



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

August 2023

2023 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Saturday, August 5, 9 a.m. to noon **Shorebirds and Terns at Milford Point**

Daily September to December, Starts Friday, September 1, 7 a.m. **Hawk Watch / Bird Count at Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven**

Wednesday, September 6, 8–10:30 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Bauer Farm (Bauer Park), Madison**

Thursday September 14, 7:00 p.m. **Dr. Sylvia Halkin – Northern Cardinals**

Saturday, September 23, 8–11 a.m. **Edgewood Park, New Haven**

Sunday, September 24 **Fresh Meadows Preserve, Cheshire**
Group 1: 8–9:30 a.m.; Group 2: 10–11:30 a.m.
Registration is required.

Sunday, October 1, 8–11 a.m. **Great Meadows Unit, Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, Stratford**

Wednesday, October 4, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven**

Saturday and Sunday, October 7–8 **THE BIG SIT! ®**

Saturday, October 7, 8–11 a.m. **Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Thursday October 12, 7:00 p.m. **Ken Elkins – Power of Birds for Dementia**

Saturday, October 21, 8–11 a.m. **Quinnipiac Trail, Prospect and Bethany**

Saturday, October 28, 8–11 a.m. **Fargeorge Nature Preserve; joint trip with Gather New Haven (formerly the New Haven Land Trust), New Haven**

Sunday, October 29, 8–11 a.m. **Farm River Trolley Trail with Friends of Farm River, East Haven**

Sunday, October 29, 7:30–10:30 a.m. **Branford Supply Ponds, Branford**

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



Recently, a Common Raven has been calling from a location close to my house. I notice its loud voice even while I'm inside working at my computer. For me, hearing its call has been a good reminder to get up, go outside for at least a little while, and look around at the natural world. Most of us are fortunate to have varied opportunities to enjoy and appreciate nature. For members of the New Haven Bird Club, such opportunities include participation in our many outdoor and indoor programs and in education and conservation activities.

The NHBC started its 2023-24 year in July, marked in part by arrival of this year's yearbook in the mailbox. But things really began to happen in August. Our Outdoor Program schedule commenced on August 5 with a walk led by Frank Mantlik at Milford Point; a large and appreciative group of birders was able to benefit from Frank's expertise. Next up is the official start of the Lighthouse Point Hawk Watch on September 1, with Steve Mayo continuing to capably coordinate that long-standing event. Our First Wednesday Walk series begins on September 6 at Bauer Farm in Madison. Chuck Imbergamo, our leader for the trip, is the top eBirder for that location. All-in-all, we currently have 47 outdoor events planned throughout the year.

On the calendar a short time later is our first Indoor Program of the year, to be held September 14 at the Whitney Center. Dr. Sylvia Halkin will present an informative and enjoyable talk on Northern Cardinals. As a reminder, our social half-hour begins at 7pm, and our meeting and program follow at 7:30pm.

Full details of our Indoor and Outdoor Programs are available in the printed yearbook, on our website, and in our newsletter. Be sure to check for updates—as well as newly-added events—on the website and newsletter. Reminder notifications are emailed to members about 10 days before an event; if you are not receiving those reminders or have questions about the email group, send an email to membership@newhavenbirdclub.org.

Our programs are not the only things that revolve around our club's year. Your NHBC Board has already met twice in August. One meeting was, as usual, our monthly business meeting. However, we also met informally at a Board member's house on a Connecticut lake for a NON-business meeting. We spent a very pleasurable afternoon relaxing and eating good food on a beautiful day. Importantly, we had the chance to talk informally with our two new Board members, Michele McDermott (Secretary) and Glen Cummings

(Continued on next page)

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2023-2024

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Christine Howe	203-530-1066
	clhowe2@yahoo.com	
<i>Vice President</i>	(vacant)	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Andy Stack	203-804-6081
	ctstacks@optonline.net	
<i>Secretary</i>	Michele McDermott	860-485-3087
	mmcdermott1029@snet.net	

BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation Chair</i>	Craig Repasz	203-230-1697
	crepasz@hotmail.com	
<i>Education Chair</i>	Lori Datlow	561-400-3114
	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>	Glen Cummings	203-228-8072
	gmc2@comcast.net	
<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>	DeWitt Allen	860-949-0995
	allendatlow@gmail.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	203-530-1066
	clhowe2@yahoo.com	

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	Craig Repasz	203-230-1697
	crepasz@hotmail.com	
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo	203-389-6508
	closcalz@optonline.net	
<i>Hawk Watch at Lighthouse Point</i>	Steve Mayo	203-551-1707
<i>Historian</i>	scmayo999@gmail.com	
	John Triana	203-758-7203
	j triana1@sbcglobal.net	
<i>Hospitality</i>	Joyce Alton	203-651-9712
	joyceharned@hotmail.com	
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo	203-551-1707
	scmayo999@gmail.com	
<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)

(Member-at-Large). You may have met Glen or Michele on our walks and/or at our member meetings. We are fortunate that they each volunteered to join our Board; each is already contributing needed expertise. Please join me in welcoming Michele and Glen!

Speaking of volunteers: our membership join/renew form has a checkbox option where you can indicate if you are interested in volunteering for the NHBC. Quite a few members, both new and old, checked off that box and we will be contacting each potential volunteer sometime in the next month or two. We continue to have many areas in which volunteers could assist us, either short-term or long-term. If you might be interested in helping, you can reach me by email, chrish@newhavenbirdclub.org, or by phone, 203-530-1066.

Lastly, on a personal note, July 1 marked the start of my term as NHBC President. I am humbled to work in this new capacity on the Board and thank my dedicated Board colleagues in advance for their continuing contributions of time and effort. We are always interested in your comments and suggestions about the NHBC's various activities and programs. I look forward to seeing many of you in person at our monthly meetings and on our outdoor walks this coming year. Enjoy the remainder of the summer!

--Chris Howe

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on September 28.

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

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

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

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

Welcome New Members

Zuhair Abdulla
North Haven

Jacob Musser
New Haven

Randy Day
Prospect

Indoor Programs

Please check the NHBC website and newsletter for updated information before planning to attend any event.

Indoor programs start in September and are held on the second Thursday of the month. There are no indoor programs in June, July, or August. This year, we plan to resume meeting at the Whitney Center's Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden CT 06517. The facility is wheelchair accessible. **The social half-hour begins at 7 p.m.; the meeting and program begin at 7:30 p.m. and end about 9 p.m.**

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

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

The Whitney Center

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

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

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

Thursday, September 14, 7:00 p.m. – Dr. Sylvia Halkin Northern Cardinals

We start off our indoor program year with a presentation on Northern Cardinals by Dr. Sylvia Halkin, Professor Emerita at Central Connecticut State University. Her talk will include a description of how Northern Cardinals use their song repertoires to communicate with one another, plus information about changes in their song over the decades.

Thursday, October 12, 7:00 p.m. – Ken Elkins Power of Birds for Dementia

Ken Elkins will discuss a special program he co-developed called "Bird Tales" for reaching people living with dementia. The program encourages connections with birds on a multi-sensory level, through sight, sound, smell, and touch. Ken is Director of the Connecticut Audubon Society Coastal Center at Milford Point.

NHBC Book Sale at October Meeting

This year's used birding book sale will take place at NHBC's October 12th indoor meeting at the Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive in Hamden. The meeting will start at 7 pm.

The October book sale is a change from previous years, when the sale of lightly used birding and natural history books took place at the November indoor meeting.

If you have books on birds, birders, birding, or the natural world to donate for the sale, please bring them to our September 14th indoor meeting. Or call Toby Appel at 203-691-8122 or Lori Datlow at 475-227-2820 to make special arrangements.

Watch for Wingspan

On March 17th Jack Swatt introduced Wingspan to a group of club members at Whitney Center. It was a very successful event and was repeated on April 28th. Jack will be holding more Wingspan evenings this year. Be on the lookout for the announcements.

An article in *Audubon* described the game: "Wingspan players take on the role of bird enthusiasts aiming to attract avian visitors to their wildlife preserve. The heart of the game is its deck of 170 illustrated bird cards, each depicting a North American species. Up to five players take turns placing these

cards into their appropriate habitat, collecting food, laying eggs, or drawing new cards, with each action unlocking new resources. It's what's known in board game parlance as an engine-building game—one in which players try to create an increasingly effective system for generating points. The game lasts about an hour, and the player with the most points wins."

Jack designs the evening so that those new to the game can learn how to play while those who have played before can continue to strengthen their game. All skill levels are welcome. Games should start soon.

Outdoor Programs

The future course of the coronavirus pandemic may continue to affect our schedule of events. Our first priority is protecting the health and well-being of our members and the general public, and it may become necessary to adjust or cancel some events. The recommendations and policies of local, state, and national health authorities will guide all decisions about our schedule. Please check the NHBC website and newsletter for updated information before planning to attend any event.

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

Birders of all levels are welcome on all field trips, and every effort is made to help beginners. If you are new to birding or have any special needs, be sure to let the leader know. The Club welcomes everyone regardless of age, race or ethnicity, sex, gender identification, sexual orientation, or national origin. The ending times of walks are approximate.

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

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

NHBC Conservation and Education Activities

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

The NHBC has been developing relationships with local public schools and camps to encourage children to embrace birding. We view this activity as directly connected to our Club objectives, and usually present a very basic birding skills class followed by a nearby bird walk. The Education Chair also organizes the Club's representation at various public events throughout the year. Volunteers to help at events are always welcome! Please contact Lori Datlow, Education Chair, at loridatlow@frontier.com.

Shorebirds and Terns at Milford Point Saturday, August 5, 9 a.m. to noon

We'll walk out on the sandbar to see a variety of shorebirds and terns. 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 at Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven: Daily September to December Starts Friday, 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. New birders are welcome; stop by anytime. The Hawk Watch meets by the tall lone tree on top of the hill. You may drive directly up to the site and the ground is relatively level. If the gate is staffed, just let them know you are there for the Hawk Watch. *Also, we are always in need of hawk watchers to ensure that we maintain daily coverage. Please consider volunteering for a few hours at the hawk watch.*

Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven.
Coordinator Steve Mayo, 203-551-1707, scmayo999@gmail.com

First Wednesday Walk: Bauer Farm (Bauer Park), Madison Wednesday, September 6, 8–10:30 a.m.

Join us at this premier birding location where more than 160 species of birds have been observed. We'll explore the fields, Community Gardens, and woodland trails for resident birds and early migrants. The terrain is easy and mostly flat. Meet at the Community Gardens parking area, 257 Copse Road, Madison. Leader: Chuck Imbergamo, imbercj@comcast.net

Edgewood Park, New Haven Saturday, September 23, 8–11 a.m.

Join Bill Batsford at this urban park with diverse habitat including woodlands, fields, streams, and ponds. We have excellent chances for Wood Duck, a resident pair of Red-tailed Hawks, Belted Kingfisher, and others. Bald Eagle and Pileated Woodpecker are possible. In 2022 we were treated to a spectacular display of migrating Broad-winged Hawks kettling over the park, so there are often surprises. The walk is about 2 miles on flat trails. We cross one field which can be wet and muddy—wear appropriate foot gear. 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 Preserve, Cheshire**Sunday, September 24,****Group 1: 8–9:30 a.m.; Group 2: 10–11:30 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. Registration is required. Watch for the NHBC email announcement. Meet at the information kiosk on Cook Hill Road. Park there or across the street on Corliss Lane. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-233-0535 or cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org

Great Meadows Unit, Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, Stratford**Sunday, October 1, 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. Visit one of the state's largest salt marshes to observe warblers, wading birds, shorebirds, migrating sparrows and swallows, Merlins, and Northern Harriers. Join Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Connecticut, and Kris Vagos, wildlife biologist for the Stewart B. McKinney NWR. They will also discuss salt marsh ecology and the marsh restoration project in progress at Great Meadows. Meet in the parking lot, approximate address 600 Long Beach Boulevard, Stratford. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-233-0535 or cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org;

First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven
Wednesday, October 4, 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. If the gate is staffed, just let them know you are there for the Hawk Watch. Leader: Frank Gallo, 203-644-2163 or peeplo@aol.com

THE BIG SIT! ®**Saturday and Sunday, October 7–8**

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 circle. You don't have to be a hardcore birder to join in the fun. Visit The Big Sit! website (www.thebigsit.org) for details. Contact: Craig Repasz, 203-745-6683 or crepasz@hotmail.com

Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**Saturday, October 7, 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

Quinnipiac Trail, Prospect and Bethany**Saturday, October 21, 8–11 a.m.**

Join us for a vigorous walk along the Quinnipiac Trail from Cornwall Avenue in Prospect through Regional Water Authority and Prospect Land Trust property off of Boardman Road. Expect many steep areas with rough terrain. Wear appropriate footwear and bring water. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at the end of the cul-de-sac on Boardman Drive, Prospect. Then we'll carpool down to Cornwall Avenue and walk back to Boardman Drive.

Leader: John Triana, 203-758-7203 or jtriana1@rwater.com

Fargeorge Nature Preserve; joint trip with Gather New Haven (formerly the New Haven Land Trust), New Haven
Saturday, October 28, 8–11 a.m.

Quinnipiac Meadows Eugene B. Fargeorge Nature Preserve, a varied habitat with excellent view of the lower Quinnipiac River, is always full of surprises. We have seen everything from Woodcock to Bald Eagles to Snow Geese, lots of fall migrants, wintering ducks, and more. We will be walking on flat surfaces. Go south on Quinnipiac Avenue from Route 80. Make a right at 1040 Quinnipiac Avenue, just past the railroad overpass. Go through the open gate onto the property. Leader: Mike Horn, 203-288-1891 or [mfhorn@att.net](mailto:mhorn@att.net)

Farm River Trolley Trail with Friends of Farm River, East Haven**Sunday, October 29, 8–11 a.m.**

We will walk the Trolley Museum tracks in East Haven. There are several habitats and we'll look for migrating raptors plus salt marsh and woodland birds. Meet in the back parking lot of the Shore Line Trolley Museum, 17 River Street, East Haven. Leader: Mike Horn, 203-288-1891 or [mfhorn@att.net](mailto:mhorn@att.net)

Branford Supply Ponds, Branford**Sunday, October 29, 7:30–10:30 a.m.**

This is a good location to look for migrants both in spring and fall. There can be quite a mix including Baltimore Oriole, Pine Warbler, American Coot, Common Raven, Winter Wren, Fox Sparrow, and Red-shouldered Hawk. The site boasts two 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 and the ground is receiving more sunlight. New plants are rising and bird distribution is changing. Meet at the larger gravel parking lot on Chestnut Street off Route 1 in Branford. Leader: Maria Stockmal, 203-305-3728 or m.stockmal@snet.net

Trip Reports

Whip-poor-will Walk at Naugatuck State Forest

The persistent thunderstorms on Friday, June 2nd resulted in postponing our annual Whip-poor-will Walk at Naugatuck State Forest at the end of Hunter's Mt. Rd. to the rain date of Saturday, June 3rd. The clouds started to clear but wind and lack of moonlight kept the Whip-poor-wills quiet with the exception of one that sang for about a minute. There may have been a second distant bird calling, but given the wind, it was hard to confirm. For some people in attendance it was their first experience hearing the song of these nocturnal insectivores.

--Jack Swatt

Grassland Birds of Chippen's Hill, Sunday, June 4th

The grassy areas of the Robert's Field Property in Bristol have held breeding Grasshopper Sparrows for years, and with invasive plants starting to overtake the habitat that is suitable for that species, habitat maintenance was started in 2022. Initially, the Grasshopper Sparrow population showed a slight increase; however, this



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

year they have failed to return to this location. While the main target species was not encountered, participants did have good looks at a pair of Brown Thrashers, along with many Prairie Warblers, Field Sparrows and Willow Flycatchers. A distant Black-billed Cuckoo vocalized multiple times, but everyone suddenly paused when a Yellow-billed Cuckoo called from right above our heads, then flew out from the canopy. The second location on our trip was a group of fields nearby on Hill St and Marsh Rd. where many Bobolinks breed. Some of these fields are managed by the Environmental Learning Center of CT so that haying is delayed until fledglings can safely leave the nests. The active management ongoing in this area to preserve grassland habitat will hopefully bring a return of the Grasshopper Sparrows and potentially, other grassland nesting birds.

--Jack Swatt

June Birding at Morris Creek Marshes, East Haven



The Wednesday, June 7 walk brought eight birders to Proto Drive to enjoy the avifauna south of Tweed-New Haven Airport. eBird lists 163 species as having occurred here. Previously known as Ora Avenue, Proto Drive has been the heart of Area K for the New Haven Christmas Bird Count since the 1980s. The paved road starts at the East Haven Industrial Site and dead ends at Morris Creek. Walking along the way, birders can get close views of a broad diversity of birds, all the while overlooking the many human-caused indignities that have altered this ecologically rich region of East Haven and New Haven. On this day, we recorded 35

species, including these known nesters: Killdeer (occupied nest), Willow Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Gray Catbird, blackbirds, grackles, Yellow Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat. The birding highlight of the walk was a Clapper Rail grunt calling from the marsh inside airport fencing, north of the west end of Proto. Clapper Rail had been unknown here until one was heard clapper calling on November 21, 2021, with additional reports over the next two months. Today's vocal observation was the first documentation of Clapper Rail in these Morris Creek marshes during the breeding season. Virginia Rail has been recorded here on many past New Haven Christmas Bird Counts, as has Sora on rare occasion. Proto Drive has seen an increase in birding during spring and summer thanks to field work for the recently completed Connecticut Bird Atlas.

--Steve Broker

First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park Trip Report

On Wednesday, June 7, Greg Hanisek led a group of 19 birders for the June First Wednesday Walk to Mohawk Mountain State Park. During their walk, they observed 29 species: Mourning Dove, Turkey Vulture, Hairy Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Common Raven, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gray Catbird, Veery, Hermit Thrush (heard by a few birders), Cedar Waxwing, Chipping Sparrow, Song



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Ovenbird, Black-and-white Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Canada Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting.

2023 Summer Bird Count

We've had yet another year of great weather and high coverage hours. There were a record 61 participants! Not surprising, species totals are similar to, or often higher than, those of 2022. The three Common Eiders over Merwin Point (CP) and Little Blue Heron in Woodbridge were encountered further west than usually expected in Connecticut. Broad-winged Hawk was a nice pick-up. It's a secretive and infrequent nester in South Central Connecticut. Repeats from 2022 included Northern Harrier, Virginia Rail, Parula Warbler, and Hermit Thrush. A historical North Haven specialty (Bobolink) returned after many years. The East Rock Prothonotary Warbler lingered into the count period. White Throated Sparrow and Magnolia Warbler were also remarkable. A very notable miss was American Black Duck, which has been declining steadily in our area. More expected misses included nightjars, Black-billed Cuckoo, and Eastern Screech Owl.

When nestlings and recently fledged young were noted, the total is expressed as "adult+juvenile". Count Period (CP) is 3 days before and 3 days after the weekend. 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.

Species List: Brant 4, Canada Goose 383+10, Mute Swan 69+3, Wood Duck 134+24, Mallard 160+16, Common Merganser 5, Common Eider CP, Wild Turkey 21, Rock Pigeon 143, Mourning Dove 460, Monk Parakeet 14, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 13, Chimney Swift 249, Ruby-throated Hummingbird 15, Clapper Rail 8, Virginia Rail 1, American Oystercatcher 14+3, Black-bellied Plover 1, Semipalmated Plover 7, Piping Plover 40, Killdeer 40, Red Knot 2, Sanderling 1, Least Sandpiper 30, Semipalmated Sandpiper 61, White-rumped Sandpiper 4, Spotted Sandpiper 12, Greater Yellowlegs 3, Willet 29, sandpiper sp. 2, Short-billed Dowitcher 2, Ring-billed Gull 162, Herring Gull 284, Great Black-backed Gull 75, gull species 11, Least Tern 103, Common Tern 8, Common Loon 1, Double-crested Cormorant 334, Great Blue Heron 66, Little Blue Heron 2, Great Egret 38, Snowy Egret 8, Green Heron 10, Black-crowned Night-Heron 3, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 7, Black Vulture 13, Turkey Vulture 61, Osprey 127+4, Northern Harrier 1, Cooper's Hawk 6, Bald Eagle 5+3, Red-shouldered Hawk 23, Broad-winged Hawk 2, Red-tailed Hawk 51, Great Horned Owl 1, Barred Owl 3, Belted Kingfisher 9, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 5, Red-bellied Woodpecker 141, Downy Woodpecker 109+2, Hairy Woodpecker 33, Pileated Woodpecker 16, Northern Flicker 104, Peregrine Falcon 4, Monk Parakeet 11, Eastern Wood-Pewee 112, Acadian Flycatcher 4, Willow Flycatcher 44, Least Flycatcher CP, Empidonax sp. 2, Eastern Phoebe 33, Great Crested Flycatcher 57, Eastern Kingbird 32, Yellow-throated Vireo 11, Warbling Vireo 156, Red-eyed Vireo 160, Blue headed Vireo CP, Blue Jay 307, American Crow 188, Fish Crow 92, crow species 26, Common Raven 10, Black-capped Chickadee 128, Tufted Titmouse 245, Northern Rough-winged Swallow 100, Purple Martin 8, Tree Swallow 244 + 4, Bank Swallow 15, Barn Swallow 268, Cliff Swallow 8, Red-breasted Nuthatch 3, White-breasted Nuthatch 77, Brown Creeper 3, House Wren 154, Winter Wren 2, Marsh Wren 41, Carolina Wren 196, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 13, European Starling 986, Gray Catbird 485, Brown Thrasher 6, Northern Mockingbird 127, Eastern Bluebird 28, Hermit Thrush 2, Veery 65, Wood Thrush 104, American Robin 1223, Cedar Waxwing 221, House Sparrow 1025, House Finch 314, American Goldfinch 203, Chipping Sparrow 158+3, Field Sparrow 23, Saltmarsh Sparrow 3, Seaside Sparrow 2, Song Sparrow 462+2, Swamp Sparrow 1, Eastern Towhee 20, White-throated Sparrow 1, Orchard Oriole 23, Baltimore Oriole 158, Red-winged Blackbird 1143, Bobolink 1, Brown-headed Cowbird 219, Common Grackle 821, Ovenbird 144, Worm-eating Warbler 18, Louisiana Waterthrush 17, Northern Waterthrush 1, Blue-winged Warbler 40, Black-and-white Warbler 25, Blackpoll Warbler CP, Prothonotary Warbler CP, Common Yellowthroat 133, Hooded Warbler 1, American Redstart 24, Magnolia Warbler 1, Northern Parula 1, Yellow Warbler 225, Chestnut-sided Warbler 2, Pine Warbler 45, Prairie Warbler 28, Black-throated Green Warbler 5, Scarlet Tanager 47, Northern Cardinal 318+2, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 30, Indigo Bunting 74.

--Steve Mayo

Gov Lamont Signs Bill to Help Protect Birds Migrating Through Connecticut from Light Pollution

On June 15, Gov. Ned Lamont signed a bill into law aimed at protecting birds and the night sky in Connecticut from the harmful effects of light pollution. Act 23-143 requires all state-owned buildings to shut off nonessential outdoor lights after 11pm year-round for birds. It also directs the CT Code and Standards Committee to consider a change to the lighting requirements in the State Building Code.

The bill, first introduced as HB 6607, passed unanimously through all stages of the legislative life cycle, the Environment Committee, the State House and then the State Senate. Initially the bill sought to have lights turned off during peak migration periods. The bill was amended to be in effect year-round.

Connecticut joins only a couple of states in the nation, including Illinois and Minnesota, to have a comprehensive Lights Out law to protect migratory birds from light pollution. "This law is a major step forward in protecting birds - and all of us - against light pollution," said Craig Repasz, Co-Chair of Lights Out Connecticut. "We are very fortunate to live in a state that values our natural resources, our birds, our health, and the night sky by taking steps to combat light pollution."

After a similar bill failed last year to get out of committee, it was reintroduced by Rep. Ann Hughes (D-Easton, Weston and Redding) and then carried by the Environment Committee, with 10 of its members co-sponsoring the bill. This year, the bill passed both chambers unanimously. "I not only applaud the passage of this bill as Co-Chair of the CT Animal Advocacy Caucus, but also as a volunteer that worked under federal permit 'herding' endangered sea turtle hatchlings distracted by artificial light back to sea. Limiting to the utmost the human factor is crucial to protect biodiversity," said Rep. David Michel (D-Stamford), an early co-sponsor of the bill.

The state Office of Fiscal Analysis estimates the bill will save the state of Connecticut at least \$1.3 million per year. And Lights Out Connecticut estimates it could prevent as much as 4.4 million pounds of CO2 from being released unnecessarily into the environment. (That's the equivalent greenhouse gas emissions of over 440 gas-powered cars driven for one year.)

"This law is unique. It simultaneously addresses two of the biggest threats facing our environment today, biodiversity loss and climate change," said Meredith Barges, Co-Chair of Lights Out Connecticut. Organizing to pass the bill was a combined effort of Lights Out Connecticut bringing together organizations across the state, including Audubon Connecticut, Connecticut Audubon Society, Connecticut Ornithological Association, CT Chapter of Dark Sky, New Haven Bird Club, Pollinator Pathway, the CT chapter of the Sierra Club Foundation, and many others.

Lights Out Connecticut will continue its educational campaign throughout the State to raise awareness of the issue of light pollution's harmful impact. The focus will be to initiate and support efforts on the municipal level.

Legislative Wrap-up

There was a lot of environmental legislation introduced in the 2023 spring session that would have an impact on the State's bird populations.

An Act Concerning The Hand-Harvesting Of Horseshoe Crabs In The State

Hand-harvesting of horseshoe crabs or the eggs of horseshoe crabs from the waters of this state is now illegal. The ban will help restore the horseshoe crab population. Horseshoe crab eggs are essential to Red Knot populations that migrate through Connecticut.

Signed into law by Gov. Lamont June 7, 2023.

An Act Prohibiting The Use Of Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides

Reduces the lethal effect that second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides can have on hawks and other raptors.

Introduced by: Sen. Cohen, 12th Dist.

Did not pass out of the Environment Joint Committee.

An Act Prohibiting The Sale And Use Of Anticoagulant Rodenticides

Prohibits the sale and use of anticoagulant rodenticides in the state. Statement of Purpose: To protect wildlife in the food chain by prohibiting anticoagulant rodenticides.

Introduced by: Rep. Linehan, 103rd Dist.

Did not pass out of the Environment Committee.

An Act Concerning The Sale And Use Of Seeds Coated With Neonicotinoids

Prohibits the sale, use and possession of seeds coated in neonicotinoids. Statement of Purpose: To halt the decline of pollinators, other insects, and insect-eating birds that results from the use of neonicotinoid-coated seeds.

Introduced by: Rep. Mushinsky, 85th Dist., Sen. Cohen, 12th Dist.

Did not pass out of the Environment Committee.

An Act Concerning The Use Of Neonicotinoids In The State

Decreases the use of pesticides like neonicotinoids, which affect human health and pollinators.

Introduced by: Rep. Arzeno, 151st Dist.

Did not pass out of the Environment Committee.

An Act Strengthening Pollinator Health And Regulating Nonagricultural Pesticide Use

Requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to ban the use of neonicotinoids for nonagricultural purposes and ban the use of certain seeds treated with pesticides.

Introduced by: Rep. Dathan, 142nd Dist. Rep. Hughes, 135th Dist. Rep. Doucette, 13th Dist. Rep. Porter, 94th Dist. Rep. Michel, 146th Dist.

Did not pass out of the Environment Committee.

An Act Concerning A Working Group For The Restoration Of Eel Grass

Establish a working group to develop strategies for the restoration of eel grass along the state's shoreline. Statement of Purpose: To establish a working group to develop strategies for the restoration of eel grass along the state's shoreline.

Introduced by: Sen. Kelly, 21st Dist.

Approved June 26, 2023

An Act Requiring The Resubmission Of The Long Island Sound Blue Plan

Requires the resubmission of the Long Island Sound Blue Plan to the General Assembly for approval because such plan has been modified to include cables running onshore from Long Island Sound.

Introduced by: Sen. Somers, 18th Dist.

Did not pass out of the Environment Committee.

An Act Prohibiting The Release Of Helium Balloons

To limit the harm to Long Island Sound and other state waterways from the release of helium balloons.

Introduced by: Rep. Haines I., 34th Dist.

Did not pass out of the Environment Committee.

An Act Concerning Helium And Lighter-Than-Air Balloons

Prohibits the sale of helium and lighter-than-air balloons.

Statement of Purpose: To protect the environment from the release of balloons.

Introduced by: Rep. Chafee, 33rd Dist.

Did not pass out of the Environment Committee.

An Act Authorizing The Establishment Of A Seabird And Shorebird Protection Program

The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may establish a list of seabirds and shorebirds for inclusion in a seabird and shorebird protection program. The DEEP Commissioner may designate seabird and shorebird protection areas. Such seabird and shorebird protection areas may be designated for the months of March first to September fifteenth of any calendar year, or any period of time therein, on public property that is owned by the state and is located within the coastal area. Areas may be designated with signage, posts and string fencing. Unauthorized people cannot enter designated areas. Pets cannot come closer than 25 feet from the designated areas. Vehicles and bicycles cannot come closer than 25 feet from designated areas.

Signed by Gov Lamont June 27, 2023.

--Craig Repasz
Conservation Chair

NHBC Winter Feeder Survey 2023-2024



I want to welcome all members and non-members to the 2023–2024 Winter Feeder Survey.

I know that a great portion of our membership are going on walks, or trips now and into the fall, but once winter comes you will be

looking out your window and checking to see what species are at your feeders. 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 compilation and reports for the last 12 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 the increasing presence of Black Bears and their taking down of feeders.

The First Session will start on Monday, October 30, 2023, and finish on Sunday, March 30, 2024. 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 4, 2023, and end on Sunday, March 2, 2024. 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 the New Haven County: Bethany, Durham, Guilford, Hamden, Meriden, Milford, North Branford, Orange, Wallingford and Woodbridge. We have two surveyors outside New Haven County: Killingworth (Middlesex County) and Monroe (Fairfield County). We have 4 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: 203-988-1841 (cell). 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 2023

NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Area Code / Phone _____

Email _____

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Membership Levels (check appropriate category):

_____ Individual - \$15 _____ Family - \$20

_____ Supporting - \$50 _____ Student under 18 - Free

_____ Life Membership - \$300 for 1 or 2 people at same address.

Additional gift to support NHBC programs: \$ _____

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

You can also join or renew membership at the NHBC website with
credit card or PayPal.

The NHBC membership year is from July 1 to June 30. New members
joining between January 1 and June 30 are given full membership for
the rest of the current year and for the whole next membership year.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

New Haven Bird Club is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All dues and donations are fully tax-deductible. If you work for a company that gives matching grants, please take advantage of the offer. It's free and helps NHBC's program budget.

The Club welcomes everyone irrespective of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, or national origin.

If your address, phone or email change, please send that information to: New Haven Bird Club, PO Box 9004, New Haven CT 06532-0004 or membership@newhavenbirdclub.org.

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

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