



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

February 2023

2023 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Sunday, February 5, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Seventh Annual Mega Bowl of Birding in CT and New Haven County & Saturday, February 11, 7:00 p.m. Mega Bowl Compilation Zoom Meeting

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

Thursday February 9, 7 p.m. Craig Repasz – Why Lights Out? (NOTE: This is a virtual presentation; the Zoom link will be sent to members via the NHBC email group)

Saturday, February 25, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast

Snow date – Sunday, February 26

Sunday, February 26, 8–11 a.m. White Memorial Foundation: Birding and Tracking

Wednesday, March 1, 8–11 a.m. First Wednesday Walk: Stratford Shore & Great Meadows

Thursday March 9, 7 p.m. Dr. Chris Elphick – Connecticut Bird Atlas Results

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

Saturday, April 1, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Richard English Memorial Field Trip: Lighthouse Point Park, Deer Lake Scout Reservation, and Hammonasset Beach State Park

Wednesday, April 5, 8–11 a.m. First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford

Birding by Ear Webinar Series – Registration required

Wednesdays, April 5, 12, and 19, 7–7:45 p.m.

& Birding by Ear Walk – Participants chosen via drawing

Saturday, April 22, Group 1: 8–9:30, Group 2: 10–11:30 a.m.

Thursday April 13, 7 p.m. Dr. Patty Brennan – Genital Evolution in Birds

Sunday, April 23, 7:30–10:30 a.m. Kellogg Environmental Center and Osbornedale State Park, Derby

Saturday, April 29, 8–11 a.m. East Rock Park with Ranger Dan

Sunday, April 30, 7:30–10 a.m. Introduction to Digitally-Assisted Birding and Walk at Lighthouse Point Park

Sunday, April 30, 8–11 a.m. Bent of the River Important Bird Area, Southbury

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 New Haven Bird Club owes its existence – from its founding in 1907 all the way through to today – to volunteers.

Volunteers who loved birds and wanted to help each other experience the joy of “bird study,” or “bird observation,” or just “bird watching.” The volunteers organized the club, put together its founding documents,

organized meetings and speakers and social events, and led bird walks, year after year.

Today, the club has more members than probably any time in its history. **But it needs volunteers to step up now.**

As I’ve written previously, the club needs your assistance with production of our newsletter, which you’re reading now, along with the updating and maintenance of our website at www.newhavenbirdclub.org, and our annual Yearbook of events and members.

These are our key means of informing members well in advance about upcoming indoor and outdoor events, the results of bird walks including the Christmas Bird Count and Megabowl of Birding, as well as other club activities such as the Winter Feeder Survey or the planned Game Night.

It takes some time and effort to produce them, and the same few members have been carrying the load for the rest of us, most of them for many years. The communications media provide the off-stage support our central activities need – the monthly club meetings and 50 or so bird walks a year.

Please help lighten that load by volunteering to assist. You can reach me by email, allendatlow@gmail.com, or by phone, 860-949-0995. I’ll be happy to discuss how your interests might fit into the club’s need for volunteer assistance. And if you’d like to volunteer but have other interests and skills, we can discuss that too. The club has numerous behind the scenes roles that also can use your help.

On a different tack, but still related to volunteerism, I’d like to follow up our November announcement for our new Impromptu Bird Walk Program. The full announcement can be seen later in this newsletter. A few simple guidelines make it possible for any club member to suggest a date, time, and place for people to gather for some birding.

No leader is required – only a notice a few days in advance that you’d like to meet up with others at a location of interest to you. The ability to call for an impromptu walk is perfect for

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NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2022-2023

OFFICERS

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

BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation Chair</i>	<i>vacant</i>	
<i>Education Chair</i>	Lori Datlow	475-227-2820
	loridatlow@frontier.com	
<i>Indoor Programs</i>	Gail Martino	617-504-7205
	gmm1227@yahoo.com	
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Albert Laguna	201-401-2684
	albert.laguna@gmail.com	
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Vanessa Mickan	203-275-5987
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	warmstove@hotmail.com	
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford	203-787-1642
	donnabatsford@gmail.com	
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	NHBC Executive Board	
<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Craig Repasz	203-230-1697
	crepasz@hotmail.com	
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Emmeline Kaiser	225-368-7273
	emkaiser03@gmail.com	
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	ptjleahy@yahoo.com	
<i>Yearbook Editor</i>	Christine Howe	203-389-1175
	clhowe2@yahoo.com	

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	Craig Repasz	203-230-1697
	crepasz@hotmail.com	
<i>Birds in Words</i>	Kris Johnson	203-288-3087
<i>Book Group</i>	kriswaxwing99@gmail.com	
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo	203-389-6508
	closcalz@optonline.net	
<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo	203-551-1707
<i>Lighthouse Point</i>	scmayo999@gmail.com	
<i>Historian</i>	John Triana	203-758-7203
	j triana1@sbcglobal.net	
<i>Hospitality</i>	<i>vacant</i>	
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo	203-551-1707
	scmayo999@gmail.com	
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali	203-288-0621
	vitgoo39@gmail.com	

New Haven Bird Club Website:
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

(President's Message Continued from first page)

these winter months, when the club has fewer formal outings scheduled and you keep thinking you'd really like to get out of the house and meet up with some like-minded birders.

It's especially appropriate when we run into weeks like the past several, when the weather suddenly turns . . . what? Almost balmy? When you'd need many fewer layers of wool and maybe no hand or foot warmers?

Many exciting rarities and out-of-season birds have been turning up all over Connecticut this winter. There will probably be many more. Why not put out a call for an impromptu walk? It's time to go birding.

--DeWitt Allen

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on February 23.

Deadline for submissions to the next *Chickadee* is March 24. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at donnabatsford@gmail.com.

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

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

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

Birds in Words Resumes

NHBC's book group, **Birds in Words**, is back in action, and in a new format for the present. The Birds in Words group has been sharing the joy of reading books on birds, birding, birders, nature, and naturalists since 2009. The group suspended its meetings at the start of the COVID pandemic; we are all looking forward to sharing our reading experiences again.

The book we will be reading is the classic, *The Peregrine* by J. A. Baker, originally published in 1967. Delayed by Covid this winter, we will extend the reading period until the end of February.

If you are interested in reading this book, let me know, kriswaxwing99@gmail.com.

Thanks,
--Kris Johnson

Indoor Programs

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

Indoor programs start in September and are held on the second Thursday of the month. There are no indoor programs in June, July, or August. This year, we have resumed 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. Whenever the indoor meeting is also presented via Zoom, instructions for joining the meeting are sent to members via the NHBC email group.**

"Birds in Words" Book Group: Join us for "Birds in Words," NHBC's gathering of people who like reading books on their favorite hobby. See article about the current format.

Directions to 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. Enter via the main door of the portico that is in the front of the building. Turn right down the hallway. The Cultural Arts Center is a short distance on the left.

From I-95 North or South: Exit to I-91 North in New Haven. Take Exit 6 (Willow Street). At end of ramp turn right onto Willow and proceed to Whitney Avenue. Turn right onto Whitney; go 1.7 mi. to Treadwell Street and make a SHARP left onto Treadwell. Proceed 0.7 mi. on Treadwell; turn left onto Leeder Hill Drive. The Whitney Center is shortly on the right. **PARKING:** Enter the SECOND driveway (Whitney Center's South Entrance). Either make an immediate left into the raised parking lot (park *only* in the upper level and *only* in unnumbered spaces) or follow the main driveway past the front entrance of the building. At the stop sign, make a right into the employee parking area and walk back from there to the front entrance.

From I-91 South: Take Exit 6 (Willow Street) in New Haven. At the end of the ramp, turn right onto Willow and proceed as above.

From Wilbur Cross (Rt. 15-North or South): Take Exit 60. Turn right at the end of ramp onto Dixwell Avenue (Route 10). Drive 0.9 miles to the traffic light at Treadwell Street and turn left. Go 0.3 miles to the traffic light at Leeder Hill Drive and turn right. The Whitney Center's South Entrance is second on the right, about 0.3 miles; see parking details above.

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

Thursday February 9 – Craig Repasz Why Lights Out?

Twice each year, millions of birds pass through Connecticut on their way to and from their nesting grounds. Because our state is located on the Atlantic Flyway, many birds use our shorelines and green spaces to rest and refuel during their trip. Some stay for the summer. Most migratory birds pass over our state at night, when temperatures are cooler, and skies are less turbulent. However, artificial lights attract and disorient birds, leading to collisions with buildings. The result is catastrophic: Almost 1 billion birds are killed in the United States every year. Overly lit buildings and structures can tempt birds off course into fatal collisions with windows and other reflective materials. In the dark, and especially in foggy or rainy weather, the combination of glass and light becomes deadly. While dozens of species are affected, forest dwelling passerines are at highest risk, including priority birds such as the Wood Thrush and Golden-winged Warbler. Also, overly lit buildings and streets have a detrimental impact on people's health and well-being. Come learn about the problem and the steps that you can take to protect our birds. Lights Out Connecticut is a growing coalition of residents, property owners, businesses, and local partners in Connecticut who pledge to turn off or dim their nonessential lights during periods of peak migration to protect migratory birds.

Craig Repasz is serving his second term as the COA Conservation Committee Chair. He has served as past president for the New Haven Bird Club and is currently our Outdoor Program Chair. He has been the volunteer coordinator for the

Connecticut Bird Atlas for five years. He is also the President of the Friends of Stewart B McKinney NWR, an organization devoted to supporting this important refuge. He enjoys backpacking and conducts Mountain Birdwatch surveys for the Vermont Center of Ecostudies, focusing on the Bicknell's Thrush and other high elevation species.

Thursday March 9 – Dr. Chris Elphick Connecticut Bird Atlas Results

Many of the New Haven Bird Club members participated in the Connecticut Bird Atlas project in 2018-21. Join us for an early look into the results of the CT Bird Atlas project with Dr. Chris Elphick, an Associate Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut. His work focuses on the conservation ecology of birds, especially in wetlands, farmlands, and forests.

Thursday April 13 – Dr. Patty Brennan Genital Evolution in Birds

Most birds do not have a penis, and most ornithologists have not thought about bird penises much. However, evolutionarily, the loss of this organ in birds is an extremely significant event: why lose an organ that seems so handy to get sperm close to female eggs? One possible resolution of such conflict is disarmament, and Dr. Brennan will discuss how the avian penis loss may have been driven by female choice for increased sexual autonomy, giving females the upper hand in the reproductive battle. Dr. Brennan is an Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at Holyoke College.

Outdoor Programs

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

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

More details and/or updates on these trips will be given at the indoor meetings and in the newsletter. You should also check the Club's website, www.newhavenbirdclub.org, for updated trip information, and watch for emails sent by the Club. *Contact trip leaders directly if you have questions about their trips.*

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

NHBC Conservation and Education Activities

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

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

The Seventh Annual Mega Bowl of Birding in New Haven County

Sunday, February 5, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

and

Mega Bowl Compilation Zoom Meeting

Saturday, February 11, 7:00 p.m.

Come join in on a fun and friendly event! Go birding for all or part of the day to see how many species you can observe. Earn points for each species found. The rarer the species, the more points that are earned. Compete against yourself or other birders and win prizes for participating. Birders of all ages and skill levels are welcome to participate. Teams can bird within a circle with a five-mile radius that includes their residence, or in an entire county. As has been the case the past two years, Mega Bowl participants may bird in any county in CT. We will meet the following day on Zoom to go over the results. Registration for the event will be required. Checklists will be sent out in advance to all registrants. Participants are encouraged to be creative in coming up with a name for their team.

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

"First" Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison

Wednesday, February 8, 8–11 a.m.

Enjoy a mid-week field trip (on the Second Wednesday!) 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 25, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Snow date – Sunday, February 26

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. 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 home, or closcalz@optonline.net.

White Memorial Foundation: Birding and Tracking

Sunday, February 26, 8–11 a.m.

White Memorial Foundation is a 4,000-acre nature preserve. The diverse mixture of habitats includes 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 Foundation 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 that reside at White Memorial 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.

**First Wednesday Walk: Stratford Shore & Great Meadows
Wednesday, March 1, 8–11 a.m.**

Join us on a visit to this excellent birding area. We'll look for oceanic birds such as Long-tailed Duck and scoters, as well as raptors and shorebirds. Meet at the Dunkin Donuts parking lot at 60 Access Road, Stratford, near the intersection with Main Street (Rte. 113); we carpool from there.
Leader: Frank Mantlik, 203-984-9410 or mantlik@sbcglobal.net.

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

Join Bill Batsford for a late winter walk at this urban park with varied habitat including woodlands, fields, streams, and ponds. Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Brown Creeper are all possible. We will make a side trip to Evergreen Cemetery if the Bald Eagles are again nesting there. The walking is easy, flat, and includes one dirt path through a wooded area. Total distance approximately 2.5 miles. Meet at the Edgewood Park parking lot next to tennis courts, entrance off West Rock Ave south of Whalley Ave, New Haven.
Leader: Bill Batsford, 203-494-4325 or william.batsford@yale.edu.

**The Richard English Memorial Field Trip:
Lighthouse Point Park, Deer Lake Scout Reservation, and
Hammonasset Beach State Park
Saturday, April 1, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

We first bird the harbor shore at Lighthouse Point Park for gulls, loons, ducks, and early returning shorebirds. We then proceed to the Richard English Bird Sanctuary at the Deer Lake Scout Reservation in Killingworth. We then proceed to Hammonasset Beach State Park. You may join us for all or part of it. Check with the trip leader for approximate arrival time at each location. Bring lunch and dress warmly. This trip almost always has a high species count. Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven.
Leader: Mike Horn, 203-288-1891 or mfhorn@att.net.

**First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center,
Milford
Wednesday, April 5, 8–11 a.m.**

Enjoy an early spring trip to one of the best local birding spots. We look out into the marsh and along the shore for waterfowl, shorebirds, waders, and raptors. Meet at the Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center, 1 Milford Point Road, Milford.
Leader: Jalna Jaeger, 203-246-0885 or jalnabird@gmail.com.

**Birding by Ear Webinar Series – *Registration required*
Wednesdays, April 5, 12, and 19, 7–7:45 p.m.
and
Birding by Ear Walk – *Participants chosen via drawing*
Saturday, April 22
Group 1: 8–9:30 a.m. Group 2: 10–11:30 a.m.**

NOTE: Watch for the NHBC email announcement to sign up for the webinar series and to be eligible for the drawing for the walk.

Learning bird songs and calls increases one's perception of what birds are in the area. Want to see a Scarlet Tanager? It helps to know their "chick burr" call. Also, by knowing the songs of common birds, you will notice when a not-so-common bird is in the vicinity. Join Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe for three 45-minute webinars on April 5th, 12th, and 19th, each starting at 7 p.m. During each webinar, participants will learn the songs of 10 bird species and the habitats the birds associate with. We will start with some resident birds, then focus on migrants that will be arriving in Connecticut over the course of the webinars. Limit 25 people for the webinar. Following the webinars, there will be two walks at Bent of the River for 10 people each. Watch for the NHBC email announcement to sign up for the webinar series and to be eligible for the drawing for the walk. The walk meets at Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, 185 East Flat Hill Road, Southbury, CT. Take Exit 14 off of Rte. 84. Go north on Rte. 172, then turn left onto East Flat Hill Road (church on corner). Continue to sanctuary entrance on left.
Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-233-0535 or cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org.

**Kellogg Environmental Center and Osbornedale State
Park, Derby
Sunday, April 23, 7:30–10:30 a.m.**

We will meet at and explore the Kellogg Environmental Center grounds and then walk over to Osbornedale State Park to see what we find. Osbornedale Park offers a variety of species in its fields and forest, and around its ponds. It is always a surprise as species are discovered walking through the park. We may see a flyover Bald Eagle, nesting Bluebirds, early warbler migrants, Green Heron, and Orchard Oriole, as well as Indigo Bunting, Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, and various thrushes. Meet at the Kellogg Environmental Center parking lot at 500 Hawthorne Ave., Derby.
Leader: Maria Stockmal, 203-305-3728 or m.stockmal@snet.net.

**East Rock Park with Ranger Dan
Saturday, April 29, 8–11 a.m.**

Join Ranger Dan Barvir at this premier site for warblers and other spring migrants. Meet at the Rice Field (baseball field) end of East Rock Park on English Drive, New Haven.
Leader: Dan Barvir, 203-208-1415 or danielb145@comcast.net.

**Introduction to Digitally-Assisted Birding and Walk at
Lighthouse Point Park
Sunday, April 30, 7:30–10 a.m.**

New technologies can help birders get the most out of their time birding. For example, smartphone applications such as Merlin and eBird can help birders identify and log the birds they see and hear. After an orientation to these two apps, we will explore Lighthouse Point Park, an excellent location for early migrants amid the park's diverse habitats. Warblers, thrasher, woodpeckers, ducks, shorebirds, and raptors are possible. Whether you are new to birding, want to accelerate

song learning, or have trouble hearing bird calls and high notes, this walk may be a good fit for you. Meet at the public boat launch parking lot in Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven.

Leader: Gail Martino, 203-895-7238 or gmm1227@yahoo.com.

Bent of the River Important Bird Area, Southbury Sunday, April 30, 8–11 a.m.

Explore a prime birding location along the Pomperaug River in Southbury where more than 100 species of birds have been observed in a single day. This beautiful and highly diverse habitat is owned and maintained by Audubon Connecticut. The walk is open to birders of all levels; families are welcome. We will not only see and hear birds, but will also talk about their identification and their habits. More advanced birders can enjoy a day out and also provide support and inspiration for newcomers. Total walk should be between 1 and 2 miles with moderate terrain and some uphill. Meet at Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, 185 East Flat Hill Road, Southbury, CT. Take Exit 14 off of Rte. 84. Go north on Rte. 172, then turn left onto East Flat Hill Road (church on corner). Continue to sanctuary entrance on left.

Leader: Morgan Evans, 484-347-2332 or morganevans@gmail.com.

Trip Reports

December First Wednesday Walk Trip Report – Hammonasset State Park

Five participants plus leader, Jerry Connolly, braved freezing temperatures with 20mph winds to do a little birding at Hammonasset SP for the NHBC December First Wednesday Walk. The walk was postponed one week due to rain and was subsequently held on Wednesday, December 14.



Photo by Micky Komara

Our efforts were rewarded with looks at the continuing Townsend's Solitaire in the trees just north of the Tunxis campground restroom (seen from 8:10am - 8:20am before it flew east), and two American Bitterns at the Boulder Pond. Horned Larks, Red-breasted Mergansers and 24 others were logged on this cold and very windy morning.

--Jerry Connolly

New Year's Hike Trip Report – Lake Bethany

On Jan. 1, 2023, about 15 people attended the "First Day" bird hike at Lake Bethany. Lake Bethany is a Regional Water Authority property that is accessible with one of their recreation permits (<https://www.rwater.com/in-the-community/recreation/>). This was one of many warm days in January. The water was open, but the only waterfowl seen were a couple of Mallards. Most of the songbirds that we encountered were the typical residents of our woods in the winter. In the swath created by the August 2020 tornado, we did find Field Sparrows moving in and out of the brush. Two

Bald Eagles were seen flying over – one adult and one immature bird. At the head of the lake, several birds were observed eating berries including Robins and a Hermit Thrush. Shortly thereafter, we heard and observed a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. In all we identified 25 species during the walk.

--John Triana

New Haven Bird Club Trip Report - Milford Hotspots



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

On January 14, I led the annual "Milford Hotspots" field trip to several local birding sites. It was seasonably cold, overcast, with a chilly brisk north wind. A large group of 27 birders joined me at the meeting site for carpooling.

While we gathered there, a Common Raven flew over. Our first stop was Mondo Ponds, where we walked around the two ice-free ponds. Highlights were a large flock of Ring-necked Ducks, 2 Northern Shovelers, a Green-winged Teal, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, a flock of Robins feeding on Bittersweet fruit, and 4 adult Bald Eagles soaring together over the main pond! They seemed to be pairing up at the start of their nesting season.

Our next stop was Milford Point Coastal Center. The sanctuary held a variety of expected landbirds plus a "tame" perched Cooper's Hawk. Then a walk to the beach yielded a nice variety of seaducks (Long-tailed Duck, Common Goldeneye, Surf Scoter), 3 Common Loons, and a hunting Northern Harrier. Quite spectacular was a flock of 21 Snow Buntings alternately landing on the beach and flying low over our heads. We tallied 30 species here. Thankfully the Center was open for a bathroom break and to warm up a bit.

Next, a brief stop was made at The Dock shopping center in Stratford. The hoped for Lesser Black-backed Gull and Peregrine Falcon did not cooperate. So we continued on to the pond at Jonathan Law High School, a good place for wintering "puddle" ducks. We enjoyed scope views of 15 handsome male and female Green-winged Teal.

Our final stop was Silver Sands State Park. We walked the boardwalk over the salt marsh to the beach. We couldn't call out a Clapper Rail, but we watched a female Northern Harrier hunting the marsh, scoped an adult Red-shouldered Hawk atop a utility pole, and added a Red-throated Loon and some Buffleheads. The walk back yielded 5 soaring Bald Eagles up high - no doubt the 4 adults we had seen earlier, plus one immature! We were sufficiently cold due to the north wind, so conducted our tally (50 species for the morning), and called it a day. Time to return home to sit by the fire and sip some hot soup. All appreciated the outing very much.

--Frank Mantlik

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.newhavenbirdclub.org

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

New Haven 2022 Christmas Bird Count Report

On Saturday, December 17, 2022, 99 people participated in the New Haven Christmas Bird Count. They birded for over 200 hours, covering more than 100 miles on foot and several hundred miles by car. 18 of the 99 participants were new to the New Haven CBC. Collectively, we saw a total of 122 species on count day, with one additional species reported during the count week. Some of the notable observations included Black-headed Gull, White-winged Dove (count week), Canvasback, Northern Gannet, Orange-crowned, Nashville and Pine Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Vesper Sparrow and Baltimore Oriole. Sadly, our annual census is demonstrating a significant decline in the abundance of numerous species in our area over time. Species that are in declining numbers include: Mute Swan, American Black Duck, Mallard, Greater Scaup, Common Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Eastern Screech Owl, Horned Lark, Hermit Thrush, several sparrow species, Rusty Blackbird and Monk Parakeet. A few species seen in increasing numbers include: Black Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Carolina Wren, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

The full species list is as follows:

Brant, 1094; Canada Goose, 6567; Mute Swan, 78; Wood Duck, 1; Northern Shoveler, 8; Gadwall, 132; American Wigeon, 114; Mallard, 829; American Black Duck, 242; Northern Pintail, 10; Green-winged Teal, 32; Canvasback, 2; Ring-necked Duck, 259; Greater Scaup, 548; Lesser Scaup, 161; Surf Scoter, 12; White-winged Scoter, 15; Black Scoter, 2; Long-tailed Duck, 337; Bufflehead, 404; Common Goldeneye, 160; Hooded Merganser, 258; Common Merganser, 12; Red-breasted Merganser, 151; Ruddy Duck, 3; Wild Turkey, 35; Pied-billed Grebe, 3; Horned Grebe, 5; Rock Pigeon, 563; White-winged Dove, CW; Mourning Dove, 659; Clapper Rail, 4; Virginia Rail, 1; American Coot, 19; Black-bellied Plover, 9; Sanderling, 75; Dunlin, 1; Purple Sandpiper, 13; Greater Yellowlegs, 1; Black-headed Gull, 1; Ring-billed Gull, 1132; Herring Gull, 2557; Great Black-backed Gull, 93; Red-throated Loon, 12; Common Loon, 35; Northern Gannet, 2; Great Cormorant, 8; Double-crested Cormorant, 3; Great Blue Heron, 38; Black Vulture, 65; Turkey Vulture, 68; Northern Harrier, 11; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 10; Cooper's Hawk, 29; Bald Eagle, 13; Red-shouldered Hawk, 29; Red-tailed Hawk, 96; Eastern Screech Owl, 9; Great Horned Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 20; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 25; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 98; Downy Woodpecker, 158; Hairy Woodpecker, 46; Pileated Woodpecker, 5; Northern Flicker, 36; American Kestrel, 2; Merlin, 4; Peregrine Falcon, 4; Monk Parakeet, 2; Eastern Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 344; American Crow, 1024; Fish Crow, 208; crow species, 109; Common Raven, 33; Black-capped Chickadee, 453; Tufted Titmouse, 358; Horned Lark, 28; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 20; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 16; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 10; White-breasted Nuthatch, 184; Brown Creeper, 8; Winter Wren, 13; Marsh Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 188; European Starling, 5714; Gray Catbird, 12; Northern Mockingbird, 128; Eastern Bluebird, 41; Hermit Thrush, 4; American Robin, 215; Cedar Waxwing, 26; House Sparrow, 1016; American Pipit, 2; House Finch, 201; Purple Finch, 7; American Goldfinch, 227; Snow Bunting, 18; Chipping Sparrow, 3; Field Sparrow, 17; American Tree

Sparrow, 30; Fox Sparrow, 10; Dark-eyed Junco, 911; White-throated Sparrow, 573; Vesper Sparrow, 1; Savannah Sparrow, 9; Song Sparrow, 359; Swamp Sparrow, 21; Eastern Towhee, 1; Eastern Meadowlark, 16; Baltimore Oriole, 1; Red-winged Blackbird, 38; Brown-headed Cowbird, 34; Rusty Blackbird, 4; Common Grackle, 71; Orange-crowned Warbler, 3; Nashville Warbler, 1; Common Yellowthroat, 1; Pine Warbler, 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 9; and Northern Cardinal, 307.

The participants were:

Dewitt Allen, Ross Allen, Ralph Amodei, Christin Armini, Mark Aronson, Bill Batsford, Courtney Bauknecht, Larry Bausher, Jay Bhandary, Betty Lou and Joe Blumberg, Stephen Broker, Ally Brundige, Hannah and Kevin Burgio, Michael Carpenter, Nancy Clark, Jim Cortina, Lori Datlow, Sophie Duncan, John Farley, Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, Frank Gallo, Eric Geiger, Mark, Shaleigh and Shane Grogan, Peter Grund, Marga Hirsch, Margaret Hofmeister, Michael and Pat Horn, Valerie Hungerford, James Hunter, Kimberly Jannarone, Kris Johnson, Leslie Johnson, Lynn Jones, Emmeline Kaiser, Emily Keating, Michele Keefe, Tom Kelly, Bernice Lattanzi, Pat Leahy, Carol and Gary Lemmon, Alex Lin-Moore, Michael Loewenberg, Donna Lorello, Chris Loscalzo, Alan Malina, Frank Mantlik, Steve Mayo, Flo McBride, John McEachern, Jeff and Linda Meyer, Allison Middlemass, Judy Moore, Nicole Neigel, Gina Nichol, Michael O'Brien, John Oshlick, Cathy Popp, Bev Proppen, Frank and Nancy Ragusa, Bill Rankin, Daryl Rathburn, Brendan Reilly, Laurie Reynolds, Jason Rieger, Brian Roach, Bill Root, Nancy Rosenbaum, Autumn Sands-Caldwell, Lee Schlesinger, Abby Sesselberg, Arthur Shippee, James Sirch, Paul Smith, Nancy Specht, Steve Spector, Brian Stacey, Howie Sternberg, Maria Stockmal, Samiyah Sutherland, Tommie Thornhill, John and Liz Triana, Marianne Vahey, Miranda Vogt, Lisa Wahle, Mark Wantroba, Ryan Wirtes, Chris Woerner, Kate Wong, David Woolery and Molly Zahn.

Sincere thanks to all of the participants and especially the area captains.

--Chris Loscalzo
NH CBC Compiler



Compilation Dinner

Photo by Donna Batsford

NHBC Winter Feeder Report 2022-2023 – End of Week 11



This year we started with 20 surveyors. Since then, we have added 2 new surveyors. We are located all over New Haven County with one surveyor in Fairfield County and two in Middlesex County. Due to Black Bear problems, two surveyors did not start in Week 1 but were starting in Week 6.

Weeks 1-5 of the survey, we had 1 Pine Siskin, 1 Red Breasted Nuthatch, and 3 Purple Finches reported. We did not see the irruptions of these species by our surveyors that were being reported in the weeks before our survey on CTBird. We had a Leucisic House Finch and an Immature Red-headed Woodpecker.

Weeks 6 - 11 of the survey we had 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 2 Purple Finches, and 3 Fox Sparrows. American Goldfinch numbers have come back up from the lows of last year. (See graphs at end of report.) Again, this year, Blue Jays and Northern Cardinals have not been seen every day or for weeks. Bears have not been active.

So far this year American Goldfinch, Black-capped Chickadee, Northern Cardinal, and Dark-eyed Junco are running normal for this time of the year, while the White-throated Sparrow is the lowest for the last 3 years. The Common Grackle has been nearly absent for weeks 6-11.

Some data from the sheets for weeks 1 through 11:

Common Species List:

We had 22 of 22 or 100% weeks 1-5. Common Grackles were abundant in week 1 when surveyors reported flocks from 35 to 100. In weeks 6 -11 we had 22/22 or 100%. 14 surveyors over the 6-week period have seen Song Sparrows with the largest number seen in weeks 7 (19) and 8 (18).

Semi-Common List:

In weeks 1-5 we had 12 of 12 or 100%. Fox Sparrows and Purple Finches were seen. In weeks 6 thru 11 we saw 12/12 or 100%. Purple Finches and Fox Sparrow were seen.

Uncommon Species:

In weeks 1-5 we had 10 of 41 show up at the feeders for a percentage of 24% and most were seen within the first three weeks of the survey. The uncommon species seen are Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Pine Siskin, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red-shouldered Hawk, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Rusty Blackbird, Turkey Vulture, Winter Wren, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Immature Red-headed Woodpecker. During weeks 6 – 11 we had 8 of 41 species seen. Seen were Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing, Field Sparrow, Pileated Woodpecker, Pine Warbler, Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red-shouldered Hawk.

Waterfowl list:

In weeks 1-5 we had Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Northern Pintail and Wood Duck. In weeks 6-11 we had: Herring Gull, Mallard and Wood Duck.

Animal List:

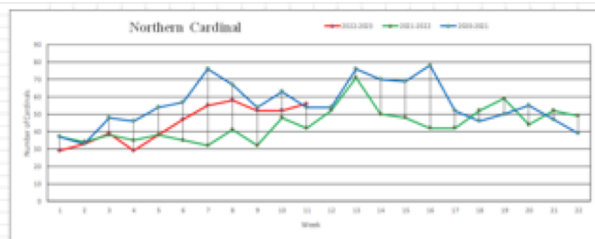
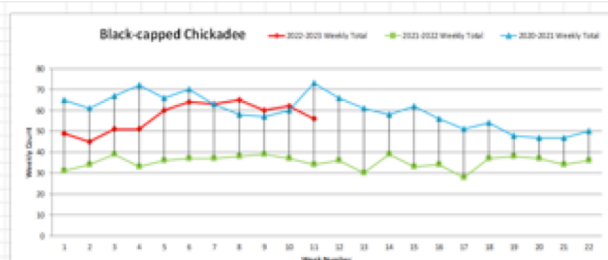
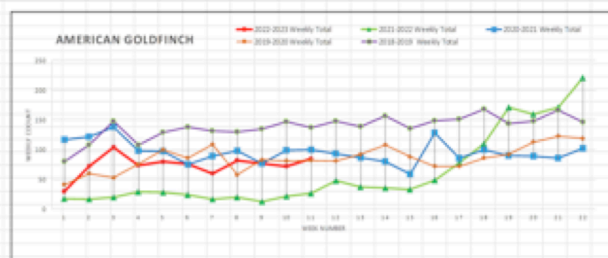
In weeks 1-11 we had Gray Squirrel (majority); Bobcat, Chipmunk, Brown Rat, Feral Cat, Flying Squirrel, Mole, Mouse, Opossum, Raccoon, Red Fox, Red Squirrel, White Tail Deer and Woodchuck.

I have also included the graphs of the 5 species I follow for weeks 1 through 11. The RED line is this year.

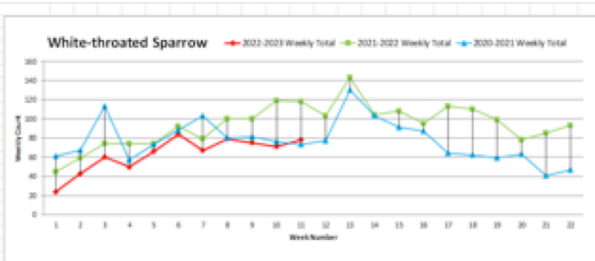
--Pete Vitali

Chairman: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey

Normally Seen all Year Long



Winter Species



The New Haven Bird Club Is Happy To Announce The Impromptu Bird Walk Program.

Members now can submit an announcement that will be sent to the NHBC membership for an impromptu bird walk. These are “last-minute” walks with no formal trip leaders. This is a way to find new friends and fellow birders to go on a walk. The program may be revised as we gain experience.

Simply send a request to BirdWalks@NewHavenBirdClub.org that lists the date, time, location, and any important details. The details could be about the level of difficulty or that you are chasing a rarity. Include a good description of the meeting location. Consider using Google Maps to drop a pin and include the pin’s URL link in the email announcement.

A few rules and guidelines:

After review, an announcement will be sent to the membership through our club email system only.

If you propose the walk, you should make EVERY attempt to show up for the walk yourself.

Trips must be on property open to the public such as: state and municipal parks, state forests, USFW Wildlife Refuges, and land trust properties. Members proposing the announcement may also host a trip on their own property. If a location requires access fees, the NHBC members will need to pay their own fees and acquire their own permission (e.g., a pass for Regional Water Authority Properties).

The property must be large enough to accommodate a group of unknown size and their parking.

The impromptu trip will not be posted on our NHBC website, Facebook page, or newsletter, nor on the COA Calendar. Please do not forward the email announcements but feel free to invite your friends.

The request to send out an announcement for an impromptu walk should be made approximately 3 to 7 days in advance of the walk. This timeline will enable you to have a better idea of the weather forecast but give the NHBC time to prepare and send out the club email.

Only one email per trip. We do not want to create a flurry of emails to discuss carpooling or start time or place to meet. Otherwise, there will be an undue burden on our Publicity Chair and the NHBC members will have a flurry of emails. Let’s keep it very simple.

We will follow proper birding etiquette and obey any posted signage.

These trips will not have a formal leader. There is no need to announce weather cancelations and no need to establish an itinerary. Just go birding. Take photos. Have fun!

--Craig Repasz

New Haven Bird Club Outdoor Chair

Welcome New Members

Toni Davis
Madison

Emily Anne Koenig
Hamden

Joe and Betty Lou Blumberg
Hamden

Linda Mayes
Branford

Stacey Schwartz
Hamden

Joshua Weinstein
New Haven

Darryl Rathbun
Stratford

Phillip Law
Hamden

Janice Hager
Cheshire

Beatrice Mead
Hamden

Andrew Moskowitz
Cheshire

Jan Doyle
Branford

Katherine (Kitty) Ing
Branford

Joan Smyth
Storrs

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



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

February 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 about the Club, you can send an email to ask@newhavenbirdclub.org.

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

The NHBC is also on Instagram as [newhavenbirdclub](https://www.instagram.com/newhavenbirdclub).

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