



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

June 2012

2012 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Saturday, June 23, 2012, 9:00 am **Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale State Park, Derby**

Saturday, July 7, 2012, 7:00 am **Central CT Birding Tour**

Saturday, July 21st, 2012, 9:00 am **COA Long-legged Waders Workshop - Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington.**

Saturday, August 18, 2012, 7:30 am **Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens, NY**

Have you renewed you membership for the coming year yet?

If not, there is a form in this newsletter. Please send it soon so you will be included in the yearbook.

Visit the NHBC Website at 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
- A list of species seen on the club field trips
- 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.

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).

Starting in September 2012, the meetings will be at The Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. Directions will be in the August *Chickadee*.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Folks,

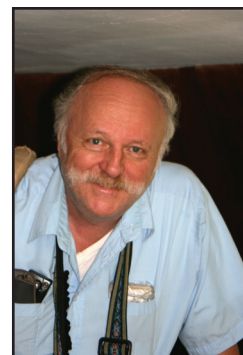
Several Topics:

The New Haven Science Fair – 2012
The Fair this year was a big disappointment to me as there were no bird related projects. The prize money will be rolled over to next year. The root cause is that the Fair manager does not want to advertise our \$200+ annual prize. He does not want to start a “competition” among prize givers. He does not want to give a bad example to the kids. Just what does he think that entering a science fair is in the first place? It is certainly competition. I, personally, think the club is badly served by this non-disclosure policy. What do you think? If you have an opinion, please e-mail me at mfhorn@att.net and put “Fair Prize” in the subject line.

The Richard English Memorial Fieldtrip was held Saturday April 14. I’m mentioning it in my president’s message because I encountered some problems. As Easter has been creeping up, it has forced me to make the trip later and later into April. This has caused some conflicts and has hurt attendance. In 2013, Easter is rolling back to March 31. This allows the scheduling of the English trip to be moved back to Saturday April 6, 2013. We had a wonderful trip this year but only had 7 people. Next year’s trip should be better attended.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all the people who worked so very hard on our annual banquet. The added server made the timing go perfectly. The raffle raised \$966. This is certainly the best ever. The food was much better. I would like to thank you all for doing such a splendid job.

Regards to all,
Mike Horn - President



FROM THE BOARD

The next board meeting is Thursday, June 14, at 6:45 pm at the Regional Water Authority in New Haven.

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

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.

Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale State Park, Derby - Saturday, June 23, 2012, 9:00 am

This walk is oriented toward families interested in learning about birds and wildlife. The park has a variety of habitats, including woods, fields, thickets, and ponds. We'll be focusing on nesting species. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them, appropriate clothing, and a little bit of curiosity about birds and the natural world. All ages are welcome. Meet at the environmental center parking lot at 500 Hawthorne Avenue. Leader—Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe: 203-630-9640, jubilee832001@yahoo.com

Central CT Birding Tour Saturday, July 7, 2012, 7:00 am

We'll visit several excellent birding locations in the CT central valley. Our first stop will be the grasslands near Rentschler Field in East Hartford. We'll look for Upland Sandpiper, Eastern Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrow and other grassland species. Then, we'll go to Station 43, along the CT River in South Windsor. There, we'll look for Least Bittern, Green Heron, Wood Duck and other freshwater wetland species. After a picnic lunch under the largest tree in all of New England (the Pinchot Sycamore in Simsbury), we'll go to the Great Pond State Forest in that town. We'll look for the Mississippi Kites that have nested near there the past few years. Meet at the commuter lot at 7:00 am on Route 68 in Wallingford, west of I-91 at Exit 15 (at the east end of Barnes Road) or at the Cabela's parking lot in East Hartford (near the pond) at 7:30 am. Leader—Chris Loscalzo: 203 389-6508, closcalz@optonline.net.

COA Long-legged Waders Workshop Saturday, July 21st, 2012 at 9:00 am Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington.

Learn how to identify herons, egrets, and ibis. Learn how to differentiate between similar species, such as juvenile Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Learn about their feeding and nesting habits and where to find them in Connecticut. The workshop will be geared towards beginner and intermediate birders. Meet at the gravel parking lot opposite the Marsh Viewing area, just north of the boat launch. We'll spend some time discussing the different waders, then go out on the trail to see what we can find. Barn Island WMA is located at the end of Palmer Neck Road in Stonington. Bring plenty of bug spray and sunscreen. Free and open to the public. Leader: Chris Loscalzo at closcalz@optonline.net or 203-389-6508.

Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens, NY Saturday, August 18, 2012, 7:30 am

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 Sandpiper. Meet at 7:30 am at the commuter lot in Orange at Route 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 or closcalz@optonline.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 book we are reading is David Gesner's *Return of the Osprey*. The date will be announced in the August newsletter.

Recipient of the 2012 President's Award: Betty Zuraw

After finishing nine years as the Club's Membership Chair, Betty Zuraw decided it was time to give someone else a chance at a job she admits she really hated to leave. It was "a very tough decision," she says, because she loved working with all the members, "a truly interesting and wonderful group of people." Luckily, Mike Ferrari stepped right up and has ably taken on the job. Betty has agreed to stay on as the Yearbook Editor, and she will continue on the board as a Member-at-Large.

Betty's long and dedicated service to the Club earned her the President's Award at the annual banquet last month. In announcing the decision to make the award to her, President Mike Horn reported that not only had Betty been Membership Chair and Yearbook Editor for many years, she had also served in other ways, including formulating the ideas for the First Wednesday Walks and the "Birds in Words" Book Group. These programs, which were later administered by other members, soon became popular additions to the Club's growing number of offerings.

Betty got into birding about 20 years ago when she and a friend took a day birding trip to Fisher's Island "just as something different to do out of doors." Betty saw her first oystercatcher ever and was "instantly captivated by the idea of an activity whose subjects included creatures as fascinating, colorful, beautiful, and whimsical as that amazing bird."

Betty started out as a weekend birder locally, but before long vacation destinations became birding hotspots such as Arizona, Texas, Cape May, California, the Pacific Northwest, Colorado, and Delmarva, among a number of others. And conveniently, her brother lives in Florida so Betty visits him every winter and gets to check out the birds down South.

Foreign bird travel beckoned too: Costa Rica, the Galapagos, Canada's Maritimes, Mexico, South Africa, Ecuador, India, and the primeval forests of Eastern Poland. At some point Betty learned that birding just might have been one of her destinies all along. She discovered that the word "zuraw" in both Russian and Polish means "crane." She has visited Nebraska during the spring crane migration when as many as half a million Sandhills stage along the Platte River. As Betty puts it, "It was great fun



and a thrill to see such an amazing display of birds and know they all are zuraws!"

For favorite birds, Betty lists the Northern Cardinal, "a cheerful and polite bird of great color and beauty, and a year-round resident to boot." For foreign birds (after the cranes) it's the Hoopoe "with its magnificent crest, pink-brown body, bold striped wing pattern, and for added fun, the Latin name of upupa epops." Betty keeps some birding records but is not a lister per se. "I just like to see whatever birds are in any place at a given time."

Betty graduated from Connecticut College in New London where she majored in history. She has been retired for several years now but spent most of her career at Weekly

Reader, the educational materials publisher. Her main position there was as an editor in the children's book clubs; she also spent some time as Photo Librarian/Editor. Betty wound down her working days doing part-time editorial freelance.

When Betty is not birding, she enjoys music, especially opera, museums, doing some hand crafts, reading, history, crosswords, gardening, and taking adult ed courses. She currently is enrolled in a series on the plays and authors of Ancient Greek Tragedy, classes given at Trinity in Hartford. (And, no, Betty assures me, the plays are much too engrossing to be depressing! "Sobering" might say it better.")

In her "younger days" (Betty's words), she was quite involved in civic life in Middletown, where she lives. She was on the boards of Junior Matinees, a group that brought in live theater for children; the League of Women Voters; and Family Services, a United Way organization. She also was one of the founders of Middletown's Community Concert Association, which brings in noted classical and jazz artists and which still is in operation after decades of existence. And for many years Betty was a baby holder (the official title is "cuddler") in UConn Medical Center's neonatal intensive care unit. She's on the list to resume that volunteering when an opening occurs in the popular program.

Everyone in NHBC is grateful for all Betty has done and congratulates her on receiving the much deserved President's Award for Outstanding Service to the Club. We wish her good luck in all her future endeavors.

--Donna Batsford

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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Sam Turin
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Ansonia Nature Center Walk Report

On Saturday, April 21, more than a dozen birders joined leader Maria Stockmal at the Ansonia Nature Center. A real treat was the great views of a juvenile Great Horned Owl. Other highlights were great looks at the Eastern Towhee and the Eastern Bluebird.

33 species in all: Turkey Vulture, Mallard, Red-shouldered Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Northern Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Warbling Vireo, American Crow, Blue Jay, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, Eastern Towhee, White-throated Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, American Goldfinch.

--Maria Stockmal

Bird Walk for Kids at East Rock Park Trip Report

On Saturday, April 28, we had bright sun for this walk, with chilly temperatures, at the beginning especially. The parking lot by the Eli Whitney Museum was productive, with good looks at a brilliant male Baltimore Oriole, and an Orchard Oriole that we detected by voice at first, along with a persistently singing Warbling Vireo that we could see as well as hear. An Osprey was also sighted as we were gathering there. After we entered the woods, everyone appreciated the Black-crowned Night Heron that stayed in good view on the other side of the river just downstream from the museum. After we found a few Yellow-rumped warblers, a Northern Waterthrush and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were heard clearly as we proceeded along the path, and the raucous call of a Common Raven provided a contrast with the songs of the smaller species. The highlights of the walk for many of us came in the footbridge area, where we saw a pair of Wood Ducks as well as two males, and watched a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak singing high in a tree above the thickets. In all 34 species were found by our 21 participants.

--Flo McBride

May First Wednesday Walk Report

Forty-six participants joined leaders John Oshlick and Frank Mantlik as we divided into two groups to bird the lower part of East Rock Park on May 2. It was a dull looking day with difficult light, but the birds were certainly there. We had 63 species including 14 species of warblers during the morning walk. It was a great beginning of May warbler migration for the club.

The list of species: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Common Loon, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Herring Gull, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Tree Swallow, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-



Veery

Photo by Bill Batsford

crowned Kinglet, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Blue-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Towhee, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

--Kris Johnson, Scribe

East Rock Park Trip Report

On May 5th about 45 birders, led by East Rock Park Ranger and NHBC member Dan Barvir, gathered at Rice Field to bird English Drive. We were greeted by plenty of Baltimore Orioles and Indigo Buntings in the oak trees along the roadside. The sky was over-cast making the viewing a little difficult, but birding by ear we were able find and view these tree top wonders.

We wandered up English Drive, which is excellent for a large group as we can bird in mob and not single file on a trail. This way everyone helps each other in locating the birds. Birds were found amassed in pocketed flocks. Best birds in this section of the park were Worm-eating and Nashville warblers, Indigo Bunting and Scarlet Tanagers and a brief sighting of a Yellow-throated vireo.

About 11am we moved over to the Eli Whitney Museum area, where we added about 15 more bird species to our walk's list. Among the birds seen was a Hooded Warbler, singing high up in a tree. A Blue-winged Warbler was found singing an unusual variation of its song, and we had great looks at 3 male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks battling it out for the attention of a single female. Resident Ravens and Peregrine Falcons were present on the Cliff face.

Orchard Orioles and Eastern Kingbirds were found across the street at the Water Plant.

Over all it was a good walk, a lot of people and good birds, we finished up around 1pm. Trip Bird total was 78 species, including 16 species of Warblers.

--Daniel Barvir

Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary Trip Report

27 Participants joined our leader, Roy Harvey, assisted by Steve Broker at beautiful Bent of the River in Southbury on this lovely May 6 morning. We had 69 species including 13 warbler species, but fewer migrants than expected.

Species: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Common Merganser, Wild Turkey, Double-crested Cormorant, Black Vulture (across street from Sanctuary), Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Solitary Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl & two Owlets, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated

Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Blue-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Hooded Warbler, Canada Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle (Across Street), Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole (Across Street), Baltimore Oriole (Across Street), American Goldfinch,

--Kris Johnson, Scribe

Nehantic State Forest/Hartman Park Field Trip Report

On Sunday, May 13th, about 16 club members ventured east for a full morning of birding in the town of Lyme. Our first stop was the Nehantic State Forest, a large mature forest with wetlands and ponds. We visited several locations within the forest, seeing a number of interesting birds along the way. Notable sightings included: Wood Duck, Double-crested Cormorant, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Blue-winged Warbler, American Redstart, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. At Hartman Park, we found several Cerulean Warblers (they are known to breed there), as well as several warbler species at the powerline cut, such as Magnolia Warbler, Northern Parula, and Prairie Warbler. There were Warbling and Red-eyed Vireo there, as well as Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks flying overhead. We recorded a total of 64 species on the day. Surprisingly, there were very few migrants. Most of the birds we saw or heard were residents, many of which had only recently returned to their breeding grounds. The forest and park are beautiful, natural places. We look forward to visiting them again in the future.

--Chris Loscalzo

Naugatuck State Forest Trip Report

On Wednesday, May 16th about 12 members of the club went to this fine birding location in Naugatuck. We spent our time in the west block of the forest, where there are extensive woodlands, running streams, some open fields, and powerline cuts with their scrub habitat. We hiked from the end of Hunter Mountain Road south through the woods, and then along a stream with picturesque waterfalls. We then walked north along Spruce Brook Road, past the rifle range, back to Hunter Mountain Road. We saw a total of 58 species, with the highlight being a singing Lawrence's Warbler (a hybrid of Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warbler) at the powerline cut. Other notable finds included a female Hooded Merganser with two ducklings, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, and a pair of Wood Duck at the pond

along the western trail, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Veery, Wood Thrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Chestnut-sided, Prairie, and Blackburnian Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager along the trails. We heard a Hooded Warbler singing and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker drumming, in its characteristic way, in the forest. There were Eastern Bluebirds and Field Sparrows in the freshly cut fields north of Hunter Mountain Road and a total of eight(!) Rose-breasted Grosbeaks seen at the same time, visiting the feeders in front of the log cabin home near the forest entrance. The forest, with its mature woodlands and varied habitat, is a truly beautiful place and one of the better places locally to find such specialties as Hooded and Blackburnian Warbler. We'll look forward to visiting the forest again next year.

--Chris Loscalzo

Barn Island Wildlife Management Area Trip Report

Nine participants, led by Bill Bastsford, made the trek to Barn Island, an excellent birding area with diverse habitat, on May 19. A good total of 57 species included several highlights with new life birds for some of the participants.

The trip got off to a nice start with excellent scope views of Bobolink in the fields to the right of the road on the way into Barn Island. The path from the parking area to the shore yielded good views of Yellow, Black-and-White and Blue-winged warbler as well as American Redstart and Common Yellowthroat. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird, the first of four for the trip, was very cooperative. A highlight was prolonged and close views of a singing White-eyed Vireo. We were disappointed in the relative lack of shorebirds, but good views of Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Least Sandpiper and a distant Glossy Ibis were compensation. Barney Bontecou (great eyes!) provided us with the highlight of the trip – a close look at a silent but cooperative Black-billed Cuckoo! We were all tired after a long walk, but were rewarded on the way back as a Bald Eagle flew directly over our car.

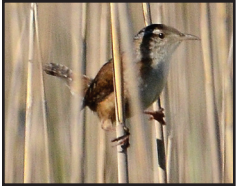
--Bill Batsford

Stratford Shore Points Trip Report

Leader Frank Mantlik took the group of about 20 to several Stratford sites (McKinney Refuge-Warehouse Pond & trail, RR trail; Long Beach; Stratford Point) as well as to Milford Point. Passerine migrants were few, but we saw a nice variety (70) of species, including many shorebirds in breeding plumage. Highlights were close views of numerous Boat-tailed Grackles, mating Piping Plovers and Least Terns, aerial song displays by Marsh Wrens, a Wild Turkey being chased in flight by a Red-winged Blackbird, and many migrating Common Loons. 70 species (+1 other taxa)

Brant, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Gadwall, American Black Duck, Mallard, Wild Turkey, Common Loon - most migrating east over L I Sound, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Osprey - including 7 in view at once over Great Meadows marsh., Red-tailed Hawk, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Piping Plover - pair copulating on Long Beach nesting area, American Oystercatcher, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet (Eastern) - including one perched in treetop at Refuge, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sand-

piper, White-rumped Sandpiper - one at Milford Point and a possible one at McKinney RR trail, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull (American), Great Black-backed Gull, Least Tern - most at Long Beach including some starting to copulate and nest and a few at Milford Point as well., Common Tern - off Stratford Point, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted), Willow Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, crow sp., Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Purple Martin - female at Stratford Point, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Marsh Wren - aerial song



Marsh Wren

Photo by Bill Batsford

at RR trail marsh, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher - Milford Point, along road, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Saltmarsh Sparrow - spotted by Gina at marsh near RR platform, Seaside Sparrow - spotted by Gina & Frank at marsh near RR plat-

form, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Boat-tailed Grackle - males and females in evidence at nesting area around Warehouse Pond and adjacent salt marsh., Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

--Frank Mantlik

June First Wednesday Walk Report

Twenty-three participants joined our leader, Greg Hanisek at White Memorial Foundation in Litchfield for a very productive walk from 8-12 on June 6.

Some might say the bird of the day was the Least Bittern flying across Little Pond, but others might pick the spectacular views of a Chestnut-sided Warbler also at Little Pond or perhaps the Virginia Rail sighted sneaking from one grassy clump to another through the marsh. It was a delightful instructive morning of listening to and seeing 60 species.

Species: Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Mallard, Double-crested Cormorant, Least Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Virginia Rail, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood Pewee, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Marsh Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Ovenbird, Black-and-white Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Baltimore Oriole, American Goldfinch.

--Kris Johnson, Scribe

New Haven Bird Club - 2011 - 2012

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SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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<i>Historian</i>	John Triana	203.758.7203
	jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo	203.393.0694
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<i>Web Master</i>	John Triana	203.758.7203
	jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali	203.288.0621
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<i>Yahoo Group</i>	Ralph Amodei	203.467.9515
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**Final Report: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey
November 2011 - March 2012**

What a winter! Hardly any snow and no birds! Looks like the birds either left early after the Hurricane or after the late October snow storm. Another result of the storms was the destruction of places to place feeders; i.e. trees and poles. Probably the main reason there were very few birds this winter survey was the mild weather which allowed them to forage in the wild and not rely on us to provide food. I do know that the numbers of species that are normally around my house (House Sparrows, European Starlings) were hardly at my feeders this winter, and when they were they were in greatly reduced numbers.

We had a total of 16 participants, 5 via U.S. Postal system, 10 using email, and me. We lost two long-time surveyors, one due to losing the tree where he hung the feeders and another from new residency requirements. We were from 12 towns or cities: Branford, Cheshire, Durham, Guilford, Hamden, Killingworth, Milford, New Haven, North Haven, Orange, Prospect, and Wallingford.

We saw a total of 51 species of birds (down 5 from last year) and 14 species of animals. The largest quantity for one week again was for Common Grackles at 246. This was the same species that led the list in 2009-2010 at 628 and last year at 484. Unlike last year when we had the great flocks in January, this year they showed up near the end of the survey in late February and late March. This year we did not have any Field Sparrows reported, and for a few of the Uncommon Species only one bird was seen during the whole survey. New to the Uncommon list was Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Fish Crow and Pine Warbler. This year the squirrel was again the leader in the Animal Species List which had the addition of Brown Rat, Short-tail Rat, Flying Squirrel and Woodchuck.

Peter Vitali
Survey Coordinator, Chairman NHBC Winter Feeder Survey

Thanks to the survey participants: Carol Dunn, Maris Fiondella, Carol Goertz, Amy Hopkins, Kris Johnson, Lynn Jones, Shirley Mangler, Nancy Morand, Philip Pivawer, Bev Proppen, Jim and Gillian Rose, Nancy Rosenbaum, Dean Rupp, Edward Sprowson, John Triana, and Peter Vitali.

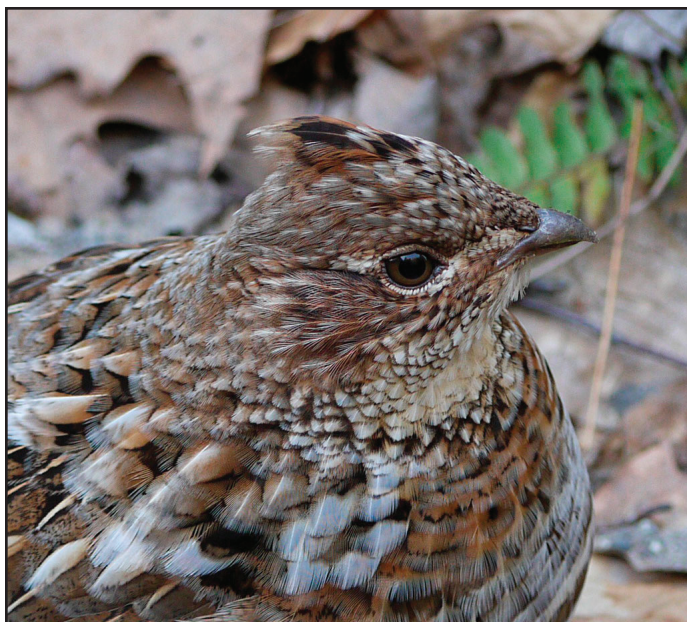


Male Red-bellied Woodpecker

Maximum Number of a Species Seen During Any One Week

Common Species		Uncommon Species	
American Crow	84	American Tree Sparrow	1
American Goldfinch	53	Black Vulture	
American Robin	23	Blackpoll Warbler	1
Black-capped Chickadee	38	Broad-winged Hawk	
Blue Jay	42	Brown Creeper	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	22	Cedar Waxwing	7
Carolina Wren	11	Common Redpoll	
Chipping Sparrow	7	Eastern Kingbird	1
Common Grackle	246	Eastern phoebe	1
Cooper's Hawk	4	Eastern Towhee	1
Dark-eyed Junco	131	Fish Crow	1
Downy Woodpecker	43	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1
Eastern Bluebird	10	Hermit Thrush	1
European Starling	101	Merlin	
Field Sparrow	0	Monk Parakeet	5
Fox Sparrow	6	Northern Harrier	
Hairy Woodpecker	5	Northern Oriole	1
House Finch	72	Pileated Woodpecker	
House Sparrow	86	Pine Siskin	
Mourning Dove	137	Pine Warbler	1
Northern Cardinal	44	Raven	
Northern Flicker	8	Red-breasted Nuthatch	
Northern Mockingbird	2	Red-shouldered Hawk	2
Purple Finch	5	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	31	Rusty Blackbird	
Red-tailed Hawk	1	Savannah Sparrow	
Red-winged Blackbird	53	Swamp Sparrow	
Rock Dove (Pigeon)	9	Turkey Vulture	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	White-crowned Sparrow	
Song Sparrow	11	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Tufted Titmouse	52		
White-breasted Nuthatch	38		
White-throated Sparrow	97	Waterfowl	
Wild Turkey	21		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	American Black Duck	
		Canada Goose	
		Great Blue Heron	1
<i>Note: Species with no</i>		Herring Gull	
<i>number after it was not</i>		Hooded Merganser	
<i>seen during the survey</i>		Mallard	3
<i>period.</i>		Ring-billed Gull	
		Wood Duck	

Photos from Boston Hollow



Ruffed Grouse
Photo by Don Morgan



Ruffed Grouse
Photo by Don Morgan



Hermit Thrush
Photo by Bill Batsford

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 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.

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NHBC website: www.newhavenbirdclub.org