



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

August 2022

2022 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Saturday, August 6, 7:30–11 a.m. **Shorebirds and Terns at Milford Point**

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

Wednesday, September 7, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Hawk Watching Basics**

Thursday September 8, 7 p.m. **Leigh Hallingby – Audubon Mural Project: A Virtual Walking Tour**

Note: This program will be held in person even though its title mentions a virtual walking tour.

Saturday, September 24, 8–11 a.m. **Edgewood Park, New Haven**

Saturday, September 24, **Fresh Meadows, Cheshire Land Trust – Group 1: 8 to 9:30 a.m.; Group 2: 9:30 to 11 a.m.**

Wednesday, October 5, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven**

Saturday and Sunday, October 8-9 **THE BIG SIT! ®**

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

Thursday October 13, 7 p.m. **Bob MacDonnell – A Photographer's History of Ospreys in Connecticut**

Saturday, October 15, 8–11 a.m. **Great Meadows Unit, Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge**

Saturday, October 15, 7:45–11 a.m. **Fall Birds and Foliage Along the West River**

Sunday, October 23, 8 a.m. to noon **Cheshire Hotspots**

Saturday, October 29, 8–11 a.m. **Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve – Joint trip with Gather New Haven (formerly the New Haven Land Trust)**

Sunday, October 30, 8–11 a.m. **Farm River Trolley Trail with Friends of Farm River**

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

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



When the new 2022-2023 NHBC Yearbook arrives in our mailboxes this month, with its schedule of walks and monthly meetings, and the lengthy directory of members, it won't be immediately apparent how much time and effort has gone on behind the scenes in producing it.

Before yearbook editor (and vice president) Chris Howe turns over the final copy to the printer, she and several others have put in many hours of work. Today I'd like to credit her and the others who have worked so hard to produce it.

Even before the current year's scheduled events wrapped up at the end of May, outdoor chair Crag Repasz was working with our volunteer trip leaders to select continuing locations for bird walks and identify new ones for the coming year. As you can imagine, it's complicated. Leaders have to consult their schedules – and their families – and commit to dates that are months and sometimes almost a year away. Then the walks have to be sequenced on the calendar – is this the right time for migration, has this worked out in the past, what conflicts with what and how can conflicts be resolved?

Meanwhile, indoor chair Gail Martino has been lining up next year's speakers for the monthly meetings. In fact, she's been looking for potential speakers all year, following up leads, and contacting prospects about their schedules. In some cases there are additional considerations involving travel. Can they be here in person and when, or will they need to address us on zoom? Gail tries for a mix of topics and types of presentation, some more scientific, others more like travelogs, and all of this needs to be finessed and arranged.

Also meanwhile, Laurie Reynolds, our membership chair, has been updating the membership lists continuously during and after the membership renewal drive in April and May, making sure that addresses and phone numbers are correct and up to date. New members keep joining, right up to the deadline – they need to be added – and she needs to verify and remove those who have moved away or otherwise chosen not to renew their membership.

And then there's the deadline! To get the yearbook printed and mailed in time for arrival in early August, Chris needs the final versions of each file in hand in June so she can submit the finished text to the printer by mid-July. But before reaching that point, the files first need formatting and fitting into the overall layout, a process that requires cuts in places, additions

(Continued on next page)

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2022-2023

OFFICERS

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

BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation Chair</i>	vacant	
<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>	Albert Laguna	201-401-2684
	albert.laguna@gmail.com	
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Vanessa Mickan	203-275-5987
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<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>	Craig Repasz	203-230-1697
	crepasz@hotmail.com	
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Emmeline Kaiser	225-368-7273
	emkaiser03@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>	Craig Repasz	203-230-1697
	crepasz@hotmail.com	
<i>Birds in Words</i>	Kris Johnson	203-288-3087
<i>Book Group</i>	kriswaxwing99@gmail.com	
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo	203-389-6508
	closcalz@optonline.net	
<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo	203-551-1707
<i>Lighthouse Point</i>	scmayo999@gmail.com	
<i>Historian</i>	John Triana	203-758-7203
	j triana1@sbcglobal.net	
<i>Hospitality</i>	vacant	
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo	203-551-1707
	scmayo999@gmail.com	
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali	203-288-0621
	vitgoo39@gmail.com	

New Haven Bird Club Website:
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

(President's Message Continued from first page)

in others, and any number of smaller and larger decisions that can change the formatting on all the following pages, which will then need changing and adjusting in turn. Then too, every line of the text needs proofreading many times – there are so many opportunities for typos and errors of every kind to creep in, and every change potentially triggers others.

It's only after all that – it may take weeks – that the final copy is off to the printer and then the post office . . . and we can all have this handy book ready for referring to.

So, the job is done again for another year, and you should have your copy soon if not already. But I want to extend many, many thanks to Chris, Craig, Gail, and Laurie for their tireless work on our behalf. From our club's origin in 1907 onward, the yearbook and every one of our activities has been the product of volunteers like them. It's a great legacy that they are carrying forward.

--DeWitt Allen

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on August 25.

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

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

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

Welcome New Members

Peter Grund and Molly Zahn
Hamden

Daniel T. DeVincent
Orange

Kumudhini Fernando
Woodbridge

Melisa Stasinos
Mount Vernon NY

Barry Marsh
West Hartford

Bill Rankin
New Haven

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

"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. We expect to begin in the fall of 2022. If you have suggestions for book titles, send them to kriswaxwing99@gmail.com.

Directions to the Whitney Center: We plan to 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 September 8 – Leigh Hallingby Audubon Mural Project: A Virtual Walking Tour

NOTE: This program will be held in person even though its title mentions a virtual walking tour.

The Audubon Bird Mural Project is a collaboration between the National Audubon Society and Avi Gitler, an art dealer and collector. The Project is an impressive effort to create murals of more than 300 North American birds. Most of the murals are in the Harlem, New York, neighborhoods of Hamilton Heights and Washington Heights, where John James Audubon lived the last ten years of his life. All of the birds painted are threatened by climate change. The Project is designed not only to display the birds' beauty, but also to make us aware of the challenges that they face. The artworks range from lovely panels that fill in a former window to spectacular murals covering the entire side of a building. We will see over 40 murals, plus Audubon's grave site, in a 50-minute slide presentation with live commentary. There will be time afterwards for questions and answers. Leigh Hallingby is a New York City Tour Guide.

Thursday October 13 – Bob MacDonnell A Photographer's History of Ospreys in Connecticut

A fateful bike ride crossed paths with the Osprey's road to recovery and sparked Bob's 30-year passion for photographing birds. This photo-essay is his documentation of the Osprey's remarkable success story in Connecticut and some of the people who helped make it happen. It will include an illustrated life history of this unique raptor and its connection with the overall health of the state's ecology. Bob MacDonnell is a photojournalist who spent more than 20 years covering the state for several newspapers, including a decade as staff photographer at the Hartford Courant.

Bird Book Sale to be held at the November Indoor meeting. Sort through your bird- and nature-related books (kids' books too). Bring them to the September or October meeting for donation. Proceeds from the sale help fund NHBC's conservation efforts.

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 and in the newsletter. 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.

Shorebirds and Terns at Milford Point Saturday, August 6, 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

Hawk Watch – Bird Count, Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven: Daily September to December Starts Thursday, 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

First Wednesday Walk: Hawk Watching Basics Wednesday, September 7, 8–11 a.m.

We'll try to identify everything that flies over! Learn the identification basics of hawks and other high-flying migrants, and find out what to expect throughout each of the subsequent autumn months at Lighthouse Park. Other topics covered will include migration weather and topography, Connecticut migrant hotspots, migration trends, and basics of hawk watch

reporting. Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven.

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

Edgewood Park, New Haven Saturday, September 24, 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 Whalley Avenue, New Haven.

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

Fresh Meadows, Cheshire Land Trust Saturday, September 24 Group 1: 8 to 9:30 a.m. Group 2: 9:30 to 11 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 one- to two-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. 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 5, 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

THE BIG SIT! ®

Saturday and Sunday, October 8-9

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 one 17-foot diameter circle. Local circles are 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. Visit The Big Sit! website (www.thebigsit.org) for details.

Leader: Craig Repasz, 203-745-6683 or crepasz@hotmail.com

**Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison
Saturday, October 8, 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 Shoreline Greenway Trail parking area on Boston Post Road, Madison, just east of the park's main entrance road.

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

**Great Meadows Unit, Stewart B. McKinney National
Wildlife Refuge
Saturday, October 15, 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. Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Connecticut, and Kris Vagos, wildlife biologist for the Stewart B. McKinney NWR, will lead the walk. They will also discuss salt marsh ecology and the large marsh restoration project that is in progress at Great Meadows. Meet in the parking lot on Long Beach Boulevard, Stratford.

Leaders: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-233-0535 or cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org;
Craig Repasz 203-745-6683 or crepasz@hotmail.com

**Fall Birds and Foliage along the West River
Saturday, October 15, 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 23, 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 is level walking (100 yards) on leaf-covered paved road; Boulder Knoll is moderate walking (300 yards) on gravel road with some gradual slopes to navigate; Fresh Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary is 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 (formerly the New Haven Land Trust)
Saturday, October 29, 8–11 a.m.**

Fargeorge Preserve is always full of surprises. We have had everything from Woodcock to Bald 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. We will be walking on flat surfaces. Go south on Quinnipiac Avenue from Rte. 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

**Farm River Trolley Trail with Friends of Farm River
Sunday, October 30, 8–11 a.m.**

We will walk the Shore Line Trolley Museum tracks. There are several habitats and it's a great trip for migrating raptors plus saltmarsh and woodland birds. Meet in the back parking lot of the Shore Line Trolley Museum, 17 River Street, East Haven, CT 06512.

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

Branford Supply Ponds
Sunday, October 30, 2022, 7:30–10:30 a.m.

This a good time to look for 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 was 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. New plants are rising and bird dispersal is changing. 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

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

Trip Reports

Grassland Birds of Chippen's Hill, Bristol Trip Report



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

On June 5th, a bird walk was held to observe grassland birds at several sites in the Chippen's Hill area of Bristol. Eleven participants met at the Roberts Field park on Perkins St. where the state endangered Grasshopper Sparrows that nest there were readily encountered shortly after

leaving the parking lot. Additional Grasshopper Sparrows were encountered at other locations, including an area that had been recently renovated to remove invasive species and provide more grassy habitat for them. Additional birds typical of the grassy and scrub habitat were also encountered, including many Willow Flycatchers, Yellow Warblers, Prairie Warblers and Indigo Buntings.

Next, the group relocated to a series of hay fields along Hill St. Many of these fields are regularly mowed for hay and, unfortunately, the recent dry weather prompted haying to begin in many of the fields. Boblinks, however, were found at two sites – one where the hay had not been mowed and another field across from the Chippenee Golf Course which is owned by the Environmental Learning Centers of CT. The latter fields are being managed for grassland birds and are not mowed until

after the breeding season. Hopefully, the active management for grassland birds in this area will allow continued nesting success for these declining bird species.

--Jack Swatt

Ora Avenue/Proto Drive/Morris Creek Marshes, East Haven Trip Report

Proto Drive is an eBird Hotspot located in East Haven immediately south of Tweed-New Haven Airport. When I started birding there in 1984, we called it Ora Avenue, a dead end road that years earlier used to connect with Uriah Street via a bridge across Morris Creek. I never saw the bridge, but I do remember well the automobile wrecks that littered the Creek where the bridge once was. This is not all that Ora had going for it. Over the years, the paved road bordering Morris Creek Marshes has witnessed drag races, paint ball wars, rabbit hunting, and illegal dumping of tires, mattresses, and demolition. It's also been crowded and crowded again by development of the East Haven Industrial Park and the actions of the airport. What a mess! But, what an amazing place still for birds and birding! Honoring past as well as present, I refer to this hotspot as Ora Avenue/Proto Drive/Morris Creek Marshes. For short, it remains Ora to me. However, the name Proto plus a good map of East Haven will get you to the right place. Most of my birding here has been from November through February because of the mid-December New Haven Christmas Bird Count. Ora is the spatial, temporal, and spiritual heart of Area K, which includes Lighthouse Point Park, Brazos Road and Caroline Creek, Cosey Beach, Branford Trolley Line, and lands west of the Farm River.

On June 8, ten birders devoted the morning to explore the avian wonders of OA/PD/MCM in the breeding season. We were not disappointed, as we tallied 44 bird species without leaving the road. High weeds prevented us from walking the always productive Trail to Dodge for rails or marsh wrens. A review of our best sightings includes the following: two Killdeer on the ever expanding asphalt pile; a fly-by Common Loon and many Double-crested Cormorants; 3 Great Egrets; a Green Heron; 4 vocal Osprey; a comparative abundance of Willow Flycatchers; a Warbling Vireo in the nest; 3 swallow species; 2 Marsh Wrens (from the road!); Cedar Waxwings gathering nesting material feet from us; a Baltimore Oriole nest, deprived of one egg when a pugnacious Blue Jay flew in; numerous Yellow Warblers, confirmed as breeders when we observed one carrying food.

The future of this avian gem is very much in doubt, as the Tweed Master Plan describes a \$70 million expansion including a new terminal with associated parking, right in the heart of Ora. It may be time to start writing an obituary.

--Steve Broker

Deer Lake – Richard English

Over the years, many of us have spent all or part of a wonderful day with Mike Horn as he leads us on the Richard English Memorial Field Trip, with stops at Lighthouse Point, the Deer Lake Boy Scout and Day Camp in Killingworth, and Hammonasset Beach State Park.

The trip originated with Mike and the late Richard English, an expert and enthusiastic birder, a nearly life-long member of the New Haven Bird Club, and a former president. Over the years he was a generous benefactor of the club, the Deer Lake Camp, and numerous other civic and cultural institutions in and around New Haven. After Richard's passing in 2011, Mike has continued to lead the trip in his memory.

So when one of our club members approached the board about funding a spruce-up and renewal of the information kiosk at the camp, which bears the heading "Richard English Bird Sanctuary" in big white letters, that request was immediately approved.



Photo by Lori Datlow

And on June 19, with permission from the camp managers, three bird club members and two local friends of the sanctuary repainted the Richard English Bird Sanctuary sign, removed the old and tattered informational panels, and tacked in bright new ones with

photos and information on the most common birds encountered at Deer Lake and nearby.

The feedback has all been positive! The camp managers are thrilled that the kiosk has been refreshed, and almost everyone who passes now stops to look over the detailed and attractive information on local birds. We hope Richard English would be proud.

(If you weren't aware of the controversy over the Boy Scouts' intended sale of the 255-acre Deer Lake Property, you can read a summary here:

<https://www.ctinsider.com/shoreline/article/Pathfinders-makes-offer-on-Deer-Lake-Scout-17139157.php>

As of August, negotiations over the sale are still ongoing.)

--DeWitt Allen

NHBC's Donation to Common Ground High School



Photo by Audubon CT

On July 12, DeWitt and I went to Sandy Point Beach and Bird Sanctuary in West Haven to meet the West Haven High School and Common Ground High School students who are working for the summer as Wildlife Guards. We were delivering a \$2,000

donation from the New Haven Bird Club to Joel Tolman of Common Ground High School. Two of his students were able to participate in this wonderful program initiated and run by Audubon CT because of the financial help we provided.

Along with Joel we met Will Perret, Land Steward from Audubon CT, and CGHS alumna Crystal Fernandez, the Common Ground Green Jobs Corps Director. Will told us about the program, its history, and the students' activities Tuesday through Saturdays for the six-week summer period.

We learned that in addition to groundskeeping activities like pulling invasive plant species and cleaning trash, the Wildlife Guards monitor endangered shorebirds nesting there -- Least Terns and Piping Plovers in particular -- while also conducting daily surveys of all the shorebirds present. They also set up a table at the entrance with bird photos and informational pamphlets, and speak about their activities with any interested visitors to the site.

We went with the team on a walk along the shore -- highlights were close up looks at the Least Terns, Piping Plovers, and a pair of Willets that were very territorial about that stretch of the Point.

It was a great experience to meet young people who are learning about nature and conservation, and actually working at it!

The scientific and social skills they are learning during this work experience will last their entire lifetime, along with new friendships.

New Haven Bird Club members can all be proud that we are contributing to this program and to these students.

I hope that we'll be able to donate to the Common Ground High School summer jobs again next year.

--Lori Datlow

NHBC Education Chair

Note: The thank you letter from the Executive Director of Common Ground, Monica Maccera Fillpu, included: "Thanks to you, our community has a thriving, project-based environmental public high school, a flourishing urban farm, and outdoor programs that continue to find innovative ways to keep New Haven youth connected to the natural world. You are helping collaboratively build a stronger, more sustainable future for and with our youth -- and we are eager to see what we can all grow together."

2021 Lighthouse Park Hawk Watch

Although the season brought few north winds, we still had an amazing year! Osprey and Kestrels started moving in mid-September. On September 19, as American Kestrels poured through, a dark, pointy-winged raptor flew from the beach, right overhead: "Get a shot of that!" Our first Lighthouse Park Mississippi Kite then lingered for at least 15-20 minutes. Just a few minutes later a Swainson's Hawk joined a small group of Osprey and also lingered overhead. Meanwhile, Connecticut inland count sites were quiet throughout their season (2nd and 3rd week of September), so where were all the Broad-winged Hawks? Then at Lighthouse, on September 29, favorable winds brought 272 American Kestrels and 691 raptors (13 species). The next day, an amazing 4,966 "Broadies" kettled up just east of our watch site and just a few meters from Long Island Sound. One single kettle contained 700 hawks.

Lingering Broad-winged Hawks from the previous day boosted the October 1 daily total to 456 hawks. Cold fronts never occurred during our peak mid-October timeframe, but there were still plenty of excellent morning passerine flights. Several lingering hawks, including Peregrines, remained in the Park and delighted photographers. Thousands of Cedar Waxwings, American Robins, finches and Common Grackles streamed through. Our second Swainson's Hawk of the season passed by on November 5 and on November 15 we added a Short-eared Owl to the list of diurnal raptors. There were plenty of Sandhill Cranes and Golden Eagles (6) to make things interesting. Those Broad-winged Hawks on September 30 boosted the year's count to 11,916 hawks. For more information refer to Hawkcount.org. Click on the Monthly Data Summary and find Lighthouse Point (Connecticut) in the drop-down.

The 2022 season is here! Please consider volunteering as we are still in need of substitute counters on all days. On the job training is, of course, available. It's a great opportunity to learn bird ID and take part in one of the most important hawk watch sites in the Eastern US.

--Steve Mayo

2022 Summer Bird Count

Perfect weather and high coverage hours (49 participants!) resulted in a very successful summer count. In addition to the almost expected, lingering, late migrant, Common Loon, Red-breasted Merganser, and Arctic-bound shorebirds, there were some real oddballs. These included Bufflehead, Greater Scaup, Common Merganser and a heard-only Northern Parula Warbler. Virginia Rail and Hermit Thrush were found in a couple locations, and at least one Northern Harrier was seen in the Q Marsh. What did we miss? Not much: Black-billed Cuckoo, Screech and Great-horned owls come to mind.

When nestlings and recently fledged young were noted, the

total is expressed as "adult+juvenile". Additional analysis will be published in a future volume of COA's *Connecticut Warbler*. Thanks everyone, for coming out and participating in this important conservation and bird distribution research.

Brant 18, Canada Goose 333+26, Mute Swan 29+4, Wood Duck 111+24, Mallard 198, Black Duck 3, Bufflehead 1, Common Merganser 1, Greater Scaup 1, Red-breasted Merganser 1, Wild Turkey 28, Rock Pigeon 109, Mourning Dove 276, Monk Parakeet 4, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 8, Chimney Swift 266, Ruby-throated Hummingbird 9, Clapper Rail 12, Virginia Rail 2, American Oystercatcher 19, Semipalmated Plover 8, Piping Plover 5+20, Killdeer 25, Sanderling 2, Dunlin 2, Least Sandpiper 1, Semipalmated Sandpiper 250, White-rumped Sandpiper 6, Short-billed Dowitcher 1, Spotted Sandpiper 7, Greater Yellowlegs 1, Willet 26, Ring-billed Gull 158, Herring Gull 326, Great Black-backed Gull 153, Gull species 7, Least Tern 107, Common Tern 17, Common Loon 1, Double-crested Cormorant 279, Great Blue Heron 55, Great Egret 35, Snowy Egret 9, Green Heron 9, Black-crowned Night-Heron 16, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 17, Black Vulture 27, Turkey Vulture 38, Osprey 146+2, Northern Harrier 1, Cooper's Hawk 10, Bald Eagle 5+3, Red-shouldered Hawk 7+2, Red-tailed Hawk, Barred Owl 3+1, Belted Kingfisher 13, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 4, Red-breasted Woodpecker 123+2, Downy Woodpecker 109, Hairy Woodpecker 34+1, Pileated Woodpecker 13, Northern Flicker 116, Peregrine Falcon 4+5, Monk Parakeet 3, Eastern Wood-Pewee 81, Willow Flycatcher 48, Eastern Phoebe 33, Great Crested Flycatcher 63, Eastern Kingbird 24, Yellow-throated Vireo 7, Warbling Vireo 114, Red-eyed Vireo 120, Blue Jay 264, American Crow 210, Fish Crow 116, Crow species 36, Common Raven 7, Black-capped Chickadee 82, Tufted Titmouse 103, Northern Rough-winged Swallow 75, Purple Martin 15, Tree Swallow 205+80, Bank Swallow 4, Barn Swallow 245, Cliff Swallow 9, Red-breasted Nuthatch 2, White-breasted Nuthatch 44, Brown Creeper 2, House Wren 93, Winter Wren 1, Marsh Wren 28, Carolina Wren 97, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 5, European Starling 841, Gray Catbird 419, Brown Thrasher 3+2, Northern Mockingbird 110, Eastern Bluebird 15, Hermit Thrush 3, Veery 17, Wood Thrush 59, American Robin 1096+3, Cedar Waxwing 126, House Sparrow 944, House Finch 259, American Goldfinch 262, Chipping Sparrow 181, Field Sparrow 18, Saltmarsh Sparrow 5, Seaside Sparrow 2, Song Sparrow 424, Swamp Sparrow 1, Eastern Towhee 17, Orchard Oriole 12, Baltimore Oriole 119, Red-winged Blackbird 814, Brown-headed Cowbird 144, Common Grackle 644, Ovenbird 110, Worm-eating Warbler 19, Louisiana Waterthrush 11, Northern Waterthrush 3, Blue-winged Warbler 36, Black and-white Warbler 14, Common Yellowthroat 89, Hooded Warbler 1, American Redstart 11, Northern Parula 1, Yellow Warbler 172, Chestnut-sided Warbler 2, Pine Warbler 28, Prairie Warbler 16, Black-throated Green Warbler 7, Scarlet Tanager 32, Northern Cardinal 289, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 34, Indigo Bunting 50.

--Steve Mayo

NHBC Winter Feeder Survey 2022-2023

I want to welcome all members and non-members to the **2022–2023 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 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. I have been doing the compilation and reports for the last 11 years. Usually, we have from about 15 to 25 member 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 to the increasing presence of **Black Bears** and their taking down of feeders.

The **First Session** will start on **Monday, October 31, 2022**, and finish on **Sunday, April 2, 2023**. This is for those who have not had any reports of bears in their area and is 22 Weeks long.

The **Second Session** will start on **Monday, December 5, 2022**, and end on **Sunday, March 5, 2023**. 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 surveyors receiving emails but replying using Postal Mail and 14 using email, plus myself.

For more information you can email me at **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



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

August 2022

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.