



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

April 2022

2022 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

- Saturday, April 2, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. **The Richard English Memorial Field Trip: Lighthouse Point to the Richard English Refuge**
- Wednesday, April 6, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**
- Wednesdays, April 6, 13, and 20 at 7–7:45 p.m. Webinars
Sunday, April 24 Walk Group 1: 8–9:30 a.m., Group 2: 10–11:30 a.m.
Birding by Ear: Webinar Series and Walk
Limited enrollment, pre-registration required
- Thursday, April 14, 7 p.m. **Dr. Lorna Gibson – Fantastic Feathers: Form and Function**
- Sunday, April 24, 7:30–10:30 a.m. **Osbornedale State Park, Derby**
- Saturday, April 30, 8–11 a.m. **East Rock Park with Ranger Dan**
- Sunday, May 1, 8–10:30 a.m. **Birding in Lower East Rock Park**
- Sunday, May 1, 8–11 a.m. **Bent of the River Important Bird Area, Southbury**
- Wednesday, May 4, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven**
- Saturday, May 7, all day starting at 6 a.m. **Big Day Marathon**
- Sunday, May 8, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **River Road, Kent Travels Along a ‘Riparian Woodland Corridor’**
- Wednesday, May 11, 6:30–11 a.m. **Hartman Park, Lyme**
- Thursday, May 12–6 p.m. **Annual Banquet: Speaker – Tom Stephenson “Warblers”**
- Friday, May 13, 8:30–10 p.m. **Whip-poor-will Walk in Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**
Rain date: Saturday, May 14, 2022, 8:30–10 p.m.
- Saturday, May 14, 8–11 a.m. **Sleeping Giant State Park**
- Sunday, May 15, 7 a.m. to noon **Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**
- Sunday, May 15, 8 a.m. to noon **Durham Hotspots**
- Wednesday, May 18, 7:30–11 a.m. **Lake Chamberlain, Lake Dawson, and Lake Watrous**
- Saturday, May 21, 8–11 a.m. **Julius M. Hansen Park in North Haven.**
- Sunday, May 22, 7 a.m. to noon **Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington**

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



An adult Bald Eagle flew over Edgewood Park as Bill Batsford recently led twenty or so New Haven Bird Club Members along the paved road beside West River. Twenty pairs of binoculars went up, accompanied by various oohs and aahs of satisfaction. Not so many years ago, Bill said, you had to drive a long way to see an eagle in Connecticut. Now it’s more

surprising if you *don’t* see an eagle, on just about any of our club walks.

Things are changing all the time, and some of these changes we’re happy about, like the recovery of eagles and osprey and peregrines for instance, and some not – like the drastic decline of shorebirds on our beaches, or the decline of wood thrushes in our forests. Or like having to drive a long way now to see (maybe) a Ruffed Grouse in Connecticut.

One of the things we’ve been especially unhappy about is the changes brought about by the Covid pandemic. Of course we want to protect ourselves, we want to protect our families, friends, and neighbors, we want to protect the strangers we encounter in the grocery store. Our club members have been excellent about this, what with masking and vaccinations and careful distancing.

But we also miss seeing and socializing with each other. Birders love to talk to each other, and to talk about birds. As the pandemic stretched out, with its variants and subvariants, its peaks and valleys, it’s started to feel like forever since we’ve met together for an indoor meeting. As convenient as Zoom meetings are in some ways, they lack opportunities to

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Wednesday, June 1, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park**

Sunday, June 5, 7–10 a.m. **Chippens Hill Grassland Birds**

Wednesday, June 8, 7–11 a.m. **June Birding at Morris Creek Marshes, East Haven**

Saturday, June 11, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Osprey Day at West River Memorial Park, New Haven**

Saturday–Sunday, June 11–12, all day **New Haven Summer Bird Count**

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

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2021-2022

OFFICERS

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<i>Secretary</i>	Mike Ferrari mike.ferrari@mac.com	203-435-5712

BOARD MEMBERS

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<i>Education Chair</i>	Gail Martino gmm1227@yahoo.com	617-504-7205
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<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Laurie Reynolds warmstove@hotmail.com	203-434-2134
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Donna Batsford donnabatsford@gmail.com	203-787-1642
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<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Emmeline Kaiser emkaiser03@gmail.com	225-368-7273
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Patrick Leahy ptjleahy@yahoo.com	203-393-2427
<i>Webmaster</i>	Christine Howe clhowe2@yahoo.com	203-389-1175
<i>Yearbook Editor</i>		

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com	203-230-1697
<i>Birds in Words Book Group</i>	Kris Johnson kriswaxwing99@gmail.com	203-288-3087
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net	203-389-6508
<i>Hawk Watch Lighthouse Point Historian</i>	Steve Mayo scmayo999@gmail.com John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203-551-1707 203-758-7203
<i>Hospitality Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo scmayo999@gmail.com	203-551-1707
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali vitgoo39@gmail.com	203-288-0621

New Haven Bird Club Website:
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

(President's Message Continued from first page)

wander around the room during the social half-hour, with maybe some cookies and an apple juice in your hands, seeking out old friends and introducing yourself to new ones.

So the latest change is – we're hoping (and planning in advance) to return to in-person monthly meetings starting this fall. Please stay tuned on that.

And, the big news – a big change after two years of virtual meetings – we'll be holding this year's Banquet in person, Thursday, May 12, at 6pm.

As in the past, we'll be together in the Grand Ballroom at Amarante's Sea Cliff restaurant. We'll have appetizers and a chance to mingle indoors and outside on the deck as the sun comes down over the New Haven harbor. A buffet dinner will follow, to be followed in turn by our guest speaker, Tom Stephenson, an expert bird guide, author, and photographer.

Tom is co-author of *The Warbler Guide* and a developer of BirdGenie, a cell phone app that identifies birds from their songs. Many of us will remember his lively presentation on warbler song, with *Warbler Guide* co-author Scott Whittle, at our indoor meeting in March, 2015. The subject this time around will of course be warblers – "The Overlooked ID Points That Make Identifying Warblers Easy." Given the time of year, the height of spring migration, we've got the right presenter at the right time – who is not to be missed.

The Banquet is always a highlight of our club's year. Please see the Banquet notice elsewhere in *The Chickadee*. And look for a Banquet registration form in our April membership renewal mailing. One thing I'd like to stress about the Banquet is that we will be following all national, state, and local guidelines on preventing Covid transmission. To that end, we'll also ask for proof of vaccination at the door.

I'm looking forward to the gala event, two years in the making. I hope to see you there.

--DeWitt Allen

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on April 28.

Deadline for submissions to the next *Chickadee* is May 27. 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. Add nhbirdclub@gmail.com to your contact list to ensure emails arrive in your inbox.

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.

Indoor Programs

We cannot predict how the future course of the coronavirus pandemic will affect our schedule of events. Our first priority is protecting the health and well-being of our members and the general public, and it may become necessary to adjust or cancel some events. The recommendations and policies of local, state, and national health authorities will continue to guide all decisions about our schedule. Please check the NHBC website and newsletter for updated information before planning to attend any event.

This year, our meetings have been held virtually on Zoom. Virtual meetings begin at 7 p.m. Information and instructions for joining virtual meetings are emailed to members who have signed up for the Club email list; to sign up, contact membership@newhavenbirdclub.org. We will resume in-person meetings with our banquet in May 2022. Our expectation is that meetings will resume at Whitney Center's Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden CT, as in previous years. However, all plans are tentative at this time.

Inclement weather or other emergencies may cancel a meeting. Cancellation notices will be sent via the club email. Also check TV channels WTNH (New Haven) and WFSB (Hartford).

"Birds in Words" Book Group – Join us at "Birds in Words," NHBC's gathering of people who like reading books on their favorite hobby. Since the group began in 2009, we've read many books on just about every aspect of birds, birding, birders, nature, and naturalists, and had some lively meetings. Share the fun! We meet about once every six weeks or so (on a Tuesday night). Birds in Words will resume meeting when Whitney Center re-opens to outside groups; hopefully this will be in the fall of 2022. For current details contact Kris Johnson: kriswaxwing99@gmail.com or 203-288-3087.

Thursday, April 14 – Dr. Lorna Gibson Fantastic Feathers: Form and Function

When we think of birds, we think of feathers. Feathers give birds their color, from the bright red of a male Cardinal to the iridescent reds and greens of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Feathers keep birds warm and dry: down provides excellent insulation against heat loss and water really does roll off a duck's back. Feathers form the aerodynamic shape of the wing, enabling flight. A Barn Owl's flight feathers suppress sound, allowing it to fly nearly silently, while its ruff feathers reflect and focus sound into its ears, enabling the owl to hunt in total darkness by sound alone. This talk describes how the microscopic structure of feathers gives rise to their remarkable properties. Dr. Lorna Gibson is a Professor of Material Science at MIT.

NOTE: As stated in the Club's by-laws, the April meeting is traditionally the Annual Meeting.

Thursday, May 12, 6 p.m. – Annual Banquet Amarante's Sea Cliff Restaurant, New Haven

Speaker – Tom Stephenson: Warblers

Come join the fun at the New Haven Bird Club's Annual Banquet with guest speaker Tom Stephenson. Tom is described as a "birder's birder" by *The New Yorker*. Tom's articles and photographs are in museums and many publications including *Birding*, *Birdwatcher's Digest*, *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, *Handbook of the Mammals of the World*, and *Guide to the Birds of Southeast Brazil*. He also co-authored *The Warbler Guide*, winner of the National Outdoor Book Award. In addition to writing, he is a tour leader at Wildside Nature Tours and developed an app, BirdGenie, to help identify birdsong.

Welcome New Members

Roberta Clark
Fairfield

Arlene Aizer Cohen
Guilford

Christine Gaynor
Guilford

Eliza Willis
Waterbury

Joanne Meyerowitz
Hamden

Charlotte Witherspoon
New Haven

Christine Talerico
Cheshire

Stefany Kahle
Bristol

Kathleen White
Guilford

Cecily Allen
New Haven

Outdoor Programs

We cannot predict how the future course of the coronavirus pandemic will affect our schedule of events. Our first priority is protecting the health and well-being of our members and the general public, and it may become necessary to adjust or cancel some events. The recommendations and policies of local, state, and national health authorities will continue to guide all decisions about our schedule. Please check the NHBC website and newsletter for updated information before planning to attend any event.

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 ending times of walks are approximate.

More details, if required, and/or updates on these trips will be given at the indoor meetings and in the newsletter. You should also check the Club's website, www.newhavenbirdclub.org, for updated trip information, and watch for emails sent by the Club. *Contact trip leaders directly if you have questions about their trips.*

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

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, their habitats, 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 Chairperson also organizes the Club's representation at various public events throughout the year, such as the Lighthouse Point Migration Festival and local Earth Day celebrations. Volunteers to help at events are always welcome! Please contact Lori Datlow, Education Chair, at loridatlow@frontier.com.

The Richard English Memorial Field Trip: Lighthouse Point to the Richard English Refuge **Saturday, April 2, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

We first bird the harbor shore for gulls, loons, ducks, and early returning shorebirds. We then proceed to the Richard English Bird Sanctuary at the Deer Lake Scout Camp in Killingworth. We then proceed to Hammonasset Beach State Park. This is an all-day trip; bring lunch and dress warmly. This trip almost always has a high species count. Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven.

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

First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford **Wednesday, April 6, 8–11 a.m.**

Enjoy an early spring trip to one of the best local birding spots. We look out into the marsh and along the shore for waterfowl, shorebirds, waders, and raptors. Meet at the Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center, 1 Milford Point Road, Milford.

Leader: Jalna Jaeger, 203-246-0885 or jalnabird@gmail.com.

Birding by Ear: Webinar Series and Walk **Limited enrollment, pre-registration required** **Webinars start Wednesday, April 6, 7–7:45 p.m.** **Walk on Saturday, April 23** **Group 1: 8–9:30 a.m.** **Group 2: 10–11:30 a.m.**

Learning bird songs and calls increases one's perception of what birds are in the area. Want to see a Scarlet Tanager? It helps to know their "chick burr" call. Also, by knowing the

songs of common birds, you will notice when a not-so-common bird is in the vicinity. Join Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe for three 45-minute webinars (on April 6th, 13th, and 20th, each starting at 7 p.m.). During each webinar, participants will learn the songs of 10 bird species and the habitats they prefer. We will start with some resident birds, then focus on migrants that will be arriving in Connecticut over the course of the webinars. Limit 25 people for the webinar. There will be two walks at Bent of the River on April 23rd, each for 10 webinar participants. Watch for the NHBC email announcement to sign up for the webinar series and to be eligible for the walk. The walk meets at Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, 185 East Flat Hill Road, Southbury, CT. Take Exit 14 off of Route 84. Go north on Route 172, then turn left onto East Flat Hill Road (church on corner). Continue to the sanctuary entrance on the left. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-233-0535 or cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org.

Osbornedale State Park, Derby **Sunday, April 24, 7:30–10:30 a.m.**

Osbornedale State Park offers a variety of species in its fields, forest, and around its ponds. It is always a surprise as species are discovered walking through the park. A flyover Bald Eagle, nesting Bluebirds, early warbler migrants, Green Heron, and Orchard Oriole are possible, as well as Indigo Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and several thrush species. We will explore the Kellogg Environmental Center grounds and then walk over to Osbornedale Park to explore and see what we find. Meet at the Kellogg Environmental Center parking lot at 500 Hawthorne Avenue, Derby.

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

**East Rock Park with Ranger Dan
Saturday, April 30, 8–11 a.m.**

Join Ranger Dan Barvir at this premier site for warblers and other spring migrants. Meet at the Rice Field (baseball field) end of East Rock Park on English Drive, New Haven.
Leader: Dan Barvir, 203-208-1415 or danielb145@comcast.net.

**Birding in Lower East Rock Park
Sunday, May 1, 8–10:30 a.m.**

We will bird trails by the Mill River, looking for spring migrants—especially warblers—and observing resident species and their behavior, in this area famous for its spring birds. The walk is likely to continue after 10:30 a.m. if the weather cooperates and there's a lot of bird activity. Meet at 8 a.m. in the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Avenue, Hamden.
Leader: Florence McBride, 203 288-6777 or fmc_b_warbler@yahoo.com.

**Bent of the River Important Bird Area, Southbury
Sunday, May 1, 8–11 a.m.**

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 Audubon Connecticut. The walk is open to birders of all levels; families are welcome. We will not only see and hear birds, but will also talk about their identification and their habits. More advanced birders can enjoy a day out and also provide support and inspiration for newcomers. Total walk should be between 1 and 2 miles with moderate terrain and some uphill. Meet at Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, 185 East Flat Hill Road, Southbury. Take Exit 14 off of Route 84. Go north on Route 172, then turn left onto East Flat Hill Road (church on corner). Continue to sanctuary entrance on left.
Leader: Morgan Evans, 203-405-9112 or morgan.evans@audubon.org.

**First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven
Wednesday, May 4, 8–11 a.m.**

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 Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Avenue, Hamden.
Leader: John Oshlick, 203-584-1955 or john.oshlic@yahoo.com.

**Big Day Marathon
Saturday, May 7, all day starting at 6 a.m.**

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. Meet at 6 a.m. at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Avenue, Hamden.
Leader: John Oshlick, 203-584-1955 or john.oshlic@gmail.com.

River Road, Kent – Travels Along a 'Riparian Woodland Corridor'

Sunday, May 8, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

River Road in Kent along the Housatonic River provides a major north-south riparian corridor for spring migration. The vast uninterrupted forest rising from the river provides ideal habitat and a beautiful walk. 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. We meet in Kent at the old train station at 7:30 a.m. The train station is several hundred yards north of the intersection of Routes 7 & 341, on Route 7 (Main Street) on the east side of the road.
Leader: Craig Repasz, 203-745-6683 or crepasz@hotmail.com.

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

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. Meet at the commuter parking lot, I-95 exit 55.
Leader: John Oshlick, 203-584-1955 or john.oshlic@gmail.com.

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

Friday, May 13, 8:30–10 p.m.

Rain date: Saturday, May 14, 8:30–10 p.m.

Jack Swatt, New Haven Bird Club member and CT 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! This is a quarter-mile easy walk but it is through field terrain during tick season. It is at night, so a good flashlight is a must. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Hunter's Mountain Road, Naugatuck.
Leader: Jack Swatt, 203-592-4686 or jswattbirds@gmail.com.

**Sleeping Giant State Park
Saturday, May 14, 8–11 a.m.**

Sleeping Giant looms large and 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. Meet at the main Sleeping Giant parking lot, 200 Mount Carmel Avenue, Hamden.
Leaders: Jim Sirch, james.sirch@yale.edu; Craig Repasz, 203-745-6683 or crepasz@hotmail.com; DeWitt Allen 860-949-0995 or allendatlow@gmail.com.

**Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck
Sunday, May 15, 7 a.m. to noon**

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. We often see more than fifteen 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. Meet at the commuter lot at Exit 25 off Route 8, Naugatuck.

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

**Durham Hotspots
Sunday, May 15, 8 a.m. to noon**

We visit several hotspots in the Town of Durham. Durham Skating Pond (south side of Route 68 and west of Maple Street) is on White's Farm property. Here, we scan for vultures, hawks and eagles, woodpeckers, flycatchers, swallows, ravens, sparrows, and blackbirds. Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren, and Swamp Sparrow are target species. A short car ride brings us to the larger portion of Frederick White Farm, where we enjoy views of nesting Bobolinks, Savannah Sparrows, and possibly Eastern Meadowlarks, and we continue our survey of grasslands and forest edges. Read Frank Gallo's excellent description of Durham Meadows in *Birding in Connecticut*. We then drive through the Durham Historic District to Route 147, where we check briefly for marsh birds at the high tension line access to the edge of the Coginchaug River. Our last leg of the trip takes us initially to Lyman Orchards Apple Barrel Store for a brief rest stop (& shop?). From there, it's north on 147/157 to Strickland Road and nearby Peckham Park. At the southeast corner of the park just behind the ball field is the old raised bed of the ill-fated Meriden, Middletown & Guilford Electric Railway Company (begun in 1909, RIP by 1913). Twenty years ago through the efforts of the Lion's Club, the rail bed was cleared as a walking trail in Middlefield. This quiet gem of a trail through floodplain forest produces ducks, woodpeckers, chickadees, titmice, wrens, nuthatches, creepers, grackles, and in winter, Rusty Blackbirds. Boots advisable. Meet at Durham Skating Pond (Route 68) for the start of the trip.

Leader: Steve Broker, 203-747-6843 or stephenpaulbroker@gmail.com.

**Lake Chamberlain, Lake Dawson, and Lake Watrous
Wednesday, May 18, 7:30–11 a.m.**

Join us for a walk on Regional Water Authority properties in Woodbridge and Bethany, some of which are off-limits to the public. Pat Leahy has been maintaining a bluebird trail on several of the properties surrounding the reservoirs. Please be prompt! It will be difficult to join the group on route. We will carpool and proceed to trails on Lake Dawson, and possibly Lake Watrous, before returning to Lake Chamberlain. Bluebirds, swallows, and spring migrants are plentiful. Walking is not strenuous and is on well-maintained trails. Meet at Lake Chamberlain Regional Water Authority parking area on Sperry Road south of Morris Road, Bethany.

Leaders: Pat Leahy, 203-393-2427 or ptjleahy@yahoo.com; Bill Batsford, 203-494-4325 or william.batsford@yale.edu.

**Julius M. Hansen Park in North Haven.
Saturday, May 21, 8–11 a.m.**

With its rich meadows and fields, forested wetlands, trap rock ridge, and riparian woods, this park has become a prominent birding destination for the Club. We will meet at the parking lot on Patten Rd. From exit 12 off Interstate 91, turn left onto Blakeslee Avenue and follow it until it ends at Bassett Road. Take a right at Bassett Road and continue straight through the intersection with Clintonville Road (Route 22) onto Mill Road. Take a gentle left up onto Patten Road and continue east. The entrance to the park will be on the left.

Leaders: Craig Repasz, 203-745-6683 or crepasz@hotmail.com; DeWitt Allen, 860-949-0995 or allendatlow@gmail.com.

**Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington
Sunday, May 22, 7 a.m. to noon**

This will be another of our annual trips to this excellent birding spot. The area 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. Easy walking on flat trails with a distance of 2.5 to 3 miles. Meet at 7 a.m. at the commuter lot, I-95 Exit 55, or at 8 a.m. at 96 Palmer Neck Road, Stonington (Bobolink fields).

Leaders: Carolyn Cimino, 860-447-3565 or sailcarm@aol.com; Bill Batsford 203-494-4325 or william.batsford@yale.edu.

**First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park
Wednesday, June 1, 8–11 a.m.**

Greg Hanisek, one of the best birders in the state, will lead the walk in this scenic and spacious forest in the northern part of the state. Nesting species here include Blue-headed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Canada Warbler and Black-throated Blue Warbler. Meet at the entrance to Mohawk Mountain State Park on Route 4 at Toumey Road in Cornwall, four miles west of Goshen.

Leader: Greg Hanisek, ctgreg@yahoo.com.

**Chippens Hill Grassland Birds
Sunday, June 5, 7–10 a.m.**

The Chippens Hill area of Bristol has historically been farmland. The Environmental Learning Centers of CT 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. Meet at the Roberts Field parking lot on Perkins Street in Bristol (just north of the intersection with Pinehurst Road).

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

**June Birding at Morris Creek Marshes, East Haven
Wednesday, June 8, 7–11 a.m.**

We bird Ora Avenue, Proto Drive, and the Morris Creek marshes for a diversity of birdlife in the breeding season. This highly-developed area in East Haven manages to retain a rich avifauna year-round in spite of being sandwiched between

Tweed-New Haven Airport and the East Haven Industrial Site. For many years, the road once known as Ora Avenue and now identified on maps as Proto Drive has served as the heart of Area K for the New Haven Christmas Bird Count. Many species found on the CBC are likely breeders here half a year later, including ducks, rails, bitterns, hawks and owls, woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos, wrens, thrushes, sparrows, blackbirds, and warblers. Many species with breeding evidence in Connecticut Bird Atlas block 95F have been identified in these grassland, woodland, and marsh habitats. Meet at Proto Drive opposite Town Fair Tire, south of Short Beach Road and a turn to the west off Coe Road.

Leader: Steve Broker, 203-747-6843 or stephenpaulbroker@gmail.com.

Osprey Day at West River Memorial Park, New Haven Saturday, June 11, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This is an exciting day at West River Memorial Park in New Haven, as the osprey pair that have nested on this platform for more than 6 years should have new chicks by this date. The chicks will be visible on the nest, and the parents will be busy fishing and bringing food to their young ones. Menunkatuck Audubon and the NHBC will provide bird spotting telescopes to watch the Ospreys interact with their chicks, as well as a monitor for the continuous web-cam on the nest. In addition, a steward of the Connecticut Audubon Osprey Nation Program will be on site, with interesting data and fun facts about this raptor that has been brought back from the brink of extinction. The West River Memorial Park is a designated IBA (Important Bird Area) and is part of the New Haven Harbor Urban Refuge Partnership. A walk through the meadow will likely turn up other birds and butterflies, too. Meet at 200 Derby Avenue, near Barnard Nature Center; enter the parking lot from Route 34 Derby Avenue, near the intersection of Grasso Boulevard, New Haven.

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

New Haven Summer Bird Count Saturday–Sunday, June 11–12, all day

This is a wonderful opportunity to work on your song identification skills and see what birds are nesting in your area. For the names of area captains and other information, contact Steve Mayo. Meet at various points. Coordinator: Steve Mayo, 203-551-1707 or scmayo999@gmail.com.

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

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

Trip Reports

Rhode Island Coast Field Trip Report



Photo by Lori Datlow

On Saturday, February 26, 2022, fourteen NHBC members spent a day in Rhode Island, visiting numerous birding locations. We saw lots of interesting and beautiful birds. Our first stop was at Beavertail State Park in Jamestown. There were hundreds of birds there

off shore, especially off the point to the south and on the eastern side of the peninsula. The rarities that were there that delighted us were a cooperative Black Guillemot that was not far off the point and a drake King Eider that was in a mixed flock of scoter and other species. We also saw Harlequin Duck, Great Cormorant, and lots of Common Eider there.



Black Guillemot

Our second stop was at Easton and Green End Ponds in Newport. There was an immature Bald Eagle there, along with a nice variety of waterfowl. A brief stop at Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge and nearby Third Beach yielded some additional sightings, notably White-winged Scoter, Brant and Northern Harrier.

From there, we took the long drive to Scarborough State Beach Park in Narragansett. It took some searching but we succeeded in locating the Black-headed Gull that has been wintering there. It was out on the water with dozens of other gulls, feeding on plankton just below the surface of the water.



Glaucous Gull

After that, we went to a new location this trip: Deep Hole Beach in Matunuck. We got great looks at a Glaucous Gull and three(!) Iceland Gulls there. At one point, one of the Iceland Gulls was a few feet from the Glaucous Gull, giving us a great opportunity to appreciate the differences between the two species.

Brief stops at Moonstone Beach, the Trustum Pond entrance area and Perry's Mill Pond didn't turn up any unusual sightings but we did add several species to our overall trip list.

We then went to Ninigret Park and saw the Lesser Black-backed Gull there. Although we don't know for sure, it seems highly likely that this is the same individual bird that has been wintering there for the past 17 years. What a long-lived and sight-faithful bird!

Our last stop was at the Weekapaug Breachway where we saw Common Loons up close as they swam in the canal and flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles as they flew



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

towards what must be a communal night roost. When the day was done, we had tallied 64 species for our trip list. We also collected shared memories of scenic locations and amazing birds and forged some new friendships. A fine day, indeed!

--Chris Loscalzo

Stratford Shore Trip Report

Thirteen birders joined me for my annual "Stratford Shore" First-Wednesday field trip on March 2. We met at the Access Road Dunkin Donuts a bit early, 7:30, as I had a medical appointment later in the morning.



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

It was chilly (30°F), but slowly warmed up. First up was adjacent Frash Pond, where we saw 7 duck species including lingering 4 Canvasbacks, 2 Ring-necked Ducks (unusual there), and a Lesser Scaup. A Bald Eagle and a Northern Harrier were flyover raptors. Next a brief stop to view the Access Road pool from our car "blinds" netted a few Gadwall and Green-winged Teals. A flock of Wild Turkeys were along the road. We skipped visiting the McKinney Refuge because there is much earthmoving currently during a major marsh restoration/habitat management project.

We hit the jackpot at Long Beach, where there were huge numbers of feeding gulls, waterfowl, and shorebirds. We could not find anything rare among the estimated 4,000 gulls (Ring-billed and Herring) that were along the shore; they soon flew to join masses plankton-feeding on Long Island Sound. Mixed among those gulls were plankton-feeding Brant and a variety of ducks including 5 Northern Pintails. An estimated 1,000 Long-tailed Ducks were actively courting and diving for shellfish. They stage here before migrating north to their tundra nesting grounds. We watched a Northern Harrier dive-bombing a Red-tailed Hawk that had prey on the marsh. We walked some of the barrier beach, finding a flock of 15 Horned Larks, as well as seeing /scoping three different Snowy Owls! No doubt photographers were pointing their lenses at an unseen fourth!

Around the corner at the Lordship Seawall, we had superb views of the wintering 2nd-cycle Iceland Gull, at its usual perch on the roof of Riley's Restaurant. A Red-throated Loon and 2 Fish Crows were also present; some saw a few Snow Buntings. Stratford Point was next. This incredible site at the mouth of the Housatonic River is both scenic and productive.



Iceland Gull

We saw the usual water and land birds, but couldn't locate the wintering Eurasian Wigeon. (Some returned later to see it). As we walked the coastal bluff, I spotted a Peregrine Falcon perched out on the breakwater. Just around the bend we came face to face with a close Snowy Owl roosting along the shoreline. It was a special encounter with a special bird! Scopes were pointed and cameras clicked.



Snowy Owl

Though I had to leave for my appointment at that point, Tom Murray kindly agreed to serve as leader for the group. He led them to Short Beach, where they had great looks at a perched Merlin, as well as a flock of 8 White-crowned Sparrows among the dune vegetation.

In all we tallied 50 species of birds, highlighted by 15 species of ducks, Iceland Gull, and 4 Snowy Owls! It was an enjoyable morning with a very congenial and appreciative group. It was great to see old and new friends afield after two years of the Covid pandemic. Thanks to Tom Murray for co-leading with me.

--Frank Mantlik

Edgewood Park Trip Report

On Saturday, March 26, an enthusiastic group of 22 birders enjoyed favorable weather for a leisurely walk through this well-used urban park. We had many pairs of eyes and experienced birds yielding a nice total of 41 species. Many were "common birds" but there were excellent "treats" as well.



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

For instance, Edgewood Park has Wood Duck virtually year-round, and we had views of at least 11 (both male and female) including a pair circling and landing on a high branch of a close tree. Other highlights included Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper and 5 Raptors (Bald Eagle, Red-tailed and Cooper's Hawk, Osprey and Merlin). We were



Merlin

especially lucky to have close and extended looks at the Merlin perched on the top of a close snag. Approaching spring was heralded by many American Robins, Red-winged Blackbirds and Tree Swallows (FOY for several participants).

It was an excellent morning and appetizer for the NHBC Outdoor Trip season. The eBird Report (thanks Laurie Reynolds) with photos can be found at: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S105628708>.

--Bill Batsford

NHBC Winter Feeder Report 2021-2022 - End of Week 16



We have finished the 16th week of the survey.

I do not know if the numbers tend to decline in weeks 12 to 16 (months of January and February) because we have surveyors who go south during these weeks or if

it is due to the crazy weather we seem to be having these last few years with hot days and then Ice and snowstorms. The weather may have played a part in that it changed daily as it did last year. We went from 0.0° F to 70° F within days and it kept up throughout late January and all of February. We also had a major snowstorm (*Winter Storm Kenan*.) at the end of January (Week 13) and another in early February (Week 15). The picture to the left was taken at my feeder in Week 16 and it has a red House Finch and an orange House Finch. First, orange House Finch I ever had, but other surveyors have had one or two in the past. I understand that it is caused by an imbalance in the bird's diet during molting.

From the Common List we had 22 of 22 species. Brown-headed Cowbirds, Common Grackles and European Starling flocks were seen in small numbers. 16 surveyors had Carolina Wrens at their feeders throughout weeks 11 to 16. American Goldfinches were also low these weeks with a slight increase in week 16. (See Graph).

The new Semi-common List had 12 of 12 species show up. A Purple Finch, Chipping Sparrows, Fox Sparrows, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen by 1 or 2 surveyors. 3 or more surveyors saw Eastern Blue Birds, Northern Mockingbirds, Red-tailed Hawks, Red-wing Blackbirds, Rock Doves, Sharpshinned Hawks and Wild Turkey. Northern Flickers were seen by 12 surveyors whereas last year only 7 surveyors saw them during this time.

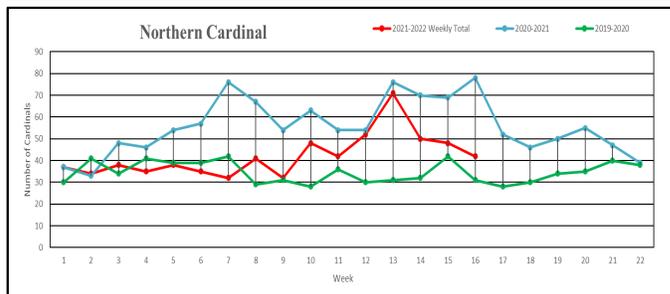
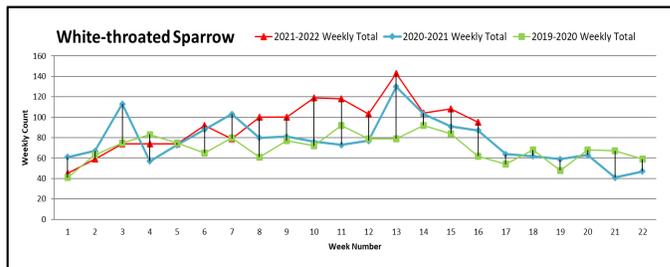
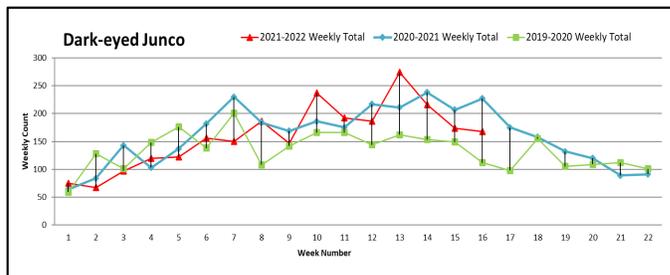
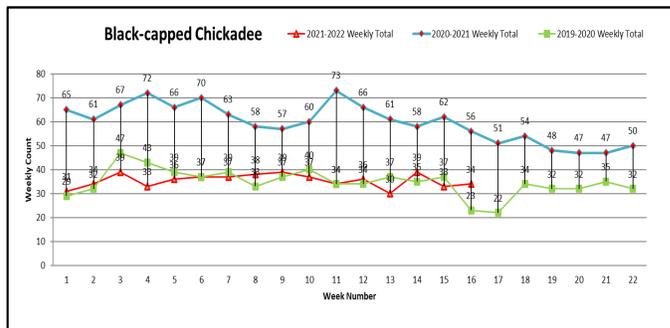
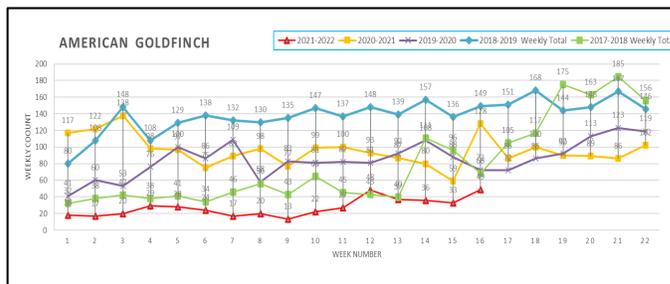
During the very warm weather (60° F to 70° F) Bev Proppen reported more than 50 Honeybees at her feeders in weeks 15 and 16. I added them to the Uncommon List, and we had 9 of 42 species for 21%. Species seen were American Tree Sparrow (Martha Asarisi), Brown Creeper (Laurie Reynolds), Cedar Waxwing (Amy Hopkins, Martha Asarisi), Field Sparrow (Pam Reeser), Merlin (Dewitt Allen), Pileated Woodpecker (Laurie Reynolds, Martha Asarisi, Maris Fiondella), Red-shouldered Hawk (Martha Asarisi), Yellow-rumped Warbler (Martha Asarisi). Again, this year no Red Breasted Nuthatches or Pine Siskins.

No Waterfowls were reported during these five weeks. Most of the time it was very cold and most of the ponds and streams were frozen over.

12 of 25 Animals were seen during these five weeks. They were Gray Squirrel, Bobcat, Brown Rat, Chipmunk, Feral Cat, Mole, Opossum, Rabbit, Raccoon, Red Fox, Red Squirrel, and White-tailed Deer.

The graphs of 5 Species are included for weeks one to fifteen. The red line is 2021-2022. American Goldfinch Numbers were way down compared to the last 5 Years. Black-capped Chickadee were about even with last year but way lower than

2019-2020. Dark-eyed Juncos were between the two previous years and in week 13 were 50 birds higher than 2021. White-throated Sparrows, our other winter species, was higher than the previous two years with week 13 being the highest. I have replaced the Common Grackle graph with a graph of the Northern Cardinal which is running between the last two years.



--Pete Vitali
Chairman: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey



New Haven Bird Club Annual Celebration



Thursday, May 12, 2022 6-10 PM

Amarante's Sea Cliff, Grand Ballroom

62 Cove Street, New Haven, CT

Dinner, Dessert, Cash Bar and Speaker

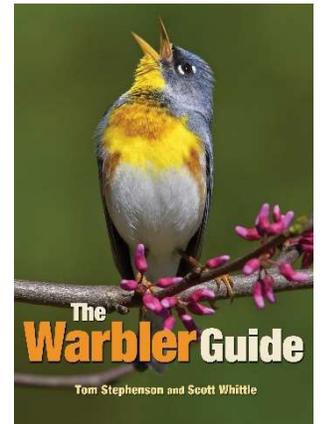
\$35/person Proof of vaccination will be required at entry

Tom Stephenson – The Warbler Guide

The Overlooked ID Points That Make Warbler Identification Easy



Tom Stephenson is co-author of *The Warbler Guide* and is a developer of BirdGenie, an app to help identify birds by their songs. Tom is an expert bird guide and a widely published author and photographer. Perfect for the height of spring migration, his topic for us is Warblers, The Overlooked ID Points That Make Warbler Identification Easy.



Advance Reservations Required – Deadline May 3rd

RSVP at club website using PayPal: <https://www.newhavenbirdclub.org/Selectevents,AnnualBanquet>

-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 12, 2022, 6-10 PM

NAME(S): (As they should appear on name tag) # of Persons _____ X \$35.00 = 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 2022

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 about the Club, you can send an email to ask@newhavenbirdclub.org.

The New Haven Bird Club is on Facebook. Please "like" the page "New Haven Bird Club." You can upload your photos, discuss Club events, and post your recent sightings.

The NHBC is also on Instagram as [newhavenbirdclub](https://www.instagram.com/newhavenbirdclub).

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