



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

December 2018

2018 - 2019 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Wednesday, December 5, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Thursday, December 13, 7:00 PM **Helen Hays - Great Gull Island**

Saturday, December 15, all day; dinner at 5 PM **119th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count**

Wednesday, January 2, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport**

Thursday, January 10, 7:00 PM **Steve Broker - Connecticut Bird Atlas: Year One Progress Report**

Saturday, January 12, 8:00 AM **Stratford Point**

Saturday, January 19, 8:00 AM **Milford Hotspots in Winter**

Sunday, January 27, 8:00 AM **Barkhamsted Reservoir & Vicinity - "Hart to Hart: New Hartford to Hartland"**

Saturday, February 2, 6:00 AM – 5:00 PM; dinner from 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM **The 3rd Annual Mega Bowl of Birding in New Haven County** (Snow Date – Saturday, February 9)

Wednesday, February 6, 8:00 AM **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison**

Thursday, February 14, 7:00 PM **Member's Night - Love Is for the Birds**

Saturday, February 23, 7:00 AM **Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast** (Snow date - Sunday February 24, 2019)

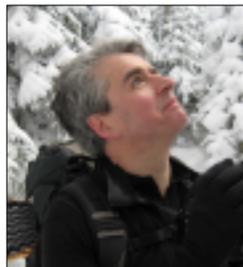
Conservation News

The Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) prevents overfishing of fish stocks and promotes the conservation of marine life. Your help is needed to ensure that the reauthorization of the bill benefits fish stocks, fish-eating birds, and the marine ecosystem as a whole.

AudubonCT is hosting a meeting to discuss the MSA and proposed reauthorization on Tuesday, December 4, at Stratford Point at 6:00 PM (note change to Tuesday from Wednesday), 1207 Prospect Drive, Stratford, CT 06615. RSVP to gnuttall@audubon.org.

If you cannot attend this in-person meeting, National Audubon is also [hosting a Webinar](#) to discuss the Act on December 6 at 6:00 PM. RSVP to gnuttall@audubon.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I sit to write the November 2018 President's Message, I am fighting off another turkey sandwich induced torpor. As I come in and out of consciousness, disjointed reminiscences play out like movies of all the late Novembers in my life. I would relive the scenarios I had as a kid in Northern Vermont where Thanksgiving was a winter Holiday.

We could have 20° weather and snow. Not too different from this Thanksgiving in Connecticut. I would see the sweet grandmotherly woman, a family friend, who joined us for many Thanksgivings. She would always tell me what birds she had at her feeders. November is bird feeder time for me.

This sweet woman lived on a hill overlooking Lake Memphremagog on one side and covered with trees on the other. Her back porch that hung over the trees was her framework for the winter bird feeding station. Inside she kept a table topped with linen lace, old porro prism binoculars, a Peterson Field Guide, a list and pencil and magnifying glass. She would get marauding flocks of Evening Grosbeaks that would deplete a feeding station within minutes. She bragged about her Redpolls, Pine Grosbeaks and siskins. Many of my winter visits to her house were spent watching her feeders. She was the reason I made my first birdfeeder out of a half-gallon bleach bottle.

With my feeder in place and filled with old bread with peanut butter smeared over it, I had high expectations for a large, colorful, mixed flock coming to light up my white Clorox bottle. I blame these high expectations of mine on this sweet old lady and also on an old Victorian museum of natural history hidden in my hometown. The Fairbanks Museum was full of birds, mammals and reptiles that had once lived in the nineteenth century and are now living out their eternal afterlife embalmed in arsenic soap and sealed behind glass and stained hardwood showcases. One winter bird panorama molded me for a lifetime of high expectations and letdowns. This panorama is a snow bank of fake Victorian snow, with a small frozen sylvan pool and a red spruce sapling that serve as the framework for a mixed flock of winter birds. White-winged Crossbills and Pine Grosbeaks are just inches from a Horned Lark and a Snow Bunting, while a Chickadee, a Blue Jay and a Nuthatch flit over their heads. So, after the first snow I project my avian idyllic expectation onto the nivean backdrop. I hovered at the window with more anticipation than waiting at the mailbox for Christmas packages. Then the Evening

(Continued on next page)

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2018-2019

OFFICERS

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<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Julie Hart julieannhart@gmail.com	475-331-4679
<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 Historian</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203-758-7203
<i>Hospitality</i>	Stacy Hanks flybirdhanks@gmail.com	203-283-3898
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	203-393-0694
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	203-288-0621

New Haven Bird Club Website:
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

(President's Message Continued from first page)

Grosbeaks exploded on the scene in flashing yellow, white and black and wiped out my feeder in minutes, then left, leaving behind a cold, still, empty scene until more bread crust was available. For some reason birdseed was not available to third graders in my family.

I have found that many members of the Club love their bird feeders, too. I am in good company. Watching feeders has become a long tradition with the Club. We have the annual feeder watch that is headed up by Pete Vitali. The period runs for about 22 weeks. All that you need to do is to record the largest number of birds of a species that you see at one sighting at your birdfeeders during one day of the week and report that number to Pete. 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.

I would like to thank Pete for spearheading this effort and compiling the data year after year. It is always something to look forward to. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

--Craig Repasz

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be Thursday, December 20 at 6:45 PM at Whitney Center.

Deadline for submissions to the February *Chickadee* is January 27. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at donnabatsford@gmail.com.

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.newhavenbirdclub.org

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

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 more than 41 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 or 203-288-3087.

The next book we will discuss is *The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World* by Andrea Wulf. Watch for an announcement of the date.

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. 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, and online on ctbirds, <http://www.ctbirding.org/calendar.htm>. Meetings are at Whitney Center, Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. 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.

Parking at Whitney Center (WC):

We may park on the upper level of the parking garage at the Whitney Center in any unmarked parking place. We may not park on the lower level of the parking garage. If no parking places are available please drive to the employee parking lot. Follow the driveway past the front entrances of the building. At the stop sign take a right into the employee parking area. There are no entrances at the side or back of the building so please walk around to the front. This area is well lit.

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*), 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. 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*), 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.

Remember to check the Club's website for updated information on all programs: www.newhavenbirdclub.org.

Thursday, December 13, 2018 – Helen Hays Great Gull Island

Great Gull Island lies at the eastern end of Long Island Sound. The former site of an army fort, its overgrown battlements are now defended by the largest concentration of nesting Common Terns in the world (9,500 pairs). The boulders dumped around the edge of the island to stabilize the shoreline, as well as some of the retaining walls of the fort, offer nesting sites for 1,300 pairs of Roseate Terns, the largest nesting concentration of this endangered species in the Western Hemisphere. Join Helen Hays, Director of the Gull Island Project, who will discuss highlights from her 50 years managing the Project.

Thursday, January 10, 2019 – Steve Broker Connecticut Bird Atlas: Year One Progress Report

The Connecticut Bird Atlas aims to map all bird species found in the state during both nesting and non-nesting seasons. From 2018 through 2020, birders are documenting the distribution, abundance, and breeding activities of birds at sites throughout the entire state. The resulting data will be used to document changes since the last comprehensive survey of the state's birds, held from 1982 through 1986. Data collected will inform the State Wildlife Action Plan and will help determine priority areas for bird conservation and land protection. Join us as Steve Broker reviews the first year of field data for the breeding birds

portion of the Atlas. One of eight regional coordinators for the Atlas, he discusses the use of safe dates and breeding codes and summarizes current statewide evidence for possible, probable, and confirmed breeding of our state's avifauna. Examples are drawn in part from the New Haven Region, which presents a diversity of habitats. Steve discusses some of the significant arrivals and losses of breeding birds over the last 35 years. Suggestions are made for how we proceed with field work in years two and three of the Atlas, again with focus on the breeding birds component. Steve Broker has worked in science education for the past 45 years. He is President of the Connecticut Ornithological Association and a past President of the New Haven Bird Club (1991-1993).

Thursday, February 14, 2019 – Member's Night Love Is for the Birds

Sign up with Gail Martino to feature your story for member's night. Each speaker will be allotted ten minutes to show slides or tell a story. The Valentine's Day theme of the night will be "Love Is for the Birds." For those of you participating in the CT Bird Atlas project, this is a great chance to highlight some of your observations, interests, and learning. All media should be emailed to Gail (gmm1227@yahoo.com) at least one week ahead of time so it can be consolidated for the meeting.

Outdoor Programs

All levels of birders are invited to all field trips, and every effort is made on all trips 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> for 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 Earth Day festivities at Hamden Middle School and at the Lighthouse Point Park Migration Festival in September. NHBC continues to support the Urban Oasis projects of the New Haven Harbor Urban Refuge Partnership. Our work includes restoration and maintenance at Dover Beach on the Quinnipiac River and along the West River at Edgewood Park and West River Memorial Park, along with eBird entries of observations at the Urban Oases.

First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison

Wednesday, December 5, 8:00 AM

At any time of year, Hammonasset is a true gem. Enjoy a mid-week trip to explore this birding hotspot for fall migrants. The varied habitat attracts shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds. Meet at Hammonasset Beach State Park parking area on Boston Post Road, Madison, just left (east) of main entrance road.

Leader: Jerry Connolly, 203-421-4128 (home), 203-710-2011 (cell), or birdshop@sbcglobal.net

119th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 15, all day; dinner at 5 PM

Join other NHBC members in this fun event, steeped in tradition. Take part for a few hours or all day. Join birders in the field or report what you see in your backyard (if you reside within the count circle). The results of the count are sent to the National Audubon Society for inclusion in an international census of early winter bird populations. The compilation dinner is at 5 PM at the Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden.

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

First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport

Wednesday, January 2, 8:00 AM

Join a midweek trip to this outstanding Long Island Sound birding spot. We check for loons, grebes, goldeneye, and other sea ducks. The fields are a good place to look for Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, and sparrows. Meet at Sherwood Island State Park: take Exit 18 off I-95 in Westport and head south on the Sherwood Island Connector. Drive into the park and meet at the main parking lot.

Leader: Tina Green, 203-247-2660 or tina@renaissancestudios.com

Stratford Point

Saturday, January 12, 8:00 AM

The best thing about the bleak midwinter is the birding! Join us on a winter walk at Stratford Point, a beautiful coastal spot at the mouth of the Housatonic River going into Long Island Sound. We will walk the loop at Stratford Point in search of wintering ducks such as Long-tailed Duck and Common Goldeneye, uncommon gulls, and Snowy Owl! If time allows, we can stop at nearby Long Beach to look for Dunlin, Sanderlings, and additional sea ducks. Meet at 8 AM at the Stratford Point parking lot, 1207 Prospect Drive, Stratford CT. Leader: Genevieve Nuttall, 860-287-6134 or gnuttall@audubon.org

Milford Hotspots in Winter

Saturday, January 19, 8:00 AM

We'll look for waterfowl, birds of prey, and winter passerines as we visit Milford hotspots that will likely include Milford Point, Mondo Ponds, and Caswell Cove. Dress warmly and plan to carpool. The trip ends by noon. Inclement weather will probably cancel the trip. Check with the leader if you have weather concerns. Meet at the commuter lot, Exit 35 off I-95. Leader: Frank Mantlik, 203-984-9410 or mantlik@sbcglobal.net

Barkhamsted Reservoir & Vicinity

"Hart to Hart: New Hartford to Hartland"

Sunday, January 27, 8:00 AM

We start at Maple Hollow in Bakerville at 8:00 AM. After birding in this vicinity, we continue to the center of New Hartford and its main parking lot for brief R&R, then head off for Lake McDonough, followed by Barkhamsted Reservoir. After scoping the reservoir for Bald Eagles on the nest, we make a series of stops along Routes 181 and 20 on the west side of the reservoir. As the wintry weather allows, we drive some roads in Peoples State Forest and Tunxis State Forest. When we reach the north end of Barkhamsted Reservoir, we are within shouting distance of the Massachusetts border. Our list of northern species will be a short one, but the scenery is

great and the birding fun. Look forward to a hearty lunch of soup and sandwiches as we will have lunch at a warm New Hartford restaurant. Meet at Maple Hollow in Bakerville. Directions: take Route 8 North to Exit 44 Torrington, then drive northeast on Route 202 to Bakerville and turn left on Route 219 Town Hill Road. Drive downhill to Dings Road, turn left, and go a short distance to Maple Hollow Road, where you turn right. We will be a few hundred yards up Maple Hollow Road in an open area.
Leader: Steve Broker, 203-272-5192 (home), 203-747-6843 (cell) or LS.Broker@cox.net

The 3rd Annual Mega Bowl of Birding in New Haven County

Saturday, February 2, 6:00 AM – 5:00 PM; dinner from 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM.

Snow Date – Saturday, February 9, 2019

Held on Super Bowl Weekend!!! Come join in on a fun and friendly event! Compete with other birders and win prizes and get your team's name inscribed on the prestigious Mega Bowl Trophy! We will bird New Haven County from Milford to Madison and north to Waterbury and Meriden, CT, and have fun birding and socializing with other birders. Birders join together in groups of three or four people and go birding wherever they like within New Haven County on the day of the event. The teams will meet at the end of the event and have dinner and share stories. The meeting will be at the Kellogg Environmental Center at 500 Hawthorne Avenue, Derby. A delicious dinner will be served. The Mega Bowl is inspired by the Superbowl of Birding held each January in Northeast New England by Mass Audubon, and the organizers of that event have generously given their consent for us to hold our own, similar event. Anyone interested in participating in the Mega Bowl will need to register in advance. The deadline for registration is Sunday, January 27th. Participants may sign up as a team, or individuals can submit their names and they will be put in contact with other individuals looking to become members of a team. Participants are encouraged to be creative in coming up with a name for their team. See the NHBC website for more details, www.newhavenbirdclub.org.
Mega Bowl Coordinator: Chris Loscalzo, 203-389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net

First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison Wednesday, February 6, 8:00 AM

Enjoy a mid-week field trip to Hammonasset Beach State Park, one of the state's best birding locations in any season of the year. We will look for sea ducks, grassland species, and rarities. Meet at Hammonasset Beach State Park parking area on Boston Post Road, Madison, just left (east) of main entrance road.

Leader: Greg Hanisek, ctgreg@yaho.com

Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast

Saturday, February 23, 7:00 AM

Snow date - Sunday February 24, 2019

This all-day trip includes stops at Sachuest Point NWR, Beavertail State Park, Moonstone Beach, Trustum Pond, and other great birding sites on the RI coast. We will see lots of sea

ducks, including all three scoter species, Common Eider, and Harlequin Duck. We'll look for birds of prey, including Rough-legged Hawk and several owl species. We'll also be on the lookout for alcids and rare gulls. Dress warmly—it's likely to be cold and windy on the coast. The walk is a bit strenuous. Bring lunch and a scope, if you have one. Meet at the Branford commuter lot, Exit 55 off I-95.

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

Field Trip Reports

October First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park Trip Report

On Wednesday, October 3, Frank Gallo led a group of 22 birders at Lighthouse Point Park. 44 species were seen: American Black Duck, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Herring Gull, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Blue Jay, Tree Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, House Finch, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, White-throated Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Common Yellowthroat, Cape May Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Northern Cardinal, House Sparrow.

Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale State Park Trip report

On Saturday, October 6th, five participants found 31 species of birds under cool temperatures. A flushed out Great Horned Owl gave us silent flight views. One birder was able to get his binoculars on it, perched in a tree, to ID it as the Great Horned Owl, instead of the anticipated Red-tailed Hawk. A lengthy debate over a somewhat yellow bird, ruling out the Yellow Warbler because of its size and behavior, left us with an Orchard Oriole or Scarlet Tanager. We also ruled out Orchard Oriole. We didn't get a photograph, so the debate is still on. Beautiful views of the rich colored Swamp Sparrow. Not too many warblers, but challenging views of the Northern Parula, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets as they flitted from branch to branch in a tree. 31 species found: Great Horned Owl, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Parula, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellow-throat, Warbling Vireo, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Eastern Phoebe, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Double-crested Cormorant, Carolina Wren, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Canada Goose, American Robin, Gray Catbird, American Goldfinch, Northern Cardinal, Red-bellied Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee, Mourning Dove, Mallard, Northern Flicker, Tufted Titmouse, American Crow, Northern Mockingbird.

--Maria Stockmal

Edgewood Park Trip Report

On Sunday, October 7, Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe led a group of 12 people on a walk at Edgewood Park in New Haven. 32 species were seen: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon), Mourning Dove, Great Blue Heron, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Buteo sp., Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, crow sp., Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Common Grackle, Blackpoll Warbler, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Cardinal.

Hammonasset Beach State Park Trip Report



Photo by Chris Howe

On Saturday, October 13, Flo McBride and Bill Batsford led a group of 12 birders at Hammonasset Beach State Park. The day started out cold and rainy, but it did clear. 62 species were seen:

Canada Goose, Mallard, American Black Duck, Green-winged Teal,

Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon), Mourning Dove, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Dunlin, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Black Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Merlin, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, crow sp., Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, wren sp., Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Gray Catbird, European Starling, American Pipit, House Finch, American Goldfinch, White-crowned Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow, Saltmarsh Sparrow, Ammospiza sp., Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Brown-headed Cowbird, blackbird sp, Common Yellowthroat, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Cardinal.

Lake Chamberlain; Cooper and Calabresi Farms Trip Report

On Saturday, October 20, Pat Leahy led a group of 12 people at Lake Chamberlain and the Cooper and Calabresi Farms. 37 species were seen: Domestic goose sp., Canada Goose, Mourning Dove, Herring Gull, Double-crested Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Accipiter sp., Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned

Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Cheshire Hot Spots Trip Report

There were 30 people on this walk led by Steve Broker and Melissa Baston. We visited 3 different sites: Boulder Knoll, Broad Brook Reservoir and Fresh Meadows. The weather was lovely. 36 species were seen: Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Mourning Dove, Red-tailed Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Peregrine Falcon, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing, American Goldfinch, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Cardinal.

November First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park

On Wednesday, November 7, Tina Green led a group of 24 participants at Sherwood Island State Park. 65 species were seen: Brant, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Mallard, American Black Duck, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon), Mourning Dove, Hudsonian Godwit, Dunlin, Greater Yellowlegs, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Peregrine Falcon, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, House Finch, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Cardinal, House Sparrow.

Hammonasset State Park Field Trip Report



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

On November 17, fourteen club members spent the morning birding in the park. We began the day at the Meigs Point Nature Center parking lot where we were pleased to see flocks of Snow Bunting, Horned Lark, and American Pipits. We also found a Lapland

Longspur among these grassland birds. We took a brief look out over the sound and saw a Northern Gannet in the distance. From there, we went to Willards Island and walked along the trails there. We saw a few Kinglets, a Northern Flicker, and flyover Cooper's Hawks and a Peregrine Falcon. Our next stop was the Swan Pond where we saw a good-sized flock of Hooded Merganser. We then walked through the campgrounds area where we saw a Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Cedar Waxwing. Our last stop was back along the Moraine Trail where we added Common Loon, Surf Scoter, and Dunlin to our species list. We saw 42 species on the day. A good time was had by all!

--Chris Loscalzo

NHBC Winter Feeder Report 2018-19 End of Week 3



We have finished the first 3 weeks of the survey.

This year we started with 20 surveyors reporting, 5 via Postal Mail and 15 via email. We are located all over New Haven

County and one surveyor in Fairfield County and one in Middlesex County.

What a year this has started out to be. With 10 surveyors reporting by email, (the others send their reports in after the 5th week) some of the early winter species we have seen are Carolina Wrens, Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows.

We had two new species added to the Uncommon List:

1. Evening Grosbeak: 2 seen for the first 2 days of week 1 by Tim and Kate Rodgers.
2. Belted Kingfisher: 1 seen in week 3 by Dean and Maryanne Rupp.

This year we also had Eastern Blue Birds, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Other notable species for the 1st three weeks are: Blackpoll Warbler, Brown Creeper, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Towhee, Fish Crow, Colden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-shouldered Hawk and Yellow Rumped Warbler.

One surveyor had her feeders knocked down by a Black Bear and had to delay starting by 2 weeks. Once the bears den up there should be no problems since they should not be out again before the end of the survey. We have had a bear on my street in Hamden and another about 2 miles away. Black Bears have been reported around the state in greater numbers this year.

There is still time to join. The survey runs from Monday October 29th, 2018, thru Sunday, March 31st, 2019. It is a weekly survey, but the number you report can be from a few minutes on one day or from many sightings on several days of the week. It is very flexible.

We have 3 types of Surveyors:

1. Postal Surveyors: Those who use Postal Mail to send and receive. I send you the forms via Postal Mail and you send them back via Postal Mail. They have no email capability

2. Email surveyors: Those who use email to send and receive.
3. Email/Postal surveyors: Those of you who can receive email but cannot download the forms and print them or cannot use email to send the data. I send the forms to you via Postal Mail and you send them back via Postal Mail. All other communication is via email.

We record the highest number of individual birds seen of that species in that week. For example: for the daily count if you see 5 Juncos at 8:00 AM, 10 at noon, and 6 at 3:00PM, count 10 Juncos as your count for the day. For the weekly count if on the first day of a week you have 1 Blue Jay, and on another day, you have 5 Blue Jays, record 5 in the cell for that week. In cases where individual birds can be differentiated, record the total counted for both sexes for the week. For example, if you have a female Cardinal on one day of the week and a male on another, then record 2 for the week, since you know that 2 different individuals were seen.

Any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me via email. My home phone number is in the NHBC Yearbook, but my new phones have "Call Blocking" on them and if we do not recognize the caller name or number the call is blocked. Instead call my cell phone: 203 988-1841 and leave a message. I will get back to you as soon as possible. The email address is: vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net.

Happy Birding,
Pete Vitali

Remembering Noble Proctor



Several dozen friends, colleagues, and family members of Noble S. Proctor attended the dedication on October 14, 2018 of a Stony Creek granite bench at Branford Supply Ponds in honor of Noble. The

Branford Open Space Authority joined Noble's wife, Carolyn Proctor, in the dedication at one of Noble's favorite birding areas. Noble's notes on forty years of birding at the Supply Ponds are included in the dedication program and reproduce his field notes on species recorded there and the status of each species. Numerous rare and unusual species have been sighted by Noble at the Supply Ponds, including both bitterns, Golden Eagle, Northern Goshawk, Swainson's Hawk, King Rail, Hudsonian Godwit, Red-necked Phalarope, Black Tern, Barn Owl, Short-eared Owl, Western Kingbird, Boreal Chickadee, Bicknell's Thrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Bullock's Oriole, and Summer Tanager. Noble's notes also include early spring arrival dates for wood-warblers and vireos over multiple years. Many New Haven Bird Club members studied with and were mentored by Noble at Southern Connecticut State University and out in the field. The bench, which overlooks a particularly beautiful area of the ponds, is engraved with these favorite words of Noble's: "Always Something to See." This was a wonderful celebration of the life and works of "The Ultimate Naturalist."

--Steve Broker

The Bismuth Man

My husband and I had a slightly odd experience recently while viewing an exhibit of antiquities at Glasgow University's Hunterian Museum.

A tall, kind of disheveled, middle aged stranger with a pronounced Scottish accent came over to us and said that in about ten minutes he was conducting a talk on bismuth in the room around the corner. Bismuth? Turns out it's a chemical element, his favorite element.

We thanked him for the information, and decided to go to be polite and possibly learn something new.

Dressed in faded jeans and a workshirt, this research geologist and curator of the museum's gemological and petrological collections gave an enthusiastic presentation about how as a child he discovered the joys of bismuth collecting and study.

As he bounced around a display table, he showed us a small pen-like magnifying glass that was a treasured gift from his parents and passed around various specimens from his bismuth collection, including the first samples he found at age 8 or 9. He told us where and how to find bismuth, its wonderful properties and uses, and its commercial importance.

Why do I mention him now?

His lecture helped me shape my goals as the education chair for the bird club.

I want to be the person who brings that first spark of interest to a child through an introduction to birds and birding. Maybe the spark will be the colorful bird cards, the discussion of four main skills for identifying birds, or looking through binoculars for the first time.

I would like some children to get excited about being outside enjoying the wildlife that is there just waiting to be seen.

Last summer I delivered four sessions on birds to children participating in the New Haven Land Trust's Schooner School. This year I'm developing partnerships with New Haven public schools. Flo McBride has been inspiring Hamden school children for many years with her Partners in Science Program called "Take Flight." I'll be borrowing a technique or two from Flo, who has generously shared with me her materials and methods, which I will incorporate into my own classes. I'm very grateful for her kindness, and hope she'll be one of the handful of bird leaders I'll be enlisting to lead walks after my classroom activities.

I am hoping to purchase at least 10 pairs of good quality, entry-level binoculars before spring migration to use with the older children (10 yrs and up). I have purchased Backyard Birding Guides published by Mass Audubon. I will give one to each teacher who partners with me to teach their class, so that they can continue other bird-related lessons on their own.

And as always I'll be representing the New Haven Bird Club at some local environmental events such as Earth Day, CT Green Expo, and the Fall Migration Festival. At each event I'll be encouraging members of the public, families, and lots of children to look at the birds, the plants and trees, the world of nature that is all around them, waiting to be seen.

--Lori Datlow, Education Chair

COA Offers Zepko Audubon Camp Scholarship 2019

The Connecticut Ornithological Association is pleased to announce that they will again offer one Zepko Audubon Camp Scholarship to nurture interest in bird study and conservation among young birders. The 2019 Scholarship will cover the full cost (\$1,395) of the Mountains to Sea Birding for Teens program from June 23-28, 2019. The cost includes housing, boat travel and all meals. The scholarship recipient will be responsible for transportation costs to and from camp.

This intensive 6-day, 5-night program will cover boreal to coastal bird species of Maine. Part of the week will be spent at Maine Audubon's Borestone Mountain Sanctuary and the remaining part of the week on Hog Island. The historic cottages at Borestone and Hog Island will be more rustic in nature than the traditional Hog Island cabins. Our participant should bring a sleeping bag and prepare for camping conditions while at Borestone and Hog Island.

Applicants must be a resident of Connecticut, age 14-17, and must submit a written application along with two letters of reference. Preferences will be given to applicants with individual or family COA memberships. To be considered a member, an applicant may join the club at the time of application.

Completed applications and references must be received by the COA by **January 31, 2019**.

Please see the [COA Website](#).

BIRDERS' EXCHANGE

The New Haven Bird Club is collecting binoculars, scopes or Neotropical field guides that we will donate to the Birders' Exchange Program, which is part of ABA.

This organization donates all binoculars and other equipment to worthy individuals involved in crucial bird conservation projects and education work in Central and South America.

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

Konold's Pond Access and Blind



Photo by Deborah Johnson

On November 4 members of the Woodbridge Land Trust, New Haven Bird Club and the West River Watershed Coalition met at the Amity Woodbridge Historical Society's Darling House to walk their property and to explore ways to blaze a trail to the north end of Konold's Pond.

The long-term vision of the West River Watershed Coalition is to have a hiking trail along the West River. The West River flows through property that is held

privately by the Regional Water Authority and private landowners. Any trail or access to Konold's Pond is of special interest to the New Haven Bird Club. The pond is famous for its winter duck populations and gives great views of West Rock Ridge with its Ravens and Peregrines. The NHBC Board of Directors has expressed interest in building an observation blind on the pond once access can be arranged.

Legal and permissible access to the pond has been an issue in the past due to private ownership of the pond access routes and industry on the pond.

Prospects for a trail to the pond are favorable. There is a patchwork of plots that are held by the Town of Woodbridge, The Town of New Haven and the State of Connecticut. Any access routes and easements will be handled by the Woodbridge Land Trust and West River Watershed Coalition. Once a trail could be built the NHBC would help or lead in the logistics of getting materials to a site on Konold's Pond and the building of the blind.

NHBC Conservation Chair Deborah Johnson has been instrumental in bringing the groups together to form a team. NHBC Treasurer Andy Stack has been researching the properties and access issues.

We will certainly keep the Club informed of any future developments.

--Craig Repasz
NHBC President

New Haven Bird Club Takes Part in Ghost Fishing Prevention Effort

NHBC member Robin Ladouceur was helping with the Mill River clean up when she came across the sad sight of a cormorant tangled in old monofilament fishing line dangling over the mill river from an old fallen tree. Sparked and outraged, Robin wrote a piece for the *New Haven Independent*. At the same time, she reached out to people she knew who could help. Within two months, she was able to bring a vast coalition together and to take steps to eliminate the issue of ghost fishing and its impact on wildlife.

Ghost Fishing is the term for monofilament line and fishing tackle left behind by anglers. These abandoned items can kill

and maim wildlife. There have been some high profile cases of ospreys killed by ghost fishing.

On Oct 30, 2018 in a Yale School of Forestry conference room a coalition met to discuss the problem and what could be done. Organizations represented were: Menunkatuck Audubon Chapter, New Haven Bird Club, Mill River Trail Crew, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Connecticut Ornithological Association and Audubon Connecticut. Also part of the coalition but not in attendance are Connecticut Audubon, Trout Unlimited and Save the Sound.

An effort is being launched to have a pilot program in New Haven and Hamden. At a later date the program could be rolled out to other parts of the state. The program will focus on volunteer organizations to construct monofilament waste bins and mount them at popular fishing destinations throughout the area. In addition to installing bins, volunteers will patrol the fishing areas and engage the anglers to discuss the hazards of waste monofilament. Menunkatuck Audubon Chapter has made and installed these receptacles in the past. The US Coast Guard Auxiliary can make the bins and volunteer to serve as site monitors. There will be a need for signage and educational material at the fishing sites and at tackle and bait stores. Connecticut Audubon could help head up this effort.

Funding for the project could come from Connecticut Ornithological Association Grant, Greater New Haven Community Fund, Corner Fund, NHBC and First Light Power. The volunteer effort will draw on all involved organizations.

The initiative will soon have an official name and launch its efforts in the spring at the start of the next fishing season.

--Craig Repasz
NHBC President

Great Meadows Proposal

An announcement was posted on CT Birds by Craig Repasz announcing the United States Fish and Wildlife (USFW) Northeastern Division is considering installing a boardwalk at the Great Meadow Unit of the Stewart B McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. This area has a great reputation with birds across the region. The New Haven Bird Club was instrumental in erecting an observation platform a few years ago.

Richard Potvin, Director of the McKinney NWR explains that the boardwalk proposal must go through the proper steps of analysis, environmental impact assessments, public opinion, etc. before it can be built. The process could take a year. The area is currently walled off, and no trespassing is allowed. The top habitat protection priority in the area is for marsh pink (*sabatia stellaris*), a state endangered plant.

Director Potvin also explains that there is an ongoing NOAA Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) project proposal which would potentially spend \$1 million to restore habitat at Great Meadows. The proposed boardwalk could dovetail into the NRDA project, using some of the work that will be done for the NRDA project to satisfy requirements for a trail/boardwalk. Potvin said the NRDA project even proposes propagating marsh pink and planting it to enhance the population.

MEET THE BOARD

Laurie Reynolds: Membership Chair

Laurie Reynolds would make a great poster child for “Enthusiastic New Birder.” To stave off an Empty Nest Syndrome when her son left for college in 2014, she went on a couple of bird walks, including NHBC’s Branford Supply Pond trip during which a Black-throated Blue Warbler fairly took her breath away. Almost every weekend after that she went on walks sponsored by NHBC, other clubs, land trusts, and the local bird shops. Impressed by the wonderful ability of some birders to ID even little specks in the sky and noting too the genuine friendliness and helpfulness of other birders—along with realizing what a great opportunity birding offered for “learning something”—she quickly became a convert. There now was far more in it for her than the childhood memories of her father faithfully filling backyard birdfeeders and her bird-loving mother reminding her to tell neighbors she was using binoculars to look at birds, not spy on them!

Laurie, the youngest of 5 girls (no brothers), was born in Brooklyn, NY, across the street from an inlet to the famed birding hotspot, Jamaica Bay. That location just could be why her father made it a mission to refill their yard birdfeeders every single day, rain or snow.

After earning a BA in Biology at the University of Pennsylvania, Laurie worked for 6 years at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in NYC. Moving to CT, she worked for 29 years in clinical research at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Wallingford. When the company closed the facility in 2018, Laurie lost her job but this always-cheerful and smiling birder put a positive spin on it: “It happened in April,” she says, “just in time for spring migration!”

Laurie joined NHBC in 2015. Two years later she became a Member-at-Large on the Board; the next year she became Membership Chair. She is genuinely committed to making Club membership an inclusive and fun as well as great educational experience. On Club walks, she loves taking pictures of birds so when you see her coming, she advises, be sure either to smile or hide behind your binoculars.

Laurie and Chris, her husband of 29 years, have lived in North Branford most of that time; they also enjoy their summer



cottage on Amston Lake in Hebron. The couple has two children: A daughter who is a Physician Assistant and the son who famously helped launch his mother’s birding career when he headed for college. He recently graduated with a degree in finance/management. Neither her husband nor children are birders, but they very much approve of Laurie’s “obsession” and sometimes accompany her on walks. Her husband is even very excited about joining her on her first international birding venture: a trip to Costa Rica next February.

Laurie is a studious and methodical birder. She enters data on eBird and is diligently working on “birding by ear.” She’s participating in the CT Bird Atlas project in Guilford and keeps several continually growing personal life lists: U.S.: 308. CT: 254. Yard: 59. Summer cottage: 46. She has birded on family trips to AZ and CA and is especially fond of Cape May (not hard to do!). In CT, Hamden’s Brooksvale Park and Milford’s Mondo Ponds are two among many spots that give her “great joy.” Laurie also is a great fan of bird-related podcasts. She’s especially fond of BirdNote, Laura Erickson’s *For the Birds*, and Ray Brown’s *Talkin’ Birds*. She recently became a *Talkin’ Birds* Ambassador and would be happy to chat with any NHBCers who’d like to discuss these and any other podcasts.

Laurie’s favorite bird is the woodcock whose peent, she says, always makes her giggle. But for sheer dazzlement she quickly names the swallow spectacle on the CT River and her very first Painted Bunting, seen in Stamford.

When she’s not into any of her many birding activities, Laurie enjoys cooking, largemouth bass fishing, and spending time with her 3 Golden Retrievers, including Lacey who is in the Golden Retriever Club of America Hunt Test Hall of Fame. Her family has long been highly involved with Retrievers: Her husband left his engineering career a number of years ago to raise the couple’s children and to train Golden Retrievers for AKC Hunt Test competitions.

Be sure to say “Hi” to Laurie at the next Club meeting or walk. This friendly and enthusiastic Membership Chair’s goal is to get to know every member.

--Betty Zuraw

Welcome New Members

Miriam Benson
New Haven

Anooj Bhav
Milford

Susan Devlin
Norwalk

Patricia M. Gammon
Hamden

Ann Meacham
Naugatuck

Jay & Hilka Bhandary
West Haven

Joanna deBear
Cheshire

Stephanie FitzGerald
New Haven

Emmeline Kaiser
New Haven



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

Newsletter December 2018

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, 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.

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