



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

June 2018

2018 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Saturday-Sunday, June 9–10 **New Haven Summer Bird Count**

Friday, June 22, 8:30–10 PM (note evening time) (Rain Date, Saturday, June 23) **Whip-poor-will Walk in Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**

Tuesday, June 26, 7:00 PM **Birds in Words: *Birding Without Borders* by Noah Strycker**

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be Thursday, August 23 at 7:00 PM at Whitney Center.

Deadline for submissions to the August *Chickadee* is July 27. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at donnabatsford@gmail.com.

Charles Strasser will be leaving the area to pursue a career with US Fish and Wildlife working on a wetlands preserve in North Dakota. Charles has served on the NHBC Board as a Conservation Committee co-chair starting in the 2016-2017 club year. We thank Charles for his service and wish him every success in the future.

Pete Vitali is stepping down as the publicity chair. Pete will continue to serve the club as coordinator for Feeder Watch.

If anyone is interested in serving the Club by taking on the role of publicity chair please contact the Club President or any member of the board.



Photo by Chris How

The bird club has been working on new brochures and cards with club information to use at public events and walks. Laurie Reynolds had draft copies to hand out at a walk in April. They were well received.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Another great Annual Banquet has come and gone. For me the banquets are always the highlight of the club year. Having the Banquet fall in May gives it the schools-out-for-summer feel. Our busy club year crescendos into a flurry of planning, discussions, and effort by many devoted members to pull off the banquet. This level of activity gives it the final exam and

term paper deadline sense of urgency, then relief. So, when the banquet is over I revert to my student days with the urge to run out into the fields and forest in screaming pandemonium, arms waving over my head to be greeted by the Ovenbird's ironic song teacher, Teacher, TEACHER.

The end of the school year, like the end of our indoor programs, drops us into the promises of mid-spring and the summer days just looming on the horizon: days with 18-20 warbler species; CT Bird Atlas Surveys; birding vacations; and summer bird counts. There are a few trips still and a Birds in Words session left on this year's club calendar. Our 'school year' is far from over. Meanwhile, members of the board are still very busy finishing plans for the 2018-2019 club year. Our Outdoor Programs Chair Bill Batsford is working with all our trip leaders confirming dates and getting descriptions. Indoor Programs Chair Gail Martino is organizing the speakers and their topics. She is also making arrangements for next year's banquet. Dewitt Allen, who has double duty as the Club Vice President and Membership Committee Chair, is processing the membership renewals and compiling the members' list. All of the lists and descriptions are then forwarded to Chris Howe to be compiled into the Yearbook, printed and distributed. Pat Leahy will post all this information on the website. A lot of effort to keep the New Haven Bird Club fulfilling its mission to make available to members and the general public more opportunities for recreation and education in bird watching. So, when the new year starts in September we are ready to go.

The summer vacation is traditionally a time to travel. This year, the week before Memorial Day, I took an American pilgrimage to Yosemite. Our Park system is one more list of areas for us to bird along with National Wildlife Refuges, State Parks, National Forest and IBAs. Many go to the National Parks to play, to pray, to recreate and to rusticate. The scenery is arresting and all encompassing. Few park visitors can focus on anything else. While hiking in John Muir's footsteps in the Tuolumne Meadows I kept thinking of John Muir's words:

New Haven Bird Club Website:
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

(Continued on next page)

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2017-2018

OFFICERS

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<i>Treasurer</i>	Andy Stack ctstacks@optonline.net	203.804.6081
<i>Secretary</i>	Alan Malina Alm5565@msn.com	203.248.5754

BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation Chair</i>	Deborah Johnson deborahleighjohnson@hotmail.com	203.430.5554
<i>Education Chair</i>	Lori Datlow loridatlow@frontier.com	475-227-2820
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<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Mike Horn mfhorn@att.net	203.288.1891
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Laurie Reynolds warmstove@hotmail.com	203.434.2134
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<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Bill Batsford william.batsford@yale.edu	203.787.1642
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	203.288.0621
<i>Webmaster</i>	Patrick Leahy ptjleahy@yahoo.com	203.393.2427
<i>Yearbook Editor</i>	Christine Howe clhowe2@yahoo.com	203-389-1175

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	John Triana j triana1@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>Email List</i>	DeWitt Allen allendatlow@gmail.com	860.949.0995
<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	203.393.0694
<i>Lighthouse Point</i>	John Triana j triana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Historian</i>	Stacy Hanks flybirdhanks@gmail.com	203.283-3898
<i>Hospitality</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	203.393.0694
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	203.288.0621
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>		

(President's Message Continued from first page)

*"Oh, these vast, calm, measureless mountain days,
days in whose light everything seems equally divine,
opening a thousand windows to show us God."*

Now, I will leave it up to you to define "God" for yourself. Surrounded by mountain peaks still cloaked in snow fields I found myself in a grove that was exploding with birds; Stellar's Jays, Mountain Chickadees, Nuthatches and an old New England favorite the Yellow Rumped Warbler. These 'Butter Butts,' as Yellow Rumps are affectionately called, seemed to explode in color. Watching these birds, I forgot where I was. It occurred to me that I was looking through a few of the thousand windows. As birders we continually notice these thousand windows around us in our backyard or in our own parks and favorite lots.

I wish everyone a very pleasant summer. Happy Birding.

--Craig Repasz

Welcome New Members

Barbara Coutts and family Hamden	Elena Coffey Marlborough
Cynthia Fedorko New Haven	Rosa Esparza New Haven
Margaret Fikrig Guilford	Paul and Donna Feldsher Trumbull
Marion Gehlker and William Meyers Hamden	Sharon M. Foster Hamden
Anita Klein Durham	Tim Holahan New Haven
Marion Petrelli North Haven	Sean Milnes New Haven
	Anthony Zemba North Haven

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Don't forget to renew your New Haven Bird Club membership. Our club year ends June 30th. We are grateful for our members' generous and continuing support, which enables us to continue our tradition of bird walks, indoor meetings, and educational and conservation activities.

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## 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. 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](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org), and online on [ctbirds](http://www.ctbirding.org/calendar.htm), <http://www.ctbirding.org/calendar.htm>. Meetings are at Whitney Center, Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. 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.

### ***Parking at Whitney Center (WC):***

We may park on the upper level of the parking garage at the Whitney Center in any unmarked parking place. We may not park on the lower level of the parking garage. If no parking places are available please drive to the employee parking lot. Follow the driveway past the front entrances of the building. At the stop sign take a right into the employee parking area. There are no entrances at the side or back of the building so please walk around to the front. This area is well lit.

### ***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 (at Citgo Gas intersection) 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 or continue on to the employee lot.

From I-91 South: Take Exit 6 (Willow Street) in. 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), turn right. WC is shortly on the right. Enter SECOND driveway (South Entrance); take immediate left into raised parking lot or continue on to the employee lot.

**Remember to check the Club's website for updated information on all programs: [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org).**

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## Birds in Words

Join in on "Birds in Words," NHBC's gathering of people who like reading books on their favorite hobby. Share the fun! We meet at 7 pm at Whitney Center. For details, contact: Kris Johnson: [kriswaxwing99@gmail.com](mailto:kriswaxwing99@gmail.com), 203-288-3087.

We will be meeting from 7-9 PM at Whitney Center in the 6th Floor Conference Room on June 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss *Birding Without Borders* by Noah Strycker.

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## 2018 New Haven Bird Club President's Award to Stacey Hanks

*[Craig Repasz's remarks at the May 10, 2018 Annual Banquet]*

I always compare our volunteers to swans' feet, hidden from view they paddle away making sure the swan, our Club, glides gracefully across the pond surface. The person that I am awarding this years President's award is both the paddling feet and the visible beautiful swan, although she is the biggest fan of humming birds that I know and may not like being compared to an invasive but let's not stress the metaphor.

Behind the scene she plans, bakes and makes our refreshments for our indoor meetings. Since 1997 she has captured the season with her creations. Our indoor meetings are warm and inviting because of her efforts. We are celebrating her 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a member and hospitality chair this club year.

She has a childlike, contagious sense of awe about birds.

Over the years, with her enthusiasm she has introduced people to bird banding, Christmas Bird Counts, and Big Sits to name a few.

For several years, she did volunteer work at Great Gull Island with Helen Hays on her long-term tern study. Stacey was instrumental in running a bird banding station with Charlotte Weston at Milford Point. I was privileged to watch her gentle touch as she removed delicate kinglets from the mist nets.

Through the years she has anchored the West Haven Area for the Christmas Bird count.

She was first introduced to birding by a friend who got her into feeding birds in her backyard. Since then she has taken trips to Costa Rica and Tanzania, but her favorite bird still is the Red-winged Blackbird in her home state of Connecticut.

For her long-term dedication to the club, her efforts and her exemplary spirit, the 2018 the New Haven Bird Club's President's award goes to Stacey Hanks.

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## Outdoor Programs

All levels of birders are invited to all field trips, and every effort is made on all trips 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](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)> for 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 Activities

The NHBC routinely works to preserve and restore bird populations and their habitats, and this year the Conservation Committee will highlight several events in which we partner with city, state and private conservation and education organizations to enhance birding habitats while simultaneously enjoying the birds seen on these properties. Partners include the City of New Haven, local Land Trusts, Friends' organizations (as Friends of East Rock Park and Friends of Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge), and the Urban Oases program. The Conservation Committee also provides information and displays at several local events.

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#### New Haven Summer Bird Count Saturday-Sunday, June 9–10

This is a wonderful opportunity to work on your song identification skills and see what birds are nesting in your area. For the names of area captains and other information, contact Steve Mayo. Meet at various points. Contact: Steve Mayo, 203-393-0694 or [rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net).

#### Whip-poor-will Walk in Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck Friday, June 22, 8:30–10 PM (note evening time) (Rain Date, Saturday, June 23)

Jack Swatt, New Haven Bird Club member and DEEP volunteer Whip-poor-will monitor, will lead a walk to listen and look for Whip-poor-will at the Naugatuck State Forest. Jack will give a short talk on the status of Whip-poor-wills in the northeast and Connecticut. We will then wait for dusk to fall while we listen for the distinctive call. A sighting? Who knows! Bring a flashlight and plenty of bug spray. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Hunter's Mountain Road, Naugatuck. Leader: Jack Swatt, 203-592-4686 or [jswattbirds@snet.snet](mailto:jswattbirds@snet.snet).

#### East Rock Bird Walk and Archery Field Cleanup Report

On April 14th, 11 members of the New Haven Bird Club met at the covered bridge at the Eli Whitney Museum for our annual spring bird walk and park cleanup. It was a beautiful sunny spring morning. After about an hour and half walk we tallied 43 bird species. Highlights were numerous, courting Wood Ducks and a red morph Eastern Screech Owl. Last birds of the day were a flyover by 3 immature Bald Eagles who put on quite a show. Other interesting sightings included nesting Ravens and a male Peregrine Falcon on guard on the cliff face.

After the walk we proceeded to tackle cleaning up of the birding area at the north end of East Rock Park, in preparation for the upcoming Spring Migration season. A hard-working band of birders helped pick up 9 bags of litter along the walking trails and park roadsides.

I would like to thank the New Haven Bird Club members for their support and commitment to one of New Haven's Important Bird Areas. Your efforts that day will have a positive impact on that area for years to come. After our long cold winter, I am sure everyone is looking forward to a great spring birding season.

--Dan Barvir, East Rock Park Ranger

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## Trip and Activity Reports

#### First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center Trip Report

On Wednesday, April 11, 16 hardy souls braved the chill for the New Haven Bird Club First Wednesday Walk (postponed from last week). It was an excellent morning with the marsh full of ducks, Piping Plovers and Oystercatchers (2 in flagrante delicto) present in good numbers and an opportunity to test the gull skills we learned at Saturday's COA Gull workshop. 38 species plus one taxa in all (once I added the gulls, plus a flock of 10 Waxwings that flew in to be counted at the last minute). Brant were very abundant but the Snowy Owl seen a couple of days ago was absent. Thank you to all who attended!

--Kathy Van Der Aue

#### Beaver Ponds Park Trip Report

On Saturday, April 28, members from NHBC and Friends of Beaver Ponds Park met. We slowly worked our way along the edge of Bowen Field and the marsh with views of the ponds. We stopped in the Urban Oasis area. We eventually surveyed the north pond. 34 species were seen or heard: Canada

Goose, Mute Swan, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Mallard, Bufflehead, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Herring Gull, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, American Robin, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow Warbler, Savannah



Photo by Donna Batsford



Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and American Goldfinch.



Photo by Deborah Johnson

After the walk, Conservation Co-Chair Deborah Johnson provided fruit bearing shrubs to be planted in the park to provide food in the future for migrating birds. Seven trees and shrubs were planted, all native bird-food-producing – 4 winterberry trees, 2 highbush blueberries, and a juneberry. Steve Broker was especially enthusiastic, noting the fantastic transition of this formerly derelict city park and dumping ground, from having visited, and canoed, several years ago with Roland Clement. We also collected 3 bags of trash and could easily have collected 100, but we were busy watching birds!

Friends of Beaver Ponds is an active greenspace group; they meet Wednesday evenings in the park for maintenance and planting and planning, beginning the first wed of June. Contact [NanBarto@sbcglobal.net](mailto:NanBarto@sbcglobal.net).

--Craig Repasz and Deborah Johnson

### Lake Chamberlain and Woodbridge/Bethany Lakes Trip Report



Photo by Chris Howe

The end of April should have been a great time to see the Tree Swallows and Bluebirds in breeding behavior. On April 30th, the unusually cold April day still gave us some great views of the spring migration and nesting behaviors. The old farm field on Sperry Road gave some of us our first male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, along with a Kestrel flyby. There has been a pair of Kestrels hanging around the reservoirs for the first time in many years. The field had Bluebirds and Tree Swallows in nest building mode. It is fun to see the social interaction, not the friendliest of neighbors.

The group headed over to Lake Dawson. Lake Dawson had a few warblers including Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Pine and Palm. We had another view of one of the Kestrels and more swallow activity. We saw Rough-winged and Tree Swallows. The Cliff Swallows had not arrived at their usual place of the building on the Dam. We returned to Lake Chamberlain for a view of the swallow "condos" on either side of the dam. We saw our Kestrel once again, but a cold rain shower cut the walk a bit short. The total count for the walk was 17 brave birdwatchers and 40 species of birds.

--Pat Leahy and Bill Batsford



Photo by Deborah Johnson

### East Rock Park With Ranger Dan Trip Report

On Saturday, May 5th, more than 30 birders gathered at Rice Field in East Rock Park for the annual Spring Bird Walk that I have been leading for over 30 years. Hard winds were blowing from the north, all night long, so I had my concerns on what

birds we would find. Amazingly, we amassed over 60 species, most were located in the usual hot spots: Trowbridge Drive bridge, English Drive, and Giant Steps and of course the Eli Whitney covered bridge area.

Our group located over 10 warbler species, with great looks at Bay-breasted and Blackpoll at the waterfall to finish off our day. Other good birds were Ravens, Peregrine Falcon, Broad-winged Hawk and Pileated Woodpeckers, which are mostly now breeding in the park.

It was a good day, nice folks, and I had to promise Bill Batsford that I would lead this trip again next year before I retire from this gem of a New Haven park.

--Dan Barvir, East Rock Park Ranger

### "If You Plant Them They Will Come" Report

On Saturday, May 5th, NHBC teamed with the Eli Whitney Museum in planting an array of several dozen ferns and 3 winterberry trees in the museum land bordering East Rock Park. The bird club has for at least five years been diligently eradicating garlic mustard weed in this area. The ferns will provide excellent ground cover for foraging birds as well as nesting material and insect food. The winterberries provide winter food.

EWM staff made short work of the planting part of the morning – preparing the soil, getting plants in the ground and watering the finished product. Deborah Johnson was joined by Alexis Brown, Principle Gardener of the Museum, and by artist Zoe Mathiessen, known for her "Gallery in the Woods" and her Ecocide Series showing birds distressed and in trouble from plastic litter and other pollutants.

Thanks to Bent of the River Audubon for providing printed materials on native plants for birds and for the loan of binoculars. Thanks to the awesome museum staff. And thanks especially to the many and amazingly gorgeous warblers that showed up and created a birding hotspot right in the area we were working.

And, what a surprise to have Arne Rosengren come by, even with a broken leg!!

--Deborah Johnson

### Naugatuck State Forest Field Trip Report

An intrepid group of birders set out on the trails at the Naugatuck State Forest West Block on May 13, a cool and cloudy Mother's Day morning. We hiked a total of five miles and saw and heard lots of good birds along the way. The unseasonable weather conditions kept many of the birds low to the ground, affording us excellent views of a number of uncommon and attractive species. Highlights included a pair of Hooded Warblers, numerous Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, stunning Scarlet Tanagers, vocal Baltimore Orioles, and a calling Black-billed Cuckoo. We saw an impressive total of 17 warbler species, including Worm-eating Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Prairie Warbler. Other notable species observed were Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Common Raven, Blue-headed Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher,

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Field Sparrow, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. We recorded a total of 65 species on the trip. A good time was had by all.

--Chris Loscalzo

### Sleeping Giant State Park Trip Report



Photo by Craig Repasz

Fourteen members met on Sunday May 13 at the Sleeping Giant entrance on Tuttle Avenue and the Mill River. We carpooled down to the next trail head on Tuttle. The walk was lead by Jim Sirch, DeWitt Allen and Craig Repasz. We traveled along a brook and then entered a field. The warblers were challenging as they stayed aloft in the tops of the trees. We then hiked a bit in the deep hardwoods. Once back to the trailhead, we walked to a farm with a natural pool that posed an

identification challenge with Greater Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpiper.

48 Species were seen or heard: Canada Goose, Wild Turkey, Great Blue Heron, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Empidonax sp., Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Gray Catbird, European Starling, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Canada Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Baltimore Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

--Craig Repasz

### Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale State Park Trip Report

On Saturday, May 26th, the bird walk was attended by nine participants of varying skills. The weather was sunny and hot. We enjoyed flying views of Wood Ducks twice and an overhead second year Bald Eagle. We had great views of Veery with a tally of four for the day. Indigo Bunting is always a delight as well as Orchard Oriole, Eastern Bluebird, and Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks.

Species seen: Wood Ducks, Bald Eagle, Veery, Northern Rough-wing Swallows, Eastern Bluebird, Pileated Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellow Throat, Great Crested Flycatcher, House Wren, American Crow, Red-winged Blackbird, Tree Swallow, Song Sparrow, House Sparrow, Tufted Titmouse, American Goldfinch, Brown-headed Cowbird, Northern Cardinal, Double-crested Cormorant, Gray Catbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Indigo Bunting,

American Robin, Eastern Wood Pewee, Carolina Wren, White-breasted Nuthatch, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Warbling Vireo, Baltimore Oriole, Cedar Waxwing, Orchard Oriole, Osprey, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Common Grackle, American Crow, European Starling, Wood Thrush.

--Maria Stockmal

### Branford Supply Ponds Trip Report



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

On Saturday, June 2nd, seven of us under sunny skies and humid heat trekked the Branford Supply Ponds. Highlights include watching a Carolina Wren constructing its nest above a kiosk, a not so often Black-crowned Night Heron present on the pond, a Scarlet Tanager, Mute Swans with one cygnet, a calling Pileated Woodpecker and a singing Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and the usual nesting Blue-winged Warbler and Indigo Bunting. Absent was the Prairie Warbler.

43 species were seen: Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Red-tailed Hawk, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Blue-winged Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Pine Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, House Finch, American Goldfinch.

--Maria Stockmal

### West River Walks Trails Day Report

On Saturday, June 2 and Sunday, June 3, New Haven Bird Club joined other organizations for a two-day exploration of parts of the West River in New Haven, including Edgewood Park and West River Memorial Park. Craig Repasz and Mike Horn led bird walks. More than 40 species of birds were seen. The full adult male Bald Headed Eagle was the grand finale at the very end of the hike on Sunday – timing is everything!

--Deborah Johnson

### New Haven Bioregional Group Presentation

On March 20 the New Haven Bird Club co-sponsored an event organized by the New Haven Bioregional Group, a presentation on Storm Water Management in Greater New Haven. Participants included The Connecticut Fund for the Environment, Barnard Environmental Studies Magnet School, GNH Water Pollution Control, the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater New Haven, The West River Watershed Coalition, and NHBC. Protecting the integrity, availability and cleanliness of water is crucial to bird abundance. A video of the evenings presentations is on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/ZJ-NsoZvVi0>.

--Deborah Johnson

## NHBC Winter Feeder Report 2017-2018 Final Report

WHAT A YEAR!!! In September we had Tropical Storm Jose and in October Tropical Storm Philippe. In February we had two or three days of 70°F (Spring is here?) and then cold down to the 20s. 4 Northeasters in March which saw destruction of trees and habitat with wet heavy snow. We made it to the end of March only to have a 5<sup>th</sup> Northeaster on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

There were no Pine Siskins or Common Redpolls seen and very few Red-breasted Nuthatches. A total of 4 Purple Finches were seen over the 22 weeks. The American Goldfinch numbers were way down for the first thirteen weeks and then from week fourteen to twenty-two their numbers returned to normal. Two other species that were low were Black-capped Chickadee and Grackles.

We saw a total of 43 species of birds this year, down 8 from last year.

### The last seven weeks (16-22):

**Common List:** We had 22 of 22 species. A Purple Finch was seen in 4 weeks. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen by numerous surveyors, and Redwing Blackbirds were seen throughout the survey with week 19 having the highest amount of 96.

### New Category: Semi-Common List.

We had 11 for 12. The species no one saw was the Northern Mockingbird. Only one Purple Finch was seen. All the other species had two or more surveyors see them.

**Uncommon List:** We had 5 out of 39 species seen: Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwings, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red-shouldered Hawk, Turkey Vulture.

**Waterfowl list:** We had 1 out of 9 species seen: Mallard.

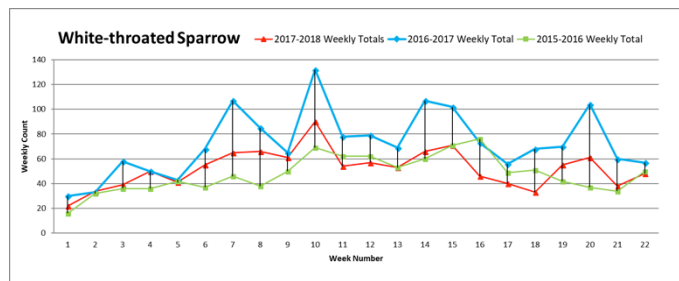
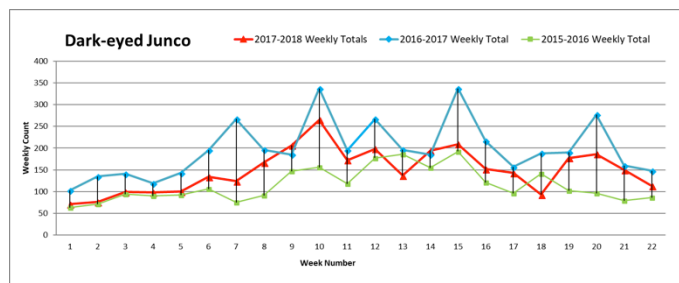
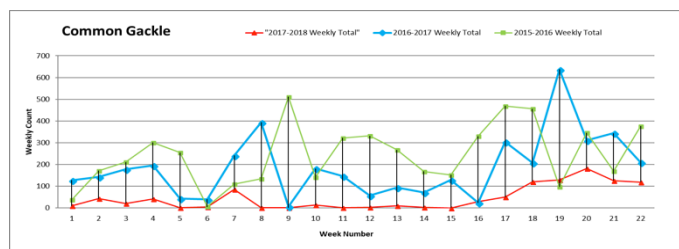
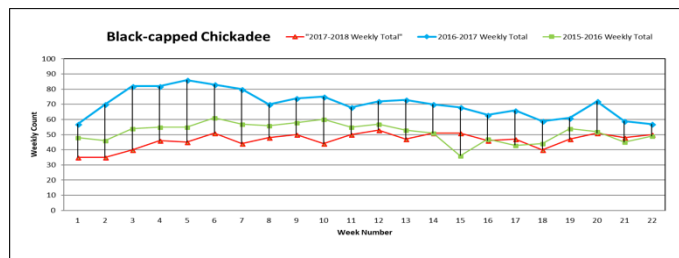
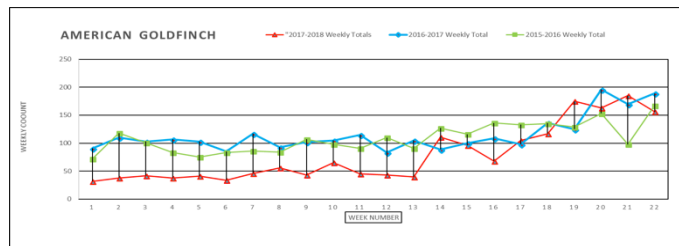
**Animal List:** We had 15 out of 25. Gray Squirrel led the way. The others were Bobcat, Brown Rat, Chipmunk, Coyote, Feral Cat, Mole, Opossum, Rabbit, Raccoon, Red Fox, Red Squirrel, Skunk, Whitetail Deer, and Woodchuck.

I have attached graphs of 5 species, with 3 trend lines, one for each year:

2017-2018 Red, 2016-2017 Blue and 2015-2016 Green.

A look at the graphs shows that the American Goldfinch finished this year about the same as last year but started the year way down. The Black-capped Chickadee was overall lower than the last two years. The Common Grackle was way down with number ranging from 0 to 40 for most of the year and only in the last month did they increase above 100 with 181 (week 20) being the highest. The number of Dark-eyed Juncos fell between the last two years but around 40 lower than last year. The White-throated Sparrow also came in between the last two years.

--Pete Vitali  
Chairman: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey



### Have a Great Summer

Outdoor programs will resume in mid-August and indoor programs in September. The list will be in the yearbook which will be mailed to you later this summer. The August issue of *The Chickadee* will have information about upcoming trips.

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)





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

**Newsletter June 2018**

#### **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 contact the Membership Chair, DeWitt Allen: 860.949.0995 or [allendatlow@gmail.com](mailto:allendatlow@gmail.com).

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

The NHBC website offers information about the Club, its programs, and other Club and member news. The web address is [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org). If you have any questions about the Club, you can send an email to: [ask.nhbc@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds_lists.ctbirding.org)