



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

June 2019

2019 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Saturday–Sunday, June 1–2 **CT Trails Days: Find a trail and hike it this weekend!**

Saturday, June 1, 7:30 AM **Branford Supply Ponds**

Sunday, June 2, 7:30 AM **CT Bird Atlas Block Busting Event**

Tuesday, June 4, 7:00 PM **Birds in Words – *The Narrow Edge: A Tiny Bird, An Ancient Crab, and an Epic Journey* by Deborah Cramer**

Wednesday, June 5, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park**

Saturday – Sunday, June 8 – 9 **New Haven Summer Bird Count**

Saturday June 8, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM **Osprey Open Day at West River Memorial Park, New Haven**

Friday, June 14, 8:30 PM – 10:00 PM **Whip-poor-will Walk in Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**
Rain Date: Saturday, June 15

Saturday August 24, 10:00 AM – noon **Dover Beach Urban Oasis**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We wrapped up another great year with a fantastic annual banquet. Who would have thought I would go to Africa on a school night?

Big thanks to Gail Martino, Laurie Reynolds, Donna Batsford, Bill Batsford, Lori Datlow, and DeWitt Allen for pulling off a great banquet and classy raffle. A special shout out

to Gail Martino for her planning and execution of the event.

This team is a great example of the New Haven Bird Club's traditions. When we are faced with a task, members step up and get it done.

As you may know this is my last year as the club president. Our vice president, DeWitt Allen will be taking over as president. You will be in good hands. DeWitt will be a thoughtful, intelligent, approachable, focused, and organized president.

It has been an easy pleasure serving as president. The club runs itself.

When we were asked to support the CT Bird Atlas, club members adopted more blocks faster than any other region in the state. We have also made sizable donations to support the Atlas project.

(Continued on next page)

Birding with a Group

Like many other Bird Club members, my husband and I recently went on one of Sunrise Birding's expeditions to observe birds in an exotic locale. I was impressed with their suggestions for getting the most of our experiences in the field and thought they were a good reminder for us on bird walks. Thanks to Gina Nichol and Frank Gallo who graciously allowed me to reprint pieces of their pre-trip guidelines.

Here are some of their suggestions:

- Stay close to the leader. To get the most out of the walks and to see as many of the species as possible, you will need to keep close to the leaders and pay attention to what they are looking and listening for. Please do not walk ahead of the leaders, but stay close if you want to see the birds. It might be necessary to bunch up sometimes. Don't hesitate to do that if you want to see the bird. Let the leader know if you haven't seen the bird. Conversely, if you see a bird that no one else has seen yet, don't be shy about telling the leader or people near you, even if you don't know what it is.
- Some participants will be happy just viewing birds while others enjoy taking photographs, so please use common

sense and courtesy when taking photos. Allow ALL participants to get good views of birds before stepping in to take photos. Avoid stepping in front of others to take pictures. The worst scenario is the photographer that flushes the bird because he/she is getting too close. When taking photographs, please be cognizant of the progress of the rest of the group on the trail. It is easy to get lost in the moment with a camera so please don't get separated or hold up the group. Always be aware of your surroundings, as noticeable motion and loud noises can startle close birds.

- When using the leader's or another participant's spotting scope, take a quick look and then step out of the way so that others can have a look. The hope is that participants will have the chance to see a bird in the scope, but be aware that the bird may move off quickly. Please step up, take a look and then let others have a chance. If the bird stays, please feel free then to take another more satisfying look in the scope once all have seen it. If you're waiting for your turn, don't forget to continue using your own binoculars, in case the bird disappears before you get the chance.

--Lori Datlow

NHBC Education Chair

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2019-2020

OFFICERS

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<i>Education Chair</i>	Lori Datlow	475-227-2820 loridatlow@frontier.com
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<i>Yearbook Editor</i>	Christine Howe	203-389-1175 clhowe2@yahoo.com

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	John Triana	203-758-7203 jtriana1@sbcglobal.net
<i>Birds in Words</i>	Kris Johnson	203-288-3087 kriswaxwing99@gmail.com
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo	203-389-6508 closcalz@optonline.net
<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo	203-393-0694 rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net
<i>Lighthouse Point</i>	John Triana	203-758-7203 jtriana1@sbcglobal.net
<i>Historian</i>	Stacy Hanks	203-283-3898 flybirdhanks@gmail.com
<i>Hospitality</i>	Steve Mayo	203-393-0694 rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Peter Vitali	203-288-0621 vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>		

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.newhavenbirdclub.org

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

(President's Message Continued from first page)

When we were asked to help build an observation blind at Great Meadow of the Stewart B McKinney National Wildlife Reserve, members stepped up and we had it constructed in a few hours.

We have a solid board of directors who spend their talents, time and efforts to move the club forward.

As we work toward all our May events, we also embark on our membership renewal campaign. Laurie Reynolds with her organizational skills pulls off the renewal and the banquet reservations with an easy big smile. Thanks to those of you who have become life members or have made donations.

In our early years as a club back in 1907 we had a major emphasis on education outreach into the schools. Lori Datlow has brought us back to this emphasis. She has initiated programs at the Schooner School and Momauguin School. She applied for and received a COA mini grant for binoculars so that we can teach young students to better appreciate birds. Perhaps some of these students can become conservation leaders in the future.

In recent years the New Haven Bird Club has gained a reputation for being leading advocates in conservation in the New Haven area through Deborah Johnson's efforts. We are a partner in the Urban Oasis program. We sit on the boards of two of the Watershed Associations so we can voice our concern for bird conservation and access into good birding areas. We remain active in invasive plant clean ups, indigenous plantings and litter pickups.

Outdoor programs are at the heart of what we do as a club, Bill Batsford has organized 24 trip leaders to lead 55 bird walks. In that effort Tina Green continued to arrange the highly successful First Wednesday walks. These trip leaders, although they are familiar with their territories, spend extra time scouting the week prior to the event. This is a huge effort by many people.

Gail Martino is not just a magnificent event planner. She continued to arrange our indoor programs. This past year she drew upon the amazing talent of some of our members to give presentations on rarities, best places to bird in Connecticut, *The Connecticut Bird Atlas* and photography. The lecture on dinosaurs and birds changed the way I look at the thanksgiving turkey.

Putting it all together we have Chris Howe to thank for bringing us the Yearbook. Patrick Leahy for maintaining our website and Genevieve Nuttall who took over as Publicity Chair. Not only sending out email announcements for all of our events she has greatly increased our exposure on social media.

Also, to thank our officers who tend to the business of the club and keep us grounded: Secretary Alan Malina, Andy Stack treasurer and Mike Horn member at large.

Chris Johnson and the Birds in Words program supplies us with brain candy. Stacy Hanks provides memorable snacks and desserts for our monthly meetings. Toby Appel puts together our annual book sale.

The New Haven Bird Club is a remarkable organization with remarkable people indeed. I am grateful that you have given me the opportunity and your trust to serve as your Club president. The New Haven Bird Club has a proud past and bright future.

--Craig Repasz

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). 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.

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 Narrow Edge: A Tiny Bird, An Ancient Crab, and an Epic Journey* by Deborah Cramer. We will meet at 7:00 on Tuesday, June 4 in the 6th floor conference room at Whitney Center.

Education



On May 9 and 10, I visited the Momauguin School in East Haven with Craig Repasz and my husband DeWitt Allen.

I was there to teach a very basic birding class to a 4th grade class on one day and a class of 5th graders the second day. The two men were with me to carry the box of 16 binoculars, lead the walks after the class and spread their "wings" to illustrate the wingspan of a bald eagle.

With classroom sizes of about 20-26 children we had to have

some students sharing the binoculars. We hope we can add to our supply over the next few years so each student can have a pair to use.

Craig added a very well received bill-as-tool segment after rain caused us to return early to the classroom.

Two of my favorite moments were measuring a student to show the kids the body size of an eagle, and being asked twice by one girl where she could get a bird guide book like the one I was using.

Everyone, including us, had a great time, and Principal Diane MacKinnon has asked us to return next fall.

I'll be returning to the New Haven Land Trust's Schooner Camp this summer for at least 4 classes and walks.

--Lori Datlow

NHBC Education Chair

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.

CT Trails Days: Find a trail and hike it this weekend! Saturday–Sunday, June 1–2

CT Trails Day is organized and produced by the Connecticut Forest & Park Association. NHBC sponsors hikes along the West River in New Haven on both days (Pond Lily Preserve, Edgewood Park, and West River Memorial Park), in cooperation with the West River Watershed Coalition and the Connecticut Fund for the Environment. Details for these and other sponsored hikes at www.ctwoodlands.org.

Branford Supply Ponds Saturday, June 1, 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 Rte. 1, Branford.
Leader: Maria Stockmal, 203-305-3728 or m.stockmal@snet.net.

CT Bird Atlas Block Busting Event. The location of the block(s) will be announced a few weeks prior to the event. Sunday, June 2, 7:30 AM

You are invited to join the New Haven Bird Club as we lead a field trip to observe and document breeding bird activity in Connecticut Atlas blocks that are not being covered by a Block adopter. We will travel to one of the more remote areas of Connecticut. This is a good opportunity to hone your observation skills with experienced Bird Atlas participants. This event may also help all adopters with their own blocks. The location and meeting place for the Block Busting Event will be determined a few weeks before the event and directions given. Check the NHBC website.
Leaders: Steve Broker, 203-747-6843 or LS.Broker@cox.net; Craig Repasz, 203-745-6683 or crepasz@hotmail.com.

First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park Wednesday, June 5, 8:00 AM

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.

New Haven Summer Bird Count Saturday – Sunday, June 8 – 9

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, 203-393-0694 or rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net.

Osprey Open Day at West River Memorial Park, New Haven, Barnard Nature Center Saturday June 8, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

The West River Memorial Park is a designated IBA (Important Bird Area) and is part of the New Haven Harbor Urban Refuge Partnership. The Urban Oasis here improves annually, and the osprey platform has been active with the same male-female pair for many years. By this time in June, the chicks will have hatched and be visible on the nest, with parent birds providing a show of fishing and feeding. Menunkatuck Audubon and NHBC will provide bird spotting telescopes to watch the Ospreys interact with their chicks. Meet at 200 Derby Avenue, New Haven, near the Barnard Nature Center. Enter the parking lot from Derby Ave (Rt. 34) near the intersection of Ella Grasso Blvd, New Haven.
Leader: Deborah Johnson, 203-430-5554 (talk/text) or deborahleighjohnson@hotmail.com.

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

Friday, June 14, 8:30 PM – 10:00 PM

Rain Date: Saturday, June 15

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

Dover Beach Urban Oasis

Saturday August 24, 10:00 AM – noon

This small waterfront park on the Quinnipiac River is part of the New Haven Harbor Urban Refuge Partnership. Native trees, shrubs, and flowers have been planted to provide cover, food, and habitat for wildlife and a place to learn, relax, and connect with nature. We'll see summer resident birds and the early start to fall migration. Birding telescopes will allow viewing of Osprey and other birds that frequent the Fargeorge Preserve on the other side of the river, as well as shore birds along the river and marsh. Leaders from Audubon Connecticut and the NHBC will lead an environmentally focused, family-friendly morning of bird watching, and enter bird observations into the online database, eBird. Local artist Zoe Matthiessen will share her Ecocide paintings of birds and other animals in pollution distress. Bring a simple picnic lunch for relaxing in the park and playground afterwards. Drinks and dessert provided! There is a ramp for launching canoes or kayaks for anyone who has one: if boating, don't forget your life preserver and a whistle. Meet at the intersection of Front Street and John Williamson Drive, New Haven, CT.

Leader: Deborah Johnson, 203-430-5554 (talk/text) or deborahleighjohnson@hotmail.com.

Field Trip Reports

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

The weather cooperated and it was a lovely morning for 30 participants at the New Haven Bird Club April 3rd 1st Wednesday Walk led by Jalna Jaeger. We saw and heard a nice varied mixture of species. One highlight was the 2nd year Bald Eagle seen sitting on the beach near the end of the point and later flying overhead. Click on this link to see the entire list: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S54513578> Thank you Jalna!

--Tina Green

NHBC 1st Wednesday Walk Coordinator

Beaver Ponds Park, New Haven Trip Report

It was an intrepid group of 9 birders who waded through flooded Beaver Ponds Park in New Haven on a very windy early spring Saturday, April 27th. While most of New Haven was bike riding for the Rock-To-Rock fundraiser for area non-profits, the birders got to see the hard-working cyclist pedal by as we took in the scenery and birds of BPP—highlights include

3 Eagles (1 full adult and 2 juveniles), a Cooper's Hawk, several Red-tailed Hawks, a Warbling Vireo, a pair of Wood Ducks perched in a tree near their cavity, many many Robins, many many Red-winged Blackbirds, Mockingbirds, Cat Birds, Cardinals, Blue Jays, Song Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows, and many of the resident Canada Geese, a total of 40 species.

Among the group of birders that day were 4 who had never before been there including one new member of the bird club and one visitor all the way from Ridgefield who came to check out this little New Haven gem. This is a delightful spot in New Haven, nestled between Southern Connecticut State University on one end and Hillhouse High School on the other. An active neighborhood group and other Friends of Beaver Ponds Park have made major improvements to the park in the past ten years. They're looking for some new help, and their evening work parties meet on Wednesday evening at 7 in June and July. Contact nanbarto@sbcglobal.net, www.beaverpondpark.org.

--Deborah Johnson

First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven Trip Report

The always well attended New Haven Bird Club 1st Wednesday Walk at East Rock Park was not a "wash out" on May 1st. Even though clouds and cool temperatures prevailed, 45 attendees enjoyed the star of the walk, a gorgeous and cooperative Prothonotary Warbler, near the covered bridge area, and the bird provided excellent views. We totaled 57 species for the day. Thirteen warbler species were seen or heard by most of the group. Click on this link to see the eBird checklist: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S55638792>. Thanks to John Oshlick and Bill Batsford for leading this walk.

--Tina Green

NHBC 1st Wednesday Walk Coordinator



Photo by Frank Mantlik

East Rock Park with Ranger Dan Trip Report



Photo by Donna Batsford

On Saturday, May 4th over 30 Birders gathered at Rice Field in East Rock Park for the annual Spring Bird Walk that I have been leading for over 34 years. Winds were calm. It was cloudy with some fog, and as the morning went on temperatures went up and the sun came out.

Amazingly, we amassed over 71 species, including 16 species of Warblers. Most were located in the usual hot spots: Trowbridge Drive bridge, English Drive and the Giant Steps and of course the Eli Whitney covered bridge area. Highlights included a brief look at a Red-headed Woodpecker, Scarlet Tanagers, Yellow-throated Vireos, Wilson's and Worm-eating Warblers, Swainson's Thrush. One interesting side note, our group walked over 5 miles that day in search of birds. Who says birding is not exercise? It was a good day, lots of birders in the park and great birds.

--Dan Barvir

East Rock Park Ranger

Hartman Park, Lyme Trip Report



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

On Wednesday, May 8 John Oshlick led a group on a walk through Hartman Park. 53 species were seen: Canada Goose, Mallard, Hooded Merganser, Mourning Dove, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Common Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Green Heron, Turkey

Vulture, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Common Raven, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, American Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Waterthrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Cerulean Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal.

Lake Chamberlain and Water Company Property in Bethany Trip Report

On Wednesday, May 15 Pat Leahy led a group that started at Lake Chamberlain then moved on to another water company property that has limited access. At Lake Chamberlain the highlights included a flyby Pileated Woodpecker and several Eastern Kingbirds. 30 species



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

were seen: Spotted Sandpiper, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, American Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting.

At the second stop a breeding Eastern Bluebird was seen carrying a fecal sac. 23 species were seen: Chimney Swift, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, Tree Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Gray Catbird, American Goldfinch, Field Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Baltimore Oriole, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, Ovenbird, Blue-winged Warbler, American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager.

Hansen Park, North Haven Trip Report



Photo by Lori Datlow

On Saturday, May 18 Craig Repasz and DeWitt Allen led a group on a walk through Hansen Park. 47 species were seen: Wood Duck (flying overhead), Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo (heard, seen before trip began by some), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (zipped by us), Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture,

Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee (heard), Great Crested Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, European Starling, American Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting.

Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale State Park Trip Report

On Saturday, May 25, Maria Stockmal led a NHBC trip to Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale State Park. Five Orchard Orioles including a first year male highlighted the walk. Scarlet Tanager, Bank Swallow, and Northern Waterthrush were standouts. 45 species were seen. The complete list is on eBird.

--Maria Stockmal

Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington Trip Report

Sunday, May 26 was a delightful day to be out and about with the NHBC at Barn Island in Stonington. And delighted that we



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

had good looks at both target sparrows: Saltmarsh and Seaside. Check eBird for a full list of our species. For me, the best part of the day was meeting all the YOUNG birders who participated in the walk. And thanks to Bill Batsford for co-leading!!

--Carolyn Cimino

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be Thursday, August 22 at 6:45 PM at Whitney Center.

Deadline for submissions to the August *Chickadee* is July 29. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at donnabatsford@gmail.com.

Honoring Bill Thompson

The New Haven Bird Club is a spider that sits in the middle of a large web. We reach out in many directions and connect with many people and organizations. We heard in late March of the passing of Bill Thompson III, lovingly called BT3 by his family and friends. Many of us may know of Bill Thompson as the editor of *Bird Watchers Digest* or by his book *The New Birder's Guide to Birds of North America*, *Bird Homes and Habitats*, or other books. He also was the co-host of the podcast "This Birding Life." A few years ago, he founded the American Birding Expo, which in 2018 attracted lots of birders and more than 120 exhibitors to Philadelphia.

Bill Thompson succumbed to cancer on the evening of Monday, March 25.

The NHBC connection to Bill Thompson III was through the Big Sit! as we worked together to transition The Big Sit! from the NHBC to *Bird Watcher's Digest*.

The Big Sit! has become an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event. It was started by the New Haven Bird Club in 1993. The Big Sit! is like a Big Day or a bird-a-thon in that the object is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard within 24 hours. The difference lies in the limit of the area from which you may observe.

The Big Sit! for some people is a tailgate party with binoculars. A group of birders will register a good spot for birding and then gather in a circle restricted to 17 feet in diameter around that spot. The hardcore participants can remain for 24 hours, counting all the bird species they can see and hear from the vantage point of the circle. People can leave the circle for food and breaks. They can also leave the circle to get a better look at a bird first spotted from the circle. Usually there are plenty of snacks on hand. The Big Sit! registers 161 to 241 circles in 44 States and several countries.

The Golden Bird award is a \$500 check from Swarovski optics to be used for a conservation cause of the winner's choice. The Golden Bird award is drawn by first randomly drawing the name of a species then another drawing from a pool of Big Sit! circles that reported that species.

The NHBC Board passed a motion to honor Bill Thompson by donating an extra \$250 to the winner of the Golden Bird Award, increasing the total to \$750. This donation will follow all the current rules and stipulations. The award money will go to a conservation nonprofit of the winner's choice.

--Craig Repasz

Welcome New Members

Carl and Sharon Astor New Haven	Gerry Hauser Cheshire	Karen Nourse Clinton
Tim Brosnan Branford	Robin Ladouceur New Haven	Joe Paolillo Hamden
Vincent Gallogly Fort Pierce, Florida	Janet Martin Branford	Bruce F Webber Woodbridge
Edward Grzeda Fairfield	Carol Merriman North Haven	Morgan Werner Madison
	Cliff Monges Wallingford	

Blind Construction



Members of the New Haven Bird Club put on their work clothes and boots and met at the Steward B McKinney National Wildlife Refuge on March 16 to construct an observation blind that will be installed at Great Meadow overlooking a pond off the Rail Trail. Funds for the material came in part from the Audubon CT IBA grant to Friends of Stewart B McKinney. The blind will replace a blind that had been destroyed by a hurricane. It will give birders an opportunity to observe rails, waders and shorebirds that use the pond. The pond is currently obscured by phragmites. The blind will be moved in one piece and installed on footings in June of this year. It will be handicap accessible. This is the second blind built by New Haven Bird Club Members at Great Meadow.

--Craig Repasz

President's Award Given at Banquet

An organization can be judged by its newsletter. And we have a really good one. One might think a newsletter named the 'Chickadee' could not go wrong. Our newsletter is great because of our Editor Donna Batsford. She compiles photos, articles and schedules. She has been putting it together since 2010.



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

Donna took on the newsletter when we were transitioning away from mailed paper copies to electronic – never an easy transition. But in the end, we save time and resources...and trees. So, every other month we get a timely, colorful, eye appealing, informative newsletter.

Although an alumna of Cornell, a birdy place, she became a birder here in Connecticut. Years ago, while working as an Associate Director of Admissions and Financial Aid at the Foote School, a colleague took Donna on a bird trip to East Rock Park, and she got hooked on birding. She soon became a great traveler.

She is a common companion on our club bird walks where we enjoy her soft enthusiasm. I have had the pleasure of being on a birding trip to Finland with her a few years ago.

She, with her husband Bill, who needs no introduction, has traveled extensively: Texas, Costa Rica, Nova Scotia, the Galapagos, Panama, Botswana/Namibia, and Spain. I am sure I missed some.

She is also an award-winning weaver, and has been prominent in the leadership of the Handweavers' Guild of CT.

For her long-standing dedication, commitment and efforts I present the 2019 New Haven Bird Club President's Award to Donna Batsford.

--Craig Repasz

Did you attend the banquet? We would like to hear about your experience. Please send a note to: Gail Martino gmm1227@yahoo.com.

NHBC Winter Feeder Survey 2018 - 2019

Final Report 4/27/2019



WHAT A YEAR!!! First year where we have had Black Bears knocking down bird feeders. The 1st incident was in November in Guilford and the 2nd was in Hamden in March. We also had a weasel show up at a feeder. Other firsts were the reporting of

Evening Grosbeaks and White-Crowned Sparrows in November. Purple Finches, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins were also back this year. Again, another year of temperatures daily changing from 0°F to 60°F. We had a major Ice Storm in January which took down many trees.

We saw a total of **44** species of birds the last 7 weeks of the survey and **56** for the whole year.

We had **18** surveyors this year and again we were widely scattered around the New Haven County: Bethany (1), Durham (1), Guilford (3), Hamden (6), Killingworth (1), Milford (1), Monroe (1), North Branford (1), Orange (1), Wallingford (1) and Woodbridge (1).

The last seven weeks (16-22):

Common List: We had 22 of 22 species. All were seen by multiple surveyors.

New Category: *Semi-Common List.*

We had 11 for 12. The species no one saw was the **Red-tailed Hawk**. A **Purple Finch** was seen by Ed Sprowson, and Tim Rodgers had a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**. All the other species had two or more surveyors see them.

Uncommon List: We had 8 out of 41 species seen and they were: **American Tree Sparrow**, **Brown Creeper**, **Eastern Phoebe**, **Pileated Woodpecker**, **Pine Siskin**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **Turkey Vulture**.

Waterfowl list: We had 3 out of 9 species seen: **Canadian Goose**, **Mallard**, **Wood Duck**.

Animal List: We had 14 out of 26. **Gray Squirrel** led the way. The others were **Black Bear**, **Bobcat**, **Chipmunk**, **Feral Cat**, **Mole**, **Mouse**, **Opossum**, **Rabbit**, **Raccoon**, **Red Fox**, **Skunk**, **Weasel** and **White tail Deer**.

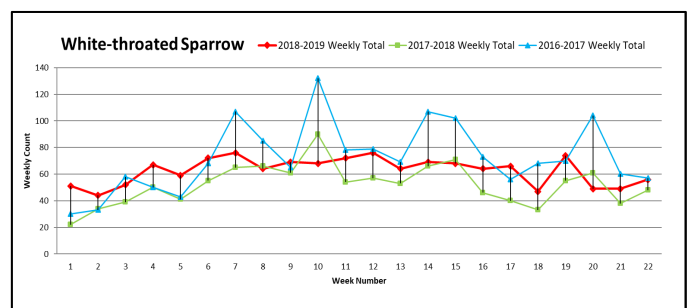
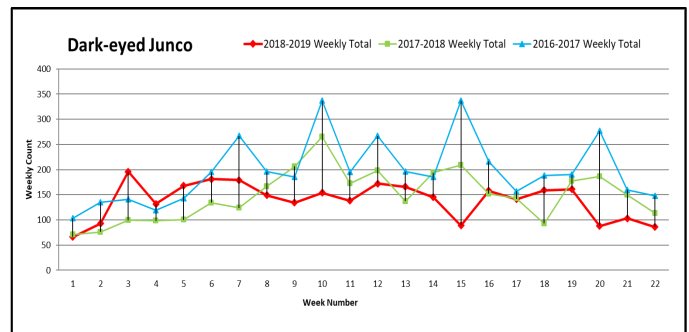
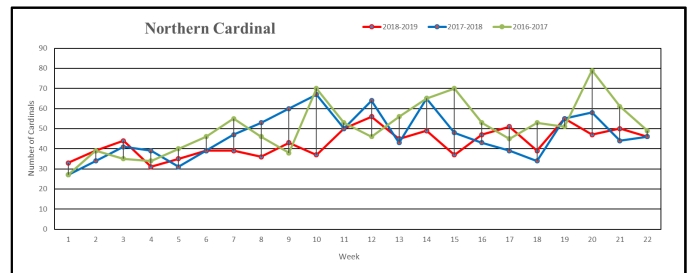
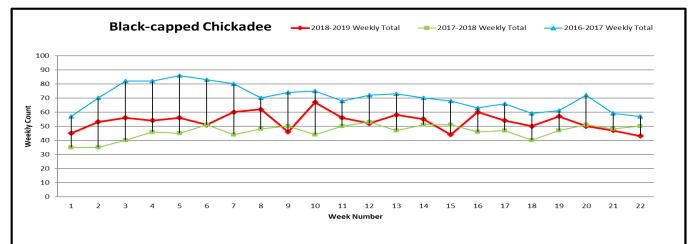
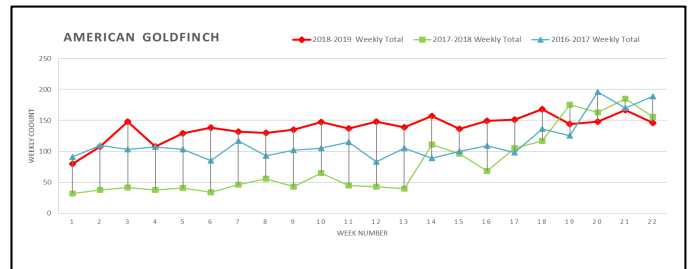
I have attached graphs of 5 species, with 3 trend lines, one for each year:

2018-2019 Red, 2017-2018 Green and 2016-2017 Blue.

A look at the graphs shows that the **American Goldfinch** came back strong this year but ended up lower than '16 and '17. The **Black-capped Chickadee** was running between the last two years. The new graph, the **Northern Cardinal**, replaced the **Common Grackle** since the Grackle's numbers were very low. The **Northern Cardinal** numbers were lower than the two previous years. Our two winter species the **Dark-eyed Junco** and the **White-throated Sparrow** came in around their normal numbers. The number of **Dark-eyed Juncos** was lower than the last two years while the **White-throated Sparrow** came in between the last two years.

--Pete Vitali

Chairman: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey



NHBC Winter Feeder Survey 2018-2019

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		
1	American Crow	13
2	American Goldfinch	168
3	American Robin	36
4	Black-capped Chickadee	67
5	Blue Jay	67
6	Brown-headed Cowbird	23
7	Carolina Wren	13
8	Common Grackle	102
9	Cooper's Hawk	5
10	Dark-eyed Junco	196
11	Downy Woodpecker	124
12	European Starling	87
13	Hairy Woodpecker	18
14	House Finch	74
15	House Sparrow	125
16	Mourning Dove	147
17	Northern Cardinal	56
18	Red-bellied Woodpecker	24
19	Song Sparrow	26
20	Tufted Titmouse	59
21	White-breasted Nuthatch	33
22	White-throated Sparrow	79

Semi Common		
1	Chipping Sparrow	2
2	Eastern Bluebird	24
3	Fox Sparrow	11
4	Northern Flicker	10
5	Northern Mockingbird	3
6	Purple Finch	14
7	Red-tailed Hawk	2
8	Red-winged Blackbird	118
9	Rock Dove (Pigeon)	17
10	Sharp-shinned Hawk	2
11	Wild Turkey	34
12	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4

Uncommon Species		
1	American Tree Sparrow	2
2	American Woodcock	

3	Baltimore Oriole (Northern)	
4	Belted Kingfisher	1
5	Black Vulture	
6	Blackpoll Warbler	1
7	Broad-winged Hawk	
8	Brown Creeper	2
9	Cedar Waxwing	4
10	Common Redpoll	
11	Eastern Kingbird	
12	Eastern Phoebe	1
13	Eastern Towhee	2
14	Evening Grosbeak	2
15	Field Sparrow	1
16	Fish Crow	
17	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1
18	Gray Cat Bird	1
19	Hermit Thrush	1
20	Kestrel	
21	Lincoln Sparrow	
22	Merlin	
23	Monk Parakeet	1
24	Nashville Warbler	
25	Northern Harrier	
26	Pileated Woodpecker	2
27	Pine Siskin	30
28	Pine Warbler	1
29	Raven	
30	Red-breasted Nuthatch	6
31	Red-shouldered Hawk	1
32	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2
33	Rusty Blackbird	
34	Savannah Sparrow	
35	Swamp Sparrow	4
36	Turkey Vulture	1
37	Vesper Sparrow	
38	White-crowned Sparrow	1
39	Winter Wren	
40	Wood Thrush	
41	Yellow-rumped Warbler	4

Water Fowl		
1	American Black Duck	2
2	Canada Goose	2

3	Great Blue Heron	1
4	Herring Gull	
5	Hooded Merganser	
6	Mallard	61
7	Northern Pin Tail	
8	Ring-billed Gull	
9	Wood Duck	13

Animals		
1	Gray Squirrel	118
2	Chipmunk	11
3	Black Bear	1
4	Black Squirrel	
5	Bob Cat	
6	Brown Rat	
7	Coyote	
8	Feral Cat	1
9	Fisher	
10	Flying Squirrel	
11	Gray Fox	
12	Ground Hog	
13	Mole	3
14	Mouse	1
15	Opossum	4
16	Rabbit	1
17	Raccoon	7
18	Red Fox	2
19	Red Squirrel	
20	Short-tailed Rat	
21	Short-tailed Shrew	
22	Skunk	1
23	Vole	
24	Weasel	1
25	White Tail Deer	10
26	Woodchuck	11



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

Newsletter June 2019

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