



# THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

December 2013

## 2013 - 14 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Wednesday, December 4, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison**

Saturday, December 7, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm **Cleanup at Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center, Milford Point**

Thursday, December 12, 7:00 pm **Gina Nichol, How to Get Close to the Bird**

Saturday, December 14 **114th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count**

Wednesday, January 8, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport**

Thursday, January 9, 7:00 pm **Deborah Allen, Birding Central Park**

Sunday, January 12, 7:30 am **Stratford/Milford Birding Tour**

Thursday, January 30, 7:00 - 9:00 pm **Birds in Words: *Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95* by Phillip Hoose.**

Saturday, February 1, 8:00 am **Hammonasset State Park, Madison**

Wednesday, February 5, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison**

Thursday, February 13, 7:00 pm **Theresa Feo, Feather Development and Differentiation**

Saturday, February 22, 7:00 am **Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast**

### The New Haven Bird Club is 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.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### What a Season!

Not everyone has a positive attitude towards late fall (after the colors) and winter. Dreary, cold, windy – wouldn't it be nice to escape to Florida, the Caribbean, Hawaii – anywhere with a warmer climate. But consider all that would be missed.

My wife and I recently moved to an apartment in New Haven, and my camera and lens invariably draw comments from fellow elevator riders (for those of you who haven't seen it, the lens is a bit of a monster!). Today when I explained that it was for bird photography the response was: "For birds? Haven't they all left for the winter?"

Redhead, Eurasian Wigeon, Barnacle Goose, Red-headed Woodpecker, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Short-eared Owl, Lapland Longspur, Clay-colored Sparrow, Snowy Owl, Barrow's Goldeneye, King Eider, Fork-tailed



*Fork-tailed Flycatcher*

Flycatcher – even this partial list of spectacular birds in Connecticut this November is truly impressive. This does not even mention the fall warbler and sparrow migrations, the influx of land and sea ducks – and the spectacle of hawk migration. For the truly committed – or perhaps those who should be committed – there is the prospect of sorting through gulls for the rare visitors.

So my answer in the elevator was: "True many birds have departed for the winter, but there are replacements – many of them truly remarkable."

We are fortunate in Connecticut to have varied and interesting birding throughout the year. We are even more fortunate to be part of a friendly birding community with many talented birders sharing sightings with the rest of us.

And now – on to the Christmas Bird Count!

--Bill Batsford

## NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2013-2014

### OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Bill Batsford	203.787.1642 william.batsford@yale.edu
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<i>Secretary</i>	Paul Wolter	860.681.5548 pwolter6@earthlink.net

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<i>Hospitality Chair</i>	Stacy Hanks	203.727.1063 flybirdhanks@gmail.com
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<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Chris Loscalzo	203.389.6508 closcalz@optonline.net
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Larry Bausher	203.389.5918 lpbausher@comcast.net
<i>Social Chair</i>	Donna Caporaso	203.895.7669 donnacap@aol.com
<i>Yearbook Chair</i>	Betty Zuraw	860.632.1156 bz4feathers@sbcglobal.net

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>Birds in Words</i>	Kris Johnson	203.288.3087 kriswaxwing99@gmail.com
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo	203.389.6508 closcalz@optonline.net
<i>Email List</i>	Mike Ferrari	203.435.5712 mike.ferrari@att.net
<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo	203.393.0694 rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net
<i>Lighthouse Point Historian</i>	John Triana	203.758.7203 jtriana1@sbcglobal.net
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo	203.393.0694 rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net
<i>Web Master</i>	John Triana	203.758.7203 jtriana1@sbcglobal.net
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali	203.288.0621

## FROM THE BOARD

The next board meeting is Wednesday, December 18, at 6:45 pm at the Regional Water Authority in New Haven.

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

If you take pictures of NHBC events or 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

### BIRDERS' EXCHANGE

The New Haven Bird Club is collecting binoculars, scopes or Neotropical field guides that we will donate to the Birders' Exchange Program which is part of ABA. This organization donates all binoculars and other equipment to worthy individuals involved in crucial bird conservation projects and education work in Central and South America.

At each indoor meeting there will be a box on the sign-in table where you can place your equipment donation.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

James & Barbara Buss  
Harwinton

Karen Patterson  
Durham

Tom Murray  
Stratford

Howie Sternberg  
Middletown

Jason, Julie and Anthony Rieger  
Wallingford



In the October *Chickadee* this photo was misidentified. Please enjoy another look at Richard Asarisi's Prothonotary Warbler.

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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. Meetings are at Whitney Center, Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. The facility is wheelchair accessible.

### **Directions to Whitney Center (200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden)**

From I-95 North or South: Exit onto I-91 North in New Haven. Take Exit 6 (Willow St.). Continue with directions from I-91 (next).

From I-91 North or 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. Drive 1.6 miles then turn left onto Putnam Ave. (Note: Playwright Restaurant is on the left). Then follow starred directions (\*\*) below.

From Wilbur Cross (Rte. 15) North or South: Take Exit 61 (Whitney Ave). If southbound, turn right at end of ramp onto Whitney Ave. If northbound, turn left at end of ramp. Drive 2.4 mi., then turn right onto Putnam Ave. (Note: Playwright Restaurant is on the corner). Continue as follows:

\*\*On Putnam, go approximately 0.7 mi, and at the third traffic light turn right onto Leeder Hill Dr. (Note: AT&T bldg at intersection). Go 0.6 mi. on Leeder Hill to Whitney Center on the left. Turn left at the first entrance, which has a big sign "South Entrance." After turning in, take an immediate left onto a raised parking area.

The meeting is in Whitney Center's South Building. Enter the main door, which is under 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, December 12, 2013 — Gina Nichol "How to Get Close to the Bird"**

One of the most satisfying aspects of birding is getting a good close view of a wild bird, a look that allows us to study plumage features, observe behavior, or simply enjoy the aesthetic experience. Yet getting close to birds is not so easy. Binoculars and spotting scopes help and most birders know not to wear white in the field but what are some other ways to improve our chances of getting a satisfying view of a bird? This program will focus on "fieldcraft," the field practices and specialist skills for observing birds at close range. With the goal of raising gratification and lowering the frustration that sometimes comes in birding, Gina will discuss techniques that advance birding proficiency and get those killer views. Gina is more than qualified to dispense good birding tips. A career as a naturalist and a passion for birds have taken her to all seven continents. She operates Sunrise Birding, which offers personalized and affordable small group birding and wildlife tours to destinations around the world.

### **Thursday, January 9, 2014 — Deborah Allen "Birding Central Park"**

Explore the birds of Central Park with wildlife photographer and researcher Deborah Allen. New York City's Central Park is internationally recognized as one of the best places to observe migratory birds in spring and fall. More than 280 species of

birds have been recorded for Central Park, with more than 200 expected annually. We'll take a look at some of the park's avian visitors, everything from warblers and tanagers to hawks and owls, as well as some nesting birds, including Red-eyed Vireo, Baltimore Oriole, Wood Thrush, and American Kestrel. The talk will include tips on when and where to find birds in Central Park. Deborah, a photographer who specializes in the birds of New York City, has had her bird photos published in numerous publications. A bird tour leader and former president of The Linnaean Society of NY, she is author of *Let's Investigate Puffins*, a children's book. She now is working on a bird guide for Central Park.

### **Thursday, February 13, 2014 — Theresa Feo "Feather Development and Differentiation"**

Clothes may make the man, but feathers make the bird. Birds sport thousands of feathers that come in myriad shapes and sizes for various uses including flying, attracting a mate, and even carrying water. The diversity of feathers is stunning but it is not always clear how the different feather shapes are produced. Yale PhD candidate Teresa Feo will present her ongoing research to uncover how feathers grow into different shapes."

She is a 4th year PhD candidate in Richard Prum's Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at Yale. Her focus is feather development and she has worked extensively with Chris Clark (a previous speaker for the NHBC) on a project to document hummingbird courtship displays and feather sounds.

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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. Meetings are at 7:00 pm in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor Conference Room at Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. *See directions to Whitney Center under Indoor Programs.* Please feel free to attend any of the meetings.

All are welcome! If you have any questions, email or call Kris Johnson kriswaxwing99@gmail.com or 203-288-3087.

On Thursday, January 30 we will discuss *Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95* by Phillip Hoose.

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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 if you have questions about any of their trips.

*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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### **NHBC 21st Annual Winter Feeder Survey November 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014**

This is a yearly census to determine the number and frequency of birds visiting feeders in the greater New Haven area. You are invited to watch and record the activity at your feeder at least once a week for the entire time period. Contact: Peter Vitali at 203-288-0621 or [vitali\\_peter\\_e@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net).

### **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison Wednesday, December 4, 2013, 8:00 am**

Enjoy a mid-week trip to explore this birding hot spot for fall migrants. The varied habitat attracts shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors and songbirds. Meet at park entrance. Leader is Jerry Connolly. Contact: Tina Green: 203-247-2660 or [tina@renaissancestudios.com](mailto:tina@renaissancestudios.com)

### **114th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 14, 2013**

Join other NHBC members in this fun event. Take part for a few hours or all day. Results of the count are sent to the National Audubon Society for inclusion in an international census of early winter bird populations. The compilation dinner starts at 5:00 pm at the Whitney Center, Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. Compiler is Chris Loscalzo: 203-389-6508 or [closcalz@optonline.net](mailto:closcalz@optonline.net)

### **First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport Wednesday, January 8, 2014, 8:00 am**

Join us on a mid-week trip to this fine birding spot on the Long Island Sound. We will check the sound for loons, grebes, golden-eye, and other sea ducks. The fields are a good place to look for Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, and sparrows. Drive into the park and meet at the park's main parking lot. Leader: Tina Green: 203-247-2660 or [tina@renaissancestudios.com](mailto:tina@renaissancestudios.com).

### **Stratford/Milford Birding Tour Sunday, January 12, 2014, 7:30 am**

Today we visit the marshes and beaches in Stratford and Milford. We'll be looking for sea ducks including scoters, grebes, loons and scaup, gulls, raptors, and shorebirds. Meet at the commuter lot on Schoolhouse Rd., Milford just south of Exit 35 on I-95. Leader: Chris Loscalzo: 203-389-6508 or [closcalz@optonline.net](mailto:closcalz@optonline.net)

### **Hammonasset State Park, Madison Saturday, February 1, 2014, 8:00 am**

Join us as we visit this premier CT birding location for a mid-winter excursion. We will be looking for sea ducks, shorebirds, grassland species, and winter finches. Notable sightings from last year's trip included: Surf Scoter, Sanderling, Dunlin, Black-bellied Plover, Horned Lark, and White-winged Crossbill. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot. We will check several areas in the park, including the campgrounds area. Leaders: Chris Loscalzo and Paul Wolter. Contact person: Chris Loscalzo: 203-389-6508 or [closcalz@optonline.net](mailto:closcalz@optonline.net).

### **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison Wednesday, February 5, 2014, 8:00 am**

Enjoy a mid-week field trip to one of the state's best birding locations. We will look for sea ducks, grassland species, and rarities. Meet at the park entrance at 8:00 am. Leader: Greg Hanisek. Contact person: Tina Green: 203-247-2660 or [tina@renaissancestudios.com](mailto:tina@renaissancestudios.com).

### **Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast Saturday, February 22, 2014, 7:00 am**

This all-day trip includes stops at Sachuest Pt., Beavertail State Park, Moonstone Beach, and Trustum Pond, all great RI birding sites. We should see grebes, loons, scoters, eiders, Purple Sandpipers, and Harlequin Ducks. Dress warmly—it's cold and windy on the coast. The walk is a bit strenuous. Bring lunch and a scope, if you have one. Meet at Branford commuter lot, Exit 55 of I-95. Leader: Chris Loscalzo: 203-389-6508 or [closcalz@optonline.net](mailto:closcalz@optonline.net)

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## **Corrections to Trip Dates in the Yearbook**

Stratford/Milford Birding Tour is Sunday, January 12, 2014

Hammonasset State Park walk is Saturday, February 1, 2014

Sachuest Point and RI Coast trip is Saturday, February 22, 2014

## Osbornedale State Park Bird Walk Report

There were nine participants on Saturday, October 5 at the Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale State Park in Derby. We did not see the Chat that was seen Wednesday although we searched the vicinity for one and a half hours before moving across the street. We did locate a lot of warblers passing through in the trees. They were moving quickly.

Here is the bird list: Northern Parula, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Palm Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow, Gray Catbird, N. Mockingbird, Amer. Robin, Carolina Wren, White-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Amer. Crow, Blue Jay, Red-eyed Vireo, Flycatcher (?), Eastern Phoebe, Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy and Hairy Woodpecker, Mourning Dove, and Herring Gull. 35 species.

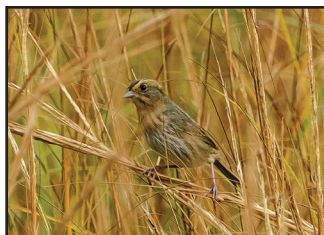
Oddly, no raptors.

--Maria Stockmal

## Trip Report: Hammonasset Beach State Park, 10/19/13

Scouting the park the day before this trip had turned up small numbers of both species and individual birds, but Saturday morning brought colder temperatures and excellent birding. Gathering at the park entrance, we watched kinglets (many more of both species were found later), lots of Yellow-rumped Warblers, an Eastern Phoebe, a vocal Carolina Wren, and a Brown Creeper. The swan pond continued to host a Pied-billed Grebe, presumably the one that had been seen in recent days, as well as Black Ducks and Double-crested Cormorants, and the vegetation on the west side of the pond yielded the day's first White-crowned Sparrow. Good numbers of robins were in the trees across the pond, and although we didn't experience the Tree Swallow show that has characterized some past trips, that species was represented by many individuals.

On the way to Meigs Point, thanks to Bill Batsford, we found one of the day's highlights, several Nelson's Sparrows in the restored marsh across from the middle beach parking lot, where we also saw Great and Snowy Egrets and watched a juvenile Little Blue Heron fly by. The sound was virtually bare of birds, but we saw and heard several Greater Yellowlegs at the boulder pool at Meigs Point, and the grasses and shrubs near the nature center hosted sparrows and a Common Yellowthroat.



*Nelson's Sparrow*  
Photo by Bill Batsford

As we walked out on Willard's Island, we got good looks at large raptors across the marsh: at least 6 perched Ospreys and an adult Bald Eagle in a tree near them. The day's other raptor sightings included Northern Harrier, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks

and a Red-shouldered Hawk in a tree near the exit road as we were leaving the park. Bird activity was satisfying at the end of the Willard's Island trail, with many kinglets and yellow-rumps flitting near us, flocks of Cedar Waxwings and Tufted Titmice, a briefly-cooperative White-crowned Sparrow, and an Eastern Towhee and a Gray Catbird that were easier to hear than to see. Although shorebirds were represented only by the yellowlegs and quite a few Killdeer, we found a total of 52 species, with nine species of sparrows, including Field, Savannah, and Chipping.

--Florence McBride

## Branford Supply Ponds Bird Walk Report

16 participants met at the Branford Supply Ponds on Saturday, October 26. We saw 39 species: Double-crested cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Black Vulture, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Mallard, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue-headed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Common Grackle, female Oriole

--Maria Stockmal

## Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve Trip Report

The following is a list of the 42 bird species seen and /or heard by the 20 people attending the New Haven Land Trust - New Haven Bird Club fieldtrip of Saturday November 2, 2013 to the New Haven Land Trust's Fargeorge Wildlife refuge:

Canada Geese, American Black Duck, Mallard, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Great Blue Heron, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fisk Crow, Raven, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Grey Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.



*Swamp Sparrow*

The weather was mostly sunny with a light wind out of the south. The temperature went from 50° at the start to 56° at the end. We started at high tide.

--Mike Horn

## November First Wednesday Walk: Westport Hot Spots Trip Report

Thanks to the nineteen birders that fought the commuter traffic on their way to Westport to join me for the NHBC November First Wednesday Walk on November 6. The weather was outstanding with plenty of sunshine, light southerly winds at 9mph, and a temperature of 61 balmy degrees. We visited three locations starting with Compo Beach, then Sherwood Mill Pond Preserve, and finally, Sherwood Island State Park. We had 47 species including seven duck species. The 2 Lesser Scaup, 9 Greater Yellowlegs, and 5 Dunlin continue on the Mill Pond. A Peregrine Falcon put on a nice show out over Cockenoe Island, hitting the water hard while trying for some ducks and causing a huge splash. Sparrows were almost non-existent, and most of the juncos and yellow-rumps that were everywhere a few days ago were absent. The best bird of the day was the beautiful splash of orange, spotted by one of the participants, high atop a White Spruce tree, the Baltimore Oriole. So glad everyone got to see this bird. And thanks to all who helped in finding our birds today. Good birding!

--Tina Green

## Sherwood Island State Park Trip Report

Eighteen participants joined me for a New Haven Bird Club walk at Sherwood Island State Park thon November 30. Sunny skies and light winds were helpful in keeping us warm even though the temperature was below normal. Most of the Mill Pond was covered with a thin coating of ice, and most of the waterfowl was concentrated in one small area at the north end of the pond. We had to work hard to find 41 species in the park, and it was a real team effort! Highlights were the excellent views of an adult male Merlin and an adult male Eastern Towhee.

Species seen were: Canada Goose, Swan, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, 2 duck sp., Red-throated Loon, Loon, Horned Grebe, Merlin, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Black-backed Gull, Great Horned Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Jay, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Mockingbird, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle), Eastern Towhee, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored), Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)

Thanks to everyone for coming out on this holiday weekend!

--Tina Green



Merlin  
Photo by Bill Batsford

## Birders Help Clean Up IBAs

New Haven Bird Club members have been invited to participate in a cleanup at Milford Point, an Important Bird Area that is a critical piping plover nesting site in the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. Steve Johnson, Milford's Open Space Manager, has been working with Kris Vagos, Wildlife Biologist for the SBM NWR, to organize a cleanup in early December to remove a significant amount of debris dating from Super Storm Sandy.



Debris from Super Storm Sandy at Milford Point

Join us Saturday, December 7th between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (rain date December 8th) at the Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center, One Milford Point, Milford, CT. SBM NWR is providing the supplies, including work gloves, water, and an ATV for hauling large trash. As a bonus feature of this event, Kris Vagos and Shaun Roche will give a presentation about the SBM NWR to the volunteers. It is recommended that volunteers carpool from the Walnut Beach parking lot to the Audubon lot. For more information, contact Winie Wirth, NHBC Conservation Committee Co-Chair, 203-859-2971.

This event builds on our recent successful cleanup of another IBA. The NHBC participated for the first time in Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup on Saturday, September 21, 2013, at an event captained for the past 8 years by Dr. Bob Marra, at Sandy Point Beach Important Bird Area in West Haven. ICC beach cleanups took place in 97 different countries, with Save the Sound coordinating 43 in Connecticut.

A dozen bird club members joined 28 other volunteers in picking up about 30 bags/800 pounds of litter from one mile of some of the most critical piping plover nesting habitat in Connecticut. Board member Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, who is also Coordinator of the Audubon CT Important Bird Area Program, praised this effort because it "will reduce the number of predators, attracted by the trash, that become accustomed to visiting Sandy Point."

In addition, volunteers filled out tally sheets of certain trash categories that will provide data for the Ocean Conservancy to tabulate beach litter worldwide. Our haul included 4,000 cigarette butts, 1,300 snack wrappers and take-out containers, 230 straws, 270 plastic bottles, 209 plastic shopping bags, 250 yards of fishing line and 30 balloons. International results may be viewed online at [www.oceanconservancy.org](http://www.oceanconservancy.org).

Both of these events illustrate how beautifully many different individuals, conservation organizations, and government agencies come together to benefit our birds. Be a part of the solution! Come out to Milford Point December 7th to help the piping plovers and an Important Bird Area.

-- Winie Wirth  
Conservation Committee Co-Chair



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## Conservation Committee Mission Statement

The New Haven Bird Club has drafted a new conservation mission statement that will drive our efforts and define our scope. As birders we are on the front lines of bird conservation. We are some of the first people to see changes to bird habitat, and we are certainly the first to see negative population trends with our bird populations. It is important that the NHBC continues with our current efforts and reaches out into more endeavors.

Many of the conservation activities will be on the club board of director's level, sending letters and making phone calls to local and state officers when there is a threat to local bird habitat, appearing at agency meetings and representing the NHBC at

National Wildlife Refuge organization meetings to name a few activities. Other activities will call for members to volunteer for invasive weed control, beach clean ups and to send an email to a state representative.

We understand that many of the club's members belong to other organizations that have a focus on conservation and that you may be bombarded with petitions and calls to action. We do not intend on becoming another voice in the choir. Keep in mind we are a bird club that is active in local conservation not conservation club that does some birding. The mission statement will help us define our activities.

### *Scope and Mission Statement for NHBC Conservation Activities.*

*NHBC will work for the preservation and restoration of bird populations and their habitats, with an emphasis primarily on, but not limited to, New Haven County.*

#### Objectives:

The New Haven Bird Club and the New Haven Bird Club Conservation Committee will pursue its mission in the Greater New Haven area by:

- Participating in advocacy efforts when certain issues and legislation are pending on the Federal, State and local levels if the policy or legislation impacts the integrity of our birding areas.
- Organizing and participating in activities to restore habitat in our local areas such as invasive weed eradication, beach clean ups and trail maintenance.
- Participating in local National Wildlife Refuge Friends Organizations.
- Helping with land acquisition fund raising to set aside and preserve habitat.
- Assisting other organizations whose activities align with NHBC's mission.
- Creating and or maintaining access to local bird areas by working with other organizations or political bodies.
- Engaging in bird studies such as census, territory mapping, hawk watch etc.
- Engaging in community outreach for education and birding activities.

--Craig Repasz  
Conservation Committee Co-Chair

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#### Volunteer positions at the New Haven Bird club

We see the need for several new volunteer positions for the bird club. First, to get ourselves up-to-date with our web/social networking presence, we would like one individual to become our technical leader. You would update the capabilities of our web page, set up email tools for messaging to club members, and set up social network sites like Facebook. Next, we seek a communications contact for these tools. You would be the person members contact to add a message to our regular email postings about upcoming events. In addition, you would keep our club Facebook page up-to-date, and our email address list current.

Not a techy? Not a problem- there are several other hands-on volunteer opportunities for you. First, the club would like to have a booth at festivals and other events throughout the year in order to outreach to the public. We need volunteers to staff our

table, usually in two-hour blocks of time on weekends, to tell people about our bird club activities and conservation issues. Good with kids? A special aspect of our booth will be kids' make-n-take activities to grow our next generation of conservationists and birding nuts. In addition, the bird club would like to assemble a list of people who are interested in organizing, recruiting workers, or participating in hands-on habitat restoration projects like cleanups or planting native shrubs.

People interested in the technical position or working at our table please call or email Patrick Leahy: ptjleahy@yahoo.com or 203-393-2427.

If you are interested in the conservation activities or kids' projects, please contact Winie Wirth wirthwite@att.net or 203-859-2971

--Patrick Leahy

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*Tellow-shafted Northern Flicker*

*Photos  
by  
Gary  
Prestash*



*Cardinal*



*Red Shoulder Hawk*



*Mockingbird*

## 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.

**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:

[http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctdailyreport\\_lists.ctbirding.org](http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctdailyreport_lists.ctbirding.org)

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