



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

August 2018

2018 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Saturday, August 11, 8:00 AM **Shorebirds and Terns at Milford Point**

Thursday, August 23, 8:00 AM **Lighthouse Point Park Bird Walk / Prep for Migration Festival**

Saturday August 25, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM **Long Wharf Nature Preserve and Urban Oasis**

Starts Saturday, September 1, Daily, 7:00 AM **Bird Count – Hawk Watch, Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven; Daily September to December**

Wednesday, September 5, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**

Thursday, September 13, 7:00 PM **Jim Zipp - Connecticut Birding Through the Seasons: Watching and Photographing the Ever-changing Birdlife That Surrounds Us Throughout the Year**

Sunday, September 16, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM **Annual Migration Festival, Lighthouse Point Park**

Monday, September 17, 7:30 AM **Yale University Golf Course**

Saturday, September 22, 7:30 AM **Autumn Along Marginal Drive at West River Memorial Park**

Saturday, September 29, 8:00 AM **Edgewood Park, New Haven**

Wednesday, October 3, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven**

Saturday, October 6, 7:30 AM **Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale St. Park**

Thursday, October 11, 7:00 PM **Frank Mantlik - A Passion for Rarities**

Saturday, October 13, 8:00 AM **Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Saturday - Sunday, October 13 - 14 **THE BIG SIT! ®**

Saturday, October 20, 7:30 AM **Lake Chamberlain; Cooper and Calabresi Farms**

Saturday, October 27, 7:30 AM **Branford Supply Ponds, Branford**

Sunday, October 28, 8:00 AM **Cheshire Hotspots**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joiners



I just returned from a trip to Northern Vermont with my son, showing him some of the old swimming holes and secret hiking trails that I would frequent on solo excursions during my youth. When I returned home I had a stack of periodicals from some of the non-profits that I belong to

waiting for me. One magazine was from a new organization I had just joined, The American Chestnut Foundation. The magazine was accompanied by a welcome letter and a new sticker for the car window. It occurred to me that I belong to a large number of these organizations. I am a joiner.

I reflected on my life to explore this trend of joining organizations and clubs. In my youth this may have given me a sense of being part of something bigger, or perhaps then my motivation was to get the decoder ring or some other valuable plastic kitsch. I would fill out member applications that were on the back of breakfast cereal boxes and wait by the mailbox. It took an eternity for my club stuff to arrive. It was cheap plastic; the puzzles were too simple and the membership letter was just a form letter that would call me Buckaroo or Junior Astronaut. I soon realized that I was just a part of a marketing scheme. I developed a healthy sense of skepticism. Groucho Marx's wisdom rings true as I look back, "I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member."

As I got older I lifted my eyes from the back of cereal boxes and looked beyond to the outdoors. I started to join local programs that would not focus on selling me something but would take the town youth out on nature walks in the surrounding hills, meadows and rivers looking at plants and birds. Wanting more, I joined the Boy Scouts when I became of age to get outside for longer periods of time. It was easy to balance my loner-introverted ways and my organization activities. In northern Vermont I had plenty of time and territory.

As an adult I find organizations can fill special needs in my life. They are a way to meet like-minded people in my area. They either travel in a herd or as just a few individuals. Although I like to learn on my own, local organizations make available subject experts. Learning from these people is a pleasure. I also find that organizations build strength in numbers for projects, like building observation blinds, or to be a collective voice to be heard in Hartford or Washington.

I am finding as I travel about Connecticut that the New Haven

New Haven Bird Club Website:
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

(Continued on next page)

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2018-2019

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Craig Repasz	203-230-1697
	crepasz@hotmail.com	
<i>Vice President</i>	DeWitt Allen	860-949-0995
	allendatlow@gmail.com	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Andy Stack	203-804-6081
	ctstacks@optonline.net	
<i>Secretary</i>	Alan Malina	203-248-5754
	Alm5565@msn.com	

BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation Chair</i>	Deborah Johnson	203-430-5554
	deborahleighjohnson@hotmail.com	
<i>Education Chair</i>	Lori Datlow	475-227-2820
	loridatlow@frontier.com	
<i>Indoor Programs</i>	Gail Martino	617-504-7205
	gmm1227@yahoo.com	
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Mike Horn	203-288-1891
	mfhorn@att.net	
<i>Member-at-Large</i>		
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Laurie Reynolds	203-434-2134
	warmstove@hotmail.com	
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford	203-787-1642
	donnabatsford@gmail.com	
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	NHBC Executive Board	
<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Bill Batsford	203-787-1642
	william.batsford@yale.edu	
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Julie Hart	475-331-4679
	julieannhart@gmail.com	
<i>Webmaster</i>	Patrick Leahy	203-393-2427
	ptjleahy@yahoo.com	
<i>Yearbook Editor</i>	Christine Howe	203-389-1175
	clhowe2@yahoo.com	

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	John Triana	203-758-7203
	j triana1@sbcglobal.net	
<i>Birds in Words</i>	Kris Johnson	203-288-3087
	kriswaxwing99@gmail.com	
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo	203-389-6508
	closcalz@optonline.net	
<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo	203-393-0694
<i>Lighthouse Point</i>	rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	
<i>Historian</i>	John Triana	203-758-7203
	j triana1@sbcglobal.net	
<i>Hospitality</i>	Stacy Hanks	203-283-3898
	flybirdhanks@gmail.com	
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo	203-393-0694
	rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali	203-288-0621
	vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	

New Haven Bird Club Website:
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

(President's Message Continued from first page)

Bird Club enjoys a great reputation. We are known to be very busy, something is always happening with us. We also are known to be very friendly and inviting. (After all, our New Member welcome letter addresses people by their name.) An easy group of like-minded individuals, we are easy to join. I have birded with many of you as a part of a larger group on a bird walk or, with some of you, as a pair or a trio. We walk and skulk quietly, focused on birds and saying very little to each other. One of Steven Wright's more serious quotes comes to mind: "The best kind of friend is the kind you sit with, never say a word and walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you ever had."

I see that in the New Haven Bird Club there are a lot of people who also are joiners. I see familiar faces from the Club as members of other clubs that study and support local land trusts and clubs with national thrusts: butterflies and dragonflies, wildflowers, ancient trees, and disappearing bumblebees. Together we can increase our understanding and deepen our love of nature. Together we can help protect and conserve habitat during these threatening times. Together we can be friends of like minds sharing a quiet moment. Come join.

--Craig Repasz

Birds in Words

Join us at "Birds in Words," NHBC's gathering of people who like reading books on their favorite hobby. Since the group began in 2009, we've read 41 books on just about every aspect of birds, birding, birders, nature, and naturalists, and had some lively meetings. Share the fun! We meet about once every six weeks or so (on a Tuesday night) at Whitney Center from 7-9 PM. For details, contact Kris Johnson: kriswaxwing99@gmail.com or 203-288-3087.

We will be discussing *Adventures of a Young Naturalist* by David Attenborough on Tuesday, September 18, 7-9 PM at Whitney Center in the 6th Floor Conference Room.

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be Thursday, August 23 at 6:45 PM at Whitney Center.

Deadline for submissions to the October *Chickadee* is September 28. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at donnabatsford@gmail.com.

Welcome New Members

Robyn Volpini
East Lyme

Carl & Sue Jordan
Hamden

Indoor Programs

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. The social half-hour at meetings begins at 7:00 pm; the meeting and program begin at 7:30 pm. Inclement weather or other emergency may cancel a meeting. Cancellation notices will be sent via the club email and will be posted on the club website, www.newhavenbirdclub.org, and online on ctbirds, <http://www.ctbirding.org/calendar.htm>. Meetings are at Whitney Center, Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. The facility is wheelchair accessible. Meeting is in Whitney Center's South Building, accessed via the main door of the portico that is in view from the parking lot. Turn right down the hallway. Cultural Arts Center is a short distance on the left.

Parking at Whitney Center (WC):

We may park on the upper level of the parking garage at the Whitney Center in any unmarked parking place. We may not park on the lower level of the parking garage. If no parking places are available please drive to the employee parking lot. Follow the driveway past the front entrances of the building. At the stop sign take a right into the employee parking area. There are no entrances at the side or back of the building so please walk around to the front. This area is well lit.

Directions to Whitney Center:

From I-95 North or South: Exit to I-91 North in New Haven. Take Exit 6 (Willow Street). At end of ramp go right onto Willow and proceed on Willow to its end at Whitney Avenue. Turn right onto Whitney; go 1.7 mi. to Treadwell Street and make SHARP left onto Treadwell. Proceed 0.7 mi. on Treadwell; turn left onto Leeder Hill Drive (traffic light). Whitney Center is shortly on the right. Enter SECOND driveway (South Entrance) and take immediate left into raised parking lot (park in upper level *only*), or follow main driveway past front entrances of the building. At stop sign, make a right into employee parking area. Walk from there to the front entrance.

From I-91 South: Take Exit 6 (Willow Street) in. 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 end of ramp (Dixwell Ave./Rte.10). Go about 1 mile to traffic light at Treadwell Street and turn left. Go 0.3 mi. to traffic light (Leeder Hill Drive) and turn right. WC is shortly on the right. Enter SECOND driveway (South Entrance) and take immediate left into raised parking lot (park in upper level *only*), or follow main driveway past front entrances of the building. At stop sign, make a right into employee parking area. Walk from there to the front entrance.

NHBC is offering a Ride Share Program for members who need a ride to the Indoor Programs. If you are in need of a ride to an Indoor Program, please contact Laurie Reynolds by phone at 203-434-2134, or email warmstove@hotmail.com.

Remember to check the Club's website for updated information on all programs: www.newhavenbirdclub.org.

Thursday, September 13 – Jim Zipp

Connecticut Birding Through the Seasons: Watching and Photographing the Ever-changing Birdlife That Surrounds Us Throughout the Year

We'll travel in time through a year in Connecticut and watch our bird life change just as our seasons do. Jim will talk about his photographic techniques and pass on some tips on how to improve your captures. Jim has been photographing birds for over 40 years. Much of that time has been in Connecticut but also includes travels throughout North America as well as visits to Central America. He has had thousands of images published over those years in publications including *National Geographic*, *ABA Birding*, *Birdwatching*, *Wildbird*, and *Time Magazine* in addition to numerous book and calendar projects. When not watching, listening to, or photographing birds, Jim can be found at The Fat Robin bird shop in Hamden where he, his wife Carol, and son Ryan help people enjoy birds more—whether through bird feeders, bird baths, or binoculars and spotting scopes.

Bird Book Tag Sale to Be Held at the November Meeting!

Here's your chance to clean house. Sort through your bird- and nature-related books (kids' books too!) that you can part with. Bring them to the September and/or October meeting. Proceeds from the sale go to the NHBC Conservation Fund.

Thursday, October 11 – Frank Mantlik

A Passion for Rarities

When one has been an avid student of field-birding for a time, one eventually will "discover" a bird rare to their area. Our speaker has found his share of rarities over the years, including several first records for Connecticut. Many birders have caught the "rarity bug," resulting in some miraculous finds in recent years. Frank will discuss methods to predict when and where a rarity will appear, based on past experience, weather forecasts, and migration patterns. Besides discussing local and regional rarities, he will recall his experiences in searching for rare birds elsewhere, including Ross's Gull in Manitoba, Harpy Eagle in Panama, Mistle Thrush in Canada, Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Thailand, and Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Arkansas. Frank Mantlik is well known in Connecticut birding circles. An avid birder and naturalist for over 40 years, he has been active in many bird/nature organizations, including the CT Ornithological Association (past-president, member Avian Records Committee), CT Audubon Society (trip leader, photo exhibits), and The New Haven Bird Club (lectures, trip leader). Also an accomplished photographer with many published credits (*Audubon*, *Birding*, *North American Birds*, *Birdwatcher's Digest*, *The New York Times*), Frank uses his wonderful images to illustrate lectures to various groups.

Outdoor Programs

All levels of birders are invited to all field trips, and every effort is made on all trips to help beginners. If you are new to birding or have any special needs, please be sure to let the leader know at the start of the field trip. More details, if required, and/or updates on these trips will be given at the indoor meetings and in the newsletter. Watch for emails sent by the Club. You can also check the Club's website: <www.newhavenbirdclub.org> for trip information and a Google Map link to the meeting place. 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 encouraged to avoid parking problems at some destinations and to promote conservation of natural resources.

NHBC Conservation and Education Activities

The NHBC routinely works to preserve and restore bird populations and their habitats and to provide opportunities for learning about birds, their habitats, where to see them, and how to help ensure their future. The NHBC provides information and displays at multiple events throughout the year, including Earth Day festivities at Hamden Middle School and at the Lighthouse Point Park Migration Festival in September. NHBC continues to support the Urban Oasis projects of the New Haven Harbor Urban Refuge Partnership. Our work includes restoration and maintenance at Dover Beach on the Quinnipiac River and along the West River at Edgewood Park and West River Memorial Park, along with eBird entries of observations at the Urban Oases.

Shorebirds and Terns at Milford Point Saturday, August 11, 8:00 AM

This will be a trip to study shorebirds and terns, which should be here in concentration now. We will walk out on the sand flats at mid-tide, then see the numbers of birds build as the tide rises. Wear waterproof shoes or sandals, and apply sunscreen. We'll finish by about noon. Meet at the CT Audubon Coastal Center, 1 Milford Point Road, Milford. Leader: Frank Mantlik, 203-984-9410 or mantlik@sbcglobal.net.

Lighthouse Point Park Bird Walk / Prep for Migration Festival Thursday, August 23, 8:00 AM

Join Park Ranger Dan Barvir on a late summer bird walk at Lighthouse Point Park on New Haven Harbor. Then, beginning around 9:30 AM, we'll perform some light trail maintenance and cleanup. This is a great way to enjoy looking at birds and at the same time help preserve their habitat. Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven. Free admission for participants. Leader: Dan Barvir, 203-946-6086 or dbarvir@newhavenct.net.

Long Wharf Nature Preserve and Urban Oasis Saturday August 25, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Our second annual trip to this evolving and ever-improving site in the heart of downtown New Haven. An environmentally focused, family-friendly morning learning about the Urban Oases projects in the New Haven Harbor Watershed. A one-mile walk along the harbor shoreline and three separate ecosystems as the ground rises from sea level. NHBC Conservation Chair joins with Audubon's Bird Conservation Program Associate Genevieve Nuttall. Local artist Zoe Matthiessen shares her Ecocide paintings of birds and other animals in pollution distress. We will enter our bird observations in Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird database and show how it is done. Meet at 9 AM at entrance to the Preserve. Off-street parking available in the lot on Long Wharf Drive across from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park. Leader: Deborah Johnson, 203-430-5554 (talk/text) or deborahleighjohnson@hotmail.com.

Bird Count – Hawk Watch, Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven; Daily September to December Starts Saturday, September 1, Daily, 7:00 AM

Lighthouse Point Park on New Haven Harbor is one of the premier locations in southern New England for observing migrating raptors as well as a wide variety of songbirds. The watch starts daily at 7 AM and continues as long as the hawks keep flying. Stop by anytime. Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven. Coordinator: Steve Mayo, rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net.

First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford Wednesday, September 5, 8:00 AM

Join us as we look for shorebirds and terns at this excellent local birding location. We should also find raptors, waterfowl, long-legged waders, and migrating passerines. Ten or more species of shorebirds are possible, including American Golden Plover. Meet at the CT Audubon Coastal Center, 1 Milford Point Road, Milford. Leader: Milan Bull, 203-610-5097 or mbull@ctaudubon.org.

Annual Migration Festival, Lighthouse Point Park Sunday, September 16, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

This festive event is sponsored by the New Haven Department of Parks, Recreation and Trees; the NHBC; and other fine organizations. There will be hawk watching, bird banding, live raptor demonstrations, bird walks, and more. Chris Loscalzo will lead a walk at 8 AM, Mike Horn will lead a 9:30 AM walk, and Flo McBride will lead a kid's walk at 9:30 AM. Meet at Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven. Leader: Dan Barvir, 203-946-6086 or dbarvir@newhavenct.net.

Yale University Golf Course Monday, September 17, 7:30 AM

The golf course is located on more than 700 acres, with woods and ponds surrounding the course. It's a great place to see birds year-round. We'll be visiting the course when there are no golfers, so we'll be able to walk the cart paths and wooded

trails without being disturbed or disturbing others. We'll be looking for fall migrants such as raptors, warblers, vireos, and sparrows, as well as resident bluebirds and woodpeckers. Meet at the clubhouse parking lot, Yale University Golf Course, 200 Conrad Drive, New Haven. The entrance is at the end of Conrad Drive, which can be reached via Rt. 243 (Fountain Street) or Rt. 122 (Forest Road). Leader: Bill Batsford, 203-787-1642 (home), 203-494-4325 (cell), or william.batsford@yale.edu.

Autumn Along Marginal Drive at West River Memorial Park

Saturday, September 22, 7:30 AM

The West River Memorial Park is a designated Important Bird Area (IBA) and is part of the New Haven Harbor Urban Refuge Partnership. Species counts have increased since the removal of the tide gates at Rt. 1 and the planting of native food-producing shrubs and pollinator plants. Bald Eagles have nested in the area for two years. We will walk along Marginal Drive on the west side of the river, beginning at the parking lot on Rt. 1 near Grasso Blvd. Meet at the parking lot on Rt. 1 just west of Grasso Blvd. Leader: Dennis Riordan of Menunkatuck Audubon; contact person: Deborah Johnson, 203-430-5554 (talk/text) or deborahleighjohnson@hotmail.com.

Edgewood Park, New Haven

Saturday, September 29, 8:00 AM

Edgewood Park and West River Memorial Park make up an Important Bird Area and include a two mile section of the West River. These parks look particularly "hot" on the radar maps for New Haven that show which areas are most used by birds in fall migration. We will see what we can find! The walk is open to birders of all levels, and families are welcome. We will not only see and hear birds, but will also talk about their identification and habits. More advanced birders can enjoy a day out and also provide support and inspiration for newcomers. Meet at the Edgewood Park parking lot off West Rock Avenue, just south of Whalley Avenue, New Haven. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-405-9116 (office), 203-233-0535 (cell), or cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org.

First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven

Wednesday, October 3, 8:00 AM

Join us on a visit to this premier local birding location, renowned for its migrating raptors and passerines. If the weather conditions are favorable, we may see hundreds of hawks in flight over the park. Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven. Leader: Frank Gallo, 203-644-2163 or peeplo@aol.com.

Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale St. Park

Saturday, October 6, 7:30 AM

Here's a chance to visit an outstanding birding spot that boasts a variety of habitats—open fields, woodlands, and ponds. We'll look for fall migrants, including warblers, sparrows, flycatchers, and vireos. Meet at Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale State Park, 500 Hawthorne Avenue, Derby. Leader: Maria Stockmal, 203-305-3728 or m.stockmal@snet.net.

Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison

Saturday, October 13, 8:00 AM

Visit one of our state's best fall birding spots, where the abundance of some migrants and sightings of less common species can make for a truly memorable trip. The walking is easy, all on level ground. Meet outside the park at the new parking lot on Boston Post Road, Madison. *New Directions*: Take Exit 62 off I-95 (the usual Hammonasset exit) and go south. At the end of the connector (traffic light), go left onto Boston Post Rd. The new parking lot is the first right, a short distance away. Leaders: Flo McBride, 203-288-6777 or fmc_b_warbler@yahoo.com; Bill Batsford, 203-787-1642 (home), 203-494-4325 (cell) or william.batsford@yale.edu.

THE BIG SIT! ®

Saturday–Sunday, October 13–14

THE BIG SIT! ®, founded by the NHBC, has become an international event, with birders from all over the world participating. The object is to record as many species of birds as possible in one day from one 17-foot diameter circle. The circles are located at a number of birding hot spots throughout CT. Join other birders in one of the established circles or create your own. You don't have to be a hardcore birder to join in the fun. *Bird Watcher's Digest* runs the event now. For details, go to the *Bird Watcher's Digest* website at www.birdwatchersdigest.com. Contact: John Triana, 203-758-7203 or jtriana1@sbcglobal.net, or www.birdwatchersdigest.com.

Lake Chamberlain; Cooper and Calabresi Farms

Saturday, October 20, 7:30 AM

Join a fall walk to see what can be found at these picturesque locations. Lake Chamberlain, a Regional Water Authority property, has an active bluebird population, many woodpeckers, and a number of waterfowl that visit the lake before heading further south when the lake freezes over. The walk at Lake Chamberlain is relatively easy. After birding the RWA property, we will visit the adjoining Cooper and Calabresi Farms. Forty years ago, the families of Peter Cooper, a noted New Haven environmental lawyer, and Guido Calabresi, a federal judge and past dean of the Yale Law School, purchased a 100-acre farm near Lake Chamberlain. The fields and woods have been maintained, providing habitat for a variety of woodland, edge, and grassland species. We will first bird in the extensive lower areas, then head up the hillside for more birding and spectacular views for miles around. Hiking to the top field may be strenuous; those who decide it may be too difficult can choose to stay by the lake or in the beautiful lower fields. Meet at Lake Chamberlain Regional Water Authority parking area on Sperry Road south of Morris Road, Bethany. Leader: Pat Leahy, 203-393-2427 (home), 203-314-0566 (cell), or ptjleahy@yahoo.com.

Branford Supply Ponds, Branford

Saturday, October 27, 7:30 AM

Visit this first-rate birding spot to look for fall migrants and resident species. The area has varied habitats with woods, shrubby areas, and a powercut. A variety of waterfowl can be found in the ponds. Meet at Branford Supply Ponds parking lot,

Chestnut Street, off Route 1, Branford. Leader: Maria Stockmal, 203-305-3728 or m.stockmal@snet.net.

Cheshire Hotspots

Sunday, October 28, 8:00 AM

We bird several hotspots in the Town of Cheshire, including Boulder Knoll, Broad Brook Reservoir and associated trails, Fresh Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary (Cheshire Land Trust), and the Farmington Canal Lock 12. Boulder Knoll is good for sparrows in fall. Broad Brook Reservoir annually hosts 200-400 Ruddy Ducks, one of the highest concentrations of this diving duck in the state. Fresh Meadows and the Canal Line offer a diversity of bird species through the year. Meet at Boulder Knoll at the kiosk off Boulder Road, Cheshire.

Directions: Drive North on Route 10/Whitney Avenue and enter Cheshire at Old Lane Road (on right). Continue driving north on Route 10 for 0.7 miles, and turn right on Cook Hill Road. Drive 1.0 miles, and turn left on Half Moon Road. Drive 0.4 miles, and turn right on Boulder Road. Drive 0.4 miles (passing Boulder Knoll Montessori School), and turn left into small Parking lot at Boulder Knoll kiosk and power line.

Leaders: Steve Broker, 203-272-5192 (home), 203-747-6843 (cell), or LS.Broker@cox.net; Melissa Baston, 860-995-0656

Field Trip Reports

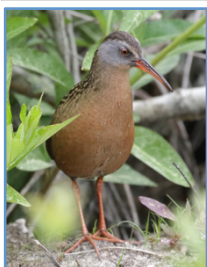
Whip-poor-will Walk Trip Report

On Friday, June 22 the clouds started rolling in at the onset of dusk, but there were enough breaks in the clouds so that a waxing gibbous moon encouraged at least 2 Whip-poor-wills to sing for the 12 participants. It was a life bird for more than half of the group. There were also some Wood Thrush and Veery singing in the evening calm, but unfortunately there were no owls making their presence known this year.

--Jack Swatt

Cape Cod Field Trip Report

Eleven members of NHBC traveled to Outer Cape Cod, Massachusetts for 3-5 days of birding in the towns of Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro, and Provincetown. Steve Broker led the trip from May 31 to June 4. Our home base was the Broker cottage, "At Long Last", on Long Pond Road in Wellfleet. Arrivals at the Cape and departures for home varied among us, and our numbers ranged from 7 to 11 for the 26 sites we visited from Thursday through Monday. Lodging was arranged for Even-Tide Motel in Wellfleet, with several birders staying at "At Long Last". My nephew, Aaron Finale, drove to the Cape from his home in Maine to be our chef, as he did for the 2016 trip. Aaron kept us extremely well fed for all meals. The pattern for each day was to bird morning, afternoon, and evening, with



Virginia Rail
Photo by Chris Howe

breakfast and dinner at cottage kitchen and back deck, and a packed lunch on the road.

We sampled representative Cape habitats - the ponds, harbors, estuaries, salt marshes, ocean, bay, woodlands, critical habitats. Chris Howe was the first to arrive, helped me with some of the trip logistics, and the two of us enjoyed a Thursday late morning walk to nearby

kettle ponds, where we found nesting Tufted Titmice and Baltimore Orioles, also numerous Ovenbirds and Pine Warblers. Following our first dinner and now seven strong, we drove to the Herring River Estuary in South Truro and had a Virginia Rail fly right by us as it moved between sections of the cat-tail marsh. Then, at Old County Road and Ryder Beach road we marveled at an Eastern Whip-poor-will that responded to a tape and landed on the road 15 feet away - multiple dips, tail-spreading, hops forward, and soft vocalizations.

Friday birding included High Head, North Truro (Common Loon fly-bys, Green Heron, adult American Black Duck with 6 fledglings), Beech Forest, Provincetown (Canada Goose with two fledglings, Great Crested Flycatcher and Eastern Kingbird), and a return trip to the Herring River Estuary, where we had great close, extended views of a Virginia Rail. We also visited Pamet River Harbor (Common Eider, nesting Osprey, Willet, and Least Terns), Pilgrim Heights (calling Virginia Rail, kingbirds, catbirds, waxwings, yellowthroat, towhee), and Race Point Beach, Provincetown for pelagic and other species (Great, Sooty, and Manx Shearwaters, Northern Gannets, wonderful views of 5 Parasitic Jaegers harassing terns, and a single Piping Plover). North Truro Burial Ground was visited to see early 18th century slate gravestones with significant iconography.

On Saturday, we focused on Wellfleet hotspots, including several at the Marconi area: coastal heathland restoration (Eastern Bluebird, Field Sparrow), Wireless Station (Brown Thrasher, Prairie Warbler, scoped loons and gannets), and Atlantic White Cedar Swamp (Least Flycatcher, Hermit Thrush, Pine Warbler). The dwarf oak-pine woodlands along Ocean View Drive produced a dozen species. A side trip to the Herring River Estuary behind Mike Parlante's house gave us more close sightings of a Virginia Rail (life bird for some). That evening, a return trip to Ryder Beach Road led to two whip-poor-wills flying directly overhead.

Sunday trips included seeing herons, egrets, Willet, Willow Flycatcher, and numerous foraging Barn Swallows at both Fort Hill and Hemenway Landing, Eastham. Afternoon time at Great Swamp, Truro produced a dramatic close fly-by of Northern Bobwhite, another life bird for some. The "At Long Last" grounds gave us a total of 38 species through Monday morning, including the resident Wild Turkeys, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, nuthatches, wood-warblers, and Baltimore Oriole. All in all, we had a great time.

--Steve Broker

New Haven Bird Club's Lighthouse Park Hawk Watch Seeks Volunteers

The Hawk Watch is seeking volunteers throughout the entire season. We'll cover late August cold front days through early December bitter cold front days. But officially, daily coverage occurs from Labor Day to Thanksgiving. We could really use your help, even for a day or two. Hawk watching is not difficult. If you are assigned a day of less than favorable weather, then you have few hawks and can always leave after a few morning hours of coverage. Of course if it is a great weather day, you will have plenty of help from others!

Please consider becoming part of this New England autumn tradition. Contact Steve Mayo, rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net.

New Haven Summer Bird Count - June 9 and 10, 2018

CBC Coverage areas were A, B, C, D, EM, F, GHI, J, KL, N, O, and P. Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks were 80E, 80F, 81E, 95A, 95B, 96A, 96B, 95C, 95D, 96C, 96D, 95E, 95F, 96E, 96F. A geopolitical challenge, but it was well worth it! Great weather and 45 participants helped make this another successful count. Highlight was a male Green-winged Teal in the Q Marsh, but there were many other notable lingerers and surprises. Some of the misses included Glossy Ibis, Black-billed Cuckoo, Purple Martin, Brown Creeper, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow.

The count circle comprises at least some portion of those CT Bird Atlas Blocks. Confusing yes, but many of us worked diligently to file reports to the Breeding Bird Atlas. It is worth the effort! It's not too late; 2 more breeding seasons remain before the Atlas is completed. Breeding highlights included nesting Yellow-crowned Night Heron and a Bluebird Box survey that yielded 150 young Tree Swallows. Of course there were many others.

Some of the unusual, are bolded. Adults and nestlings or unfledged young are designated as X (+ X).

Brant 6, Canada Goose 402 (+15), Mute Swan 34, Wood Duck 42 (+11), Am Black Duck 1, Mallard 141 (+3), **Green-winged Teal 1**, Wild Turkey 37, Common Loon 3, Double-crested Cormorant 54, Great-Blue Heron 35 (+42), Great Egret 33, Snowy Egret 30, **Least Bittern 1**, Green Heron 9, Black-crowned Night Heron 5, Yellow-crowned Night Heron 1, Black Vulture 9, Turkey Vulture 26, Osprey 88 (+10), Bald Eagle 5 (+5), Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Cooper's Hawk 4, Red-shouldered Hawk 11, **Broad-winged Hawk 1**, Red-tailed Hawk 14, Clapper Rail 8, Rail sp 1, American Oystercatcher 5, Piping Plover 8 (+6), Killdeer 19, Spotted Sandpiper 1, Greater Yellowlegs 3, Willet 5, Ruddy Turnstone 6, **Red Knot 4**, Dunlin 1, Semipalmated Sandpiper 43, White-rumped Sandpiper 1, Ring-billed Gull 55, Herring Gull 188, Great Black-backed Gull 15, gull sp 24, Common Tern 2, Least Tern 24, Rock Pigeon 61, Mourning Dove 259, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 5, Great Horned Owl 1, Barred Owl 3, Screech Owl CP, Common Nighthawk 1, Chimney Swift 81, RT Hummingbird 10, Belted Kingfisher 2, Red-Bellied Woodpecker 76 (+3), Downy Woodpecker 73 (+3), Hairy Woodpecker 21, Northern Flicker 62, Pileated Woodpecker 11, Peregrine Falcon 4, Monk Parakeet 4, Eastern Wood-Pewee 95, Willow Flycatcher 32, **Least Flycatcher 1**, E Phoebe 19, Great Crested Flycatcher 47, E Kingbird 33, **White-eyed Vireo 1**, Yellow-Throated Vireo 9, Warbling Vireo 115, Red-eyed Vireo 134, Blue Jay 184, American Crow 142, Fish Crow 38, crow sp. 11, Com Raven 8, Tree Swallow 120 (+150), N Rough-winged Swallow 71, Bank Swallow 11, Barn Swallow 248, Black-capped Chickadee 79 (+4), Tufted Titmouse 121, White-breasted Nuthatch 46 (+4), Carolina Wren 41, House Wren 110, Winter Wren 1, Marsh Wren 47, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 2, E Bluebird 17 (+5), Veery 16, **Hermit Thrush 1**, Wood Thrush 71, Am Robin 982 (+3), Gray Catbird 256, N Mockingbird 71 (+4), European Starling 721 (+5), Cedar Waxwing 135, Ovenbird 80, Worm-eating Warbler 12, **Northern Waterthrush 1**, Louisiana Waterthrush 7, Blue-

winged Warbler 27, Black and white Warbler 22, Common Yellowthroat 64, American Redstart 7, Yellow Warbler 159, Pine Warbler 28, Prairie Warbler 16, Black-throated Green Warbler 1, Eastern Towhee 36, Chipping Sparrow 101, Field Sparrow 6, Seaside Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 255, Scarlet Tanager 42, No. Cardinal 212 (+4), Rose Breasted Grosbeak 31 (+1), Indigo Bunting 34, **Bobolink 2**, Red-winged Blackbird 673, Com Grackle 500 (+5), Brown-headed Cowbird 82 (+3), Orchard Oriole 13, Baltimore Oriole 108, House Finch 89, Am Goldfinch 282, House Sparrow 388.

For additional information including totals for all SBCs, refer to the COA's *Connecticut Warbler*.

-- Steve Mayo

New Haven Bird Club Supports Urban Oasis Habitats in New Haven

On June 29 Members of the New Haven Bird Club Board met with Joel Tolman of Common Ground High School and Colleen Murphy-Dunning of Urban Resource Initiative (URI) to present a donation to support Green Jobs Corp in their work in the New Haven Urban Oasis Cherry Ann and Beaver Pond sites.

In the past two years NHBC has donated \$1,500 each year to support a teen crew leader all summer in their work throughout New Haven to maintain Urban Oasis and School Yard Habitats. This work included planting bird friendly plants, pulling invasive species and watering. This year the funding was not available for the teen work force. The NHBC Board opted to donate the same amount to the Green Jobs Corp to perform similar work for one week that would focus on Cherry Ann and Beaver Ponds Park Urban Oasis.

Colleen Murphy-Dunning of URI showed NHBC Board members how through community involvement Cherry Ann was transformed from a dumping ground full of invasives into a community park giving a safe place for children to play. The park also hosts an Urban Oasis site of native plantings to support pollinators and birds.

The NHBC Board then went to Beaver Ponds Urban Oasis with Joel Tolman and Nan Bartow of Friends of Beaver Pond Park to present the donation and witnessed the Teen crew digging up invasive multiflora rose and planting more perennials and shrubs.



Craig Repasz and Joel Tolman
Photo by DeWitt Allen

New Haven Bird Club has participated in bird census at Beaver Ponds Park and West River Urban Oasis to measure the impact that these Oases have on bird populations migrating through New Haven that will use these sites.

--Craig Repasz



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

Newsletter August 2018

NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

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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 contact the Membership Chair, Laurie Reynolds: 203-434-2134 or warmstove@hotmail.com.

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

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.nhbc@gmail.com.

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

CTBirds is an open discussion email list provided by the Connecticut Ornithological Association (COA) to discuss birds and birding in the state. To subscribe, go to: lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds_lists.ctbirding.org