



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

April 2023

2023 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Date Changes

Birding by Ear Webinar Series – Registration required
Wednesdays, March 22, March 29, and April 5, 7–7:45 p.m.
and

Birding by Ear Walk – Participants chosen via drawing
Saturday, April 22 - Group 1: 8–9:30 a.m., Group 2: 10–11:30

Cancelled Due to Weather

Saturday, April 1, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. **The Richard English Memorial Field Trip: Lighthouse Point Park, Deer Lake Scout Reservation, and Hammonasset Beach State Park**

Date Change

Wednesday, April 12, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**

Thursday April 13, 7 p.m. **Dr. Patty Brennan – Genital Evolution in Birds**

Sunday, April 23, 7:30–10:30 a.m. **Kellogg Environmental Center and Osbornedale State Park, Derby**

Saturday, April 29, 8–11 a.m. **East Rock Park with Ranger Dan**

Sunday, April 30, 7:30–10 a.m. **Introduction to Digitally-Assisted Birding and Walk at Lighthouse Point Park**

Sunday, April 30, 8–11 a.m. **Bent of the River Important Bird Area, Southbury**

Date Change

Thursday, May 4, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven**

Leader Change

Saturday, May 6, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **River Road, Kent - Travels Along a Riparian Woodland Corridor**

Sunday, May 7, 6 a.m. **Big Day Marathon**

Wednesday, May 10, 6:30–11 a.m. **Hartman Park, Lyme**

Saturday, May 13, 8–11 a.m. **Sleeping Giant State Park**

Sunday, May 14, 7 a.m. to noon **Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**

Sunday, May 14, 8 a.m. to noon **Durham Hotspots**

Wednesday, May 17, 7:30–11 a.m. **Lake Chamberlain, Lake Dawson, and Lake Watrous**

Saturday, May 20, 8–11 a.m. **Julius M. Hansen Park in North Haven.**

Saturday, May 27, 7 a.m. to noon **Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington**

Friday, June 2, 8:30–10 p.m. **Whip-poor-will Walk in Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck** (Rain Date: Saturday, June 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Spring is clearly en route when the crocuses and daffodils have appeared and the maple tree next door pops out with tiny red flowers. Birds are singing all over my neighborhood, and I heard my first phoebe of the year the other day while walking near the Mill River.

And with the spring, the NHBC calendar starts gathering momentum too; we'll soon be getting into the heart of our bird walk schedule, reaching a peak with full songbird migration from the last weeks of April into May.

In addition to the walks, some other important club events are also taking place: Our April indoor meeting at the Whitney Center on Thursday, April 13th, at 7pm, is also the club's Annual Meeting. Before we get to the evening's presentation, with the intriguing title, "Genital Evolution in Birds," there will be a very short business meeting that will include the election of officers for the 2023-2024 club year. Please plan on attending in person or via zoom. For more information, see the notice elsewhere in this issue of *The Chickadee*.

The following month's meeting, on May 11th, is the annual banquet at Amarante's Sea Cliff Restaurant. This is our big social event of the year, and if the weather is good we'll be munching hors d'oeuvres on the balcony and watching the sun as it sets over New Haven harbor before we sit down to dinner and the evening's presentation. We missed having a banquet two years in a row because of the Covid pandemic and then held a rather low-key banquet last year. I'm looking forward to a full-strength banquet with a great raffle, great food, and good friends this time around.

Our presenter this year will be NHBC life member Jim Zipp, the founder of Hamden's Fat Robin Wild Bird and Nature Shop. Jim is a world class bird and nature photographer with a

(Continued on next page)

Sunday, June 4, 7–10 a.m. **Chippens Hill Grassland Birds**

Wednesday, June 7, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park**

Wednesday, June 7, 7–11 a.m. **June Birding at Morris Creek Marshes, East Haven**

Saturday–Sunday, June 10–11 **New Haven Summer Bird Count**

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 – 2022-2023

OFFICERS

President	DeWitt Allen	860-949-0995
	allendatlow@gmail.com	
Vice President	Christine Howe	203-389-1175
	clhowe2@yahoo.com	
Treasurer	Andy Stack	203-804-6081
	Andys@newhavenbirdclub.org	
Secretary	Mike Ferrari	203-435-5712
	mike.ferrari@mac.com	

BOARD MEMBERS

Conservation Chair	vacant	
Education Chair	Lori Datlow	475-227-2820
	loridatlow@frontier.com	
Indoor Programs	Gail Martino	617-504-7205
	gmm1227@yahoo.com	
Member-at-Large	Albert Laguna	201-401-2684
	albert.laguna@gmail.com	
Member-at-Large	Vanessa Mickan	203-275-5987
	vmickan@gmail.com	
Membership Chair	Laurie Reynolds	203-434-2134
	warmstove@hotmail.com	
Newsletter Editor	Donna Batsford	203-787-1642
	donnabatsford@gmail.com	
Nominating Committee	NHBC Executive Board	
Outdoor Programs	Craig Repasz	203-230-1697
	crepasz@hotmail.com	
Publicity Chair	Emmeline Kaiser	225-368-7273
	emkaiser03@gmail.com	
Webmaster	Patrick Leahy	203-393-2427
	ptjleahy@yahoo.com	
Yearbook Editor	Christine Howe	203-389-1175
	clhowe2@yahoo.com	

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The BIG SIT	Craig Repasz	203-230-1697
	crepasz@hotmail.com	
Birds in Words	Kris Johnson	203-288-3087
Book Group	kriswaxwing99@gmail.com	
Christmas Bird Count	Chris Loscalzo	203-389-6508
	closcalz@optonline.net	
Hawk Watch	Steve Mayo	203-551-1707
Lighthouse Point	scmayo999@gmail.com	
Historian	John Triana	203-758-7203
	jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	
Hospitality	vacant	
Summer Bird Count	Steve Mayo	203-551-1707
	scmayo999@gmail.com	
Winter Feeder Survey	Peter Vitali	203-288-0621
	vitgoo39@gmail.com	

New Haven Bird Club Website:
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

(President's Message Continued from first page)

long, long list of publication credits in significant books and publications. More information about the banquet and Jim's talk can be found in this issue of *The Chickadee*.

And a third big event? It's time for our annual membership renewal drive. Right now the NHBC membership list is the largest ever. Thank you all for your interest in and support of the club and its activities. I hope you'll respond when you receive your renewal letter, which will be coming soon. Birding is something we all can do at whatever level is convenient and possible, from just looking out our back windows to visiting any of Connecticut's wonderful parks and open spaces to taking a guided birding tour somewhere else in the world. But it's always great to join with other NHBC members and our expert walk leaders on one of the 50 or so walks our club organizes each year. We have a great schedule of walks coming. I hope I'll see you on one soon.

--DeWitt Allen

Annual Meeting and Election

The New Haven Bird Club's April meeting will take place at Whitney Center's Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive in Hamden, Thursday April 13th. The social half-hour begins at 7pm.

A description of the evening's presentation can be found elsewhere in this issue of *The Chickadee*, on our website, www.newhavenbirdclub.org, and in our Mail Chimp emails about the meeting.

The April meeting is also our Annual Meeting; the presentation will be preceded by a brief business meeting that will include a financial report and election of officers for the 2023-2024 Club Year, which begins July 1.

The Nominating Committee of the Board proposes the following slate of officers for 2023-2024. These club members volunteer a great amount of time and energy toward achieving our schedule of events, fulfilling our mission, and planning for our future.

President:	Christine Howe
Vice-President:	Open
Treasurer:	Andy Stack
Secretary:	Michele McDermott
At Large:	Albert Laguna
At Large:	Glen Cummings

The business portion of the meeting starts promptly at 7:30. Please arrive before that so we can quickly conclude the reports and election and still allow plenty of time for the evening's speaker and her presentation. The meeting will also be open remotely to members via a zoom link, which will be shared in our Mail Chimp announcement and reminder.

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on April 27.

Deadline for submissions to the next *Chickadee* is May 26. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at donnabatsford@gmail.com.

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 continue to 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. This year, we have resumed 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. Whenever the indoor meeting is also presented via Zoom, instructions for joining the meeting are sent to members via the NHBC email group.**

Directions to 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. Enter via the main door of the portico that is in the front of the building. Turn right down the hallway. The Cultural Arts Center is a short distance on the left.

From I-95 North or South: Exit to I-91 North in New Haven. Take Exit 6 (Willow Street). At end of ramp turn right onto Willow and proceed to Whitney Avenue. Turn right onto Whitney; go 1.7 mi. to Treadwell Street and make a SHARP left onto Treadwell. Proceed 0.7 mi. on Treadwell; turn left onto Leeder Hill Drive. The Whitney Center is shortly on the right. **PARKING:** Enter the SECOND driveway (Whitney Center's South Entrance). 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, make a right into the employee parking area and walk back from there to the front entrance.

From I-91 South: Take Exit 6 (Willow Street) in New Haven. At the end of the ramp, turn right onto Willow and proceed as above.

From Wilbur Cross (Rt. 15-North or South): Take Exit 60. Turn right at the end of ramp onto Dixwell Avenue (Route 10). Drive 0.9 miles to the traffic light at Treadwell Street and turn left. Go 0.3 miles to the traffic light at Leeder Hill Drive and turn right. The Whitney Center's South Entrance is second on the right, about 0.3 miles; see parking details above.

Inclement weather or other emergencies may cancel a meeting. Cancellation notices will be sent via the club email. Also check TV channels WTNH (New Haven) and WFSB (Hartford).

Thursday April 13 – Dr. Patty Brennan Genital Evolution in Birds

Most birds do not have a penis, and most ornithologists have not thought about bird penises much. However, evolutionarily, the loss of this organ in birds is an extremely significant event: why lose an organ that seems so handy to get sperm close to female eggs? The few birds that have kept their penis may offer some insights as to why this loss may have occurred in birds. Within birds that have kept their penis, waterfowl are remarkable in the variation of their genital morphology. In some waterfowl, males force copulations on females, and in these species males have longer and more elaborate penises. Male-male competition plays a critical role in influencing the morphology of the penis, surprisingly within the lifetime of an individual. In male-biased group settings, males grow longer penises than males housed in pairs. Females suffer great direct and indirect costs from forced copulations, and they have evolved complex vaginas that prevent the full eversion of the penis and reassert female control over paternity. An evolutionary arms race is playing out in the complex genitalia

of waterfowl, with some species having extremely exaggerated genitalia. One possible resolution of such conflict is disarmament, and Dr. Brennan will discuss how the avian penis loss may have been driven by female choice for increased sexual autonomy, giving females the upper hand in the reproductive battle. Dr. Brennan is an Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at Holyoke College.

***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.*

Thursday, May 11, 6 p.m. – Annual Banquet
Amarante's Sea Cliff Restaurant, New Haven

Speaker: Jim Zipp – Costa Rica: A Birder's Paradise!

Jim is a longtime member of the New Haven Bird Club and founder of The Fat Robin Wild Bird and Nature Shop in Hamden. Jim will be sharing his stunning photos and tips on visiting Costa Rica. See the complete description of his talk and the banquet elsewhere in *The Chickadee*.

Welcome New Members

Robert Evans
Middletown

Mary Beth Martin
Beacon Falls

Ria Tyagi
Short Hills, NJ

Andy McGann
New Haven

Martha Rice
Branford

Sheila M Fenton
Rocky Hill

Chris DeFiore
Hamden

Allison E Pratt
New Haven

Bob Olsen
Hamden

Kim Hoffman
Milford

Lise Dondy
New Haven

Outdoor 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 continue to guide all decisions about our schedule. Please check the NHBC website and newsletter for updated information before planning to attend any event.

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. You should also check the Club's website, www.newhavenbirdclub.org, for updated trip information, and watch for emails sent by the Club. *Contact trip leaders directly if you have questions about 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 usually is 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. Volunteers to help at events are always welcome! Please contact Lori Datlow, Education Chair, at lorigatlow@frontier.com.

Date Changes

Birding by Ear Webinar Series – Registration required
Wednesdays, March 22, March 29, and April 5
7–7:45 p.m.

and

Birding by Ear Walk – Participants chosen via drawing
Saturday, April 22

Group 1: 8–9:30 a.m.

Group 2: 10–11:30 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-minute webinars on March 22nd, March 29th, and April 5th each starting at 7 p.m. During each webinar, participants will learn the songs of 10 bird species and the habitats the birds associate with. We will start with some resident birds, then focus on migrants that will be arriving in Connecticut over the course of the webinars. Limit 25 people for the webinar.

Following the webinars, there will be two walks at Bent of the River for 10 people each. Watch for the NHBC email announcement to sign up for the webinar series and to be eligible for the drawing for the walk. The walk meets at Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, 185 East Flat Hill Road, Southbury, CT. Take Exit 14 off of Rte. 84. Go north on Rte. 172, then turn left onto East Flat Hill Road (church on corner). Continue to sanctuary entrance on left.

Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-233-0535 or cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org

Cancelled Due to Weather

The Richard English Memorial Field Trip:
Lighthouse Point Park, Deer Lake Scout Reservation, and
Hammonasset Beach State Park
Saturday, April 1, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We first bird the harbor shore at Lighthouse Point Park for gulls, loons, ducks, and early returning shorebirds. We then proceed to the Richard English Bird Sanctuary at the Deer Lake Scout Reservation in Killingworth. We then proceed to Hammonasset Beach State Park. This is an all-day trip, but you may join us for all or part of it. Check with the trip leader for approximate arrival time at each location. Bring lunch and dress warmly. This trip almost always has a high species count. 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

Date Change

First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center,
Milford
Wednesday, April 12, 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 23, 7:30–10:30 a.m.

We will meet at and explore the Kellogg Environmental Center grounds and then walk over to Osbornedale State Park to see

what we find. Osbornedale Park offers a variety of species in its fields and forest, and around its ponds. It is always a surprise as species are discovered 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. Meet at the Kellogg Environmental Center parking lot at 500 Hawthorne Ave., Derby.

Leader: Maria Stockmal, 203-305-3728 or m.stockmal@snet.net

**East Rock Park with Ranger Dan
Saturday, April 29, 8–11 a.m.**

Join Ranger 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, 203-208-1415 or danielb145@comcast.net

**Introduction to Digitally-Assisted Birding and Walk at
Lighthouse Point Park
Sunday, April 30, 7:30–10 a.m.**

New technologies can help birders get the most out of their time birding. For example, smartphone applications such as Merlin and eBird can help birders identify and log the birds they see and hear. After an orientation to these two apps, we will explore Lighthouse Point Park, an excellent location for early migrants amid the park's diverse habitats. Warblers, thrashers, woodpeckers, ducks, shorebirds, and raptors are possible. Whether you are new to birding, want to accelerate song learning, or have trouble hearing bird calls and high notes, this walk may be a good fit for you. Meet at the public boat launch parking lot in Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven.
Leader: Gail Martino, 203-895-7238 or gmm1227@yahoo.com

**Bent of the River Important Bird Area, Southbury
Sunday, April 30, 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. 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 Rte. 84. Go north on Rte. 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

Date Change

**First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven
Thursday, May 4, 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

Leader Change

**River Road, Kent
Travels Along a Riparian Woodland Corridor
Saturday, May 6, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

River Road in Kent along the Housatonic River 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. 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. We will try to carpool from the Kent train station and bird River Road by car and by foot.
Leader: Steve Broker, 203-747-6843 or stephenpaulbroker@gmail.com

**Big Day Marathon
Sunday, May 7, 6 a.m.**

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

**Hartman Park, Lyme
Wednesday, May 10, 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, I-95 exit 55, or contact the trip leader if you wish to meet at the small parking lot on Gungy Road, East Lyme.
Leader: John Oshlick, 203-584-1955 or john.oshlic@gmail.com

**Sleeping Giant State Park
Saturday, May 13, 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 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 on Mt. Carmel Avenue, Hamden.

Leaders: Jim Sirsch, james.sirsch@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 14, 7 a.m. to 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 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 home, or closcalz@optonline.net

Durham Hotspots
Sunday, May 14, 8 a.m. to noon

We visit several hotspots in the Town of Durham, Middlesex County. Durham Skating Pond (south side of Route 68 & west of Maple Street) is on White's Farm property. Here, we scan the surrounding countryside for vultures, hawks and eagles, woodpeckers, flycatchers, swallows, ravens, sparrows, and blackbirds. Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren, and Swamp Sparrow are target species. A short car ride brings us to the larger portion of Frederick White Farm, where we enjoy views of nesting Bobolinks, Savannah Sparrows, and possibly Eastern Meadowlarks. Read Frank Gallo's excellent description of Durham Meadows in *Birding in Connecticut*, Chapter 35, pages 297-302. We then drive through the Durham Historic District to Route 147, where we check briefly for marsh birds at the high-tension line access to the edge of the Coginchaug River. Our last leg of the trip takes us initially to Lyman Orchards Apple Barrel Store for a brief rest stop (& shop?). From there, it's north on 147/157 to Strickland Road and nearby Peckham Park. At the southeast corner of the park and just behind the ball field is the old raised bed of the ill-fated Meriden, Middletown & Guilford Electric Railway Company (begun in 1909, RIP by 1913). Twenty years ago through the efforts of the Lion's Club, the rail bed was cleared as a walking trail in Middlefield. This quiet gem of a trail through floodplain forest produces ducks, woodpeckers, chickadees, titmice, wrens, nuthatches, creepers, grackles, and in winter, Rusty Blackbirds. Boots advisable. Meet at Durham Skating Pond, south side of Route 68 just west of Maple Avenue, for the start of the trip. Leader: Steve Broker, 203-747-6843 or stephenpaulbroker@gmail.com

Lake Chamberlain, Lake Dawson, and Lake Watrous
Wednesday, May 17, 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 and proceed to trails on Lake Dawson, and possibly

Lake Watrous before returning to Lake Chamberlain. 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; Bill Batsford, 203-494-4325 or william.batsford@yale.edu

Julius M. Hansen Park in North Haven
Saturday, May 20, 8–11 a.m.

Rich meadows, farm fields, forested wetlands, trap rock ridge, and riparian woods hold breeding populations of sparrows and warblers, woodpeckers, hawks, Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, and other field and woodland birds. Other migrating species are possible. We will meet at the parking lot on Patten Road. From exit 12 off Interstate 91 north or south, turn left onto Washington Avenue, then left on Blakeslee Avenue. Follow it to Bassett Road. Go right on Bassett Road 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 will be 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 27, 7 a.m. to noon

Let's keep the tradition going! We've been running a trip here since about 2002 or so. 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 a.m. at 96 Palmer Neck Road, Stonington (Bobolink fields). Leader: Chris Loscalzo, 203-389-6508 home, or closcalz@optonline.net

Whip-poor-will Walk in Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck
Friday, June 2, 8:30–10 p.m.
(Rain Date: Saturday, June 3)

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 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 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@snet.net

Chippens Hill Grassland Birds **Sunday, June 4, 7–10 a.m.**

The Chippens Hill area of Bristol historically has 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 Rd.). Leader: Jack Swatt, 203-592-4686 or jswattbirds@snet.net

First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park **Wednesday, June 7, 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

June Birding at Morris Creek Marshes, East Haven **Wednesday, June 7, 7–11 a.m.**

We bird Ora Avenue, Proto Drive, and the Morris Creek marshes for a diversity of birdlife in the breeding season. This highly developed area in East Haven manages to retain a rich avifauna year-round in spite of being sandwiched between Tweed-New Haven Airport and the East Haven Industrial Site. For many years, the road once known as Ora Avenue and now identified on maps as Proto Drive has served as the heart of Area K for the New Haven Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Many species found on the CBC are likely breeders here half a year later, including ducks, rails, bitterns, hawks, owls, woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos, wrens, thrushes, sparrows, blackbirds, and warblers. Many species with breeding evidence for Connecticut Bird Atlas block 95F have been identified in these grassland, woodland, and marsh habitats. Meet on Proto Drive opposite Town Fair Tire, south of Short Beach Road and a turn to the west off Coe Road.

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

New Haven Summer Bird Count **Saturday–Sunday, June 10–11**

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 and go out for all or part of the day.

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

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.newhavenbirdclub.org

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

Trip Reports

“First” Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park **Trip Report**



Photo by Lori Datlow

New Haven Bird Club's First Wednesday Walk for February was held on Wednesday, February 8 at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison. A total of 43 species included Razorbill, Common Eider and American Bittern. A search for the long-staying Townsend's Solitaire was unsuccessful.

--Greg Hanisek

Rhode Island Coast Trip Report



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

On Saturday, February 25th, twelve intrepid members of the bird club went to our neighboring state to the east for a great day of birding. We met at the commuter lot in Branford off I-95. It was

a chilly 15 degrees or so, but that didn't dampen our spirits. We arrived at our first stop, Beavertail State Park in Jamestown, a little after 8:30 am. We saw lots of great birds there, including an Iceland Gull, as many as 10 Razorbills, and more than 100 Black Scoter and Common Eider. The scoters were making their mournful calls, a sound we never get tired of hearing. We also saw numerous Harlequin Ducks and Great Cormorants there. The drake Harlequin Ducks are truly stunning. After leaving Beavertail, we stopped briefly at a couple of places as we headed to our next destination. At Mackerel Cove Beach, we saw Sanderlings and a few Bufflehead. At the Marsh Meadows Preserve, we saw a Kingfisher and a Mallard/Black Duck hybrid. Our next stop turned out better than we expected. We went to Scarborough State Beach in Narragansett and saw not only the Black-headed Gull that's been there but also Horned Larks and Snow Buntings and two Bald Eagles as they soared over our heads. There were also several dozen Horned Grebes out in the water there. Amazing! We then went to nearby Camp Cronin in Point Judith. We could easily see Block Island from there. Birds of interest at that location included Northern Harrier, a few more Razorbills and Common Goldeneye. As we left there, it started to snow, confirming that we had made a good decision to not go further east to Sachuest Point this year but rather head west, back towards Connecticut. We ended up at the ranger station near the entrance to the Trustum Pond Refuge where we were able to observe the birds visiting the feeders there while staying under the porch roof. We saw several good birds including a cooperative Fox Sparrow and two Hairy Woodpeckers. Our next stop, as the snow fell, was nearby Perry's Mill Pond. We saw a pair of

Wood Ducks, several American Wigeon and Hooded Merganser there. As the snow continued to fall, we decided to head towards our last destination for the day: the Weekapaug Breachway. We drove past the canal, saw a few Common Loons in the water and then continued on to look for birds at a nearby farm on Noyes Neck Road. There, we were treated to looks at several good birds including Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds, Savannah and Field Sparrows and, one of the biggest surprises of the day: an American Pipit! We also saw a large flock of Ring-billed Gulls feeding on a manure pile there. All in all, we saw about 60 species of birds. We all had a great time despite the weather, and we look forward to going back to our neighboring state next year!

--Chris Loscalzo

White Memorial: Birding and Tracking Trip Report

On February 26, eight members of the New Haven Bird Club met at White Memorial for a winter birding and mammal tracking program led by Gail Cameron and Craig Repasz.



Photo by Chris Howe

There was a fresh dusting of snow and temperatures ranging from 22° to 32°F. As we made our way to Bantam Lake, Gail pointed out fox and fisher tracks. Bantam Lake was mostly frozen over with a few acres of open water where large flocks of ducks were concentrated and could be viewed

through telescopes. As we moved through wetlands, we saw fox and bobcat tracks, deer, possible coyote, and otter. We discussed the life cycles of beavers and looked at old signs of their presence. The birding was slow; however, Gail's tracking gave us a lot to learn and think about.

Bird count: Canada Goose (15), Mallard (30), Northern Pintail (4), Ring-necked Duck (120), Bufflehead (5), Hooded Merganser (50), Common Merganser (6), Mourning Dove (5), Merlin (1), Red-bellied Woodpecker (1), Downy Woodpecker (1), Hairy Woodpecker (2), American Crow (3), Common Raven (2), Black-capped Chickadee (7), Tufted Titmouse (6), White-breasted Nuthatch (4), Carolina Wren (1), Purple Finch (3), American Tree Sparrow (1), Dark-eyed Junco (5), White-throated Sparrow (1), Song Sparrow (1), Red-winged Blackbird (11), Northern Cardinal (3).

--Craig Repasz

First Wednesday Trip Report – Stratford Shore

Due to a last minute medical appointment, I was unable to lead this annual field trip on Wednesday, March 1. Luckily, good friend and local birder, Tom Murray, agreed to pinch hit. From

all reports, he did a fine job leading the 16 attendees to several coastal hotspots. After meeting at the Access Road Dunkin, Frash Pond was checked, where a pair of Canvasbacks and other common waterfowl were found. Next a visit to the Birdseye boat ramp netted the usual American Coots plus a surprise-find, an out-of-season Common Yellowthroat.

Next the McKinney NWR produced seven sparrow species including two rare wintering species: a Clay-colored and a White-crowned (Gambel's subspecies). While being present since December, either or both sparrows could be easily missed, so the large group did well to find both! En route to the next stop, some saw an American Kestrel at Sikorsky Airport. Long Beach produced feeding Brant and gorgeous displaying Long-tailed Ducks, as well as flocks of Dunlin and Sanderlings.

The birding group hit pay-dirt once again by getting excellent views of a 2nd-cycle Glaucous Gull and two different Iceland Gulls at the nearby Lordship Seawall. These birds have also been wintering, first discovered here by me back in early December. Surf Scoters were also present on the Sound. Stratford Point, now owned by CT Audubon, is a true coastal gem of a site on the mouth of the Housatonic River. Highlights here were 13 Common Loons, American Wigeons, Gadwall, Red-breasted Mergansers, a male Northern Harrier, 2 Killdeer, and 5 Black-bellied Plovers. Unfortunately the wintering male Eurasian Wigeon could not be found.



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

All in all, it was a great morning of birding. Thanks again to Tom Murray for ably leading the enthusiastic and appreciative group of birders to some Stratford hotspots.

--Frank Mantlik

Edgewood Park Trip Report

We were glad to have postponed because of rain our Edgewood Park, New Haven, field trip from its Saturday date to Sunday, March 12. We had a fun group of about 12 birders for a productive 36 species on a beautiful, rain-free day in the urban park. It's hard to choose the highlights. Perhaps it's the group



Photo by Chris Howe

of 12 Wood Duck together in a side branch of the West River. Beautiful! But that was followed at the pond by a pair of Wood Duck less than 10 yards from our group, allowing terrific photo opportunities. Many in the group might choose the display of the

resident pair of Redwing Hawks demonstrating the size difference between the larger female and smaller (but more colorful) male. Yes, the display included copulation. It was a great day with an enthusiastic group of birders and a promising prelude to the spring season of NHBC field trips.

--Bill Batsford

Mega Bowl VII Results Summary

On Sunday, February 5th, 2023, 31 birders in 15 teams participated in the seventh annual Mega Bowl of Birding in CT. Most of the birders were members of the New Haven Bird Club, although the event was open to birders from all parts of the state. Eight of the teams birded along the coast while the other seven birded inland. The event was postponed from the previous day due to the bitter cold that marked the fourth of February this year. The "Snowy Owlkins," comprised of the father/daughter team of Ken and Ayla Elkins, reported the most species (71) and points (140). They birded in Stratford and Milford, prime birding locations. All the teams did well, and collectively the participants observed 116 species of birds for the day. The 5-point species found were:



Snowy Owlkins
Photo by Laurie Reynolds

Clapper Rail, Eastern Phoebe (found in two different locations), American Pipit and Nashville Warbler. 4-point species that were found included: Snow Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Redhead, Double-crested Cormorant, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, American Woodcock, Razorbill, Iceland Gull, Short-eared Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Pine Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, and Rusty Blackbird. That's a lot of rare and uncommon birds!

Participation in the Mega Bowl results in monetary donations to the birding or environmental organization of the participants' choice. This year, more than \$500 will be donated to local organizations on their behalf. This year, the recipients are: Audubon Connecticut, the Connecticut Audubon Society, Save the Sound, A Place Called Hope, Roaring Brook Nature Center, New London Trees and Tarryville Park.

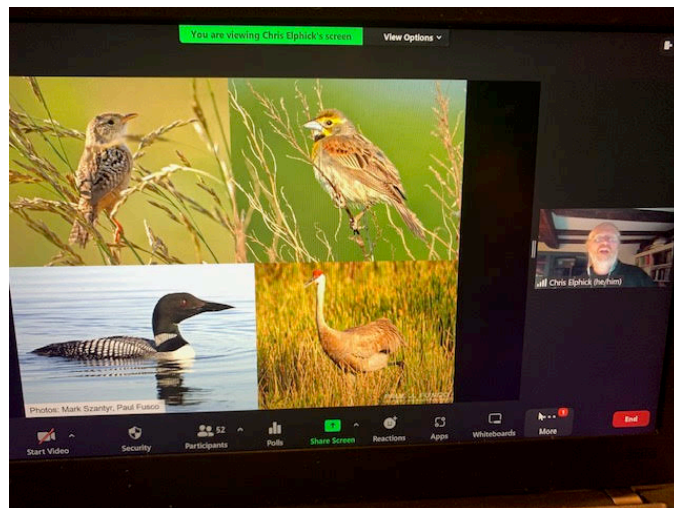
Due to lingering concerns about the pandemic, we elected not to have an in-person meeting this year. We plan on resuming the awards and compilation dinner next year (and hopefully, every year thereafter) as it is a wonderful part of the whole Mega Bowl experience. Mega Bowl VIII will be held on Saturday, February 3rd, 2024. We are hoping for a great level of participation then. So, please consider joining in on the fun!

--Chris Loscalzo,

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

March Indoor Meeting – Chris Elphick

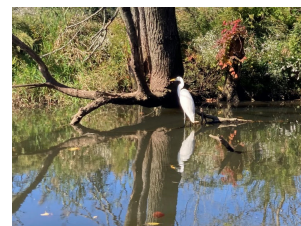
Dr. Chris Elphick, renowned ornithologist and conservation biologist from the University of Connecticut, presented the latest results from the Connecticut Bird Atlas project at the New Haven Bird Club indoor meeting on March 10, 2023. The meeting was held virtually, and 56 people attended the event. During the presentation, Dr Elphick shared the most recent data and insights gathered from the project, which aims to map the distribution and abundance of bird species across the state. The audience was treated to a fascinating report.



--Gail Martino

Imagine!

Marginal Drive Bird Lookout Point in West River Memorial Park



A safe, beautiful, natural destination for people of all ages: West Haven residents, New Haven residents, UNH students, walkers, birders, and nature lovers. Volunteers have been hard at work getting this spot ready, but it still needs your help. Please join the effort!

WHAT? Help prepare the trails and trim vines from the trees. (And pick up trash along Marginal Drive.)

WHEN? First Saturdays in March, April and May, 10 am

Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6

WHERE? Meet at Marginal Drive at Westfield St., West Haven

WHO? West River Watershed Coalition, UNH students, City of West Haven, City of New Haven

INFORMATION? Pruners, loppers, and hand saws provided, but bring your own tools if you have them. Grabbers, buckets and bags will also be provided. Volunteers should wear gloves and bring drinking water. Heavy rain cancels. Kathie Hebert 203 506-5125

NHBC Winter Feeder Report 2022-2023 – 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 these last few years with 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° F to 70° F within days, and it kept up throughout January and all of February. This year we have had long runs of warm weather with short periods of extreme cold weather and no snow. I noticed when recording my data for Blue Jays during this period that I had a few weeks where I did not see any. I then looked at what other surveyors were seeing and found that 5 surveyors during weeks 12 thru 16 did not report any Blue Jays at all. I looked at their data for last year and found that only 1 surveyor did not report Blue Jays for these weeks and the other 4 had reported 4 or fewer, but not every week. White-throated Sparrows also had 3 surveyors not reporting any during weeks 12 thru 16.

Looking at the graphs, most of the species are running below the last two years and we had only 4 of 42 reported on the Uncommon list (normally around 10 or more). It looks like something is going on, but is it the crazy weather or have the birds found other sources of food and are not coming to our feeders?

An occurrence of note: surveyor Jean Adamus of Guilford had a Barred Owl show up in week 16.

From the Common List we had 22 of 22 species. Brown-headed Cowbirds and Common Grackles were seen in small numbers. European Starlings were seen in flocks of 20 to 50 throughout this period. 16 surveyors had Carolina Wrens at their feeders throughout weeks 12 to 16. American Goldfinches were also low these weeks with a slight increase in week 16. (See Graph). Song Sparrows were reported by 13 surveyors.

The Semi-common List had 10 of 12 species reported, but no one reported a Fox Sparrow or Purple Finch. Chipping Sparrow, Northern Mockingbird, Red-tailed Hawk and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were reported each by a different surveyor. Rock Doves, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Wild Turkey were each reported by two different surveyors. Four or more surveyors reported Eastern Bluebird, Northern Flicker, and Red-winged Blackbirds. Male Redwing Blackbirds returned in week 15 in small numbers but in flocks in week 16.

From the Uncommon List we had 4 of 42 species reported. New to the list is Barred Owl as seen by Jean Adamus. Other species seen were Brown Creeper, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-shouldered Hawk. For the 3rd year no Red-breasted Nuthatches or Pine Siskins were reported during these weeks.

From the Waterfowl List Nancy Morand reported 36 to 42 Mallards per week.

From the Animals List 10 of 26 were reported during these five weeks. They were Gray Squirrel, Chipmunk, Feral Cat, Flying Squirrel, Opossum, Rabbit, Raccoon, Red Fox, Red Squirrel, and White-tailed Deer.

The **graphs of 5 Species** are included below for weeks one to sixteen. The red line is 2022-2023.

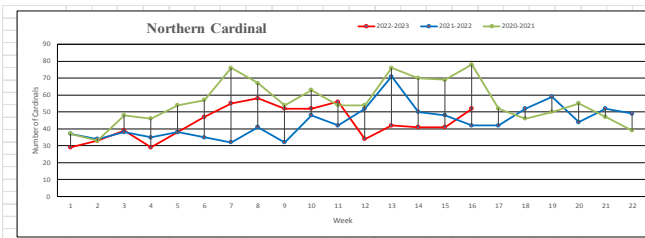
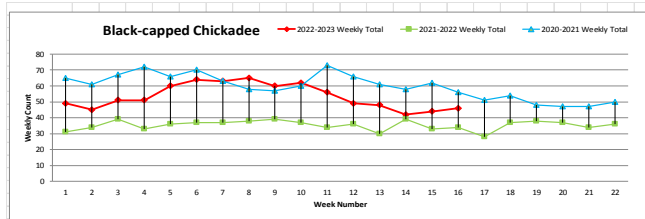
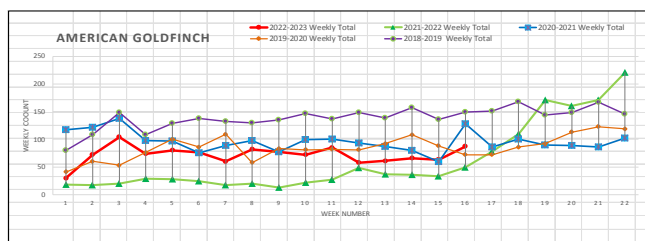
Species Normally Seen All Year Long: American Goldfinch Numbers were just above year 2021-2022, which was the lowest in the last 5 Years. Black-capped Chickadee were above last year but lower than 2021-2022, and Northern Cardinal is running lower than the last two years.

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

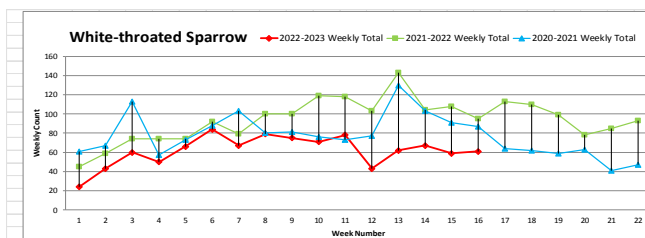
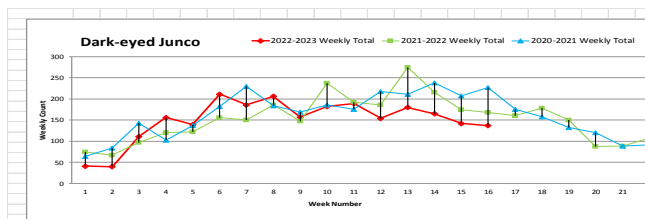
--Pete Vitali

Chairman: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey

Normally Seen all Year Long



Winter Species





New Haven Bird Club Annual Celebration

Thursday, May 11, 2023 6-10 PM

Amarante's Sea Cliff, Grand Ballroom

62 Cove Street, New Haven, CT

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



Jim Zipp

Costa Rica: A Birder's Paradise!



Costa Rica is a birdwatcher's paradise, offering easy access, safety, friendly locals, and a vast array of stunning tropical birds. Jim Zipp and his wife have visited the country nine times in the past 11 years, exploring its popular destinations and spotting a diverse range of birds, including Resplendent Quetzals and hummingbirds. In addition to sharing stunning photos of birds, Jim will share tips on getting around, local cuisine, birding lodges, optional guides, and weather.



Jim Zipp is a seasoned nature photographer whose work has been featured in publications like National Geographic, Time, GEO, and Audubon, and his travels have taken him throughout North America, Mexico, and Central America.

Advance Reservations Required – Deadline May 4th

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 11, 2023 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:

NHBC Conservation Committee Legislative Update

The Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) Environment Committee is having a very busy 2023 first session. Several bills that will impact our bird populations in the state have been introduced. Below is a list of these bills and their current status. It is important that we contact our legislators and encourage them to support legislation that will protect our environment and our birds.

SB 1148 AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN KILLING AND HUNTING OF BLACK BEAR AND PROHIBITING BIRD FEEDERS AND OTHER UNINTENTIONAL AND INTENTIONAL FEEDING OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS. [2023SB-01148-R00-SB.PDF \(ct.gov\)](#)

06Mar2023 the bill had a Public Hearing. There is a provision in the bill that would ban bird feeders across the state because they are construed as “unintentional feeding” of black bears and other nuisance animals. Also, there is a provision to use bright lights as a nuisance animal deterrent.

24Mar2023 the bill was discussed by the Environmental Committee. The minutes from this meeting have not been posted nor has there been an update to the bill posted on the CGA website. One change could be that a warning would be issued to a resident if their bird feeding activities have attracted nuisance animals. Future encounters would then be deemed in violation of the law. The bill passed the Environment Committee.

HB 6813 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEABIRD AND SHOREBIRD PROTECTION PROGRAM. [2023HB-06813-R00-HB.PDF \(ct.gov\)](#)

The act will allow for the establishment of seabird nesting areas to be designated and marked. It would be unlawful for an unauthorized person or pet to enter these shorebird designated areas.

06Mar2023 Public Hearing.

24Mar2023 Passed Environment Committee unanimously. In the process to move to the House floor for a vote.

SB 962 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF CERTAIN RODENTICIDES. [2023SB-00962-R00-SB.PDF \(ct.gov\)](#)

Act would ban the use of anticoagulant rodenticides. These anticoagulants are responsible for owl and hawk deaths throughout the state.

10Mar2023 Passed Environment Committee.

13Mar2023 Filed with Legislative Commissioner’s Off. LCO

22Mar2023 Referred to Office of Legislative Research and Office of Fiscal Analysis

SB 963 AN ACT CONCERNING NEONICOTINOIDS FOR NON AGRICULTURAL USE. [2023SB-00963-R00-SB.PDF \(ct.gov\)](#)

The use of neonic pesticides has been harmful to non-pest insects. These insects are a base for the ecosystems in our state. A collapse of our insect population will have a devastating impact on our birds.

10Mar2023 Passed CGA Environment JF

13Mar2023 Filed with Legislative Commissioner’s Off. LCO

22Mar2023 Referred to Office of Legislative Research and Office of Fiscal Analysis

HB 6484, File # 25 AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN HARVESTING OF HORSESHOE CRABS. [AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN HARVESTING OF HORSESHOE CRABS.](#)

Horseshoe crabs have been harvested in our state to be sold to whelk industry outside of Connecticut. The horseshoe crab harvesting licenses are held by a very small number of individuals. The results of the harvest have brought the horseshoe crab population in the state to the “functionally extinct” status. Our shorebirds that migrate through the state, namely the Red Knot, rely on the horseshoe crab eggs as food during their migration. Without this food source Red Knots face extinction.

07Mar2023 Placed on House Calendar number 41

HB 6480, File #24 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP ON THE RESTORATION OF EEL GRASS. [AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP ON THE RESTORATION OF EEL GRASS.](#)

This working group will find ways to restore eel grass in Connecticut Waters in Long Island Sound. Eel grass communities are crucial to the life cycles of many species in Long Island Sound.

07Mar2023 Placed on House Calendar number 40

HB 6481, File #36 AN ACT CONCERNING THE INTENTIONAL RELEASE OF CERTAIN BALLOONS. (bans the release of balloons in groups of ten or more) [AN ACT CONCERNING THE INTENTIONAL RELEASE OF CERTAIN BALLOONS.](#)

Balloons continue to be a source of litter in Connecticut. The balloons and the mylar strings can cause entanglement and strangulation of our birds and other wildlife.

08Mar2023 Placed on House Calendar Number 47

HB 6607 AN ACT CONCERNING THE NIGHTTIME LIGHTING OF STATE OWNED BUILDINGS AT CERTAIN TIMES FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS. [AN ACT CONCERNING THE NIGHTTIME LIGHTING OF STATE-OWNED BUILDINGS AT CERTAIN TIMES FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS.](#)

The bill would establish the State as a leader and example to protect birds migrating at night through the state.

03Mar2023 Passed Environment Committee JF

07Mar2023 Filed with Legislative Commissioner’s Office LCO

22Mar2023 Moved to House floor.

These bills are vitally important to the well-being of the environment, our birds, and ourselves. State legislators need and welcome comment from the public as the bills make their way through committee and to the floor. We encourage New Haven Bird Club members to contact their legislators and express their opinions. Find your representatives at www.cga.ct.gov. Please be polite and thank them for their work.



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

April 2023

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 about the Club, you can send an email to ask@newhavenbirdclub.org.

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.

The NHBC is also on Instagram as [newhavenbirdclub](https://www.instagram.com/newhavenbirdclub).

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