



# THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

August 2021

## 2021 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Saturday, August 7, 7:30–11 a.m. **Shorebirds and Terns at Milford Point**

Wednesday, September 1, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**

Starts Wednesday, September 1, 7 a.m. (Daily, September to December) **Bird Count – Hawk Watch, Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven**

Thursday, September 9, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual meeting) **Dr. Carla Dove – Forensic Ornithology: When Birds Collide – Examining Feather Clues to Solve Birdstrike Mysteries**

Saturday, September 11, 8–11 a.m. **Great Meadows Unit, Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge**

Saturday, September 25, 8–11 a.m. **Edgewood Park, New Haven**

Saturday, October 2 – Group 1: 8–9:30 a.m.; Group 2: 9:30–11:00 a.m. **Fresh Meadows, Cheshire Land Trust**  
*Pre-registration is required.*

Wednesday, October 6, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven**

Saturday, October 9, 8–11 a.m. **Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Saturday–Sunday, October 9–10 **THE BIG SIT!®**

Thursday, October 14, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual meeting) **Dr. Holger Klinck – BirdNet**

Saturday, October 16, 7:45–11 a.m. **Fall Birds and Foliage along the West River**

Sunday, October 24, 8 a.m. to noon **Cheshire Hotspots**

Saturday, October 30, 8–11 a.m. **Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve; joint trip with Gather New Haven**

Sunday October 31, 7:30–10:30 a.m. **Branford Supply Ponds**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As August and September approach, the New Haven Bird Club's 2021 - 2022 year is about to start. Our Yearbook is at the printer's as I write and should be reaching you soon, if not already.

This year's schedule of walks and membership meetings has been posted on our website, [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org). There are

almost fifty walks and other events in old favorite spots, along with some exciting new ones. We look forward to resuming our traditional policy of opening the walks to everyone who wants to come, without the necessity of registering in advance or limiting the number of participants.

An expert group of presenters is lined up and ready to go for the monthly membership meetings. Please note, though, that the meetings from September through December will be virtual and online through the Club's Zoom account.

We're hoping meetings from January onward can take place in person. The state of the Covid pandemic and the policies of our hosts at the Whitney Center at that time will largely determine our readiness to resume, however. I should also mention that several club members who have had difficulty attending our in-person meetings have communicated their wish that we continue our virtual online meetings. It may be possible to do both – hold the meeting in person for those who can attend, while transmitting it virtually at the same time. We'll be looking into the possibilities.

The Covid pandemic has taught us all many lessons over the last year and a half. One is that the pandemic and our state of knowledge about it are always changing, and that we need to be flexible in order to meet the changes.

Researchers learned a great deal about the virus and its routes of transmission in that time, and their safety recommendations changed numerous times as their understanding has changed. The situation is in flux again as we learn more about the Delta variant and the effectiveness of vaccination in various contexts. We'll need to be alert to future developments.

A second lesson, though – and a very welcome one – is that NHBC members are excellent in observing safety recommendations. With your great cooperation, we conducted our 2020 - 2021 schedule of bird walks safely and with a minimum of fuss – even if we all discovered the discomfort of wearing masks for three hours or more and the annoyance of glasses and binoculars constantly fogging up above the masks.

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

(Continued on next page)

## NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2021-2022

### OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	DeWitt Allen allendatlow@gmail.com	860-949-0995
<i>Vice President</i>	Christine Howe clhowe2@yahoo.com	203-389-1175
<i>Treasurer</i>	Andy Stack ctstacks@optonline.net	203-804-6081
<i>Secretary</i>	Mike Ferrari mike.ferrari@mac.com	203-435-5712

### BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation Chair</i>	Deborah Johnson deborahleighjohnson@hotmail.com	203-430-5554
<i>Education Chair</i>	Lori Datlow loridatlow@frontier.com	475-227-2820
<i>Indoor Programs</i>	Gail Martino gmm1227@yahoo.com	617-504-7205
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Albert Laguna albert.laguna@gmail.com	201-401-2684
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Vanessa Mickan vmickan@gmail.com	203-275-5987
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Laurie Reynolds warmstove@hotmail.com	203-434-2134
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford donnabatsford@gmail.com	203-787-1642
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<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com	203-230-1697
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Emmeline Kaiser emkaiser03@gmail.com	225-368-7273
<i>Webmaster</i>	Patrick Leahy ptjleahy@yahoo.com	203-393-2427
<i>Yearbook Editor</i>	Christine Howe clhowe2@yahoo.com	203-389-1175

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com	203-230-1697
<i>Birds in Words</i>	Kris Johnson kriswaxwing99@gmail.com	203-288-3087
<i>Book Group</i>		
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net	203-389-6508
<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo scmayo999@gmail.com	203-551-1707
<i>Lighthouse Point</i>		
<i>Historian</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203-758-7203
<i>Hospitality</i>	Stacy Hanks flybirdhanks@gmail.com	203-283-3898
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo scmayo999@gmail.com	203-551-1707
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali vitgoo39@gmail.com	203-288-0621

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

*(President's Message Continued from first page)*

I'm sure there was plenty of cursing under our breath as, suddenly, it became impossible to see that warbler through the fog.

I'm sure I join you all in fervently hoping we can get back into the field in numbers and maskless, as right now it appears we can.

So, with that said, I hope that you, your families, and your friends are all in good health. I hope to see you on one or more of those walks. Be well and have fun.

--DeWitt Allen

## Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be August 26.

Deadline for submissions to the October *Chickadee* is September 24. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at [donnabatsford@gmail.com](mailto:donnabatsford@gmail.com).

If you are not receiving email notifications, contact us at [membership@Newhavenbirdclub.org](mailto:membership@Newhavenbirdclub.org) to receive an invitation to join this group. Add [nhbirdclub@gmail.com](mailto:nhbirdclub@gmail.com) to your contact list to ensure emails arrive in your inbox.

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

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

## Membership Renewals

Thanks to everyone who renewed their membership for the 2021-2022 membership year. If you have not yet renewed, please use the "become a member or renew" link that is posted under "join" on our website homepage. If you are unsure of your status, you can email [membership@newhavenbirdclub.org](mailto:membership@newhavenbirdclub.org).

## Welcome New Members

Josephine Marchetti  
Guilford

Neal Cone  
Guilford

Samuel Flake  
East Haven

Janet Anderson-Ray  
Seymour

Deirdra E Wallin  
Brookfield

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## Indoor Programs

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

This year, our September, October, November, and December meetings will be held virtually on Zoom. Virtual meetings begin at 7 p.m. Information and instructions for joining virtual meetings are emailed to members who have signed up for the Club email list; to sign up, contact [membership@newhavenbirdclub.org](mailto:membership@newhavenbirdclub.org). We hope to resume in-person meetings in January 2022. Our expectation is that meetings will resume at Whitney Center's Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden CT, as in previous years. However, all plans are tentative at this time.

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

**"Birds in Words" Book Group** – 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 many 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). Birds in Words will resume meeting when Whitney Center re-opens to outside groups; hopefully this will be in 2022. For current details contact Kris Johnson: [kriswaxwing99@gmail.com](mailto:kriswaxwing99@gmail.com) or 203-288-3087.

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**Thursday, September 9 – Dr. Carla Dove**  
**Forensic Ornithology: When Birds Collide – Examining Feather Clues to Solve Birdstrike Mysteries**  
**Virtual meeting**

Each year bird-aircraft collisions (birdstrikes) cause millions of dollars in damage to both civil and military aviation. The Smithsonian's Feather Identification Lab identifies over 10,000 birdstrike cases annually using microscopy, DNA, and the vast research collections housed at the National Museum of Natural History. Knowing the species of birds that cause damage is a fundamental step in birdstrike prevention and allows airfield managers to implement habitat modifications to keep birds and aircraft apart and allows engineers to design safer aircraft. This presentation will describe methods used in the feather

identification process, other research, and applied uses of this skill.

**Thursday, October 14 – Dr. Holger Klinck**  
**BirdNet**  
**Virtual meeting**

Dr. Klinck serves as Director for the Center for Conservation Bioacoustics and is a Faculty Fellow with the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future at Cornell University. His research focuses on the development and application of tools for monitoring of terrestrial and marine ecosystems. One of his goals is to enable researchers around the globe to acoustically monitor habitats and wildlife at large scale. He is also studying the impact of noise on the behavior of birds and animals. He will speak about his latest projects.

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## Tick Talk

Birders love nothing more than exploring woods and fields searching for birds. During these adventures, we also observe other wildlife. I am writing this to share my story of one critter that went unnoticed: a Blacklegged (Deer) Tick.

In late June while visiting my daughter in Pennsylvania, I had a sudden onset of fever, chills, headache, extreme fatigue, cough, and nausea/vomiting. Was it food poisoning? Bacterial contamination from bird feeders? Salmonella from fresh vegetables? Breakthrough Covid? After a negative rapid Covid test and 48 hours of unrelenting high fever, my daughter took me to the ER at the hospital where she works. Routine blood work was performed, a chest x-ray taken, and I was tested again for Covid along with the flu. Due to the severity of my symptoms and abnormal test results, I was admitted to the hospital. A few hours later, an infectious disease doctor informed me that based on my symptoms, blood test results, time of year, and the fact that I live in a state known to have a high tick population, he believed that I had Anaplasmosis - a bacterial tickborne disease. Blood was drawn again to test for this, as well as several other tick-related diseases. Doxycycline, an antibiotic, was started. My symptoms and lab abnormalities persisted longer than expected and several other tests/scans were performed. Fortunately, all tests were negative except for Anaplasmosis. After 5 days of antibiotics, my symptoms and

lab tests had improved enough that I was discharged with a prescription to continue doxycycline.

Untreated Anaplasmosis, as with other tickborne illnesses, can have devastating consequences. If you experience similar symptoms, see a physician immediately and ensure that appropriate blood tests are run in addition to diagnostic testing. The CDC website notes that Anaplasmosis symptoms generally appear 5-14 days after the bite of an infected tick. Routine blood tests such as a complete blood cell count and a chemistry panel can help with the diagnosis. My lab results from testing in the ER revealed a low white blood cell count, a low platelet count, and elevated liver enzymes. The definitive Anaplasmosis test result took 4 days.

It has been three weeks since discharge. I am happy to report that I am feeling well, and my recent blood work was within normal limits. As a result of this experience, I will certainly increase my use of tick-prevention and detection methods. Don't be surprised if at the end of a club walk, I remind fellow birders to "CHECK FOR TICKS"!!

The Essex Library has posted a talk on ticks by Dr. Kirby Stafford, Chief Entomologist of the CT Ag Station at <https://youtu.be/B15mrVDP8aY>.

--Laurie Reynolds

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## 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 ending times of walks are approximate.

More details, if required, and/or updates on these trips will be given at the indoor meetings and in the newsletter. You should also check the Club's website, [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://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, their habitats, 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 Chairperson also organizes the Club's representation at various public events throughout the year, such as the Lighthouse Point Migration Festival and local Earth Day celebrations. Volunteers to help at events are always welcome! Please contact Lori Datlow, Education Chair, at [lorldatlow@frontier.com](mailto:lorldatlow@frontier.com).

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#### **Shorebirds and Terns at Milford Point Saturday, August 7, 7:30-11 a.m.**

We'll walk out on the sandbar at near high tide to see the variety of shorebirds and terns, which will begin feeding as the tide falls. We'll also check the Coastal Center grounds for songbirds. Beach walking is involved. Meet at the Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center, 1 Milford Point Road, Milford. Leader: Frank Mantlik, 203-984-9410 or [mantlik@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mantlik@sbcglobal.net)

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

##### **Wednesday, September 1, 8-11 a.m.**

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. Some beach walking. Small distance. Meet at the Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center, 1 Milford Point Road, Milford.

Leader: Milan Bull, 203-610-5097 or [mbull@ctaudubon.org](mailto:mbull@ctaudubon.org)

#### **Bird Count – Hawk Watch, Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven**

##### **Daily, September to December**

##### **Starts Wednesday, September 1, 7 a.m.**

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 a.m. 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, 203-551-1707, [scmayo999@gmail.com](mailto:scmayo999@gmail.com)

#### **Great Meadows Unit, Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge**

##### **Saturday, September 11, 8-11 a.m.**

The salt marshes of Connecticut express muted hues of gold and russet in autumn. These colors are the backdrop for the early fall migration. Come visit one of the state's largest salt marshes to observe Palm Warblers, wading birds, shorebirds, migrating sparrows and swallows, Merlins and Northern Harriers. Leaders Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Connecticut, and Kris Vagos, wildlife biologist for the Stewart B. McKinney NWR, will discuss salt marsh ecology and the large marsh restoration project that could further enrich and expand saltmarsh habitat at Great Meadows. Meet in the parking lot on Long Beach Blvd, Stratford.

Contacts: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-233-0535 or [cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org](mailto:cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org); Craig Repasz 203-745-6683 or [crepasz@hotmail.com](mailto:crepasz@hotmail.com)

#### **Edgewood Park, New Haven**

##### **Saturday, September 25, 8-11 a.m.**

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. The walking is easy and flat and includes one dirt path through a wooded area. Total distance is approximately 2.5 miles. Meet at the Edgewood Park parking lot off West Rock Avenue near the tennis courts, just south of

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Whalley Avenue, New Haven.  
Leader: Bill Batsford, 203-494-4325 or  
william.batsford@yale.edu

### **Fresh Meadows, Cheshire Land Trust**

**Saturday, October 2**

**Group 1: 8–9:30 a.m.**

**Group 2: 9:30–11:00 a.m.**

Cheshire Land Trust's Fresh Meadows Preserve includes a variety of habitats that appeal to a wide variety of bird species looking for a place to rest and refuel on their southbound migration. With conifer groves, deciduous woodlands, and meadows, all located along the Mill River, it's worth a visit. Expect a 1-2 mile walk on mostly level ground. Do wear muck boots if it has been a rainy fall. We will have two groups of 10 people each. Pre-registration is required; watch for the NHBC email announcement. Park on Cook Hill Road or Corliss Lane. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-233-0535 or cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org

### **First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven Wednesday, October 6, 8–11 a.m.**

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

### **Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

**Saturday, October 9, 8–11 a.m.**

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 parking lot on Boston Post Road. Directions: Take Exit 62 off I-95. At the end of the connector (traffic light), go left onto Boston Post Road. The parking lot is the first right, a short distance away. Leader: Bill Batsford, 203-494-4325 or william.batsford@yale.edu

### **THE BIG SIT!®**

**Saturday–Sunday, October 9-10**

THE BIG SIT!®, established 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 a 17-foot diameter circle. There are local circles at a number of birding hot spots throughout Connecticut. 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. For details, visit [www.thebigsit.org](http://www.thebigsit.org). Coordinator: Craig Repasz, 203-745-6683 or crepasz@hotmail.com

### **Fall Birds and Foliage along the West River**

**Saturday, October 16, 7:45–11 a.m.**

Join a fall walk to see what can be found at these picturesque locations. The group will explore trails at Lake Bethany, then proceed to properties not open to the public, Lake Watrous and Lake Dawson. Fall migrants should be working their way through the area and the scenery will be breathtaking. Walking is not strenuous and is on well-maintained trails. Meet at Lake

Bethany Regional Water Authority parking area on Hatfield Hill Road, Bethany.

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

### **Cheshire Hotspots**

**Sunday, October 24, 8 a.m. to noon**

We bird several hotspots in the Town of Cheshire, including Broad Brook Reservoir, Boulder Knoll, and Fresh Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary (Cheshire Land Trust). Broad Brook Reservoir annually hosts 200-400 Ruddy Ducks in fall, one of the highest concentrations of this diving duck in the state. Boulder Knoll is good for sparrows at this time of year. Fresh Meadows offers a diversity of bird species through the year. Broad Brook Reservoir - level walking (100 yards) on leaf-covered paved road; Boulder Knoll - moderate walking (300 yards) on gravel road with some gradual slopes to navigate; Fresh Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary - level walking (500 yards) with water-resistant boots recommended. Meet at the Route 68 access to Broad Brook Reservoir, north side of the road. Parking is available at a safe pullout opposite the water company gate in the lowest section of Route 68. Look for our cars.

Leaders: Steve Broker, 203-747-6843 or stephenpaulbroker@gmail.com; Melissa Baston 860-995-0656 or mbaston@gmail.com

### **Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve; joint trip with Gather New Haven**

**Saturday, October 30, 8–11 a.m.**

Fargeorge Preserve is always full of surprises. We have had everything from woodcock to eagles to Snow Geese, lots of fall migrants, wintering ducks, and more. It is a varied habitat with excellent view of the lower Quinnipiac River. Walking is on flat surfaces. Go South on Quinnipiac Avenue from Rt. 80. Make a right just past the railroad overpass. Go through the open gate onto the property.

Leader: Mike Horn, 203-288-1891 or mfhorn@att.net

### **Branford Supply Ponds**

**Sunday October 31, 7:30–10:30 a.m.**

This is a good time to look for late spring migrants and early winter migrants. There can be quite a mix seeing Baltimore Oriole, Pine Warbler, American Coot, Common Raven, Winter Wren, Fox Sparrow, and Red Shouldered Hawk. The Supply Ponds boast two generous ponds, a forest area, and a power-line cut. The forest has been damaged by severe storms in 2020 and tops of trees are gone. There is much dead wood on the ground and the ground is receiving more sunlight. The dispersal of birds in the fall has yet to be determined. Meet at the larger gravel parking lot on Chestnut Street off Rte. 1 in Branford.

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

### **BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

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

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

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## Lighthouse Point Park Hawk Watch

### The 2020 Lighthouse Point Park Season

Lighthouse Point Park (Lighthouse) is a spectacular place to witness the autumn migration of diurnal raptors and other birds. Cold fronts as early as July can produce southbound passerines. The pandemic brought a resurgence of birding and bird photography, and new visitors were not disappointed. There were plenty of birds at Lighthouse in August, including Eastern Kingbirds and many other neotropical migrants, terns building over the New Haven Harbor, and the first waves of blackbirds. A few hawks were moving; 73 hawks were tallied over 35 count hours. On August 30 for example, Osprey were observed all over the Park and the New Haven Harbor. Of these, 27 were counted as migrants.

The migration floodgates opened at the beginning of September. A daily average of 18 Osprey was roughly consistent with previous September counts. Sharp-shinned Hawks are also a September staple, and the 796 total was a nice up-tick from last year's low September totals. For the seventh consecutive year, there was no real significant Broad-winged Hawk flight. But Lighthouse is known for lingering "Broadies" seen well and low over the Park, especially when they are long-gone from the inland sites. There were 126 for September and 190 for the year. The highlight of the month included a frontal passage September 17-20, which brought hundreds of hawks over Lighthouse each day! September is also well known for hummingbirds, and dozens were seen zipping past the hawk watch picnic table.

Early to mid-October is magical at Lighthouse. Light, steady WNW winds brought 11 species and 868 individual raptors on October 8. They continued to fly over on favorable weather, including another 699 (187 Cooper's Hawks) on October 11. In addition to hawks, Blue Jays poured through, as well as late migrants and Lighthouse Specialties such as Rusty Blackbird and Dickcissel. There was another big push on October 17 with 563 hawks tallied on moderate NW winds. The birding and photography were excellent that day! Another frontal passage on October 25 produced 504 hawks and 3 Sandhill Cranes. The end of October brought fewer migrant hawks, but the Lighthouse hosted Cooper's Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Merlin and Peregrine Falcons, through November. The last day of the month was clear with NE winds. A Golden Eagle was heading West from Ecology Park, Branford, and moments later, it passed right over Lighthouse just as counter Dana Campbell got the call. Hundreds of Eastern Bluebirds and hundreds of other passerine migrants were seen that day. The morning flight is impressive at Lighthouse.

Historically, early November could provide good numbers of migrating hawks, especially buteos. November 3 brought overcast skies with broken cloud cover and sun. It was another day for the photographers. There was an impressive in-the-park show by Bald Eagles, Osprey, "Red-Shoulders and Red-Tails," Merlin and this season's resident Peregrine(s). Also, another 207 migrating hawks were tallied that day. Lighthouse is known for morning flights of icterids. An estimated 100,000 to

200,000 Common Grackle flew over on November 8, along with our last Osprey. A Cave Swallow made its almost annual appearance on November 18. Later in the month, Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finch and other winter irruptive birds, were seen over the park.

There is some coverage in December, as there could be a buteo flight (dress warmly!), and no one wants the season to ever end. A total of 39 hawks were tallied during 11 hours of effort. Those who watch the migrants at Lighthouse can't wait for the next autumn season.

Totals for 2020 included: Black Vulture 43, Turkey Vulture 524, Osprey 932, Bald Eagle 255, Sharp-shinned Hawk 2321, Cooper's Hawk 1127, Red-shouldered Hawk 209, Broad-winged Hawk 190, Red-tailed 321, Golden Eagle 2, American Kestrel 963, Merlin 275. Peregrine Falcon 139, unid. Accipiter 225, unid. Buteo 77, unid. Falcon 20, unid. Raptor 66.

Additional data including daily, monthly and seasonal summary reports, can be found at the Hawk Migration of North America website, [hawkcount.org](http://hawkcount.org).

### Hawk Watch Volunteer Counters Needed

The Lighthouse Point Park Hawk Watch in New Haven is one of the most important hawk migration sites in the eastern US -- and New Haven Bird Club members have been counting hawks there for almost 50 years!

This year Lighthouse Hawk Watch has an urgent need for volunteer counters. Please consider committing to enjoying a few days of hawk watching this Fall, meeting visitors from throughout Connecticut and beyond, and becoming a contributor to the understanding of migration at this famous site.

The count runs from Labor Day through Thanksgiving. Days needing coverage include Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. The day typically starts at 7 am but often significant numbers of hawks aren't observed until later in the morning. The watch ends when the hawks stop flying.

There is no typical day; coverage may last for 2-10 hours. But flights are so weather-dependent that it is easy to estimate when the day's count effort is sufficient. Counters are asked to commit to counting on a specific day of the week but obviously do not have to travel to Lighthouse on days with unfavorable weather, such as rain or fog. Counters record total hawks seen passing each hour, and also note some basic information about hourly weather, wind, and visibility.

This information is easy to gather. It's provided to the site compiler who immediately uploads it to a popular, national website called HawkCount. You do not have to be an expert at hawk identification to be able to count. There are often excellent birders present who can assist, especially on days with favorable weather. There can be an amazing migration of other birds as well.

If you are interested, please call or text Steve Mayo at 203-551-1707 or send an email to [scmayo999@gmail.com](mailto:scmayo999@gmail.com).

--Steve Mayo

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## Winter Feeder Survey 2021 - 2022



I want to welcome all members and non-members to the 2021–2022 Winter Feeder Survey.

Since we are still in a quasi-Covid-19 Pandemic I know that a great portion of our membership will not be going on walks, or

trips and so you will be looking out your window and checking to see what species are at your feeder. Why not make it a part of our own New Haven Bird Club Winter Feeder Survey? Our survey is not affiliated with any national survey and was started years ago for our Club members who did not want to do any of the national surveys at that time. You can still do the national surveys and ours also. I have been doing the compilation and reports for the last 10 years. Usually, we have about 15 to 25 members and non-members a year. If you have friends who are not members of the NHBC they can participate since we are open to the public.

We had good participation last year and I hope to see more members involved this year. In a nutshell, all that you must do is record the largest number of birds of a species that you see at one sighting at your bird feeders during one day of the week and report that number to me. You do not have to do it every day or at the same time of day, but at least one day during the week or weekend. Anytime you look out at your birdfeeders, just record the number of birds of a species that you see.

This year I am looking for a few more participants since I have been informed by a few of my long-time surveyors that they are moving and will not be able to participate.

There will be 2 Sessions this year due the increasing presence of Black Bears and their taking down of feeders. The First Session will start on Monday, November 1 and finish on Sunday, April 3, 2022. This is for those who have not had any reports of bears in their area; the session is 22 weeks long. The Second Session will start on Monday, December 6, and end on Sunday, March 6, 2022. This is for those who fear bears attacking their feeders. During this period, the bears should be in hibernation and no threat to the feeders. It will be 13 weeks long. Let me know what session you will be doing.

We had 19 surveyors last year and again we were widely scattered around New Haven County: Bethany (1), Durham (1), Guilford (3), Hamden (6), Meriden (1), Milford (1), North Branford (1), Orange (1), Wallingford (1) and Woodbridge (1). We have two surveyors outside New Haven County: Killingworth (1) (Middlesex County) and Monroe (1) (Fairfield County). We have 4 receiving emails but replying using Postal Mail, 14 using email and myself.

For more information you can email me at [vitgoo39@gmail.com](mailto:vitgoo39@gmail.com) or phone me at: 203-288-0621. My phone has a recorder on it so leave a message and I will get back to you.

--Peter Vitali  
Survey Coordinator  
Chairman NHBC Winter Feeder Survey

## The Pandemic Year in Review

The Covid pandemic forced the New Haven Bird Club to break from a long-standing tradition of offering our programs to be “Free and Open to the Public” as we had to limit the trips’ group size or cancel the trips entirely. This tradition has been a source of pride for us as it has been a way to encourage new birders and a way to recruit new members. A new birder’s awe and amazement is infectious.

All of the NHBC’s activities were cancelled for the first half of 2020 as the pandemic raged. Across the country we were forced into isolation and could only reach out to our friends and loved ones through technologies like ZOOM and Facetime. We watched birds from our windows or by taking walks in our neighborhoods.

As the year of solitude dragged on into the summer, the virus that caused Covid was understood a little better. The CDC and the state gave guidelines that allowed for limited outdoor activities. As the NHBC 2020-2021 club year approached, we determined to follow the CDC guidance on masks and social distancing and to follow through with our scheduled outdoor trips. Our rationale was, we need birds for our sanity, and we need to be with fellow birders. We limited our trips to Club members and required registration. While the group size was limited to ten members, we asked that members not carpool unless it was with a family member from the same household.

The trip leaders were willing to lead the trips as long as precautions were followed. Some leaders arranged to lead multiple groups on the same day in order to accommodate as many members as possible. We owe special thanks to our trip leaders for taking on the extra burden and meeting the challenge.

When we first opened up the trip registration, we used online signup software. The Outdoor Program Chair tried to give equal opportunities to members who had not been able to go on any previous trips. We had over 100 members and their guests requesting to go on trips. There were problems with the online software and a replacement system was created that would randomly select ten members for each trip.

We worked through these challenges as masks caused our glasses and binoculars to fog up, as we had to receive an email saying that we didn’t make the cut to go on a trip, and as many long-time members did not sign up for trips to allow newer members the chance to go. A special thanks goes to our members for their patience, understanding and compliance.

By spring the vaccines were rolled out in the state. By late May the Covid restrictions in the state had been eased. Our last walk of the year to Mohawk Mountain followed our tradition once again to be “Free and Open to the Public”

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Some of the walk leaders have stated that they prefer the ten person group size as it is ideal in tight wooded and brush areas or is ideal for more intimate focus for learning bird songs. There will be two walks that will follow the registration and restricted group size method. We will send an email two weeks ahead of time giving people ample opportunity to register.

--Craig Repasz



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

August 2021

#### **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](mailto:membership@Newhavenbirdclub.org).

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