



# THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

August 2012

## 2012 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Saturday, August 18, 2012, 7:00 am **Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens, NY**

Sunday, August 19, 2012, 10:00 am **COA Shorebird Workshop, Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**

September 1 to November 30, 2012 **Daily Hawk Watch at Lighthouse Point Park**

Wednesday, September 5, 2012, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**

Saturday, September 8, 2012, 8:00 am **Lighthouse Point Bird Walk and Prep for Migration Festival**

Thursday, September 13, 2012 **Sam Fried Eastern Canada: Journey of Discovery**

Sunday, September 23, 2012, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm **Migration Festival at Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven**

Wednesday, October 3, 2012, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: Allen's Meadow, Wilton**

Saturday, October 6, 2012, 8:00 am **Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale State Park, Derby**

Saturday, October 6, 2012, 9:00 am **Great Stratford Bird Festival, Family Bird Walk at Beardsley Park, Bridgeport**

Thursday, October 11, 2012 **Robert Craig Connecticut Habitat Atlas and the Green Corridor**

Saturday, October 13, 2012, 8:00 am **Hammonasset State Park, Madison**

Sunday, October 14, 2012 **THE BIG SIT!®**

Saturday, October 27, 2012, 8:00 am **Branford Supply Ponds, Branford**

November 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013 **NHBC 19th Annual Winter Feeder Survey**

**Have you renewed your membership for the coming year yet?**

If not, there is a form in this newsletter. Please send it soon so you will continue to have membership privileges.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Folks,

Two Topics:

*Whimbrels at Milford Point:*

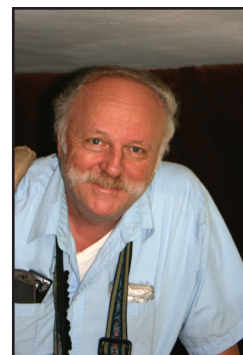
Last Sunday I was privileged to see a Whimbrel at Milford Point. How I knew about this was because of a list server called CT Birds run by Roy Harvey and the COA. In the past, if there were good birds around, the news was propagated by word of mouth. Now, if you subscribe to this list server, you get 1 to 4 postings a day about what is going on strictly bird related. You can also post to it. I know that most of you know about it, but for those who want to get on, please use the live link (live for those who get the e-newsletter) below.  
[http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds\\_lists.ctbirding.org](http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds_lists.ctbirding.org)

*Our New Home:*

Our new home, for at least the next two years, is: The Cultural Arts Center at the Whitney Center 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden, CT 06517. Please see the directions elsewhere in this newsletter or on page 3 of the 2012-2013 NHBC Yearbook. I would like to thank all those who made this possible and Betty Zuraw for doing her usual wonderful job with the new yearbook.

Regards to all,

Mike Horn - President



**Visit the NHBC Website at [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)**

The site has a lot of useful information and links:

- Information about the NHBC and the people to contact with specific questions or ideas
- The calendar of events for the club, both outdoor activities and indoor programs
- Back copies of *The Chickadee*
- Links to sites of interest and use to birders
- Link to the site that sells clothing, hats and totebags with the NHBC logo.

## NEW BIRD CLUB – 2012-2013

### OFFICERS

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

### BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation Chair</i>	Kris Johnson krisjohnson99@snet.net	203.288.3087
<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>	Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com	203.230.1697
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Ralph Amodei ramodei@att.net	203.467.9515
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Donna Caporaso donnacap@aol.com	203.895.7669
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Steve Spector charsjs@sbcglobal.net	203.876.7461
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Mike Ferrari mike.ferrari@att.net	203.435.5712
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford donnabatsford@gmail.com	203.787.1642
<i>Nominating Chair</i>	Patrick Leahy ptjleahy@yahoo.com	203.393.2427
<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net	203.389.6508
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Larry Bausher lpbausher@comcast.net	203.389.5918
<i>Yearbook Chair</i>	Betty Zuraw bz4feathers@gmail.com	860.632.1156

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT!®</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Birds in Words</i>	Kris Johnson krisjohnson99@snet.net	203.288.3087
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net	203.389.6508
<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	203.393.0694
<i>Lighthouse Point Historian</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	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>Yahoo Group</i>	Ralph Amodei ramodei@att.net	203.467.9515

## FROM THE BOARD

The next board meeting is Thursday, August 23, at 6:45 pm at the Regional Water Authority in New Haven.

The deadline for submissions to the October newsletter is September 27. Send to Donna Batsford: donnabatsford@gmail.com

### **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.

**Don't forget the Daily Hawk Watch at Lighthouse Point Park.** It's a great place to watch raptor migration. And be sure to come to the Migration Festival on September 23.

## WELCOME

### NEW

### MEMBERS!

Elizabeth Abrams  
30 Mansfield Dr #1505  
Northford, CT 06472  
860 899 5934  
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Kevin P. Mello, Jr  
18 Highland Ave  
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Bryan, Becky & Matt Saulis  
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Wallingford, CT 06492  
203 507 6943  
bryansaulis@gmail.com

Amber L. Whitaker  
18 Highland Ave  
Ansonia CT 06401  
203 848 7933  
alwhitaker@me.com

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## INDOOR PROGRAMS

Monthly indoor programs start in September and are held on the second Thursday of the month. The social half-hour at meetings begins at 7:00 pm; the meeting and program begin at 7:30 pm. 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. Starting in September 2012, the meetings will be at The Whitney Center,, Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. The facility is wheelchair accessible.

### Directions to the Whitney Center (WC)

From I-95 North or South: Exit onto I-91 North in New Haven. Take Exit 6 (Willow St.). At end of ramp turn right onto Willow and proceed to the end (Whitney Ave.). Turn right onto Whitney and go approximately 4 miles. Turn left onto Putnam Avenue.

From I-91 South: Take Exit 6 (Willow St.) in New Haven. At end of ramp, turn right onto Willow and proceed to the end (Whitney Ave.). Turn right onto Whitney and go approximately 4 miles. Turn left onto Putnam Avenue.

From Wilbur Cross (Rte. 15) northbound: Take Exit 61 (Whitney Ave). Turn left at end of ramp, go 2.4 mi., turn right onto Putnam.

From Wilbur Cross (Rte. 15) southbound: Take Exit 61 (Whitney Ave. New Haven). At end of ramp go right. Proceed to Putnam.

On Putnam go approximately .7 mi, (3 traffic lights) and turn right onto Leeder Hill (ATT bldg is at that intersection). Go .6 mi. on Leeder Hill to the South Entrance (big sign) of WC on the left. Turn in and take an immediate left into a raised parking area. Meeting is in the South Building, accessed via the main door of the portico that is in view from the parking lot. Turn right down the hallway. The Cultural Arts Center is a short distance on the left.

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### Thursday, September 13, 2012 — Sam Fried Eastern Canada: Journey of Discovery

Explore Canada's Maritime Provinces as Sam recounts his 6,000+ mile trip by car and boat through that beautiful and remote part of North America. We'll check out the birds and other wildlife as we visit New Brunswick and circumnavigate Cape Breton Island of Nova Scotia. We'll cross the Northumberland Strait to the magnificent and stark scenery of Newfoundland, with its craggy headlands, rocky seacoast, and fascinating history. The wildlife in this little known province is key, as we'll discover from Sam's great photos. Then we continue the tour on the new 700-mile dirt road that circles Labrador through the endless boreal forest. We end the journey in Quebec with its more civilized delights. Sam, an avid longtime birder and photographer, is founder of Flights of Fancy Adventures, a birding, photography, natural history, and golf travel company. Sam has published many photos, articles, and books. His North American bird list has 740 species, 722 of them photographed. A recent 7,000-mile trip from FL through the Midwest and on to CT, got him 320 species.

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### Thursday, October 11, 2012 — Robert Craig Connecticut Habitat Atlas and the Green Corridor

Our speaker this evening is Robert Craig, General Director of Bird Conservation Research (BCR), a nonprofit foundation based in Putnam, CT. The group provides original scientific data for driving conservation action by users as diverse as land trusts, biology educators, planning and zoning commissions and even the National Park Service. Of special interest to us is that the foundation's focus is on the most diverse wildlife group: birds and the habitats that support them. BCR has conducted a Forest Bird Survey of Southern New England. This summer-winter quantitative survey of the populations, distributions, and habitat preferences of forest birds in Connecticut and Rhode Island was conducted along 148 transects and logged the occurrence of more than 50,000 individuals of nearly 100 species. It concurrently made nearly 18,000 measurements on habitats. Robert Craig is perfectly suited for his job—he has studied birds for 40 years. Educated at Rutgers and UConn, he focused on wildlife management and ornithology and earned a PhD in zoology from UConn. His research has led to nearly 100 contributions to the scientific literature.

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### Notice! Bird Book Tag Sale to Be Held at the November Meeting!

Here's your chance to clean house. Sort through the bird-related books you can part with or no longer need and bring them to the September or October meeting. Tag Sale Coordinator Deborah Zale will collect them. Proceeds go to our Conservation Fund.

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## 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. *See directions to Whitney Center above.* Go to main desk, sign in, and get directions to the meeting room. If you have any questions, please email or call Kris Johnson krisjohnson99@snet.net or 203.288.3087.

The next book we are reading is Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*.

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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. Carpooling 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 [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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### **Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens, NY Saturday, August 18, 2012, 7:00 am**

Please note the earlier start time. This birding hot spot is a great place to see a wide variety of shorebirds, herons, terns, and migrating passerines. It is a great place for uncommon shorebirds such as American Avocet, Marbled Godwit, and Buff-breasted, Stilt, and White-rumped Sandpipers. Meet at 7:00 am at the commuter lot in Orange at Rte. 34 and Greenway Road (at exits 57/58 of the Wilbur Cross Pkwy). We will carpool to the refuge, returning in the late afternoon. Bring lunch, water, and bug spray. Consider a cap and sunscreen, and wear shoes you won't mind getting wet and muddy. Leader - Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508, [loscalz@optonline.net](mailto:loscalz@optonline.net)

### **COA Shorebird Workshop CT Audubon Coastal Center at Milford Point Sunday, August 19, 2012, 10:00 am**

This workshop will be designed to help beginning and intermediate birders improve their skills in identifying shorebirds. The workshop will begin indoors in the meeting room at the coastal center. Then the group will go outside to apply their new skills in the field. Leaders: Frank Mantlik and others to be determined. The late start time is to coincide with high tide for the outdoor portion of the workshop. Check the COA website for additional details. Leader - Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508, [loscalz@optonline.net](mailto:loscalz@optonline.net)

### **Daily Hawk Watch at Lighthouse Point Park September 1 to November 30, 2012**

Lighthouse Point Park on New Haven Harbor is one of the premier locations in southern New England for observing migrating raptors as well as a wide variety of songbirds. The watch starts daily at 7:00 am and continues as long as the hawks keep flying. Stop by anytime. Coordinator - Steve Mayo: 203.393.0694, [smayo@sikorsky.com](mailto:smayo@sikorsky.com)

### **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center at Milford Point Wednesday, September 5, 2012, 8:00 am**

Join us as we look for shorebirds, terns, and fall migrants at this excellent local birding location. Ten to fifteen shorebird species are possible. Bring a scope if you have one. Leader is Steve Spector. Contact person - Tina Green: 203.247.2660, [tina@renaissancestudios.com](mailto:tina@renaissancestudios.com)

### **Lighthouse Point Bird Walk and Prep for Migration Festival Saturday, September 8, 2012, 8:00 am**

Ranger Dan Barvir and Arne Rosengren will lead the bird walk. Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot at Lighthouse Point. Then, beginning at 9:30 am, we will perform some light trail maintenance and cleanup. This is a great way to enjoy looking at birds and help preserve their habitat at the same time. Leaders - Dan Barvir: 203.946.6086; Arne Rosengren: 203.248.2903

### **Migration Festival at Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven Sunday, September 23, 2012, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm**

This festive event is sponsored by the New Haven Parks Department, the NHBC, and other fine organizations. There will be hawk watching, bird banding demos, a live raptor display, bird walks, and other activities. Check the newspaper and Club newsletter for more details. Organizer - Ranger Dan Barvir: 203.946.6086.

### **First Wednesday Walk: Allen's Meadow, Wilton Wednesday, October 3, 2012, 8:00 am**

Come visit this excellent location for fall migrants, especially sparrows. White-crowned and Lincoln's Sparrows are seen here regularly in the fall, and it's a good location to find Dickcissel, Blue Grosbeak and other rare fall migrants. Harris's Sparrow was seen here several years ago. Meet at the main meadow parking area, near the community gardens, off Rte.7. Luke Tiller leads. Contact - Tina Green: 203.247.2660, [tina@renaissancestudios.com](mailto:tina@renaissancestudios.com)

### **Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale State Park, Derby Saturday, October 6, 2012, 8:00 am**

Enjoy a walk at this fine local birding location. The environmental center and state park boast a variety of habitats, including open fields, woodlands, and ponds. We'll be looking for fall migrants, including warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and sparrows. Meet at the Kellogg parking lot: 500 Hawthorne Avenue, Derby. Leader - Maria Stockmal: 203.488.3876, [m.stockmal@snet.net](mailto:m.stockmal@snet.net)



**Great Stratford Bird Festival, Family Bird Walk at  
Beardsley Park, Bridgeport  
Saturday, October 6, 2012, 9:00 am**

Families and beginning birdwatchers are welcome on this tour of Beardsley Park. Park near the entrance gate of the zoo parking lot (1875 Noble Avenue). We will meet at the Hansen Exploration Center (in the parking lot), proceed out of the Zoo along Bunnell's Pond and the Pequonnock River, then explore Wheeler-Fairchild Park. This walk is part of the Great Stratford Birding Festival; additional information about festival activities can be found at <http://www.stratfordbirdfestival.com>. Leader - Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe; 203.630.9640, [cfolsomokeefe@audubon.org](mailto:cfolsomokeefe@audubon.org)

**Hammonasset State Park, Madison  
Saturday, October 13, 2012, 8:00 am**

Visit one of Connecticut's best fall birding spots, where the abundance of some migrants and sightings of less common species can make for a truly memorable trip. There should be shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, sparrows, and other interesting birds to see. The walking is easy, as it is on level ground. Meet at the park entrance (I-95, Exit 62). Leader - Florence McBride: 203.288.6777, [j.mcbride@yale.edu](mailto:j.mcbride@yale.edu)

**THE BIG SIT!®  
Sunday, October 14, 2012**

Established by NHBC, The Big Sit!® has become an international event, with birders participating on four continents. The object is to record as many species of birds as possible in a single day from one 17-foot diameter circle. The circles for the event are located strategically at a number of birding hotspots in the state. Join other birders in one of these circles or create one of your own! You don't have to be a hard-core birder to join in the fun. The event is now run by Bird Watcher's Digest. For details, go to the Bird Watcher's Digest website: [birdwatchersdigest.com](http://birdwatchersdigest.com)

**Branford Supply Ponds, Branford  
Saturday, October 27, 2012, 8:00 am**

Visit this fine local birding location to look for fall migrants and resident species. A variety of waterfowl can be found in the ponds. There is varied habitat, with woods and shrubby areas. The walking is easy, although it is hilly in some areas. Meet at the Supply Ponds parking lot on Chestnut Street in Branford. Leader - Maria Stockmal: 203.488.3876 or [m.stockmal@snet.net](mailto:m.stockmal@snet.net)

**NHBC 19th Annual Winter Feeder Survey  
November 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013**

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](mailto:vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net)

**Central CT Birding Tour Trip Report**

On Saturday, July 7th, ten club members went north to visit a couple of fine birding locations along the CT River corridor. Our first and main stop was at Northwest Park in Windsor. The park is large, at almost 500 acres, and is comprised of large fields, woodlands, and swamps. The park borders a wide portion of the Farmington River. It boasts a nature center, animal barn, and tobacco museum (the fields are converted tobacco fields from years ago). We were surprised and pleased to find that we had the park virtually to ourselves. We started out by hiking through the fields. We saw and heard several Indigo Buntings and Field Sparrows along the way.

We also saw Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Eastern Kingbirds, American Goldfinches, and Eastern Bluebirds in the fields. Grasshopper Sparrows have nested in these fields in recent years, although we didn't see or hear any on our walk. As we reached the woodland edge, we saw or heard a number of species, including Scarlet Tanager, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and Wood Thrush. In a small brushy field in the northeast corner of the park, we



*Indigo Bunting  
Photo by Bill Batsford*

saw Prairie Warblers and Eastern Towhees. From the north end of the park, we walked back down to the south end, taking trails through the woods along the river, and by the swamps. We didn't see a lot of birds on this portion of our walk, but did get good looks at a male Scarlet Tanager. We saw a total of 40 species at the park (the full report is on ebird). We took advantage of the air-conditioned nature center to cool off, and enjoyed the exhibits in the process, and ate an early lunch on one of the picnic tables by the museum.

Our second and last stop of the day was at Station 43 in South Windsor. We went with the plan to stay until we saw a Least Bittern. We didn't have to wait long. Within minutes of our arrival, one flew a short distance from one part of the marsh to another. We didn't all get to see it at that moment, but a few minutes later, the bird flew a longer distance past us and we all got to see it then. Other birds of note that we saw at the marsh were: Green Heron, Great Blue Heron, Marsh Wren, and Swamp Sparrow. We finished the hot day around noon, pleased with the birds we saw and the scenic locations we had visited. We will make this trip again next year, going to the locations that promise to be the most productive and interesting.

--Chris Loscalzo

If you take pictures on NHBC trips, please consider sending one to the newsletter to be included with the report. Send them to Donna Batsford at [donnabatsford@gmail.com](mailto:donnabatsford@gmail.com)

## Birds in Words Trip Report

On June 13th The New Haven Bird Club Book Group, Birds in Words, had a wonderful walk at Trail Wood and for the most part the rain held off. Thirteen members of the Book Group who had read *A Naturalist Buys an Old Farm* by Edwin Way Teale had a delightful walk on the property in Hampton, CT with CT Audubon leader, Andy Rzeznikiewicz and Terry LaVoie Trail Wood Friend/expert. We explored the house, writing cabin, summer house and other areas all mentioned by Teale in his wonder-

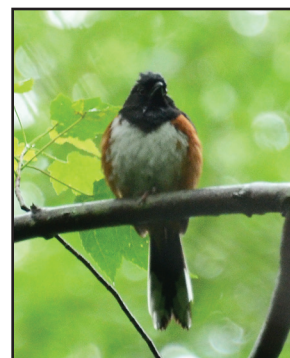


ful book and made lists of ferns, wildflowers and the birds we saw on the trails and in the fields. It was a delightful day, and we thank our leaders for their guidance.

In his book Teale mentions finding 26 of the 53 known native Connecticut ferns in and about Trail Wood. We were fortunate enough to find and identify 11 Ferns: Bracken Fern, Christmas Fern, Cinnamon Fern, Hay Scented Fern, Imperial Fern, Interrupted Fern, Lady Fern, New York Fern, Ostrich Fern, Royal Fern, Sensitive Fern. There were wild flowers everywhere we

looked plus some lovely cultivated flowers in the gardens. We saw more than 25 species of flowers.

We saw 35 species of birds: Wood Duck, Great Blue Heron, Mourning Dove, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Piliated Wood pecker, Eastern Wood Pewee, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Red-eyed Vireo, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Black-capped chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Indigo Blunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, American Goldfinch.



*Eastern Towhee*

--Kris Johnson and Henrietta Lachman  
(Photos by Bill Batsford)

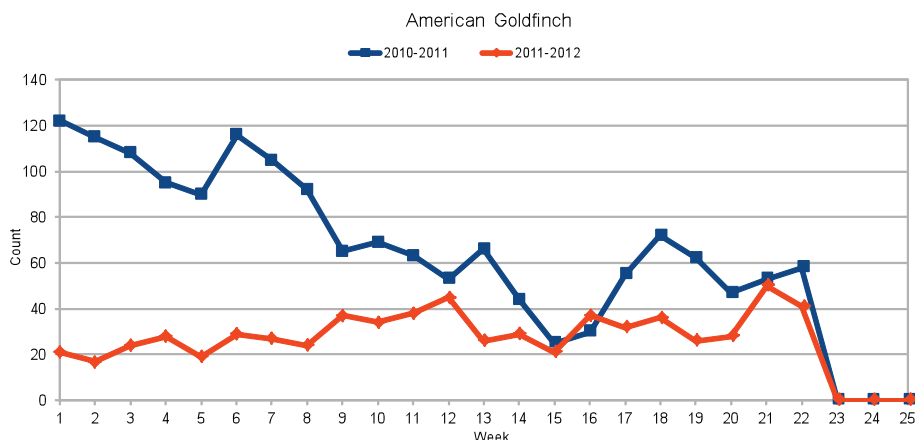
The Club collects binoculars and books for Birders Exchange to be distributed to organizations or individuals in Latin America or the Caribbean who are working on behalf of a bird conservation or bird education program. There will be a box marked BEX on the Sign in Table at the indoor programs collect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

## Winter Feeder Survey

The table to the right compares the feeder counts for the American Goldfinch for the November 2010 through March 2011 season and the November 2011 through March 2012 season.

If you would like to participate in this year's feeder survey, contact Peter Vitali: vitali\_peter\_e@sbcglobal.net, 203.288.0621

Weekly Total	Week										Week														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
2010-2011	122	115	108	95	90	116	105	92	65	69	63	53	66	44	25	30	55	72	62	47	53	58	0	0	0
2011-2012	21	17	24	28	19	29	27	24	37	34	38	45	26	29	21	37	32	36	26	28	50	41	0	0	0



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## MEET THE BOARD

### Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe : Education Chair

Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe is NHBC's Education Chair, a position that fits right into her near-lifelong interest and work in a wide range of conservation and bird-related activities. Acquainted with birds through her nature-loving parents, Corrie had her birding fate sealed in college when a friend invited her on a spring bird walk at the Boston Gardens. A wave of migrating birds, topped by magnificent views of Blackburnians, opened her eyes "to the wonderful world of warblers and the joys of birding," as she puts it.

After graduating from Boston University in 1999 with a degree in biology, Corrie embarked on an energetic series of jobs and experiences both near and far, and both paid and volunteer. She spent time in the Eastern Sierras of CA employed by the Mono Lake Committee in its efforts, in the end successful, to protect the lake, which provides a critical habitat for nesting migratory birds. Corrie stayed out West to volunteer during Great White Shark season on the Farrallon Islands off the coast of California. She was stationed in a lighthouse looking for sharks or out helping to video tape the awesome creatures in action, but Corrie also got to band birds and keep a log of the migrating passerines. She found the sharks "pretty cool," but says it was the birds she enjoyed most. For two summers somewhere in between her other jobs, she was a Girl Scout counselor in Alaska, honing her teaching skills and travelling widely to enjoy that state's wildlife and natural beauty.

A Connecticut native raised in Naugatuck, Corrie returned home periodically and at one point worked at Derby's Kellogg Environmental Center before heading to Belize to volunteer with the Peregrine Fund on a project to hack (reintroduce captive born birds) Harpy Eagles. Her next stop was Nova Scotia, where she volunteered for the Atlantic Bird Observatory, banding birds on Bon Portage Island.

After about 5 years of such travels, among a variety of other stops along the way, Corrie turned to settling down—more or less. She returned to CT and worked at the Nature Center at Hammonasset, then spent 3 years at West Hartford's Children's Museum where she used her science background and teaching skills to create and teach a number of programs. During this time Corrie also earned a Master's Degree in biology from Connecticut College and subsequently was employed by Yale to study the role of mammals and birds in the transmission of diseases. Last year Corrie took the job she now holds:



*Corrie with a Barred Owl  
Photo by Patrick Comins*

Coordinator of the Audubon CT Important Bird Area Program. But she still fits in a variety of other activities. She's Education Specialist for Quinnipiac Valley Audubon as well as co-compiler of its Christmas Bird Count. She still volunteers, as she has for years, in the bird banding program at the Milford Coastal Center and has participated in the CT DEEP Hawk, Nightjar, Chimney Swift, and Owl Surveys. And last but not least, Corrie found time 3 years ago to acquire a husband and pre-teen stepson. Her husband Dan, a union steamfitter, isn't a birder but enjoys the outdoors and occasionally joins her on bird walks. They share an interest in music. He plays guitar and banjo and performs in 2 bands: blue grass and rock; she is learning to play the mandolin.

Corrie, a Meriden resident for 6 years, is testimony to the fun and satisfaction to be had in consistently birding one's own patch. She's dedicated to visiting Hanover Pond, the Quinnipiac River Gorge Trail, and the old Meriden Dump, all within a mile of her home. Between those places and her own yard, she has a list of 135 species. She's slowly working on getting years of all her records into the eBird database. Asked about favorite birds, Corrie says that any bird she has studied intensively has a special place in her heart. She named Prairie Warbler, the subject of her Master's Thesis, and American Robin, which she studied in her work at Yale. Her response to "most memorable birding experience" is simple but paints a striking picture: "A Snowy Owl at Long Beach on a cold January morning. It was just after sunrise, it was freezing and it was just me and the owl in the parking lot."

Seemingly having endless energy, Corrie also enjoys drawing, painting, gardening, writing letters (the good old-fashioned snail-mail variety), and tending to her pet cat.

Corrie's enthusiasm, imagination, and organizational skills are genuine assets to NHBC, which she joined 3 years ago. As Education Chair she has started a new series of field trips, Family Bird Walks, an important step in the Club's ongoing effort to reach a wider and especially a younger audience. Corrie would like to expand the program and invites anyone interested in helping to contact her. The only requirements are an appreciation of birds and an interest in helping make birding a family activity. Corrie can be reached at [cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org](mailto:cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org).

--Betty Zuraw

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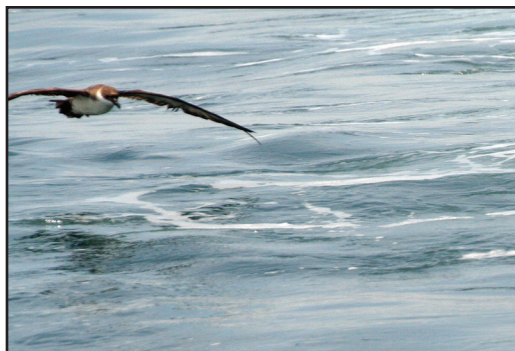


# NOTICE!

If you haven't renewed your membership, this newsletter is the last one you will receive. You can renew by using the form below.



*Eastern Bluebird at Northwest Park*  
Photo by Bill Batsford



*Audubon's Shearwater*  
Photo by Mike Horn



*Herring Gull*  
Photo by Mike Horn

## Newsletter August 2012

### NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip +4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print clearly in block letters)

#### Dues:

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual - \$15

\_\_\_\_\_ Couple/Family - \$20 # of family members \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Supporting - \$50 # of family members \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Student under 18 - Free

\_\_\_\_\_ Life Membership: A one-time payment of \$300  
for 1 or 2 people at same address.

\_\_\_\_\_ Additional gift to support the NHBC \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to volunteer to help the club.

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

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.

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

New Haven Bird Club is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. **All dues and donations are fully tax deductible.** If your employer gives matching grants, please take advantage of the offer. It's free and helps NHBC's program budget.

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

**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](mailto:mike.ferrari@att.net) or 203.435.5712.

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

**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.

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