



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

June 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



My term as your New Haven Bird Club President is nearing its end, and this is my final President's Message for our Club's newsletter. I'd like to use this space to thank all the Club members who have volunteered their time and passion to help keep our Club an active and vital organization, including those whose work may not always be recognized or acknowledged. Our dedicated Board members, Committee Chairs, Special Program Chairs and helpers, former Presidents, walk leaders, and so many others have served tirelessly to strengthen and support our Club. I'm sure they will continue to do so, but there is always room – and need – for new faces to lead, assist, or brainstorm. To those of you who already indicated your willingness to volunteer in one way or another: thank you.

As previously mentioned, our NHBC Board will have two new faces starting July 1: Margaret Fikrig, our incoming President; and Patrick McGovern, the second of our two Members-at-Large. Both Margaret and Patrick were elected at our April Annual Member Meeting and I hope you have had a chance to meet one or both of them.

Information from my previous column bears repeating. After many years of dedicated service, our Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, will be stepping away from that position. This, the June 2025 edition of *The Chickadee*, will be her final issue. At our recent Annual Banquet, I was pleased to be able to present this year's President's Award to Donna for her many years of superb work. By my estimation, Donna edited and proofread more than half a million words and traveled to the printer and post office more than a hundred times over the years. Join me in a tremendous thank you to Donna!

We were fortunate to have all Board members attend our May Board meeting on Zoom; see page 2 for your Board!

Again, thank you to everyone for helping the New Haven Bird Club continue into the future as a vibrant part of the community.

--Chris Howe

NOTE: This is the final edition of the newsletter.

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

www.newhavenbirdclub.org

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2024-2025

OFFICERS

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

BOARD MEMBERS

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

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2025-2026

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Margaret Fikrig
<i>Vice President</i>	Meg Bollin
<i>Treasurer</i>	Celeste Echlin
<i>Secretary</i>	Bobbie Fisher

BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Annual Banquet Chair</i>	Gail Martino
<i>Conservation Chair</i>	Craig Repasz
<i>Education/Outreach Chair</i>	Meg Bollin
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Indoor Programs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 26 via Zoom.

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

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

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

Welcome New Members

Aliya Webermann
Hamden

Joshua Dembsky
Bethany

Marisa Fajardo and Kartik Sridhar
Norwalk

Cassiopeia Adams
New Haven

Rachel and Charles Butler
West Haven

Susan H Glendon
Guilford

Jan Christensen
Cheshire

Melissa Funaro
Branford

Rafael Perez
New Haven

Kit Wilson
New Haven

Kelly Cosgrove
Guilford

Sherry McKee
Guilford

Sarah Kopac and Craig Breitsprecher
Portland

Linda Lee Spray
New Haven

Jessica Roberts and Chris Lombardo
Hamden

Nora Metaj
Middlbury

Tierra and Malcolm Jolly
and Rusty, Sasha and Clementine Lee
New Haven

Nancy Worthington
Hamden

Outdoor Programs

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

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

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

NHBC Conservation and Education Activities

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

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

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

Meet at various points.

A wonderful opportunity to work on your song identification skills and see what birds are nesting in your area. For the names of area captains, to join a team, and for other information, contact Steve Mayo.

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

Trip Reports

West Rock Ridge State Park - Lake Wintergreen, Hamden Trip Report

Fifteen intrepid birders joined the April 6 bird walk at Lake Wintergreen, West Rock, Hamden. Despite the rain and the cold (40s), the birds were very active, with a mixture of overwintering birds such as Winter Wren and Field Sparrow and early migrants such as Eastern Phoebe as well as multiple Palm Warblers (13) and Pine Warblers (16). Lake Wintergreen itself yielded a Bald Eagle, a recently-arrived Osprey, and a Pied-billed Grebe (a bird not always easy to find in New Haven county). The show was stolen, however, by a large flock of swallows that was feeding across the lake. We recorded four different species in the flock: Tree, Rough-Winged, Barn, and even a Cliff Swallow.

--Peter Grund and Molly Zahn

Kellogg Environmental Center and Osbornedale State Park, Derby Trip Report

The walk at Kellogg/Osbornedale State Park on April 27th resulted in 47 species. Notables: Two male Orchard Orioles, nine Eastern Towhees, Wood Ducks, Green Herons, Common

Raven, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow, Black-and-white, Yellow-rumped, and Blue-winged Warblers, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebirds, 12 Brown-headed Cowbirds, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Cooper's Hawk.

--Maria Stockmal

Naugatuck State Forest West Block Field Trip Report

On Sunday, May 18, twelve members of the club went to this fine birding location west of Route 8 in Naugatuck. The weather was fine and there was a nice variety of birds in this beautiful forest. There is varied habitat there, including deciduous forest, brushy fields, woodland ponds and hemlock woods. There is a beautiful ravine there, but the trail along it was washed out this winter, so we could only explore part of it. There were many highlights throughout the walk. One was hearing three separate Hooded Warblers singing on territory. It took some work (patience and perseverance), but we were ultimately rewarded with good looks at one of the three birds. We got great looks at a singing Acadian Flycatcher along the portion of the ravine trail that we were able to access. We also saw interesting birds at the two woodland ponds that we visited in the forest. At the larger one, there were nesting Canada Geese, Tree Swallows, Eastern Bluebird and Eastern Kingbird, along with flyover Broad-winged Hawk and Red-shouldered Hawk. At the other more secluded one, there were Solitary Sandpipers and a female Hooded Merganser. The open fields and powerline cut had singing Chestnut-sided, Prairie and Blue-winged Warblers. Other notable observations included Bay-breasted, Black-throated Green and Blackpoll Warbler. We observed a total of 58 species in this large and wild forest. We'll be going back there again next year.

--Chris Loscalzo

Julius M. Hansen Park, North Haven Trip Report

On May 24, an overcast Saturday morning, eight birders joined us for a walk around Julius M. Hansen Park in North Haven. Hansen Park consists of several striking habitats, thick riparian

growth along the Muddy River, shrubby fields, a large grassy meadow, several farm fields, and a mini traprock ridge covered with a mix of evergreens and tall deciduous trees. At this point late in the spring migration, our birding was done mostly by ear, although several migrating warblers made their presence known – Northern Parula and Black-throated Green in particular – along with crowd-pleasing breeding-season residents such as Baltimore Oriole, Yellow Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Common Yellow-throat, Worm-eating Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting. The heavy recent rains prevented our passing through a wetland to the open shrubby and ploughed farm fields, but on our way to the parking lot we were all thrilled to see a Ruby-throated Hummingbird that perched on top of a dead limb and then flew off with nest-building material in her bill – nesting confirmed. A two-mile loop around the park, 40 species in all.

--Craig Repasz and DeWitt Allen

Trip Report Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington

On May 25th eighteen eager birders joined super-leader Dan Erichetti for a four-plus mile birdwalk around the impounded wetlands, woods, and brushy fields of Barn Island, always a highlight of the NHBC yearly calendar. The weather was clear, windy, and a little cool, so no one was sorry to be wearing the extra layer. Dan and the group identified 77 species with many highlights: a Common Loon in full breeding plumage, Seaside and Saltmarsh Sparrows, a Marsh Wren coming to and from its nest, adult and immature Little Blue



Photo by Lynette Clemens

Heron feeding near each other in the salt marsh, a Clapper Rail that we spent long minutes searching for, that was calling from what sounded right beside our feet, and when we looked up and turned around, a mysterious long-winged, square-tailed raptor circling over the marsh that after a few breath-holding moments was called (and photographed) – a Mississippi Kite! Barn Island is always full of surprises.

--DeWitt Allen

Chippens Hill Grassland Birds Trip Report

Continuing invasive species removal at Roberts Field in Bristol has led to increased grassland habitat suitable for Grasshopper Sparrows that have nested there in the past. 8 birders attended the walk on June 1st to see if the Grasshopper Sparrows returned again this year. Breeding has been intermittent at this site, and this year the sparrows were not detected, despite the improved habitat. There was an abundance of Field Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Yellow Warblers, and Goldfinches utilizing the mixed habitat. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was heard several times, but, true to their secretive nature, went unseen. A short trip to farm fields on nearby Hill St. and Marsh Rd. rewarded attendees with a good showing of Bobolinks giving territorial

displays over the fields that are maintained for breeding bird safety by ELCCT and a Green Heron perched secretively over a nearby pond gave good views once its position was detected. The weather was cool and breezy for a June morning but didn't deter the birds from making their presence known.

--Jack Swatt

Education Committee Report

This past month the NHBC education committee worked with Highville School's Ally Brundige and her wonderful students to explore birding both in the classroom and in the field. Flo McBride, Christin Arnini, and Michelle Keefe were instrumental in organizing this event and brought their extensive knowledge, expertise, and enthusiasm to all who participated. We held a classroom session to introduce the students to birds and binoculars and then took a field trip to East Rock Park. We saw amazing birds including a Wood Duck and her 9 chicks, an Eastern Screech Owl, and a Bald Eagle! The kids had a blast. It was an amazing day with amazing birds, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with Highville School in the future.



--Maegan Bollin

NHBC Winter Feeder Report 2024-2025

Final Report

4/25/2025



WHAT A YEAR! This year there were no Bear attacks on feeders, but 2 Surveyors waited till week 6 to start their surveys. We started with 19 Surveyors, and 3 dropped out over the course of the survey. We had only one snowstorm this year where there was between 3 to

4 inches of snow, and then it rained on top of it so we had an ice coating for about a week. Late January, all of February, and early March were very cold with temperatures ranging from 8^{0F} to 30^{0F}. The number of species seen was down a little bit from last year, mostly from the Uncommon and Waterfowl lists. During the cold weeks 6 thru 11 and 12 thru 17 the Uncommon List recorded 6 and 5 species respectively, and the Waterfowl List recorded 0 and 0 species seen. The total number of species seen for the year was 50.

Purple finches were seen sporadically throughout the whole survey. New to the Uncommon List is Pine Grosbeak which was reported in week 19. The only Pine Siskins seen were in weeks 7 and 11. One surveyor did not see any White-throated Sparrows during the entire survey but did report flocks of 4 to 15 Dark-eyed Juncos.

After making up the report, and especially the Maximum Number of a Species seen in one week, I noticed that our numbers were lower now probably due to the loss of surveyors and habitat change. In the last 5 years we have gone from 20 to 23 surveyors a year to 16 to 19 surveyors; that translates to 10 to 20 birds of a species seen in any one week. Some of these surveyors used to report large numbers of individuals of a species in a week due to their geographical location which included year-round food sources, and habitat. In my location, due to climate change, hurricanes and tornados, many of the homeowners have removed trees and shrubs due to the damage they have caused to their house and property. Locally this becomes a huge habitat change which affects the number of species and the number of individuals of a species that the habitat can sustain.

We had 16 surveyors this year, and again we were widely scattered around New Haven County: Bethany (1), Durham (1), Guilford (3), Hamden (3), Madison (1), Meriden (1), North Branford (1), Orange (1), and Woodbridge (1). We have three surveyors outside New Haven County: Killingworth (1) and Centerbrook (1) (Middlesex County), and Monroe (1) (Fairfield County). We have 2 receiving emails but replying using Postal Mail, and 13 just using email, and myself.

The last six weeks (17-22):

There was a total of 45 species of birds reported in the last 6 weeks of the survey.

Common List: We had 22 of 22 species. All were seen by 10 or more surveyors. White-throated Sparrows were not seen by 2 surveyors in the last 6 weeks.

Semi-Common List: We had 12 of 12 Species reported. Redwing Blackbirds came back and were seen by 10 surveyors with flocks of 10 to 50 birds. 2 Purple Finches were reported in week 22.

Uncommon List: There were 10 species reported out of 43 species. They are Barred Owl, Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing, Fish Crow, Pine Grosbeak, Pine Warbler, Red-shouldered Hawk, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Rusty Blackbird, and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Waterfowl list: 3 out of 9 waterfowl species were reported. They are Great Blue Heron, Mallard, and Wood Duck.

Animal List: 15 out of 26 animals were reported. They are Gray Squirrel, Chipmunk, Black Squirrel, Brown Rat, Feral Cat, Mole, Mouse, Opossum, Rabbit, Raccoon, Red Fox, Red Squirrel, Skunk, White Tailed Deer, and Woodchuck.

I have attached graphs of 5 species, with 3 trend lines, one for each year: 2024-2025 Red, 2023-2024 Blue and 2022-2023 Green. In the American Goldfinch graph, I have added years 2021-2022 and 2020-2021.

A look at the graphs shows that American Goldfinch started climbing slowly at the end of the survey, peaking at week 20 and then dropping back down. Black-capped Chickadee stayed about level with a slight decline towards the end of the survey. Northern Cardinal stayed between the previous two years. Our two winter species, Dark-eyed Junco stayed between the last two years, peaking at week 15, and White-throated Sparrow came in the middle of the last two years, peaking at week 22.

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.

Peter Vitali
NHBC Winter Feeder Survey Chair



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

June 2025

NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Membership Levels (check appropriate category):

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

Additional gift to support NHBC programs: \$ _____

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

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

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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