



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

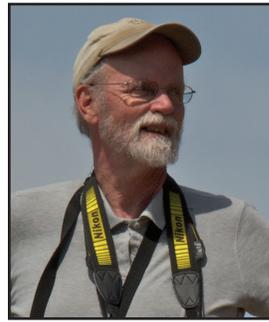
February 2015

2015 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

- Wednesday, February 4, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison**
- Thursday, February 12, 7:00 pm **Kevin Burgio – The History, Biology, and Extinction of the Carolina Parakeet**
- Saturday, February 14, 7:00 am **Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast**
- Friday through Sunday, February 20-22 **Sachuest Point NWR and RI Coast: Weekend Retreat**
- Wednesday, March 4, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: Stratford Shore & Great Meadows**
- Thursday, March 12, 7:00 pm **Tom Stephenson – The Warbler Guide: A New System for Identifying and Learning Vocalizations**
- Tuesday, March 17, 7:00 pm **Birds in Words: The Birds of Pandemonium: Life Among the Exotic and the Endangered**
- Saturday, March 28, 10:00 am **Gull and Gannet Frenzy, Stratford Seawall, Stratford**
- Wednesday, April 1, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**
- Saturday, April 4, 8:30 am **Lighthouse Point to the English Bird Sanctuary, Killingworth**
The Richard English Memorial Field Trip
- Saturday, April 4, 8:30 am **Beginners' Bird Walk at Little Pond, Litchfield**
- Thursday, April 9, 7:00 pm **Patrick Comins – Ornithology and Meteorology**
- Saturday, April 11, 8:00 am **East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance, New Haven**
- Saturday, April 18, 8:00 am **Ansonia Nature Center, Ansonia**
- Wednesday, April 22, 8:00 am **President's Walk at Lake Chamberlain, Bethany**
- Thursday, May 14 – **Annual Banquet**
Wayne Petersen – Svalbard: An Arctic Naturalist's Paradise

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The New Haven Bird Club is an organization of people sharing a common interest in the natural world and its conservation focused through those miraculous ambassadors – birds. We endeavor to offer trips and programs of interest and use to the entire local birding community – beginner, intermediate, long-term and expert birder. These activities are open to the public and are

intended to be as inclusive as possible. Nine meetings, including the Annual Banquet, and featuring a varied offering of talks; nearly fifty birding walks to sites near and far and including the popular First Wednesday offerings; the book group *Birds in Words*; and the camaraderie and friendship of like-minded people – an impressive cornucopia of treats.

Needless to say this breadth and depth of activities requires a considerable effort on many people's part – all on a volunteer basis. We are dependent on so many – trip leaders, Banquet planners, Indoor and Outdoor program directors and behind the scene workers. I, and all of us, are extremely grateful to those whose active participation has been critical to our ongoing success.

The Bylaws of the NHBC call for a Board with a number of standing “committees” – Indoor Programs, Outdoor Programs, Publicity, Newsletter, etc. These “committees” essentially have functioned as the responsibility of one person – the Committee Chair. The Board would like to re-invigorate the committee concept to expand the opportunities – and responsibilities – for service to more of the membership. I would ask anyone interested and willing to be more actively involved in NHBC affairs to contact either myself or any board member to discuss specific opportunities.

Good Birding!

--Bill Batsford

We need a few volunteers to help with the raffle at the annual banquet. Duties will include set up and ticket sales. We are simplifying the raffle. Please contact Craig Repasz at crepasz@hotmail.com

Check the NHBC website for cancellation of a program or field trip.

www.newhavenbirdclub.org

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2014-2014

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
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<i>Secretary</i>	Paul Wolter pwolter6@earthlink.net	860.681.5548

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<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>Yearbook Chair</i>	Betty Zuraw bz4feathers@sbcglobal.net	860.632.1156

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Birds in Words</i>	Kris Johnson kriswaxwing99@gmail.com	203.288.3087
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net	203.389.6508
<i>Email List</i>	Mike Ferrari mike.ferrari@att.net	203.435.5712
<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	203.393.0694
<i>Lighthouse Point Historian</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	203.393.0694
<i>Web Master</i>	Patrick Leahy ptjleahy@yahoo.com	203.393.2427
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	203.288.0621

BIRDS IN WORDS

Join in on “Birds in Words,” NHBC’s gathering of people who like reading books on their favorite hobby. Since the group began, we’ve read 25 books on just about every aspect of birds, birding, and birders and had some lively discussions. Share in the fun. We meet at 7 pm at Whitney Center. For details, contact: Kris Johnson: kriswaxwing99@gmail.com, 203-288-3087.

The next meeting of the NHBC Book Group, Birds in Words will be on Tuesday, March 17, 7:00 pm, in the sixth floor conference room to discuss *The Birds of Pandemonium: Life Among the Exotic and the Endangered* by Michelle Raffin.

All members of the club are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there.

--Kris Johnson

Evergreen Cemetery App – New Haven Bird Club Tour

During our centennial in 2007, I did a fair amount of research on former members by finding information through local cemeteries. One, Evergreen Cemetery in New Haven, was especially helpful. I regularly asked Evergreen staff questions about former members. Over 50 NHBC members are buried there.

In 2014, Evergreen Cemetery developed an app to help people learn about their cemetery and the people buried within it. Anyone who downloads the app will have the ability to search for names of people interred there.

One of the features of the app is a list of self-guided tours. These tours vary in topic from specimen trees to female statutory to Connecticut Governors who are buried in Evergreen Cemetery. There is also a tour about Mary E. Hart, the famous Midnight Mary, who was reported to be buried alive. Finally, there is a tour of former NHBC members graves. Clicking on the tour, the user will get a list of several members’ names. Going to an individual’s record will give you information on that person’s NHBC membership, life, and burial location. You can then also click on a map to show where they are buried in order to find their tombstone.

Evergreen Cemetery lies on the west side of the city between a heavily populated area and the West River Memorial Park. Numerous birds have been observed there including a Bald Eagle in October 2014. Any birder is likely to enjoy the cemetery for the nature found within it. With the Evergreen Cemetery app, you can also learn about history, people, and plants to enhance your visit.

--John Triana

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bruce & Maria Coffin
Hamden

Kameron Shahid
Guilford

Stuart C. Johnson
Chester

Bart & Cheryl Szczarba
New Haven

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 the website www.newhavenbirdclub.org. Cancellation notices will also be posted online on [ctbird](http://ctbird.org). Meetings are at Whitney Center, Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. The facility is wheelchair accessible.

Directions to Whitney Center (WC):

From I-91 North or South: Take Exit 6 (Willow St.) in New Haven. At end of ramp go right onto Willow; proceed to the end (to Whitney Ave.). Turn right onto Whitney; go 1.6 mi. Turn left onto Putnam Ave. (Playwright Restaurant is on left).

On Putnam go approximately .7 mi, (3 traffic lights) and turn right onto Leeder Hill. Go .6 mi. on Leeder Hill to the South Entrance (big sign) of WC on the left. Turn in and take an immediate left into a raised parking area.

Meeting is in WC's South Bldg., 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.

From I-95 North or South: Exit to I-91 North in New Haven. Take Exit 6 (Willow St.). At end of ramp, turn right onto Willow and proceed as above.

From Wilbur Cross (Rte. 15) northbound: Take Exit 61 (Whitney Ave). Turn left at end of ramp, go 2.4 mi., turn right onto Putnam.

From Wilbur Cross (Rte. 15) southbound: Take Exit 61 (Whitney Ave. New Haven). At end of ramp go right. Proceed to Putnam.

Thursday, February 12 — Kevin Burgio: The History, Biology, and Extinction of the Carolina Parakeet

Few would argue that the saddest word in a birder's ID vocabulary is extinction. Yet that's been the fate of too many avian species in the past and the threat ever grows. Kevin will discuss what is known about the history, biology, and extinction of one such vanished bird, the splendidly colorful Carolina Parakeet, described by some as possibly having been the most colorful bird in North America. Kevin will explain how his research, using modern research methods, may help shed new light on the extinction of this fascinating and iconic species. His research focuses on the mechanisms of species range limitations and how disturbance (climate change and habitat fragmentation) influences patterns of species distribution and extinction processes. Kevin graduated summa cum laude from UConn in ecology and evolutionary biology and is now a Ph.D. candidate there. He is a Visiting Scientist at Fairfield University and a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow.

Thursday, March 12 — Tom Stephenson The Warbler Guide: A New System for Identifying and Learning Vocalizations

Identifying warblers and other species singing in the field is one of the most satisfying aspects of birding, but learning and remembering the important ID points of bird vocalizations can be a challenge. Tom will cover some new techniques that make it easier to identify singing birds. He will cover how to understand and use sonograms to learn what makes a vocalization unique and how to differentiate similar-sounding species. Based on a system outlined in his new book, *The Warbler Guide*, Tom will demonstrate how the vocalization ID process can be sped up by understanding a song's structure, the elements and phrases that make up the song. He'll also discuss how to make a quick ID using the objective, easy-to-hear qualities of a song and will explain a simple 3-step memorization system he has used many times to memorize 300 or more songs for a trip to a new country.

Thursday, April 9 — Patrick Comins Ornithology and Meteorology

No one escapes the weather, least of all birds. Because they basically spend their entire lives outside, weather has a huge influence on their movements and migration. The more that birders understand about the impact of weather on birds, the more productive their birding decisions will be. From something as mundane as knowing to keep feeders full to invite birds during an impending snowstorm to the nearly endless possibilities that a land-falling tropical storm can bring, weather calls the shots. Patrick will discuss numerous kinds of birding scenarios as he explores the implications of weather patterns for birds—and for birders who want to use weather as a tool for better birding.

Thursday, May 14 – Annual Banquet Wayne Petersen – Svalbard: An Arctic Naturalist's Paradise

The stunning Svalbard archipelago, belonging to Norway but a mere 600 miles from the Arctic Circle, is a naturalist's paradise offering a superabundance of seabirds and two iconic arctic mammals, Walrus and Polar Bear. You will be dazzled by Wayne Petersen's superb wildlife photos, including Northern Fulmar, Black-legged Kittiwake and Thick-billed Murre. Beyond spectacular scenery and wildlife, Svalbard is an excellent laboratory to study the Polar Bear, known to be at risk of extinction unless the current trend in global warming is reversed. Melting ice and rising ocean temperatures also may have a devastating impact on marine plankton and fish populations. Thus, not only the Polar Bear, but also avian inhabitants such as the mysterious Ivory Gull and tiny Dovekie as well more abundant avian species such as Thick-billed Murre and Atlantic Puffin may be threatened. Wayne Petersen as Director of the Massachusetts Important Bird Areas (IPA) Program and co-editor of the *Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas 1 & 2* (2003,2013) offers expert insight to the conservation crises locally and internationally. He received the American Birding Association's prestigious Ludlow Griscom Award for outstanding contributions in regional ornithology.

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 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.

First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 8:00 am

Enjoy a mid-week field trip to Hammo, one of the state's best birding locations in any season of the year. We will look for sea ducks, grassland species, and rarities. Meet at the park entrance at 8:00 am. Leader: Greg Hanisek. Contact person: Tina Green: 203-247-2660 or tina@renaissancestudios.com.

Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast Saturday, February 14, 2015, 7:00 am

This all-day trip includes stops at Sachuest Pt., Beavertail State Park, Moonstone Beach, and Trustum Pond, all great RI birding sites. We should see grebes, loons, scoters, eiders, Purple Sandpipers, and Harlequin Ducks. Dress warmly—it's cold and windy on the coast. The walk is a bit strenuous. Bring lunch and a scope if you have one. Meet at the Branford commuter lot located at Exit 55 off I-95. Leader: Chris Loscalzo: 203-389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net.

Sachuest Point NWR and RI Coast: Weekend Retreat Friday through Sunday, February 20-22, 2015

This very special birding experience will be made available to 15 club members by advance registration. We'll be staying in the recently renovated farmhouse at the Norman Bird Sanctuary in Middletown, RI, near Sachuest Point. We'll go birding each day, starting with a sea watch each morning in search of alcids, Black-legged Kittiwakes, and other pelagic species. We'll enjoy comfortable accommodations and fine dining in the farmhouse. Talks and owl prowls will be held at night. Cost per person is \$250 for the weekend. Organizer and contact person: Chris Loscalzo: 203-389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net.

First Wednesday Walk: Stratford Shore & Great Meadows Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 8:00 am

Join us on a visit to this excellent birding area. We will meet at the Long Beach parking lot and bird the marsh and beach and then visit Sikorsky airport and Frash Pond. We'll look for oceanic birds such as Long-tailed Duck and scoters, as well as raptors and shorebirds. Directions: Exit 30 off I-95, follow signs to Sikorsky Airport. Go past airport entrance, follow the causeway, then turn right onto Oak Bluff Ave to the entrance of Long Beach. Leader: Frank Mantlik. Contact person: Tina Green: 203-247-2660 or tina@renaissancestudios.com.

Gull and Gannet Frenzy, Stratford Seawall, Stratford Saturday, March 28, 2015, 10:00 am

We'll look at and study potentially thousands of gulls and dozens of gannets as they feast on the annual plankton bloom along the coast. Meet at the Lordship Seawall at the south end of Washington Pkwy (near Marnick's Restaurant). Leader and contact person: Frank Mantlik: 203-984-9410 or mantlik@sbcglobal.net.

First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford Wednesday, April 1, 2015, 8:00 am

Join us on this early spring trip to one of the best local birding spots. We'll look out into the marsh and along the shore for waterfowl, shorebirds, waders, and raptors. Meet at the Coastal Center parking lot. Leader: Steven Spector. Contact person: Tina Green: 203-247-2660 or tina@renaissancestudios.com.

Lighthouse Point to the English Bird Sanctuary, Killingworth - The Richard English Memorial Field Trip Saturday, April 4, 2015, 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, and 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 [mfhorn@att.net](mailto:mhorn@att.net).

Beginners' Bird Walk at Little Pond, Litchfield Saturday, April 4th, 2015, 8:30 am

Every spring Rusty Blackbirds, a species recognized as globally vulnerable by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, use the grounds of the White Memorial Foundation IBA before moving on to their nesting areas. We will look for this and other species on a walk around Little Pond and enter our sightings into ebird.org to increase awareness about habitats used by this species during migration. This walk is geared to beginners but birders of all levels and families are welcome. More advanced birders not only can enjoy a day out but also provide support and inspiration to the newcomers. Park along South Lake Street at the south end of White Memorial. Please consider carpooling as parking is limited. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe: 203-630-9640 or cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org

East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance, New Haven
Saturday, April 11, 2015, 8:00 am

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

Ansonia Nature Center, Ansonia
Saturday, April 18, 2015, 8:00 am

Enjoy a walk at this great 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.

President's Walk at Lake Chamberlain, Bethany
Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 8:00 am

Join 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 the RWA parking lot, Sperry Road. Leader: Bill Batsford: 203-787-1642, william.batsford@yale.edu

First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park Trip Report

Nine hardy participants braved the frigid temps and joined me for the New Haven Bird Club's First Wednesday Walk on January 7. Fortunately the brisk northwest winds did not start to blow until late morning and we escaped having to deal with a biting windchill. So the morning was actually quite pleasant and we even saw a few birds! There was very little in the way of waterfowl on Long Island Sound, and the Mill Pond held a few species even though it was mostly frozen. An adult Peregrine Falcon put on a great show performing its aerial skills over the Mill Pond and flew just above our heads giving us spectacular views and the highlight of the walk. Thanks to all the participants for braving the cold and joining me.

45 species seen: Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Gadwall, American Black Duck, Mallard, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, American Tree Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed

Junco (Slate-colored), Northern Cardinal, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)

--Tina Green

Stratford/Milford Birding Tour Trip Report

On Sunday, January 18, twelve intrepid club members braved a cold, wet day to go on a whirlwind birding tour in Milford and Stratford. We went to Milford Point first. There were several species of waterfowl in the marsh, including Gadwall and Bufflehead. On the sound side of the point, we saw Common Goldeneye, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-breasted Merganser. A drake Northern Pintail was a pleasant surprise, seen in a flock of American Black Ducks. A flock of Dunlin flew along the sandbar, and several Great Black-backed Gulls fed on a duck carcass on the ice. A flock of Snow Buntings delighted us as they fed on the sandy beach directly in front of the viewing platform.

Our next stop was the Birdseye Boat Ramp in Stratford, where we saw the best bird of the day. An American Bittern was observed in the marsh there. It blended into the marsh grass well, but afforded us excellent looks as it stayed out in the open for a remarkably long period of time. We also observed a Northern Harrier, Green-winged Teal, American Coot, and a Belted Kingfisher at this location.

We stopped at Frash Pond next and saw Hooded Merganser and a Great Blue Heron there. The pond was mostly frozen over, however. By now, the rain was coming down a bit harder, but we continued on to Long Beach in Stratford. We saw plenty of Long-tailed Duck and Common Goldeneye at this location, close to shore. We also saw Sanderlings and Dunlin here and there was a large flock of Brant in the marsh.

Our final stop for the day was Short Beach. We saw American Wigeon and Gadwall along the shore and a few Common Loons in the bay.

All in all, we did quite well, given the less than ideal weather conditions. We are fortunate to have so many good birding spots in our local area.

--Chris Loscalzo



Photo by Carol Goertz
Black-throated Blue Warbler feeding in the bushes next to her feeders

New Haven Summer Bird Count Summary: June 7 & 8, 2014

Totals: 128 species, 8,565 individual birds. Forty observers in 18 Parties spent 139 party hours in the field. Since the Count was founded in 1991, 187 count day species have been confirmed here with the addition this year of Olive-sided Flycatcher.

Weather: Sat. 6/7— daytime: N/W winds shifting S/W, 0-10 mph, 60° to 76°F., clear; nighttime: S winds, 5 mph, partly cloudy. Sun. 6/8— N winds shifting S, 0-8 mph., 61° to 82°F., partly cloudy; nighttime: S/SW winds, 3 mph, 75° to 72°F., mostly cloudy.

Count (15-Mile diameter circle) Center: 41°18'N 72°56'W.
Elevation: Sea level to 700 feet.

Area covered: Branford (western), East Haven, Milford, New Haven, North Haven, Orange, West Haven, and Woodbridge (in part).

Species: Can Goose 393, Brant 4, Mute Swan 67, Wood Duck 350, Gadwall 3, Am Black Duck 9, Mallard 135, MallardX-Black Duck 1, Com Goldeneye 1, Wild Turkey 20, Com Loon 1, Double-crested Cormorant 165, Least Bittern 1, Great-Blue Heron 36, Great Egret 28, Snowy Egret 12, Green Heron 8, Black-crowned Night Heron 17, Yellow-crowned Night Heron 3, Glossy Ibis 2, Black Vulture 17, Turkey Vulture 39, Osprey 91, Bald Eagle 4, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Cooper's Hawk 3, Red-shouldered Hawk 13, Red-tailed Hawk 26, Peregrine Falcon 2, Clapper Rail 3, Virginia Rail 1, Semipalmated Plover 1, Piping Plover 12, Killdeer 16, Am Oystercatcher 11, Willet 14, Spotted Sandpiper 6, Ruddy Turnstone 1, Semipalmated Sandpiper 41, Ring-billed Gull 252, Herring Gull 282, Greater Black-backed Gull 42, Common Tern 24, Least Tern 71, Rock Pigeon 123, Mourning Dove 237, Monk Parakeet 41, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 21, Black-billed Cuckoo 10, Barred Owl 2, Com Nighthawk 2, Chimney Swift 117, RT Hummingbird 6, Belted Kingfisher 5, Red-Bellied Woodpecker 59, Downy Woodpecker 84, Hairy Woodpecker 16, N Flicker 54, Pileated Woodpecker 6, Olive-sided Flycatcher 1, E Wood-Pewee 76, Willow Flycatcher 47, E Phoebe 24, Great Crested Flycatcher 55, E Kingbird 44, Yellow-Throated Vireo 4, Warbling Vireo 111, Red-eyed Vireo 130, Blue Jay 129, American Crow 139, Fish Crow 14, Com Raven 6, Purple Martin 7, Tree Swallow 115, N Rough-winged Swallow 58, Cliff Swallow 16, Barn Swallow 163, Black-capped Chickadee 87, Tufted Titmouse 96, Red-breasted Nuthatch 5, White-breasted Nuthatch 33, Car Wren 21, House Wren 80, Winter Wren 2, Marsh Wren 52, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 5, E Bluebird 13, Veery 19, Wood Thrush 58, Am Robin 724, Gray Catbird 192, N Mockingbird 64, Brown Thrasher 1, Euro Starling 569, Cedar Waxwing 147, Blue-winged Warbler 22, Yellow Warbler 130, Magnolia Warbler 1, Black-throated Blue Warbler 1, Black-throated Green Warbler 3, Pine Warbler 31, Prairie Warbler 14, Black and White Warbler 38, Am Redstart 12, Worm-eating Warbler 28, Ovenbird 136, Louisiana Waterthrush 5, Com Yellowthroat 57, Hooded Warbler 1, Scarlet Tanager 46, E Towhee 24, Chipping Sparrow 81, Field Sparrow 5, Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 193, N Cardinal 146, Blue Grosbeak 1, Rose Breasted Grosbeak 27, Indigo Bunting

47, Red-winged Blackbird 585, Com Grackle 384, Brown-headed Cowbird 72, Orchard Oriole 12, Baltimore Oriole 123, House Finch 66, Am Goldfinch 103, House Sparrow 204.

Participants: Marion Aimsbury, Ralph Amodei, Mark Aronson, Dan Barvir, Bill Batsford, Larry Bausher, Steve Broker, Gail Cameron, Cheryl Cape, Elena Coffey, Patrick Comins, John Farley, Mike Ferrari, Mike Horn, Laura Lawrence, Patrick Leahy, Mary Ann Lewis, Christ Loscalzo, Steve Mayo, Florence McBride, Pat McCrelless, Ann Meacham, Bob Mitchell, Mike O'Brien, John Oshlick, Frank Ragusa, Nancy Ragusa, Jason Rieger, Arne Rosengren, Dan Rotino, Lee Schlesinger, Mark Scott, Arthur Shippee, Nancy Specht, Charla Spector, Steve Spector, Deborah Tenney, Marianne Vahey, Lisa Wahle, and Paul Wolter.

For additional information including totals trends for our New Haven CBC, refer to the October 2014 issue of COA's *Connecticut Warbler*, Volume 34, No. 4.

--Steve Mayo

Lighthouse Point Park Hawk Watch: August to December, 2014

The hawk flight schedule seemed to have "moved to the right," this year. We had a record slow August, with no real cold fronts, and then the worst September since full coverage began in 1980. October totals rebounded, although the traditional peak Columbus Day weekend failed to bring huge numbers. Our peak season day was later; 1159 hawks on October 19. November's totals were well-within the 10-year averages, and we had a record-breaking December.

But it's not just about the numbers. Everyone who visited has a memory of the afternoon "falcon follies" or an occasional

(Continued on next page)

Hawk Watch Summary Data for Last 5 Years

YR	HRS	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS
2014	730	17	373	1190	290	403	3706	1548	7	259
2013	681	39	416	715	173	282	3077	843	6	209
2012	593	3	297	1055	226	383	4105	1440	9	154
2011	569	13	713	844	114	258	4721	1544	4	154
2010	655	1	388	1039	99	549	6528	1580	13	365

YR	SW	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	Unid.	Total
2014	0	475	518	0	4	1046	389	232	568	11025
2013	0	2676	486	3	10	906	393	147	469	10840
2012	0	1724	449	2	4	1267	286	244	328	11936
2011	2	3365	550	3	5	1235	216	212	369	14322
2010	0	831	740	1	7	1790	374	191	617	15113

YR	Year	SS	Sharp-shinned Hawk	RL	Rough-legged Hawk
HRS	Hours	CH	Cooper's Hawk	GE	Golden Eagle
BV	Black Vulture	NG	Northern Goshawk	AK	American Kestrel
TV	Turkey Vulture	RS	Red-shouldered Hawk	ML	Merlin
OS	Osprey	SW	Swainson's Hawk	PG	Peregrine Falcon
BE	Bald Eagle	BW	Broad-winged Hawk	Unid	Unidentified
NH	Northern Harrier	RT	Red-tailed Hawk		

Hawk Watch (Continued from last page)

Golden Eagle, or even the Goshawk which barreled, low, past onlookers from the south, and just a few feet above ground.

And, it's not just about the hawks. Although there seemed to be fewer neotropical migrants, Gnatcatchers, hummingbirds, Dickcissels, thousands of Tree Swallows and even Purple Finch flew past, in September. October brought late Nighthawks, a good flight of nuthatches, woodpeckers (including a Red-Headed on 10/10), Siskins and Purple Finch as well as those ubiquitous Blue Jays. A Sandhill Crane was seen on 10/11, 2 more were spotted on 11/2, and an amazing 23 were seen on 11/28! November brings Robins, Bluebirds and Grackles - a lot of Grackles. On 11/8, an estimated 3-5 million blackbirds flew over in clouds that lasted for minutes. This far surpasses the previous record estimate of 1.5 million on 11/9/2013.

Additional information including detailed daily notes and trend analysis can be found on Hawkcourt.org.

--Steve Mayo

New Haven Christmas Bird Count Summary: December 20, 2014

On December 20th, 2014, 84 birders, most of them club members, participated in the 115th annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count. It was a cool, calm, and gray day without precipitation. The birding was good along the coast and inland. A number of interesting and uncommon birds were seen. Notable sightings included Snow Goose (in Bethany), Cackling Goose (two in Orange), Northern Pintail, Redhead (a drake, in Konolds Pond in Woodbridge), Northern Gannet (two off the Branford coast), Black-crowned Night-heron, Clapper Rail, Virginia Rail, Greater Yellowlegs, Iceland Gull (along the Mill River in New Haven), Eastern Phoebe (at the edge of the Beacon Hill Marsh in East Haven), Red-breasted Nuthatch, Marsh Wren, Brown Thrasher, Pine Warbler (in Woodbridge), Palm Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Vesper Sparrow (with six in one location in North Haven!), Lincoln's Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, and Pine Siskin. A total of 128 species were observed.

The complete results are as follows:

Snow Goose, 1; Brant, 1,100; Canada Goose, 4,569; Cackling Goose, 2; Mute Swan, 60; Wood Duck, 11; Gadwall, 182; American Wigeon, 165; American Black Duck, 424; Mallard, 1,289; Northern Pintail, 3; Green-winged Teal, 31; Redhead, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 99; Greater Scaup, 2,935; Lesser Scaup, 230; White-winged Scoter, 5; Long-tailed Duck, 124; Bufflehead, 444; Common Goldeneye, 475; Hooded Merganser, 278; Common Merganser, 55; Red-breasted Merganser, 372; Ruddy Duck, 11; Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Wild Turkey, 80; Red-throated Loon, 10; Common Loon, 42; Pied-billed Grebe, 4; Horned Grebe, 50; Northern Gannet, 2; Double-crested Cormorant, 7; Great Cormorant, 11; Great Blue Heron, 18; Black-crowned Night-heron, 2; Black Vulture, 34; Turkey Vulture, 22; Bald Eagle, 13; Northern Harrier, 10; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 11; Cooper's Hawk, 24; Red-shouldered Hawk, 26; Red-tailed Hawk, 72; American Kestrel, 2; Merlin, 4; Peregrine Falcon, 5; Clapper Rail, 2; Virginia Rail, 1; American Coot, 26; Black-

bellied Plover, 7; Killdeer, 3; Greater Yellowlegs, 3; Ruddy Turnstone, 2; Sanderling, 25; Purple Sandpiper, 13; Dunlin, 7; American Woodcock, 2; Ring-billed Gull, 1,908; Herring Gull, 1,915; Iceland Gull, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 104; Rock Pigeon, 834; Mourning Dove, 613; Monk Parakeet, 148; Eastern Screech Owl, 36; Great Horned Owl, 13; Barred Owl, 4; Belted Kingfisher, 28; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 139; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 20; Downy Woodpecker, 243; Hairy Woodpecker, 39; Northern Flicker, 57; Pileated Woodpecker, 4; Eastern Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 541; American Crow, 2,225; Fish Crow, 195; Common Raven, 11; Horned Lark, 20; Black-capped Chickadee, 607; Tufted Titmouse, 349; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 7; White-breasted Nuthatch, 198; Brown Creeper, 23; Carolina Wren, 80; Winter Wren, 15; Marsh Wren, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 32; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 6; Eastern Bluebird, 57; Hermit Thrush, 19; American Robin, 280; Gray Catbird, 7; Northern Mockingbird, 85; Brown Thrasher, 1; European Starling, 2,936; American Pipit, 20; Cedar Waxwing, 40; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 4; Pine Warbler, 1; Palm Warbler, 4; Common Yellowthroat, 1; Eastern Towhee, 1; American Tree Sparrow, 220; Chipping Sparrow, 6; Field Sparrow, 13; Vesper Sparrow, 7; Savannah Sparrow, 46; Fox Sparrow, 11; Song Sparrow, 497; Lincoln's Sparrow, 1; Swamp Sparrow, 24; White-throated Sparrow, 854; White-crowned Sparrow, 5; Dark-eyed Junco, 882; Snow Bunting, 4; Northern Cardinal, 315; Red-winged Blackbird, 73; Eastern Meadowlark, 12; Rusty Blackbird, 48; Common Grackle, 55; Brown-headed Cowbird, 39; Purple Finch, 23; House Finch, 170; Pine Siskin, 1; American Goldfinch, 361; and House Sparrow, 1,373.

The participants were: Marian Aimesbury, Dewitt Allen, Ross Allen, Ralph Amodei, Toby Appel, Margaret Ardwin, Christin Arnini, Mark Aronson, Bill Banks, Dan Barvir, Bill Batsford, Larry Bausher, Katherine Black, Andrew Brand, Stephen Broker, Lauren Brown, Kevin Burgio, Paul Caron, Michael Carpenter, Jonah Cohen, Kristen Cohen, Jenny Cooper, Lori Datlow, Barbara Dickson, John Farley, Mike Ferrari, Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, Frank Gallo, Peter Gloor, Mike Horn, Chris Howe, James Hunter, Kris Johnson, Lynn Jones, Tom Kelly, Nita Klein, Bob Lamothe, Bernice Lattanzi, Pat Leahy, Carol and Gary Lemmon, Carol Lohnert, Donna Lorello, Chris Loscalzo, Monica Loscalzo, Frank Mantlik, Steve Mayo, Flo McBride, Dan and Karen Mercurio, Bob Mitchell, Judy Moore, Brendan Murtha, Sean Murtha, Gina Nichol, Michael O'Brien, John Oshlick, Noble Proctor, Bev Propen, Frank and Nancy Ragusa, Linda Rediker, Jason Rieger, Arne Rosengren, Paul Rubino, Sam Saulys, Lee Schlesinger, Jeff Severino, Nancy Specht, Steve Spector, Edward Sprowson, Maria Stockmal, Debbie Tenney, Marge Thomas, John Triana, Marianne Vahey, Peter Vitali, Julie Wagner, Lisa Wahle, Bob White, Maureen and Paul Wolter, George Zepko, and Betty Zuraw.

A great time was had by all. Everyone's participation is much appreciated. The great success of the count is possible only by virtue of the involvement of all participants and most especially the hard work and expertise of the area captains. A sincere and hearty thank you to all!

--Chris Loscalzo
New Haven CBC Compiler

NHBC Winter Feeder Reports 2014-2015

End of Week 5

This year we started with 20 surveyors reporting, 6 via Postal Mail and 14 via email. We are located all over New Haven County and one surveyor in Fairfield County. We are now down to 19 because one surveyor had to drop out due to a raccoon problem.

After the first 5 weeks of the survey, again the counts are low. There were 0 Pine Siskins reported this year whereas in 2012-2013 we had 147 in the first week. There have been 0 Red-breasted Nuthatches reported so far whereas 2012-2013 we had quite a few. This year we have had an abundance of Purple Finches with the Maximum of 22 in week 2 and a minimum of 6 in week 4.

Some data from the sheets for weeks 1 through 5:

We had 34 of the 34 Common Species show up for a score of 100%. A few of these were seen only in the first week and not in the other four weeks so I expect this number to change in the next five weeks.

We had 6 of 32 Uncommon Species show up at the feeders for a percentage of 19%. The uncommon species were: Brown Creeper (Bev Propen); Hermit Thrush (Tim Rodgers); Pileated Woodpecker (Charlotte K. White); Red Shouldered Hawk (Philip Pivawer); Rusty Blackbird (Ellie Tessmer); Winter Wren (Charlotte K. White).

The only Waterfowl that showed were Mallards reported by Nancy Morand.

Animals reported during the first five weeks were: Gray Squirrel, Black Squirrel, Chipmunk, Mole, Mouse, Opossum, Rabbit, Raccoon, Red Fox, Red Squirrel, Skunk, Woodchuck.

End of Week 10

We have finished the first 10 weeks of the survey and we have had NO Pine Siskins or Red breasted Nuthatches. Common Grackles are way down (200%) this year as can be seen from the attached graphs. Most of the tracked species are down except for the Dark-eyed Juncos and Black-Capped Chickadees. American Goldfinch is about 50% down over the first 10 weeks, as well as White-throated Sparrows (20%).

Some data from the sheets for weeks 6 through 10:

We had 33 of the 34 Common Species show up for a score of 97%. No surveyor reported any Red-wing Blackbirds and after week 7 no surveyor reported any Common Grackles. Two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported in this 5 week period one by Charlotte K. White and the other by Edward Sprowson.

Uncommon Species list: We had 5 for 32 species (16%) during these five weeks. Species seen were: American Tree Sparrow (Nancy Morand), Brown Creeper (Bev Propen, Dean Rupp), Hermit Thrush (Carol Goertz) Red-shouldered Hawk (Carol Goertz), and Winter Wren (Andy Verderame).

Two Waterfowl were seen during this five week: American Black Duck and Mallard (Nancy Morand)

From the Animal list the following were seen: Gray Squirrel, Black Squirrel, Bob Cat, Chipmunk, Coyote, Feral Cat, Opos-

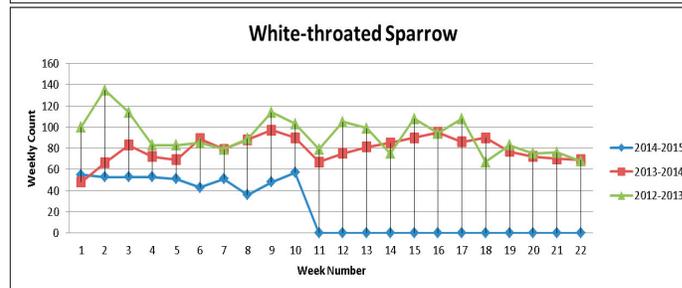
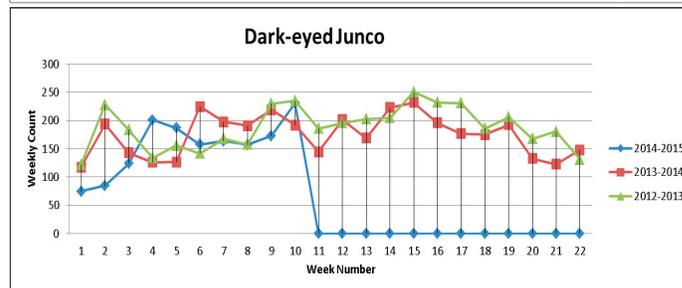
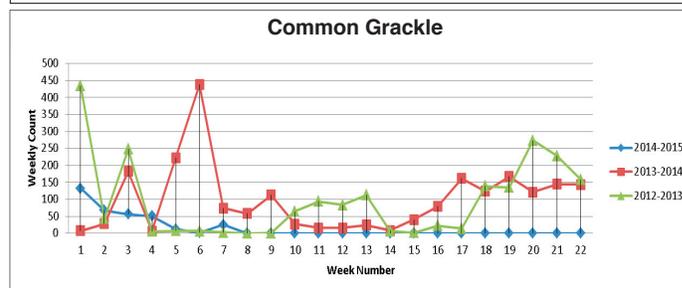
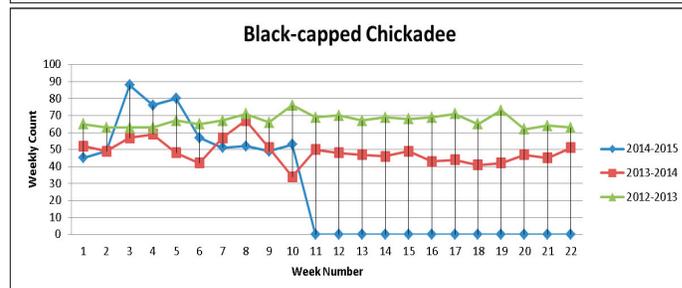
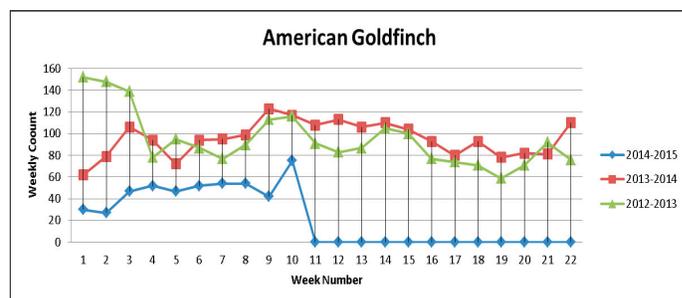
sum, Rabbit, Raccoon, Red Fox, Red Squirrel and White-tailed Deer.

I have also added to the report the graph of the 5 species that I follow. If anyone wants a graph of a species not shown please let me know and I will be happy to make it up for you.

As can be seen from the Graphs, the blue line is this year's count; only the Dark-eyed Junco and the Black-capped Chickadee are about normal, the other three are down, with the Common Grackle way down.

--Pete Vitali

Chairman: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey



MEET THE BOARD

Andy Stack—Treasurer

Andy Stack did not hesitate very long to get involved in volunteering for the Club. A member of NHBC for only five years, he is in his second year as Treasurer. And as a bonus, he brings a good measure of financial experience to the job. By profession a Doctor of Optometry for 29 years, he has been in business for himself for 23 of them.

Andy always has had a fondness for animals—in fact, his first job after college was in a pet shop where part of his responsibility was the bird section. But it wasn't until about 15 years ago that he started becoming more keenly aware of birds. It started innocently enough. He and his wife, both avid gardeners, have always been devoted patrons of their town's community gardens, conveniently located in their Woodbridge neighborhood. Andy took on the volunteer job of managing the property for the town which meant his even greater presence at a place he already loved. The garden location, which by today is widely known as a prime birding spot, gradually worked its seductive charms on Farmer Andy. The continuous avian stream of dazzling spring migrants, summer nesters, and fall drop-ins proved irresistible, and it helped to have savvy birders, many of them NHBC members, regularly showing up at the garden to enjoy the birds—and answer a farmer's inquiries about who all the colorful flyers might be. But the turning point came five years ago when the garden's ever abundant and exciting birdlife at last called for a broader action plan: Andy joined NHBC. He was off and running.

Andy regularly goes on a variety of NHBC field trips, and because he's his own boss at work he can "manage" to arrange weekday time off for First Wednesday Walks or an impromptu rarity search. Being a devoted bicycle rider further adds to his birding time. Andy always takes his binoculars, even on casual bike rides, and he loves to bike to area birding spots. Favorite destinations include Maltby Lakes in West Haven and the Racebrook Tract in Orange (water company permits required). The 20-mile round trip to Sandy Point is a simple routine, and he once even made the 70-mile round trip to Hammo; he plans to do that again this year.

Andy doesn't claim any "favorite" birds (a debatable question to ask a birder, anyway!) but admits that the American Woodcock's



peenting display is especially thrilling. To date he has 396 entries on his life list, 255 of them for CT. Having loaded his yard with feeders, he also started a yard list last year, already counting 65 species. Beyond CT, Andy has birded on trips to TX, GA, and ME, as well as England. With his characteristic enthusiasm and infectious excitement over birding discoveries, this "beginning birder" will undoubtedly be seeing a lot more of the world's birds. "After the kids

finish college," he declares.

A native of New York State, Andy attended SUNY and its College of Optometry where he met his wife Thera, also an optometrist. After moving to CT they settled in Woodbridge where they have lived for 20 years. The couple has twin children, a boy and a girl, both juniors in college. Their daughter is majoring in art and their son in biology, and to his parents' understandable delight, he too plans a career in optometry.

It may have been inevitable that Andy would come to love birds/birdsong. Music has always been a great interest of his. The violin studies he began as a child became a lifelong passion and pursuit. He has been a part-time professional violinist and has played with the Norwalk and Meriden Symphonies, among others, and in any number of other concert, chamber, and church venues. And he's pretty nimble on his feet too. In addition to his love of biking and hiking—interests he shares with his wife—lifelong outdoors-lover Andy enjoys skiing and playing pond hockey with local friends in the winter. He confesses that playing ice hockey was a beloved and major preoccupation of his during college. And as for a partner in his new pastime: Andy is pleased that his wife is becoming increasingly taken by birding, and he admits that her great attention to detail and amazing vision always greatly enhance his own success when they go out together.

Since becoming Treasurer, Andy has helped implement some useful innovations, including getting PayPal off the ground as an easy alternate way for members to renew memberships online. And watch for yet other ways being investigated to help make it easier for members to handle club money matters. Anyone for online banquet reservations and menu selections, all done with a convenient PayPal payment?

--Betty Zuraw

BIRDERS' EXCHANGE

The New Haven Bird Club is collecting binoculars, scopes or Neotropical field guides that we will donate to the Birders' Exchange Program which is part of ABA. This organization donates all binoculars and other equipment to worthy individuals involved in crucial bird conservation projects and education work in Central and South America.

At each indoor meeting there will be a box on the sign-in table where you can place your equipment donation.

FROM THE BOARD

The next board meeting is Thursday, February 26, at 6:45 pm at the Regional Water Authority in New Haven.

The deadline for submissions to the April newsletter is March 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



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

Newsletter February 2015

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

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

NHBC website: www.newhavenbirdclub.org