



# THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

April 2014

## 2014 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Thursday, April 10, 7:00 pm **Steve Broker, Ravens at Their Nest**

Saturday, April 12, 8:00 am **East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance, New Haven**

Saturday, April 12, 8:30 am **Beginner's Bird Walk at Milford Point IBA, Milford**

Sunday, April 13, 8:30 am **The Richard English Memorial Field Trip: Lighthouse Point to the English Bird Sanctuary, Killingworth**

Sunday, April 13, 8:00 am **West Rock Ridge State Park: New Haven, Hamden, & Woodbridge**

Saturday, April 19, 8:00 am **Ansonia Nature Center, Ansonia**

Wednesday, April 30, 8:00 am **President's Walk at Lake Chamberlain, Bethany**

Saturday, May 3, 8:00 am **East Rock Park with Ranger Dan, New Haven**

Sat., May 3 (following the Bird Walk with Ranger Dan) **East Rock Park Garlic Mustard Pull**

Saturday, May 3, 9:00 am **Bird Walk for Families at East Rock Park, New Haven**

Sunday, May 4, 7:30 am **Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, Southbury**

Wednesday, May 7, 7:30 am **First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven**

Thursday, May 8, 2014 6:00 pm **Annual Banquet - Speaker: Richard Crossley, Past, Present, and Future**

Saturday, May 10, 6:00 am **Big Day Marathon**

Sunday, May 11, 7:00 am **Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**

Saturday, May 17, 6:30 am **Nehantic State Forest and Hartman's Park, Lyme**

Sunday, May 18, 7:00 am **Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington, CT**

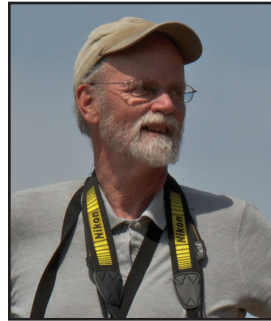
Wednesday, June 4, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: White Memorial Foundation, Litchfield**

Saturday, June 7, 8:00 am **National Trails Day Hike at Naugatuck State Forest, Mt Sanford Block, Naugatuck**

Saturday & Sunday, June 7-8 **New Haven Summer Bird Count**

Saturday, June 14, 8:30 am **Beginner's Bird Walk at Bent of the River IBA, Southbury**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Well, we all had our doubts, but it looks like the remarkable (tortuous) winter of 2013-2014 may actually be over. Time to put the long underwear, gloves and winter coats away and look forward to the spring migration season.

Before we leave winter completely behind we should revel in the memories of this remarkable

irruption of Snowy Owl. I rushed out to Milford Point in the drizzling rain at the end of November to see the Snowy Owl – didn't want to miss my opportunity to see this unusual visitor from the north! Little did I dream that we would see six Snowy Owls on the NHBC trip to Stratford/Milford this winter. Hammonasset, Long Beach, etc. – so many opportunities this winter for Snowy Owl.

Winter can be difficult – but it can be very rewarding as well. Remember the irruption of Crossbills last winter. It was worth a trip that winter to Norfolk to see Pine Grosbeak feeding on the town Green. Winter brings the joy(?) of sorting through geese in the fields or gulls on the beach. Maybe next winter I'll get to see Bohemian Waxwing or Evening Grosbeak.

Now, however, I am more than ready to tackle warblers, flycatchers, long-legged waders, shorebirds, et al. – in a T-shirt! Please join us on the multiple NHBC field trips over the next few months to enjoy the warm seasons!

Make sure, also, to mark May 8th on you calendar – the annual New Haven Bird Club Banquet should be special.

--Bill Batsford

### PLAN AHEAD!

Donations of art objects, more substantial bird-related items, or other things of relative value for our Annual Banquet Raffle are always welcome. Volunteers are also welcome. Contact Raffle Manager Donna Caporaso: [donnacap@aol.com](mailto:donnacap@aol.com)

*Next month is the club's renewal season for annual membership. Be on the lookout for the notice in your mailbox.*

NHBC website: [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)

## NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2013-2014

### OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Bill Batsford william.batsford@yale.edu	203.787.1642
<i>Vice President</i>	Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com	203.230.1697
<i>Treasurer</i>	Andy Stack ctstacks@optonline.net	203.397.0818
<i>Secretary</i>	Paul Wolter pwolter6@earthlink.net	860.681.5548

### BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation C0-Chairs</i>	Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com Winie Wirth wirthwitte@att.net	203.230.1697 203.859.2971
<i>Education Chair</i>	Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe jubilee832001@yahoo.com	203.630.9640
<i>Hospitality Chair</i>	Stacy Hanks flybirdhanks@gmail.com	203.727.1063
<i>Indoor Programs</i>	Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com	203.230.1697
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Mike Horn mfhorn@att.net	203.288.1891
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Kris Johnson kriswaxwing99@gmail.com	203.288.3087
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Mike Ferrari mike.ferrari@att.net	203.435.5712
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford donnabatsford@gmail.com	203.787.1642
<i>Nominating Chair</i>	Patrick Leahy ptjleahy@yahoo.com	203.393.2427
<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net	203.389.6508
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Larry Bausher lpbausher@comcast.net	203.389.5918
<i>Social Chair</i>	Donna Caporaso donnacap@aol.com	203.895.7669
<i>Yearbook Chair</i>	Betty Zuraw bz4feathers@sbcglobal.net	860.632.1156

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<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>Email List</i>	Mike Ferrari mike.ferrari@att.net	203.435.5712
<i>Hawk Watch Lighthouse Point Historian</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.393.0694 203.758.7203
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	203.393.0694
<i>Web Master</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali	203.288.0621

## FROM THE BOARD

The next board meeting is Wednesday, April 23, at 6:45 pm at the Regional Water Authority in New Haven.

The deadline for submissions to the June newsletter is May 27. Send to Donna Batsford: donnabatsford@gmail.com

If you take pictures of NHBC events or on NHBC trips, please consider sending one to the newsletter to be included with the report. Send them to Donna Batsford at donnabatsford@gmail.com

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Betty & Bill Baisden  
Hamden

Andrea Krofina  
Woodstock

Robert Sforza  
Milford

### Hummingbird Study Info

For those who would like to follow the work of Alejandro Rico-Guevara our speaker at the March 13th meeting, his website is [www.alejorico.com](http://www.alejorico.com). He will be posting more about his studies of hummingbird feeding mechanics.

### Alert: Race in East Rock Park May 4th

Ranger Dan Barvir has asked that we alert birders that there will be a trail race in East Rock Park on Sunday, May 4th from 8 am to noon. Other nearby areas that are good for birding this time of year are Edgerton Park, West Rock Ridge State Park, Edgewood Park and Branford Supply Ponds.

### They're Baaack

The Bald Eagles on State Street in Hamden above the railroad tracks and across from the W.B.Mason warehouse are at it again. They are now sitting on egg(s?). The first egg was laid about March 9th. How do I know this I hear you ask? Simple observation: When the male and female stop just sitting on branches and one or the other of them is actually "setting" on the nest. Hatching is typically about 35 days after the egg is laid which puts it in mid-April. You will know when the eggs hatch too. The bird's behavior will change again.

In other news: I believe last year's fledge came back for a visit (hard to tell for sure – not banded) It chatted briefly with mom before dad chased her off.

Last year, we had about 2,500 different people drop by. I asked everyone I could if they had ever seen a wild eagle before. About 2/3 of them said no.

This whole thing is really "The Miracle on State Street".

The picture is mom taken this year. Isn't she beautiful?



--Mike Horn

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## INDOOR PROGRAMS

Monthly indoor programs start in September and are held on the second Thursday of the month. The social half-hour at meetings begins at 7:00 pm; the meeting and program begin at 7:30 pm. Inclement weather or another emergency may cancel a meeting. For cancellation notices, check TV channels WTNH (New Haven) and WFSB (Hartford). Cancellation notices will also be posted online on ctbird. Meetings are at Whitney Center, Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. The facility is wheelchair accessible.

### Directions to Whitney Center (200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden)

From I-95 North or South: Exit onto I-91 North in New Haven. Take Exit 6 (Willow St.). Continue with directions from I-91 (next).

From I-91 North or South: Take Exit 6 (Willow St.) in New Haven. At end of ramp, turn right onto Willow and proceed to the end (Whitney Ave.). Turn right onto Whitney. Drive 1.6 miles then turn left onto Putnam Ave. (Note: Playwright Restaurant is on the left). Then follow starred directions (\*\*) below.

From Wilbur Cross (Rte. 15) North or South: Take Exit 61 (Whitney Ave). If southbound, turn right at end of ramp onto Whitney Ave. If northbound, turn left at end of ramp. Drive 2.4 mi., then turn right onto Putnam Ave. (Note: Playwright Restaurant is on the corner). Continue as follows:

\*\*On Putnam, go approximately 0.7 mi, and at the third traffic light turn right onto Leeder Hill Dr. (Note: AT&T bldg at intersection). Go 0.6 mi. on Leeder Hill to Whitney Center on the left. Turn left at the first entrance, which has a big sign "South Entrance." After turning in, take an immediate left onto a raised parking area.

The meeting is in Whitney Center's South Building. Enter the main door, which is under the portico that is in view from the parking lot. Turn right down the hallway. The Cultural Arts Center is a short distance on the left.

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### Thursday, April 10, 2014 — Steve Broker "Ravens at Their Nest"

The Common Raven extended its breeding range into CT in the late 1980s, and it now can be found throughout the state. A breeding pair has been observed closely at West Rock Ridge in Woodbridge since discovery of the nest in 2003. Tonight Steve will discuss raven life history strategies including pair bonding, mating, nest-building, egg-laying, hatching, foraging for and caching of food, feeding and fledging of young, play behavior, defense of territory, and how they get along with their neighboring nesting peregrine falcons. Steve is a member and past president of NHBC and is in his 10th year as secretary of COA. An avid devotee of bird counts, he has participated in 30 Christmas Bird Counts with NHBC, and numerous others in CT and other states. He has served as CT Statewide CBC compiler for 26 years. A devoted participant in Summer Bird Counts too, he was active in the CT Breeding Bird Atlas in the 1980s, and as a life-long summer resident on Cape Cod, he contributed many hours

of field work for the recently completed Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas. His birding focus in CT is breeding Common Ravens and Peregrine Falcons at West Rock Ridge State Park. In Massachusetts, his focus is the marsh birds of the Outer Cape. A **BONUS!** After tonight's informational lecture, you can further expand your experience of ravens on a field trip that Steve will lead just 3 days later. Don't miss this splendid opportunity. (See Outdoor Trip description for Sunday, April 13).

### Annual Banquet: Thursday, May 8, 2014 — 6:00 pm Speaker: Richard Crossley – Past, Present, and Future Amarante's Restaurant, New Haven

Don't miss this great event—always great company, great food, and a great program. Reservations required; reservation forms in this newsletter. Early reservations are greatly appreciated!

There will be a cash bar and the sale of tickets for the always-fun raffle of interesting, exciting, and worthwhile prizes!

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## NHBC Winter Feeder Report 2013-2014 – End of Week 15

We have finished the first 15 weeks of the survey and so far this year no Pine Siskins, Common Redpolls and Red-breasted Nut Hatches have been reported

We had 34 of the 34 Common Species show up for a score of 100%.

There were no new species added to the uncommon list and we had 9 of 32 during the last five week period for 28%. Species seen were Black Vulture (Deborah Johnson), Brown Creeper (Maris Fiondella, Bev Propen, and Charlotte K. White), Cedar Waxwing (Deborah Johnson), Eastern Towhee (Bev Propen), Hermit Thrush (Tim Rodgers), Red-shouldered Hawk (Bev Propen), Rusty Blackbird (Deborah Johnson, Nancy Rosenbaum, and Edward Sprowson), Winter Wren (Deborah Johnson) and Yellow-rumped Warbler (Tim Rodgers).

No waterfowl were seen during the last five weeks.

Ten of twenty animals were seen during these five weeks for a 50% sighting. They were Gray Squirrel, Chipmunk, Feral Cat, Mole, Opossum, Rabbit, Raccoon, Red Fox, Skunk, and White-tailed Deer.

I have compared five species for weeks one to fifteen. American Goldfinch is about the same as last year, Black-capped Chickadee is down about 20 birds, Common Grackle are way down, Dark-eyed Juncos are about the same, and White-throated Sparrows are about the same as last year but way down from 2011-2012.

--Pete Vitali  
Chairman: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey

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## FIELD TRIPS / OUTDOOR EVENTS

The New Haven Bird Club does not charge trip or leader fees for its outdoor programs, but participants are responsible for the cost of their food, transportation, and entrance fees (where charged), unless prior arrangements are made by the Club. Carpooling is encouraged to avoid parking problems at some destinations and to promote conservation of our natural resources. All levels of birders are invited to all field trips, and every effort is made on all trips to help beginning birders. 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. You can check the Club's website [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org) for trip information and watch for emails sent by the Club or contact trip leaders directly if you have questions about any of their trips.

*Cancellation Policy:* Inclement weather or another emergency may cancel a field trip. Check the sources listed above or contact the leader of the trip directly if you have any questions about a possible cancellation.

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### **East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance, New Haven Saturday, April 12, 2014, 8:00 am**

Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot for a bird walk from 8 - 9:30. Then join Park Ranger Dan Barvir to help with light trail maintenance along the river till noon. Bring pruning shears, work gloves, if you have them. Leader: Dan Barvir: 203-946-6086.

### **Beginner's Bird Walk at Milford Point IBA, Milford Saturday, April 12, 2014, 8:30 am**

The Charles E. Wheeler Marsh at the mouth of the Housatonic River provides valuable foraging habitat for Great and Snowy Egrets nesting on nearby Charles Island. Today we will focus on long-legged waders and their habitat needs. This walk is geared to beginners but birders of all levels are invited. Families are welcome. Birders with more advanced skills can enjoy a day out and help support and inspire the beginners. Meet at CT Audubon Soc. Coastal Center parking lot, 1 Milford Pt. Rd. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe: 203-630-9640 or [cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org](mailto:cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org)

### **The Richard English Memorial Field Trip: Lighthouse Point to the English Bird Sanctuary, Killingworth Sunday, April 13, 2014, 8:30 am**

Meet at the Lighthouse Point Park hawk watch parking lot and bird the harbor shore for gulls, loons, ducks, and shorebirds. We will then go to the Richard English Bird Sanctuary on Deer Lake in Killingworth. We finish our birding tour with a visit to Hammonasset State Park. This is an all-day trip; bring lunch and dress warmly. Leader: Mike Horn 203-288-1891 or [mhorn@att.net](mailto:mhorn@att.net).

***BONUS! Double your fun! This field trip is tied in with the speaker's talk given at the club meeting on Thurs., April 10.***

### **West Rock Ridge State Park: New Haven, Hamden, & Woodbridge - "Aves Agonistes: The Intertwined Lives of Peregrines and Ravens" Sunday, April 13, 2014, 8:00 am**

We focus on just two breeding species for this trip to West Rock Ridge: Peregrine Falcon and Common Raven. A pair of Peregrine Falcons selected West Rock as their home base in 1999, thereby becoming one of the first breeding pairs in CT in the post-DDT era. Since then, 5 different females and 5 different

males (tiercels) have occupied the ridge in various combinations. We observe their cliff site from an appropriate distance with the expectation of seeing flying, perching, preening, feeding, and agonistic interactions with the nearby nesting ravens, and incubation of eggs. Common Ravens were confirmed as breeders at West Rock in 2002, and the presumed same pair has nested here annually since then, producing 4 to 5 young in most years. We observe them from unusually close range as they soar, perch, bring in cached food, fight with the peregrines, and attend young in the cliff nest. Bring binoculars, cameras, and two extra layers of clothing (really!). The wind and cold at cliff top often bear no relation to conditions 450 feet below in the West River valley. Meet at the West Rock Nature Center parking lot on Wintergreen St, Hamden/New Haven border. Leader: Steve Broker: 203-272-5192 (cell: 203-747-6843), or [ls.broker@cox.net](mailto:ls.broker@cox.net)

### **Ansonia Nature Center, Ansonia Saturday, April 19, 2014, 8:00 am**

Enjoy a walk at this fine birding location. The nature center has a small pond, grassy fields, thickets, wetlands, and woods. The woods have had Northern Goshawk and Great Horned Owls nesting there and there are often surprises. Meet at the nature center parking lot on Deerfield Lane (off Benz Road.) in Ansonia. Leader, Maria Stockmal: 203-488-3876 or [m.stockmal@snet.net](mailto:m.stockmal@snet.net).

### **President's Walk at Lake Chamberlain, Bethany Wednesday, April 30, 2014, 8:00 am**

Join current club president Bill Batsford to check out this excellent birding area. Lake Chamberlain, a Regional Water Authority property, is surrounded by coniferous forest and it has open fields and thickets. Early spring migrants likely to be seen are Palm and Pine Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Phoebe, and Blue-headed Vireo. Bluebirds and Tree Swallows nest in bird houses. Meet at RWA parking lot, Sperry Rd. Leader: Bill Batsford: 203-787-1642 or [william.batsford@yale.edu](mailto:william.batsford@yale.edu)

### **East Rock Park with Ranger Dan, New Haven Saturday, May 3, 2014, 8:00 am**

Join Ranger Dan Barvir at this premier site for warblers and other spring migrants. We will meet at the Rice Field (baseball field) end of East Rock Park on English Drive. Leader: Ranger Dan Barvir: 203-946-6086.  
(Please read next entry associated with Dan's walk).

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**East Rock Park Garlic Mustard Pull****Sat., May 3, 2014 (following the Bird Walk with Ranger Dan)**

Dan's bird walk will end around 11:30, and after a lunch break, we will get to work pulling garlic mustard in a heavily infested area of the park. This invasive plant is a pernicious, prolific pest that can overrun forested areas, squeeze out native spring flowers, kill butterfly caterpillars, and alter the habitat of our native birds. The rampant growth can be daunting, but with many hands and an organized approach, we can help reclaim the park. Long pants and sleeves are recommended. Bring work gloves if you have them. After the bird walk, meet at the Eli Whitney Museum. Contact: Craig Repasz: 203-230-1697 or crepasz@hotmail.com

**Bird Walk for Families at East Rock Park, New Haven****Saturday, May 3, 2014, 9:00 am**

On this walk by the park's Mill River, children, accompanied by adults, will search for warblers and other spring migrants. Other interested adults are also welcome to join the walk in this famous spring birding site. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Leader: Florence McBride: 203-288-6777 or j.mcbride@yale.edu.

**Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, Southbury****Sunday, May 4, 2014, 7:30 am**

Explore a prime birding location along the Pomperaug River in Southbury where more than 100 species of birds have been observed in a single day. This beautiful and highly diverse habitat is owned and maintained by the National Audubon Society. Take Exit 14 off Rte. 84. Go north on Rte. 172, then turn left onto East Flat Hill Rd. (church on corner). Continue to sanctuary entrance on left. The trip involves moderately strenuous hiking. Leader: Roy Harvey: 203-888-5757 or rmharvey@snet.net.

**First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven****Wednesday, May 7, 2014, 7:30 am**

East Rock Park in early May is one of the best places in the state to see migrant warblers. Fifteen to twenty species are possible on a good day. Meet at the covered bridge near the Eli Whitney Museum. Leaders: Renee Baade, Frank Mantlik, and John Oshlick. Contact person: Tina Green: 203-247-2660 or tina@renaissancestudios.com.

**Big Day Marathon****Saturday, May 10, 2014, 6:00 am**

Take part in all or part of this event. We'll focus on New Haven area hotspots, seeking 100-130 species. We start at East Rock and search several other local migrant traps, as well as the coast from Lordship to Hammonasset. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot at 6:00 or 7:30 am. Leader: John Oshlick: 203-891-5344 or john.oshlic@yahoo.com

**Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck****Sunday, May 11, 2014, 7:00 am**

Join us at the peak of spring migration on this moderately strenuous and long hike in a fine birding location. We'll search for

migrants and residents. The mixed hardwood forest is a good location for Hooded and Worm-eating Warblers and many other species. Last year on this trip we saw 15 warbler species and heard a hooting Barred Owl and a singing Winter Wren. Meet at commuter lot at Exit 25 off Rte 8, Naugatuck. Leader: Chris Loscalzo: 203-389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net

**Nehantic State Forest and Hartman Park, Lyme****Saturday, May 17, 2014, 6:30 am**

Join us as we explore two prime birding locations in Lyme. Nehantic State Forest is a 1,200-acre woodland, home to Hooded and Worm-eating Warblers and many other species. There are large ponds where you can find Wood Ducks, herons, flycatchers and other species. Nearby Hartman Park is known for its breeding population of Cerulean Warblers. Meet at the commuter lot at exit 55 off I-95 in Branford at 6:30 am or the Keeny Road entrance for Nehantic SF on Route 156 in Lyme at 7:00 am. Leader: Paul Wolter: pwolter6@earthlink.net or 860 681-5548.

**Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington, CT****Sunday, May 18, 2014, 7:00 am**

This will be our tenth annual trip to this excellent birding spot. We'll meet at the commuter lot at Exit 55 of I-95 and carpool to Barn Island which consists of large expanses of salt marsh, tidal pools, wetlands, woodlands, and open fields. We should see wading birds, shorebirds, and area residents such as Saltmarsh Sparrow, Marsh Wren, White-eyed Vireo, American Redstart, Willow Flycatcher, Bobolink, and many other species. Leader: Chris Loscalzo: 203-389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net

**First Wednesday Walk:****White Memorial Foundation, Litchfield****Wednesday, June 4, 2014, 8:00 am**

White Memorial Foundation is a 4,000-acre nature preserve with extensive woodlands, conifer plantations, wetlands, thickets, and fields. The preserve is home to more than 115 breeding species and is visited by many migrant species. Notable breeding species include: Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Northern Goshawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, and Blackburnian Warbler. Meet at the visitor center parking lot off Bissell Road, off Rte 202. Leader: Greg Hanisek. Contact: Tina Green: 203-247-2660 or tina@renaissancestudios.com

**National Trails Day Hike at Naugatuck State Forest,****Mt Sanford Block, Naugatuck****Saturday, June 7, 2014, 8:00 am**

National Trails Day is celebrated across the country with hikes, trail work, and naturalist events. NHBC will commemorate the event with a birding hike on the oldest hiking trail in CT, the Quinipiac Trail. We'll leave from the Downes Rd. parking area entrance of Naugatuck SP and go through the mountain laurel, beech, birch, hickory and oak forest; then up and over Mt. Sanford, at an elevation of 890 feet, for beautiful views to the east. Possible birds to be seen are Veery, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, hawks, and warblers. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, and bring water and trail snacks. The hiking is a bit strenuous. Leader: Craig Repasz: 203-230-1697 or crepasz@hotmail.com.

**New Haven Summer Bird Count**  
**Saturday, June 7 and Sunday, June 8, 2014**

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 leader Steve Mayo: 203-393-0694 or rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net

**Beginner's Bird Walk at Bent of the River IBA, Southbury**  
**Saturday, June 14, 2014, 8:30 am**

The Bent of the River Audubon Sanctuary provides a breadth of habitat for bird species, from forests to riparian areas to shrubby meadows. On this walk we'll look for nesting shrubland birds, including Blue-winged Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Field Sparrow and Indigo Bunting. Shrubby meadows are uncommon in CT so it's a special treat to see and hear these species. This walk is geared to beginners but advanced birders and families are welcome. Advanced birders can enjoy a day out and provide support and inspiration to the newcomers. The Bent is located at 185 East Flat Hill Rd. Meet in the parking lot just beyond the entrance. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe: 203-630-9640, cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org

**February First Wednesday Walk Trip Report – Hammonasset State Park**

On Friday, February 7 at Hammonasset State Park in Madison, the New Haven Bird Club's First Wednesday walk was led by Greg Hanisek, and a beautiful day it was. Twenty-four birders basked in the sunshine while viewing 46 species of birds. The waters were quiet with most of the action in the skies. Fantastic looks at a Rough-legged Hawk soaring over our heads, 3 Bald Eagles, Cooper's Hawk, Sharpshin Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern Harrier, and Merlin. On the ground we had a Lapland Longspur and Fox Sparrow. Thanks to Greg and all participants for a delightful morning of birding.



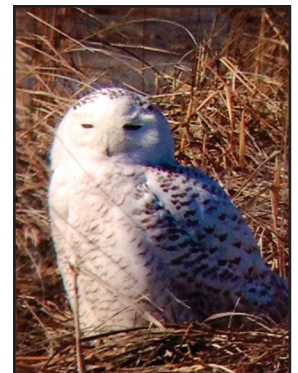
46 species (+2 other taxa): Canada Goose, American Black Duck, Mallard, Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk (light morph), Sanderling, Purple Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull (American), Great Black-backed Gull, gull sp., Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon), Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted), Merlin, Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Black-capped Chickadee, Carolina Wren, American Robin, European Starling, Lapland Longspur, Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle), American Tree Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow (Red), Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored), sparrow sp., Northern Cardinal, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow

--Sara Zagorski

**Rhode Island Coast Field Trip Report**

On Saturday, February 22nd, 2014, fifteen birders participated in the all-day field trip to the Rhode Island coast. We were fortunate to have good weather for the trip, as this has been a cold and snowy winter. It was warm and dry, and a bit breezy. We saw a number of good birds, including two Snowy Owls, but it was the waterfowl that stole the show.

We started the trip at the Branford commuter lot, where four Black Vultures circled overhead. We stopped along Route 138 in Kingstown, RI to look for a pair of Sandhill Cranes that have been wintering there. We didn't see the cranes, but there was an early Killdeer and a Cooper's Hawk. We made one more stop on our way to Beavertail State Park, at Marsh Meadow Preserve in Jamestown. In addition to the common species, we saw seventeen Northern Pintail in the marsh, an impressive number. At Beavertail, we saw Black Scoter, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, Common Goldeneye, Common Loon, Red-breasted Merganser, Horned Grebe, and Great Cormorant. We also saw a Red-necked Grebe, getting good, extended looks at this uncommon species. We saw lots more waterfowl at our next stop at Easton Ponds in Newport. There, we saw Canada Geese, Mallard, American Black Duck, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, a lone Long-tailed Duck, Common and Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, and Green-winged Teal. Most of the waterfowl were concentrated in the few areas of open water, while some were roosting on the ice at the water's edge. We were running late by the time we got to Sachuest National Wildlife Refuge, and it was crowded with people taking advantage of the warm weather, so we moved on to nearby Third Beach. There, we got close looks at a slumbering Snowy Owl (see photo) as well as more waterfowl, including Surf Scoter, Greater Scaup, and Bufflehead. From there, it was on to Marina Park in North Kingstown where a Redhead had been reported. It took a while to find the Redhead, but before we did we found a bonus bird, a drake Northern Shoveler. We stopped on the way to our next destination, Moonstone Beach, long enough to find two pairs of Gadwall in a small cove. At Moonstone Beach, we were treated to a long-distance look at another Snowy Owl, roosting on the frozen pond (Trustum Pond). We also saw White-winged Scoter and a first year male Common Eider there. We then headed for Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge where we added Eurasian Wigeon to our lengthening list of waterfowl seen on the trip. The last addition to the list was Wood Duck, when a pair flew out of Weekapaug Marsh soon after our arrival. When the day was done, we had



*Snowy Owl*  
*Photo by Mike Ferrari*

Photo by Rodolfo Mari



*Photo by Rodolfo Mari*

recorded 31 species of waterfowl, comprising nearly half of our species total for the day. We tallied 65 species, in all. Tired, but satisfied, we left our neighboring state to return home. We'll be heading back to Rhode Island next winter, for sure.

--Chris Loscalzo

### Gull and Gannet Frenzy Trip Report



*Lesser Black-backed Gull*  
Photo by Bill Batsford

On March 29, 35 participants joined leader Frank Mantlik at Stratford, Lordship Seawall and Long Beach Park. Highlights included: EURASIAN WIGEON, Lesser Scaup, NORTHERN GANNETS, an early DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, GREAT EGRET, ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, American Kestrel, American

Oystercatcher, Lesser Yellowlegs, ICELAND GULL, LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, and two SNOWY OWLS. There was also an earlier-reported EARED GREBE seen by some in the group.

48 species were seen: Brant, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Northern Gannet, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Oystercatcher, Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, Sanderling, Dunlin, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon), Mourning Dove, Snowy Owl, American Kestrel, Fish Crow, Carolina Wren, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, House Sparrow

--Frank Mantlik

## Help the Habitat @ East Rock!



### 2nd Annual Garlic Mustard Pull

Saturday, May 3rd, 2014  
Noon-2:30  
@ East Rock Park

**Meet at:** Eli Whitney Museum  
915 Whitney Ave.  
Hamden, CT 06517

#### The Bad News:

This plant is everywhere! Garlic Mustard is an invasive plant that's taking over our woodlands. It crowds out native plants & stops tree seedlings from growing! There is a patch just at the edge of East Rock Park, ready to spread further!

#### The Good News:

There is a simple, systematic, and non-toxic way to get rid of it from the park! Join New Haven Parks Ranger Dan Barvir, interns from Eli Whitney Museum and members of the New

Haven Bird Club as we pull this invader from East Rock Park. We'll be reporting the garlic mustard we pull as part of The Stewardship Network's online Garlic Mustard Challenge! Check out the great video "Stemming the Tide" at [www.StewardshipNetwork.org/2014Challenge](http://www.StewardshipNetwork.org/2014Challenge)

**Event Notes:** Please dress for the work! Where garlic mustard grows, there are poison ivy, mosquitoes, and ticks. Closed-toed shoes, long pants tucked into socks, and long-sleeved shirts are highly recommended. Join us with your bag lunch at 11:30 if you'd like. Snacks, drinks and supplies will be provided.

Youth Groups Welcome! For more information, contact:  
Winie Wirth 203-859-2971 or [wirthwithe@att.net](mailto:wirthwithe@att.net)



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

## Newsletter April 2014

*The date on address labels is your membership expiration date.*

### NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip +4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print clearly in block letters)

#### Dues:

Individual - \$15

Couple/Family - \$20 # of family members \_\_\_\_\_

Supporting - \$50 # of family members \_\_\_\_\_

Student under 18 - Free

Life Membership: A one-time payment of \$300  
for 1 or 2 people at same address.

Additional gift to support the NHBC \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer to help the club.

Make check payable to New Haven Bird Club and  
send to: New Haven Bird Club, PO Box 9004,  
New Haven CT 06532-0004

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 also for the following 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 your employer 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 preference, or national origin.

**If your address, phone or email change**, please send that information to the Club address given on the form to the left or contact the Membership Chair, Mike Ferrari: mike.ferrari@att.net or 203.435.5712.

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

**The New Haven Bird Club is now on Facebook.** So log onto facebook and like the page "New Haven Bird Club." You can post your photos, see other photos, participate in a discussion and check out the upcoming events.

**CTBirds** is an open discussion email list to discuss birds and birding in the state. To Subscribe, go to:

[http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds\\_lists.ctbirding.org](http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds_lists.ctbirding.org)

**The CTDailyReport** list is used to distribute summaries of rare and uncommon bird sightings. To Subscribe, go to:

[http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctdailyreport\\_lists.ctbirding.org](http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctdailyreport_lists.ctbirding.org)

**NHBC website: [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)**





# New Haven Bird Club Annual Banquet

## Thursday, May 8, 2014

Amarante's Sea Cliff, 62 Cove Street, New Haven

Cocktails 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Dinner and Program 7:00 - 10:00 PM



The dinner is \$35/person for members and \$40/person for nonmembers with a cash bar. Don't forget to bring money for the raffle which will include a carving of a Red-Headed Woodpecker by World Champion Wildlife Artist Keith Mueller!

Dinner Options: **Chicken Florentine** - sautéed boneless chicken served with a sauce of lemon and white wine over a bed of spinach  
**Beef Tenderloin Kabob** - grilled cubes of beef tenderloin, skewered with cut fresh vegetables  
**Vegetarian by Request**

### “Past, Present, and Future”

### Richard Crossley, author of *The Crossley ID Guide* series



Richard Crossley is an internationally acclaimed birder, award winning author and photographer, and great story teller. “Crazy,” “wildly passionate,” “driven,” and “single-minded” are just a few of the words that have been used to describe his love of birding and the outdoors. Tonight you'll be sumptuously regaled with tales of lessons Richard learned while growing up in the wild British birding scene - instructive and amusing tales from his travels around the world up to his life today as a resident of Cape May, NJ. With humor and depth Richard will highlight the thoughts behind his revolutionary *The Crossley ID Guide* series. After you hear some of the stories of his past and present, you just might change or at least reconsider your outlook on the future of birding, lifestyles, and nature. Richard started birding at the age of 7;

by his late teens he was hitchhiking all over Europe and by 21 he had visited and fallen in love with Cape May, NJ. A few years later he moved there for good, getting a Green Card as an “Alien of Exceptional Ability” for his work on bird identification. He certainly has been following through. Though at first juggling the business world and raising a family, he wanted to leave at least a small thumb-print in birding and became involved in *The Shorebird Guide*. That led to a new passion for photography which he used to help inspire people to see wildlife through new eyes. His goal of popularizing birding and the outdoors took a giant leap with his committing to the bird world full-time and with his publication of *The Crossley ID Guide*, a fresh new approach in showing birds in more lifelike and comprehensive views - the way we see them in real life. One of the co-founders of ‘The Pledge to Fledge’ campaign, a grassroots movement to popularize birding globally, Richard is a huge advocate of kids birding because they are the future. His enthusiasm is infectious, his passion for birds palpable. Don't miss a thrilling evening!

### New Haven Bird Club Annual Banquet — Thursday, May 8, 2014

The deadline for reservations is April 25, 2014. No tickets will be sold at the door.

NAME(S): (As they should appear on name tag)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DINNER SELECTION: (Mark 1 for each person)

Beef  Chicken  Vegetarian   
Beef  Chicken  Vegetarian   
Beef  Chicken  Vegetarian

# of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35.00 (members) = Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ X \$40.00 (nonmembers) = Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Due \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your Main Course choice plus your name and address with a check made out to NHBC in the full amount to:  
NHBC Banquet, C/O Henrietta Lachman, 5 Apple Tree Lane, Norwalk, CT 06850 - 203-846-4754, lachmanr@optonline.net