



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

June 2021

2021 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Saturday–Sunday, June 12–13, all day **New Haven Summer Bird Count**

Cancelled, but Osprey Cam available.

Saturday, June 12 **Osprey Open Day, New Haven**

NOTE: Please check the NHBC website and newsletter periodically for updated information on all programs.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



For most of us in the New Haven Bird Club, our interest in birds has helped us through this difficult pandemic year. Watching our backyard feeders or going on Club bird walks or joining each other for the monthly Zoom meetings and virtual presentations has kept up our spirits and given us something to look forward to and be grateful for.

If you joined us on Zoom for our May meeting – our virtual version of the Annual Banquet – you've already heard the long version of what I want to say here. But it's important and I'd like to say it again.

My sincere thanks go to all our members for your patience and understanding as we picked our way through a year of uncertainties and difficult conditions. For those who joined our bird walks around New Haven County and the state, thank you for your care in observing the CDC's and the Club's precautions and for keeping yourselves and all of us safe.

Many thanks to our walk leaders who gave their time and expertise to help us explore Connecticut's amazing range of habitats and see the resident, migrating, and breeding birds that they support.

Thanks go also to the board members, whose creativity and wisdom guided us through the changes we needed to make when we couldn't meet safely in person. Special thanks to Craig Repasz and Gail Martino, our outdoor and indoor program chairs, who took leadership in rethinking and then resuming our bird walks and membership meetings; they were co-recipients of this year's President's Award for their service to the Club. Pete Vitalli, longtime director of the Club's Winter Feeder Survey, also deserves special recognition and thanks for

motivating us to keep a very careful eye out and to record the numbers and species of birds in our yards. Pete's report of this year's results appears in this issue of *The Chickadee*.

And finally, welcome and thanks to all the new members who joined us this year, many more than in a "normal" year. I'm looking forward to meeting you when we return to more normal in-person Club activities.

As I write this, a large percentage of Connecticut residents have been vaccinated for the Covid virus and the Governor has relaxed precautions for indoor and outdoor events. Unless circumstances change, we should be able to resume bird walks without limitations or registration – make them open to anyone and everyone – when our 2021/2022 schedule resumes in late August and September. Because our upcoming monthly meetings were already scheduled before we knew that precautions would be eased, we will continue to meet virtually through December – and incidentally a number of members have let us know how much they've enjoyed the virtual meetings, since they've been unable to attend the in-person meetings. The board is currently exploring possibilities for holding in-person meetings with an accompanying video stream when we resume in January.

And of course, there's plenty of birding left to do this summer. I hope you'll find opportunities to bird your old patches and visit new ones. Don't forget, too, that this is the final year of field surveying for the CT Bird Atlas. Many blocks need more attention and there are many breeding birds that still should be confirmed. You can check it out at www.ctbirdatlas.org.

Thanks again, and happy birding. Maybe I'll see you out there.
--DeWitt Allen

Notes from the Board

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

Members who are not currently receiving club emails but would like to, should contact the Membership Chair at membership@newhavenbirdclub.org.

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.

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2020-2021

OFFICERS

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SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT!</i>	Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com	203-230-1697
<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 scmayo999@gmail.com	203-551-1707
<i>Lighthouse Point</i>	John Triana j triana1@sbcglobal.net	203-758-7203
<i>Historian</i>	Stacy Hanks flybirdhanks@gmail.com	203-283-3898
<i>Hospitality</i>	Steve Mayo scmayo999@gmail.com	203-551-1707
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Peter Vitali vitgoo39@gmail.com	203-288-0621
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>		

Notes from the Conservation Committee

Forage Fish Important Update and Request for Support

On April 29, our Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal along with Senator Blunt (R-MO) introduced the Forage Fish Conservation Act (FFCA, S.1484). The full and important press release can be found at the end of this newsletter.

The shorebirds that are such a central part of our marvelous local birding experiences are deeply tied to the productivity and resiliency of Connecticut's waters. We can be proud that our own Senator has taken a lead on forage fish protections. NHBC is preparing a letter of support, and gratitude, to Senators Blumenthal and Blunt. You are encouraged to add your support by sending a letter.

Duck Stamp Reminder

The current stamp is valid through June 30, for \$25, sold at local post offices. The new stamp will be available sometime in July. One of the easiest ways that anyone can support bird habitat conservation is by buying Federal Duck Stamps – among the most successful conservation tools ever created to protect habitat for birds and other wildlife. Federal Duck Stamps are conservation revenue stamps; 98 percent of the purchase price goes directly to help acquire and protect wetland habitat and purchase conservation easements for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Wetlands acquired with Duck Stamp dollars help purify water, aid in flood control, reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities.

--Deborah Johnson
NHBC Conservation Chair

Welcome New Members

Zachary Jukoski
Milford

Minor Myers
New Haven

Janet McAllister and Tom Morris
Milford

Mark Fiandaca
North Branford

Sheila Sennett
New Haven

Molly Hill
Pasadena CA

Andrew Swann
New Haven

Annette Pasek
South Glastonbury

Amy Kapczynski
New Haven

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.newhavenbirdclub.org

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

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 for updated trip information and a Google Map link to the meeting place.

Announcement Regarding Walks

We will no longer limit the group size on our walks. We will not require registration. Members may carpool. We encourage everyone to follow the CDC and State Covid guidelines for your own safety. These changes are effective immediately. You are welcome to bring a guest.

I want to thank everyone for your patience and understanding as we tried to keep our outdoor program going through the pandemic. We were able to keep birding and stay safe. I especially want to thank the trip leaders for their willingness to lead the walks during a pandemic. I think the birding helped keep a lot of us sane during these trying times.

Please contact Craig Repasz if you have any questions or concerns, 203-230-1697 or crepasz@hotmail.com.

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. The Club also is building a presence in local public schools and camps to encourage children to embrace birding.

New Haven Summer Bird Count Saturday–Sunday, June 12–13, all day

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

***Cancelled. See below about Osprey Cam.* Osprey Open Day, New Haven Saturday, June 12**

Osprey Cam: Although the scheduled *Osprey Open Day* at West River Memorial Park in New Haven has had to be postponed until June 2022, the Osprey parents are currently sitting on eggs in their nest, visible from the parking lot at water's edge, and the Urban Oasis at the park is in bloom and the meadow is walkable. To view the nest live via Video Cam, visit Menunkatuck.org. The park is located at 200 Derby Ave. (Rt. 34), near the Barnard Nature Center; entrance is near the intersection with Grasso Blvd. Watch for this fun family event in June next year.

Trip Reports

English Field Trip to Lighthouse Point Report

We had a wonderful time on the Richard English Memorial Double Field Trip on Saturday 4/3/2021. The weather was cooperative. We had a cool start, but the temp eventually went up to the lower 50s. We had a blue sky and a light breeze. We had a total of 15 people between the 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM Trips. The trips were limited to Lighthouse Point because of the Plague. The Boy Scout Camp with the Richard English

Sanctuary was closed and we could not go to Hammonasset Beach State Park as it was a double trip. People were advised they could go there after the main trip.

We had a total of 34 species for the 2 trips. Some of the highlights were: Old Squaw, Horned Grebe and lots of Brants (my personal favorite).

Thank you to Gail Martino for keeping the list on both trips.

--Mike Horn

“Aves Agonistes: The Intertwined Lives of Peregrines and Ravens” West Rock Ridge Trip Report

Ten of us met early Sunday, April 25, for a morning of birding on West Rock Ridge in Hamden, New Haven, Woodbridge, and Bethany. West Rock Ridge State Park is the second largest state park in Connecticut. The ridge has a 200 year history of research on all aspects of natural history and human history; geology, botany, herpetology, mammalogy, ornithology, and human land use. On this day, we had automobile access to the entire seven-mile ridge line, from the southern terminus to the far north where West Shepard Extension separates West Rock from High Rock.

I elected to run the trip in spite of predicted rain, and the decision proved to be the correct one. We spent the first hour out of a steady rain at the pavilion by the southern terminus of the ridge. I used my laptop computer to give a mini-talk on Peregrine Falcons and Common Ravens in Connecticut. Peregrines have nested at West Rock since 1999, when I discovered a pair at the ridge during that year's Summer Bird Count. Ravens have nested at West Rock since 2002, when I discovered a pair of adults with three fledglings feeding on a road kill rabbit near the north end of the ridge, also on the New Haven Summer Bird Count. One learns a lot on the SBC!

The peregrines have nested in several locations in the abandoned quarry at West Rock, each visible with optical equipment at a respectable distance from the ridge top. In 2003, I located the raven nest on a west-facing cliff ledge no more than 40 yards away from the usual nesting spot of the peregrines. Over the past two decades, the ravens have used only two nest sites, one visible from the ridge top, the other from Lunar Drive in the western lowlands. These two species of birds share preferred nesting habitat in temperate regions of North America, and they have coevolved over millennia. The interspecies relationship is an antagonistic one in which corvid and falcon will defend their own nesting territories, but the falcon is generally dominant in the air space and the raven is fully capable of ducking for cover in the forest canopy.

Following our digital introduction to the West Rock avian superstars, we disregarded a light drizzle and visited Judges Cave, named for Edward Whalley and William Goffe (father-in-law and son-in-law), who with 57 other members of Parliament sentenced Charles I, King of England, Scotland, and Ireland, to death for high treason. With the 1649 execution of Charles I, a ten-year period of the Commonwealth of England followed, led in part by Oliver Cromwell. When the former kings' son, Prince Charles, restored the monarchy in 1660, the regicide judges became wanted fugitives in England. Whalley, Goffe, and John Dixwell fled to the American colonies. Royalty soldiers were sent to secure their capture, and Whalley and Goffe hid out at West Rock in spring and summer of 1661 in the protecting space of a large glacial erratic on top of West Rock, aided by sympathetic colonists. The plaque at Judges Cave reads, "Opposition to tyrants is obedience to God."

The rain now over, we went north to the peregrine and raven nesting area and observed the adult female peregrine in incubation. (Later, a group of birders that lingered on the ridge saw the female still in incubation and the male nearby.) The trip proceeded with a drive to the north end of the ridge and back, stopping a series of times to enjoy birds in migration and settling into breeding territory. At the power line, we briefly saw one of the ravens of a pair that nested this year and last year in a conifer grove on the east side lowlands of West Rock Ridge adjacent to the Wintergreen Brook Red Trail. Overall, we saw a diversity of birds: Peregrine Falcon (check); Common Raven (check); various other species of neotropical migrants and year-round resident birds not featured on this particular trip. A good time was had by all.

--Steve Broker

Bent of the River Trip Report

New Haven Bird Club enjoyed a wonderful Sunday morning walk led by Morgan Evans at Bent of the River Audubon in Southbury, CT on May 2nd. The group consisted of about 10-12 people who were all very well versed in their birding acumen and often times called out a bird they heard or saw before Morgan even identified it, which makes any group leader very happy and eager to find even more "rare" birds or uncommon songs. We broke 50 with 51 species observed, which is a good morning for early May at BOTR, since many of the neo-tropic migrants had not quite made it back into town from their tropical overwinter vacations. Warblers we were fortunate enough to see included Palm Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler,

Northern Parula and American Redstart. We also had amazing looks at a Worm-eating Warbler that thrilled the group with its song right in front of us, which always helps birders to connect song to species. Louisiana Waterthrush songs rang out along the small streams that dot the property and the early successional meadows provided habitat for Blue-winged Warbler as well as Prairie Warbler. We also heard "teacher, teacher, teacher" cut through the undergrowth as we searched for the skulking Ovenbird. Other species of note included 5 woodpecker species (Hairy, Downy, Red-bellied, Northern Flicker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker) and a gorgeous male Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the feeders. The strength of the group's bird knowledge really came into play when we heard a Blue-headed Vireo singing around the barn. As we walked, we discussed the importance of the successional meadow habitat that makes up a good chunk of Bent of the Rivers riverside areas and why oak trees are great places to look for warblers in early spring (oaks = bugs, just ask Doug Tallamy). A beautiful spring morning spent at a gorgeous property with wonderful, talented and passionate birders, what else could you ask for!

--Morgan Evans

Naugatuck State Forest Field Trip Report

On Sunday, May 9th 2021 (Mother's Day!), ten members of the New Haven Bird Club went to the Naugatuck State Forest (west block) for a morning of birding. We saw lots of birds, despite the fact that it was a cold and windy day and, therefore, not a great day for migrating passerines. Birding is a very enjoyable activity for several reasons, including that it is very pleasing to the senses. And not just our visual sense: our auditory sense, too. This was a good thing to remember on this occasion as, although we saw numerous birds in their natural habitats, we also had to be satisfied with hearing several species vocalizing from the woods without having the luxury of seeing them. Examples of birds we heard but did not see included: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Winter Wren, Worm-eating Warbler, and Hooded Warbler. Offsetting the modest frustration from not seeing these species were the fabulous looks we got at numerous other species including: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-shouldered Hawk, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush, Eastern Towhee, Baltimore Oriole, Louisiana Waterthrush, American Redstart, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting. Needless to say, our collective senses were satisfied. We had the bonus of seeing an interesting mammal too: we saw a pair of otters swimming in the woodland pond. We observed a total of 57 species on this fine day. We also got in some good exercise, hiking for nearly 5 miles up and down the hills in this remarkable natural space. We will return to this forest again and delight in the sights and sounds of our avian friends.

--Chris Loscalzo

NHBC Trip to Sleeping Giant Report

Thirty members signed up for the Sleeping Giant Bird Walk on May 15. Due to the NHBC Covid-19 guidelines that limit the group size to ten people we divided into three groups. Each of the groups were led by one of the trips co-leaders, DeWitt

Allen, Jim Sirch and Craig Repasz. DeWitt's group met at the Mill River park entrance on Tuttle Ave, Jim Sirch's group met at the main parking lot and birded the Tower Road, and Craig Repasz's group met on Chestnut Lane and birded the east side of the park.

The New Haven Bird Club during the early years frequently took trips to Sleeping Giant. Members would ride the trolley into Mt Carmel.

Mill River – DeWitt Allen

Nine NHBC members set out with their leader to explore along the Mill River, south from the Tuttle Avenue Bridge. It was a beautiful morning, and although fewer species (27) were present than we hoped for, there were a number of highlights. These included several White-breasted Nuthatches that pursued each other around us, with two engaging in courtship feeding right above; a Ruby-throated Hummingbird that appeared unexpectedly in the undergrowth; long looks at a singing Red-eyed Vireo and a calling Great-crested Flycatcher in the canopy; a courting pair of Baltimore Orioles, and a Blue-winged Warbler in the understory near the bridge. And there were, of course, Gray Catbirds everywhere. The group also explored the remnants of the traprock mining operation that between 1912 and 1933 removed the entire western side of the Giant's Head before the Sleeping Giant Park Association was able to raise enough money during the height of the Great Depression to buy out the mining company's lease and preserve the Head as we know it. And as we stood looking up at the Quarry cliffs, a female Eastern Bluebird appeared in front of us, carrying food to her nest. It was a full and enjoyable morning.

Tower Road – Jim Sirch

Highlights include great views of three Scarlet Tanagers, a pair of Black and White Warblers bringing nesting material to their nest; two Common Ravens resting and preening each other on a dead limb; an amazing, close view of an Indigo Bunting; and good looks at a Worm-eating Warbler. The group spent a lot of time looking at ravens and tanagers they only made it three quarters of the way to the top. 37 Species were encountered.

Chestnut Lane – Craig Repasz



Eight members with the trip leader birded the east side of Sleeping Giant leaving from Chestnut Lane. The group moved through deciduous woods to a power cut, pond, and open orchards. 33 species were encountered.

River Road, Kent Trip Report

River Road in Kent has the great reputation as being one of Connecticut's best warbler spots. A large expanse of forest meets the Housatonic River to provide ideal habitat for many species. On Sunday, May 16, seven members met at the trailhead parking for the Appalachian Trail at the end of River Road. We were greeted by a wall of sound from Cerulean Warblers, American Redstarts and Gray Catbirds. We spent a lot of time birding the parking area. We later meandered down the road to the first gate. The warblers did not disappoint. We



were given some id challenges with the two Waterthrushes. A Swainson's Thrush appeared, giving us great photo opportunities. The Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were very abundant. 48 species were encountered.

--Craig Repasz

Lake Chamberlain and Lake Dawson Trip Report

On Wednesday, May 19, we had an absolutely glorious day to



look for birds on these beautiful properties owned by the Regional Water Authority in Bethany and Woodbridge. The fun started in the parking lot when a Black billed Cuckoo was calling as plain as day. Unfortunately he kept himself hidden from view. We

had a busy morning at the Tree Swallow village. In addition to lots of Tree Swallows, we had Rough-winged Swallows and Kingbirds all feasting on the bug hatches on the lake. It was really neat to see the Rough-winged Swallows sitting next to the Tree Swallows so that you could see the noticeable size difference. The Rough-winged Swallows are much shorter in body length. Then a Kingbird came into the picture showing a similar difference. He was larger than the Tree Swallow. A good number of summer migrants were around including Indigo Bunting and Spotted Sandpiper. A good number of the usual year round residents were present including a Bluebird, Red Shoulder and Red Tailed Hawks. A Turkey was seen, as was a Great Blue Heron. Our sightings at Lake Dawson included a few more warblers including Yellow and Blackpoll. We had wonderful sightings of Baltimore Orioles and listened to Warbling Vireos singing away. Scarlet Tanager added to the colorful birds of the day. We totaled more than 40 species. It was a great way to start the day.

--Patrick Leahy

Whip-poor-will Walk Trip Report

On Friday evening, May 21 a group of 12 of us ventured to Naugatuck State Forest at the end of Hunter's Mountain Road to check for the Whip-poor-wills that inhabit the area. We were able to hear at least 3 Whip-poor-wills, one which was singing from right in the parking lot and gave a few looks from the parking lot and a rock near the gate. We also were able to watch an American Woodcock giving its display flight. It was good to hear that both nocturnal species are continuing a presence in this area that is maintained for open habitat.

--Jack Swatt

Hansen Park Trip Report

A group of seven members including the two trip leaders, DeWitt Allen and Craig Repasz, set out to explore Hansen Park in North Haven on Saturday, May 22. The Park provides deciduous forest, riparian, ridge, and meadow habitats. The wood warblers were absent compared



with previous years. The meadow warblers, Blue Winged Warbler and Prairie Warbler were on their territories and gave us good looks. The ubiquitous yet elusive Eastern Wood-Pewee posed for us on a dead tree trunk. We had 39 species.

--Craig Repasz

Barn Island Walk Report

Seven birders made the trip to the eastern border of Connecticut to tour Barn Island Wildlife Management Area in Stonington. What a pleasure to be able to enjoy a beautiful day in an area with different habitats and see many species, without having to wear masks after this COVID year!



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

We were able to record 46 species with common species (Gray Catbird, Yellow Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird) seemingly everywhere. Vireo species (Red-eyed, Warbling, Yellow-throated and White-eyed) were all well-seen. Other special species included Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, several Veery, Willow and Great-crested Flycatcher, Marsh Wren and Saltmarsh Sparrow.

Thanks to Carolyn Cimino for co-leading this trip and to all who made the journey to this beautiful and excellent birding destination.

--Bill Batsford

Mohawk Mountain State Park Trip Report

The June 2 first Wednesday walk centering on Mohawk Mountain State Forest in Cornwall also included visits to grassland at Cornwall Village and a stop at Mohawk Mountain ski area. A total of 9 participants, including leader Greg Hanisek, enjoyed beautiful weather for an outing that centered on the area's fine array of breeding species, with an emphasis on birding-by-ear in the leafy forest habitat in the forest.



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

--Greg Hanisek

A Tribute to Arne Rosengren

The CT birding community will want to join me and the other members of the New Haven Bird Club in remembering with affection and admiration Arne Rosengren, who passed away peacefully on May 10, at the age of 99. I'm collecting memories of Arne to put together for the club, and hope that people who knew him will email me their thoughts and stories about him at fmcb_warbler@yahoo.com.

Arne was an expert birder, a scrupulously accurate area captain for innumerable counts, and a serious student of birds who kept meticulous – and legible – records of his sightings; his field notebooks are now in the NHBC archives. He started the Lighthouse Point Hawk Watch, and shared his knowledge for decades as a field trip leader and birder.

He loved to help people learn about birds, and was unfailingly generous with his time. He would often stop to talk with birders and others that he met in the field, and would answer their questions and talk for just about as long as they wanted to. I first met him by telephone when I was just starting my serious US birding. Having learned that Harriet Miller was the president of the NHBC, I called her to ask for help with identifying a hawk perched in our back yard. She said, "The person you want to talk to is Arne Rosengren," and gave me his phone number. Arne talked to me, a perfect stranger, for at least half an hour that day, and it wasn't long before we were birding together a lot, often with George and Millie Letis and sometimes John Maynard, and later with Nancy Rosenbaum, too.

I'm sure I'm far from the only person who saw special birds because of Arne. He showed me my first owls, in November, 1982 – two Long-eared Owls he knew about in the marsh at Lighthouse Point, followed by an unexpected Barred Owl near the park entrance. Then in November, 1983, he phoned to tell me that he'd gotten a call from Fred Sibley about a Snowy Owl on the roof of Harkness Hall at Yale, and we saw that one too; amazingly no passers-by were noticing it. In return, I was glad that I could show him some of the birds that I found at Lake Whitney, like a Red-necked Phalarope in May, 1982, and a Caspian Tern in May, 1983.

Arne was a real Renaissance man. He was fascinated by politics and read the *NY Times* every day, always walking to a nearby store to get it. A lover of Gilbert and Sullivan and of opera, he had a wide knowledge of those repertoires. He also knew well the popular music of the 30's and 40's, and once played me recordings of the a cappella singing group he was part of as an undergraduate at Wesleyan. It was fun to break into song with him once in a while. He loved baseball, and was a die-hard Red Sox fan, who looked forward every year to the start of spring training – and then, of course, to the return of the warblers. Also a master swimmer, for decades he swam at the Hamden High School pool every day it was open, and won medals in competitions.

A born storyteller, Arne gave some recorded interviews over the years. There's one from 2020 about his birding that was condensed for inclusion in the NHBC's 2021 anthology *Chickadee Tales*. Another is a fascinating 1995 narrative of his experiences as a US Naval officer in the Pacific in WWII. Told matter-of-factly, it is a vividly dramatic story; I'd be glad to send a pdf of it to anybody who'd like to see it. We can also watch the slide show Laurie Reynolds worked with others to create in 2017 for the NHBC's celebration of his 95th birthday. It's at <https://youtu.be/Aguli3tcy0M>.

--Flo McBride

NHBC Winter Feeder Survey 2020-2021 – Final Report



WHAT A YEAR! Starting the year there were 2 Bear attacks on feeders, one in week 1 and one in week 2. There were 4 weeks of snowstorms this year, the last week of January and the first three weeks of February. In week 15 we had 3 days of snow, and in week 16 we had 2 days of snow. There was a total of 48 species of birds reported the last 7 weeks of the survey and 64 for the whole year. Last year we had 43 species for the last 7 weeks and 50 species for the year. From 2012 to 2019 the yearly reported number of species was: 50, 47, 50, 47, 44, 41 and 56.

To the Uncommon Species List this year we added two new species – Evening Grosbeak in week 13, and Black and White Warbler in week 18. In week 16 a Common Redpoll was reported. There were also Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, and Eastern Towhees seen by multiple surveyors. American Wigeon was added in week 11 to the Waterfowl List.

We had 20 surveyors this year and again we were widely scattered around New Haven County with three surveyors outside New Haven County.

The last seven weeks (16-22):

Common List: We had 22 of 22 species. All were seen by 10 or more surveyors.

New Category: Semi-Common List: We had 12 of 12 species. A Fox-sparrow was seen in weeks 17, 18 and 20, a Purple Finch was seen in weeks 21 and 22, and in week 16 two Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were observed.

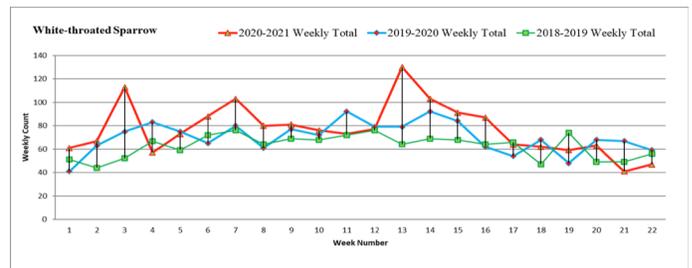
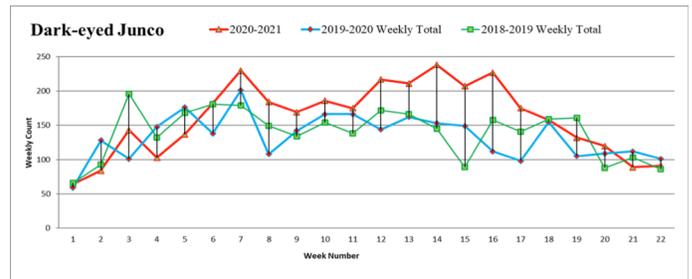
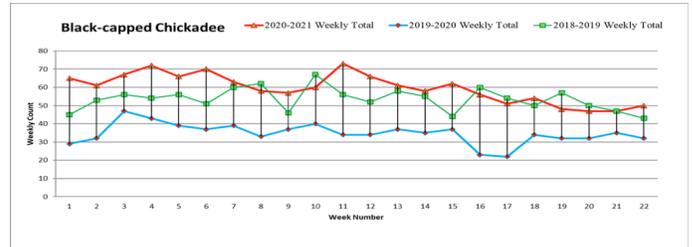
Uncommon List: We had 11 out of 44 species reported and they were: American Tree Sparrow, Black and White Warbler, Broad-winged Hawk, Cedar Waxwings, Common Redpoll, Field Sparrow, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red-shouldered Hawk, Swamp Sparrow, Turkey Vulture.

Waterfowl list: We had 4 out of 10 species reported; Canada Goose, Herring Gull, Mallard, Wood Duck.

Animal List: We had 13 out of 26. Gray Squirrel led the way. The others were Chipmunk, Feral Cat, Mole, Opossum, Rabbit, Raccoon, Red Fox, Red Squirrel, Skunk, Vole, White tail Deer and Woodchuck.

I have attached graphs of 5 species, with 3 trend lines, one for each year: 2020-2021 Red, 2019-2020 Blue and 2018-2019 Green.

A look at the graphs shows that the American Goldfinch was lower than 2018-2019 but about the same as 2019-2020. The Black-capped Chickadee was higher this year than the last two years. The Northern Cardinal numbers were much higher than the previous years. Our two winter species, the Dark-eyed Junco and the White-throated Sparrow, came in higher this year. They both peaked around week 13 to 17 and then we saw a drastic drop off.



I have provided a list showing all the species on the lists and the maximum number seen for that species in any one week of the survey by all the surveyors.

BLUMENTHAL & BLUNT INTRODUCE MEASURE TO PROTECT FORAGE FISH

Forage fish play a critical part in the ecosystem as the primary food source for larger fish, aquatic life, and birds in the Long Island Sound & Mississippi River, strengthening local economies & boosting recreation

[WASHINGTON, D.C.] – U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Roy Blunt (R-MO), members of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, introduced the Forage Fish Conservation Act today to protect forage fish. These small fish serve as the primary food source for larger fish, other aquatic life, and birds in ecosystems like the Long Island Sound and the Mississippi River, benefitting local environments and economies, and strengthening recreational industries.

“Forage fish may be small, but they have a mighty impact and this legislation will ensure they are protected,” said Blumenthal. “Small schooling fish like herring, sardines, and anchovies provide essential sustenance to bigger fish, whales, seals, osprey, and other treasured marine wildlife in the Long Island Sound, supporting local economies and recreation. Many of these small fish are also a key part of the commercial fishing stock, essential to the regional economy. I’m proud to lead this bipartisan effort with Senator Blunt to ensure forage fish can thrive.”

“Recreational fishing supports nearly 10,000 jobs in Missouri and contributes \$1.3 billion to our state’s economy,” said Blunt. “It’s an important part of our tourism industry, a boon to local businesses, and a favorite pastime for myself, my family, and so many Missourians. This bill will help ensure forage fish populations are where they need to be to keep the recreational and commercial fishing industries thriving.”

The Forage Fish Conservation Act amends the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) to require the Secretary of Commerce to develop a definition of forage fish, as well as improve the conservation, monitoring, and management of prey fish species – fish that serve as food for commercial fish stocks, as well as for sea birds and marine mammals. Conserving forage fish would result in healthier wildlife populations and support communities that rely on fishing, wildlife tourism, and seafood sales.

MSA is the landmark federal law governing marine fisheries in federal waters. Passed in 1976, MSA has phased out foreign fishing in federal waters, stemmed overfishing, allowed depleted fish stocks to recover, and conserved fisheries resources, among other reforms. Despite the importance

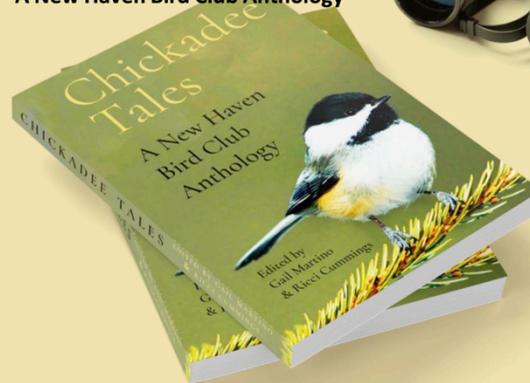
of forage fish, MSA does not currently require regional management councils to include forage fish in their management plans resulting in forage fish populations facing challenges that in turn affect commercial species and economies that depend on them. The Forage Fish Conservation Act would amend the MSA to fix the management gap for forage fish.

The Forage Fish Conservation Act has been endorsed by a number of Connecticut and national organizations, including Audubon Connecticut, Connecticut Audubon Society, Connecticut Ornithological Association, Mystic Aquarium, Maritime Aquarium, American Sportsfishing Association, Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation, National Marine Manufacturers Association, National Professional Anglers Association, National Audubon Society, Pew Charitable Trusts, National Wildlife Federation, and Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

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Newsletter June 2021

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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 notify us at our website under "Join, Update Information Online."

Alternatively, email the update to the Membership Chair (membership@newhavenbirdclub.org), or send changes by mail to: New Haven Bird Club, PO Box 9004, New Haven CT 06532-0004.

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