



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

December 2019

2019 - 2020 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

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

Wednesday, December 4, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Saturday, December 7, 8 a.m. to noon (Rain Date: Sunday, December 8) **Surveying New Haven's Area K for the Christmas Bird Count**

Thursday, December 12, 7 p.m. **Colleen Peters – Avian Ambassadors (with live birds)**

Saturday, December 14, all day **119th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count**

Wednesday, January 8, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport**

Thursday, January 9, 7 p.m. **Dr. Scott Gavaletz – Birds of New Haven as Seen by Branford Veterinary Hospital**

Saturday January 11, 8–10 a.m. (Snow/rain cancels the walk) **Winter Bird Walk at Lake Saltonstall**

Saturday, January 18, 8 a.m. **Milford Hotspots in Winter**

Saturday, February 1, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.; dinner from 5:30–7 p.m. **The Fourth Annual Mega Bowl of Birding in New Haven County**

Wednesday, February 5, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison**

Thursday, February 13, 7 p.m. **Mystic Aquarium's Penguin Team – African Penguins**

Saturday, February 22, 7 a.m. (Snow date is Sunday, February 23) **Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast**

BIRDERS' EXCHANGE

The New Haven Bird Club is collecting binoculars, scopes or Neotropical field guides that we will donate to the Birders' Exchange Program, which is part of ABA. This organization donates all binoculars and other equipment to worthy individuals involved in crucial bird conservation projects and education work in Central and South America. At each indoor meeting there will be a box on the sign-in table where you can place your equipment donation.

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.newhavenbirdclub.org

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I was planning to write about how fast the months have passed since my friend Gail Cameron and I were watching a Red-shouldered Hawk fly back and forth carrying snakes to two chicks in its nest high in an old spruce tree. We were doing breeding bird observations in early June for the Connecticut Bird Atlas.

Now, before I knew it, I was standing for an hour in a favorite spot in my Atlas Block and it was twenty-three degrees, the sky completely overcast, and a cold wind was blowing from the north. I was under-dressed and shivering. Despite wool gloves, my index finger went numb, though I kept rubbing and blowing on it — my eBird finger, and it felt thick and solid as a popsicle.

The point was how much I enjoyed being there despite the cold: in a power-line cut with Dark-eyed Juncos and Tufted Titmice and Northern Cardinals and White-throated Sparrows. A pair of late Field Sparrows, which I'd seen there all summer, were flying out from the cedar tree line to some flowered-out grass tops. One of the adult red tails I'd seen all spring and summer was there, perched on a power-pole, and an immature red-tail was circling over the cut — an offspring of the adult?

I was going to say how wonderful it was and how much I looked forward to the upcoming winter events with NHBC members, freezing or not, when my spouse handed me an essay she had written — humorous, but a very different take on the joys of birding with the Club.

Since one of our Club's strengths is being open and welcoming to birders with all levels of experience and motivation, I decided to turn over the rest of this space to her. Here's what she had to say:

"I consider myself a casual birder. This is in stark contrast to those I shall refer to as the avid birder. And unlike essays by avid birders, mine is rife with opinions, personal stories, and absolutely no scientific facts.

"I'm someone who will get up in the mid-winter dark to go on a bird walk if: 1) I had a good night's sleep, 2) I can find clothes warm enough to survive a few hours in temperatures below 32 degrees, 3) The walk is in a location I'm either interested in seeing or easy enough for me, and finally, 4) All my body parts are in good working order. Full disclosure: All four of these conditions are rarely met. In warmer seasons, substitute in number 2 above 'light-enough clothes to be comfortable and keep the bugs off of my bug-magnet exposed parts.

(Continued on next page)

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2019-2020

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SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203-758-7203
<i>Birds in Words</i>	Kris Johnson kriswaxwing99@gmail.com	203-288-3087
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net	203-389-6508
<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	203-393-0694
<i>Lighthouse Point 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 rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	203-393-0694
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	203-288-0621

New Haven Bird Club Website:
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

(President's Message Continued from first page)

"My husband, on the other hand, is an avid birder. You know them or at the very least have seen cartoons ridiculing them. You know — the ones with the socks tucked into the pants bottoms, the ever present binoculars, the sloppy looking bucket hat, the I-don't-care-what-I look-like-in-public ensemble.

"Very generally speaking, and notice the lack of science-based statistics here, I would say that in every couple, there is one avid and one casual birder. Because, and here is a possibly true fact, birders can be very competitive and it's difficult enough to maintain a marriage without adding the stress of bird list battles.

"What I do enjoy very much is getting outside to places that I would not necessarily visit except for birding. You know . . . beaches, forests, state parks, an occasional swamp. Sometimes even beautiful private property made available to birders only.

"I also like to meet new people who are always friendly and willing to chat at least until a life bird shows up and then it's a wall of silence. Not a problem . . . I too can spend some time on bird walks looking at birds!

"When I first started, we went to a local Audubon Center. The walk leader had a small speaker and recordings of owls which he'd play to get the birds in a tizzy of fear, which would then make them visible to us humans. Hopefully, no predators were really close by to get them once they were exposed.

"We soon after relocated to New Haven County where my husband discovered the existence of the more than 100 year-old New Haven Bird Club (finally, a verifiable fact).

"He immediately signed us up as life members. I, who, after failing badly in the Brownies at a very young age, was never much of a joiner, thought to myself, hummmmm.

"Because of scheduling conflicts I missed the first couple of NHBC banquets, COA annual meetings, and numerous indoor meetings.

"I now consider these the highlights of my life, along with the Christmas bird count, Lighthouse Migration Festival, and the Megabowl of Birding. Please refer once more to the earlier 4 conditions for participation.

"I treasure the friendships we have made over the years, the birds I have personally been able to locate, the special trips to other states and countries that have included birding expeditions, even if birding was not the entire focus. We bring cameras and binoculars — or bins as they are sometimes called (there, another almost scientific fact) with us everywhere.

"Please join us on a walk, say hello, enjoy yourself, start a bird list, and don't forget to bring freshly baked cookies!"

--DeWitt Allen and Lori Datlow

Notes from the Board

Our board meetings are open to all members, and we welcome anyone who would like to attend. The next board meeting will be Thursday, December 19 at 6:45 p.m. in the sixth floor Conference Room at Whitney Center.

Deadline for submissions to the February *Chickadee* is January 24. Send to Newsletter Editor, donnabatsford@gmail.com.

Indoor Programs

Indoor programs start in September and are held on the second Thursday of the month. There are no indoor programs in June, July, or August. The social half-hour at meetings begins at 7:00 pm; the meeting and program begin at 7:30 pm. Meetings are held at Whitney Center's Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden 06517. The facility is wheelchair accessible. Meeting is in Whitney Center's South Building, accessed via the main door of the portico that is in view from the parking lot. Turn right down the hallway. Cultural Arts Center is a short distance on the left.

Directions to Whitney Center:

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

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

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

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

Inclement weather or other emergency may cancel a meeting. Cancellation notices will be sent via the club email and will be posted on the club website, www.newhavenbirdclub.org, and online on CTBirds. Also check TV channels WTNH (New Haven) and WFSB (Hartford).

Thursday, December 12 – Colleen Peters Avian Ambassadors (with live birds)

With the help of our avian ambassadors, students learn about the amazing adaptations that enable birds to thrive in their specialized environments. Colleen Peters is the Director of Education at the Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy in Litchfield CT.

Thursday, January 9 – Dr. Scott Gavaletz Birds of New Haven as Seen by Branford Veterinary Hospital

Avian patients are a rare sight in most veterinary hospitals. Pet birds don't require annual vaccines and often don't show any signs of illness until it's too late. Oftentimes the stress involved in transporting a bird to the veterinary hospital or the risk of escape or injury will outweigh the potential advantage of an annual checkup. In addition, locating a veterinarian who will see an avian patient—pet or wildlife—can be challenging. Dr. Gavaletz will present a collection of avian cases seen at the Branford Veterinary Hospital. While the main focus will be on

wildlife, cases involving pet birds and backyard chickens may be shared as well. All the cases presented will be birds from New Haven County. Dr. Gavaletz is veterinarian and owner of the Branford Veterinary Hospital. In the field for 22 years, his passion is in exotic animal and wildlife medicine. He holds a B.S. degree in zoology from Southern Connecticut State University and a D.V.M from the University of Florida.

Thursday, February 13 – Mystic Aquarium's Penguin Team African Penguins

This program by an African penguin care team highlights the work that is done both at Mystic Aquarium as well as with their partner institution in South Africa to protect endangered African penguin species. Utilizing the Zoom virtual platform, they will take the group on a virtual tour of the Aquarium's penguin exhibit. Led by members of our Penguin and Education teams, participants in this program will have an opportunity to talk with a penguin trainer and meet a penguin up close and personal.

Birds in Words

Join us at "Birds in Words," NHBC's gathering of people who like reading books on their favorite hobby. Since the group began in 2009, we've read more than 45 books on just about every aspect of birds, birding, birders, nature, and naturalists, and had some lively meetings. Share the fun! We meet about once every six weeks or so (on a Tuesday night) at Whitney

Center from 7–9 PM. For details, contact Kris Johnson: kriswaxwing99@gmail.com or 203-288-3087.

The next book we will discuss is *This Fine Piece of Water: An Environmental History of Long Island Sound* by Tom Andersen. The meeting date in March is yet to be determined.

Outdoor Programs

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, please be sure to let the leader know at the start of the field trip. More details, if required, and/or updates on these trips will be given at the indoor meetings and in the newsletter. Watch for emails sent by the Club. You can also check the Club's website: www.newhavenbirdclub.org for updated trip information and a Google Map link to the meeting place. Contact trip leaders directly if you have questions about any of their trips. The New Haven Bird Club does not charge any fees for its outdoor programs, but participants are responsible for the cost of their food, transportation, and entrance fees (where charged), unless the Club makes prior arrangements. Carpooling is encouraged to avoid parking problems at some destinations and to promote conservation of natural resources.

NHBC Conservation and Education Activities

The NHBC routinely works to preserve and restore bird populations and their habitats and to provide opportunities for learning about birds, their habitats, where to see them, and how to help ensure their future. The NHBC provides information and displays at multiple events throughout the year, including the Connecticut Green Expo and at the Lighthouse Point Park Migration Festival in September. The Club also is building a presence in local public schools and camps to encourage children to embrace birding. We view this activity as a direct connection to our Club objectives and usually present a very basic birding skills class followed by an hour-long bird walk.

Bird Count / Hawk Watch, Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven; Daily September to December Starts Sunday, September 1, 2019, Daily, 7 a.m.

Lighthouse Point Park on the 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, 203-393-0694 or scmayo999@gmail.com

First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison Wednesday, December 4, 8–11 a.m.

At any time of year, Hammonasset is a true gem. Enjoy a mid-week trip to explore this birding hotspot for fall migrants. The varied habitat attracts shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds. Meet at Hammonasset Beach State Park parking area on Boston Post Road, Madison, just left (east) of main entrance road.

Leader: Jerry Connolly, 203-421-4128 (home), 203-710-2011 (cell), or birdshop@sbcglobal.net

Surveying New Haven's Area K for the Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 7, 8 a.m. to noon Rain Date: Sunday, December 8

We survey Area K the weekend prior to the Saturday, December 14 New Haven Christmas Bird Count. This highly productive area includes Ora Avenue / Proto Drive / Morris Creek Marshes, Cosey Beach, Lighthouse Point Park, Beacon Hill and the Trolley Line, Furnace Pond, and the lower Farm River. Area K typically produces 75–80 species on count day, including waterfowl, loons, herons, raptors, shorebirds, woodpeckers, and such songbirds as wrens, thrushes, sparrows, flocking birds, and finches. From Coe Road in East Haven, turn onto Proto Drive / Ora Avenue and drive west toward the large asphalt pile. When you come to a fork in the road, take it!

(Actually, we meet at the fork.)

Leader: Steve Broker, 203-272-5192 (home), 203-747-6843 (cell), or LS.Broker@cox.net

119th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 14, all day

Join other NHBC members in this fun event, steeped in tradition. Take part for a few hours or all day. Join birders in the field or report what you see in your backyard (if you reside within the count circle). The results of the count are sent to the National Audubon Society for inclusion in an international census of early winter bird populations. The compilation dinner is at 5 p.m. at the Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden.

Compiler: Chris Loscalzo, 203-389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net

First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport Wednesday, January 8, 8–11 a.m.

Join a midweek trip to this outstanding Long Island Sound birding spot. We check for loons, grebes, goldeneye, and other sea ducks. The fields are a good place to look for Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, and sparrows. Meet at Sherwood Island State Park: take Exit 18 off I-95 in Westport and head south on the Sherwood Island Connector. Drive into the park and meet at the main parking lot.

Leader: Tina Green, 203-247-2660 or tina@renaissancestudios.com.

Winter Bird Walk at Lake Saltonstall Saturday January 11, 8–10 a.m. Snow/rain cancels the walk

Come out for a walk at Lake Saltonstall to look for winter birds. We will search the lake for wintering eagles. We will also walk the woods roads and powerline cuts for other birds that over-winter in the area. Meet at the fishing parking lot nearest the fish shack, 100 Hosley Avenue, Branford.

Leader: John Triana, jtriana1@sbcglobal.net.

Milford Hotspots in Winter Saturday, January 18, 8 a.m.

We'll look for waterfowl, birds of prey, and winter passerines as we visit Milford hotspots that will likely include Milford Point, Mondo Ponds, and Caswell Cove. Dress warmly and plan to carpool. The trip ends by noon. Inclement weather will probably cancel the trip. Check with the leader if you have weather concerns. Meet at the commuter lot, Exit 35 off I-95. Leader: Frank Mantlik, 203-984-9410 or mantlik@sbcglobal.net.

The Fourth Annual Mega Bowl of Birding in New Haven County Saturday, February 1, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.; dinner from 5:30–7 p.m.

Held on Super Bowl Weekend! Come join in on a fun and friendly event! Compete with other birders and win prizes and get your team's name inscribed on the prestigious Mega Bowl Trophy! We will bird New Haven County from Milford to Madison and north to Waterbury and Meriden, CT, and have fun birding and socializing with other birders. Birders join together in groups of three or four people and go birding wherever they like within New Haven County on the day of the event. The teams will meet at the end of the event and have dinner and share stories. The meeting will be at the Kellogg Environmental Center at 500 Hawthorne Avenue, Derby. A delicious dinner will be served. The Mega Bowl is inspired by the Superbowl of Birding held each January in Northeast New England by Mass Audubon, and the organizers of that event have generously given their consent for us to hold our own, similar event. Anyone interested in participating in the Mega Bowl will need to register in advance. The deadline for registration is Sunday, January 26th. Participants may sign up as a team, or individuals can submit their names and they will be put in contact with other individuals looking to become members of a team. Participants are encouraged to be creative in coming up with a name for their team. See the NHBC website for more details, www.newhavenbirdclub.org. Contact: Chris Loscalzo, 203-389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net.

First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison Wednesday, February 5, 8–11 a.m.

Enjoy a mid-week field trip to Hammonasset Beach State Park, one of the state's best birding locations in any season of the year. We will look for sea ducks, grassland species, and rarities. Meet at Hammonasset Beach State Park parking area on Boston Post Road, Madison, just left (east) of main entrance road.

Leader: Greg Hanisek, ctgregh@yahoo.com.

Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast Saturday, February 22, 7 a.m. Snow date is Sunday, February 23

This all-day trip includes stops at Sachuest Point NWR, Beavertail State Park, Moonstone Beach, Trustum Pond, and other great birding sites on the RI coast. We will see lots of sea ducks including all three scoter species, Common Eider, and Harlequin Duck. We'll look for birds of prey, including Rough-legged Hawk and several owl species. We'll also be on the

lookout for alcids and rare gulls. Dress warmly—it's likely to be cold and windy on the coast. The walk is a bit strenuous. Meet at the Guilford commuter lot, Exit 57 off I-95.

Leader: Chris Loscalzo, 203-389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net.

Field Trip Reports

October First Wednesday Walk at Lighthouse Point Park Trip Report

On Wednesday, October 2, Frank Gallo led the walk at Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven. 45 species were seen despite the west winds that morning: Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Killdeer, shorebird sp., Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

Black-backed Gull, Double-crested Cormorant, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, European Starling, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, American Robin, thrush sp., House Sparrow, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Yellowthroat, Palm Warbler, Northern Cardinal.

Yale University Golf Course Trip Report

The Yale Golf Course, located in the western extent of New Haven, is closed to golfers on Monday mornings allowing the



Photo by Donna Batsford

10 NHBC birders to walk this beautiful, well-tended area on October 7. A windy morning kept the species total to 17, but 8 Eastern Bluebirds frolicking in the parking lot made a lovely finishing touch for this early fall birding trip.

--Bill Batsford

Hammonasset Beach State Park Trip Report – 10/12/19



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

On Saturday, October 12, 15 birders met for a walk on a lovely fall day at this excellent birding area. With many pairs of eyes 47 species were seen. Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a Brown Creeper, a Field Sparrow, Red-eyed Vireo, a Winter Wren and close Blue-headed Vireo were seen, but the highlight (for me anyway) was 12 (!) Eastern Towhees, several at close quarters. Other features were an adult Bald Eagle, a flyover Northern Harrier, 4 Cooper's Hawks and 10 Eastern Phoebe. Hammonasset, as usual, did not disappoint.

--Bill Batsford

Fall Birds and Foliage Along the West River Trip Report

On Saturday October 19, Pat Leahy led the walk to areas on the West River. The walk began at Lake Bethany where 16 species were seen: Wood Duck, Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue-headed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Song Sparrow, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler.

The group moved on to Lake Watrous where 10 species were seen: Green-winged Teal, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

The trip finished at Lake Dawson where 22 species were seen: Canada Goose, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Spotted Sandpiper, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, European Starling, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, House Finch, Chipping Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Common Grackle, Northern Cardinal.

Birding at Hamden's Town Center Park Trip Report

October 31 at 3pm, Halloween, the rain was heavy and the wind so strong that hobgoblins laid low and witches' brooms were blown off their trick-or-treating routes. In her pollinator bumblebee costume, Deborah and one other brave soul walked the perimeter of Hamden's Town Center Park. In the community garden there were many House Finches and a few White-throated Sparrows; mockingbirds were aplenty. The rain let up for the 1 hour of the walk, and we enjoyed the freshness of the afternoon, accompanied all the while by 3 circling Red-tailed Hawks. With so many trees with branches newly bare, we viewed many bird nests, always a promising sight. Toward the end of the walk, a family of 3 knowledgeable birders, brand-new to New Haven from northern Vermont, were delighted to learn of the Town Center Park and the New Haven Bird Club.

Saturday, November 3 at 9 am was a very different weather story: the morning was cold yet very sunny and the meeting spot in front of the Rectory School Barn proved to be a hot spot as the birds gathered to warm up—Blue Jays, mockingbirds, cardinals, a flicker, a pair of House Wrens, House Finches and White-throated Sparrows were all there together. Along the walk of the perimeter of the park and grounds of the Middle School, we talked of positive aspects of the park, including viewing the in-process installation of the rain garden, to be completed in 2020, and talked, too, of the park's great potential



for better birding. Numerous robins were happily consuming the plentiful berries as a Sharp-shinned Hawk kept an eager eye on them. Mockingbirds were in abundance, gold finches, White-throated Sparrows, starlings chasing a Red-tailed Hawk, several tree sparrows, many Song Sparrows, 5 crows, and a flock of juncos newly arrived from the north. After

crossing the brand new bridge that links the park to the Farmington Canal Line, we took a group photo and were then entertained by 2 very curious Carolina Wrens. Six people joined the walk, most of whom saw the posting by the Hamden Land Conservation Trust—which made this a great collaborative walk. Thank you HLCT and all who came!

--Deborah Johnson

Treasure Hunt for Real Treasure Fargeorge Fieldtrip Report

On Saturday, November 2, the Club had a joint fieldtrip with the New Haven Land Trust to the Eugene B. Fargeorge Sanctuary on Quinnipiac Avenue in New Haven. This was really a treasure hunt for real treasure.



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

Everything came together. The weather was perfect – about 30°F at the start with almost no wind and not a cloud in the sky. The trip was well attended by both the people and the birds – especially the Robins. We had 49 species. Some of the special species were: American Woodcock –

6, Eastern Towhee – 2, Eastern Phoebe – 2, Gray Catbird – 1, Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 2, Golden-crowned Kinglet – 1, Winter Wren – 1, American Robin – 200+.

I would like to thank the good folks at NH Land Trust for being wonderful hosts as usual.

--Michael Horn

Cheshire Hotspots Trip Report

On Sunday, November 3 Melissa Baston led the trip to Cheshire hotspots. The group met at Boulder Knoll where they saw 27 species: Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Carolina Wren, European Starling, Northern Mockingbird, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, House Finch, American Goldfinch, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Cardinal.

Then the group went to Broad Brook Reservoir where they observed from the causeway and then from south side. This is a known area for Ruddy Duck to collect in the fall and 300 were seen. A total of 21 species were seen: Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Herring Gull, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler.

The trip finished at Fresh Meadows Preserve, where 17 species were seen: Mourning Dove, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, House Finch, American Goldfinch, White-throated Sparrow, Yellow-rumped Warbler.

November First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park Trip Report

Tina Green led the walk at Sherwood Island State Park on Wednesday, November 6. On this sunny, cool, breezy day 55 species were seen: Brant (Atlantic), Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, American Black Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon), Mourning Dove, Greater Yellowlegs, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull (American), Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Common Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Blue Heron (Blue form), Great Egret, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, European Starling, Northern Mockingbird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, House Sparrow, House Finch, Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored), White-throated Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Cardinal.



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

Winter Feeder Survey 2019-2020

This year we started with 18 surveyors, 4 via Postal Mail and 14 via email. We are located all over New Haven County and one surveyor in Fairfield County and one in Middlesex County. We have finished the first 2 weeks of the survey with 9 of 18 surveyors reporting.



9 surveyors have reported by email out of 18 (the others send their reports in after the 5th week).

We saw 20 of 26 of the Common Species, 5 of 12 Semi-Common, 1 Uncommon of 41 and 6 of 26 Animals. No Waterfowls had been seen. Of the 2 Common winter species, the maximum number seen in any one week so far is 14 Dark-eyed Juncos seen by Maris Fiondella in week 2 and 7 White-throated Sparrows seen by Bev Proppen in week 2.

There is still time to join. The survey runs from **Monday, November 4th, 2019 thru Sunday, April 4th, 2020**. It is a weekly survey, but the number you report can be from a few minutes on one day or from many sightings on several days of the week. It is very flexible.

There will be **2 Session** this year due the increasing presence of **Black Bears** and their taking down of feeders.

The **First Session** will start on **Monday, November 4, 2019** and finish on **Sunday, April 4, 2020**. 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 2, 2019** and end on **Sunday, March 1, 2020**. This is for those who fear bears attacking their feeders. During this period (**RED week numbers**), the bears should be in hibernation and no threat to the feeders. It will be 13 weeks long.

So far, the bears have stayed away.

We have 3 types of Surveyors:

1. Postal Surveyors: Those who use Postal Mail to send and receive. I send you the forms via Postal Mail and you send them back via Postal Mail. No email capability

2. Email surveyors: Those who use email to send and receive.

3. Email/Postal surveyors: Those of you who can receive email but cannot download the forms and print them or cannot use email to send the data back to me. I send the forms to you via Postal Mail and you send them back via Postal Mail. All other communication is via email.

We record the highest number of **individual birds** seen of that species in that week. For example: for the daily count if you see **5 Juncos** at 8:00 AM, **10** at noon, and **6** at 3:00PM, **count 10 Juncos** as your count for the day. For the weekly count if on the first day of a week you have **1 Blue Jay**, and on another day, you have **5 Blue Jays**, **record 5** in the cell for that week. In cases where individual birds can be differentiated, record the total counted for both sexes for the week. For example, if you have a female Cardinal on one day of the week and a male on another, then **record 2** for the week, since you know that **2 different individuals** were seen.

Any questions or comments, please feel free to **contact me via email**. My home phone number is in the NHBC Yearbook, but my new phones have "Call Blocking" on them and if we do not recognize the caller name or number the call may be blocked. Instead call my cell phone: **203 988-1841 and leave a message**. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

The email address is: vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net.

--Happy Birding,
Pete Vitali

Welcome New Members

Jim and Coe Barakos
Wallingford

Sharon Berndt
North Branford

Craig Hotchkiss
West Hartford

Linda Kozloski
Suffield

Mark Seth Lender
Clinton

Nicole Neigel
Preston

Linda Odaynik
North Haven

Suzanne Odaynik
Southbury

Dorothy Young
Branford



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

Newsletter December 2019

NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

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

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

The NHBC website, www.newhavenbirdclub.org, offers information about the Club, its programs, and other Club and member news. If you have any questions about the Club, you can send an email to: ask.nhbc@gmail.com.

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

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