



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

April 2025

2025 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Sunday, April 6, 7:30–10:30 a.m. **West Rock Ridge State Park - Lake Wintergreen, Hamden**

Thursday, April 10, 7 p.m. **Julian Hough – Phantasms and Fallacies: Problems and Pitfalls in Bird Identification**

Saturday, April 19, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **The Richard English Memorial Field Trip: Lighthouse Point to the Richard English Refuge**

Saturday, April 26, 8-10:30 a.m. **Bauer Park, Madison**

Sunday, April 27, 7:30–10:30 a.m. **Kellogg Environmental Center and Osbornedale State Park, Derby**

Wednesday, May 7, 8–11 a.m.
First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven

Thursday, May 8, 6 p.m. **Annual Banquet – Speaker: Frank Mantlik**

Friday, May 9, 8–9:30 p.m.
Whip-poor-will Walk in Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck
Rain Date: Saturday, May 10

Saturday, May 10, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
River Road, Kent - Travels Along a Riparian Woodland Corridor

Sunday, May 11, 6 a.m.
Big Day Marathon

Wednesday, May 14, 6:30–11 a.m.
Hartman Park, Lyme

Saturday, May 17, 8–11 a.m.
Sleeping Giant State Park

Sunday, May 18, 7 a.m. to noon
Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck

Wednesday, May 21, 7:30–10:30 a.m.
Lake Chamberlain, Bethany

Saturday, May 24, 8–11 a.m.
Julius M. Hansen Park, North Haven

Sunday, May 25, 7 a.m. to noon
Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington

Wednesday, May 28, 7:30 to 11 a.m.
Lake Watrous, Woodbridge

Sunday, June 1, 7–10 a.m.
Chippens Hill Grassland Birds

Wednesday, June 4, 8–11 a.m.
First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park

Saturday–Sunday, June 7–8, All Day
New Haven Summer Bird Count

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy Spring! By the time you read this Newsletter, the New Haven Bird Club's Annual Member Meeting will have taken place, a meeting which included election of officers for two-year terms starting July 1. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to our new incoming President, Margaret Fikrig, and our new Member-at-Large, Patrick McGovern. We also say "Welcome back" to our returning officers and elected Board members: Meg Bollin, Vice President; Bobbie Fisher, Secretary; Celeste Echlin, Treasurer, and Glen Cummings, Member-at-Large. The Club is in very good hands for the foreseeable future.

As we head into May and June and the end of our 2024-2025 Club year, the New Haven Bird Club has plenty of activities planned. There are 11 field trips/outdoor events in May, and of course we can't forget our Annual Banquet on Thursday evening, May 8. You should have received your Banquet invitation and reservation information in the U.S. mail along with a membership renewal request. Laurie Reynolds, our Membership Chair, is the person who prepares this mailing (for more than 500 members!), so please be sure to thank her for all her hard work when you see her. Cheryl Cape, our web manager, also did a wonderful job in updating our website for online Banquet reservations and membership renewals; it's tricky for technical reasons, but we hope everything is going smoothly for those who choose to use the online option. **The deadline for Banquet reservations is May 1** – don't miss this annual celebration with Frank Mantlik as our speaker! See our website under Events for online reservations.

Planning and coordination by our Education and Outreach Committee has been phenomenal, with the NHBC assisting in eight upcoming events at schools or in support of other organizations. The impact of this committee continues to increase, and currently about six dedicated volunteers assist in these efforts. If you are interested in joining this very active group, contact Meg Bollin, Committee Chair.

Also very active, the Bluebird Trail Program is installing 14 new bluebird houses at Lake Gaillard, a South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) property with

(Continued on next page)

NOTE: Please check the NHBC website for updated information on all programs. **Scheduled events may need to be changed or canceled** and events may be added during the year. www.newhavenbirdclub.org

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2024-2025

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Christine Howe
<i>Vice President</i>	Meg Bollin
<i>Treasurer</i>	Celeste Echlin
<i>Secretary</i>	Bobbie Fisher

BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation Chair</i>	Craig Repasz
<i>Education/Outreach Chair</i>	Meg Bollin
<i>Indoor Meeting Programs</i>	Gail Martino
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Glen Cummings
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	(vacant)
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Laurie Reynolds
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	NHBC Executive Board
<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	DeWitt Allen
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Emmeline Kaiser
<i>Website</i>	Cheryl Cape
<i>Yearbook</i>	Christine Howe

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	Craig Repasz
<i>Bluebird Trail</i>	Pat Leahy
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo
<i>Hawk Watch at Lighthouse Point</i>	Steve Mayo
<i>Historian</i>	John Triana
<i>Hospitality</i>	Joyce Alton
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali

New Haven Bird Club Website:
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 24 via Zoom.

Deadline for submissions to the next *Chickadee* is May 23. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at donnabatsford@gmail.com.

NHBC Objectives: To make available to members and the general public opportunities for recreation, education, and appreciation in the area of birding and to encourage the conservation of natural resources in New Haven and surrounding areas.

If you are not receiving email notifications, contact us at membership@newhavenbirdclub.org to receive an invitation to join this group.

Every effort is made to list member information accurately in the yearbook. Please inform us of errors and update us with any changes during the year. Update via the Club website or send an email to membership@newhavenbirdclub.org.

(President's Message continued from first page)

no public access. Glen Cummings and Gilles Carter took the lead on this particular effort and coordinated with the RWA. Pat Leahy continues to maintain the bluebird boxes he installed at several other RWA properties, including Lake Chamberlain and Lake Watrous. Pat will be leading NHBC walks at both these RWA properties in May.

All of our other committee and special programs chairs continue to do excellent work for the benefit of all our members, but we can always use more help. On your membership renewal form there is a space to indicate if you are interested in more information about volunteering. It's fun, try it!

Last but not least—and most importantly—after many years of dedicated service our Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, will be stepping away from that position. Easily-accessible records show she has been Editor since at least 2010, but the upcoming June 2025 edition of *The Chickadee* will be her final issue. The format of *The Chickadee* has changed over the years from the original mailed hard copy to the current downloadable PDF newsletter format. What will its next incarnation look like? Do you want to take on that interesting and rewarding challenge? Contact me for more information, and join me in a tremendous thank you to Donna!

--Chris Howe

Welcome New Members

Jennifer Wolf
Wallingford

Jennie Serra
New Haven

Robert Rosenheck
New Haven

Mark Wantroba
Meriden

Elizabeth Possidente
Hamden

Deborah Mastroianni
Hamden

Wendy Parsons
Windsor

Suxia Bai
Orange

Sherry Timbrell
Colchester

Jess Brown and Kyle Wilkinson
Hamden

Newsletter Editor Wanted

The June *Chickadee* will be the last newsletter edited by our current editor. If you would like to be involved in this activity, contact Chris Howe.

Indoor Programs

Please check the NHBC website and newsletter for updated information before planning to attend any event.

Indoor programs start in September and are held on the second Thursday of the month except for June, July, and August. Monthly program meetings are held in the Whitney Center's Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden CT. The facility is wheelchair accessible. Enter via the main door of the portico at the front of the building. Turn right down the hallway. The Cultural Arts Center is a short distance on the left. **The social half-hour begins at 7 p.m.; the meeting and program begin at 7:30 p.m. and end about 9 p.m.**

Some indoor programs are held only as virtual, online presentations and noted as such in the descriptions. The online presentation starts at 7 p.m.

Cancellation Policy: Inclement weather or other emergency may cancel in-person meetings. Cancellation notices will be sent via the Club email and posted on the CTBirds listserv when possible.

Bird Book Sales now will be held at EACH indoor meeting in the "Book Nook" area using the honor system and with no set prices. Sort through your bird- and nature-related books (kids' books too). Bring them to each indoor meeting for donation, or call Chris Howe, 203-389-1175, to make special arrangements.

PARKING: Enter the Whitney Center's South Entrance, marked with a sign. Either make an immediate left into the raised parking lot (park *only* in the upper level and *only* in unnumbered spaces) or follow the main driveway past the front entrance of the building. At the stop sign, turn right into the visitor and employee parking area and walk back from there to the front entrance.

NOTE: Please check the NHBC website and newsletter periodically for updated information on all programs. Scheduled events may need to be changed or canceled and events may be added during the year. www.newhavenbirdclub.org

Thursday, April 10 Annual Meeting and Indoor Program

The social time begins at 7pm and the meeting starts at 7:30pm. This will be a hybrid meeting, both in person at the Whitney Center's Cultural Arts Center and on Zoom.

The business portion of the Annual Meeting will include election of officers. The following slate of candidates is proposed by the Nominating Committee for the two-year term beginning July 1, 2025.

President	Margaret Fikrig
Vice President	Meg Bollin
Secretary	Bobbie Fisher
Treasurer	Celeste Echlin
Nominating Committee	NHBC Executive Board
Member-at-Large	Glen Cummings
Member-at-Large	Patrick McGovern

The presentation by Julian Hough will follow immediately after the election.

Julian Hough – Phantasms and Fallacies: Problems and Pitfalls in Bird Identification

Why is it that a large group of birders can look at one species and all of them will misidentify it? Why do certain people consistently find an inordinate number of rare birds? Why are some birders seemingly able to identify birds at great distance on brief or distant views with Ninja-like ability? These questions and many more will be explored by Julian Hough, who will delve into the psychology of how we observe birds, the subconscious workings of our brain, and how we can often be led astray in the field.

Thursday, May 8, 6 p.m. Annual Banquet – Speaker: Frank Mantlik – A Year in the Life of a Birder

As someone who has been an avid birder for many decades, Frank Mantlik has a wealth of experiences afield. He will share some of those experiences and photographs over the course of a birding year. This will include travels near and far, one's "local patch," rarity chases, volunteer activities, and storm-birding. It promises to be entertaining and a feast for the eyes,

Advanced reservations required by May 1. See the banquet invitation later in the newsletter.

Outdoor Programs

Cancellation Policy: Inclement weather or other emergencies may cancel a field trip. Cancellation notices will be sent via the Club email and also posted on the CTBirds listserv when possible. Check the NHBC website *or contact the leader of the trip directly* if you have any questions about a possible cancellation.

Birders of all levels are welcome on all field trips, and every effort is made to help beginners. If you are new to birding or have any special needs, be sure to let the leader know. The Club welcomes everyone regardless of age, race or ethnicity, sex, gender identification, sexual orientation, or national origin. The ending times of walks are approximate.

The New Haven Bird Club does not charge any fees for its outdoor programs, but participants are responsible for the cost of their food, transportation, and entrance fees (where charged), unless the Club makes prior arrangements. Carpooling is usually encouraged to avoid parking problems at some destinations and to promote conservation of natural resources.

NHBC Conservation and Education Activities

The New Haven Bird Club routinely works to preserve and restore bird populations and their habitats and to provide opportunities for learning about birds, where to see them, and how to help ensure their future. Additional environmentally-focused, family-friendly walks may be planned and posted on the NHBC website.

The NHBC has been developing relationships with local public schools and camps to encourage children to embrace birding. We view this activity as directly connected to our Club objectives, and usually present a very basic birding skills class followed by a nearby bird walk. The Education Chair also organizes the Club's representation at various public events throughout the year.

West Rock Ridge State Park - Lake Wintergreen, Hamden Sunday, April 6, 7:30–10:30 a.m.

Meet at the Lake Wintergreen parking lot off Main Street, Hamden.

Join Molly Zahn and Peter Grund for a walk at the Lake Wintergreen area of West Rock Ridge State Park. We will circle the lake and, if there is time, walk up to the water tower close to the top of the ridge. The walk around the lake is on gravel or dirt paths and is mostly flat. The walk to the ridge is uphill. We hope to see a broad range of woodland birds, as well as some waterfowl on and around the lake. Possible birds are (among others) Golden-crowned Kinglet, Purple Finch, Pine Warbler, Bald Eagle, and Ring-necked Duck, as well as early migrants such as Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Towhee, and perhaps Brown Thrasher, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Palm Warbler.

Leaders: Molly Zahn, mollymzahn@gmail.com, 785-383-8695 and Peter Grund, petergrund93@yahoo.com, 785-727-3962.

The Richard English Memorial Field Trip: Lighthouse Point to the Richard English Refuge Saturday, April 19, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven.

Bird the harbor shore at Lighthouse Point Park for gulls, loons, ducks, and early returning shorebirds. Then we proceed to the Richard English Bird Sanctuary at the Deer Lake Camp in Killingworth. Check with the trip leader for approximate arrival time at each location. Bring lunch and dress warmly.

Leader: Mike Horn, mhorn@att.net, 203-288-1891.

Bauer Park, Madison Saturday, April 26, 8-10:30 a.m.

Meet at the Community Gardens parking area, 257 Copse Road, Madison.

Join nationally-recognized wildlife artist and birder Mike DiGiorgio for a walk to look for resident and migrating songbirds. We'll explore the fields, gardens, and woodland trails. Birders of all ages and skill levels, including beginners, are welcome.

Leader: Mike DiGiorgio, mdigiorgio@comcast.net.

Kellogg Environmental Center and Osbornedale State Park, Derby Sunday, April 27, 7:30–10:30 a.m.

Meet at the Kellogg Environmental Center parking lot at 500 Hawthorne Avenue, Derby.

Osbornedale State Park offers a variety of species in its fields and forest, and around its ponds. It is always a surprise as species are discovered walking through the park. We may see a flyover Bald Eagle, nesting Bluebirds, early warbler migrants, Green Heron, and Orchard Oriole, as well as Indigo Bunting, Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, and the various thrushes. We will explore the Kellogg Environmental Center grounds and then walk over to Osbornedale Park to explore and see what we find.

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

First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven Wednesday, May 7, 8–11 a.m.

Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Avenue, Hamden.

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.

Leader: John Oshlick, john.oshlic@yahoo.com, 203-584-1955.

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

Friday, May 9, 8–9:30 p.m.
Rain Date: Saturday, May 10

Meet at the parking lot at the end of Hunter's Mountain Road, Naugatuck.

Jack Swatt, New Haven Bird Club Life Member and Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) volunteer Whip-poor-will monitor, will lead a walk to listen and look for Whip-poor-will at the Naugatuck State Forest. Jack will give a short talk on the status of Whip-poor-wills in the Northeast and Connecticut. We will then wait for dusk to fall while we listen for the distinctive call. A sighting? Who knows! The walk is about a quarter mile's easy walking but through field terrain during tick season and at night so a good flashlight is a must.

Leader: Jack Swatt, jswattbirds@gmail.com, 203-592-4686.

River Road, Kent - Travels Along a Riparian Woodland Corridor

Saturday, May 10, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Meet in Kent at the old train station, 3 Railroad Avenue, just north of the intersection of Routes 7 & 341. We carpool from there.

River Road in Kent along the Housatonic River provides a major north-south riparian corridor for spring migration. River Road has produced a nice variety of Northwestern Connecticut nesting species including Acadian and Least Flycatchers; Yellow-throated and Blue-headed Vireos; Winter Wren; and Cerulean, Golden-winged, and Worm-eating Warblers. The vast uninterrupted forest rising from the river is an ideal location for a moderate to strenuous walk on beautiful terrain.

Leader: Craig Repasz, crepasz@hotmail.com, 203-745-6683.

Big Day Marathon

Sunday, May 11, 6 a.m.

Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Avenue, Hamden.

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. The Big day could potentially involve several miles of walking on more strenuous terrain.

Leader: John Oshlick, john.oshlic@gmail.com, 203-584-1955.

Hartman Park, Lyme

Wednesday, May 14, 6:30-11 a.m.

Meet at the commuter parking lot, Exit 55 off I-95.

Hartman Park is known for its breeding population of Cerulean Warbler. There is also a power cut which may have Prairie, Blue-winged, Magnolia and other warblers. Both Cuckoos have been seen here as well. The Hartman Park walk involves a moderate distance walk on moderately strenuous terrain.

Leader: John Oshlick, john.oshlic@gmail.com, 203-584-1955.

Sleeping Giant State Park

Saturday, May 17, 8-11 a.m.

Meet at the Sleeping Giant State Park entrance on Mt. Carmel Avenue, Hamden.

Sleeping Giant dominates the landscape north of New Haven. The park hosts diverse habitats: riparian woods, rivers and

streams, stands of white pines, mature deciduous forests, and cliffs and meadow edge. Although it is famous for its ankle-twisting and heart-pumping terrain, we will bird along the uphill but (mostly) smooth-surfaced Tower Path. As we move slowly along the Path, we can expect to find a rich mix of migrant and resident warblers, thrushes, vireos, and woodpeckers. We should be able to locate the nesting ravens and may also get glimpses of the resident Peregrine Falcons. Leaders: Jim Sirch, james.sirch@yale.edu and Craig Repasz, crepasz@hotmail.com, 203-745-6683.

Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck

Sunday, May 18, 7 a.m. to noon

Meet at the commuter lot at Exit 25 off Route 8, Naugatuck.

Join us at the peak of spring migration on this moderately strenuous hike in a fine birding location. We'll search for migrants and residents. We often see more than 15 species of warblers on this trip, including resident Hooded, Chestnut-sided, Prairie, and Worm-eating Warblers. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and many other birds are residents here, too. Leader: Chris Loscalzo, closcalz@optonline.net, 203-389-6508 home.

Lake Chamberlain, Bethany

Wednesday, May 21, 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Meet at Lake Chamberlain Regional Water Authority parking area on Sperry Road, south of Morris Road, Bethany.

Join Pat Leahy for a walk on Regional Water Authority property in Bethany. Pat has been maintaining a bluebird trail on several of the properties there. Bluebirds, swallows, and spring migrants are plentiful. Walking is not strenuous and on well-maintained trails.

Leader: Pat Leahy, ptjleahy@yahoo.com, 203-314-0566.

Julius M. Hansen Park, North Haven

Saturday, May 24, 8-11 a.m.

Meet at the Hansen Park parking lot down a driveway just east of 52 Patten Road, North Haven.

Rich meadows and fields, forested wetlands, trap rock ridge, and riparian woods host breeding populations of sparrows and warblers, woodpeckers, hawks, Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, and other field and woodland birds. Other migrating species are possible.

Leaders: Craig Repasz, crepasz@hotmail.com, 203-745-6683 and DeWitt Allen, allendatlow@gmail.com, 860-949-0095.

Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington

Sunday, May 25, 7 a.m. to noon

Meet at 7 a.m. at the commuter lot, I-95 Exit 55, or at 8:15 a.m. at the WMA entrance on Palmer Neck Road, Stonington.

Barn Island WMA is a large expanse of varied habitat along the Connecticut shore near the Rhode Island border, including large tracts of salt marsh, deciduous woodlands and a large brushy field. We'll see 60+ species of birds, with notable resident species including White-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireo, Saltmarsh Sparrow and Willow Flycatcher likely to be seen. This is a good spot to look for rare shorebirds such as

Wilson's Phalarope and Black-necked Stilt. We'll take a long hike of approximately 4 to 5 miles through the property, which is mostly flat on good trails. Wear comfortable shoes and bring bug spray and water.

Leader: Chris Loscalzo, closcalz@optonline.net, 203-389-6508 home.

Lake Watrous, Woodbridge Wednesday, May 28, 7:30 to 11 a.m.

Meet at Lake Bethany Regional Water Authority parking area on Hatfield Hill Road, Bethany. We will carpool to Lake Watrous from there.

Join Pat Leahy for a walk on protected Regional Water Authority property in Woodbridge. Views of the lake and dam, some wetlands and lakeside forest. The trip will be a 3 mile hike on a flat trail.

Leader: Pat Leahy, ptjleahy@yahoo.com, 203-314-0566.

Chippens Hill Grassland Birds Sunday, June 1, 7-10 a.m.

Meet at the Bristol Dog Park parking lot at 400 Perkins Street in Bristol, just north of the intersection with Pinehurst Road.

The Chippens Hill area of Bristol has historically been farmland. The Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut and the city of Bristol are working to save some of the habitat where Bobolinks, Meadowlarks, and Grasshopper Sparrows have been found. Join Jack Swatt for a tour of these areas in search of these declining species. Bring plenty of water and be prepared to walk in sunny field habitat that may contain ticks.

Leader: Jack Swatt, jswattbirds@gmail.com, 203-592-4686.

First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park Wednesday, June 4, 8-11 a.m.

Meet at the entrance to Mohawk Mountain State Park on Route 4 in Cornwall, four miles west of Goshen.

Greg Hanisek, one of the best birders in the state, will lead the walk in this scenic and spacious forest in the northern part of the state. Nesting species here include Blue-headed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Canada Warbler, and Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Leader: Greg Hanisek, ctgreggh@yahoo.com.

New Haven Summer Bird Count Saturday-Sunday, June 7-8, All Day

Meet at various points.

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, to join a team, and for other information, contact Steve Mayo.

Leader: Steve Mayo, coordinator, scmayo999@gmail.com, 203-772-9842.

NOTE: Please check the NHBC website for updated information on all programs. **Scheduled events may need to be changed or canceled** and events may be added during the year. www.newhavenbirdclub.org

Trip Reports

First Wed Field Trip: Hammonasset Beach State Park,

On February 5 I was joined for this annual New Haven Bird Club trip by 22 people. Conditions were cold but sunny, and the wind was not as severe as predicted the previous day. Overall walking conditions were pleasant, and we spent the time from 8 to 11 a.m. walking the Meigs Point area, including sojourns to Willard's and Cedar Islands.

There was some icy terrain, which required careful movement, and as a result we did not attempt the full trek to the eastern end of the Moraine Trail. Bill Banks kept the eBird list, and we tallied 34 species, starting right out of the parking lot with a flock of Horned larks that included 2 Snow Buntings and 2 Lapland Longspurs. Covering the pavilion, overlook platform and Shell Beach we got a nice mix of waterfowl highlighted by 2 adult male Common Eiders. We also had both species of Loon and a Horned Grebe, but only the 3 expected Gulls.

Moving to Cedar Island we were able to find the only shorebirds of the morning, about a dozen Dunlin out on the edge of the river mouth. Land birds were scarce, not unexpected given the recent frigid weather, but we found a few in the cedar thickets on Willard's Island. The best of these were 2 Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers. From the end of the island we had a good look at a soaring immature Bald Eagle. We also had 3 Northern Harriers.

--Greg Hanisek

Rhode Island Coast Trip Report

On Saturday, February 22, about 25 members of the club went to our neighboring state to the east for a full day of birding. We started out at Beavertail State Park in Jamestown. It was a bit windy and cold, but the skies were clear, and visibility was good. We saw many nice birds there, including Great Cormorants (in full breeding plumage with their gray manes and bright white flank patches), Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, Black Scoter and Horned Grebe. We all got great looks at a Red-necked Grebe off the west shore, and some of us got to see Razorbills before they disappeared under the water.

Our next stop was at Scarborough Beach in Narragansett. We saw Black-headed and Bonaparte's Gulls there, mostly as they fed at the nearby water treatment plant.

We then headed over to Moonstone Beach where we had the biggest surprise of the day: an American Bittern feeding along the edge of the frozen over Mud Pond by the entrance to the beach. We all got good looks at this bird as it walked slowly amongst the reeds, blending in well with them.

We went to Trustom Pond next, taking the long hike from the parking area to the viewing platform at Osprey Point. We saw a nice variety of waterfowl there, including Tundra Swans, Redhead, Ruddy Duck and American Coots. There were also large numbers of scaup and wigeon there, and we were pleased to see a Hermit Thrush along the trail.

Our next stop was at Perry's Mill Pond where there was an excellent variety of freshwater waterfowl, including a handsome male Canvasback, several Northern Pintail, Ring-

necked Ducks, and Black Ducks. Double-crested Cormorants and Great Blue Herons were there, too.

Our last stop was at the Weekapaug Breachway where we saw Common Loons and Common Eider up close as well as a pair of Killdeer, looking a bit cold as they stood on the ice.

All in all, we had a fine day of birding along the scenic Rhode Island coast.

--Chris Loscalzo

Cheshire Hotspots Trip Report

On March 29, a beautiful early spring morning, 20 birders eager for good birds and temperate weather gathered at Broad Brook Reservoir in Cheshire, where about 300 Ruddy Ducks remained in long rafts on the water, along with Bufflehead, Common Mergansers, and a few Wood Ducks. A Brown Creeper and a Golden-crowned Kinglet were highlights as we walked through the woods around the reservoir. A quick stop on Reservoir Road, on the other side of the water, gave us good looks at 9 Great Blue Herons at the rookery there.



Photo by DeWitt Allen

At Quinnipiac Valley Audubon's Riverbound Farm, we set out to locate the continuing Red-headed Woodpecker, now in adult plumage, which graciously made itself available for steady viewing and photography. Other finds included a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, dueling Hairy

Woodpeckers, and a number of feeder-type birds at the bird-blind.

The last stop of the morning was the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail between Jarvis and Main Streets, where we maneuvered through the bicyclists (and vice versa), observed courting Red-shouldered Hawks, and picked up the final two woodpeckers for a seven-woodpecker day – Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Red-bellied, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-headed, Northern Flicker, and Pileated.

A very good day all around.

--Melissa Baston

Indoor Program Reports



On February 13, the New Haven Bird Club hosted a virtual presentation by Dr. Joan Morrison titled "*Crested Caracaras, 32 Years Later*," attended by 46 participants. Dr. Morrison shared key insights from her

extensive research on the federally threatened Crested Caracaras in Florida, highlighting their breeding biology, diet, social behavior, and spatial ecology. She emphasized the species' intelligence and social complexity, as well as the primary threat of habitat loss, which necessitates collaboration with federal and state agencies and private landowners. She also discussed her recent research on Caracaras in Arizona. With a Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida and a career dedicated to raptor research, Dr. Morrison, now retired in New Mexico, continues her impactful work on Caracaras across different states.

Our scheduled March 13 program, *Environmental Justice through Bird Watching and Music-Making* with Dr. Diego Ellis Soto (virtual only), was unfortunately canceled at the last minute due to the speaker's illness. Dr. Ellis Soto has kindly offered to reschedule, and we hope to welcome him at a future date.

Stepping in on short notice, Flo McBride gave an engaging impromptu presentation on her latest labor of love, *Some Birds of Hamden, Connecticut*.

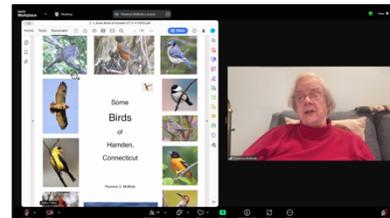


Photo by Laurie Reynolds

This book features bird photography alongside brief information on each species page, collectively introducing readers to a wide range of bird facts and topics. Designed to help educators, students, and those new to birding develop and share their appreciation for birds, the book is also enjoyable for more experienced birders—especially when shared with others whose interest in birds is just beginning.

A total of 29 members logged in for the virtual program.

For more information on this book project, please reach out to Flo McBride.

--Gail Martino

NHBC Winter Feeder Report 2024-2025

End of Week 16



We have finished weeks 12 through 16 of the survey. Unlike last year when the temperatures fluctuated between 0 and 70 degrees, mostly to the warmer side, this year the temperature stayed between 8 and 30 degrees for most of the weeks 12 to 16.

We had a major snowstorm followed by rain which created an Ice coating on the top of the snow that did not melt for over a week. Our two winter species, Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrow, peaked in Weeks 14 and 15. Flocks of 20 to 40 Dark-eyed Juncos were reported as were flocks of 10 to 21 White-throated Sparrows.

The Uncommon List only had 5 species seen this year during these 5 weeks which is way below the 10 to 15 seen in previous years.

So far this year the the numbers of birds for the species I track are running between the last two years.

From the Common List we had 22 of 22 species. Common Grackles were rarely seen. 13 surveyors had Carolina Wrens at their feeders throughout weeks 12 to 16. American Goldfinches and Song Sparrows were reported by 11 surveyors.

The Semi-common List had 9 of 12 species reported. Missing were Chipping Sparrow, Wild Turkey and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Martha Asarisi and Tim/Kate Rodgers both reported seeing only 1 Purple Finch for a total of 2 for the 5 weeks. Dave/Cate Rauch reported seeing the only Northern Mockingbird. Jean Adamus reported seeing 2 Fox Sparrows in week 12 and 1 in each week from 13 to 16.

From the Uncommon List we had 5 of 42 species reported. Species seen were Barred Owl, Brown Creeper, Red-shouldered Hawk, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Yellow-rumped Warbler. For the 5th year, zero Red-breasted Nuthatches or Pine Siskins were reported during these weeks.

From the Waterfowl list we had no waterfowl reported. It was cold for so long that a lot of ponds, lakes and shallow rivers were frozen during this period.

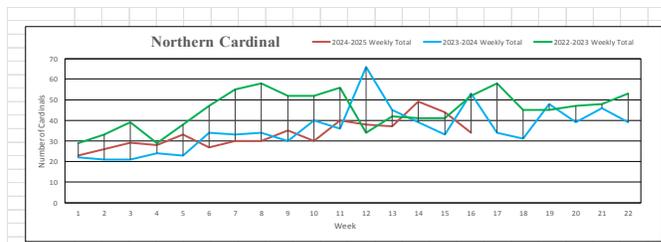
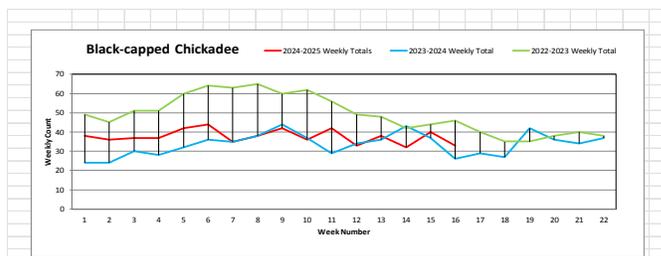
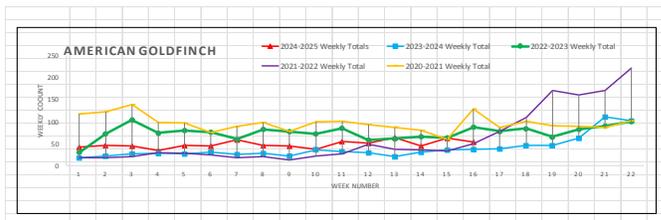
From the Animals list 17 of 26 were reported during these five weeks. They were Gray Squirrel, Chipmunk, Black Squirrel, Bob Cat, Brown Rat, Coyote, Eastern Red Bat, Feral Cat, Mouse, Opossum, Rabbit, Raccoon, Red Fox, Skunk, and White-tailed Deer.

The graphs of 5 Species are included for weeks one to sixteen. The Red line is 2024-2025. The Blue line is 2023-2024 and the Green line is 2022-2023.

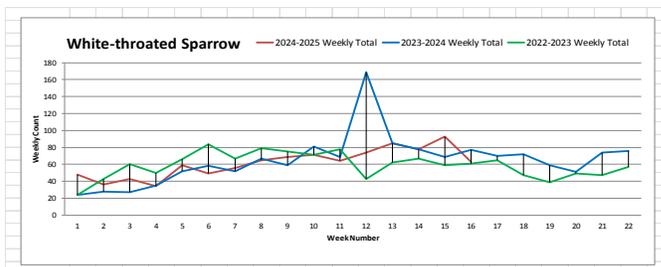
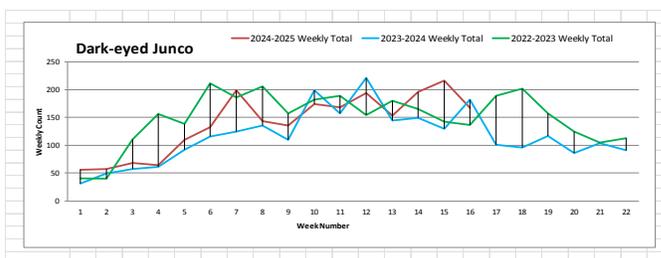
Pete Vitali

Chair: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey

Normally Seen all Year Long



Winter Species





New Haven Bird Club Annual Celebration

Thursday, May 8, 2025 6-10 PM

Amarante's Sea Cliff, Grand Ballroom
62 Cove Street, New Haven, CT



\$45/person includes: Speaker, Dinner, Dessert, Soda/Beer/Wine/Coffee/Tea
(cash bar available for other beverages)

FRANK MANTLIK

A Year in the Life of a Birder



As someone who has been an avid traveling birder for many decades, Frank Mantlik has a wealth of experiences afield. He will share some of those experiences and photographs over the course of a birding year. This will include travels near and far, one's "local patch," rarity chases, volunteer activities, and storm-birding. It promises to be entertaining and a feast for the eyes. Mr. Mantlik is well known among Connecticut birding circles. An avid birder and naturalist for over 50 years, he has been active in many bird and nature organizations, including the CT Ornithological Association (past president, chairman of the Avian Records Committee), New Haven Bird Club (lecturer, trip leader), and CT Audubon Society (Coastal Center board, Purple Martin monitor, trip leader, lecturer, photo exhibits). He is a professional bird guide with Sunrise Birding and an accomplished photographer with many published credits (Audubon, Birding, North American Birds, Birdwatcher's Digest, The New York Times). Mr. Mantlik uses his wonderful images to illustrate lectures for various bird groups.



Advance Reservations Required – Deadline May 1st

RSVP online (credit card via PayPal): <https://www.newhavenbirdclub.org/> (Select Events, Annual Banquet)

-or-

RSVP by mail/check: Send completed form below with check payable to "NHBC" to:

NHBC, c/o Laurie Reynolds, 82 Notch Hill Road, North Branford, CT 06471

Questions: nhbc.banquet@gmail.com

New Haven Bird Club Annual Banquet - Thursday, May 8, 2025 6-10 PM

NAME(S): (As they should appear on name tag) # of Persons _____ x \$45.00 = Total Due \$ _____

REQUIRED: email address for reservation confirmation: _____

Please indicate any food allergies or preferences so we can communicate that to the chef:



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

April 2025

NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Membership Levels (check appropriate category):

_____ Individual - \$15 _____ Family - \$20
_____ Supporting - \$50 _____ Student under 18 - Free
_____ Life Membership - \$300 for 1 or 2 people at same address.

Additional gift to support NHBC programs: \$ _____

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

You can also join or renew membership at the NHBC website with credit card or PayPal.

The NHBC membership year is from July 1 to June 30. New members joining between January 1 and June 30 are given full membership for the rest of the current year and for the whole next membership year.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

New Haven Bird Club is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All dues and donations are fully tax-deductible. If you work for a company that gives matching grants, please take advantage of the offer. It's free and helps NHBC's program budget.

The Club welcomes everyone irrespective of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, or national origin.

If your address, phone or email change, please send that information to: New Haven Bird Club, PO Box 9004, New Haven CT 06532-0004 or membership@newhavenbirdclub.org.

The NHBC website, www.newhavenbirdclub.org, offers information about the Club, its programs, and other Club and member news. If you have any questions, please email us at ask@newhavenbirdclub.org.

CTBirds is an open discussion email list provided by the Connecticut Ornithological Association (COA) to discuss birds and birding in the state, <http://www.ctbirding.org>.