



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

December 2023

2023 - 2024 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Wednesday, December 6, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Saturday, December 9, 8–11 a.m. **East Rock Park, New Haven**

Thursday, December 14, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual only) **Frank Gallo – South Texas Specialties Trip Report**

Saturday, December 16, all day, dinner at 5 p.m. **124th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count**

Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport**

Thursday, January 11, 2024, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual only) **Dr. Sam Merker – All About the American Bittern**

Saturday, January 13, 8 a.m. to noon **Milford Hotspots in Winter**

Saturday, February 3, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. **The Eighth Annual Mega Bowl of Birding and**

Sunday, February 4, 5–7 p.m. (Location to be determined) **Mega Bowl Compilation Dinner**

Wednesday, February 7, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Thursday, February 8, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual only) **Diego Calderon – Birds of Columbia**

Saturday, February 24, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast**

Snow date - Sunday, February 25, same time

Sunday, February 25, 8–11 a.m. **White Memorial Foundation: Birding and Tracking, Litchfield**

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



The change of the seasons is upon us. The first heavy frost arrived at my house in early November. White-throated Sparrows and a few Dark-eyed Juncos are back near my feeders, picking through the leaves in my yard. My long underwear and hand warmers are ready for use when I go out birding, and in December the season will officially change to winter.

Change is also happening on your NHBC Board. After serving for more than 10 years as our Treasurer, Andy Stack has decided to retire from the Board. Andy's contributions and commitment to our Club have been immense. He was recruited to the position shortly after he joined as a member. He has praised the friendliness and helpfulness of Club members as one important reason for his decade of volunteer service. We will miss Andy's presence on the Board but will look forward to his company on some of our bird walks.

If you have participated in our bird walks or other events in the past year you have probably met our incoming Treasurer, Celeste Echlin. Celeste and her husband Sam Walker joined the Club in 2022 and are active participants. After hearing of our need for a new Treasurer while attending one of Jack Swatt's recent Wingspan game events, Celeste volunteered to relieve Andy. With her years of prior experience as Treasurer for another non-profit and with an education and career in finance and commercial banking, Celeste has come up to speed very quickly. As I write this column, we plan to have the formal transition from Andy to Celeste occur on November 20, 2023, when we all meet at the bank to change names on our NHBC account. Please join me in saying a big "THANK YOU" to Andy and a warm "WELCOME" to Celeste.

--Chris Howe



Changing of the treasurer: Andy Stack to Celeste Echlin

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>	Celeste Echlin	860-485-2567
	cechlin151@gmail.com	
<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	
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	albert.laguna@gmail.com	
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Glen Cummings	203-228-8072
	gmc2@comcast.net	
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	warmstove@hotmail.com	
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	allendatlow@gmail.com	
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Emmeline Kaiser	225-368-7273
	emkaiser03@gmail.com	
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	ptjleahy@yahoo.com	
<i>Yearbook Editor</i>	Christine Howe	203-530-1066
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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
	jtriana1@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

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 25, 2024.

Deadline for submissions to the next *Chickadee* is January 26, 2024. 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.

CT Duck Stamps Support Habitat Conservation

I highly recommend that club members go online to the CT DEEP store at www.ctdeepstore.com to purchase a 2023 CT Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp now or a 2024 stamp later on to contribute to the CTDEEP Conservation Fund. They accept VISA, Mastercard, and Discovery. Please see the DEEP poster elsewhere in this edition of *The Chickadee*.

The stamps cost \$17.00 each. It's a small price to pay and the money is used exclusively for conservation purposes. Buy several for gifts!

--Lori Datlow

Welcome New Members

Christine S. Connolly
Glastonbury

Simeng Han
New Haven

Norman Krause and Ann Goodwin
New York, NY

Terry Bohnhorst Blackhawk
Hamden

Alison Cunningham
Hamden

Cliff Schorr
Trumbull

Gerald Sitko
Cheshire

Patrice Favreau
CT

Patrick McGovern
New Haven

Maegan Bollin
Southbury

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, December 14, 2023 – Frank Gallo South Texas Specialties Trip Report (Virtual only)

Join us for an online presentation showcasing a Texas tour by leader Frank Gallo of Sunrise Birding. Prepare to be transported on a captivating journey through some of Texas' most breathtaking birding destinations, where you'll have the opportunity to encounter numerous remarkable species. We will not be meeting in person for this presentation.

Thursday, January 11, 2024 – Dr. Sam Merker All About the American Bittern (Virtual only)

Join Sam Merker, postdoctoral researcher at the University of Connecticut, for an engaging presentation on the captivating life history of the American Bittern. Discover insights into current research, including what researchers hope to uncover using data from the Connecticut Bird Atlas.

Thursday, February 8, 2024 – Diego Calderon Birds of Columbia (Virtual only)

Embark on a virtual tour of Colombia's bird species with biologist and tour guide Diego Calderon. He has more than a decade of experience leading bird tours. His adventurous expeditions have taken him to remote areas, including the Pirre and Santa Marta Mountains, where he captured remarkable photographs and voice recordings of elusive birds like the Blue-bearded Helmetcrest and Santa Marta Wren. Diego's expertise extends beyond Colombia; he has guided bird tours in several other countries and has a keen interest in digiscoping and in wild orchid photography. We will not be meeting in person for this presentation.



Ken Elkins Photo by Gail Martino

The October and November indoor programs were hybrid - in person at Whitney Center and online. On October 12th Ken Elkins presented "Power of Birds for Dementia," and on November 9th Min Huang presented "30th Anniversary of the Connecticut 'Duck Stamp' Program.



Min Huang Photo by Gail Martino

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.

First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison

Wednesday, December 6, 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 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: Jerry Connolly, 203-710-2011, birdshop@sbcglobal.net

East Rock Park, New Haven

Saturday, December 9, 8–11 a.m.

East Rock Park is deservedly famous for its diversity of colorful neotropical migrants in spring. Early winter brings its own avian delights to the park. We look and/or listen for ducks, hawks, woodpeckers, corvids, wrens, kinglets, thrushes, finches, and sparrows. Expected highlights are mousy Winter Wrens, kronking Common Ravens, and posturing Peregrine Falcons. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Avenue, Hamden. We assemble by the covered bridge.

Leader: Steve Broker, 203-747-6843 or stephenpaulbroker@gmail.com

124th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 16, all day, dinner at 5 p.m.

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; closcalz@optonline.net

First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport

Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 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

Milford Hotspots in Winter**Saturday, January 13, 2024, 8 a.m. to noon**

We'll look for waterbirds and fowl including Long-tailed Ducks, scoters, and loons, as well as shorebirds, gulls, and raptors 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 Eighth Annual Mega Bowl of Birding**Saturday, February 3, 2024, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.****and****Mega Bowl Compilation Dinner****Sunday, February 4, 2024, 5–7 p.m. (Location to be determined)**

Come join in on a fun and friendly event! Birders of all ages and skill levels are welcome to participate. Go birding for all or part of the day to see how many species you can observe. Compete against yourself or other birders and win prizes for participating. Teams can bird within a circle with a five-mile radius that includes their residence, or within a town, or in an entire county. Birders can participate alone or in a group of up to five people. We will meet the following day for a celebratory dinner to go over the results, share stories and enjoy a fine meal. Registration for the event is required. Checklists will be sent out in advance to all registrants.

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

First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 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 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: Greg Hanisek, ctgregh@yahoo.com

Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast**Saturday, February 24, 2024, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.****Snow date - Sunday, February 25, 2024, same time**

This all-day trip includes stops at Beavertail State Park, Moonstone Beach, Trustum Pond, and other great birding sites along the Rhode Island coast. We hope to 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 can be a bit strenuous. Bring lunch and a scope, if you have one. Meet at the Branford commuter lot, Exit 55 off I-95, or contact the trip leader for time and location of the first stop in Rhode Island.

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

White Memorial Foundation: Birding and Tracking, Litchfield**Sunday, February 25, 2024, 8–11 a.m.**

White Memorial Foundation is a 4,000-acre nature preserve with mature deciduous and evergreen forests, as well as fields of tall grass, weeds, and shrubs that are managed for various stages of succession. One of the best birding sites in the state and an Important Bird Area, White Memorial has approximately 35 miles of woodland roads, trails, and boardwalks. We could observe a variety of sparrows, woodpeckers, possibly winter finches, owls and more. We will be joined by experienced trackers Christin Arnini and Gail Cameron. Mammals such as otters, beavers, bobcats, foxes, deer, coyotes, and mink are active in the winter and leave clues about their travels and ways of surviving this most difficult time of the year. Meet in the public parking lot at White Memorial at 80 Whitehall Road in Litchfield.

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

Trip Reports**October First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven Trip Report**

The group gathered at the hawkwatch at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 4th. There was a nice turnout. At the hawkwatch, three Killdeer landed in the field, and there was a steady stream of Tree Swallows passing by all morning. Cedar Waxwings, and a few Bobolinks and Purple Finches were seen and heard flying over, but the hawks weren't flying so we took a walk to the beach through the hackberry grove. The trees were full of Palm Warblers, both Western and Eastern, Savannah Sparrows, and quite a few Eastern Phoebes.

At the beach, we were treated to nice views of a Common Loon close to shore, all the expected gulls, and quite a few Laughing Gulls streaming into the harbor. We circled back past the lighthouse and continued over to the west woodlot where we were greeted by a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in the tupelo tree at the edge of the parking lot. Although it was quiet in the woods, we managed to find several Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, a large flock of White-throated Sparrows, White-breasted Nuthatches, and we saw five species of woodpeckers. A Common Raven flew over, as well.

Walking back along the entrance road we encountered more Palm Warblers, Phoebes, and the first Dark-eyed Junco of the season feeding on the lawns.

There was a little flurry of activity upon our return to the hawkwatch, and before we finished up, we'd tallied a Peregrine Falcon, 2 Cooper's Hawks, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, a close Northern Harrier, and a couple of Osprey. We ended with 47 species for the day.

--Frank Gallo

Fargeorge Nature Preserve Trip Report

On Sat Oct 28, 2023, Our Club held its annual joint fieldtrip with Gather New Haven (formerly The New Haven Land Trust). It was a lovely autumn morning as we all entered the Fargeorge Nature Preserve on Quinnipiac Avenue in New



Swamp Sparrow

Haven. There were approximately 40 Bird Species seen as a combination of most of the people on the trip.

DeWitt Allen shared the link to his Cornell e-Bird check list for this walk: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S153282680>

--Mike Horn

November First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport Trip Report

The New Haven Bird Club's November 1st Wednesday Walk was postponed to Friday November 3rd due to stormy weather. Friday turned out to be a glorious warm and sunny autumn day with very little wind. Our 21 participants saw and/or heard 64 species during the walk.



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

We had a varied mix of birds including some newly arrived winter ducks and at least 20 Common Loons on Long Island Sound. One of the parks' resident Bald Eagle pair, which have already begun adding sticks to their nest, made a brief appearance. Everyone had excellent views of the Vesper Sparrow which was spotted by Jalna Jaeger at the model airplane field, and a Blue-headed Vireo was an unexpected treat to see at this time of year. Thanks to all for attending and making the walk memorable.

Click on the link below to see the entire checklist.

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S153660900>

--Tina Green

Cheshire Hotspots Trip Report



Photo by Chris Howe

Fourteen birders visited Broad Brook Reservoir and Fresh Meadows for the New Haven Bird Club's annual Cheshire Hotspots trip on Sunday, November 5th. The birds on Broad Brook Reservoir can be viewed from several locations along the southern edge of this

waterbody. Each year in late October and early November, Broad Brook is a staging area for hundreds of migrating Ruddy Ducks, as well as many other dabbling and diving ducks. Thirty-eight bird species were observed this year, highlighted by eight species of ducks: Wood Duck, American Wigeon, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, and Ruddy Duck. Also, we observed Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorants forming a tight line as they made foraging dives, an adult Bald Eagle (a Broad Brook nester), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, both kinglet species, and an estimated 1,000 Common



Photo by Melissa Baston

Grackles initially moving along the western edge of the reservoir, then moving out en masse.

At Fresh Meadows, where there is a small parking lot off Cook Hill Road, we observed 27 species, including both soaring vultures, an interacting aerial pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, a female Purple Finch, Swamp Sparrow, a reasonably cooperative Orange-crowned Warbler, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Fresh Meadows often requires boots to bird comfortably, but this year most trails were pretty dry, with the exception of a few deep puddles. Our eBird posts for the two sites benefited from photos taken by Chris Howe and Celeste Echlin.

--Melissa Baston and Steve Broker

Branford Supply Ponds Trip Report

The rescheduled bird walk to Branford Supply Ponds on November 12th was worth the wait. Ten participants got good looks at a Great Horned Owl that flew in and perched on a branch. Even though we agreed that this was the bird of the day, the following took second place: Palm Warbler, Ringed-necked Duck, American Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, singing Hooded Mergansers, Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Purple Finch, Hermit Thrush, both Kinglets, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Mallard-Black Duck hybrid with female, and let's not forget the other raptors, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed and Sharp-shinned Hawks. We had 38 species in all.

--Maria Stockmal

Wingspan

A group of members led by Jack Swatt met at the Whitney Center for an afternoon playing Wingspan on October 14th. Watch for announcements for upcoming meetings in the new year.



Photo by Chris Howe

Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp

Your Stamp of Approval

Did you know that over 3,800 acres of critical wetland habitat has been restored and protected in Connecticut? This achievement was only made possible by the supporters and contributors to the Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp Program, which is the only dedicated source of funding for wetland protection in our state. Since its creation in 1993, the Program has contributed and leveraged over \$4 million towards wetland protection and restoration.



- 99% of every dollar of each Stamp purchased goes toward protecting and enhancing homes for migratory birds, like the American black duck, red-winged blackbird, and great blue heron.
- 1% helps produce the beautiful stamps.
- Healthy wetlands benefit over 20% of all the wildlife species in Connecticut, including painted and spotted turtles, pickerel frogs, and all 12 of the salamander species that call Connecticut home.

The incredible image that graces each year's Connecticut stamp is painted by a local kindergarten through 12th grade student that competes in the annual CT Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest, where participants learn about wetlands and conservation and explore the natural world. The talented winner's painting represents Connecticut in the National Junior Duck Stamp Contest and is featured on the Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp for a year.



Visit <https://portal.ct.gov/CT-Migratory-Bird-Conservation-Stamp>

NHBC Winter Feeder Report 2023-2024

End of Week 2



This year we started with 20 surveyors, 3 via Postal Mail and 16 via email and me. We are located all over New Haven County with one surveyor in Fairfield County and two in Middlesex County. We have

finished the first 2 weeks of the survey with 11 of 22 surveyors reporting. 10 Email surveyors have reported out of 17 (the others send their reports in after the 5th week). We have 3 surveyors that report by Postal Mail.

At the end of week 1 I received this question from one of my surveyors: "Has anyone seen any American Goldfinch?" In the first two weeks of the survey, I did not see any, nor did half of the other reporting surveyors. Amy Hopkins had 8 (week 1) and 13 (week 2). The other 4 reporting surveyors had 1 to 3 (week 1) and 0 to 3 (week 2).

I have also not seen any Northern Cardinals at my feeders nor in my neighborhood, and I normally see 3 to 4 all year long. I wonder what is going on. We will see what the numbers look like after week 5 when I have all my surveyors reporting.

We saw 21 of 22 of the Common Species, 8 of 12 Semi-Common, 4 of 42 Uncommon, and 0 Waterfowl. Of the 21 Common Winter Species, the maximum number seen in any one week is 7 (week 1) for Dark-eyed Juncos, seen by Tim and Kate Rodgers and 6 (week 1) for White-throated Sparrows, seen by Laurie Reynolds. 1 Purple Finch (week 1) was seen by Dewitt Allen.

Other species of note seen: Semi Common Category: Chipping Sparrow, Eastern Blue Bird, Northern Flicker, Northern Mockingbird, Purple Finch, Red-winged Blackbird, Rock Dove, Sharp-shinned hawk. Uncommon Category: Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Raven. No Waterfowls have been seen yet.

There is still time to join. The survey runs from Monday, October 30, 2023, through Sunday, March 31, 2024. 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 to the increasing presence of Black Bears and their taking down of feeders.

The First Session started on Monday, October 30, 2023, and will finish on Sunday, March 31, 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 3, 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.

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.

In each cell, only 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 3:00 PM, count 10 Juncos as your count for the day. For the Weekly count, if the daily counts are 10, 2, and 15, for the same species, the count for the Week is 15 and not 27. 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's 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: vitgoo39@gmail.com.



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

December 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>.