



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

April 2012

2012 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Thursday, April 12, 7:00 pm **Twan Leenders – Build It and They Will Come?**

Saturday, April 14, 8:00 am **East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance, New Haven**

Saturday, April 14 8:30 am **Richard English Memorial Field Trip: Lighthouse Point and Killingworth**

Saturday, April 21, 8:00 am **Ansonia Nature Center, Ansonia**

Saturday, April 28, 9:00 am **Bird Walk for Kids at East Rock Park, New Haven**

Wednesday, May 2, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven**

Saturday, May 5, 8:00 am **East Rock Park with Ranger Dan, New Haven**

Sunday, May 6, 7:30 am **Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, Southbury**

Sunday, May 6, 8:30 am **Chatfield Hollow/Cockaponsett State Forest, Killingworth**

Thursday, May 10, 6:00 pm **Annual Banquet, Peter Alden, Brilliant: The First Year in the Life of a Scarlet Tanager**

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

Sunday, May 13, 6:30 am **Nehantic State Forest and Hartman Park, Lyme**

Wednesday, May 16, 7:00 am **Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**

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

Sunday, May 20, 7:00 am **Stratford Shore Points**

Wednesday, June 6, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: White Memorial Foundation, Litchfield**

FROM THE BOARD

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

The deadline for submissions to the June newsletter is May 26. Send to Donna Batsford: donnabatsford@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

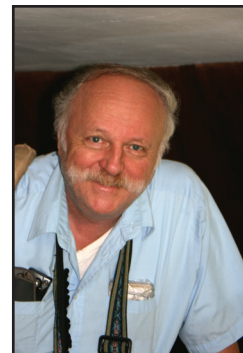
Mabel Osgood Wright Award goes to Florence McBride

Hi Folks,

About 40 New Haven Bird Club members were present at the Connecticut Ornithological Association's annual meeting on Saturday March 24th to see Flo McBride receive the prestigious Mable Osgood Wright Award. The COA gives the award each year to the person who has done the most to advance the art/science of birding in Connecticut. For decades, Flo has worked tirelessly to bring birding to the youth of the Hamden area. She has run her classes in schools and in the fields leading numerous children's walks. FYI her next one will be a "Bird Walk for Kids" in East Rock Park on Saturday April 28 at 9:00 AM. The next generation of birders is fostered principally by the efforts of dedicated people like Flo who inspire young people to come into our amateur vocation. Congratulations Flo!!

Speaking of the COA annual meeting, it was great as usual. We had 3 great speakers starting with "Everything You've Ever Wanted to Know about Gulls but Were Afraid to Ask" by Alvaro Jaramillo, "Unfamiliar Facts about Familiar Faces" by Wayne Petersen and "Past, Present, and Future" by Richard Crossley (Yes, That Richard Crossley!!) After his talk, we, who had our books with us, got them autographed. All the talks were great subjects and delivered well by the speakers. There was also a real good raffle with lots of prizes and lunch was much improved over the previous years. Starting next year, I intend to include an announcement about the annual COA meeting in our newsletter.

Regards to all,
Mike Horn - President



New Haven Breeding Bird Atlas

With support from the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, Audubon is looking for volunteers to help conduct a pilot breeding bird atlas for greater New Haven. Volunteers can participate at a variety of commitment and bird identification skill levels. Two mornings recording the presence/absence of bird species or collecting abundance data at a few spots during the month of June is all that is required. Training sessions will be offered. To volunteer or for more information, contact Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe at cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org

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.

Thursday, April 12 – Twan Leenders Build It and They Will Come?

For better or worse, Connecticut's environment has long been impacted by human actions. Many of our threatened and endangered species have historically declined because of the loss or alteration of their habitat. Some have declined to the point where human action is needed to improve their plight. How do we select the right habitats? What species should be the focus of our conservation and habitat management strategies? And what can realistically be accomplished in these tough economic times? Twan, Connecticut Audubon's Conservation Biologist, will provide an inside look into the habitat management and restoration projects that take place in some of the state's prime birding areas, including Stratford Point, Milford Point, and Goshen's Croft Forest Preserve. A native of the Netherlands where he earned a PhD specializing in Animal Ecology, Twan has researched declining animal populations in Central and South America, he has worked at the Peabody Museum, and taught at Sacred Heart University. He currently oversees habitat conservation and management activities for CT Audubon.

Please Note: As per the Club's by-laws, the April meeting is traditionally the Annual Meeting.

The box marked BEX on the Sign in Table at the indoor programs is there to collect binoculars and books for Birders Exchange to be distributed to organizations or individuals in Latin America or the Caribbean who are working on behalf of a bird conservation or bird education program. Contact Kris Johnson with questions: krisjohnson99@snet.net or 203.288.3087.

Thursday, May 10, 2012 — 6:00 pm Annual Banquet — Amarante's Restaurant, New Haven

Be sure to join us for the Club's Annual Banquet—always great company, great food, and a great program.

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!

Banquet program: Peter Alden **Brilliant: The First Year in the Life of a Scarlet Tanager**

Peter begins the story with a nest and egg of a Scarlet Tanager in Concord's Walden Woods. We will follow the bird through his first year, migrating to Peru and returning to Walden Woods.

Please see the Banquet Registration Form included with this newsletter for more information about this program. Registration deadline is April 26. Early reservations are greatly appreciated.

Donations Sought for Annual Banquet Raffle

NHBC provides many wonderful free events and resources to it's members and the community. We can all help carry on that tradition with making this year's Raffle the best ever! We have decided to expand the items this year to include gift certificates (spas, restaurants, services), wine or gift baskets, event tickets, etc. If anyone would like to donate an item to the Raffle, please contact new member Donna Caporaso at donnacap@aol.com or krisjohnson99@snet.net. Thank you!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Ross & Maureen Allen
19 Eagle Street
Ansonia CT 06401
203.494.7620
emperor_ross@yahoo.com

Donna Rae Caporaso
414 Thompson Street
Stratford CT 06615
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Richard Huck
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860.828.9591
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Sandy Pardes
225 W Main Street
New Britain CT 06052
860.331.3356
hotdax@sbcglobal.net

Winifred Wirth
45 Shadows End Lane
Milford CT 06460
203.859.2971
wirthwitte@att.net

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. 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 April 17. We will be discussing *A Naturalist Buys an Old Farm* by Edwin Way Teale.



New Haven Bird Club Annual Banquet

Thursday, May 10, 2012

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

Cocktails 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Dinner and Program 7:00 - 10:00 PM



The dinner is \$35.00 per person with a cash bar. Don't forget to bring money for the fun raffles.

Main Course Options:

Chicken Picatta with capers and lemon butter sauce served with sauted spinach and brown rice

Tenderloin Tips with crimini mushrooms in a red wine sauce served with parmesan mashed potatoes

Vegetarian by Request

The deadline for reservations is April 26, 2012.

Brilliant: The First Year in the Life of a Scarlet Tanager

Peter Alden



Peter Alden, a Concord Massachusetts resident, has authored 15 bird and nature books and has led about 300 bird and wildlife tours, safaris, and cruises to 100 countries and the seven seas. With Harvard's Edward O. Wilson he organized the world's first Biodiversity Days; 270 species were found within a few miles of Thoreau's Walden Pond.

Peter begins the story with a nest and egg of a Scarlet Tanager in Concord's Walden Woods. We will follow the bird through his first year, beginning with his education "in a treetop summer school for young tanagers." We'll fly with him along his migration south to Peru's Manu National Park. There we'll listen as the young bird perfects his unique song over the next four months. Then we follow him back to Walden Woods where his future "wife" finally finds him. Together they'll begin the next chapter of a tanager's life. We will be both educated and entertained as Peter tells of a tanager's many encounters with birds and mammals as well as the dangers and issues during its first year.

The timing of this program is perfect. Scarlet Tanagers are now arriving!

New Haven Bird Club Annual Banquet — Thursday, May 10, 2012

The deadline for reservations is April 26, 2012. No tickets will be sold at the door.

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

DINNER SELECTION: (Mark 1 for each person)

Beef ____ Chicken ____ Vegetarian ____

Beef ____ Chicken ____ Vegetarian ____

Beef ____ Chicken ____ Vegetarian ____

of Persons ____ X \$35.00 = Total Due \$ ____

Please mail your Main Course choice plus your name and address with a check made out to NHBC in the full amount to:

NHBC Banquet C/O Henrietta Lachman 5 Apple Tree Lane Norwalk, CT 06850
203-846-4754 lachmanr@optonline.net

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.

East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance, New Haven Saturday, April 14, 2012, 8:00 am

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

Richard English Memorial Field Trip: Lighthouse Point and Killingworth Saturday, April 14, 2012, 8:30 am

Meet in the Lighthouse Point Hawk Watch parking lot and bird the harbor for gulls, loons, ducks, and early returning shorebirds. We will then proceed to the Richard English Bird Sanctuary on Deer Lake in Killingworth and then finish our birding tour with a visit to Hammonasset State Park in Madison. This is an all-day trip so bring lunch and dress warmly. Leader—Mike Horn: 203.288.1891, mhorn@att.net

Ansonia Nature Center, Ansonia Saturday, April 21, 2012, 8:00 am

Join our past-president as she leads a walk at this fine birding site. The nature center has a small pond, wetlands, thickets, grassy fields, and woods. The woods have had Northern Goshawks and Great Horned Owls nesting there and there are often other surprises. 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

Bird Walk for Kids at East Rock Park, New Haven Saturday, April 28, 2012, 9:00 am

On this walk by the park's Mill River, children, accompanied by adults, will search for warblers and other spring migrants. Other 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

First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven Wednesday, May 2, 2012, 8:00 am

Join us for a walk in one of the best places in the state to see warblers and other 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 the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot near the covered bridge. Leader—John Oshlick. Contact person—Tina Green: 203 247-2660, tina@renaissancestudios.com

East Rock Park with Ranger Dan, New Haven Saturday, May 5, 2012, 8:00 am

Join Ranger Dan Barvir at this premier site for warblers and other spring migrants. We will meet at the Rice Field (baseball field) end of East Rock Park. Leader—Ranger Dan Barvir: 203 946-6086.

Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, Southbury Sunday, May 6, 2012, 7:30 am

Explore a prime birding location along the Pomperaug River in Southbury where more than 100 species of birds have been observed in a single day. This beautiful and highly diverse, 650-acre habitat is owned and maintained by the National Audubon Society. Take Exit 14 off Rte. 84. Go north on Rte. 172, then turn left on East Flat Hill Road, at intersection with church. Continue to sanctuary entrance on left. The trip involves moderately strenuous hiking. Leader—Roy Harvey: 203 888-5757, rmharvey@snet.net.

Chatfield Hollow/Cockaponsett State Forest, Killingworth Sunday, May 6, 2012, 8:30 am

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 wide variety of other avian migrants and nesters. Easy walking. Depending on the group - and the birds - the trip may meander over to the adjacent Cockaponsett State Forest. Directions: The entrance to the park is on Rt. 80 in Killingworth, between the Rt. 79 and Rt. 81 traffic circles. Meet in the parking lot at the entrance. Leader—John Himmelman: 860:663-3225, jhimmel@comcast.net.

Big Day Marathon Saturday, May 12, 2012, 6:00 am

Join us for all or part of this event. We'll focus on New Haven area hotspots, seeking 100-130 species. We start at East Rock and search several other local migrant traps, as well as the coast from Lordship to Hammonasset. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot at 6:00 or 7:30 am. Leader—Randy Domina: 203-271-3123, rhexp@hotmail.com.

**Nehantic State Forest and Hartman Park, Lyme
Sunday, May 13, 2012, 6:30 am**

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, herons, flycatchers and other species. Nearby Hartman Park is known for its breeding population of Cerulean Warblers. Meet at the commuter lot at exit 55 off I-95 in Branford at 6:30 am or the Keeny Road entrance for Nehantic SF on Route 156 in Lyme at 7:00 am. Leader—Chris Loscalzo: 203 389-6508, closcalz@optonline.net.

**Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck
Wednesday, May 16, 2012, 7:00 am**

Enjoy a mid-week walk to a fine birding location at the height of spring migration. We'll hike the trails in search of migrants and residents. The mixed hardwoods 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 Route 8 in Naugatuck. Leader—Bill Banks: 203 888-0189, semismart9@aol.com.

**Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington
Saturday, May 19, 2012, 7:00 am**

This will be our ninth annual trip to this excellent birding spot in Stonington, CT. We'll meet at the commuter lot at Exit 55 of I-95 and then 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, Willow Flycatcher, American Redstart, Bobolink, and many other species. Leader—Chris Loscalzo: 203 389-6508, closcalz@optonline.net.

**Stratford Shore Points
Sunday, May 20, 2012, 7:00 am**

We'll visit coastal refuge and town parks in search of migrant warblers, orioles, flycatchers, shorebirds, herons, etc. Meet at 7:15 am in lot for 600 Long Beach Blvd. Leader—Frank Mantlik: 203-984-9410, mantlik@sbcglobal.net.

First Wednesday Walk: White Memorial Foundation, Litchfield

Wednesday, June 6, 2012, 8:00 am

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 Road, and then an immediate right into White Memorial. Leader—Greg Hanisek. Contact—Tina Green: 203.247.2660, tina@renaissancestudios.com

**NHBC Winter Feeder Report for Weeks 6 - 15
12/05/2011 - 02/06/2012**

We had 33 of 35 Common Species show up between week 6 and 10 but only 32 of 35 from weeks 11 through week 15. Rock Pigeon which had not been counted at any feeders was finally reported in week 11, but we lost Red-tailed Hawk and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker during these last 5 weeks. During these 10 weeks species that recorded over 100 birds were Mourning Dove 137, European Starling 101, Dark-eyed Junco 131, and Common Grackle 242. The Common Grackle spike was a rare event; otherwise for the first fifteen weeks the count was less than 26 with a few weeks around 0. (See graph below)

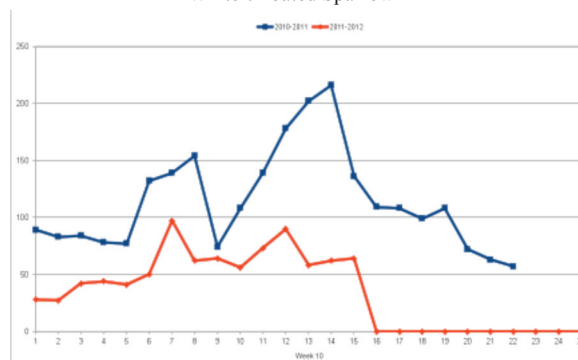
To the Uncommon list we added Pine Warbler during week 8. We had 5 of 29 Uncommon Species counted during these 10 weeks; Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing and Red Shouldered Hawk, and Wild Turkey.

Compared to last year the numbers of all species are down probably because we had no snow.

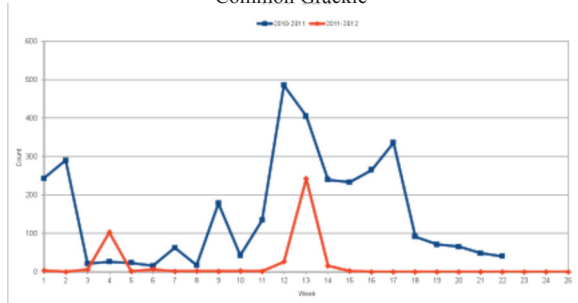
I want to thank Larry Bausher, Publicity Chairman who has publicized the feeder survey. I received several calls from non-members who had seen the notice in their local papers. I hope we get some new members from this publicity.

Below are two of the graphs that I sent to the surveyors at the end of week 15. It compares the first fifteen weeks of the survey between this year and last year. As you can see the White-throated Sparrow did not have the huge increase as last year. The Common Grackle did spike two weeks later than last year, but unlike the previous year its weekly numbers were way down.

White-throated Sparrow



Common Grackle



If anyone wants a graph of a specific species please contact me and I will send it to you.

--Pete Vitali, Chairman NHBC Winter Feeder Survey
vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net or 203 288-0621

Rhode Island Coast Field Trip Report

On Saturday, February 25th, twelve intrepid members of the club ventured to the east to spend a day along the Rhode Island coast. It was very windy all day long, making it challenging to watch the birds and to find them among the waves. Despite the difficult conditions, we saw a number of fine birds and a good time was had by all.

Our first stop was at Beavertail State Park in Jamestown. The wind was really howling and the waves were huge. Flying over them, to our delight, were a total of four Northern Gannets. We were struck by their long wingspans and bright white feathering. Other birds seen there were Harlequin Duck, Common Eider, Black Scoter, Great Cormorant, and Common Loon. From there, we made a brief stop at Easton Ponds in Newport on our way to Sachuest Point. At the ponds, we saw Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, and American Coot. Once at Sachuest, we went straight to the lookout of Island Rocks, where a Snowy Owl had been seen on a number of occasions this winter.



Photo by Donna Caporaso

Alas, probably because of the high winds, it was not there that day. However, there were other birds to enjoy, including Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, Black Scoter, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, and Horned Grebe.

Near Sachuest Point is Third Beach, so we stopped there after we left the refuge. At this location, we saw Sanderlings along the beach and Surf Scoter, Red-throated Loon, Brant, and Horned Grebe in the water. We then got back on the road and headed to Moonstone Beach. We walked along the beach (not an easy task as it was directly into the strong wind) to get to the south side of Trustom Pond. In the pond were large flocks of Ruddy Duck and Greater Scaup, several Common Goldeneye and Great Cormorant, a few Canvasback, and a lone Great Blue Heron on the far shore.

The wind was still blowing hard when we got to the Ninigret Wildlife Refuge in the mid-afternoon. But, we were unfazed and were thus rewarded with good views of a flock of six Bonaparte's Gulls flying over the bay. We also saw the adult Lesser Black-backed Gull that has made the cove there its winter home the past several years, as well as more Red-breasted Merganser, Common Goldeneye, and Bufflehead. Our last stop was the Weekapaug Marsh. We didn't see too many interesting waterfowl there, but notable land birds seen there included Eastern Towhee (our last bird of the day), Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Common Grackle. Raptors seen on the trip included: Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, and Sharp-shinned Hawk.

All total, we saw 52 species, a number that I think roughly equals the average wind velocity in mph for the day. I was impressed by the hardiness of the group. We handled the difficult conditions like the dedicated birders we are! Hopefully, we'll be rewarded with better weather conditions on our next trip!

--Chris Loscalzo

March First Wednesday Walk Report

Thirty participants joined our leader, Charlie Barnard in Stratford at Long Beach where we began our birding morning on this 1st Wednesday walk on March 7. We also visited the Warehouse Pond area, Frash Pond, Short Beach and several other marshes and ponds. The weather was windy, but Spring was in the air.

We recorded seeing the following 47 species: Canada Goose, Brant, Mute Swan, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Northern Gannet, Great Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, American Oystercatcher, Dunlin, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, American Crow, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Boat-tailed Grackle, House Finch, House Sparrow.

--Kris Johnson, Scribe

Brooksvale Park Family Bird Walk Report

March 17th's Family Bird Walk was at Brooksvale Park in Hamden. 22 participants (including 5 kids) gathered at the south parking lot at 9am for a walk around the park. We observed 26 species. Highlights include 3 Eastern Phoebe, 4 Black Vultures, 1 Cooper's Hawk and 6 Red-shouldered Hawks, an American Coot, 7 Ring-necked ducks, 2 Bluebirds, and 6 singing Golden-crowned Kinglets. The Red-shouldered hawks were on the move, all 6 flew overhead over the course of ~1 minute, and were calling. We had great looks at the bluebirds and kinglets and got to hear their songs. Other species included: Mallards, Turkey Vultures, Mourning Doves, Northern Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Blue Jay, American Crow, Northern Cardinal, Song Sparrow, Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, and House Sparrow. Thank you to all who came out for the walk. It was a fun morning. The next family bird walk is on June 23rd, 9am, at Kellogg Environmental Center.

--Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe

Southwest CT Shoreline Trip Report

On March 25 we birded the coastal Lordship peninsula of Stratford. Skies were overcast, seasonal, 45-50° F, with a chilly NE wind 10-15 mph, and an occasional rain sprinkle. Twelve



Photo by Barney Bontecou

people met at the Access Road Dunkin' Donuts, then we visited Lordship Seawall, Stratford Point, Long Beach, and Stew McKinney NWR. Highlights were the Gannet show, great views of Boat-tailed Grackles and a Great Horned Owl. Surprisingly

we saw very few gulls; in recent weeks thousands have been plankton (barnacle)-feeding along these shores. Today they were obviously elsewhere.

We saw 50 species: Brant (At least 500. Large flocks in and over water, mostly offshore. plankton-feeding?), Canada Goose, Mute Swan (One pair on nest at McKinney Refuge "warehouse" pond.), Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Northern Gannet (Numbers actively foraging and diving, some quite close to shore, providing great views. Primarily off Lordship Seawall and Stratford Point.), Great Cormorant, Great Egret, Osprey (First birds returned, One on high communication tower at Pleasure Beach; another doing aerial courtship while holding a fish.), Northern Harrier (female hunting over Great Meadows salt marsh), Red-tailed Hawk, Piping Plover (They flew up the beach at Long Beach.), Killdeer, American Oystercatcher, Sanderling, Dunlin, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Monk Parakeet, Great Horned Owl (Seen well with scopes in tree at McKinney Refuge.), Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted), American Crow, Fish Crow, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Boat-tailed Grackle (Great views of males and females at McKinney Refuge. Still the only known regular breeding site in CT.), Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, House Sparrow.

--Frank Mantlik

April First Wednesday Walk Report

Twenty Participants, among them many of Connecticut's best birders and other members of the New Haven Bird Club and guests, joined our leaders, Patrick Dugan and Mike Moccio at Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary on April 4 at 7:30 for an excellent early spring walk.

On this sunny day, we saw the following 55 Species: Canada Goose, Brant, Mute Swan, Mallard, American Black Duck, Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Wild Turkey, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Northern Gannet, Great Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Red-tailed Hawk, Osprey, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, Fish Crow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Tree Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Hermit Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Brown-headed Cowbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

--Kris Johnson, Scribe

New Haven Bird Club - 2011 - 2012

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Mike Horn	203.288.1891
	mfhorn@att.net	
<i>Vice President</i>	Bill Batsford	203.787.1642
	william.batsford@yale.edu	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Gary Lemmon	203.488.7813
	lemmon@snet.net	
<i>Secretary</i>	Nancy Specht	203.248.0247
	naspecht@snet.net	

BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation Chair</i>	Kris Johnson	203.288.3087
	krisjohnson99@snet.net	
<i>Education Chair</i>	Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe	203.630.9640
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<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Larry Bausher	203.389.5918
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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>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo	203.393.0694
<i>Lighthouse Point</i>	rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	
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<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali	203.288.0621
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<i>Yearbook</i>	Betty Zuraw	860.632.1156
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NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB
P.O. BOX 9004
NEW HAVEN, CT 06532-0004

Newsletter April 2012



Rhode Island Coast Trip
Photo by Barney Bontecou



Female Cardinal at feeder after last snowstorm
Photo by Pete Vitali



Tufted Titmouse at feeder after last snowstorm
Photo by Pete Vitali

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? 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, Mike Ferrari: mike.ferrari@att.net or 203.435.5712.

CTBirds is an open discussion email list to discuss birds and birding in the state. To Subscribe, go to:
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NHBC website: www.newhavenbirdclub.org