris has degrees in Wildlife Biology and Ecology and Behavioral Biology. Prior to his job at VCE, he did research in Ontario, Peru, Manomet Bird Observatory (MA) and both the Arctic and Antarctic.

Thursday, January 12, 2012 — Jonathan Truern-Trend Birding Babylon

Jonathan, an Iraq veteran who served two tours there as a member of the CT National Guard, also has had a life-long passion for birds. During his 22 months in Iraq, he birded every chance he got and tonight he will introduce us to the surprisingly rich natural history of the country, an important transit stop for birds migrating to Africa. Iraq is also a major wintering area for waterfowl and shorebirds. Jonathan will discuss the destruction

and miraculous rebirth of the great Mesopotamian Marshes and will detail the inspiring work of Nature Iraq, an Iraqi environmental organization that has been surveying and advocating for Iraq's natural resources since 2003, often at great personal risk. A UConn grad in biology, Jonathan has worked in the American Red Cross Epidemiology and Surveillance program studying transfusion-transmitted infectious diseases. In Iraq he was with the 118th Medical Battalion.

Thursday, February 9, 2012 — Dr. Sylvia Halkin Squirrels: Birders' Enemy #1? Or Intriguing Survivors?

For just one evening, let's give equal time to the clever non-avian creatures that we might as well admit will always be with us. Dr. Sylvia Halkin will tell us about the complex nut-storing behavior of these extremely familiar but not always welcome backyard visitors. Her biology students at CCSU have gotten not only to learn scientific methodology but have had some good fun too in their research on Eastern Gray Squirrels. These animals depend on the nuts that they store for food over the winter and have a remarkable diversity of strategies to protect their stashes from potential thieves. The shrewd tacticians even change their nut-storing behavior in response to recent theft. Enjoy a presentation about the resourceful animals that at times outwit even the professor and her students. Dr. Halkin has published in major science journals on her research on song repertoire use by Northern Cardinals and Black-capped Chickadees and bill-tucking orientation of birds resting in groups, as well as on her work on squirrels. She and her students have appeared on Animal Planet network's Most Extreme Pirates.

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 Drive, Hamden. If you have any questions, please email or call Kris Johnson krisjohnson99@snet.net or 203.288.3087.

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. Also available at: <http://www.whitneycenter.com/directions.html>

The Next meeting will be in late February. The book to be read will be chosen soon. Watch for the announcement.

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> 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.

NHBC 19th Annual Winter Feeder Survey October 31, 2011 through April 1, 2012

This is a yearly census to help determine the number and frequency of birds visiting feeders in the Greater New Haven area. You are invited to observe and record the activity at your feeder at least once a week for the entire time period. Contact Peter Vitali: 203.288.0621, vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net

Family Bird Walk at Silver Sands State Park, Milford Saturday, December 3, 2011, 9:00 am

This walk is oriented toward families that are interested in learning about birds. Beginners are welcome. The park is a great place to see waterfowl, shorebirds, and sparrows. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them, appropriate clothing, and a little bit of curiosity about birds and the natural world. Meet in the parking lot at the end of Silver Sands Pkwy. Leader—Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe; 203.630.9640, jubilee832001@yahoo.com

First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison Wednesday, December 7, 2011, 8:00 am

Join us as we explore this birding hotspot for fall migrants. The varied habitat attracts shorebirds, raptors, songbirds, and waterfowl. Meet at the park entrance. Leader—Jerry Connolly. Contact—Tina Green: 203.247.2660, tina@renaissancestudios.com

Ora Ave./Proto Drive/Tweed-New Haven Airport, New Haven Saturday, December 10, 2011, 8:00 am

Meet on Proto Drive near the landfill. This area on the east side of the airport has a great array of late fall migrants and some over-wintering species. Possibilities include Rough-legged Hawk, White-crowned Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Marsh Wren, and even Great Horned Owl and American Bittern.

Directions: Take I-95, Exit 51 Frontage Road. Go 0.9 mi. Turn right onto Hemingway (Rte. 142). Go about one mile, turn right onto Proto Drive. Leader—Steve Broker: 203.272.5192 (cell: 203.747.6843), ls.broker@cox.net

112th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 17, 2011

Join other NHBC members in this fun event, steeped in tradition. Participate for a few hours or for the entire day. Results of the count are sent to the National Audubon Society and are included

in an international census of early winter bird populations. The compilation dinner, held at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, starts at 5:00 pm. Compiler—Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508, closcalz@optonline.net

First Wed. Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport Wednesday, January 4, 2012, 7:30 am

Enjoy a mid-week trip to this fine birding spot on Long Island Sound. We will check the Sound for loons, goldeneye, grebes, and other sea ducks. The park's fields are a good place to look for Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, and sparrows. Meet at the main parking lot in the park. Leader—Tina Green: 203.247.2660, tina@renaissancestudios.com

Stratford/Milford Birding Tour Sunday, January 15, 2012, 7:30 am

Join us as we visit the marshes and beaches in Stratford and Milford. We'll be looking for sea ducks including scoters, scaup, loons and grebes, gulls, raptors, and shorebirds. Meet at the commuter lot on Schoolhouse Road in Milford just south of Exit 35 on I-95. Leader—Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508, closcalz@optonline.net

Barkhamsted Reservoir & Vicinity (Hart To Hart: New Hartford To Hartland) Saturday, January 28, 2012, 7:30 am

We travel north on Route 8 through the Naugatuck River Valley to Torrington and then take Route 202 to the first of our birding localities, New Hartford's Maple Hollow. We continue to Lake McDonough and Barkhamsted Reservoir, then make a series of stops along Routes 181 and 20 on the west side of the reservoir. As the wintry weather allows, we drive some roads in Peoples State Forest and Tunxis State Forest. When we reach the north end of Barkhamsted Reservoir, we are within shouting distance of the Massachusetts border. Our list of northern species will be a short one, but the scenery is great and the birding fun. Look forward to a hearty lunch of soup and sandwiches as we'll be dining at a warm New Hartford restaurant. Meet at Amity Shopping Center, Woodbridge off Route 63. Our caravan departs for Connecticut's rural northern heartland shortly thereafter. Leader—Steve Broker: 203-272-5192, (cell: 203-747-6843), ls.broker@cox.net

**First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison
Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 8:00 am**

Join us on this mid-week field trip to one of the area's best birding locations. We will look for sea ducks, grassland species, and rarities. Last year the first ever sighting of a Common Murre in CT occurred right around the time of this trip. Meet at the park entrance (I-95, Exit 62). Leader—Greg Hanisek. Contact—Tina Green: 203.247.2660, tina@renaissancestudios.com

**Hammonasset State Park, Madison
Saturday, February 4, 2012, 8:00 am**

Join us as we visit this premier CT birding location for a mid-winter excursion. We will be looking for sea ducks, shorebirds, grassland species, and winter finches. Notable sightings on last year's trip included Common Eider, Surf Scoter, Sanderling, Purple Sandpiper, Dunlin, Merlin, Snow Bunting, and Horned

Lark. We'll check out the entire park, including the campgrounds area. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot at Meig's Point. Leader—Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508, loscalz@optonline.net

**Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast
Saturday, February 25, 2012, 7:00 am**

This all-day trip includes stops at Sachuest Point, Beavertail State Park, Moonstone Beach, and Trustum Pond, all outstanding Rhode Island birding locations. We should see grebes, loons, scoters, eiders, Purple Sandpipers, and lots of Harlequin Ducks. Highlights on last year's trip included Black Guillemot, Red-necked Grebe, and Eurasian Widgeon. Dress warmly—it's cold and windy on the coast. The hiking is a bit strenuous in places. Bring lunch and a spotting scope if you have one. Meet at the Branford commuter lot at Exit 55, I-95. We carpool from there. Leader—Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508, loscalz@optonline.net

Trip Report: Hammonasset Beach State Park, October 15

Though sunny for a lot of the morning, it was a very windy day, with much higher waves on the sound than we remember ever having seen on this trip before. Some interesting sights were produced by the weather conditions that were unfavorable for our primary effort -- finding birds. Early on there was a group of Monarchs nectaring in a sheltered spot near the nature center; and the broad sweep of the marsh grasses bending and rippling in the wind was beautiful.

But we only recorded 39 species of birds, and worked hard for those. A mere four species of sparrows were found, with regulars like Savannah and White-crowned among the missing. We did see quite a few Yellow-rumped Warblers, and had good looks at a Pine Warbler at Willard's Island. As we headed from Meigs Point to Willard's, we were glad to find the two immature Tri-colored or Tri-colored-Little Blue hybrid Herons that had been being seen recently, and an American Golden Plover with two Black-bellies. Fortunately there were some other shore birds to look at too -- Killdeer, Dunlin, Ruddy Turnstones, Sanderling, and a Semi-palmated Sandpiper. Raptors were scarcer than on previous trips, but we did see at least one Sharp-shinned Hawk, and had many sightings of Northern Harrier; and it was very satisfying that a beautifully marked Peregrine perched for a long time on a tall snag across from the Cedar Island platform, giving us plenty of time to look at it through our scopes before it flew away over the marsh.

--Flo McBride

Evergreen Cemetery, New Haven, Field Trip Report

On October 15, a blustery fall morning, about 12 people went looking for birds and the gravestones of notable people in Evergreen Cemetery. Last year, this trip's historical component only looked at former NHBC members. This year the scope was broadened since it was a co-sponsored walk with the New Haven Museum.

We started by walking along the edge of the pond that borders Ella Grasso Blvd. This year was much quieter than last year. There were Mallards and Mute Swans, but not much else. Flying over head and in nearby trees were regular residents like Blue Jays, Titmice and a Carolina Wren. In the interior of the cemetery we found a few raptors, mostly flyovers, including Cooper's, Sharp-shinned, and Red-tailed Hawks. Sparrows were few and far between, but some of us did see our first-of-year Junco. Three other interesting flyovers included Cedar Waxwings, Monk Parakeets, and a Great Egret. The pond was busier the second time we came around. This time it held a Double-crested Cormorant, Gadwall, and Pied-billed Grebe.

Throughout our walk, Michelle Cheng of the New Haven Museum talked about many notable people buried in Evergreen Cemetery. Some of those whose graves we visited were Hobart Bigelow (Conn. Governor and steam boiler manufacturer), Wilbur Cross (Conn. Governor), and Oliver Winchester (founder of Winchester Repeating Arms Co.). Dale Fiore from Evergreen Cemetery was also on hand to answer questions. The one NHBC member whose grave we had to pass by was that of Richard English. As you know, Richard passed away this July. Mike Horn and I spoke about Richard and his legacy. Just as we were about to walk away from his grave, a flock of Canada Geese passed over in V-formation as a final salute.

Species – Total: 32 – Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Monk Parakeet, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and Common Grackle.

--John Triana

November First Wednesday Walk Report

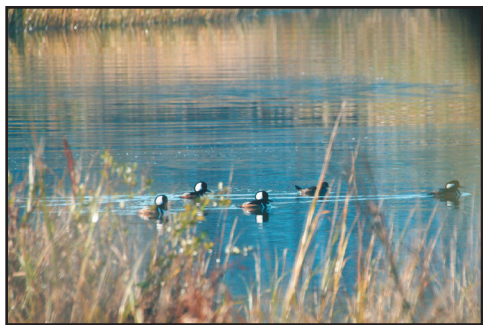
On Wednesday, November 2, 16 participants joined Steve Spector, leader, at Silver Sands State Park and Milford Point CACC for the NHBC First Wednesday Walk from 8-12. The group saw 57 species on a cool, lovely morning that got more sunny as the day progressed. Species seen were:

Brant, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, American Black Duck, Mallard, Red-Breasted Merganser, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Merlin, Black-bellied Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Sanderling, Dunlin, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Wren (sp?), Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, American Pipit, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

--Kris Johnson, Scribe

Fargeorge Trip Report

We had a lovely joint fieldtrip with the New Haven Land Trust to their Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve on Saturday November 6. Following is a list of the bird species seen and /or heard by the 26 people who turned out in the clear cold weather for 44 species including Hooded Merganser in Hemingway Creek Canada Goose, American Black Duck, Mallard, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Great Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Woodcock, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Pine Siskin, House Sparrow.



Hooded Mergansers

-- Mike Horn

Bombay Hook Trip Report

The Following is the bird list from the November 12, 2011 fieldtrip to Bombay Hook NWR & Eastern Neck Island NWR. The weather was sunny and warm for the time of year. There were still lots of summer species in with the winter birds. Because of the hurricane close off shore and the Nor'easter, things were quite messed up. We got 92 species:

Snow Goose (Greater) (about 3,000), Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Tundra Swan (145), Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Ring-necked Pheasant, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, American Coot (about 3,000), Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet (about 1,000), Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Common Tern, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Short-eared Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Winter Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Chipping Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.



Tundra Swans

Of note: There were more Tundra Swans (145) than we had ever seen in all our other years combined.

--Mike Horn

MEET THE BOARD

Donna Batsford: Newsletter Editor

Donna Batsford, who just began her second year as Newsletter Editor, is filling that position in what arguably is one of the most complicated times ever for that job: The New Haven Bird Club has joined the growing numbers of public, commercial, private, and non-profit organizations using electronic communications to establish a wiser use of the Earth's resources. For NHBC, the most heavily impacted part of "going green" has been the production and distribution of its newsletter via email. Donna produces a black-and-white printed version for those members who still require a paper copy, while members who get the e-newsletter receive a lively color version, thanks to the computer's easy and cost-free transmission of color. But the even-more challenging part of the undertaking has been making sure that the correct people get the correct version. On the surface that may sound simple, but the newness and quirkiness of the email distribution system also requires ongoing tweaking and updating. Suffice it to say, it's been an adventure, and Donna would like to thank the membership for gracefully weathering any glitches or inconveniences they might have experienced during the green transition. She asks that anyone not receiving the newsletter in a timely fashion contact her directly: donnabatsford@gmail.com



years ago—and have since travelled to numerous birding hotspots across the US. They've also taken birding trips to Costa Rica, Nova Scotia, and the Galapagos, a foreign travel list that soon will be expanding, given Donna's new, freer time. Another of her great interests is the fiber arts: knitting, crocheting, sewing, embroidery; and for the past 20 years she's been an avid and award-winning weaver, and prominent in the leadership of the Handweavers' Guild of CT.

Born in Buffalo, NY, Donna graduated from Cornell where she met her husband (she laments that as students they never visited the University's famous Lab of Ornithology). But for all intents and purposes, the Batsfords are New Haven "natives," having moved there 36 years ago when Bill joined the Yale Medical School staff. He now is a Professor of Medicine specializing in cardiac arrhythmias.

Donna's favorite local birding spot is right in her own neighborhood. It's East Rock Park, but she and Bill also frequently enjoy Sandy Point and Hammonasset. Donna's favorite birds are Common Loons and Cedar Waxwings, both of which have strong associations with the family's cherished annual June vacations on Squam Lake in NH. The Batsfords' two grown daughters still join them there every year. For Donna, the ethereal call of the loons is "like a reminder to relax," and the Cedar Waxwings in NH bring to her mind the ones she'd watch during migration just a few weeks before in CT as the birds fed on the shad berries outside her office window.

Through her skillful performance as Newsletter Editor, Donna clearly qualifies as a genuine "word person." It's no surprise then that another of her favorite leisure-time amusements is doing crossword puzzles. And that too is a family affair. Donna and Bill routinely do them together.

--Betty Zuraw

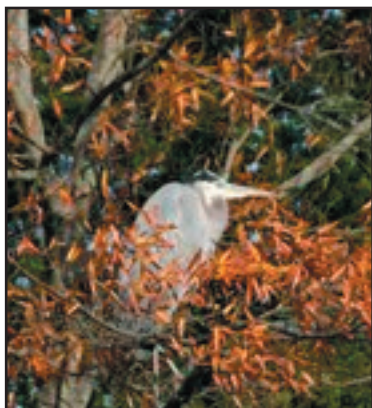
Audubon CT Master Bird Conservationist Program

Calling all birders! Want to improve your bird identification skills and gain knowledge on creating, restoring, and protecting bird habitat? Are you looking for opportunities to use your skills for the benefit of bird conservation? Consider participating in the Audubon CT Master Bird Conservationist Program. Through this 4 day workshop, participants will:

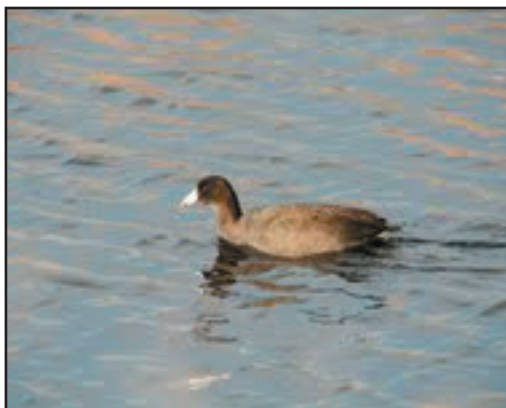
- Gain knowledge on bird species of conservation concern.
- Attend talks on conservation strategies that range from global to those you can apply in your own backyard.
- Receive training in field ornithology techniques, such as bird surveys, bird banding, etc.

The program will take place on Feb. 22nd, Mar. 7th, Mar. 21st, and Apr. 4th from 9 – 5 pm. The first three days of the workshop will be held at Bridgeport City Hall, the last day will involve field trips to Important Bird Areas. To participate, contact Karen Dixon (kdixon@audubon.org, 203-869-5272) for an application. The program is free, but participants will be required to commit to 20 hours of volunteer service participating in citizen science programs, educational outreach activities or conservation advocacy.

You can see this information online at <http://ct.audubon.org/>
-- Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe



Great Blue Heron at Bombay Hook
Photo by Pat Horn



Coot at Bombay Hook
Photo by Mike Horn



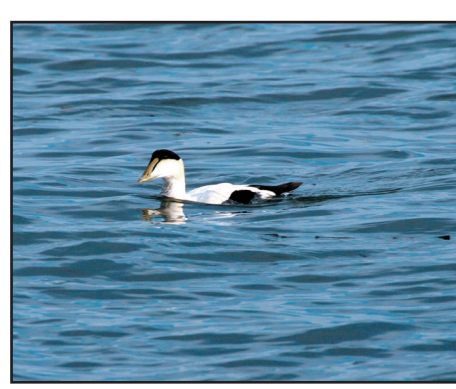
Great Egret with wing tag at Bombay Hook
Photo by Mike Horn



Yellow-breasted Chat at Hammonasset
Photo by Bill Batsford



Sharp-shinned Hawk at Silver Sands
Photo by Bill Batsford



Common Eider at Hammonasset
Photo by Mike Horn

NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Area Code / Phone _____

Email _____

(Please print clearly in block letters)

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

☐ I agree to receive the newsletter electronically

☐ I require a paper copy of the newsletter

Membership Levels (check appropriate category):

☐ \$15 for individual ☐ \$50 Supporting

☐ \$20 for family ☐ Student under 18 (free)

☐ \$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): _____

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The date on address labels is your membership expiration date.

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

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 also for the following membership year.

The Club welcomes everyone irrespective of age, race, gender, sexual preference, or national origin.

Moving? The post office does not forward bulk mail. If your address, phone or email change, please send that information to the Club address given on the form to the left or contact the Membership Chair, Betty Zuraw: bz4feathers@gmail.com or 860.632.1156.

CTBirds is an open discussion email list to discuss birds and birding in the state. To Subscribe, go to:
http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds_lists.ctbirding.org

The CTDailyReport list is used to distribute summaries of rare and uncommon bird sightings. To Subscribe, go to:
http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctdailyreport_lists.ctbirding.org

NHBC website: www.newhavenbirdclub.org