



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

June 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings, fellow Bird Club members.

It goes without saying that this has been a most difficult late winter and spring. Difficult for those of us trying to remain healthy and avoid contaminating others. Crisis-inducing for many who have been economically affected. Beyond stressful for healthcare workers, first responders, and those serving the public in essential businesses. And sometimes tragic for many with family members

or friends who have contracted Covid-19.

I hope that you and your loved ones are, and will remain, healthy and safe.

The Bird Club's board of directors fully support the best advice of the CDC and our state and local leaders regarding safe practices as Connecticut carefully begins to reopen businesses closed during the pandemic -- practices such as maintaining social distancing, wearing masks in places where appropriate social distances cannot be maintained, and avoiding large social gatherings, even while masking and keeping at safe distances from each other.

The Club's Indoor and Outdoor Chairs are currently preparing a full calendar of events for the 2020 - 2021 Bird Club year. However, although we all look forward to resuming our activities as soon as possible, there is at present no way of knowing for sure when or how we will be able to safely begin them.

In the short-term, we are working toward holding some web-based presentations, which we hope to inaugurate during the summer. These will be equivalent to the presentations at our monthly indoor meetings -- talks on various birding-related topics by experts in their fields. The virtual meetings will be announced via email and posted on our website calendar and the COA calendar as well.

For the longer term, we are currently brainstorming accommodations that would allow us to safely resume in some form or other our wonderful slate of outdoor field trips. There are many details that will need to be worked out, and in making any decisions, our first priority will be maintaining the safety of our members and the general public. We will of course be following the guidance of our state and local health officials, and will let you know our plans as soon as possible as the situation continues to develop.

In the meantime, our yards and neighborhoods are full of birds in full breeding behavior. Not to mention the rabbits and foxes

and even bears reported not far from us. They all offer plenty of opportunities for observation, study, and enjoyment. Please have fun while staying safe.

--DeWitt Allen

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Few people are as immediately recognizable in this part of Connecticut as Dan Barvir. As a New Haven Parks and Recreation ranger, Dan maintained and improved East Rock Park since the mid-nineteen eighties. Thousands of New Haven residents of all ages know him for the outdoor recreation programs he organized and led there over the years. For the last twenty years, attendees of the annual Migration Festival at Lighthouse Point Park have seen him in action as the hands-on organizer and producer of this wonderful event for adults, families, and children.

And as members of the New Haven Bird Club, we know Dan as an expert birder and bird-walk leader. A member of the Club since 1987, Dan generously leads several of our outdoor field trips each year.

Joining one of his walks means being guided all over East Rock Park roads and trails to look for those rare and notable migrant and resident species that make East Rock a destination for birders, not only those from Connecticut and the Northeast but from all over the world. It sometimes seems Dan knows where every bird in the park is, to the minute. Along the way, a running commentary highlights the habits of the species under observation and the relationships among the birds and animals and vegetation in the park environment. And even random passers-by get hooked in -- hey, do you see the raven chasing that red-tail over there? Did you see the screech owl in that tree?

Also an avid fisherman, Dan's interest in birds was sparked at the age of eight while fishing, he told an interviewer. A bald eagle swooped down and began catching fish right in front of him. Dan's career has been true to the pattern: it has taken place outdoors, reflects his passion for nature, and embraces a wide range of interests and expertise. Dan's academic degrees in Biology and Outdoor Recreation have not gone to waste.

For his many years of years of service to the New Haven Bird Club's membership, as well as to the public at large, and for his devoted stewardship of East Rock Park, I present the 2020 President's Award to Dan Barvir.

--DeWitt Allen

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

NHBC Winter Feeder Report 2019 to 2020 Final Report April 15, 2020



WHAT A YEAR! First, this year we had no incidents with Black Bears. One surveyor delayed setting up her feeders till the third week of the survey and has kept them up past the end of the survey. Again, another year of temperatures daily changing from 10°F

to 60°F. We had major snow about 3 times this year, and the months of February and March were relatively warm, trees budding in mid to late March. No one reported any Purple Finches, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskins, or Eastern Towhees. As one surveyor wrote to me, BORING!

We had a total of 43 species of birds reported the last 7 weeks of the survey and 50 for the whole year. Last year we had 44 species for the last 7 weeks and 56 species for the year. From 2012 to 2019 the yearly reported number of species was: 50, 47, 50, 47, 44, 41 and 56.

We had 19 surveyors this year and again we were widely scattered around the New Haven County: Bethany (1), Durham (1), Guilford (3), Hamden (6), Meriden (1), Milford (1), North Branford (1), Orange (1), Wallingford (1) and Woodbridge (1). We have two surveyors outside New Haven County: Killingworth (1) (Middlesex County) and Monroe (1) (Fairfield County).

The last seven weeks (16-22):

Common List: We had 22 of 22 species. Cooper's Hawks were reported by 2 surveyors, all the other species were reported by multiple surveyors.

New Category: Semi-Common List: We had 11 for 12. The species no one reported was Purple Finch. 11 surveyors reported Northern Flicker, and the rest were seen by 2 or more surveyors.

Uncommon List: We had 5 out of 41 species reported and they were: Brown Creeper, Eastern Phoebe, Pileated Woodpecker, Pine Warbler, Red-shouldered Hawk.

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

Animal List: We had 11 out of 26. Gray Squirrel led the way. The others were Chipmunk, Feral Cat, Opossum, Rabbit, Raccoon, Red Fox, Red Squirrel, Skunk, White tail Deer and Woodchuck.

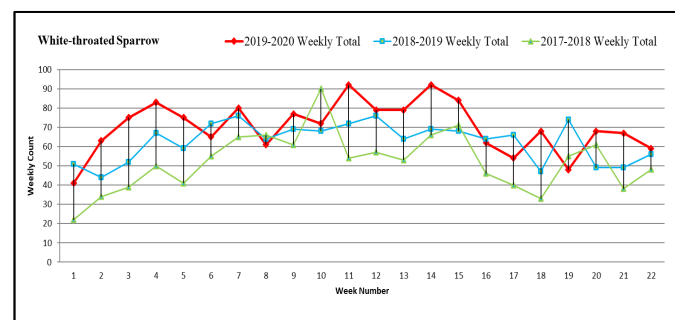
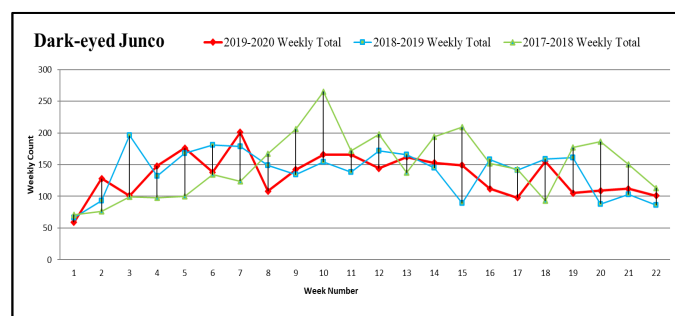
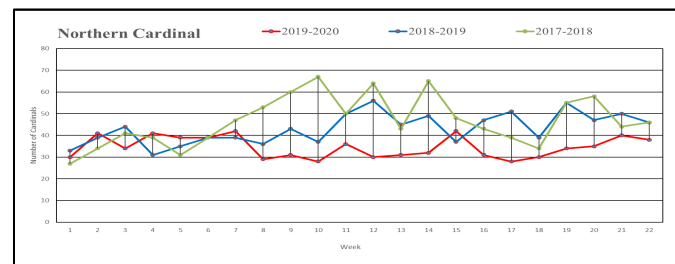
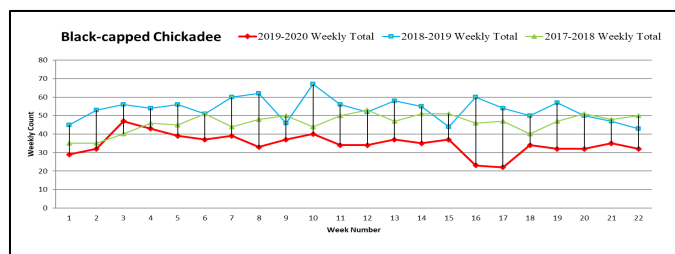
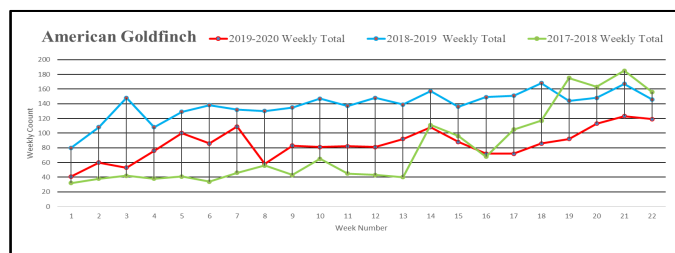
I have attached graphs of 5 species, with 3 trend lines, one for each year:

2019-2020 Red, 2018-2019 Blue and 2017-2018 Green.

A look at the graphs shows that the American Goldfinch was lower than 2018-2019 but from week 17 to 22 started climbing back up. The Black-capped Chickadee was running lower than the last two years. The new graph, the Northern Cardinal, replaced the Common Grackle since the Grackle 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 between the last two years while the White-throated Sparrow came in above the last two years.

Note: We did have Common Grackle flocks from 200 (week 18) to 1000 (week 3) this year.



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

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

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

Common species			Semi Common			Uncommon Species			Water Fowl			Animals		
1	American Crow	19	1	Chipping Sparrow	2	1	American Tree Sparrow		1	American Black Duck		1	Gray Squirrel	69
2	American Goldfinch	123	2	Eastern Bluebird	13	2	American Woodcock		2	Canada Goose	2	2	Chipmunk	19
3	American Robin	30	3	Fox Sparrow	2	3	Baltimore Oriole (Northern)		3	Great Blue Heron	1	3	Black Bear	
4	Black-capped Chickadee	47	4	Northern Flicker	15	4	Belted Kingfisher		4	Herring Gull	4	4	Black Squirrel	
5	Blue Jay	67	5	Northern Mockingbird	4	5	Black Vulture	2	5	Hooded Merganser	6	5	Bob Cat	
6	Brown-headed Cowbird	96	6	Purple Finch		6	Blackpoll Warbler		6	Mallard	38	6	Brown Rat	3
7	Carolina Wren	15	7	Red-tailed Hawk	4	7	Broad-winged Hawk		7	Nothorn Pin Tail		7	Coyote	
8	Common Grackle	1004	8	Red-winged Blackbird	110	8	Brown Creeper	1	8	Ring-billed Gull		8	Feral Cat	3
9	Cooper's Hawk	3	9	Rock Dove (Pigeon)	12	9	Cedar Waxwing	5	9	Wood Duck	5	9	Fisher	
10	Dark-eyed Junco	201	10	Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	10	Common Redpoll		10			10	Flying Squirrel	
11	Downy Woodpecker	56	11	Wild Turkey	20	11	Eastern Kingbird		11			11	Gray Fox	
12	European Starling	90	12	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	12	Eastern Phoebe	4	12			12	Ground Hog	
13	Hairy Woodpecker	21	13			13	Eastern Towhee		13			13	Mole	1
14	House Finch	101	14			14	Evening Grosbeak		14			14	Mouse	
15	House Sparrow	119	15			15	Field Sparrow		15			15	Opossum	3
16	Mourning Dove	129	16			16	Fish Crow		16			16	Rabbit	3
17	Northern Cardinal	42	17			17	Golden-crowned Kinglet		17			17	Raccoon	5
18	Red-bellied Woodpecker	24	18			18	Gray Cat Bird		18			18	Red Fox	2
19	Song Sparrow	19	19			19	Hermit Thrush		19			19	Red Squirrel	2
20	Tufted Titmouse	55	20			20	Kestrel		20			20	Short-tailed Rat	
21	White-breasted Nuthatch	30	21			21	Lincoln Sparrow		21			21	Short-tailed Shrew	
22	White-throated Sparrow	92	22			22	Merlin		22			22	Skunk	1
23			23			23	Monk Parakeet		23			23	Vole	
24			24			24	Nashville Warbler		24			24	Weasel	
25			25			25	Northern Harrier		25			25	White Tail Deer	8
26			26			26	Pileated Woodpecker	2	26			26	Woodchuck	1
27			27			27	Pine Siskin		27			27		
28			28			28	Pine Warbler	1	28			28		
29			29			29	Raven		29			29		
30			30			30	Red-breasted Nuthatch		30			30		
31			31			31	Red-shouldered Hawk	3	31			31		
32			32			32	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	32			32		
33			33			33	Rusty Blackbird	50	33			33		
34			34			34	Savannah Sparrow		34			34		
35			35			35	Swamp Sparrow		35			35		
36			36			36	Turkey Vulture	4	36			36		
37			37			37	Vesper Sparrow		37			37		
38			38			38	White-crowned Sparrow		38			38		
39			39			39	Winter Wren	1	39			39		
40			40			40	Wood Thrush		40			40		
41			41			41	Yellow-rumped Warbler		41			41		

--Pete Vitali
Chairman: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey

Membership Renewal Notes

Because we have canceled all scheduled activities for the most active months on our calendar, we have made another decision:

The Bird Club will automatically extend the membership of current Club members until the end of the 2020-2021 Club year, with no charge to you. We hope that you will continue to join us for indoor meetings and field trips as soon as it is safe to do so.

We would like to add that to help us meet ongoing expenses in the coming year, we would welcome all donations of any

amount through our New Haven Bird Club website: <https://www.newhavenbirdclub.org> (select "donate" on home page). The club is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

If you have any updates to your contact information that should be reflected in our next Yearbook, by June 20th please email changes to membership@newhavenbirdclub.org, or report changes online at our web site:

<https://www.newhavenbirdclub.org> (select join, update membership information).

Welcome New Members

Frank P. Barrasso,
Hamden

Alyssa Arre
New Haven

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2019-2020

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	DeWitt Allen	860-949-0995 allendatlow@gmail.com
<i>Vice President</i>	Christine Howe	203-389-1175 clhowe2@yahoo.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Andy Stack	203-804-6081 ctstacks@optonline.net
<i>Secretary</i>	Alan Malina	203-248-5754 Alm5565@msn.com

BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation Chair</i>	Deborah Johnson	203-430-5554 deborahleighjohnson@hotmail.com
<i>Education Chair</i>	Lori Datlow	475-227-2820 loridatlow@frontier.com
<i>Indoor Programs</i>	Gail Martino	617-504-7205 gmm1227@yahoo.com
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Mike Horn	203-288-1891 mfhorn@att.net
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Bill Batsford	203-787-1642 william.batsford@yale.edu
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Laurie Reynolds	203-434-2134 warmstove@hotmail.com
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford	203-787-1642 donnabatsford@gmail.com
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	NHBC Executive Board	
<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Craig Repasz	203-230-1697 crepasz@hotmail.com
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Genevieve Nuttall	860-287-6134 Genevieve.n.nuttall@gmail.com
<i>Webmaster</i>	Patrick Leahy	203-393-2427 ptjleahy@yahoo.com
<i>Yearbook Editor</i>	Christine Howe	203-389-1175 clhowe2@yahoo.com

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	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 Historian</i>	John Triana	203-758-7203 jtriana1@sbcglobal.net
<i>Hospitality</i>	Stacy Hanks	203-283-3898 flybirdhanks@gmail.com
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo	203-393-0694 rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali	203-288-0621 vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net

NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Area Code / Phone _____
Email _____

_____ New Member

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