



# THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

April 2021

## 2021 CALENDAR

*(See inside for details)*

Saturday, April 3, 8:30 am and 11:00 am **Lighthouse Point Field Trip (Replacing the Richard English Memorial Field Trip)**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Wednesday, April 7, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Thursday, April 8, 7 p.m. **Maureen Heidtmann–Bats: Their Lives and Lore**

Saturday, April 24, 8–11 a.m. **Birding by Ear, Southbury**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Sunday, April 25, 8 a.m. to noon **West Rock Ridge State Park: New Haven, Hamden, and Woodbridge**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Saturday, May 1, 8–11 a.m. **East Rock Park**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Saturday, May 1, 9–10:30 a.m. **Bird Walk for Families at East Rock Park**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Sunday, May 2, 7–10 a.m. **Bent of the River Important Bird Area, Southbury**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Wednesday, May 5, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Saturday, May 8, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. (approximately) **Big Day Marathon, New Haven area**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Sunday May 9, 7 a.m. to (approximately) noon **Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Wednesday, May 12, 6:30–11 a.m. **Hartman Park, Lyme**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Thursday, May 13, 7 p.m. **Virtual Annual Banquet Speaker – Julie Zickefoose: Saving Jemima: Life and Love with a Hard Luck Jay**

Saturday, May 15, 8–11 a.m. **Sleeping Giant State Park**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Sunday, May 16, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **River Road, Kent–Travels Along a Riparian Woodland Corridor**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Wednesday, May 19, 7:30–11 a.m. **Lake Chamberlain, Lake Dawson, and Lake Watrous**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Friday, May 21, 8:30–10 p.m. (Rain Date: Saturday, May 22, 2021) **Whip-poor-will Walk in Naugatuck State Forest,**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



March of 2020 seems like forever ago. That was when the NHBC board suspended all club events in the face of the then-mysterious and justly frightening Covid-19 pandemic.

We've been through a lot since then, but the club adjusted to the reality and re-started our NHBC calendar of walks and our membership meetings in the fall. Outdoor chair Craig Repasz

and Indoor Chair Gail Martino figured out how to manage successful virtual monthly meetings and our fall and winter bird walks while following recommended safety precautions.

I'm grateful to them, to our expert-birder trip leaders, and to our members for helping us continue enjoying our favorite activities safely and with joy -- a huge plus through these months of sheltering and minimizing or even avoiding contact with those outside our immediate circles.

From where we are now it seems not unrealistic to hold hope of opening up further in the not-too-distant future. For the present, we're still proceeding with caution, but with hope.

And as we get into the busy part of our calendar, there are several events to highlight.

Be sure to check out the announcement in this issue about *Chickadee Tales: A New Haven Bird Club Anthology*, which has just been published and is available through Amazon.

*(Continued on next page)*

### Naugatuck

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Saturday, May 22, 8–11 a.m. **Julius M. Hansen Park, North Haven**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Sunday, May 23, 7 a.m. to noon **Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Wednesday, June 2, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Saturday–Sunday, June 12–13, all day **New Haven Summer Bird Count**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

Saturday, June 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Osprey Open Day, New Haven**

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

## NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2020-2021

### OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	DeWitt Allen allendatlow@gmail.com	860-949-0995
<i>Vice President</i>	Christine Howe clhowe2@yahoo.com	203-389-1175
<i>Treasurer</i>	Andy Stack ctstacks@optonline.net	203-804-6081
<i>Secretary</i>	Alan Malina Alm5565@msn.com	203-248-5754

### BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation Chair</i>	Deborah Johnson deborahleighjohnson@hotmail.com	203-430-5554
<i>Education Chair</i>	Lori Datlow loridatlow@frontier.com	475-227-2820
<i>Indoor Programs</i>	Gail Martino gmm1227@yahoo.com	617-504-7205
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Mike Horn mfhorn@att.net	203-288-1891
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Bill Batsford william.batsford@yale.edu	203-787-1642
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Laurie Reynolds warmstove@hotmail.com	203-434-2134
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford donnabatsford@gmail.com	203-787-1642
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	NHBC Executive Board	
<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com	203-230-1697
<i>Acting Publicity Chair</i>	Mike Ferrari mike.ferrari@mac.com	203-435-5712
<i>Incoming Publicity Chair</i>	Emmeline Kaiser emkaiser03@gmail.com	225-368-7273
<i>Webmaster</i>	Patrick Leahy ptjleahy@yahoo.com	203-393-2427
<i>Yearbook Editor</i>	Christine Howe clhowe2@yahoo.com	203-389-1175

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT!</i>	Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com	203-230-1697
<i>Birds in Words</i>	Kris Johnson kriswaxwing99@gmail.com	203-288-3087
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net	203-389-6508
<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo scmayo999@gmail.com	203-551-1707
<i>Lighthouse Point</i>	John Triana j triana1@sbcglobal.net	203-758-7203
<i>Historian</i>	Stacy Hanks flybirdhanks@gmail.com	203-283-3898
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo scmayo999@gmail.com	203-551-1707
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali vitgoo39@gmail.com	203-288-0621

**New Haven Bird Club Website:**  
**[www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)**

Edited by Indoor Program Chair Gail Martino and co-editor Ricci Cummings, the book features a dynamic chickadee photo on the cover by life member and renowned bird photographer Jim Zipp. *Chickadee Tales* collects essays by current club members on the club's history, notable members through the years, educational and conservation projects, peak birding experiences, and much more. Proceeds from the book go directly to the club's general fund and support our activities throughout the year.

And speaking of financial matters, keep your eyes open for our upcoming membership renewal campaign. When we canceled all scheduled activities last March in face of the pandemic, the board felt it was right to also forego collection of membership dues for the upcoming club year, since we were unsure what events would be possible to hold. That means we've continued to operate without our primary source of revenue for the year, the renewal of memberships by our over 500 members.

That decision hasn't been pain-free, but we're recovering and it's time now for members to renew. We'll be getting in touch soon with instructions on how to renew, and how to verify or correct your contact information. If you want to get a head start on the process, you can go directly to the NHBC website, [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org), select JOIN from the menu, and then select BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW. From there, you can make your choices and pay either through the PayPal link or by mail. And don't forget, there's a DONATE button there too, if you feel inclined.

And finally, our virtual April meeting, held via zoom, will feature wildlife rehabilitator and conservationist Maureen Heidtmann, who will introduce us to "Bats: Their Life and Lore." The April meeting traditionally includes the election of officers to the club's executive board, and this will take place during the opening business portion of the meeting. See the election notice elsewhere in this issue of *The Chickadee*, and on the club's website, [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org).

So, that's plenty for now. I hope you'll join us for the virtual April meeting on Zoom, and I hope to see you on the trails soon. The migrants are coming! Happy birding.

--DeWitt Allen

## Welcome New Members

Moira Cassell New Haven	Brenden Conlin Branford	Ginette Kayser Guilford
Brian Noe Milford	Ethan Ranalli New Haven	Lori Wallace Hamden

**NOTE:** Please check the NHBC website and newsletter periodically for updated information on all programs. **Scheduled events may need to be changed or canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic**, and new trips may be added during the year.  
[www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)

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## Indoor Programs

We cannot predict how the future course of the coronavirus pandemic will affect our schedule of events. Our first priority is protecting the health and well-being of our members and the general public, and it may become necessary to adjust or cancel some events. The recommendations and policies of local, state, and national health authorities will guide all decisions about our schedule. Please check the NHBC website and newsletter for updated information before planning to attend any event.

Indoor programs start in September and are held on the second Thursday of the month. There are no indoor programs in June, July, or August.

**Indoor Meetings will be virtual. We will send an email invitation to join the meeting. The meeting link will be sent to the NHBC email list.**

**Remember to check the Club's website for updated information on all programs: [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org).**

Inclement weather or other emergency may cancel a meeting. Cancellation notices will be sent via the club email and will be posted on the club website, [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org), and online on CTBirds. Also check TV channels WTNH (New Haven) and WFSB (Hartford).

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### Thursday, April 8, 7 p.m. – Maureen Heidtmann Bats: Their Lives and Lore

Join us for an evening with Maureen Heidtmann, Master Wildlife Conservationist, for an overview of bats of the world with an emphasis on our local species. She will cover the persisting myths and misconceptions about these fascinating creatures, the many roles bats play to ensure a healthy planet, and the perils bats face in their struggle for survival. She also will bring some of her furry flying friends with her! Maureen Heidtmann has been working with bats for more than 25 years. She is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and a Certified Wildlife Conservationist with the State of Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. She has been presenting programs, chiefly about bats, for many years. She recently has been written about in *Connecticut Wildlife* magazine and in several newspapers for rescuing and raising an endangered species, the Eastern Small-Footed Bat, the first of its kind to be seen in Connecticut since 1940.

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### Thursday, May 13, 7 p.m. Virtual Annual Banquet Speaker – Julie Zickefoose: *Saving Jemima: Life and Love with a Hard Luck Jay*

Join us to hear about Julie Zickefoose's latest book, *Saving Jemima: Life and Love with a Hard Luck Jay*. When Jemima, an orphaned Blue Jay, is brought to wildlife rehabilitator Julie Zickefoose, she is a palm-sized bundle of gray-blue fluff. But she is starved and very sick. Julie's constant care brings her around, and as Jemima is raised for eventual release, she takes over the house and the rest of the author's summer. Shortly after release, Jemima turns up with a deadly disease. But medicating a free-flying wild bird is a challenge. Jemima bonds with a wild jay, stretching her ties with the family. Throughout, Julie grapples with the fallout of Jemima's illness, studies molt and migration, and does her best to keep the bird strong and wild. She falls hard for this engaging, feisty, and funny jay, a creative muse and source of strength through the author's own heartbreaking changes. Emotional and honest, *Saving Jemima* is a universal story of the communion between a wild creature and the human chosen to raise her.

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## Annual Meeting

The New Haven Bird Club's Annual Meeting and indoor program will take place virtually via Zoom on Thursday, April 8, 2021, beginning at 7 pm.

The business portion of the Annual Meeting will include election of officers. The following slate of candidates is proposed for the two-year term beginning July 1, 2021:

President      DeWitt Allen  
Vice President    Christine Howe  
Treasurer      Andy Stack  
Secretary      Mike Ferrari  
Nominating Committee    NHBC Executive Board  
Members At-Large    Vanessa Mickan  
                         Albert Laguna

Maureen Heidtmann's presentation on *Bats: Their Lives and Lore* will follow immediately after the election.

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## Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be virtual on Thursday, April 22 at 7 PM.

Deadline for submissions to the June *Chickadee* is May 28. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at [donnabatsford@gmail.com](mailto:donnabatsford@gmail.com).

Members who are not currently receiving club emails but would like to, should contact the Membership Chair at [membership@newhavenbirdclub.org](mailto:membership@newhavenbirdclub.org).

NHBC Objectives: To make available to members and the general public opportunities for recreation, education, and appreciation in the area of birding and to encourage the conservation of natural resources in New Haven and surrounding areas.

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## Outdoor Programs

Birders of all levels are welcome on all field trips, and every effort is made to help beginners. 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. More details, if required, and/or updates on these trips will be given at the indoor meetings and in the newsletter. Watch for emails sent by the Club. You can also check the Club's website: [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org) for updated trip information and a Google Map link to the meeting place.

The New Haven Bird Club needs to take precautions to make our Outdoor Trips safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. The walking format of our events will make social distancing exceedingly difficult with a large group of people. We will limit the group size to ten or fewer.

All trips must conform to the following:

- No carpooling to or during the trip. People who live together can share a ride.
- Masks are required at all times.
- Social distancing will be followed. (The wingspan of a bald eagle.)
- Group size will be capped at ten people or less.
- Preregistration for the trip will be required.
- Trip participants must follow State quarantining guidelines with regard to recent travel and the health status of members in their household.

A trip may be canceled at the discretion of the Trip Leader; they also need to protect themselves and their family members.

**Preregistration** – In order to control group size, all trips will require preregistration. This change contrasts with our Club's previous policy but will be needed to maintain safety during the pandemic. As Outdoor Program Chair, Craig Repasz will handle the preregistration. A link to the event sign-up will be sent to the NHBC email group before each trip. There will be a wait list.

**Expect an email via the NHBC email group for each trip with a link to preregister.**

**Multiple Groups** – A trip may also be broken up into multiple groups with each led by a co-trip leader, possibly with each group following different departure times. These details will be disclosed for each trip separately.

**Future Changes** – There is no telling what the future will bring. We may go into another shutdown or the situation may improve. We will continue to monitor the situation; future adjustments and changes may be needed to protect Club members' safety.

Please contact Craig Repasz if you have any questions or concerns, 203-230-1697 or [crepasz@hotmail.com](mailto:crepasz@hotmail.com).

### NHBC Conservation and Education Activities

The NHBC routinely works to preserve and restore bird populations and their habitats and to provide opportunities for learning about birds, their habitats, where to see them, and how to help ensure their future. The NHBC provides information and displays at multiple events throughout the year. The Club also is building a presence in local public schools and camps to encourage children to embrace birding.

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#### Lighthouse Point Field Trip

**Saturday, April 3, 8:30 am and 11:00 am**

We will bird the New Haven harbor shore for gulls, loons, ducks, and early-returning shorebirds. We will have two trips at Lighthouse, one at 8:30 and one at 11:00. Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven.

Leader: Mike Horn, 203-288-1891 or [mfhorn@att.net](mailto:mfhorn@att.net).

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

*NOTE: This is a revision from the trip described in the yearbook as "The Richard English Memorial Field Trip," as the Scout Camp is currently closed.*

#### First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford

**Wednesday, April 7, 8–11 a.m.**

Enjoy an early spring trip to one of the best local birding spots. We look out into the marsh and along the shore for waterfowl, shorebirds, waders, and raptors. Meet at the CT Audubon

Coastal Center parking lot, 1 Milford Point Road, Milford.

Leader: Jalna Jaeger, 203-246-0885 or [jalnabird@gmail.com](mailto:jalnabird@gmail.com)

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

#### Birding by Ear, Southbury

**Saturday, April 24, 8–11 a.m.**

Learning bird songs and calls increases one's perception of what birds are in the area. Want to see a Scarlet Tanager? It helps to know their "chick burr" call. Also, by knowing the songs of common birds, you will notice when a not so common bird is in the vicinity. Join Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe for three 45 minutes webinars (on April 7th, 14th, and 21st starting at 7pm) and a walk at the Bent of the River Audubon Center on April 24th. During each webinar, participants will learn the songs of 10 bird species and the habitats they associate with. We will start with some resident birds, then focus on migrants that will be arriving in CT over the course of the webinars. This birding by ear series is open to 20 participants (recommended for folks who are fairly new to birding by ear). Participants should plan



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on participating in all webinars and one of two walks (10 people per walk, masks required) on April 24th (8-9:30am or 10-11:30am). All webinars will be recorded so others are also able to improve their birding by ear skills.

Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-233-0535 (cell) or [jubilee832001@yahoo.com](mailto:jubilee832001@yahoo.com).

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

### **West Rock Ridge State Park: New Haven, Hamden, and Woodbridge**

**Sunday, April 25, 8 a.m. to noon**

We focus on just two breeding species for this trip to West Rock Ridge State Park: Peregrine Falcon and Common Raven. A pair of Peregrine Falcons selected West Rock as their home base in 1999, thereby becoming one of the first breeding pairs in Connecticut in the post-DDT era. Since then, eight different females and eight different males (tiercels) have occupied the ridge in a collage of combinations. We observe their cliff site from an appropriate distance with the expectation of seeing flying, perching, preening, feeding, agonistic interactions with the nearby nesting ravens, and incubation of eggs. Common Ravens were confirmed as breeders at West Rock in 2002 and have nested here annually since then, producing 4 to 5 young in most years. We observe them from unusually close range as they soar, perch, bring in cached food, fight with the peregrines, and attend young in the cliff nest. Bring binoculars, cameras, and two extra layers of clothing (really!). The wind and cold at cliff top often bear no relation to conditions 450 feet below in the West River valley. We have automobile access to Baldwin Drive along the ridge top. Easy walking on Baldwin Drive from our cars and a 20 yard trail to the observation point. Stay back from the cliff edge! Meet at the gated entrance to West Rock Ridge State Park on Wintergreen Street, Hamden/New Haven border.

Leader: Steve Broker, 203-747-6843 or [stephenpaulbroker@gmail.com](mailto:stephenpaulbroker@gmail.com)

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

### **East Rock Park**

**Saturday, May 1, 8–11 a.m.**

Join Dan Barvir at this premier site for warblers and other spring migrants. Meet at the Rice Field (baseball field) end of East Rock Park on English Drive, New Haven.

Leader: Dan Barvir, 203-946-6086 or [danielb145@comcast.net](mailto:danielb145@comcast.net)  
*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

### **Bird Walk for Families at East Rock Park**

**Saturday, May 1, 9–10:30 a.m.**

Children with accompanying adults are invited to walk by the park's Mill River, where we'll look for warblers and other spring migrants. Other interested adults are also welcome to join us in this famous spring birding place. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Participants should feel free to leave the walk whenever they need to; finding your way back to the starting point is easy. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Avenue, Hamden.

Leader: Florence McBride, 203-288-6777 or [fmcb\\_warbler@yahoo.com](mailto:fmcb_warbler@yahoo.com)

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

### **Bent of the River Important Bird Area, Southbury** **Sunday, May 2, 7–10 a.m.**

Explore a prime birding location along the Pomperaug River in Southbury where more than 100 species of birds have been observed in a single day. This beautiful and highly diverse habitat is owned and maintained by Audubon Connecticut. The walk is open to birders of all levels; families are welcome. We will not only see and hear birds, but will also talk about their identification and their habits. More advanced birders can enjoy a day out and also provide support and inspiration for newcomers. Total walk should be between 1 and 2 miles with moderate terrain and some uphill. Meet at Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, 185 East Flat Hill Road, Southbury, CT. Take Exit 14 off of Route 84. Go north on Route 172, then turn left onto East Flat Hill Road (church on corner). Continue to sanctuary entrance on left.

Leader: Morgan Evans, 203-405-9112 or [morgevans@gmail.com](mailto:morgevans@gmail.com)

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

### **First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven** **Wednesday, May 5, 8–11 a.m.**

East Rock Park in early May is one of the best places in the state to see migrant warblers. Fifteen to twenty species are possible on a good day. The walk is short and non-strenuous. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Avenue, Hamden.

Leader: John Oshlick, 203-584-1955 or [john.oshlic@gmail.com](mailto:john.oshlic@gmail.com)

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

### **Big Day Marathon, New Haven area**

**Saturday, May 8, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. (approximately)**

Take part in all or part of this event. We'll focus on New Haven area hotspots, seeking 100–130 species. We start at East Rock and search several other local migrant traps, as well as the coast from Lordship to Hammonasset. The Big Day could potentially involve several miles of walking on more strenuous terrain. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Avenue, Hamden.

Leader: John Oshlick, 203-584-1955 or [john.oshlic@gmail.com](mailto:john.oshlic@gmail.com)

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

### **Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**

**Sunday May 9, 7 a.m. to (approximately) noon**

Join us at the peak of spring migration on this moderately strenuous and long hike in a fine birding location. We'll search for migrants and residents. We often see more than fifteen species of warblers on this trip, including resident Hooded, Chestnut-sided, Prairie, and Worm-eating Warblers. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and many other birds are residents here, too. Meet at the commuter lot at Exit 25 off Route 8, Naugatuck.

Leader: Chris Loscalzo, 203-389-6508 or [closcalz@optonline.net](mailto:closcalz@optonline.net)

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

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**Hartman Park, Lyme**  
**Wednesday, May 12, 6:30–11 a.m.**

Hartman Park is known for its breeding population of Cerulean Warbler. There is also a power cut which may have Prairie, Blue-winged, Magnolia and other warblers. Both cuckoos have been seen here as well. The Hartman Park walk involves a moderate-distance walk on moderately strenuous terrain. Meet at the commuter parking lot at Exit 57 off I-95. End time is approximate.

Leader: John Oshlick, 203-584-1955 or [john.oshlic@gmail.com](mailto:john.oshlic@gmail.com)

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

**Sleeping Giant State Park**  
**Saturday, May 15, 8–11 a.m.**

Sleeping Giant dominates the landscape north of New Haven. The park hosts diverse habitats: riparian woods, rivers and streams, stands of white pines, mature deciduous forests, and cliffs and meadow edge. Although it is famous for its ankle-twisting and heart-pumping terrain, we will explore the gentle trail on the north side. We will first explore the Mill River for Waterthrush, Eastern Phoebe, and swallows. We will then move to another trailhead to hike on easy trails through forest, thicket, and a meadow edge to look for Veery, Wood Thrush, migrating warblers, and Pileated Woodpecker. Meet at Sleeping Giant State Park's Mill River entrance on Tuttle Avenue, Hamden.

Leaders: Jim Sirsch, [james.sirsch@yale.edu](mailto:james.sirsch@yale.edu);  
Craig Repasz, 203-745-6683 or [crepasz@hotmail.com](mailto:crepasz@hotmail.com);  
DeWitt Allen, 860-949-0995 or [allendatlow@gmail.com](mailto:allendatlow@gmail.com)  
*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

**River Road, Kent—Travels Along a Riparian Woodland Corridor**  
**Sunday, May 16, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

The New Haven Bird Club traveled to River Road in May 1991 and documented the first nesting of Yellow-throated Warbler in Connecticut. Subsequent NHBC trips to River Road have produced a nice variety of Northwestern Connecticut nesting species. We return this year to River Road at the peak of the spring migration. In his 1978 publication, *25 Birding Areas in Connecticut*, Noble Proctor wrote, "It is readily apparent that on the right day this area can contend with any inland area for spectacular birding." The diversity of species to be found in this woodland bordering the Housatonic River is remarkable and includes ducks, herons, vultures, diurnal raptors, sandpipers, cuckoos, hummingbirds, kingfishers, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, wrens, gnatcatchers, thrushes, waxwings, wood-warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, and orioles. Many specialty breeders in northwestern Connecticut are seen here, including Acadian and Least Flycatchers; Yellow-throated and Blue-headed Vireos; Winter Wren; and Cerulean, Golden-winged, and Worm-eating Warblers. In advance of the trip, be sure to read Chapter 10 "River Road, Kent" in *Connecticut Birding Guide* (Devine & Smith, 1996) and/or the "River Road" section in *Birding in Connecticut* (Gallo, 2018). Bring your *Sibley Guide to Trees*. We meet in Kent at the old train station by 7:30 a.m. The train station is several hundred yards north of the intersection of Routes 7 & 341, on Route 7 (Main Street), east side of the road.

Leader: Craig Repasz, 203-745-6683 or [crepasz@hotmail.com](mailto:crepasz@hotmail.com)  
*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

**Lake Chamberlain, Lake Dawson, and Lake Watrous**  
**Wednesday, May 19, 7:30–11 a.m.**

Join us for a walk on Regional Water Authority properties in Woodbridge and Bethany, some of which are off-limits to the public. Pat Leahy has been maintaining a bluebird trail on several of the properties surrounding the reservoirs. Please be prompt! It will be difficult to join the group on route. We will carpool (depending on current coronavirus precautions) and proceed to trails on Lake Dawson, Lake Watrous, and an old farm field on Sperry Road before returning to Lake Chamberlain. Lake Dawson has one of the few small colonies of Cliff Swallows in CT. Bluebirds, swallows, and spring migrants are plentiful. Walking is not strenuous and on well maintained trails. Meet at Lake Chamberlain Regional Water Authority parking area on Sperry Road south of Morris Road, Bethany.

Leaders: Pat Leahy, 203-314-0566 or [ptjleahy@yahoo.com](mailto:ptjleahy@yahoo.com);  
Bill Batsford, 203-494-4325 or [william.batsford@yale.edu](mailto:william.batsford@yale.edu)  
*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

**Whip-poor-will Walk in Naugatuck State Forest,**  
**Naugatuck**

**Friday, May 21, 8:30–10 p.m.** (Rain Date: Saturday, May 22)

Jack Swatt, New Haven Bird Club member and CT DEEP volunteer Whip-poor-will monitor, will lead a walk to listen and look for Whip-poor-will at the Naugatuck State Forest. Jack will give a short talk on the status of Whip-poor-wills in the northeast and Connecticut. We will then wait for dusk to fall while we listen for the distinctive call. A sighting? Who knows! The walk is about a quarter mile's easy walk but through field terrain during tick season and at night, so a good flashlight is a must. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Hunter's Mountain Road, Naugatuck.

Leader: Jack Swatt, 203-592-4686 or [jswattbirds@gmail.com](mailto:jswattbirds@gmail.com)  
*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

**Julius M. Hansen Park, North Haven**  
**Saturday, May 22, 8–11 a.m.**

With its rich meadows and fields, forested wetlands, trap rock ridge and riparian woods this park holds promise of becoming a prominent birding destination for the Club. We will meet at the parking lot on Patten Rd. From exit 12 off Interstate 91, turn left onto Blakeslee Avenue and follow it until it ends at Bassett Road. Take a right at Bassett Road and continue straight through the intersection with Clintonville Road (Route 22) onto Mill Road. Take a gentle left up onto Patten Road and continue east. The entrance to the park will be on the left.

Leaders: Craig Repasz, 203-745-6683 or [crepasz@hotmail.com](mailto:crepasz@hotmail.com);  
DeWitt Allen, 860-949-0995 or [allendatlow@gmail.com](mailto:allendatlow@gmail.com)  
*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

**Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington**  
**Sunday, May 23, 7 a.m. to noon**

This will be another of our annual trips to this excellent birding spot, where we first visited in 2005. The area consists of large

expanses of salt marsh, tidal pools, wetlands, woodlands, and open fields. We should see wading birds, shorebirds, and area residents such as Saltmarsh Sparrow, Marsh Wren, White-eyed Vireo, American Redstart, Willow Flycatcher, Bobolink, and many other species. Easy walking on flat trails with a distance of 2.5 to 3 miles. Meet at 7 a.m. at the commuter lot, Exit 57 off I-95, or at 8 a.m. at 96 Palmer Neck Road, Stonington (Bobolink fields).

Leaders: Carolyn Cimino, 860-447-3565 or [sailcarm@aol.com](mailto:sailcarm@aol.com); Bill Batsford, 203-494-4325 or [william.batsford@yale.edu](mailto:william.batsford@yale.edu)

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

### **First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park Wednesday, June 2, 8–11 a.m.**

Greg Hanisek, one of the best birders in the state, will lead the walk in this scenic and spacious forest in the northern part of the state. Nesting species here include Blue-headed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Canada Warbler and Black-throated Blue Warbler. Meet at the entrance to Mohawk Mountain State Park on Route 4 in Cornwall, four miles west of Goshen.

Leader: Greg Hanisek, [ctgregh@yahoo.com](mailto:ctgregh@yahoo.com)

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

### **New Haven Summer Bird Count Saturday–Sunday, June 12–13, all day**

This is a wonderful opportunity to work on your song identification skills and see what birds are nesting in your area. For the names of area captains and other information, contact Steve Mayo. Meet at various points.

Steve Mayo, Coordinator, 203-551-1707 or [scmayo999@gmail.com](mailto:scmayo999@gmail.com)

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

### **Osprey Open Day, New Haven Saturday, June 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

The webcam will be live and the Osprey nest will have fledgling chicks by this date in June. The parent birds here have been a bonded pair for many years, and will provide a show of fishing in the river and feeding their young. This site on the West River is a designated IBA (Important Bird Area) and the Urban Oasis here is home to numerous birds and butterflies. Bald Eagles nest nearby and are frequent visitors. A representative from Osprey Nation will provide information on the plight and recovery of Osprey in the United States; Menunkatuck Audubon and the NHBC will have binoculars and spotting scopes on hand for viewing the chicks up close. Meet at the parking lot for West River Memorial Park (200 Derby Avenue, near Barnard Nature Center); the parking lot entrance is on Derby Avenue (Route 34) near the intersection with Ella T. Grasso Boulevard, New Haven.

Leader: Deborah Johnson, 203-430-5554 (talk/text) or [deborahleighjohnson@hotmail.com](mailto:deborahleighjohnson@hotmail.com)

*Follow all Covid precautions. Preregistration required.*

## **Trip Reports**

### **February First Wednesday Walk – Hammonasset Beach State Park**



*Photo by Chris Howe*

On Wednesday, February 3, Greg Hanisek led a group of 10 birders on the First Wednesday Walk at Hammonasset Beach State Park. The day was overcast and the terrain was snow-covered. A Red Crossbill was spooked by a Merlin. The Merlin chased it briefly before the crossbill, calling as it flew, dived into a thick pine, and the Merlin continued on empty-taloned. In total 32 species were observed.

### **Rhode Island Coast Field Trip Report**

Rain on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> prompted us to postpone our trip to the Rhode Island Coast to the following day. That turned out to be a good decision. Sunday, the 28<sup>th</sup> was a calm and cloudy day that made for good birding and sea-watching. We met at Beavertail State Park in Jamestown at 8:30 am. The first birds we saw were Harlequin Ducks, close to shore, riding the waves with aplomb. Other birds close to shore included Common Eider and Black Scoter. A little further out, we saw Red-necked and Horned Grebes, Great Cormorants, Common and Red-throated Loon, and several other sea duck species. A large seal swam close to the point, sending a small group of Harlequin Ducks into the air. As we were getting ready to leave the park, a flock of Red Crossbills flew over the parking lot. Our second stop was at Scarborough Beach in Narragansett. We saw two Black-headed Gulls there. They were roosting on the rocks by the sea. Then, one of them flew past us over the shore. There was a flock of Sanderlings feeding on the beach and more sea ducks in the water by the jetty, including Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Greater Scaup, and White-winged Scoter. We went next to Cards Pond and Moonstone Beach Roads in South Kingstown. We saw a large flock of Eastern Meadowlarks in a field there, and four Snow Geese made a dramatic entrance as they flew in to join a large flock of Canada Geese we were watching. After a brief stop at the entrance area to Trustum Pond Wildlife Refuge (where we saw a Red-breasted Nuthatch visit a feeder), we went to the nearby Perry's Mill Pond. There we saw American Wigeon, Hooded Mergansers, and Gadwall. It was early afternoon then and our next stop was the Grassy Point area in the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge. For the past 15 years, we have been delighted to see what we presume to be the same individual adult Lesser Black-backed Gull at this location. Often it is perched on a particular rock close to shore. We were concerned that it wouldn't be here this year, but we arrived and looked out at its favorite perch, and there it was. It was soon displaced by a Great Black-backed Gull, making for a nice direct comparison between the two species. Our next stop was a change of pace: instead of looking for waterbirds, we hiked into the Burlingame Campgrounds Area in search of a Red-headed Woodpecker that



was known to be wintering there. It took us a while to find the campsite where it was often seen but, once there, it didn't take us long to find the bird. Later, it was joined by a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. We kept to tradition and made the Weekapaug Breachway our last stop of the day. What makes this site special is the fact that the birds in the canal there are close and easily visible, affording excellent views of these species. A Horned Grebe was only a few feet from us when we got out of our cars. Also close by were Common Loons, Common Eider, and Brant. We ended our excursion with about 60 species seen on the day. All of us were pleased with the wide variety and beauty of the birds that we saw, as well as the scenic nature of the sites we visited. We are already looking forward to next year's trip to our neighboring state.

--Chris Loscalzo

### Sparrows and Speculaas 2021 Trip Report

Litchfield Connecticut was still in the grips of winter when nine members of the New Haven Bird Club met for the Sparrows and Speculaas annual bird walk to White Memorial on March 6, 2021. The trip had been postponed due to a winter storm. The temperatures were frozen at 20 degrees. All rivers, streams, ponds, and lakes were still iced over. Any hopes for ducks and geese were limited to fly overs.



*The group, masked and bundled, examining Pileated Woodpecker holes.  
Photo by Laurie Reynolds*

At the parking lot we were met with our common Connecticut winter birds, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and



*Barred Owl*

White-breasted Nuthatch. Also greeting us were a few Red-breasted Nuthatches. As we slowly walked to the observation platform overlooking Bantam Lake, we were able to observe a pair of Barred Owls. One had flown from a cavity suggesting that the pair may be breeding. Once at the lake we had good views of an adult Bald Eagle

flying across the lake. After, we walked to the bird feeders by the visitor center then on to the stand of white pines and hemlocks by the Chickadee bridge.

After the walk most of us made our way to the Dutch Epicure for Dutch cheese and cookies.

The species count was low at 19 species: Canada Goose, Mourning Dove, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Cardinal.

--Craig Repasz

### Edgewood Park Trip Report

On Saturday, March 13, a lovely, blue sky – albeit windy day, a COVID-limited group had a pleasant walk at Edgewood Park in New Haven. We saw a nice assortment of 30 species, highlighted by a pair of Brown Creepers, 4 species of woodpecker (Downy, Hairy, Red-bellied, and Northern Flicker), several male and female Wood Duck and a lingering pair of Hooded Mergansers. Three circling Red-tailed Hawks entertained us periodically through the morning. A welcome harbinger of birding trips to come this spring!

--Bill Batsford

### BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)

There are Google Map links for the meeting places of trips.



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## Mega Bowl of Birding in CT Summary

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Mega Bowl of Birding, held on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, was a great success. Due to the pandemic, we modified the format of the Mega Bowl such that birders could go birding alone or in a small group and in whatever county they wanted. And, we replaced the compilation dinner with a Zoom meeting, held the following day. Sixty CT birders participated in the event. 13 of the 34 teams and 27 of the 60 participants were in New Haven County. The top scorers in the 7 counties for which there were participants (nobody signed up for Windham County) were: Karin Dionne in Tolland; Maggie and Jack Peretto in Hartford; Andy Gullberg and Lou Carpino in Litchfield; Kathy Bishop in New London; Jannie Shapiro in Middlesex; Asher, Eli and Kyle Holton in New Haven; and Aiden Kiley, James Leone, Nicolas Main, and Will Schenck in Fairfield.

There were nine teams that scored 100 or more points. Three birded in Fairfield County: The CYBC Darts Waders with 93 species and 230 points, the GoGo Birds with 69 species and 158 points and Team Grogan with 69 species and 149 points. Six teams did their birding in New Haven County: The Great Horned Holtons with 79 species and 162 points, the Snowy Owlkins with 72 species and 138 points, the Masked Ducks with 72 species and 133 points, the Winter Wrenegades with 68 species and 125 points, the So long and thanks for the pish with 62 species and 118 points, and Solo Vireo with 59 species and 100 points.

Rare birds sighted on the day included: Tundra Swan, King Eider, Tufted Duck, Black-crowned Night-heron, Clapper Rail, Wilson's Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, American Pipit, Boat-tailed Grackle, Baltimore Oriole, Tennessee Warbler, and Cape May Warbler.

99 Species were seen in Fairfield County, 101 species were found in New Haven County, and a total of 130 species were found in the state overall. An impressive collective effort!

All of the top scorers from each county received prizes. Most received 8" x 10" framed photos of some amazing birds. Additional prizes went to the following birders, picked via a random drawing: Cody Limber received the 1-point bird prize (for seeing a Canada Goose!), Severin Uebbing received the 2-point bird prize (for seeing a Common Merganser), Jim Sherwonit received the 3-point bird prize (for seeing an Iceland Gull), and Shane Grogan received the 4-point bird prize (for seeing a Ruddy Duck). The 5/7-point bird prize went to David Woolery. In addition, Jo Fasciolo, Dewitt Allen, and Judy Moore received prizes.

The top scorers from each county and the top scoring team overall selected the CT-based conservation organizations that are to receive donations from COA on behalf of the Mega Bowl event. \$300 is going to A Place Called Hope, \$300 is going to the CT Audubon Society Coastal Center at Milford Point, \$100 to the Audubon CT Bent of the River Sanctuary, \$100 to the Boyd Woods Bird Sanctuary in Litchfield, \$100 to Wickham Park in Manchester and \$100 to the Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby.

Thanks and accolades go to all of the 60 hardy CT birders who braved the cold, wind and snow to participate in this year's Mega Bowl. We hope to see more people out there with us next year!

--Chris Loscalzo,  
Mega Bowl Coordinator

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## NHBC Winter Feeder Report 2020-2021 - End of Week 15



We have finished weeks 11 thru 15 of the survey.

This winter has been a little different from last year. We had one day of snow in week 13, one day in week 14 and 3 separate days in week 15. It remained cold, 27°F to 40°F, for most of the 5 weeks.

An Uncommon Species seen by Deborah Johnson was an Evening Grosbeak. From The Connecticut Audubon Society's description page: "Evening Grosbeaks are relative newcomers to our state. They are often found during winter in the northeast and northwest corners, though in some years they are more abundant and found all across the state." This species has now been added to our Uncommon category.

Due to Covid-19 all our surveyors stayed here this year. I expected our numbers for this time of the year to go up which was confirmed by the graphs that I plot. American Goldfinch showed a decline after a large start in week 1 thru 10 but a decline in weeks 11 thru 15 from the two previous years.

From the Common List we had 22 of 22 (100%) species. Species seen by 5 or fewer surveyors in this category were American Crow, American Robin, Brown-headed Cowbird and Common Grackle. 4 Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen by Pam Reeser in Week 11 only.

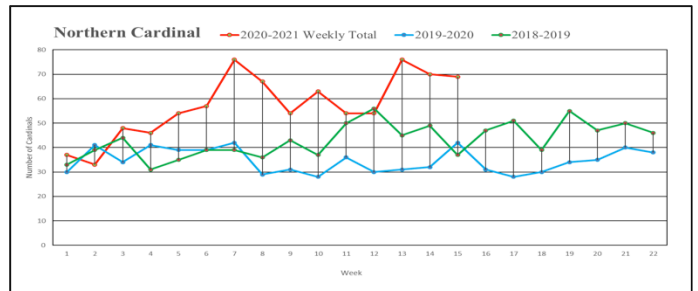
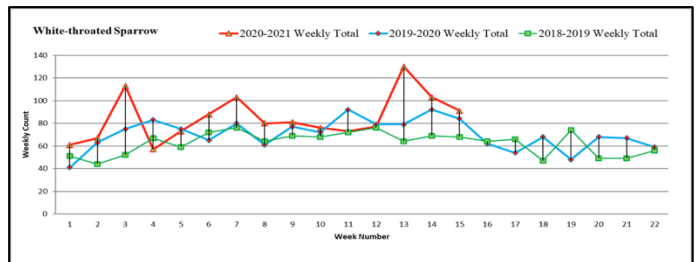
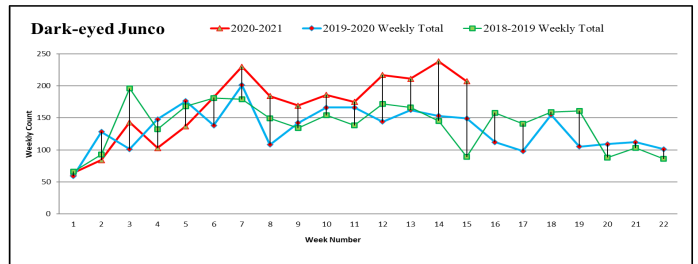
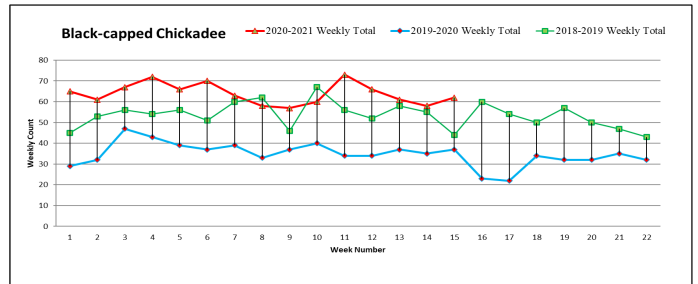
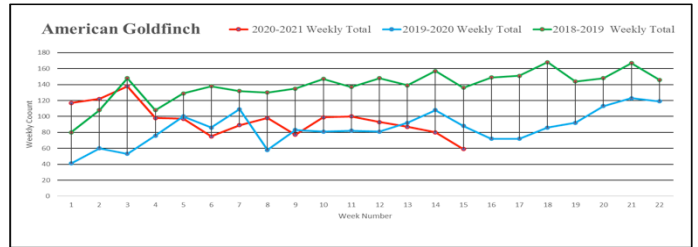
The Semi-common List had 11 of 12 species show up. No surveyor reported seeing Purple Finches. One surveyor saw Fox Sparrows, two surveyors saw Northern Mockingbird, Rock Dove, and Wild Turkey, 3 surveyors saw Chipping Sparrow and Red-tailed Hawk, four surveyors saw Red-winged Blackbirds and Sharp-shinned Hawk, five surveyors saw Eastern Bluebirds and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and ten surveyors saw Northern Flickers.

The Uncommon List had one new species added to it – Evening Grosbeak. We had 12 of 43 species during this five-week period for 28%, which is relatively high. Species seen were: American Tree Sparrow, Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, Field Sparrow, Pileated Woodpecker, Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Turkey Vulture, and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

In the Waterfowl category 3 of 10 for 33% were seen. American Wigeon, Herring Gull, and Mallard.

9 of 26 Animals were seen during these five weeks. They were Gray Squirrel, Chipmunk, Feral Cat, Mole, Opossum, Rabbit, Raccoon, Red Fox and White-tailed Deer.

The graphs of 5 Species are included for weeks one to fifteen. The Red line is 2020-2021. After week 5, American Goldfinch numbers are down from the last two years. Black-capped Chickadee is above the last two years, peaking at week 11. Dark-eyed Junco after week 7 is above the two previous years, peaking at week 14. White-throated Sparrows, our other winter species, is above and below the last two years, peaking at week 13. Northern Cardinal is above the last two years, peaking at weeks 7 and 14.

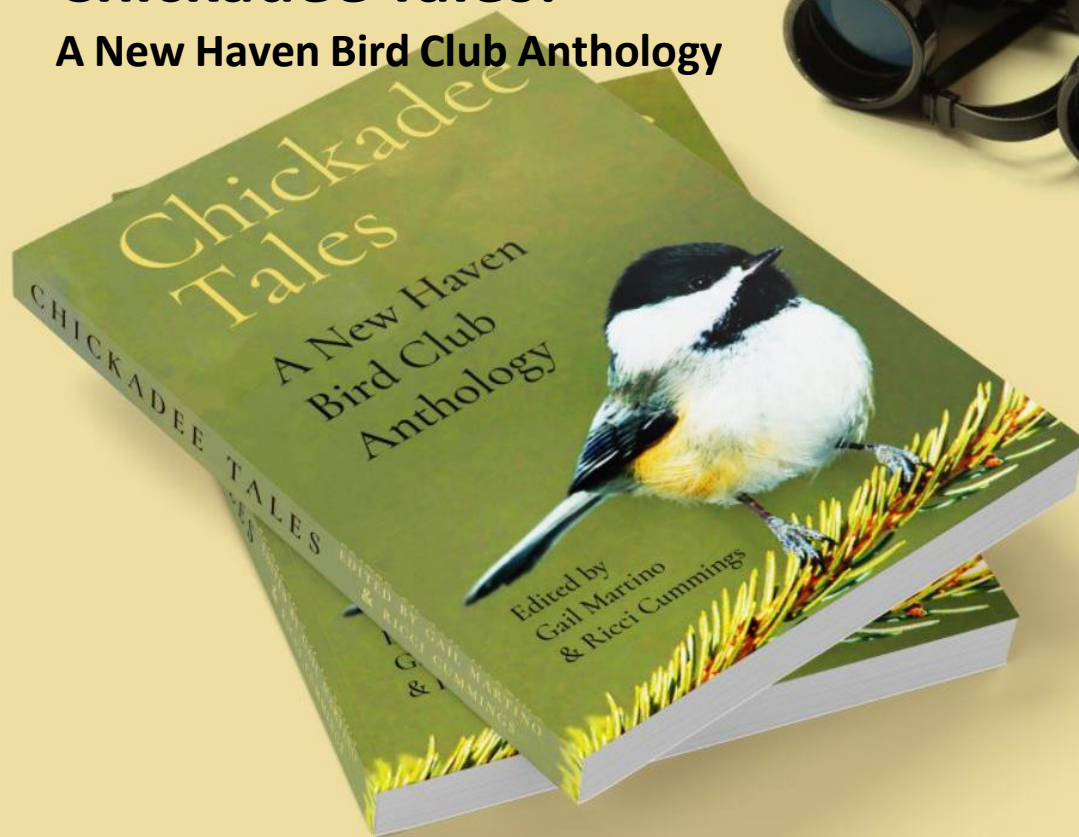


--Pete Vitali  
Chairman: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey

***Just Published!***

## **Chickadee Tales:**

**A New Haven Bird Club Anthology**



**100% of proceeds support NHBC programming**

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present, hopeful future!**

Nineteen pieces in this anthology, written by current members and supporters, cover club history, notable members, key programs, personal stories, and members' impact on birding, locally and throughout the United States.

**Order [here on Amazon](#), \$19.99**

If you would prefer to order the book through the NHBC and have it sent to you, please send a check for \$19.99 to New Haven Bird Club, attn. Gail Martino, P.O. Box 9004, New Haven, CT 06532-0004.





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**Newsletter April 2021**

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Additional gift to support NHBC programs: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to New Haven Bird Club and send to:**

New Haven Bird Club,  
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New Haven CT 06532-0004

You can also join or renew membership at the NHBC website with credit card or PayPal.

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 for the whole next 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 you work for a company that 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 orientation, or national origin.

If your address, phone or email change, please notify us at our website under "Join, Update Information Online."

Alternatively, email the update to the Membership Chair ([membership@newhavenbirdclub.org](mailto:membership@newhavenbirdclub.org)), or send changes by mail to: New Haven Bird Club, PO Box 9004, New Haven CT 06532-0004.

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

The NHBC website, [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org), offers information about the Club, its programs, and other Club and member news. If you have any questions about the Club, you can send an email to: [ask.nhbc@gmail.com](mailto:ask.nhbc@gmail.com).

The New Haven Bird Club is on Facebook. Please like the page "New Haven Bird Club." You can upload your photos, discuss Club events, and post your recent sightings.

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