



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

June 2023

2023 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Friday, June 2, 8:30–10 p.m. **Whip-poor-will Walk in Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck** (Rain Date: Saturday, June 3)

Sunday, June 4, 7–10 a.m. **Chippens Hill Grassland Birds**

Wednesday, June 7, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park**

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

Saturday–Sunday, June 10–11 **New Haven Summer Bird Count**

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



For the past four years, my job has been made easy by all the club members who volunteer their time and expertise, but mostly perform their vital tasks out of sight – maybe like the crew on some billionaire's luxury yacht. The rest of us may be up on deck, enjoying the sunset with a drink in our hand – or more to the point, enjoying the birds with binoculars in

our hands – but the crew are the ones who make sure the engine keeps running, we're pointed in the right direction, we don't sink, and we all have a good time.

So I'm going to use this occasion to highlight the crew and their contributions, not just to my personal well-being and enjoyment of the cruise, but to the well-being of our club. Big thanks to all of them:

To **Chris Howe**, who has served as vice-president for the past four years and has been a constant source of wisdom, advice, and support. She also turns out that indispensable, many-paged compendium of club information, the NHBC yearbook; the 2023-2024 edition will be turning up in our mailboxes soon. And most importantly, Chris takes over the yacht's wheel – or the club's gavel – starting in July.

To treasurer **Andy Stack**, who keeps our books and budget and writes the checks. Who keeps us spotless with the IRS and the state of Connecticut.

To **Mike Ferrari**, who returned to the board to convert our paper record-keeping to digital, who designed and implemented the system and taught us to use it, who created and designed our Mailchimp email system, and who stayed on to serve as board secretary, even after he moved to Colorado.

To **Craig Repasz**, who has scheduled all our field trips and walks and conferred regularly with trip leaders to make sure our walks come off as planned, or rescheduled as necessary, or canceled with plenty of notice to members.

To indoor chair **Gail Martino**, who schedules and communicates with speakers for our monthly meetings, who makes sure the tech works for their presentations, and who organizes nearly everything for the annual banquet.

To membership chair **Laurie Reynolds**, who not only keeps the membership records up to date, conducts the annual membership renewal drive and simultaneously takes banquet reservations, answers questions at ask@newhavenbirdclub.org, and corresponds with new members – she also turns up somehow on nearly every field trip, talks to everyone, recruits new members from the crowd, and keeps an ebird list for the group. Somehow.

To *Chickadee* editor **Donna Batsford**, who compiles, edits, and publishes the club's newsletter six times a year, with a full schedule of upcoming events and field trips, reports and photos from completed trips, and a miscellany of announcements and observations.

To webmaster **Pat Leahy**, who keeps www.newhavenbirdclub.org running. Who posts announcements on the home page and links to pages with information about the club, our calendar of events and walks, an archive of *Chickadee* newsletters, and where visitors can join or renew a membership.

To publicity chair **Emmeline Kaiser**, who puts together and emails those highly attractive Mailchimp announcements and reminders of field trips and membership meetings – complete with beautiful photos of leaders and speakers.

To education chair **Lori Datlow**, who organizes NHBC's presence at earth days and other community events and presents a beginning bird identification class for children and (sometimes) adults at local schools and other organizations.

To board members at-large **Vanessa Mickan** and **Albert Laguna**, who represent the interests of our general membership on the board, and contribute their perspective to discussions and decisions about club governance and planning.

To the former-presidents and long-time board members **Mike Horn** and **Bill Batsford**, who are storehouses of institutional memory and continue as board advisors, contributing their

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NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2022-2023

OFFICERS

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SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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<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
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<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo	203-551-1707
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<i>Historian</i>	John Triana	203-758-7203
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<i>Hospitality</i>	<i>vacant</i>	
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo	203-551-1707
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New Haven Bird Club Website:
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

(President's Message Continued from first page)

experience and wisdom to the management of ongoing club business.

Also to **Pete Vitali**, who conducts our winter feeder survey, **Toby Appel**, who manages our annual birding book sale and who archived our club's collection of historical papers in the New Haven Museum, and **Joyce Alton**, who has provided us with a spread of delicious baked treats and refreshments at our indoor meetings.

Major recognition and thanks are also owed to the many club members who volunteer their time and expertise as field trip leaders. They are the club's ambassadors, the face of the club for members and the public attending our trips, and their generosity makes possible our club's central activity – guided exploration of bird-friendly habitats around New Haven and other parts of the state. And of course, location and identification of their feathered inhabitants.

In our 2023-2024 year, the following members volunteered as leaders of field trips: Frank Mantlik, Steve Mayo, Bill Batsford, Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, Frank Gallo, Craig Repasz, Maria Stockmal, Pat Leahy, Steve Broker, Mike Horn, Tina Green, Jerry Connolly, Chris Loscalzo, John Triana, Greg Hanisek, Jalna Jaeger, Dan Barvir, Gail Martino, Morgan Evans, John Oshlick, Jim Sirch, and Jack Swatt.

Many thanks to all our leaders. And a note to all our members: anyone can propose and lead a field trip. You don't have to consider yourself an expert birder – all that is required is that you know the area well where the trip will take place. The groups attending always have many sharp-eyed members, and figuring out together what we see is always necessary anyway, and always fun.

So, if you have an idea for a new bird walk, please get in touch with me at allendatlow@gmail.com or 860-949-0995. Your walk can be on any day of the week at any time of the year, subject only to availability of the date. We're always looking for new locations, and we'd be especially happy to add new trips and walks through the summer and fall, and even during winter – our calendar is much less crowded at those times – and it will be interesting to see what we can find on your favorite patch.

Again, thanks to everyone for keeping the New Haven Bird Club sailing along. Happy birding, on water or land.

--DeWitt Allen

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on August 24.

Deadline for submissions to the next *Chickadee* is July 28. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at donnabatsford@gmail.com

As a result of the election at the Annual Meeting in April, the new officers will be:

President: Christine Howe
Vice-President: Open
Treasurer: Andy Stack
Secretary: Michele McDermott
At Large: Albert Laguna
At Large: Glen Cummings

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.**

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).

There are no Indoor Programs in June, July or August.

NHBC Book Sale at October Meeting

This year's used birding book sale will take place at NHBC's October 12th indoor meeting at the Whitney Center. This October book sale date is a change from previous years, when the sale of lightly used birding and natural history books took place at the November indoor meeting.

If you have books on birds, birders, birding, or the natural world to donate for the sale, please bring them to our September 14th indoor meeting or call Toby Appel at 203-691-8122 or Lori Datlow at 475-227-2820 to make special arrangements.

April Indoor Meeting – Patty Brennan



Photo by Chris Howe

On April 13th, the New Haven Bird Club held an indoor program featuring Dr. Patty Brennan and her fascinating research on genital evolution in birds. The event was attended by 35 people in person and had an additional 26 logins for virtual attendees.

Dr. Brennan, a professor at Mount Holyoke College, is an expert in the field of evolutionary biology and has spent years

studying the intricate reproductive organs of birds. Her research has focused on the evolution of these organs and how they have adapted to different environments and mating behaviors.

During the presentation, Dr. Brennan shared her insights on the various forms of bird genitalia, which range from simple structures to incredibly complex and diverse organs. She discussed the factors that drive the evolution of these organs, including sexual selection and environmental pressures.

The audience was captivated by the intricacy and diversity of bird genitalia and the fascinating adaptations that have evolved over millions of years. Dr. Brennan's presentation shed light on a little-known aspect of bird biology and left attendees with a newfound appreciation for the complexity and beauty of the natural world.

--Gail Martino

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.

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. 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.

Whip-poor-will Walk in Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck

Friday, June 2, 8:30–10 p.m.

(Rain Date: Saturday, June 3)

Jack Swatt, New Haven Bird Club Life Member and Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (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! The walk is about a quarter mile's easy walking but through field terrain during tick season and at night so a good flashlight is a must. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Hunter's Mountain Road, Naugatuck.

Leader: Jack Swatt, 203-592-4686 or jswattbirds@snet.net.

Chippens Hill Grassland Birds

Sunday, June 4, 7–10 a.m.

The Chippens Hill area of Bristol historically has been farmland. The Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut 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 Rd.).

Leader: Jack Swatt, 203-592-4686 or jswattbirds@snet.net

First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park Wednesday, June 7, 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 in Cornwall, four miles west of Goshen.

Leader: Greg Hanisek, ctgregh@yahoo.com

June Birding at Morris Creek Marshes, East Haven Wednesday, June 7, 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 (CBC). Many species found on the CBC are likely breeders here half a year later, including ducks, rails, bitterns, hawks, owls, woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos, wrens, thrushes, sparrows, blackbirds, and warblers. Many species with breeding evidence for Connecticut Bird Atlas block 95F have been identified in these grassland, woodland, and marsh habitats. Meet on 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 10–11

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 and go out for all or part of the day.

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

Trip Reports

First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford Trip Report

On Wednesday, April 12, the Milford Point field trip yielded 53 species. It was a relatively mild day. Frank Mantlik co-led the trip as Milford point is one of his favorite spots! We started at the platform overlooking the marsh. There were several Purple Martins at the gourds and a few Tree Swallows as well. The Osprey were at their platform, numerous ducks were in the muddy marsh including Green-winged Teal, Red-breasted Mergansers and a lone Northern Shoveler. There was a large flock of Dunlin and several Greater Yellowlegs.

From the overlook platform at the beach we saw a Common Loon fly over. It's a special treat to see a low-flying loon in breeding plumage! There were several Savannah Sparrows on the path to the sand spit. The sand spit hosted several Piping Plovers. In the distance, by the jetty there were Oystercatchers.



Photo by Frank Mantlik

The sound was very calm, but the only sea ducks at great distance were some Long-tailed Ducks, and a few more Red-breasted Mergs. There were also several loons on the water. On the walk back a Black Vulture flew over and a Bald Eagle.

There were several new NHBC members on the walk, including several who were on their first field trip with NHBC! It was a good trip, and it's always good to meet new birders!

--Jalna Jaeger

Introduction to Digitally-Assisted Birding and Walk at Lighthouse Point Park Trip Report

On May 3rd, a group of seven enthusiastic New Haven Bird Club members gathered at Lighthouse Point Park for a digitally-assisted birding workshop and walk, led by Gail Martino. Despite a cloudy start, the day turned out to be beautiful, with the sun eventually making an appearance.

The workshop began with a brief tutorial on the eBird and Merlin apps, demonstrating their use in logging observations, sharing lists, and recording and identifying bird sounds during the walk. The group discussed the importance of proper usage of these recordings, emphasizing the need to visually confirm bird identifications whenever possible, as AI technology might not always be accurate.

Throughout the walk, the group spotted a total of 42 bird species, including many early spring migrants. Highlights



Photo by Annyta Klein

included sightings of both Baltimore and Orchard Orioles interacting with Tufted Titmice and vibrant Yellow Warblers, Catbirds and Great Egrets in their breeding plumage.

Participants also observed Ospreys copulating on a nest platform and various species performing mating displays, such as Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds.

Toward the end of the walk, the group was treated to the appearance of a pair of Brown Thrashers and enjoyed listening to the male's song. As an added bonus, they discovered a discarded thrasher eggshell, indicating that the pair is likely breeding in the park this year. It's worth noting that thrashers have successfully fledged several offspring in the park in recent years.

A big shout-out to Annyta Klein for capturing the day's events through her photography!

--Gail Martino

Sleeping Giant State Park Trip Report

On Saturday, May 13, a beautiful May morning, 26 eager birders started up the Tower Path at Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden, in search of resident birds and migrants. Leader Jim Sirch, who serves as Education Coordinator at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History and authors the popular natural



Photo by DeWitt Allen

history blog, *Beyond the Back Door*, focused the group on the songs and calls coming from the leafy deciduous woodland on both sides of the path, as well as birds moving through the branches and along the slopes. The group was rewarded with singing Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, American Redstart, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, and Chestnut-sided Warbler, along with resident Ovenbirds, Black-and-White, and Worm-eating Warblers.

Other highlights included good looks at Scarlet Tanagers, male and female Eastern Towhees, Indigo Bunting, Baltimore Orioles, and Eastern Kingbirds, among many others. A Winter Wren sang from the wet bottom of a brushy slope, and a pair of Peregrines flew by, after we found the female calling and perching on one of her favorite rocks above us.

Through the three-hour plus walk, the group identified a total of 45 species, having a great time doing it together.

--DeWitt Allen

Naugatuck State Forest Field Trip Report

Ten members of the New Haven Bird Club went to the west block of the Naugatuck State Forest on Mother's Day, May 14. We had a fine day, hiking over 5 miles on the scenic trails in the forest. We observed a total of 71 species, including 19 warbler species. Highlights were: Hooded, Blackburnian, Tennessee and Worm-eating Warbler, Black-billed Cuckoo,

Broad-winged Hawk, Yellow-throated Vireo, Winter Wren, Swainson's Thrush and a late migrating (or breeding?) Dark-eyed Junco.

--Chris Loscalzo

Barn Island Field Trip Report

On Saturday, May 27th, 15 people with an interest in birds and a willingness to go to the southeast corner of our state ventured to the Barn Island Wildlife Management Area in Stonington. We took the small trail to the west of the lot first and saw and heard Willets and Willow Flycatchers there. Yellow Warblers and American Redstarts serenaded us as we walked the trail. We then embarked upon the long hike to the east, walking past the expansive marshes, through the woods, and through the large brushy field at the east end of the refuge. Along the way, we saw or heard dozens of bird species, including Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plover, Least and Semipalmated Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Red-shouldered Hawk, Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated and White-eyed Vireo (we got excellent looks at the former, but only heard the latter), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Veery, Saltmarsh Sparrow, and Orchard Oriole. All total, we observed 76 species of birds. We also got in some good exercise (it's a lengthy hike) and took in the natural splendor of this location. We will be making a return trip to this refuge next year.

--Chris Loscalzo

Banquet Raffle

I'd like to thank everyone who donated items and events for our banquet raffle.

Just as important, thank you to everyone who participated by purchasing tickets with the hope of "winning" a prize. Each dollar spent helps pay banquet expenses.

Special mention goes to the Takahashi carved bird pin, and the Upcycled Mobile.

The bird pins were originally created by a Japanese-American couple, Yoneguma and Kiyoka Takahashi, from California, while incarcerated during WW2 after the attack on Pearl Harbor. They learned the art through a class offered at the camp in Idaho. They continued making these beautiful pins for many years as a family business. I have read that 150 of them are now in the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, California. The Takahashis created and sold many others as a family business through the early 1990s. We were lucky to have these in our raffle, and I suspect they'll be big hits at upcoming banquets, as we have three more.

The Upcycled Mobile was created by David Sepulveda of New Haven. He handcrafts each one individually using plastic containers and items he finds at local thrift stores. A retired art teacher, he started making the mobiles in his Westville studio about 5 years ago using discarded laundry detergent bottles.

Again, thank you everyone for joining us for a great presentation by Jim Zipp, and for the always beautiful sunset at Amarante's, the fabulous decorations and colors designed and chosen by Gail Martino, and great conversations with both old and new friends.

--Lori Datlow

Wingspan Game Night Debuts at the Whitney Center

If you've ever wanted to play a competitive game that was centered around bird behaviors and habitats, then Wingspan is the game for you. Wingspan is a board game that debuted in 2019 that uses bird behavior and characteristics to control the flow of the game. An article in *Audubon* summed it up best: "Wingspan players take on the role of bird enthusiasts aiming to attract avian visitors to their wildlife preserve. The heart of the game is its deck of 170 illustrated bird cards, each depicting a North American species. Up to five players take turns placing these cards into their appropriate habitat, collecting food, laying eggs, or drawing new cards, with each action unlocking new resources. It's what's known in board game parlance as an engine-building game—one in which players try to create an increasingly effective system for generating points. The game lasts about an hour, and the player with the most points wins."



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

On March 17th, sixteen New Haven Bird Club members got together to play the game at the Whitney Center Cultural Arts Center. The idea for a game night came to me after learning how to play, and realizing this would be a fun game to play with

other bird enthusiasts. When I mentioned the game to other people, several of them told me they had received the game as a gift, but didn't know how to play. Therefore, the first night was designed to teach people who are new to the game how to play. And, as anticipated, for many people who did attend, it was their first time playing the game. After describing the rules and basics of play, several people who had some experience with the game held a demonstration round, then everyone divided up into groups to start their own game. The games were played with an open-handed format so they could ask questions and learn more about the strategies and methods of play involved. Everyone who attended enjoyed the event and a second night of play was held on April 28th. Several new players joined in, and returning players reinforced what they had learned from the previous time playing. We look forward to resuming Gamenight in the fall and hope more interested players will join us.

--Jack Swatt

Welcome New Members

Angela Harris
New Haven

Joseph Mason
New Haven

James Marshall
North Haven

Jason Knowlton
Wallingford

James Bair
Ansonia

Eva Tyburski
Higganum

Isabel Chenoweth
Hamden

Kirsten Ruemenapp
Seymour

Andrew Vogt & Rebecca Hofer
Hamden

NHBC Winter Feeder Report 2022-2023 – Final Report – April 29, 2023



WHAT A YEAR! This year there were no bear attacks on feeders, but 2 Surveyors waited till week 6 to start their surveys and 1 Surveyor stopped their survey at week 17 due to bears in their neighborhood. We started with 22 Surveyors, and 4

dropped out over the course of the survey. New to the Uncommon List is the Barred Owl, which was seen in week 16. We had only 3 snowstorms, in weeks 11, 17 and 18, and I only took my snow blower out one time this year. Most of the time the weather was mild with a few dips to below 30°F. We started the year with 1 Pine Siskin, 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch and 3 Purple Finches, and in the last weeks of the survey we had only 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch and 1 Purple Finch reported. The total number of species seen for the year was 56. Our numbers were down a little bit from last year.

Our 22 surveyors were again widely scattered around the New Haven County: Ansonia, Bethany, Durham, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, 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). We have 6 receiving emails but replying using Postal Mail, 15 just using email, plus myself.

The last six weeks (17-22):

There was a total of 41 species of birds reported in the last 6 weeks of the survey.

Common List: We had 22 of 22 species. All were seen by 10 or more surveyors. Blue Jays were not seen by 3 surveyors the last 6 weeks and 6 surveyors did not see them for 1 to 4 weeks during the last 6 weeks. Was it the warm weather we were having that allowed them to feed naturally? White-throated Sparrows were not seen by 5 surveyors in the last 6 weeks, plus there were 4 surveyors who dropped out. In 2020-2021 two surveyors did not see any although in 2021-2022 every surveyor reported them.

Semi-Common List: We had 10 of 12 Species reported. Red-tailed Hawk and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were not reported. One surveyor reported a Purple Finch in Week 20.

Uncommon List: There were 7 species reported out of 42 species. They are Brown Creeper, Fish Crow, Gray Catbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Pine Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Red-shouldered Hawk.

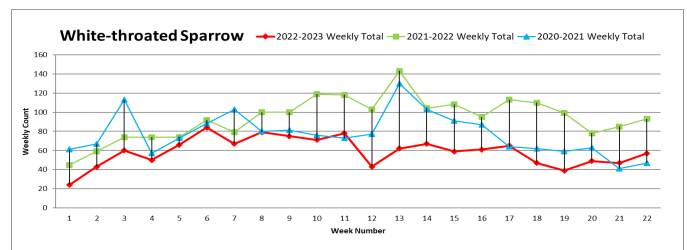
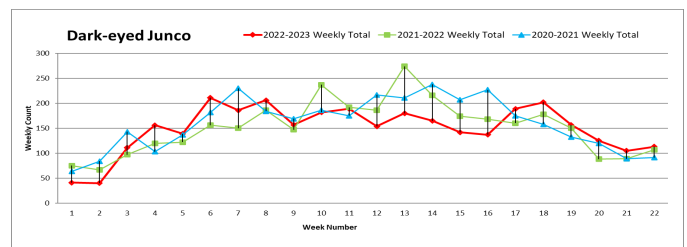
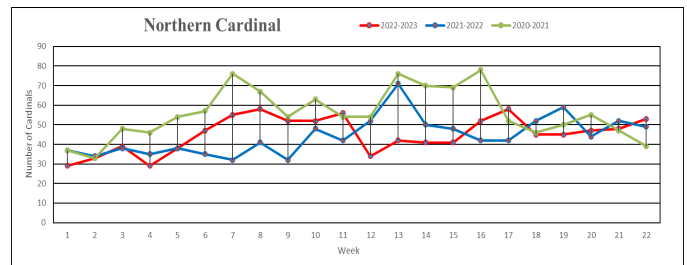
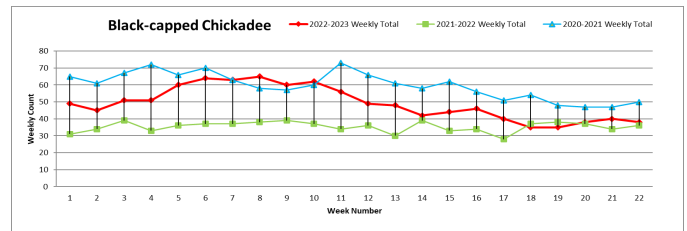
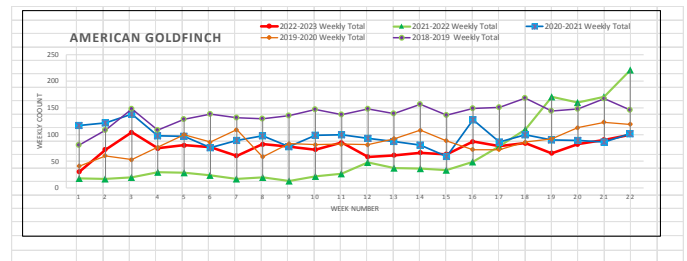
Waterfowl List: 2 out of 9 waterfowl species were reported. Mallard and Wood Duck.

Animal List: 9 out of 26 animals were reported. Gray Squirrel, Chipmunk, Flying Squirrel, Rabbit, Raccoon, Red Fox, Red Squirrel, White-tailed Deer, and Woodchuck.

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

2022-2023 Red, 2021-2022 Blue and 2020-2021 Green. In the American Goldfinch graph, I have added years 2019-2020 and 2018-2019.

A look at the graphs shows that the American Goldfinch stayed in the middle of the five years and did not increase in the last 6 weeks as they did the previous 4 years. I had 1 to 3 Goldfinches for the middle of the year, but during the last 6 weeks I had 1 and that was in weeks 17 and 22. The Black-capped Chickadee ran in the middle of the last 2 years. The Northern Cardinal numbers are all over the place compared to previous years. Our two winter species the Dark-eyed Junco was a little higher in the last 6 weeks than the previous years and the White-throated Sparrow came in lower than the last two years.



--Pete Vitali
Chairman: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey



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

June 2023

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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.