



# THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

August 2019

## 2019 CALENDAR

*(See inside for details)*

Saturday, August 10, 8 a.m. **Shorebirds and Terns at Milford Point**

Saturday, August 17, 8 a.m. **Lighthouse Point Park Bird Walk / Prep for Migration Festival**

*Cancelled*

Saturday, August 24 **Dover Beach Urban Oasis**

Starts Sunday, September 1, Daily, 7 a.m. **Bird Count / Hawk Watch, Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven; Daily September to December**

Wednesday, September 4, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**

Thursday, September 12, 7 p.m. **Mary Beth Kaeser – Secret Lives of Owls (with live birds)**

Sunday, September 15, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Annual Migration Festival, Lighthouse Point Park**

Tuesday, September 17, 7–9 p.m. **Birds in Words – *The Secret Wisdom of Nature* by Peter Wohlleben**

Saturday, September 28, 8 a.m. **Edgewood Park, New Haven**

Wednesday, October 2, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven**

Monday, October 7, 8–11 a.m. **Yale University Golf Course**

Thursday, October 10, 7 p.m. **Andrew Griswold – An Amazing Year of Travel**

Saturday, October 12, 8 a.m. **Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Saturday–Sunday, October 12–13 **THE BIG SIT!**

Saturday, October 19, 7:45 a.m. **Fall Birds and Foliage along the West River**

Sunday, October 20, 8–11 a.m. **Osbornedale State Park**

Sunday, October 27, 8 a.m. to noon **Cheshire Hotspots**

Thursday, October 31, 3 p.m. & Saturday, November 2, 8:30 a.m. **Hamden Town Center Park**

## BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The last weeks of summer are already here.

Our breeding birds have fledged a brood – or two – and are perhaps feeding and teaching their last ones. Walking my CT Bird Atlas block, I still see a few young vireos and waxwings squeaking and fluttering their wings, begging for food. They

better hurry up, the season is about over.

Migrant shorebirds are turning up on the beaches and sandbars and rocks. Post-breeding wanderers pass overhead and reports go out on the rare bird alerts.

This is also when the New Haven Bird Club revs up for the new club year. The 2019-2020 Yearbook has come off the press and been mailed to members. The first field trips on the calendar will have taken place even before this edition of the newsletter comes out. Our Outdoor Program Chair, Craig Repasz, has lined up walks and excursions for everyone – more than fifty opportunities to visit the birdiest spots around the state in every season, guided by some of Connecticut's best birders. Every walk brings the chance to see old friends, make new friends, and of course, as master birder and past NHBC president Chris Loscalzo says, a chance to learn a little more about our birds, their behavior, and their habitats. Every time, a little more.

Additionally, Indoor Program Chair Gail Martino has put together a high-class series of presenters for our monthly meetings at the Whitney Center – the second Thursday evening of each month, September through April. The series culminates at our annual banquet in May, when the great artist and nature writer Julie Zickefoose headlines the event. We should all look forward to that.

And that's not all. There are special events like the Migration Festival at Lighthouse Point in September, local Big Sit circles in October, the New Haven Christmas Bird Count in December, Chris Loscalzo's MegaBowl of Birding in February, a Big Day Marathon in May, and the Summer Bird Count in June. Conservation Chair Deborah Johnson has arranged several conservation-focused events coupled with bird walks, in collaboration with local environmental organizations. Peter Vitali has for many years organized and managed a winter feeder survey, in which participants report the numbers and species of birds at their backyard feeders. Kris Johnson leads a "Birds in Words" book group, with members getting together to discuss new and classic works on birding and the natural world.

*(Continued on next page)*

## NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2019-2020

### OFFICERS

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

### BOARD MEMBERS

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

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

**New Haven Bird Club Website:**  
[www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)

*(President's Message Continued from first page)*

Details on all these activities can be found in the Yearbook, our website [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org), and the newsletter, which Donna Batsford edits and publishes six times a year.

On a personal note, this is the start of my term as club President. I know many of you already and hope to meet you all at one or another of our events. Please come up and say hello. And say hello also to all our board members, who behind the scenes volunteer their time and effort all year to keep our club's engines tuned and running smoothly.

And finally, Laurie Reynolds, the club's Membership Chair, tells me numerous new members have joined us since the banquet. Laurie is an enthusiastic one-person welcome wagon – someone said to me she can walk into a room of twenty strangers and come out an hour later with all their names and addresses, probably their children's names, and more than a handful of new bird club members. So please help Laurie out. When you see someone you don't know at a walk or indoor meeting, please say hello and introduce yourself. I'd like to think we're not only an active organization, which we most certainly are, but also a friendly and welcoming one.

Happy birding. See you all on the trails.

--DeWitt Allen

### Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be Thursday, August 22 at 6:45 PM at Whitney Center.

Deadline for submissions to the October *Chickadee* is September 27. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at [donnabatsford@gmail.com](mailto: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.

You should have received your new yearbook in the last few weeks. Every effort is made to list member information accurately. Please inform us of errors and update us with any changes during the year. Send a note to the Club address, update via the Club website, or contact the Membership Chair: Laurie Reynolds, 203-434-2134 or [warmstove@hotmail.com](mailto:warmstove@hotmail.com).

### Welcome New Members

Madeleine Junkins New Haven	Alex Krofta New Haven	Matt Mallon New Haven
Eileen O'Donnell New Haven	Helen Miller New Haven	
	Pat Perkins North Haven	Josiah Venter New Haven
	Tori Vessicchio New Haven	

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## Indoor Programs

Indoor programs start in September and are held on the second Thursday of the month. There are no indoor programs in June, July, or August. The social half-hour at meetings begins at 7:00 pm; the meeting and program begin at 7:30 pm. Meetings are held at Whitney Center's Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden 06517. The facility is wheelchair accessible. Meeting is in Whitney Center's South Building, 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.

### **Directions to Whitney Center:**

From I-95 North or South: Exit to I-91 North in New Haven. Take Exit 6 (Willow Street). At end of ramp go right onto Willow and proceed on Willow to its end at Whitney Avenue. Turn right onto Whitney; go 1.7 mi. to Treadwell Street and make SHARP left onto Treadwell. Proceed 0.7 mi. on Treadwell; turn left onto Leeder Hill Drive (traffic light). Whitney Center is shortly on the right. Enter SECOND driveway (South Entrance) and take immediate left into raised parking lot (park in upper level *only* in any unmarked space), or follow main driveway past front entrances of the building. At stop sign, make a right into employee parking area. Walk from there to the front entrance.

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

From Wilbur Cross (Rt. 15-North or South) Take Exit 60. Turn right at end of ramp (Dixwell Ave./Rte.10). Go about 1 mile to traffic light at Treadwell Street and turn left. Go 0.3 mi. to traffic light (Leeder Hill Drive) and turn right. WC is shortly on the right. Enter SECOND driveway (South Entrance) and take immediate left into raised parking lot (park in upper level *only* in any unmarked space), or follow main driveway past front entrances of the building. At stop sign, make a right into employee parking area. Walk from there to the front entrance.

**NHBC is offering a Ride Share Program** for members who need a ride to the Indoor Programs. If you are in need of a ride to an Indoor Program, please contact Laurie Reynolds by phone at 203-434-2134, or email [warmstove@hotmail.com](mailto:warmstove@hotmail.com).

**Remember to check the Club's website for updated information on all programs:** [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org).

Inclement weather or other emergency may cancel a meeting. Cancellation notices will be sent via the club email and will be posted on the club website, [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org), and online on CTBirds. Also check TV channels WTNH (New Haven) and WFSB (Hartford).

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### **Thursday, September 12, 2019 – Mary Beth Kaeser Secret Lives of Owls (with live birds)**

It seems that owls have always been surrounded by an air of mystery, probably because most are nocturnal and not easily spotted in the wild. This is your chance to be only a few feet away from two Eastern Screech Owls, a Barred Owl, and a Great-horned Owl! Discover the extraordinary features of owls, including exceptional eyesight, hearing, and ability to fly silently. Horizon Wings was formed in 2001 by Mary-Beth Kaeser as a non-profit organization for the rehabilitation of raptors.

### **Thursday, October 10, 2019 – Andrew Griswold An Amazing Year of Travel**

Come on a trip around the world with one of Connecticut Audubon's EcoTravel leaders! Andrew Griswold has been the director of EcoTravel for Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) since 1996. He graduated as an honor student in biology from Hartwick College, where he worked at their biological research station in the Bahamas studying avian ecology. Andy is the original concept creator and scientific consultant for a cable

television series on bird-watching called *All Bird TV* that aired on Discovery's *Animal Planet*. He also is the original concept creator of the award-winning Connecticut River Eagle Festival (during its time the largest birding festival in the world). Andy has conducted bird surveys for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has participated in the annual Christmas Bird Count as a captain for nearly 35 years. He has been a consultant to the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism concerning development of birding tourism in its more remote islands. Andy leads trips for CAS to Canada, Texas, South Florida, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, and many other unique destinations. Andy is a licensed U.S. Coast Guard 100-Ton Master and lives in Essex, Connecticut with his wife and their son. He is known for his fine birding skills and infectious sense of humor.

### **Bird Book Tag Sale to Be Held at the November Meeting!**

Here's your chance to clean house. Sort through your bird- and nature-related books (kids' books too!) that you can part with. Bring them to the September and/or October meeting. Proceeds from the sale go to the NHBC Conservation Fund.

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## Birds in Words

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 45 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) at Whitney Center from 7-9

PM. For details, contact Kris Johnson: [kriswaxwing99@gmail.com](mailto:kriswaxwing99@gmail.com) or 203-288-3087.

The next book we will discuss is *The Secret Wisdom of Nature* by Peter Wohlleben. We will meet at 7:00 on Tuesday, September 17 in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor conference room at Whitney Center.

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## Outdoor Programs

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, please be sure to let the leader know at the start of the field trip. More details, if required, and/or updates on these trips will be given at the indoor meetings and in the newsletter. Watch for emails sent by the Club. You can also check the Club's website: [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org) for updated trip information and a Google Map link to the meeting place. Contact trip leaders directly if you have questions about any of 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 is encouraged to avoid parking problems at some destinations and to promote conservation of natural resources.

### NHBC Conservation and Education Activities

The NHBC 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. The NHBC provides information and displays at multiple events throughout the year, including the Connecticut Green Expo and at the Lighthouse Point Park Migration Festival in September. The Club also is building a presence in local public schools and camps to encourage children to embrace birding. We view this activity as a direct connection to our Club objectives and usually present a very basic birding skills class followed by an hour-long bird walk.

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#### **Shorebirds and Terns at Milford Point Saturday, August 10, 2019, 8 a.m.**

We'll walk out on the sandbar at near high tide to see the variety of shorebirds and terns, which will begin feeding as the tide falls. We'll also check the Coastal Center grounds for songbirds. Meet at the CT Audubon Coastal Center, 1 Milford Point Road, Milford.

Leader: Frank Mantlik, 203-984-9410 or [mantlik@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mantlik@sbcglobal.net)

#### **Lighthouse Point Park Bird Walk / Prep for Migration Festival Saturday, August 17, 2019, 8 a.m.**

Join Park Ranger Dan Barvir on a late summer bird walk at Lighthouse Point Park on New Haven Harbor. Then, beginning around 9:30 a.m., we'll perform some light trail maintenance and cleanup. This is a great way to enjoy looking at birds and at the same time help preserve their habitat. Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven. Free admission for participants.

Leader: Dan Barvir, 203-946-6086 or [dbarvir@newhavenct.net](mailto:dbarvir@newhavenct.net)

#### **Cancelled**

#### **Dover Beach Urban Oasis Saturday, August 24, 2019, 10 a.m to noon**

#### **Bird Count / Hawk Watch, Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven; Daily September to December Starts Sunday, September 1, 2019, Daily, 7 a.m.**

Lighthouse Point Park on the New Haven Harbor is one of the premier locations in southern New England for observing migrating raptors as well as a wide variety of songbirds. The watch starts daily at 7 a.m. and continues as long as the hawks keep flying. Stop by anytime. Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven. Coordinator: Steve Mayo, 203-393-0694 or [scmayo999@gmail.com](mailto:scmayo999@gmail.com)

#### **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**

#### **Wednesday, September 4, 2019, 8–11 a.m.**

Join us as we look for shorebirds and terns at this excellent local birding location. We should also find raptors, waterfowl, long-legged waders, and migrating passerines. Ten or more species of shorebirds are possible, including American Golden-Plover. Meet at the CT Audubon Coastal Center, 1 Milford Point Road, Milford.

Leader: Milan Bull, 203-610-5097 or [mbull@ctaudubon.org](mailto:mbull@ctaudubon.org)

#### **Annual Migration Festival, Lighthouse Point Park Sunday, September 15, 2019, 8 a.m to 3 p.m.**

This festive event is sponsored by the New Haven Department of Parks, Recreation and Trees; the NHBC; and other fine organizations. There will be hawk watching, bird banding, live raptor demonstrations, bird walks, and more. Chris Loscalzo will lead a walk at 8 a.m., Mike Horn will lead a 9:30 a.m. walk, and Flo McBride will lead a kid's walk at 9:30 a.m. Meet at Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven.

Leader: Dan Barvir, 203-946-6086 or [dbarvir@newhavenct.net](mailto:dbarvir@newhavenct.net)

#### **Edgewood Park, New Haven**

#### **Saturday, September 28, 2019, 8 a.m.**

Edgewood Park and West River Memorial Park make up an Important Bird Area and include a two mile section of the West River. These parks look particularly "hot" on the radar maps for New Haven that show which areas are most used by birds in fall migration. We will see what we can find! The walk is open to birders of all levels, and families are welcome. We will not only see and hear birds, but will also talk about their identification and habits. More advanced birders can enjoy a day out and also provide support and inspiration for newcomers. Meet at the Edgewood Park parking lot off West Rock Avenue, just South of Whalley Avenue, New Haven. Leader: Bill Batsford, 203-787-1642 (home), 203-494-4325 (cell), or [william.batsford@yale.edu](mailto:william.batsford@yale.edu)

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**First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven  
Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 8–11 a.m.**

Join us on a visit to this premier local birding location, renowned for its migrating raptors and passerines. If the weather conditions are favorable, we may see hundreds of hawks in flight over the park. Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven. Leader: Frank Gallo, 203-644-2163 or [peeplo@aol.com](mailto:peeplo@aol.com)

**Yale University Golf Course  
Monday, October 7, 2019, 8–11 a.m.**

The golf course is located on more than 700 acres, with woods and ponds surrounding the course. It's a great place to see birds year-round. We'll be visiting the course when there are no golfers, so we'll be able to walk the cart paths and wooded trails without being disturbed or disturbing others. We'll be looking for fall migrants such as raptors, warblers, vireos, and sparrows, as well as resident bluebirds and woodpeckers. Meet at the clubhouse parking lot, Yale University Golf Course, 200 Conrad Drive, New Haven. The course entrance is at the end of Conrad Drive, which can be reached via Rt. 243 (Fountain Street) or Rt. 122 (Forest Road). Leader: Bill Batsford, 203-787-1642 (home), 203-494-4325 (cell), or [william.batsford@yale.edu](mailto:william.batsford@yale.edu)

**Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison  
Saturday, October 12, 2019, 8 a.m.**

Visit one of our state's best fall birding spots, where the abundance of some migrants and sightings of less common species can make for a truly memorable trip. The walking is easy, all on level ground. Meet outside the park at the new parking lot on the Post Rd. Directions: Take Exit 62 off I-95 (the usual Hammonasset exit). At the end of the connector (traffic light), go left onto Boston Post Rd. The new parking lot is the first right, a short distance away. Leaders: Flo McBride, 203-288-6777 or [fmcb\\_warbler@yahoo.com](mailto:fmcb_warbler@yahoo.com); Bill Batsford, 203-787-1642 (home), 203-494-4325 (cell), or [william.batsford@yale.edu](mailto:william.batsford@yale.edu)

**THE BIG SIT!  
Saturday–Sunday, October 12–13, 2019**

THE BIG SIT!, established by the NHBC, has become an international event, with birders from all over the world participating. The object is to record as many species of birds as possible in one day from one 17-foot diameter circle. The circles are located at a number of birding hot spots throughout CT. Join other birders in one of the established circles or create your own. You don't have to be a hardcore birder to join in the fun. *Bird Watcher's Digest* runs the event now. For details, go to the *Bird Watcher's Digest* website ([www.birdwatchersdigest.com](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com)). Contact: John Triana, 203-758-7203 or [j triana1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j triana1@sbcglobal.net)

**Fall Birds and Foliage along the West River  
Saturday, October 19, 2019, 7:45 a.m.**

Join a fall walk to see what can be found at these picturesque locations. The group will explore trails at Lake Bethany, then

proceed to properties not open to the public, Lake Watrous and Lake Dawson. Fall migrants should be working their way through the area and the scenery will be breathtaking. Meet at Lake Bethany Regional Water Authority parking area on Hatfield Hill Road, Bethany. Leader: Pat Leahy, 203-393-2427 (home), 203-314-0566 (cell), or [ptjleahy@yahoo.com](mailto:ptjleahy@yahoo.com)

**Osbornedale State Park  
Sunday, October 20, 2019, 8–11 a.m.**

Osbornedale State Park offers a variety of habitats for a fall bird walk, from fields to ponds and woodland streams to deciduous forest. On this walk we explore these habitats in search of sparrows, kinglets, late migration warblers, woodpeckers, and more. The walk is open to birders of all levels. 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. We will meet at the Kellogg Environmental Center located at 500 Hawthorne Ave. in Derby. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-405-9116 (office), 203-233-0535 (cell), or [cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org](mailto:cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org)

**Cheshire Hotspots  
Sunday, October 27, 2019, 8 a.m. to noon**

We bird several hotspots in the Town of Cheshire, including Boulder Knoll, Broad Brook Reservoir and associated trails, Fresh Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary (Cheshire Land Trust), and the Farmington Canal Lock 12. Boulder Knoll is good for sparrows in fall. Broad Brook Reservoir annually hosts 200–400 Ruddy Ducks, one of the highest concentrations of this diving duck in the state. Fresh Meadows and the Canal Line offer a diversity of bird species through the year. Meet at Boulder Knoll at the kiosk off Boulder Road, Cheshire. Directions: Drive North on Route 10 (Whitney Avenue) and enter Cheshire at Old Lane Road (on right). Continue driving north on Route 10 for 0.7 miles, and turn right on Cook Hill Road. Drive 1.0 miles, and turn left on Half Moon Road. Drive 0.4 miles, and turn right on Boulder Road. Drive 0.4 miles (passing Boulder Knoll Montessori School), and turn left into small Parking lot at Boulder Knoll kiosk and power line. Leaders: Steve Broker, 203-272-5192 (home) 203-747-6843 (cell), or [LS.Broker@cox.net](mailto:LS.Broker@cox.net); Melissa Baston, 860-995-0656 or [mbaston@gmail.com](mailto:mbaston@gmail.com)

**Hamden Town Center Park  
Thursday, October 31, 2019, 3 p.m. & Saturday, November 2, 2019, 8:30 a.m.**

Two opportunities to explore Town Center Park in Hamden—Thursday October 31 at 3 p.m. (to coincide with the final Farmer's Market of the season), plus the following Saturday morning, November 2, 2019, at 8:30 a.m., to allow for comparison of what's seen at different times of day. This park is home to many human social events and hosts the athletic events of the Middle School. It also is a nature sanctuary, with a variety of common birds plus some surprising occasionals,

and notable other animals including coyote, bobcat, and deer. Explore the recent changes to the park including a bridge across Shepherd Brook and a trail linking to the Farmington Canal Trail. This is a collaborative event with the Town Center Park Commission, the Hamden Land Conservation Trust, and the NHBC.

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

## Field Trip Reports

### NHBC June 1st Wednesday Walk at Mohawk Mountain State Park Highlights

The New Haven Bird Club 1st Wednesday Walk on June 5<sup>th</sup> was well attended as usual with 29 birders and Greg Hanisek as our leader. For several attendees, this was their first visit to the area. We visited Mohawk Mountain State Park as well as the entrance to Mohawk Ski Area and a nearby field with breeding Bobolinks and American Kestrel. At this time of year, most migrants have passed through our area, and the 53 species we saw or heard were all nesting birds. We had 12 species of warblers which included excellent views of several Blackburnian Warblers and a Black-and-white Warbler singing an alternate song which Greg pointed out to all, providing a great teaching moment. It was a lovely day to be out birding!

--Tina Green

NHBC 1st Wednesday Walk Coordinator

### Whip-poor-will Walk in Naugatuck State Forest Trip Report

A waxing gibbous moon shone bright over 13 patient birders at Naugatuck State Forest at the end of Hunter's Mountain Road late in the evening of June 14<sup>th</sup>. Several Wood Thrushes started singing as we awaited the darkness to fall. At approximately 8:55 a Whip-poor-will started calling from the clear-cut area. We ventured a short ways in on the trail until we were close to the source of the sound, only to hear it stop. After a short period of silence the repetitive call began again right from the parking lot. After the group reassembled in the parking area and listened to the bird call from close by, the Whip-poor-will flew right through a bright flashlight beam for all to get a fleeting glimpse of its strong wingbeats and bulky frame. A nearby Barred Owl also gave an occasional distant call. We continued to search near the fields but, unfortunately, after having several years of hearing multiple birds at this location, only one made it's presence known to us this evening. We drove over to Spruce Brook Road just south of the power lines to another area known to previously support Whip-poor-wills. After a few quiet moments another distant Whip-poor-



Photo by Frank Mantlik

will was heard singing far up on the hillside. Given the declining numbers of this species, we hope this area will continue to have the appropriate habitat management to support these secretive birds.

--Jack Swatt

### NHBC Members Go Block Busting in Pachaug State Forest to Support CT Bird Atlas Project

Nine members of New Haven Bird Club trekked out to the Pachaug State Forest on June 2. They had just experienced one of the best spring bird migrations in recent memory. Although most of the club members stay around New Haven County for their spring birding, they were ready to venture to a remote corner of the state and slow down to survey birds during the breeding season. The goal of the Bird Club members was to split into Block Busting teams and hit several areas in two CT Bird Atlas blocks.



Start of the day planning  
Photo by Chris Howe



Photo by Lori Datlow

The goal of bird atlas block busting is to send a group of birders to a block that is either orphaned or has received little coverage. The NHBC teams surveyed the 74C Voluntown block in the morning, and 73D Jewett City in the afternoon. The combined effort for the

day was around 27 hours on each block, completing the minimum number of survey hours (20) needed.

Most of the migrants have likely moved through the state by the end of May, meaning that the birds encountered would be breeding. In other words, they are within their safe dates. The birds to be encountered should be in their breeding habitat and exhibiting breeding behavior.

Overall the group recorded 63 species. Most species had Possible Breeding status either Singing (S) or Individuals in suitable habitat (H). They did encounter several species exhibiting Probable breeding Status as multiple males were singing (M), pairs were observed (P), there were several displays of

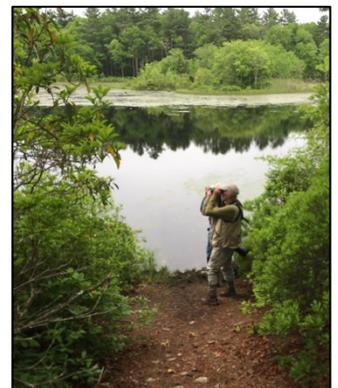


Photo by Chris Howe

territorial fighting (T). These Possible and Probable observations help to lay benchmarks for future efforts to confirm breeding by a group or individuals in the future.

There were 17 species confirmed as breeding in the two blocks.

The New Haven Bird Club members immensely enjoyed the day.

The CT Bird Atlas will be in its third and final year next year. Volunteers will be called on once again to go block Busting to help the project reach 100% coverage.

--Craig Repasz

### Osprey Open Day at West River Memorial Park

On Saturday, June 15, Menunkatuck Audubon and the New Haven Bird Club hosted an Osprey Open Day at West River Memorial Park. It was a fabulous day. Menunkatuck Audubon was super organized, with tent and photo exhibits. And of course the web-cam on the Osprey parents and chicks. Melina Giantomidis, coordinator of Osprey Nation for CT Audubon, came with posters and lots of info. This was her first visit to the site of this urban oasis and the long-continuing successful Osprey nest with a many-year bonded pair.



Children discovered a nest of new hatchlings in the grass in the rugby field. It stymied us all for quite a while, until the adult song sparrow returned to the nest with the bill full of insects for her hungry brood. (Song sparrows are generally thought of as ground nesters, but they do nest in tall grass as well as shrubs.) What had been tall grass in the rugby field was mowed,

exposing the beautifully woven tight nest, and thankfully the mower went right over the nest and eggs without harming them!!

The children returned the following day to check on the brood.

Local artist Zoe Matthiessen provided copies of her drawing of a distressed Osprey being strangled by a wrist band, one of the prints from her Ecocide series "Nature Betrayed / Portrayed."

And three people signed up as new members of the NHBC, including two super enthusiastic new birders.



--Deborah Johnson

### Full Moon Walk at Sandy Point

On Tuesday evening July 16 the Bio-Regional group of Greater New Haven hosted its monthly full moon walk at Sandy Point, on the beach in West Haven. The sky was clear with only a hint of the collecting clouds that would bring the deluge of

Wednesday and Thursday; the evening was warm (not hot and no humidity!) with just a slight breeze that kept the mosquitoes grounded. Almost 25 people gathered at 7 PM and headed to the beach shoreline, veering west nearly a mile to the Point. The evening's leader was Roger Uhlein, and I was honored to have been invited by the group to represent the New Haven Bird Club in pointing out to interested members the birds they were seeing during their walks. We saw or heard as many as 20 species, including multiple oystercatchers, lots of swallows, many, many terns of 2 and probably 3 different species, and a sizable flock of sandpipers already fattening up for their southward migration. A lone Mallard appeared, walking on the beach. As we walked out towards the point numerous song sparrows sang steadily, interspersed with peeps and chirps from what we hoped were piping plovers and perhaps even a salt marsh sparrow; several nesting sites--protected and regularly monitored--have been established here by the endangered piping plover, and this year most, but not all, of the plover parents reared fledglings. (One nest with eggs was abandoned following the 4th of July fireworks.) Graceful great blue herons glided in for their evening's roost. As we reached the Point and began the trek back to our starting point, the birds had calmed for the evening and the moon had begun to rise over New Haven Harbor. It was a beautiful evening, and is repeated monthly (most months), open to all.

--Deborah Johnson

### Common Ground Grant



Maximus, Yulisa, Charlie and Sharon Brostrom (teacher and site leader)

Once more, the New Haven Bird Club has helped support the summer jobs program at Common Ground High School in New Haven.

DeWitt and I went to the school on June 8 to meet the students and to visit their worksite. They are still working on clearing a walking path in a wooded area across from the school and adjacent to Wintergreen Brook.

Before this project was started a few years ago, there was no access to the

brook. Now students go there for water testing and sampling. They have installed some bird boxes, and continue to dig out invasive plants and replace with native species. This school and the students, with their focus on environmental and conservation concerns, remain a valuable resource for the New Haven area. The high school is also working with other partners to install schoolyard habitats at local primary schools!

I think our \$1500 donation is well placed. We are contributing to the education of these future citizens of the world.

I am very grateful to all of our members who generously donate to the club, enabling us to make these worthy gifts.

--Lori Datlow

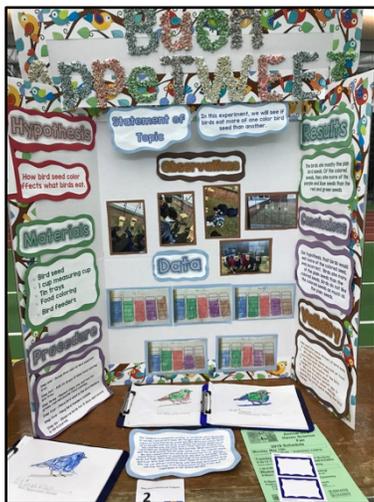
## NHBC Award at New Haven Science Fair

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual New Haven Science Fair was held on May 13 thru May 15 at the Floyd Little Fieldhouse at Hillhouse High School. The New Haven Bird Club participates in this event to judge any entries that meet the criteria of bird behavior and habitats. This year one experiment stood out among the 212 entries at the fair.

An experiment called “Bon Appetweet” was entered by Ms. Tori Vessicchio’s PreK Class. We interviewed the 3 students who were representing the class: Etienne, Jensiel and Adrienne. They explained the project to us showing us their personal journals and drawings and what the other students did.

The experiment’s goal was to find out how bird seed color affects what birds eat. Four groups of seed were colored with 30 drops each of food coloring – blue, green, red and purple – and 1 was left natural. Five identical feeders were set up outside and identical amounts of seed were put into each feeder. Feeders were observed for 10 days and the amount of seeds consumed in each feeder was recorded in a journal. A motion sensor app was used to monitor the feeders to make sure no other animals were eating the seeds.

At the beginning of the experiment the students were asked which color seed they thought the birds would prefer. Four students picked blue, 2 picked green, 2 picked red, 6 picked purple and 1 picked the natural uncolored seed.



In conclusion, the birds ate more of the plain uncolored seed than the colored seeds. Of the colored seeds, the birds ate more of the purple and blue seeds than the red and green seeds. Therefore, it was shown the birds do not like the colored seeds as much as the plain uncolored seeds.

The displays were well done, and standard scientific method was

followed throughout the experiment. The New Haven Bird Club Award went to Ms. Tori Vessicchio and her PreK class from West Rock School.

--Gary Lemmon

Mike Horn has arranged for giving the award at the New Haven Science Fair. Because Mike was away at the time of the fair, Gary and Carol Lemmon went to the science fair this year.

The class that was awarded the prize sent a thank you note to Mike.

May 23, 2019

Dear Mr. Horn,

Thank you for awarding our class the New Haven Bird Club excellence and creativity award for the study

of bird behavior and habitats. We had so much fun observing the birds during our science fair project. We enjoyed it so much that we plan to make the bird feeders a permanent fixture in our school garden.

We thank you again for supporting the sciences and the kids of New Haven Public Schools. You will always be a dear friend of West Rock STREAM Academy.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Vessicchio’s Pre-K Class

## Winter Feeder Survey 2019-2020



I want to welcome all members and non-members to the **2019– 2020 Winter Feeder Survey**. We had good participation last year, and I hope to see more members involved this year.

In a nutshell, all that you have to do is to record the largest number of birds of a species that you see at one sighting at your bird feeders during one day of the week and report that number to me. You do not have to do it every day or at the same time of day, but at least one day during the week or weekend. Anytime you look out at your birdfeeders, just record the number of birds of a species that you see.

This year I am looking for a few more participants, since I have been informed by a few of my long-time surveyors that they are moving and will not be able to participate.

There will be 2 Sessions this year due to the increasing presence of Black Bears and their taking down of feeders. The **First Session** will start on **Monday, November 4, 2019** and finish on **Sunday, April 4, 2020**. This is for those who have not had any reports of bears in their area. It is 22 weeks long. The **Second Session** will start on **Monday, December 2, 2019** and end on **Sunday, March 1, 2020**. This is for those who fear bears attacking their feeders. During this period, the bears should be in hibernation and no threat to the feeders. It will be 13 weeks long. Let me know which session you will be doing.

During the 2018-19 survey we saw a total of **44** species of birds the last 7 weeks of the survey and **56** for the whole year. We had 21 surveyors year, and again we were widely scattered around New Haven County, Middlesex County and Fairfield County: Bethany (1), Durham (1), Guilford (3), Hamden (7), Killingworth (1), Milford (1), Monroe (1), North Branford (1), Orange (1), Wallingford (2) and Woodbridge (2). We had 2 using Postal Mail, 3 receiving email but replying using Postal Mail and 15 using email, and myself. At the end of weeks 5, 10 and 15, I will send a report of what was seen. You will receive a final report after week 22.

For more information you can email me at **“vitali\_peter\_e@sbcglobal.net”** or phone me at: **203 288-0621**.

--Peter Vitali  
Survey Coordinator  
Chairman NHBC Winter Feeder Survey



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

**Newsletter August 2019**

**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 contact the Membership Chair, Laurie Reynolds: 203-434-2134 or warmstove@hotmail.com.

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

The NHBC website, [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org), offers information about the Club, its programs, and other Club and member news. If you have any questions about the Club, you can send an email to: [ask.nhbc@gmail.com](mailto:ask.nhbc@gmail.com).

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

CTBirds is an open discussion email list provided by the Connecticut Ornithological Association (COA) to discuss birds and birding in the state. To subscribe, go to: [lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds\\_lists.ctbirding.org](http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds_lists.ctbirding.org)