



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

April 2024

2024 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

- Wednesday, April 3, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**
- Thursday, April 11, 7 p.m. **Joel Tolman – Common Ground: Its Mission and Impact**
- Sunday, April 21, 7:30–10:30 a.m. **Kellogg Environmental Center and Osbornedale State Park, Derby**
- Sunday, April 28, 8–11 a.m. **Bent of the River Important Bird Area, Southbury**
- Wednesday, May 1, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven**
- Saturday, May 4, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **River Road, Kent: Travels Along a Riparian Woodland Corridor**
- Sunday, May 5, 6 a.m. **Big Day Marathon**
- Wednesday, May 8, 6:30–11 a.m. **Hartman Park, Lyme**
- Thursday, May 9, 7:30–11:30 a.m. **East Rock Park, New Haven**
- Thursday, May 9, 6 p.m. **Annual Banquet – Speaker: Mark Seth Lender**
- Saturday, May 11, 8–11 a.m. **Sleeping Giant State Park, Hamden**
- Sunday, May 12, 7 a.m. to noon **Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**
- Friday, May 17, 8–9:30 p.m. **Whip-poor-will Walk in Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**
Rain Date: Saturday, May 18, 8–9:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 18, 8–11 a.m. **Julius M. Hansen Park, North Haven**
- Wednesday, May 22, 7:30–11 a.m. **Lake Chamberlain, Bethany**
- Saturday, May 25, 7 a.m. to noon **Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington**
- Wednesday, May 29, 7:30–11 a.m. **Lake Dawson, Woodbridge**
- Saturday, June 1, 8–10:30 a.m. **Bauer Farm (Bauer Park), Madison**
- Sunday, June 2, 7–10 a.m. **Chippens Hill Grassland Birds, Bristol**
- Wednesday, June 5, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park, Cornwall**
- Saturday–Sunday, June 8–9 **New Haven Summer Bird Count**
- Wednesday, June 12, 7:30–11 a.m. **Lake Watrous, Woodbridge**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This year is progressing quickly. The early waves of migrating warblers are arriving and I finally put my winter coat away. March 19 was the vernal equinox, the solar eclipse will occur on April 8, and our New Haven Bird Club Annual Banquet is all set for May 9! Banquet information and membership renewals should have recently reached you by U.S. mail. There are both online and paper-based options to renew your membership, and we hope you will consider doing so. Likewise, you can both register and pay for your Banquet tickets either by mailing in the paper form with a check, or by going online to www.newhavenbirdclub.org, then selecting the Events / Annual Banquet. Once there, you can a) register and provide nametag information, and b) pay with a credit card/PayPal.

July 1st will be the start of our 2024-2025 NHBC year, and we are well underway with planning and organizing walks, indoor programs, educational and outreach activities, and with all the associated work that goes on behind the scenes. Your NHBC Board and I are pleased to report that two members will be joining us on the Board to fill some of our vacant positions. Cheryl Cape will become our Website chair with an official start date this summer; she will be helping Pat Leahy as needed in the meantime. Meg Bollin volunteered to lead the Education and Outreach program and was appointed in February. Meg is already hard at work coordinating the Club's participation in an Earth Day event at Deer Lake Day Camp in Killingworth. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 27, 2024. It will include hiking trips, a silent auction, and various tables (astronomical society, beekeepers, invasive species information, etc.). Our NHBC will have a table and perhaps a bird walk. If you would like to offer to help us that day, send an email to volunteer@newhavenbirdclub.org.

We hope to see many of you on our bird walks and/or at our indoor meeting on April 11. We really look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Annual Banquet on May 9. And if you see Meg or Cheryl, please help welcome them to our Board.

--Chris Howe

NOTE: Please check the NHBC website and newsletter periodically for updated information on all programs. **Scheduled events may need to be changed or canceled** and events may be added during the year. www.newhavenbirdclub.org

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2023-2024

OFFICERS

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|
| <i>President</i> | Christine Howe clhowe2@yahoo.com | 203-530-1066 |
| <i>Vice President</i> | (vacant) | |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Celeste Echlin cechlin151@gmail.com | 860-485-2567 |
| <i>Secretary</i> | Michele McDermott mmcdermott1029@snet.net | 860-485-3087 |

BOARD MEMBERS

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------|
| <i>Conservation Chair</i> | Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com | 203-230-1697 |
| <i>Education/Outreach Chair</i> | Meg Bollin maeganbollin@gmail.com | 860-806-2509 |
| <i>Indoor Programs</i> | Gail Martino gmm1227@yahoo.com | 617-504-7205 |
| <i>Member-at-Large</i> | Albert Laguna albert.laguna@gmail.com | 201-401-2684 |
| <i>Member-at-Large</i> | Glen Cummings gmc2@comcast.net | 203-228-8072 |
| <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> | DeWitt Allen allendatlow@gmail.com | 860-949-0995 |
| <i>Publicity Chair</i> | Emmeline Kaiser emkaiser03@gmail.com | 225-368-7273 |
| <i>Website Chair</i> | (vacant) | |
| <i>Yearbook Editor</i> | Christine Howe clhowe2@yahoo.com | 203-530-1066 |

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| <i>The BIG SIT</i> | Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com | 203-230-1697 |
| <i>Bluebird Trail</i> | Pat Leahy ptjleahy@yahoo.com | 203-393-2427 |
| <i>Christmas Bird Count</i> | Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net | 203-389-6508 |
| <i>Hawk Watch at Lighthouse Point</i> | Steve Mayo scmayo999@gmail.com | 203-551-1707 |
| <i>Historian</i> | John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net | 203-758-7203 |
| <i>Hospitality</i> | Joyce Alton joyceharned@hotmail.com | 203-651-9712 |
| <i>Summer Bird Count</i> | Steve Mayo scmayo999@gmail.com | 203-551-1707 |
| <i>Winter Feeder Survey</i> | Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net | 203-288-0621 |

New Haven Bird Club Website:
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 25.

Deadline for submissions to the next *Chickadee* is May 24. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at donnabatsford@gmail.com.

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.

If you are not receiving email notifications, contact us at membership@newhavenbirdclub.org to receive an invitation to join this group.

Every effort is made to list member information accurately in the yearbook. Please inform us of errors and update us with any changes during the year. Update via the Club website or send an email to membership@newhavenbirdclub.org.

Wingspan Report



Photo by Chris Howe

We had Wingspan Game Nights on February 16 and March 22. March was our last Wingspan game night for the club calendar year. With the warmer weather and longer sunlight, the calendar will become busier with bird walks and other events, so we will encourage people to get

outside. We had 18 people come to the March event. Many are now returning players, but we still had a few who had not played before. We will resume game nights again in the fall or next winter.

--Jack Swatt

Welcome New Members

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Matthew Joyce New Haven | Nick Hansen Hamden | JoAnn Neddermann Torrington | Chavie Sandman New Haven |
| Kerry L. McCarthy Westbrook | Christopher Grice Rockfall | Dina Boncek Wallingford | Kristen Biatowas Shelton |
| Bill Sage New Haven | Dennis Deziel Guilford | Rachel Keneally Easton | |
| David and Kathy Burns Westport | Joy Sherman New Haven | Kendra Dunnigan Newtown | |

Indoor Programs

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. This year, we plan to resume meeting at the Whitney Center's Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden CT 06517. The facility is wheelchair accessible. **The social half-hour begins at 7 p.m.; the meeting and program begin at 7:30 p.m. and end about 9 p.m.**

Some indoor programs are held only as virtual, online presentations and noted as such in the descriptions.

Cancellation Policy: Inclement weather or other emergency may cancel in-person meetings. Cancellation notices will be sent via the Club email and posted on the CTBirds listserv when possible.

The Whitney Center

We hold our monthly meetings in the Whitney Center's Cultural Arts Center, in the South Building, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden CT. Enter via the main door of the portico at the front of the building. Turn right down the hallway. The Cultural Arts Center is a short distance on the left.

PARKING: Enter the Whitney Center's South Entrance, marked with a sign. Either make an immediate left into the raised parking lot (park *only* in the upper level and *only* in unnumbered spaces) or follow the main driveway past the front entrance of the building. At the stop sign, turn right into the visitor and employee parking area and walk back from there to the front entrance.

NOTE: Please check the NHBC website and newsletter periodically for updated information on all programs. Scheduled events may need to be changed or canceled and events may be added during the year. www.newhavenbirdclub.org

Thursday, April 11– Joel Tolman Common Ground: Its Mission and Impact

Join us to learn about Common Ground. Located in New Haven, it is the nation's longest-running environmental charter school, creating the next generation of successful college students and powerful environmental leaders. Our speaker will be Joel Tolman, a passionate educator and environmentalist who currently serves as Director of Community Impact & Engagement at Common Ground.

***NOTE:** The April meeting is our Annual Meeting, as specified in the Club's by-laws. Please check the NHBC website and newsletter for any updated information.*

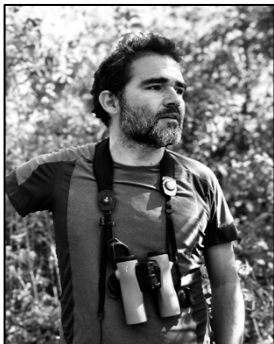
Annual Banquet – Reservation information later in newsletter Thursday, May 9 – 6 p.m.

Speaker – Mark Seth Lender

Close Encounters of the Extraordinary Kind

Join Mark Seth Lender, a renowned wildlife photographer and Explorer in Residence at Living on Earth, as he presents his extraordinary encounters with naively curious wild animals in the remote regions of the Antarctic Ocean. Through his detailed photographs and captivating storytelling, Mark will showcase the remarkable behavior of penguins, giant petrels, and even a leopard seal that have approached and interacted with him, driven by their own curiosity rather than deliberate contact on his part. Don't miss this opportunity to delve into the hidden world of wildlife through Mark's lens and gain insights into the unique connections between humans and animals in the untouched landscapes of the Antarctic.

Program Reports



On the evening of Thursday, February 8, we had a virtual meeting. The speaker, biologist and tour guide Diego Calderone, spoke about "Birding with FARC - How Birds Connect People." The presentation focused on the unique role birds play in bridging gaps between diverse groups of people, including those with a history of conflict. The event was well-

attended, with a total of 68 individuals present. Attendees actively participated in the Q&A session following the presentation.

On the evening of Thursday, March 14, we had a hybrid meeting. Charles Roberto presented a talk on Québec's Gaspé Peninsula. Like several of our speakers each year, Charles's program was suggested by member based on seeing it previously.

There were 32 people in person and 39 on Zoom.

Glen led the production of the hybrid program, his first time doing so. Despite a few AV glitches, the program proceeded as planned. Kudos to Glen for successfully navigating the complexities of hybrid production.

Everyone agreed that Joyce's baked goods were fantastic!

Outdoor Programs

The future course of the coronavirus pandemic may continue to 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.

Cancellation Policy: Inclement weather or other emergencies may cancel a field trip. Check the NHBC website *or contact the leader of the trip directly* if you have any questions about a possible cancellation.

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, be sure to let the leader know. The Club welcomes everyone regardless of age, race or ethnicity, sex, gender identification, sexual orientation, or national origin. The ending times of walks are approximate.

More details and/or updates on these trips will be given at the indoor meetings. Please check the NHBC website and newsletter periodically for updated information on all programs. **Scheduled events may need to be changed or canceled** and events may be added during the year. *Contact trip leaders directly if you have questions about any of their trips.*

The New Haven Bird Club does not charge any fees for its outdoor programs, but participants are responsible for the cost of their food, transportation, and entrance fees (where charged), unless the Club makes prior arrangements. Carpooling is usually encouraged to avoid parking problems at some destinations and to promote conservation of natural resources, but check current coronavirus recommendations.

NHBC Conservation and Education Activities

The New Haven Bird Club routinely works to preserve and restore bird populations and their habitats and to provide opportunities for learning about birds, where to see them, and how to help ensure their future. Additional environmentally-focused, family-friendly walks may be planned and posted on the NHBC website.

The NHBC has been developing relationships with local public schools and camps to encourage children to embrace birding. We view this activity as directly connected to our Club objectives, and usually present a very basic birding skills class followed by a nearby bird walk. The Education Chair also organizes the Club's representation at various public events throughout the year.

First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford

Wednesday, April 3, 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 Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center, 1 Milford Point Road, Milford. Leader: Jalna Jaeger, 203-246-0885 or jalnabird@gmail.com

Kellogg Environmental Center and Osbornedale State Park, Derby

Sunday, April 21, 7:30–10:30 a.m.

Osbornedale State Park offers a variety of species in its fields and forest, and around its ponds. It's always a surprise when walking through the park. We may see a flyover Bald Eagle, nesting Bluebirds, early warbler migrants, Green Heron, and Orchard Oriole, as well as Indigo Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and various thrushes. We will explore Kellogg Environmental Center and then walk to Osbornedale Park. Meet at the Kellogg Environmental Center parking lot, 500 Hawthorne Avenue, Derby. Leader: Maria Stockmal, 203-305-3728 or m.stockmal@snet.net

Bent of the River Important Bird Area, Southbury

Sunday, April 28, 8–11 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. More advanced birders can enjoy a day out and also provide support and inspiration for newcomers. Total walk distance should be between 1 and 2 miles with moderate terrain and some uphills. Meet at Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, 185 East Flat Hill Road, Southbury. Take Exit 14 off of I-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, 484-347-2332 or morganevans@gmail.com

First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven

Wednesday, May 1, 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. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Avenue, Hamden. Leader: John Oshlick, 203-584-1955 or john.oshlic@yahoo.com

River Road, Kent:

Travels Along a Riparian Woodland Corridor

Saturday, May 4, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

River Road along the Housatonic River in Kent provides a major north-south riparian corridor for spring migration. The vast uninterrupted forest rising from the river provides ideal habitat and a beautiful walk. River Road has produced a nice variety of Northwestern Connecticut nesting species including Acadian and Least Flycatchers; Yellow-throated and Blue-headed Vireos; Winter Wren; and Cerulean, Golden-winged,

and Worm-eating Warblers. Meet at the old train station in Kent by 7:30 a.m. We will carpool and bird River Road by car and by foot. 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

Big Day Marathon

Sunday, May 5, 6 a.m.

Join us for all or part of this event. We'll focus on New Haven area hotspots, seeking 100-130 species. We start at East Rock and search several other local migrant traps, as well as the coast from Lordship to Hammonasset. 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

Hartman Park, Lyme

Wednesday, May 8, 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, Exit 55 off I-95.

Leader: John Oshlick, 203-584-1955 or john.oshlic@gmail.com

East Rock Park, New Haven

Thursday, May 9, 7:30-11:30 a.m.

From late April through mid-May, East Rock Park experiences a steady progression of newly-arriving neotropical migrant birds. Many birders visit this ultra-hotspot daily in spring to enjoy the latest flashy birds making appearances. We start the morning at Trowbridge Drive to ensure parking spaces, and to get our walking feet operating. After we enjoy the warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and thrushes here, we relocate by car to the Eli Whitney Museum and take a leisurely stroll along the Mill River trails. Our focus is on birding by ear, while also discussing bird behavior and habitat use. Meet at the Trowbridge Drive parking lot in Hamden. Entry to this parking is off Davis Street, Hamden.

Leader: Steve Broker, 203-747-6843 or stephenpaulbroker@gmail.com

Sleeping Giant State Park, Hamden

Saturday, May 11, 8-11 a.m.

Sleeping Giant 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 bird along the uphill but (mostly) smooth-surfaced Tower Path. As we move slowly along the Path, we can expect to find a rich mix of migrant and resident warblers, thrushes, vireos, and woodpeckers. We should be able to locate the nesting ravens and may also get glimpses of the resident Peregrine Falcons. Meet at the Sleeping Giant State Park entrance, 200 Mount Carmel Avenue, Hamden.

Leaders: Jim Sirch, james.sirch@yale.edu; Craig Repasz, 203-745-6683 or crepasz@hotmail.com; DeWitt Allen, 860-949-0995 or allendatlow@gmail.com

Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck

Sunday, May 12, 7 a.m. to noon

Join us at the peak of spring migration on this moderately strenuous hike in a fine birding location. We'll search for migrants and residents. We often see more than 15 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

Lake Chamberlain, Bethany

Wednesday, May 22, 7:30-11 a.m.

Join Pat Leahy for a walk on Regional Water Authority property in Bethany. Pat has been maintaining a bluebird trail on several of the properties there. 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.

Leader: Pat Leahy, 203-314-0566 or ptjleahy@yahoo.com

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

Friday, May 17, 8-9:30 p.m.

Rain Date: Saturday, May 18, 8-9:30 p.m.

Jack Swatt, New Haven Bird Club Life Member and Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) volunteer Whip-poor-will monitor, will lead a walk to listen and look for Eastern 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 walking but through field terrain during tick season and at night; 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

Julius M. Hansen Park, North Haven

Saturday, May 18, 8-11 a.m.

Rich meadows and fields, forested wetlands, trap rock ridge, and riparian woods host breeding populations of sparrows and warblers, woodpeckers, hawks, orioles, grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, and other field and woodland birds. Other migrating species are possible. Meet at the parking lot just east of 52 Patten Road. From Exit 12 off I-91, turn left onto Washington Avenue, then left on Blakeslee Avenue. Follow to Bassett Road, then right on Bassett and continue through the intersection with Clintonville Road (Route 22) onto Mill Road. Take a gentle left up onto Patten Road and continue east. The park entrance is on the left.

Leaders: Craig Repasz, 203-745-6683 or crepasz@hotmail.com; DeWitt Allen, 860-949-0995 or allendatlow@gmail.com

Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington

Saturday, May 25, 7 a.m. to noon

Barn Island WMA is a large expanse of varied habitat along the Connecticut shore near the Rhode Island border, including large tracts of salt marsh, deciduous woodlands and a large

brushy field. We'll see 60+ species of birds, with notable resident species including White-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireo, Saltmarsh Sparrow, and Willow Flycatcher likely to be seen. This is a good spot to look for rare shorebirds such as Wilson's Phalarope and Black-necked Stilt. We'll take a long hike through the property. Wear comfortable shoes and bring bug spray and water. Meet at 7 a.m. at the commuter lot, I-95 Exit 55, or at 8:15 a.m. at the Barn Island WMA entrance on Palmer Neck Road, Stonington.

Leader: Chris Loscalzo, 203-389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net

Lake Dawson, Woodbridge
Wednesday, May 29, 7:30–11 a.m.

Join Pat Leahy for a walk on protected Regional Water Authority property in Woodbridge. Swallows, bluebirds, many other resident birds, and possible late migrants. Some mild slopes on a well-maintained road. Meet at Lake Chamberlain Regional Water Authority parking area on Sperry Road south of Morris Road, Bethany. We will carpool to Lake Dawson from there.

Leader: Pat Leahy, 203-314-0566 or ptjleahy@yahoo.com

Bauer Farm (Bauer Park), Madison
Saturday, June 1, 8–10:30 a.m.

Join nationally recognized wildlife artist and birder Mike DiGiorgio for a walk to look for resident and migrating songbirds. We'll explore the fields, gardens and woodland trails. Birders of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Meet at the Community Gardens parking area, 257 Copse Road, Madison.

Leader: Mike DiGiorgio, mdigiorgio@comcast.net

Chippens Hill Grassland Birds, Bristol
Sunday, June 2, 7–10 a.m.

The Chippens Hill area of Bristol has historically been farmland. The Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut and the city of Bristol are working to save some of the habitat where Bobolinks, Meadowlarks, and Grasshopper Sparrows have been found. Join Jack Swatt for a tour of these areas in search of these declining species. Bring plenty of water and be prepared to walk in sunny field habitat that may contain ticks. Meet at the Roberts Field parking lot on Perkins Street in Bristol, just north of the intersection with Pinehurst Road.

Leader: Jack Swatt, 203-592-4686 or jswattbirds@gmail.com

First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park, Cornwall

Wednesday, June 5, 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, ctgreg@yahoo.com

New Haven Summer Bird Count

Saturday–Sunday, June 8–9

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.

Coordinator Steve Mayo, 203-551-1707, scmayo999@gmail.com

Lake Watrous, Woodbridge
Wednesday, June 12, 7:30–11 a.m.

Join Pat Leahy for a walk on protected Regional Water Authority property in Woodbridge. Views of the lake and dam, some wetlands and lakeside forest. Walking is not strenuous and on a well-maintained road. Meet at Lake Chamberlain Regional Water Authority parking area on Sperry Road south of Morris Road, Bethany. We will carpool to Lake Watrous from there.

Leader: Pat Leahy, 203-314-0566 or ptjleahy@yahoo.com

Trip Reports

February First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park Trip Report

Thirty-three birders attended the First Wednesday walk at HBSP on February 7. We enjoyed bright, sunny skies, with light winds from the north, and calm Long Island Sound waters offering excellent conditions for sea watching. Our morning of birding produced 33 species, including a good representation of waterfowl, sandpipers, loons, diurnal raptors, woodpeckers, and perching birds. Highlights included 80 American Black Ducks, diverse diving ducks on the Sound, Northern Harrier and Bald Eagle, an interesting study in the campground of a Brown Thrasher foraging in leaf litter, and numerous Yellow-rumped Warblers feeding on Red cedar berries. A brief check for rails after the conclusion of the walk produced one vocalizing Clapper Rail in the Restoration Marsh.

Hammonasset Beach State Park is recognized as one of the premier localities in Connecticut for year-round birding. Click on the link for the eBird checklist:

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S160890503>.

--Tina Green and Steve Broker

Rhode Island Coast Field Trip Report

On Saturday, February 24, thirteen members and friends of the New Haven Bird Club journeyed east to our neighboring state for a full day of birding. Our first stop was at Beavertail State Park in Jamestown. It was windy there, but we still saw lots of nice wintering waterfowl including all three scoter species (White-winged was the nice surprise), Harlequin Duck, Common Eider, Great Cormorant, Horned Grebe, Brant and Red-throated and Common Loon. As we drove towards our next stop we spotted some white birds in a Canada Goose flock on a golf course. We stopped and checked them out. Sure enough, there were two Snow Geese in with the Canada Geese. We were pleased to see this bonus bird! At Easton Pond, we saw more waterfowl, including American Coot, Ruddy Duck, Common Merganser and Pied-billed Grebe. From there, we went to Sachuest Point NWR, where we saw more wintering sea ducks and a large flock of Purple Sandpipers. We also saw a Northern Harrier and a Red-tailed Hawk. A brief stop at Third Beach led us to observe Sanderlings and Surf Scoters (and other waterfowl). We then took a long (40-minute) drive to get to Scarborough Beach State Park in Narragansett and we were glad we did. We saw *three* Black-headed Gulls there and a DOVEKIE (!) close to shore. It flapped its wings and flew in front of us and landed by the nearby jetty, allowing us to get great views of this tiny alcid. It was a life bird for most of us. We spent the rest of the afternoon stopping at places along the

coast, making our way west towards Connecticut. We didn't see any rarities at these locations, but we did add species to our list. We ended the day with 60 species, a fine total for a fine day of birding. I was



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

pleased that there was a mixture of people who had birded here previously as well as some who were here for the first time. I hope for a good turnout again next year.

--Chris Loscalzo

White Memorial Foundation: Birding and Tracking, Litchfield Trip Report

A bright and sunny day greeted the 19 people who made the drive to White Memorial Foundation in Litchfield on Sunday, February 25. The sun, combined with little wind, made up for the fact that the temperature was mostly below freezing during our combined Birding and Tracking walk. The snow that had fallen earlier in the month had mostly melted away, but experienced tracker Gail Cameron was able to help everyone identify and differentiate tracks of coyote, dog, possibly gray fox, squirrel, turkey, and the highlight: the location where an otter had come out of the water. Craig Repasz, our original leader, was not able to attend, but the birders in attendance picked up the slack to record 27 species of birds (not counting the turkey tracks!). One birding highlight was two Bald Eagles, one adult and one juvenile, sparring with talons. Special thanks to Jack Swatt for recording and sharing the eBird list, and to all in attendance for a wonderful day in the field.



--Chris Howe

First Wednesday Walk: Stratford Shore Trip Report

On Wednesday, March 6, I led the annual New Haven Bird Club Trip to the Stratford Shore, joined by 23 eager birders. Timing was perfect as it was a rain-free morning wedged in between a mostly rainy week in CT. It was mild, mid 40's, and

calm, with variable fog. We visited many of the coastal hotspots by carpool and on foot. Of the 51 species tallied, highlights included: Canvasback, Eurasian Wigeon, 12 Black-bellied Plovers, Greater Yellowlegs, 2 Ruddy Turnstones, 2 adult Iceland Gulls, Glaucous Gull, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and the first Boat-tailed Grackle of the year. The full eBird trip list is here: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/210002>.



--Frank Mantlik

Trip Report: Richard English Memorial Field Trip

On Saturday, March 30, sixteen hardy birders dressed in wool caps, gloves, scarves, and down-filled winter coats met trip leader Mike Horn at the hawk watch parking lot in Lighthouse Point Park for the annual Richard English Memorial Field Trip. It was a bright Saturday morning with temperatures in the low forties, but also with icy north-west winds blowing steadily at 15 miles per hour and gusting to as high as 30. Although wind kept the birds down, the group still tallied 31 species, including



Photo by Dean Plummer

Golden-crowned Kinglets, several woodpecker species, Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds, an enormous flock of mostly male Brown-headed Cowbirds, Killdeer, a Great Blue Heron, Common Loons, Long-tailed Ducks, Bufflehead, and Brant.

A smaller group of six proceeded to Hammonasset Beach State Park, where we walked the Moraine Trail, spending time at the viewing platform and the far end of the trail. Our two hour stroll produced sightings of 13 species, including Surf Scoters, Red-breasted Mergansers, American Oystercatchers, Common Loons, a Great Egret, and a Yellow-rumped Warbler. At that point, hungry and wind-burned but happy for a great day of birding in good company, we adjourned.

--Mike Horn

NHBC Winter Feeder Report 2023-2024

End of Week 16



We have finished the 16th week of the survey. I do not know if the numbers tend to decline in weeks 12 to 16 (months of January and February) because we have surveyors who go south (Snowbirds)

during these weeks or is it due to the crazy weather, we seem to be having in these last few years hot days and then ice and snowstorms. The weather may have played a part, in that it changed daily as it did last year. We went from 0.0° F to 70° F within days and it kept up throughout January and all of February. This year we have had a long run of warm weather with short periods of extreme cold weather. In week 16 we had a major snowstorm where the snow stayed on the roofs and ground for days. Our two winter species, Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrow peaked in Week 12, came back to normal in weeks 13 thru 15, with a slight peak in week 16 (snow). In Week 12 Dean and Maryanne Rupp had 53 and Tim and Kate Rodgers had 25 White-throated Sparrows.

Looking at the graphs, most of the species are running below the previous two years but we had 9 of 42 reported on the Uncommon list (normally around 10 for the year).

From the **Common List** we had 22 of 22 species. Common Grackles were seen in flocks of 50 to 200. 15 surveyors had Carolina Wrens at their feeders throughout weeks 12 to 16. American Goldfinches were also low in these weeks with a slight increase in week 16. (See graph). Song Sparrows were reported by 13 surveyors.

The **Semi-common List** had 11 of 12 species reported, but no one reported a Wild Turkey. Charlotte K. White reported 3 Purple Finches in week 13.

From the **Uncommon List** we had 9 of 42 species reported. Species seen were Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing, Eastern Towhee, Hermit Thrush, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rusty Blackbird, Turkey Vulture and Yellow-rumped Warbler. For the 4th year no Red Breasted Nuthatches or Pine Siskins were reported during these weeks.

From the **Waterfowl List** we had 3 of 9 species listed: Great Blue Heron, Herring Gull, Mallard.

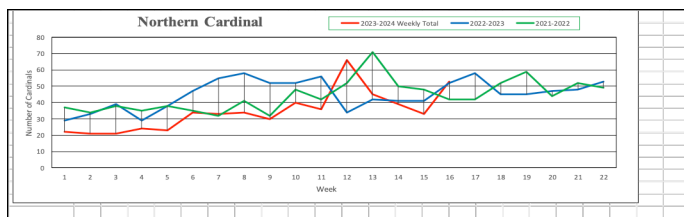
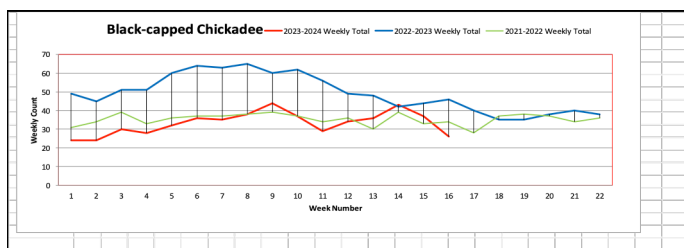
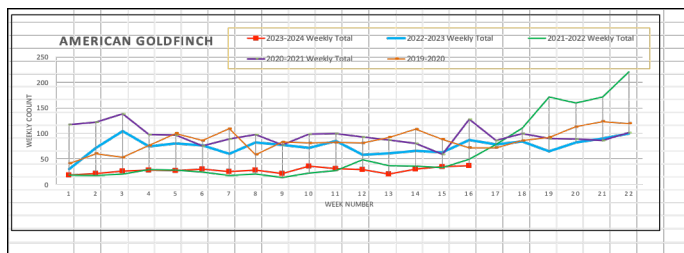
From the **Animals List** 10 of 26 were reported during these five weeks. They were Gray Squirrel, Chipmunk, Black Squirrel, Bobcat, Brown Rat, Coyote, Opossum, Rabbit, Raccoon, Red Fox, Skunk, and White-tailed Deer.

The graphs of 5 Species are included for weeks one to sixteen. The red line is 2023-2024.

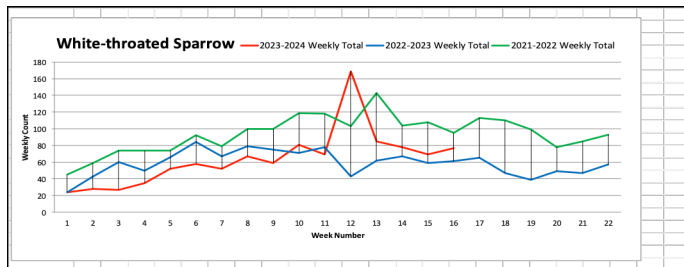
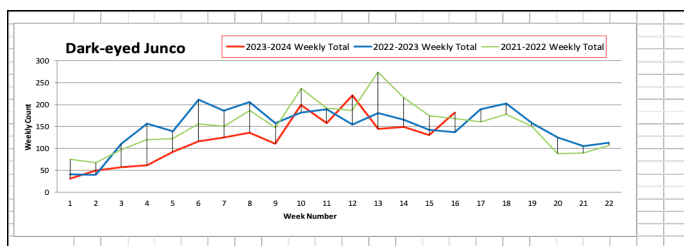
Species Normally Seen all year long: American Goldfinch numbers were just above year 2021-2022 which was the lowest in the last 4 Years. Black-capped Chickadee were below last year but lower than 2021-2022 years and Northern Cardinal is running lower than the last two years.

Winter Species: Dark-eyed Juncos were below the two previous years and White-throated Sparrows were lower than the previous two years.

Normally Seen all Year Long



Winter Species



--Pete Vitali
Chairman: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey

MEGA BOWL VIII REPORT

Twenty teams made up of 60 birders from all four corners of the state (and the places in between) participated in the Eighth Annual Mega Bowl of CT this year. The birding portion of the event took place on Saturday, February 3rd, and the celebratory dinner took place on Sunday, February 4th. Most of the teams birded within a circle with a 5-mile radius while a few teams birded within an entire county. The “Egrets, I’ve got a few” team composed of Cody Limber, Alex Lin-Moore and Alison Robey found the most species (77) within a circle while the “Darth Waders” team made up of Daniel Errichetti, Skyler Kardell and David Mathieu observed the most species (92) in a county (New London). The highest total for an inland circle (58 species) was achieved by the “Flock of Smeagols” team composed of Mark Wantroba and Lindsay Gress. The highlights were many as rare birds were seen in a number of locations. Most were found at locations where they had been seen in the days or weeks before the event, but there were a few surprises found on the day of the event as well. The list of rare birds included: Harlequin Duck, Eared Grebe, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Clapper Rail, Virginia Rail, Semipalmated Plover, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Rufous Hummingbird, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, American Pipit, Vesper Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole and Hermit Warbler. The combined efforts of all the teams led to the observation of 125 species.



The “Winging It” team enjoyed this wonderful view of the sunset over New Haven Harbor at the end of their birding day. Photo by Cheryl Blum.

The combined efforts of all the teams led to the observation of 125 species.

About half of the participants were able to come to the Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby for the celebratory dinner. The food was superb and included several soups, chili, and a variety of desserts. Prizes were awarded to the highest scoring teams, the oldest and youngest participants and to numerous people who saw the “golden bird” of the day, which was selected at random from the list of birds seen during the event. This year’s golden bird was the Red-tailed Hawk.

An important aspect of the event is that the birding that the participants do translates into dollars donated to the CT-based conservation organization of their choice. This year, more than \$1,000 was donated to organizations all over the state. The recipients of the largest donations were: Save the Sound (\$140), A Place Called Hope (\$124), and the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment at Connecticut College (\$108). Other organizations that received donations ranging in value from \$40 to \$100 included: the CT Audubon Society, Sharon Audubon Center, New Haven Bird Club, New London Trees, the Roger Tory Peterson Environmental Center, the Ansonia Nature Center, Riverbound Farm, COA and the Roaring Brook Nature Center.

The Mega Bowl has evolved into a fun and friendly event where birders get together and go birding in their local areas to see what birds are surviving (and we hope thriving) in the middle of winter in our state. It is truly remarkable and gratifying to see how many different species are out there this time of year. We all challenge ourselves to see as many bird species as we can, and we are all rewarded with surprising and memorable sightings that encourage us to continue to go birding and to do what we can to preserve their habitats and ensure their continued existence.

--Chris Loscalzo
Mega Bowl Coordinator

SAVE THE DATE

The New Haven Bird Club is partnering with Birding for Pleasure for a summer **Bobolinks, Grasses and Wildlife Festival** on Saturday July 13, 2024 at Durham Meadows.

This is a free event.

The event will include bird walks with expert guides, a live raptor demonstration by A Place Called Hope, workshops on nature journaling, presentations on birding by sound, how to use eBird, and bird migration.



New Haven Bird Club Conservation Committee Report

March 28, 2024

There are several pieces of legislation on the state and federal level that will protect birds and their habitat.

Federal Bird Safe Buildings Act of 2023 H.R.3781 requires that federal buildings, with a few exceptions, use bird-safe features, practices, and strategies.

The Plum Island National Monument Act. H.R.1584 would establish Plum Island, New York, as a national monument for the purpose of ecological conservation, historical preservation. Support the bill by following the link <https://www.preserveplumisland.org>.

The Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee finished its session for 2024 on March 20. This is a short session with a large workload. They have moved several bills out of committee and to the house and senate floors. The legislative session will close on May 8, 2024.

SB00190 (R) Use Of Neonicotinoids was not voted on in Environment committee. Many environmental groups opposed the specific language in the bill stating that any legislation should use the stronger language of the Neonic ban bill in the 2023 session. Committee Chair Rep Gresko states that there will be a neonic bill with the stronger language from 2023 and that the bill will be a major priority in the next legislative session.

SB00291 (R) that would require that all helium and lighter than air balloons be biodegradable by 2027 did not make it out of committee.

SJ 193 Amendment to the State Constitution Regarding Environmental Rights. Passing S.J. 193, the CT Environmental Rights Amendment in the General Assembly according to the requirements for a constitutional amendment would put environmental rights on the ballot for a vote by the people.

SB00292 (R) PFAS in Certain Products. Voted out of Environmental Committee. Will ban intentionally added PFAS in clothes, carpets, cleaning products, cookware. PFAS are widely used, long lasting chemicals, components of which break down very slowly over time. Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals.

HB05004 (R) Certain Climate Change Measures. Voted out of Environmental Committee. The bill declares a statewide “climate crisis,” along with a commitment to reach net-zero emissions no later than 2050. To get to that point, the bill authorizes a host of new studies, reports and financial incentives for municipalities and businesses to cut down on emissions. Includes a plan to deploy 310,000 energy saving heat pumps around the state. The bill also has provisions for nature-based solutions to increase carbon sequestration through re-forestation, controlling invasive species, protecting wetlands, restoring coastal habitats, and increasing climate-smart agriculture and soil conservation. These measures will improve habitat and protect biodiversity. Lights Out Connecticut lobbied to have the bill address energy waste and the carbon footprint created by light pollution. LOCT sought to have Dark Sky International lighting standards as part of the bill. These proposed amendments to the bill are not included in the final draft of the bill.

HB05217 (R) Rodenticides. Voted out of Environmental Committee. The bill bans second generation anticoagulant rodenticides. These rodenticides are carried by rodents into areas where they are preyed upon by raptors. The rodenticides accumulate in the birds and other predators and cause internal bleeding.

HB05218 (R) Riparian Buffers and Revision of Certain Inland Wetlands Provisions. Voted out of Environmental Committee. Would authorize CT DEEP to use funds available for storm water infrastructure for the purpose of acquiring conservation easements located along streams and rivers. This bill will help the state acquire critical habitat for birds.

HB05225 (R) Invasive Plants Control. Voted out of Environmental Committee. Would require that no person shall import, move, sell, purchase, transplant, cultivate or distribute the invasive plants listed in the bill.

Connecticut State Building Code Amendments. Lights Out Connecticut is working with Dark Sky International to submit proposed amendments to the State Building code that will require new buildings and major retrofits in the state to follow Dark Sky International lighting principles that will cut down on light pollution. Amendment will reduce luminaire output, require light fixtures to be shielded, require timers on lights, limit the light wavelength.

--Craig Repasz



New Haven Bird Club Annual Celebration



Thursday, May 9, 2024 6-10 PM

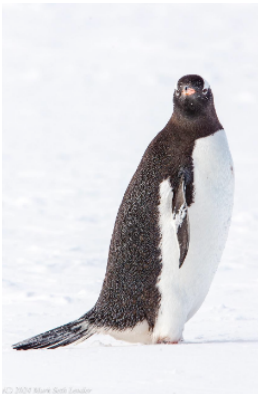
Amarante's Sea Cliff, Grand Ballroom

62 Cove Street, New Haven, CT

\$45/person: Dinner, Dessert, Cash Bar and Speaker

Mark Seth Lender

Close Encounters of the Extraordinary Kind



Join Mark Seth Lender, a renowned wildlife photographer and Explorer in Residence at Living on Earth, as he presents his extraordinary encounters with naively curious wild animals in the remote regions of the Antarctic Ocean. Through his detailed photographs and captivating storytelling, Mark will showcase the remarkable behavior of penguins, giant petrels, and even a leopard seal that have approached and interacted with him, driven by their own curiosity rather than deliberate contact on his part. Don't miss this opportunity to delve into the hidden world of wildlife through Mark's lens and gain insights into the unique connections between humans and animals in the untouched landscapes of the Antarctic.



Advance Reservations Required – Deadline May 1st

RSVP online (credit card via PayPal): <https://www.newhavenbirdclub.org/> (Select Events, Annual Banquet)

-or-

RSVP by mail/check: Send completed form below with check payable to "NHBC" to:

NHBC, c/o Laurie Reynolds, 82 Notch Hill Road, North Branford, CT 06471

Questions: nhbc.banquet@gmail.com

New Haven Bird Club Annual Banquet - Thursday, May 9, 2024 6-10 PM

NAME(S): (As they should appear on name tag) # of Persons _____ x \$45.00 = Total Due \$ _____

REQUIRED: email address for reservation confirmation: _____

Please indicate any food allergies or preferences so we can communicate that to the chef:



NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB
P.O. BOX 9004
NEW HAVEN, CT 06532-0004

April 2024

NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Area Code / Phone _____
Email _____

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Membership Levels (check appropriate category):

____ Individual - \$15 ____ Family - \$20
____ Supporting - \$50 ____ Student under 18 - Free
____ Life Membership - \$300 for 1 or 2 people at same address.

Additional gift to support NHBC programs: \$ _____

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

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 send that information to: New Haven Bird Club, PO Box 9004, New Haven CT 06532-0004 or membership@newhavenbirdclub.org.

The NHBC website, www.newhavenbirdclub.org, offers information about the Club, its programs, and other Club and member news. If you have any questions, please email us at ask@newhavenbirdclub.org.

CTBirds is an open discussion email list provided by the Connecticut Ornithological Association (COA) to discuss birds and birding in the state, <http://www.ctbirding.org>.