



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

October 2018

2018 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Daily, September to December 7:00 AM **Bird Count – Hawk Watch, Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven**

Wednesday, October 3, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven**

Saturday, October 6, 7:30 AM **Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale St. Park**

Note Date Change

Sunday, October 7, 8:00 AM **Edgewood Park, New Haven**

Sunday, October 7, 12:00 - 3:00 **CT Bird Atlas Volunteer Appreciation Event, Hammonasset Beach State Park in Pavilion 4, Madison**

Thursday, October 11, 7:00 PM **Frank Mantlik – A Passion for Rarities**

Saturday, October 13, 8:00 AM **Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Saturday - Sunday, October 13 - 14 **THE BIG SIT! ®**

Saturday, October 20, 7:30 AM **Lake Chamberlain; Cooper and Calebresi Farms**

Saturday, October 27, 7:30 AM **Branford Supply Ponds, Branford**

Sunday, October 28, 8:00 AM **Cheshire Hotspots**

Saturday, November 3, 8:00 AM **Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve: joint trip with the New Haven Land Trust**

First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport Wednesday, November 7, 8:00 AM

Thursday, November 8, 7:00 PM **Frank Gallo – Birding in Connecticut**

Wednesday, December 5, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Thursday, December 13, 7:00 PM **Helen Hays – Great Gull Island**

Saturday, December 15, all day; dinner at 5 PM **119th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count**

Bird Book Tag Sale to Be Held at the November Meeting!

Here's your chance to clean house. Sort through your bird- and nature-related books (kids' books too!) that you can part with. Bring them to the September and/or October meeting. Proceeds from the sale go to the NHBC Conservation Fund.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Transects



Since late summer I have tried a new method of birding. I took a seasonal position as a field technician with the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for the CT Bird Atlas Project. Ringing in my ears are the words from my old crotchety boss from years ago "Are you paid? Then you are a

professional. Act like it!" So, I can honestly tell you "I am a trained professional. Do not try this at home."

My job is to run bird surveys along transects throughout the western part of the State. These transects are 500 meters long. An uber-intelligent, tech savvy post-doc at UCONN used sophisticated modeling software and methods to spit out my marching orders. I was given a list of GPS coordinates and a compass direction for each transect and forged ahead into the Connecticut hinterlands in the heat and humidity of August and September.

I first needed to use a GPS to find the first waypoint, usually away from all roads and trails. I then paced out the transect flagging a tree every 50M while holding a compass negotiating over rocks and uneven terrain. I stumbled through swamps, bogs and muck, down cliffs and up crags, fording brooks and crossing streams. But most fun of all was tripping through countless meters of brush, tangles, briars and raspberry pricklers. I must have looked like a drunk trying to act sober to keep from spilling my drink. My face was full of cobwebs and scratches, spiders took up residence in my hair and clothes. My first week my shins looked like I had waded through a kiddie pool full of feral kitties. I constantly worried about ticks, especially that one tick I missed during my daily tick checks. I had the flu-like symptoms appear telling me I have Lyme Disease once again. After a few weeks of antibiotics, I am back at it.

As I actually survey a transect that I have already flagged I need to walk slowly covering 500 Meters in 30 minutes. I need to record each bird; did I hear it or see it? How far from the transect? What angle from the transect? How far along the transect? What time did I encounter it? This means I need to walk gracefully and record data at the same time. No stopping to look at mushrooms or frogs or nuts. Focus. Oh, and watch out for the multi flora rose patch. However, the survey is much easier than initial scouting and flagging.

I am sure you see now why transect surveys are best left to the professionals or the insane. I warn you again, do not try this at

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NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2018-2019

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SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	John Triana jtriana1@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>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	203-393-0694
<i>Lighthouse Point</i>		
<i>Historian</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203-758-7203
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<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	203-288-0621

New Haven Bird Club Website:
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

(President's Message Continued from first page)

home. How I miss walking along a boardwalk at the beach or a groomed trail at a state park or just hanging out at an observation blind or hawk watch.

After I have completed a transect I find myself in the middle of nowhere, though sometimes I am close to somewhere. I either need to bushwhack to my next transect or to hike out to my car and a cup of coffee.

I have time to reflect as I hike. I consider modern birding with the club to be transects, a line segment. On our walks we know that they begin and end in familiar terrain. However, pioneers in ornithology were on a ray, starting from a known point and travelling into the unknown. They did not know where they were going or how things would end. Perhaps I should not call it a ray because their routes into the wilderness were far from being a straight vector. These pioneers saw and described our flora and fauna for the first time and had the privilege of naming or having these species named after them. Mark Catsby (1687-1749), for example, the first European to explore the Carolinas and Florida, produced a few books that he richly illustrated. He ventured into the uncharted swamps, tangles and estuaries and became a John James Audubon before there was a John James Audubon. So, we honor him by naming the bullfrog after him, *Rana catesbeiana*. Fortunately, his ray arced back to his home in England. Another early ornithologist Charles Bendire (1836-1897) is known for the thrasher named after him. While out in the southwestern desert collecting Zone Tailed Hawk eggs, Bendire narrowly escaped an Apache ambush. Legend has it he had to put an egg into his mouth and gallop away to safety, both his and eggs, at his cavalry fort.

I also think about the NHBC members of the past who started the club or launched initiatives. They paced into the unknown and flagged their way. Their rays became our transects and our traditions that we travel again and again. Two of these come to mind immediately, the Mega Bowl of Birding and the Big Sit. The NHBC since its beginning has enjoyed waves of public opinion that championed nature study and conservation. We have not needed to press like Catsby into swamps teeming with alligators or join military forces hostile to the local tribes. We enjoy a great tradition that gives us solid ground to explore new rays.

--Craig Repasz

Birds in Words

Join us at "Birds in Words," NHBC's gathering of people who like reading books on their favorite hobby. Since the group began in 2009, we've read more than 41 books on just about every aspect of birds, birding, birders, nature, and naturalists, and had some lively meetings. Share the fun! We meet about once every six weeks or so (on a Tuesday night) at Whitney Center from 7-9 PM. For details, contact Kris Johnson: kriswaxwing99@gmail.com or 203-288-3087.

The next book we will discuss is *The Feather Thief* by Kirk Wallace Johnson. Watch for an announcement of the date.

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, and online on ctbirds, <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 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 (park in upper level *only*), or follow main driveway past front entrances of the building. At stop sign, make a right into employee parking area. Walk from there to the front entrance.

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 Drive) and turn right. WC is shortly on the right. Enter SECOND driveway (South Entrance) and take immediate left into raised parking lot (park in upper level *only*), or follow main driveway past front entrances of the building. At stop sign, make a right into employee parking area. Walk from there to the front entrance.

NHBC is offering a Ride Share Program for members who need a ride to the Indoor Programs. If you are in need of a ride to an Indoor Program, please contact Laurie Reynolds by phone at 203-434-2134, or email warmstove@hotmail.com.

Remember to check the Club's website for updated information on all programs: www.newhavenbirdclub.org.

Thursday, October 11 – Frank Mantlik A Passion for Rarities

When one has been an avid student of field-birding for a time, one eventually will "discover" a bird rare to their area. Our speaker has found his share of rarities over the years, including several first records for Connecticut. Many birders have caught the "rarity bug," resulting in some miraculous finds in recent years. Mr. Mantlik will discuss methods to predict when and where a rarity will appear, based on past experience, weather forecasts, and migration patterns. Besides discussing local and regional rarities, he will recall his experiences in searching for rare birds elsewhere, including Ross's Gull in Manitoba, Harpy Eagle in Panama, Mistle Thrush in Canada, Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Thailand, and Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Arkansas. Frank Mantlik is well known in Connecticut birding circles. An avid birder and naturalist for over 40 years, he has been active in many bird/nature organizations, including the CT Ornithological Association (past-president, member Avian Records Committee), CT Audubon Society (trip leader, photo exhibits), and The New Haven Bird Club (lectures, trip leader). Also an accomplished photographer with many published credits (*Audubon*, *Birding*, *North American Birds*, *Birdwatcher's Digest*, *The New York Times*), Mr. Mantlik uses his wonderful images to illustrate lectures to various groups.

Thursday, November 8, 2018 – Frank Gallo Birding in Connecticut

Join Frank Gallo, author of the new book, *Birding in Connecticut*, for a virtual journey to a variety of Connecticut's birding locales, from hot spots to less-known gems. Frank will concentrate on an array of sites statewide that may offer good birding in winter. Frank Gallo is a leading expert on finding birds in Connecticut and has led birding expeditions all over the world. Frank is a tour leader for Sunrise Birding, LLC, an international birding tour company; a member of the Connecticut Avian Rare Records Committee; and a federally-licensed master bird bander. Frank is also the author of two children's nature books, *Bird Calls* and *Night Sounds*, and is a published freelance photographer.

Thursday, December 13, 2018 – Helen Hays Great Gull Island

Great Gull Island lies at the eastern end of Long Island Sound. The former site of an army fort, its overgrown battlements are now defended by the largest concentration of nesting Common Terns in the world (9,500 pairs). The boulders dumped around the edge of the island to stabilize the shoreline, as well as some of the retaining walls of the fort, offer nesting sites for 1,300 pairs of Roseate Terns, the largest nesting concentration of this endangered species in the Western Hemisphere. Join Helen Hays, Director of the Gull Island Project, who will discuss highlights from her 50 years managing the Project.

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> 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 and Education Activities

The NHBC 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. The NHBC provides information and displays at multiple events throughout the year, including Earth Day festivities at Hamden Middle School and at the Lighthouse Point Park Migration Festival in September. NHBC continues to support the Urban Oasis projects of the New Haven Harbor Urban Refuge Partnership. Our work includes restoration and maintenance at Dover Beach on the Quinnipiac River and along the West River at Edgewood Park and West River Memorial Park, along with eBird entries of observations at the Urban Oases.

Bird Count – Hawk Watch, Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven; Daily, September to December, 7:00 AM

Lighthouse Point Park on New Haven Harbor is one of the premier locations in southern New England for observing migrating raptors as well as a wide variety of songbirds. The watch starts daily at 7 AM and continues as long as the hawks keep flying. Stop by anytime. Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven. Coordinator: Steve Mayo, rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net.

First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven Wednesday, October 3, 8:00 AM

Join us on a visit to this premier local birding location, renowned for its migrating raptors and passerines. If the weather conditions are favorable, we may see hundreds of hawks in flight over the park. Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven. Leader: Frank Gallo, 203-644-2163 or peeplo@aol.com.

Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale St. Park Saturday, October 6, 7:30 AM

Here's a chance to visit an outstanding birding spot that boasts a variety of habitats—open fields, woodlands, and ponds. We'll look for fall migrants, including warblers, sparrows, flycatchers, and vireos. Meet at Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale State Park, 500 Hawthorne Avenue, Derby.

Leader: Maria Stockmal, 203-305-3728 or m.stockmal@snet.net.

Note Date Change

Edgewood Park, New Haven Sunday, October 7, 8:00 AM

Edgewood Park and West River Memorial Park make up an Important Bird Area and include a two mile section of the West River. These parks look particularly "hot" on the radar maps for New Haven that show which areas are most used by birds in fall migration. We will see what we can find! The walk is open

to birders of all levels, and families are welcome. We will not only see and hear birds, but will also talk about their identification and habits. More advanced birders can enjoy a day out and also provide support and inspiration for newcomers. Meet at the Edgewood Park parking lot off West Rock Avenue, just south of Whalley Avenue, New Haven. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-405-9116 (office), 203-233-0535 (cell), or cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org.

Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison Saturday, October 13, 8:00 AM

Visit one of our state's best fall birding spots, where the abundance of some migrants and sightings of less common species can make for a truly memorable trip. The walking is easy, all on level ground. Meet outside the park at the new parking lot on Boston Post Road, Madison. *New Directions*: Take Exit 62 off I-95 (the usual Hammonasset exit) and go south. At the end of the connector (traffic light), go left onto Boston Post Rd. The new parking lot is the first right, a short distance away.

Leaders: Flo McBride, 203-288-6777 or fmc_b_warbler@yahoo.com; Bill Batsford, 203-787-1642 (home), 203-494-4325 (cell) or william.batsford@yale.edu.

THE BIG SIT! ®

Saturday - Sunday, October 13 - 14

THE BIG SIT! ®, founded by the NHBC, has become an international event, with birders from all over the world participating. The object is to record as many species of birds as possible in one day from one 17-foot diameter circle. The circles are located at a number of birding hot spots throughout CT. Join other birders in one of the established circles or create your own. You don't have to be a hardcore birder to join in the fun. Bird Watcher's Digest runs the event now. For details, go to the Bird Watcher's Digest website at www.birdwatchersdigest.com.

Contact: John Triana, 203-758-7203 or j triana1@sbcglobal.net, or www.birdwatchersdigest.com.

Lake Chamberlain; Cooper and Calabresi Farms
Saturday, October 20, 7:30 AM

Join a fall walk to see what can be found at these picturesque locations. Lake Chamberlain, a Regional Water Authority property, has an active bluebird population, many woodpeckers, and a number of waterfowl that visit the lake before heading further south when the lake freezes over. The walk at Lake Chamberlain is relatively easy. After birding the RWA property, we will visit the adjoining Cooper and Calabresi Farms. Forty years ago, the families of Peter Cooper, a noted New Haven environmental lawyer, and Guido Calabresi, a federal judge and past dean of the Yale Law School, purchased a 100-acre farm near Lake Chamberlain. The fields and woods have been maintained, providing habitat for a variety of woodland, edge, and grassland species. We will first bird in the extensive lower areas, then head up the hillside for more birding and spectacular views for miles around. Hiking to the top field may be strenuous; those who decide it may be too difficult can choose to stay by the lake or in the beautiful lower fields. Meet at Lake Chamberlain Regional Water Authority parking area on Sperry Road south of Morris Road, Bethany.
Leader: Pat Leahy, 203-393-2427 (home), 203-314-0566 (cell), or ptjleahy@yahoo.com.

Branford Supply Ponds, Branford
Saturday, October 27, 7:30 AM

Visit this first-rate birding spot to look for fall migrants and resident species. The area has varied habitats with woods, shrubby areas, and a powercut. A variety of waterfowl can be found in the ponds. Meet at Branford Supply Ponds parking lot, Chestnut Street, off Route 1, Branford.
Leader: Maria Stockmal, 203-305-3728 or m.stockmal@snet.net.

Cheshire Hotspots
Sunday, October 28, 8:00 AM

We bird several hotspots in the Town of Cheshire, including Boulder Knoll, Broad Brook Reservoir and associated trails, Fresh Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary (Cheshire Land Trust), and the Farmington Canal Lock 12. Boulder Knoll is good for sparrows in fall. Broad Brook Reservoir annually hosts 200-400 Ruddy Ducks, one of the highest concentrations of this diving duck in the state. Fresh Meadows and the Canal Line offer a diversity of bird species through the year. Meet at Boulder Knoll at the kiosk off Boulder Road, Cheshire. Directions: Drive North on Route 10/Whitney Avenue and enter Cheshire at Old Lane Road (on right). Continue driving north on Route 10 for 0.7 miles, and turn right on Cook Hill Road. Drive 1.0 miles, and turn left on Half Moon Road. Drive 0.4 miles, and turn right on Boulder Road. Drive 0.4 miles (passing Boulder Knoll Montessori School), and turn left into small Parking lot at Boulder Knoll kiosk and power line. Leaders: Steve Broker, 203-272-5192 (home), 203-747-6843 (cell), or LS.Broker@cox.net; Melissa Baston, 860-995-0656 or mbaston@gmail.com.

Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve: joint trip with the New Haven Land Trust

Saturday, November 3, 8:00 AM

Fargeorge Preserve is always full of surprises. We have had everything from Woodcock to Eagles to Snow Geese, lots of fall migrants, wintering ducks, and more. It is a varied habitat with excellent views of the lower Quinnipiac River. Meet at Quinnipiac Meadows/Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve. Go south on Quinnipiac Avenue from Rt. 80 (Foxon Road). Turn right at 1040 Quinnipiac Avenue, just past the railroad overpass, and go through the gate onto the property.
Leader: Mike Horn, 203-288-1891 or mfhorn@att.net.

First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport

Wednesday, November 7, 8:00 AM

Join a midweek trip to this outstanding Long Island Sound birding spot. We check for loons, grebes, goldeneye, and other sea ducks. The fields are a good place to look for Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, and sparrows. Meet at Sherwood Island State Park: take Exit 18 off I-95 in Westport and head south on the Sherwood Island Connector. Drive into the park and meet at the main parking lot.
Leader: Tina Green, 203-247-2660 or tina@renaissancestudios.com.

First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison

Wednesday, December 5, 8:00 AM

At any time of year, Hammonasset is a true gem. Enjoy a mid-week trip to explore this birding hotspot for fall migrants. The varied habitat attracts shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds. Meet at Hammonasset Beach State Park parking area on Boston Post Road, Madison, just left (east) of main entrance road.
Leader: Jerry Connolly, 203-421-4128 (home), 203-710-2011 (cell), or birdshop@sbcglobal.net.

119th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count
Saturday, December 15, all day; dinner at 5 PM

Join other NHBC members in this fun event, steeped in tradition. Take part for a few hours or all day. Join birders in the field or report what you see in your backyard (if you reside within the count circle). The results of the count are sent to the National Audubon Society for inclusion in an international census of early winter bird populations. The compilation dinner is at 5 PM at the Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden.
Compiler: Chris Loscalzo, 203-389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net

CT Bird Atlas Volunteer Appreciation Event

On Sunday Oct 7, 12:00 to 3:00 at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Pavilion 4. There will be a CT Bird Atlas Volunteer Appreciation Event. The partial data from the first year breeding bird block surveys will be presented and the winter protocol will be discussed.

Field Trip Reports

Long Wharf Nature Preserve and Urban Oasis Trip Report



On Saturday August 25 Genevieve Nuttall and Deborah Johnson led a walk at Long Wharf Nature Preserve and Urban Oasis, a site of the New Haven Harbor Watershed Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership. This is a true urban oasis. Ten years ago it was an abandoned dump site. Five years ago it was an early demonstration site for the Urban Oasis program. Today it is a lovely and quiet spot on the harbor with a short loop

trail that transitions among three separate ecosystems (beach & mudflat; tidal marsh; upland tree & shrub) and a path that connects the City Point area with the Long Wharf area. With the right tides and the luck of a migration fallout among landbirds, it can be a hotspot.

The initiative to create these areas was spearheaded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and AudubonCT (the state office of the National Audubon Society). Partnerships developed with Common Ground High School, Urban Farm and Environmental Center; Yale Urban Resources Initiative; the City of New Haven Department of Parks, Recreation and Trees; Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Long Island Sound Study; Yale Peabody Museum; Menunkatuck Audubon Society; New Haven Public Schools; and other local groups including the New Haven Bird Club. The idea is to create super areas that are overly abundant with plants that produce fruit and seeds and that host insects. Many hours have been put in already to remove invasive non-native vegetation, plant indigenous trees, shrubs, and perennials, and erect deer netting. These 'Urban Oases' may not support large populations of nesting birds but will provide critical stopover areas during spring and fall migrations. Think migration hotspots.

At this site on the New Haven Harbor, it is not so much the number of birds or variety of species, but rather the realization that wastelands can be brought back, providing healthy habitat for birds, butterflies, sea and land creatures, as well as a splendid walk on a beautiful late summer day for a group of birders and non-birders alike. This is the second year NHBC has done this walk with a focus on restoring habitat for birds. In two years and 32 attendees, only 3 had ever visited the site before, and all were amazed! We may have seen only seventeen species, but it was a great morning. 17 species were seen: Canada Goose, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon), Mourning Dove, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Common Tern, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Black-crowned/Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Osprey, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, American Goldfinch, Red-winged Blackbird, House Sparrow.

Genevieve Nuttall used the morning as a teaching opportunity for eBird record keeping, showing all attendees how to download the app and plug in their bird observations.

Genevieve is Associate for the Bird Conservation Program of AudubonCT. gnuttall@audubon.org.

Zoe Matthiessen was special guest artist, displaying and giving away prints from her "Ecocide series, depicting birds in pollution distress. www.zoemattiessen.com.

--Deborah Johnson

First Wednesday Walk – CT Audubon Nature Center, Milford Trip Report



On September 5, Miley Bull led the September First Wednesday Walk at Milford Point. Nick Bonomo and Frank Mantlik also helped out. The group covered the outer bar, the marsh platform and the tower. The group of 20 birders

saw 41 species: Mute Swan, Mallard, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon), Mourning Dove, American Oystercatcher, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, Least Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull (American), Great Black-backed Gull, Common Tern, Common Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Osprey, Northern Harrier, swallow sp., House Wren, Gray Catbird, European Starling, House Sparrow, Canada Goose, Willet (Western), Peregrine Falcon, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren (Northern), Carolina Wren, Saltmarsh Sparrow.

Marginal Drive Trip Report



Photo by Bill Batsford

On Saturday September 22 Julie Hart and co-leader Bill Batsford led a walk on Marginal Drive from Rt 34 to Rt 1 and circling back along Grasso Blvd. to the Urban Oasis at West River Memorial Park. Thirteen people joined the walk on a beautiful

early Autumn day. Leader Julie Hart was a great instructor as well as a great bird-finder, and helped everyone get on the bird before moving on. We saw lots of flickers, lots of feeding osprey, lots of fishing cormorants, kingfishers, a gorgeous male wood duck with two females, and notable for the number of different species of hawks seen (accipters Sharp-shinned & Cooper's and buteo Red-shouldered, and Osprey). This can be a great birding hot spot when fall migrants push through, and in the spring it can rival the warblers at East Rock. We'll do this spot again! 44 species were seen: Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Wood Duck, Mallard, American Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon), Mourning Dove, Lesser Yellowlegs, Laughing Gull, Herring Gull, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Turkey

Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted), Peregrine Falcon, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Fish Crow, crow sp., Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, American Goldfinch, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, American Redstart, Northern Parula, House Sparrow.

Thanks to Julie's husband and scope carrier Daniel Schlaepfer.
--Deborah Johnson

Yale University Golf Course Trip Report

Eight NHBC members had a beautiful late summer day to walk



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

the beautiful Yale University Golf Course. It was a rewarding day with a total of 30 species observed. Highlights included separate groups of female and male Wild Turkey; a Ruby-throated Hummingbird; a medley of Woodpeckers (Downy, Hairy, Red-bellied and Northern Flicker,

but alas no Pileated); close views of several Eastern Bluebirds; and a stunning Great Crested Flycatcher. Good birds, good weather, beautiful surroundings and a great group – can't ask for more!

--Bill Batsford

Winter Feeder Survey 2018-2019



I want to welcome all members and non-members to the **2018 – 2019 Winter Feeder Survey**. We had good participation last year and I hope to see more members involved this year. In a nutshell, all that you have to do is to record the

largest number of birds of a species that you see at one sighting at your bird feeders during one day of the week and report that number to me. You do not have to do it every day or at the same time of day, but at least one day during the week or weekend. Anytime you look out at your bird-feeders just record the number of birds of a species that you see.

This year we will start on **Monday, October 29th, 2018** and finish on **Sunday, March 31st, 2019**. It will run for 22 Weeks.

We saw a total of 43 species of birds last year, down 8 from 2016-2017.

We had 21 surveyors last year and again we were widely scattered around the New Haven County: Bethany, Durham, Guilford, Hamden, Killingworth, Milford, Monroe, North Branford, Orange, Wallingford and Woodbridge. We have 2

using Postal Mail, 3 receiving email but replying using Postal Mail and 15 using email and myself. At the end of weeks 5, 10 and 15, I will send a report of what was seen. You will receive a final report after week 22.

For more information you can email me at "vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net" or phone me at 203-288-0621.

--Peter Vitali
Survey Coordinator
Chairman NHBC Winter Feeder Survey

New Haven Bird Club Goes To Summer Camp

On August 1 and August 15, I piloted a basics of birding class to New Haven area school children at Schooner Summer Camp.

Located on the New Haven shoreline at City Point, the camp is a program of the New Haven Land Trust, and has an environmental focus. Children attend one- or two-week camp sessions, engaging in science-based learning through adventure, exploration, arts and crafts, songs, and games. The Camp makes extensive use of Long Island Sound and the nearby Long Wharf Nature Preserve.

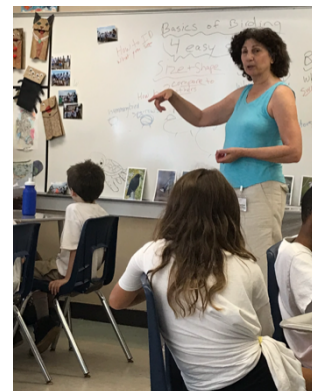


Photo by Laurie Reynolds

In each class, I went over four basic skills for identifying birds, as outlined by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology: size and shape, color, habitat, and behavior. I created a packet for each child – a few birds to color, a sheet of common bird silhouettes, and the schedule for the upcoming Migration Festival at Lighthouse Park. I'm hoping that some of the 80 children were able to attend the migration festival with their parents to see more birds up close.

The 6 to 8 year-olds and 9 to 12 year-olds asked lots of questions, answered my questions, and told me some of their own bird stories. Each class of about 20 then went on a short bird walk near the school, led by New Haven Bird Club volunteers. DeWitt Allen led on August 1, and Laurie Reynolds led the two walks on August 15.

These walks were a great success. We saw an adult bald eagle perched in a tree across the street, cormorants, great egrets, snowy egrets, yellow-crowned night herons, great blue herons, mockingbirds, goldfinches, various gulls, and more.

The Camp Director, Cori Merchant, was very happy to have this birding component added to the camp curriculum. I have agreed to do it again next year, for probably a larger number of groups. We did not have binoculars for participants to use, which I think would have enhanced the birding experience for the older campers. I will be seeking funding during the year for at least 10 inexpensive pairs to use on next year's walks, as well as other NHBC education programs for youngsters.

--Lori Datlow
Education Chair

MEET THE BOARD

Gail Martino: Indoor Programs Chair

A native Bostonian, Gail moved to Connecticut 12 years ago when she was recruited by her current employer. This is the second time Gail has lived in Connecticut. She first moved to Connecticut in the late 90s when she was a postdoctoral associate at one of the labs in the Yale family. Back then, she was peripherally involved with the New Haven Bird Club, having attended some of the walks and indoor programs with friends.

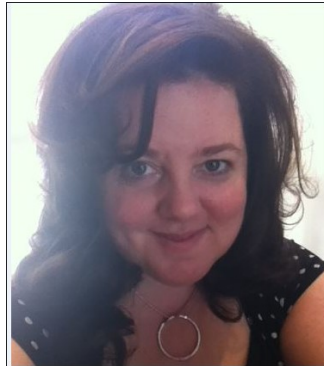
A long time casual birder, once she moved back to Connecticut, she increased her involvement in birding and NHBC.

Current Involvement in the Club

The story of how Gail became involved as chair of the indoor program for New Haven bird club is an interesting one. One evening, after a 10 year absence from birding as she was taking care of her parents in ill health, she attended an indoor program “on a lark” so to speak. At the time, she was recovering from the recent loss of her parents from cancer. As is so common after a tragic loss, she wasn’t really ready to reconnect with the world right away. But on this night, she pushed herself to attend a presentation. She thought being around people, even if just sitting in a dark room with them, might be a good first step to reconnect with her hobby and other hobbyists after a long absence.

As it happens, that same night, before the presentation, Andrea Kerin - the indoor chairperson at the time - announced that she was looking for help to deliver the NHBC’s indoor program. As Andrea exited the stage and walked toward the back of the room, Gail, without really thinking, reached out to Andrea and said, “Hey, I’ll be willing to help you.” That year (2016-17) Gail and Andrea worked together to deliver the indoor program. Along the way, Andrea moved on to another position outside the club, and Gail took over the lead for the indoor program and continues that position today.

“It’s funny how life is,” Gail reflected, “it has a way of opening doors for you that you didn’t know you were ready for.” She continued that as a member of the NHBC she has met many friendly people and great birders who have made lasting



contributions which she values.

Past and Present Birding

Gail thanks her father for kindling her interest in birding. When she was a child, her father, Anthony, hung bird feeders in the backyard. Working as a pressman, he would bring home various books he was printing. One day he brought her a bird identification book to help her learn more about the birds that were visiting the feeder. That got her hooked!

Her dad also introduced her to the concept of migration. One day, pointing to the very tip top of the weeping willow tree in her backyard, he asked her to look out for a pendulous nest with a magnificent orange and black bird. “That’s a Baltimore oriole,” he said. “He lives here for a few months, then he goes away for a while. So enjoy him while you can.” That was the beginning of wanting to see birds in different parts of the world. So little time - so many birds!

Over the course of Gail’s life she has birded around the USA as well as England, Wales, Netherlands, France, Italy and various Islands in the Caribbean. Many of these trips were before she became active on eBird. Now she logs all her trips on that platform.

This year she is excited about participating in the CT Bird Atlas program. She has taken responsibility for the Lighthouse Point Park-Nathan Hale park area in New Haven and Sandy Point in West Haven. Reach out to her if you would like to bird these areas with her.

Life Outside of Birding

Gail lives in New Haven not far from Lighthouse Point Park. Her indoor cats Potato and Tomato are also big fans of birds and watch them at the feeders during the day while she is at work.

Gail has served as a college professor, product developer, and is now responsible for corporate research partnerships in North America for Unilever.

Aside from birding, she also is active in Toastmasters, winning a division championship in humorous storytelling in 2016 and even did standup comedy a few times.

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be Thursday, October 25 at 6:45 PM at Whitney Center.

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

Welcome New Members

David Talamelli
Clinton

Judy A. Stengel
Branford

Eli Holton
Hamden



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

Newsletter October 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, Laurie Reynolds: 203-434-2134 or warmstove@hotmail.com.

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

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.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