



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

June 2022

2022 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Wednesday, June 1, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park**

Sunday, June 5, 7–10 a.m. **Chippens Hill Grassland Birds**

Wednesday, June 8, 7–11 a.m. **June Birding at Morris Creek Marshes, East Haven**

Saturday–Sunday, June 11–12, all day **New Haven Summer Bird Count**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



At last! May finally came – and with it, waves of passerines in migration. Birders flocked to hotspots all over the state, and there were days with reports of seventy or more species, including fifteen or twenty different warblers.

New Haven Bird Club members were flocking too. On May 12, some seventy-five of us came together at Amarante's Sea Cliff Restaurant for the Club's

annual banquet. The concept of "annual" had to be stretched a bit during the Covid epidemic, though. 2020's banquet was canceled, and the 2021 event was held on Zoom – we had a great speaker but it wasn't the same as getting together face to face.

But – May of 2022 came, and here we were, seventy-five vaccinated club members and guests, walking around with appetizers and beverages, standing on the deck and chatting, sitting down with old friends and new ones for dinner, and scraping our chairs around afterward to get a good view of the evening's featured speaker, Tom Stephenson, and his presentation.

Everything about the evening was great. The food and drinks, the ambiance, the sunset over the harbor, Tom Stephenson's presentation on visual clues for warbler identification. But it was just the getting together again for a Club event that was extra special. When our Club's founders wrote out (by hand) the first NHBC Constitution and Bylaws in 1907, they specified that one of the main goals, besides field study and conservation, was "inspiration from the banding together of those interested in birds."

To me, it's the inspiration from birders banding together that makes NHBC special. Our Club doesn't own property, doesn't have paid employees. We are just people interested in birds

who gather together over and over – for 115 years now – for walks and monthly presentations. Today there are over 600 of us, who show up for walks and monthly meetings, who volunteer to lead walks, who help with special projects, and who serve on our board of directors.

Our club year is winding down in June, though we'll be starting all over again in September. And I'm looking forward to the new year already. But it's our members who are inspiring, who are the inspiration for all we do, and who have been year after year since 1907. I thank them for this wonderful club, and I thank you, who are keeping their legacy alive and keeping us going forward into our 2022-2023 year.

--DeWitt Allen

President's Award

At the New Haven Bird Club's 2022 Banquet, the President's Award was presented to Laurie Reynolds, for her outstanding service to the Club. I'm guessing that nearly every member knows who Laurie is. Not only that, they've probably talked to her on more than several bird walks.

Laurie is the Club's Membership Chair. She manages our membership records – and probably remembers every bit of data that's in there. She corresponds with new members, welcoming them to the club. She answers questions, including random ones that come in out of cyberspace. She produces our annual membership renewal drive and makes sure we have the latest information for inclusion in our Yearbook.

Add to that, on any bird walk she's on, Laurie makes a point of talking to everyone, including random people who see us and want to know what this group of people with binoculars are doing. (Amazingly, many of them end up as new members of the Club.) And at the same time, Laurie's almost surely the one who kept the ebird list for the day and shared it with everyone after.

Laurie is a force of nature, and I'm so grateful for her contributions to the Club, this year and many others. Please accept our sincere thanks, Laurie.

--DeWitt Allen



Photo by Craig Repasz

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2021-2022

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	DeWitt Allen	860-949-0995
	allendatlow@gmail.com	
<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>	Lori Datlow	475-227-2820
<i>Education Chair</i>	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
	vmickan@gmail.com	
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Laurie Reynolds	203-434-2134
	warmstove@hotmail.com	
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford	203-787-1642
	donnabatsford@gmail.com	
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	NHBC Executive Board	
<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Craig Repasz	203-230-1697
	crepasz@hotmail.com	
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Emmeline Kaiser	225-368-7273
	emkaiser03@gmail.com	
<i>Webmaster</i>	Patrick Leahy	203-393-2427
	ptjleahy@yahoo.com	
<i>Yearbook Editor</i>	Christine Howe	203-389-1175
	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>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

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on August 25.

Deadline for submissions to the next *Chickadee* is July 26. 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.

Welcome New Members

Brian Stacey
Redding

Richard Warren
Milford

Nancy and Bruce Alexander
Hamden

Deborah A. Cohen
Milford

Karen Wang
New Haven

Christina Watkins
Oxford

Celeste Echlin and Sam Walker
Harwinton

Maura Harrigan
Hamden

Joe Zipparo
Danbury

Caroline Blosser
New Haven

Kathy Bell and Colleen Richard
New Britain

Kathy Haskins
New Haven

Madeleine Kleinman
Hamden

Dean Plummer
Madison

Dave and Tammy Charbonneau
East Haddam

Liz and Dave Jaffin
Woodbury

David Kaempfer
Sandy Hook

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 ending times of walks are approximate.

More details, if required, 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, their habitats, 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 Chairperson also organizes the Club's representation at various public events. Volunteers to help at events are always welcome! Please contact Lori Datlow, Education Chair, at lorigatlow@frontier.com.

First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park Wednesday, June 1, 8–11 a.m.

Greg Hanisek, one of the best birders in the state, will lead the walk in this scenic and spacious forest in the northern part of the state. Nesting species here include Blue-headed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Canada Warbler and Black-throated Blue Warbler. Meet at the entrance to Mohawk Mountain State Park on Route 4 at Toumey Road in Cornwall, four miles west of Goshen.

Leader: Greg Hanisek, ctgregh@yahoo.com.

Chippens Hill Grassland Birds Sunday, June 5, 7–10 a.m.

The Chippens Hill area of Bristol has historically been farmland. The Environmental Learning Centers of CT and the city of Bristol are working to save some of the habitat where Bobolinks, Meadowlarks and Grasshopper Sparrows have been found. Join Jack Swatt for a tour of these areas in search of these declining species. Bring plenty of water and be prepared to walk in sunny field habitat that may contain ticks. Meet at the Roberts Field parking lot on Perkins Street in Bristol (just north of the intersection with Pinehurst Road).

Leader: Jack Swatt, 203-592-4686 or jswattbirds@gmail.com.

June Birding at Morris Creek Marshes, East Haven Wednesday, June 8, 7–11 a.m.

We bird Ora Avenue, Proto Drive, and the Morris Creek marshes for a diversity of birdlife in the breeding season. This highly-developed area in East Haven manages to retain a rich

avifauna year-round in spite of being sandwiched between Tweed-New Haven Airport and the East Haven Industrial Site. For many years, the road once known as Ora Avenue and now identified on maps as Proto Drive has served as the heart of Area K for the New Haven Christmas Bird Count. Many species found on the CBC are likely breeders here half a year later, including ducks, rails, bitterns, hawks and owls, woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos, wrens, thrushes, sparrows, blackbirds, and warblers. Many species with breeding evidence in Connecticut Bird Atlas block 95F have been identified in these grassland, woodland, and marsh habitats. Meet at Proto Drive opposite Town Fair Tire, south of Short Beach Road and a turn to the west off Coe Road.

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

New Haven Summer Bird Count Saturday–Sunday, June 11–12, all day

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.

Coordinator: Steve Mayo, 203-551-1707 or scmayo999@gmail.com.

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

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

Trip Reports

Richard English Field Trip Report



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

The annual Richard English Memorial Fieldtrip was held on Saturday April 2nd, 2022. This year, we excluded the Richard English Wildlife Sanctuary as the Boy Scout Leadership shut us down because there

was something happening with the property in question. This year, the trip was run in two parts; the Lighthouse Point park section was run at 8:30 AM, then a lunch break, then the Hammonasset portion at 1:00 PM. This all worked out very nicely with 17 people attending both locations. The weather was clear, windy and cold with a start temp of around 38°F. We had a total of around 53 species.

Some of the trip highlights were: Big flights of Brant (200 to 250), as well as other species, heading for the breakwater on the Point to get out of the wind. It was absolutely beautiful. It looked and felt like something out of the Arctic. After they landed, just about all the Brant had something to "say." In the woods at Lighthouse, at what I call Sapsucker Ridge, there were, in fact, Sapsuckers waiting to be counted. There were some truly great birds at Hammo. We had 4 Bonaparte's Gulls feeding in the surf about 25 feet from us. Everyone took lots of pictures. We also had Northern Gannets, both loons and lots of other things including a few Harbor Seals.

In summary, everyone had a great time.

-- Mike Horn

Milford Point Trip Report

The walk at Milford Point on April 13 was great! Lots of people came, and lots of experienced birders with scopes helped everyone see the birds. Frank Mantlik joined me as co-leader. I always learn something from him. In addition to knowing the birds, he knows lots of interesting facts about them! We all learned a lot!



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

A beautiful adult Bald Eagle was perched in the marsh, and everyone got to see him. Two Purple Martins were on their gourd house and were joined by Tree Swallows. The osprey pair were at their nest in the marsh, and swimming were numerous ducks including several Northern Shovelers, Green- and Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Gadwall, and Black Ducks. A nearby Oystercatcher was in the marsh allowing great looks, and a huge flock of cormorants flew by at a distance.

The bird feeders by the building were busy. Nearby we saw a Hermit Thrush, and a cooperative Brown Thrasher was at the feeder! A beautiful Towhee was foraging on the ground along with a Junco, and a few White-throated sparrows and a Song Sparrow. Several Monk Parakeets came by. A Carolina Wren and Mockingbird were both singing, joining the cardinal chorus. A flicker was also seen and calling. A few lucky birders saw a flyover Sandhill Crane! Wow!

The beach was also good. Red-breasted Mergansers, a Common Loon, a Bufflehead and two Goldeneye were seen. The piping plovers were very obliging, and we all got good looks at them. Their camouflage is just amazing - they blend in with the sand and shells! A large flock of Brant and Long-tailed Ducks were offshore.

The weather couldn't have been better; it was warm and the water was calm. We saw a lot of birds, 61 species, and it was a really fun morning of birding. Special thanks to Laurie Reynolds for keeping the e-bird list, and helping out. It was a wonderful day with lots of birds and birders!

--Jalna Jaeger

Osbornedale State Park Trip Report

Fourteen participants pitched in to draw out 50 species on this sunny Sunday, April 24.

Highlights included: Ovenbird, Black-and-White Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, a flyover Common Loon, Fish Crow, and end of walk

Brown Thrasher, Swamp Sparrow, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hermit Thrush, nesting Eastern Bluebirds, Eastern Towhee and hawks to name some.



Photo by Laurie Reynolds



Bobcat Photo by Laurie Reynolds

If that was not enough, a Bobcat closely crossed our path and continued off before the still and quiet participants. A red squirrel was added to the previously seen black and white squirrels.

--Maria Stockmal

East Rock Park With Ranger Dan Trip Report

Greeted by a large group (40+) of hopeful birders at 8 am April 30th, after nearly 2 years of social distancing and retirement, made for an interesting start.

Over the previous days, our area experienced strong blocking winds that slowed down the migration a bit. Cool temps also contributed.



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

We were able to locate about 37 species along English Drive, Giant Steps and Rice Field. Notable birds: 7 species of raptors, including a Broad-winged Hawk, a Great-crested Flycatcher, 4 Savannah Sparrows. A Piliated Woodpecker was found as we were leaving, calling on an oak, next to the police car blocking the drive for the Rock to Rock bike event.

Moving on to the Eli Whitney/Mill River section of the park, we ticked off a few more species for our day's total count of 50 bird species. A Black-crowned Night Heron, several Great Blue Herons and only 2 species of warblers were seen. There was also a strong showing of Ruby-crowned Kinglets.

Thanks goes out to Laurie Reynolds for recording the day by list and photos. It was good to see so many old friends, like Bill Banks, Lauren Brown, Betty Zuraw, Bill and Donna Batsford and others. What I found encouraging was the noticeable increase in new membership and seeing more young birders out in the park.

--Daniel Barvir

NHBC Walk in Lower East Rock Park Trip Report

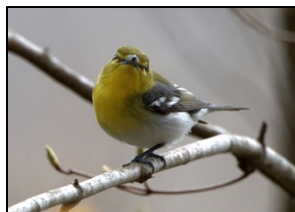
About thirty people turned out for this walk led by Florence McBride on May 1st. After all the windy days we'd had lately, we were glad to have so much better conditions for spotting and watching the birds. We found 35 species along our route from the covered bridge to just past the footbridge thickets and back along the higher eastern path. As one might expect, we were greeted in the parking lot by the song of a Warbling Vireo. An adult Red-tailed Hawk was high-visibility in the Eli Whitney Museum area, perching several times on top of the cell tower near the museum (it almost looked like a decorative finial), and once on a utility wire near the street. At the river we were glad to see both a Black-crowned Night Heron and a Great Blue, as well as Wood Duck. Seven species of warblers turned up for us: Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, and Northern Waterthrush. Both orioles were present, and it was especially interesting to get a look at the immature male Orchard Oriole that was singing just west of the footbridge.

--Flo McBride

River Road Kent Connecticut.Trip Report

On May 8, 14 members of the New Haven Bird Club carpooled from the old train station in Kent to the trailhead for the Appalachian Trail (AT). We roamed around the trailhead with views of the Housatonic River, the woodland interior, and a powerline cut. We then ambled down the road to the gate and trailhead for St John's Ledges on the AT. It was a cool spring day of 50 degrees and light winds.

Birders come on this trip for the bountiful warblers especially the Cerulean Warbler. We had 10 warbler species including the Ceruleans. This is a particularly low count for this date. The American Redstarts dominated the day. We got great views of vireos: Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, Warbling and Red-eyed.



Yellow-throated Vireo.
Photo by Craig Heberton

The Yellow bellied Sapsuckers were abundant. A Coopers Hawk flew across our path and then perched giving us great views. The Scarlet Tanagers gave a real show. There were times when we had up to five males in their flaming plumage on the ground or at eye level.

It was a great day to catch birds arriving from migration. We had a total of 58 species for the day.

--Craig Repasz

Whip-poor-will Walk Trip Report

Friday, May 13th, our Annual Whip-poor-will Walk was held at Naugatuck State Forest West Block at the end of Hunter's Mt. Rd. with 13 birders in attendance, but 13 was a lucky number for this event. The date of the walk varies as it is scheduled based on the phase of the moon with ideal Whip-poor-will activity occurring closest to the full moon. The walk is usually held in early June with the warmer weather and an added spectacle of fireflies lighting up the forest openings and fields in the area, but this year the calendar favored a walk in May. As we awaited dusk to fall, several Wood Thrushes and Veeries serenaded us with their songs. We ventured into the clearings favored by the Whip-poor-wills and witnessed the display flights of several American Woodcocks and several fluttering bats. Soon we heard the distinctive call of the Whip-poor-will, coming from, of all places, the parking lot where we had all previously been assembled. As we headed back that way the bird was frequently moving, but staying hidden from sight. The calls were infrequent given the cloud cover, but everyone was able to hear the distinctive call loud and clear. Another distant bird also began singing during the night, reassuring us that this location is still a great habitat for this declining species.

--Jack Swatt

Sleeping Giant State Park Trip Report

On May 14, leaders Jim Sirsch, DeWitt Allen, and Craig Repasz and 15 members of the New Haven Bird Club met at Sleeping Giant State Park. Historically, the Club in the 1920s took the trolley to Mt. Carmel and would spend the day birding. The park has changed since those days with a combination of successional growth and deforestation caused by tornados. The park now offers a variety of habitats with great birding potential.

We slowly walked up the tower road observing many of the woodland species: Scarlet Tanagers, Baltimore Orioles, Great Crested Flycatcher, Worm-eating Warbler, Northern Parula, Black and White Warbler, Ovenbird, Wood Thrush, drumming Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and Pileated Woodpeckers. The brushy areas gave us opportunities to observe Eastern Towhee, and Indigo Bunting. As we came into the Chin we had great looks at a Peregrine Falcon. Steve Broker gave us a wonderful impromptu discussion about the history of the Falcon's comeback in Connecticut and other information about their natural history. A little further up the trail we came upon a family group of five raucous Common Ravens. As we came out of the Chin area and had views to the north, we had great views of a perched Peregrine Falcon.

We covered 3.5 miles and tallied 41 species.

--Craig Repasz

Naugatuck State Forest Field Trip Report

On May 15th six intrepid members of the bird club went to the West Block of the Naugatuck State Forest for a morning of birding. The day started out with dense fog, but it lifted and there were plenty of birds to hear and see. The highlights were 13 warbler species, including Canada, Hooded, Magnolia and Prairie, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Blue-headed Vireo, and Acadian Flycatcher. We observed a total of 61 species as we hiked 5 miles in four hours through the woods and along the mountain roads. The forest is a wild and beautiful place, although to enjoy it fully one must block out the sounds emanating from the rifle range within its haunts. The best part of visiting the forest is seeing the many species that call this forest home and are there in abundance. There are Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Great Crested Flycatchers, Red-eyed Vireos, Wood Thrushes, Eastern Towhees, Baltimore Orioles, Ovenbirds, American Redstarts, Chestnut-sided Warblers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. The collective chorus makes for a wonderful experience. If you go, be sure to hike down the long and scenic ravine trail. We'll be going next year, for sure.

--Chris Loscalzo

Durham Hotspots Trip Report

The NHBC Durham Hotspots field trip was offered for the second year on Sunday, May 15. Inclement weather was forecast the day before, and the leader, Steve Broker, ever hopeful, was pleasantly surprised to find numerous cars and bright skies awaiting at the first stop, Durham Skating Pond off Route 68. There, and at the main Frederick White Farm stop, we found 27 species of birds, highlighted by two Virginia Rails (one coming into brief view), Swamp Sparrow, Eastern Kingbird, Cedar Waxwings, Baltimore Oriole, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, and at least 11 Bobolinks, males and females represented. The ground was wet and the grass tall, so we did not walk the extensive trail system at Fred White. Our next brief stop was at the margins of the Coginchaug River off Route 147. A short trail under the high tension lines leads to an always productive overlook into this extensive riverine/marsh system. Here, we heard another Virginia Rail, Great Blue Heron, woodpeckers, Eastern Phoebe, a highly vocal House Wren, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and more Yellowthroats and Yellow Warblers.

Members of the group continued birding at Lyman Orchards Apple Barrel Store while the leader shopped for high caloric foods. Bird species added to the day's total included Warbling Vireo, Tree Swallow, Northern Mockingbird, and Eastern Bluebird. The Apple Barrel is a great place to break up a Middlesex County trip and provide necessary conveniences.



Photo by Lori Datlow

The final stop was at Peckham Park in Middlefield, a place new to all participants. Here, the birder walks past the jungle gyms, skate park, and ball fields to the site of a failed trolley line that a century ago was constructed to connect Middlefield with Guilford. The



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

berm that was built through the Coginchaug Floodplain was turned into a linear trail some years ago by civic minded folk. This day, the old trolley line produced Red-shouldered Hawk, woodpeckers, Eastern Bluebird, a flock of waxwings, two Northern Waterthrushes, two Northern Parulas, and a Black-throated Green Warbler.

Learn more about these great birding sites by consulting Noble Proctor's *25 Birding Areas in Connecticut* (1978, Pequot Press) and Frank Gallo's *Birding in Connecticut* (2018, Wesleyan University Press).

--Steve Broker

Julius Hansen Park Field Trip

On May 21, 2022, 15 members of the New Haven Bird Club met with leaders DeWitt Allen and Craig Repasz to bird Julius Hansen Park in North Haven. The park has meadows, shrubland, woodlands including a stand of pines, riparian habitat and a classic Connecticut traprock ridge.

We started out going through the meadow and shrubland with great looks at Field Sparrow, Blue-winged Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher and a Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow Warbler, Gray Catbirds, a flyover Merlin, and Common Yellowthroat. The Indigo Buntings bedazzled us.

As we made our way into the woods we transitioned to the forest birds, Wood Thrush, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos. We were soon greeted by a cacophony of crows that suggested that they were mobbing a predator. As they got more raucous a Great Horned Owl took flight. It took us some effort to get into position for a view.



Great Horned Owl Hiding from Crows.

Photo by Robert Rimkoski

We continued through woods to get views of Scarlet Tanagers, Worm-eating and Black and White Warblers, and a singing Northern Parula. We stopped in the old hay field and walked back along the river to the parking area. We logged in 2.3 miles and tallied 51 species.

--Craig Repasz

Barn Island Trip Report



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

On Sunday, May 22, Bill Batsford and I led a trip to Barn Island in Stonington. We walked the west end short path out to the sound, but spent most of our time birding along the path through the impoundments. It was a very hot day in most parts of the state, but all 10 of us were blessed with a delightful cool ocean breeze. Phew! Highlights included both Seaside and Saltmarsh Sparrows, several Willow Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbird, Marsh Wren, Glossy Ibis, and, yes, zillions of Yellow Warblers!! So, not a lot of migrants, but most of the common nesters. Nice morning with a delightfully enthusiastic group. Laurie Reynolds recorded our list and sent it in to eBird as well as to us.

--Carolyn Cimino

Education Committee Report

I'm pleased to announce that the New Haven Bird Club is once again supporting the student summer job conservation program of New Haven's Common Ground High School, Urban Farm, and Environmental Education Center.

Here's how Joel Tolman, Common Ground's Director of Community Engagement & Impact, describes the Club's past donations:

"We are so grateful for the New Haven Bird Club's sustained support of Common Ground's work to grow a new generation of conservation leaders, habitat stewards, and environmental educators in New Haven – through meaningful, paid work opportunities in our Green Jobs Corps. Over the years, your support has allowed us to:

- Hire recent Common Ground graduates as assistant crew leaders for our high school students – restoring urban oases across the city, and providing a next-step leadership opportunity for emerging environmental leaders.
- Engage 10 Common Ground High School students in a two-week environmental careers exploration program, operated in partnership with the Urban Resources Initiative and the Regional Water Authority.
- Employ a crew of West River Stewards who care for and expand the urban oasis along Wintergreen Brook, directly across the street from Common Ground's campus – removing illegally dumped garbage and invasives, restoring habitat, creating a trail and site for environmental education opportunities."

And here's what he has to say about this year's donation:

"We ask that the Bird Club renew its support, and contribute \$2,000 to help us engage another set of young people in paid environmental education, leadership and restoration work this summer.

"We propose to use this support to pay for the wages of our summer Green Jobs Corps members, working on crews directly related to habitat restoration and environmental education. Right now, the most pressing unmet need is for funding for a position on the Wildlife Guards crew, working in partnership with Audubon Connecticut and the City of West Haven to monitor shorebird populations, steward habitat, work alongside professional scientists, and educate the members of the general public at Sandy Point.

"In Summer 2022, this crew will work for more than 6 weeks, 22 hours per week, at Connecticut minimum wage (\$14/hour). A \$2,000 grant would allow Common Ground to pay wages directly to a Green Jobs Corps member placed with Wildlife Guards, and also cover the payroll taxes for this important conservation leadership opportunity."

I can't think of any better way to ensure that the future of our environment, for all of us and especially the birds we love, is in good hands. Please take a few minutes to look at Common Ground's website to see what this wonderful school does day after day: <https://www.commongroundct.org/>

Thank you to all our members who support us with your continued participation, feedback, volunteerism, and donations.

--Lori Datlow
Education Chair

NHBC Winter Feeder Survey 2021-2022 – Final Report 05/05/2022



WHAT A YEAR! This year there was only 1 Bear attack on feeders. There were 7 weeks with snow storms this year and extreme cold in 4 weeks. Then in Mid-February we had a high temperature of 70°F. To the Uncommon Species List this year I added Bumble

Bees. They came out when the temperatures were over 60°F in 5 weeks. I know they are not birds, but they fly, and this was the first time since I have been running the survey (over 10 years) that there has been any mention of them. It also indicates that climate change is causing weird weather patterns during the winter months and temperatures can go from 6°F to 70°F within days of each other.

There was a total of 47 species of birds reported the last 6 weeks of the survey and 62 for the whole year. I also had an Orange House Finch at my feeders weekly from week 15 (beginning of February) thru the end of the survey.

We had 20 surveyors this year and again we were widely scattered around the New Haven County: Bethany, Durham, Guilford, Hamden, Meriden, Milford, North Branford, Orange, Wallingford and Woodbridge. We have three surveyors outside New Haven County: Killingworth and Centerbrook (Middlesex County), and Monroe (Fairfield County).

The last six weeks (17-22):

Common List: We had 22 of 22 species. All were seen by 10 or more surveyors.

New Category – Semi-Common List: We had 12 of 12 species. A Fox-sparrow was seen in week 19, 5 Purple Finches were seen in week 21, and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was observed in weeks 16 and 21.

Uncommon List: We had 8 out of 42 species reported and they were: Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing, Field Sparrow, Gray Catbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Pine Warbler, Red-shouldered Hawk, Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Waterfowl list: We had 5 out of 9 species reported: Canadian Goose, Great Blue Heron, Hooded Merganser, Mallard, Wood Duck.

Animal List: We had 13 out of 26. Gray Squirrel led the way. The others were Chipmunk, Brown Rat, Feral Cat, Flying Squirrel, Opossum, Rabbit, Raccoon, Red Fox, Red Squirrel, Skunk, White tail Deer and Woodchuck.

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

2021-2022 Red, 2020-2021 Blue and 2019-2020 Green. In the American Goldfinch graph, I have added years 2018-2019 and 2017-2018.

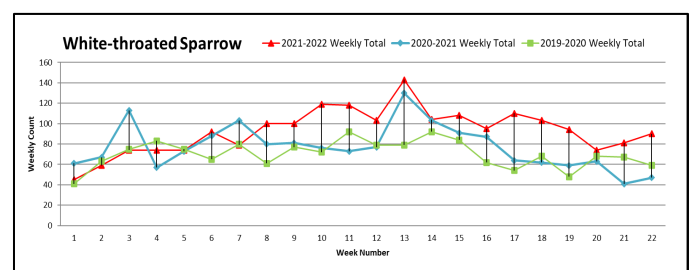
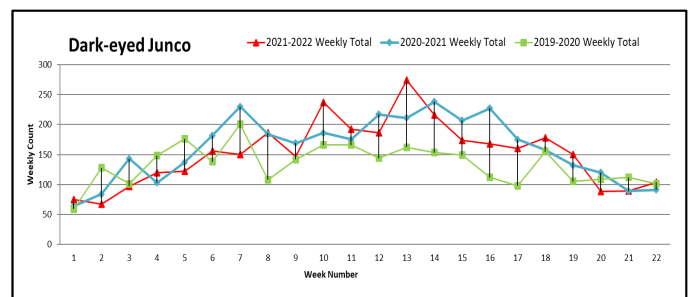
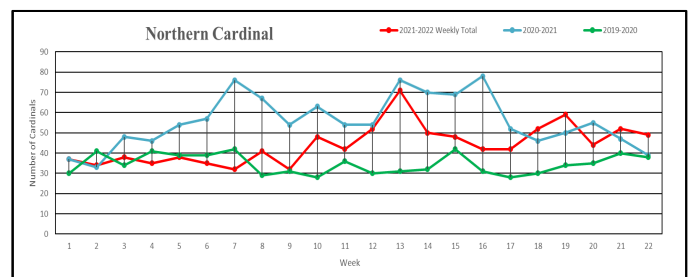
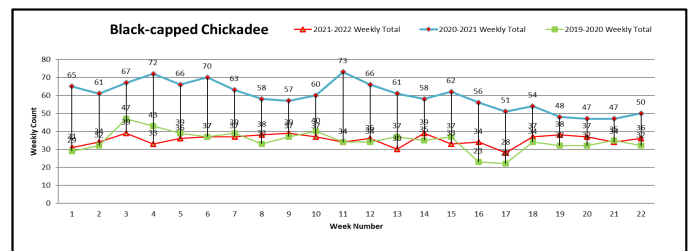
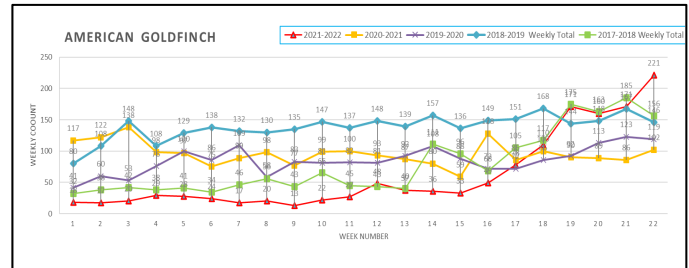
A look at the graphs shows that the American Goldfinch was the lowest of the five years until week 15 when they came back and ended up higher than all the other years. The Black-capped Chickadee was lower this year than the last two years. The Northern Cardinal numbers were in the middle of the previous

years. Our two winter species the Dark-eyed Junco and the White-throated Sparrow came in about the same as the last two years and both peaked in week 13 (Week of January 24th) and then we see a drop off towards starting numbers.

I have provided a list showing all the species on the lists and the maximum number seen for that species in any one week of the survey by all the surveyors.

--Peter Vitali

NHBC Winter Feeder Survey Chairman



Maximum Number of a Species seen in any one week of the Survey by all the Surveyors.

A blank indicates the species was not seen during the 22 weeks of the survey.

Common species			Semi Common			Uncommon Species			Water Fowl			Animals		
1	American Crow	20	1	Chipping Sparrow	5	1	American Tree Sparrow	2	1	American Black Duck	2	1	Gray Squirrel	56
2	American Goldfinch	186	2	Eastern Bluebird	20	2	American Woodcock		2	Canada Goose	6	2	Chipmunk	28
3	American Robin	65	3	Fox Sparrow	3	3	Baltimore Oriole (Northern)		3	Great Blue Heron	4	3	Black Bear	1
4	Black-capped Chickadee	39	4	Northern Flicker	10	4	Belted Kingfisher		4	Herring Gull		4	Black Squirrel	
5	Blue Jay	69	5	Northern Mockingbird	4	5	Black Vulture	2	5	Hooded Merganser	4	5	Bob Cat	1
6	Brown-headed Cowbird	60	6	Purple Finch	5	6	Blackpoll Warbler		6	Mallard	92	6	Brown Rat	2
7	Carolina Wren	24	7	Red-tailed Hawk	9	7	Broad-winged Hawk		7	Northern Pin Tail		7	Coyote	1
8	Common Grackle	343	8	Red-winged Blackbird	85	8	Brown Creeper	4	8	Ring-billed Gull		8	Feral Cat	1
9	Cooper's Hawk	6	9	Rock Dove (Pigeon)	36	9	Cedar Waxwing	4	9	Wood Duck	4	9	Fisher	
10	Dark-eyed Junco	274	10	Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	10	Common Redpoll		10			10	Flying Squirrel	1
11	Downy Woodpecker	46	11	Wild Turkey	26	11	Eastern Kingbird		11			11	Gray Fox	
12	European Starling	351	12	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	12	Eastern Phoebe	1	12			12	Ground Hog	
13	Hairy Woodpecker	18	13			13	Eastern Towhee	1	13			13	Mole	1
14	House Finch	133	14			14	Evening Grosbeak		14			14	Mouse	2
15	House Sparrow	146	15			15	Field Sparrow	1	15			15	Opossum	2
16	Mourning Dove	178	16			16	Fish Crow		16			16	Rabbit	5
17	Northern Cardinal	71	17			17	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	17			17	Raccoon	6
18	Red-bellied Woodpecker	26	18			18	Gray Cat Bird	1	18			18	Red Fox	3
19	Song Sparrow	27	19			19	Hermit Thrush	1	19			19	Red Squirrel	2
20	Tufted Titmouse	33	20			20	Kestrel	1	20			20	Short-tailed Rat	
21	White-breasted Nuthatch	33	21			21	Lincoln Sparrow		21			21	Short-tailed Shrew	
22	White-throated Sparrow	143	22			22	Merlin		22			22	Shrew	2
23			23			23	Monk Parakeet		23			23	Skunk	2
24			24			24	Nashville Warbler		24			24	Vole	1
25			25			25	Northern Harrier	1	25			25	Weasel	
26			26			26	Pileated Woodpecker	2	26			26	White Tail Deer	7
27			27			27	Pine Siskin		27			27	Woodchuck	
28			28			28	Pine Warbler	1	28			28		
29			29			29	Raven		29			29		
30			30			30	Red-breasted Nuthatch		30			30		
31			31			31	Red-shouldered Hawk	2	31			31		
32			32			32	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	15	32			32		
33			33			33	Rusty Blackbird	1	33			33		
34			34			34	Savannah Sparrow	1	34			34		
35			35			35	Swamp Sparrow		35			35		
36			36			36	Turkey Vulture	12	36			36		
37			37			37	Vesper Sparrow		37			37		
38			38			38	White-crowned Sparrow		38			38		
39			39			39	Winter Wren	1	39			39		
40			40			40	Wood Thrush		40			40		
41			41			41	Yellow-rumped Warbler	10	41			41		
42	5/1/2022		42			42	Honey Bee	50	42			42		
43		22	43		12	43		22	43		6	43		20



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

June 2022

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.