



# THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

October 2019

## 2019 CALENDAR

*(See inside for details)*

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

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

### **Date Change**

Sunday, October 6, 8:00–11:00 a.m. **Osbornedale State Park, Derby**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday, October 31, 3 p.m. **Hamden Town Center Park**

Saturday, November 2, 8 a.m. **Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve**

Saturday, November 2, 8:30 a.m. **Hamden Town Center Park**

Wednesday, November 6, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport**

Wednesday, December 4, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Thursday, November 14, 7 p.m. **Peter Christoph – Discover the Birds of Costa Rica**

Tuesday, November 19, 7–9 p.m. **Birds in Words – A Season on the Wind; Inside The World Of Spring Migration by Kenn Kaufman**

Saturday, December 7, 8 a.m. to noon **Surveying New Haven's Area K for the Christmas Bird Count** Rain Date:

Sunday, December 8

Thursday, December 12, 7 p.m. **Colleen Peters – Avian Ambassadors (with live birds)**

Saturday, December 14, all day **119th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count**

**BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

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

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Many of us with a lifelong interest in the natural world had our interest triggered as children by the interests of our relatives.

In my case, it was my grandparents, who lived on a large lake in California, with a wild lot between their house and my aunt and uncle's. When I hear a Red-winged Blackbird singing, I immediately see tule bulrushes standing in the green water of my grandparents' cove and the old willow tree at the water's edge where my grandfather hauled in small-mouthed bass with a cast or two — this was before all the motels and marinas that replaced the shoreline later.

And when I hear Blue Jays I see oak trees around the patio and in the overgrown lot between the two houses (yes, they were Scrub-Jays not Blue-Jays, but still . . .). My grandparents pointed to birds in the trees and at the pedestal-style birdbaths. There were binoculars and books in the house — an early Peterson edition on the end table and a child's album of North American birds. I tore out bird stamps from the back and pasted them on pages with the bird's description. A framed United States map showed each state bird, and I marveled at so many cardinals in the east-central states and mockingbirds in the south. And wondered why would a domestic chicken be a state bird? In a guest room off the garage stood a taxidermied Great Blue Heron named Hank who had run into a power line. Hank stood about as tall as me.

These memories are part of birding for me, even now. I bring them up because of something happening at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History. The Peabody will close next July for renovations lasting two or three years. Under the current plan, the Birds of Connecticut exhibit on the third floor will not return after renovations, though some of the taxidermied bird mounts may reappear in new biodiversity exhibits. But the collection is not intended to continue as a whole.



*White-breasted Nuthatch  
Peabody Museum  
Photo by Flo McBride*

Now, there is nothing like these three-dimensional mounts. Mostly the work of famed taxidermist Dave Parsons, they're an artistic treasure. For birders they're an unequalled opportunity to study at length fine points of structure, posture, and plumage of our state birds. As good as our current field guides and reference books and

*(Continued on next page)*

## NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2019-2020

### OFFICERS

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### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

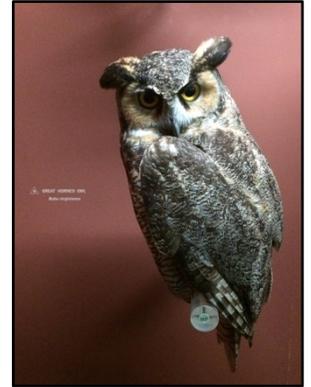
<i>The BIG SIT</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203-758-7203
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<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net	203-389-6508
<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	203-393-0694
<i>Lighthouse Point</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203-758-7203
<i>Historian</i>	Stacy Hanks flybirdhanks@gmail.com	203-283-3898
<i>Hospitality</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	203-393-0694
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	203-288-0621

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

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

on-line photographs are, there's nothing like these 3-D versions in realistic poses.

Yet more than that, they're a natural spark of children's interest. At the Peabody's recent end-of-summer free-admission day, I watched a steady stream of families come trooping through the Birds of Connecticut exhibit on their way to children's activities beyond. They didn't pass right through, though. The room was noisy and filled with movement as parents and grandparents and other family members pointed and said to the children and each other, "we have those in our yard," and "look at all the hawks," and "I love owls," and "this is my favorite bird," and "those orioles are so beautiful" — all this accompanied by the children's exclamations and questions as they ran from case to case.



*Great Horned Owl  
Peabody Museum  
Photo by Flo McBride*

Experiences like this can be — very often are — the trigger for a lifetime of observation, passionate interest, and environmental concern. I, and others, have written to the Director of the Peabody Museum to express our dismay about the plan. This world-class exhibit is likely to pass away, to be broken up or placed in storage. You might want to speak or write about it to the Peabody management. But it's still here until July. Go visit it now. Take your children and your grandchildren. Treat yourself.

Just do it soon.

--DeWitt Allen

## Notes from the Board

Our board meetings are open to all members, and we welcome anyone who would like to attend. The next board meeting will be Thursday, October 24 at 6:45 p.m. in the sixth floor Conference Room at Whitney Center.

Deadline for submissions to the December *Chickadee* is November 25. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at [donnabatsford@gmail.com](mailto:donnabatsford@gmail.com).

## 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 45 books on just about every aspect of birds, birding, birders, nature, and naturalists, and had some lively meetings. Share the fun! We meet about once every six weeks or so (on a Tuesday night) at Whitney Center from 7–9 PM. For details, contact Kris Johnson: [kriswaxwing99@gmail.com](mailto:kriswaxwing99@gmail.com) or 203-288-3087.

The next book we will discuss is *A Season on the Wind; Inside The World Of Spring Migration* by Kenn Kaufman. We will meet at 7:00 on Tuesday, November 19 in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor conference room at Whitney Center.

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## Indoor Programs

Indoor programs start in September and are held on the second Thursday of the month. There are no indoor programs in June, July, or August. The social half-hour at meetings begins at 7:00 pm; the meeting and program begin at 7:30 pm. Meetings are held at Whitney Center's Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden 06517. The facility is wheelchair accessible. Meeting is in Whitney Center's South Building, accessed via the main door of the portico that is in view from the parking lot. Turn right down the hallway. Cultural Arts Center is a short distance on the left.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Come on a trip around the world with one of Connecticut Audubon's EcoTravel leaders! Andrew Griswold has been the director of EcoTravel for Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) since 1996. He graduated as an honor student in biology from Hartwick College, where he worked at their biological research station in the Bahamas studying avian ecology. Andy is the original concept creator and scientific consultant for a cable television series on bird-watching called *All Bird TV* that aired on Discovery's *Animal Planet*. He also is the original concept creator of the award-winning Connecticut River Eagle Festival (during its time the largest birding festival in the world). Andy has conducted bird surveys for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has participated in the annual Christmas Bird Count as a captain for nearly 35 years. He has been a consultant to the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism concerning development of birding tourism in its more remote islands. Andy leads trips for CAS to Canada, Texas, South Florida, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, and many other unique destinations. Andy is a licensed U.S. Coast Guard 100-Ton Master and lives in Essex, Connecticut with his wife and their son. He is known for his fine birding skills and infectious sense of humor.

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

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

### **Thursday, November 14 – Peter Christoph Discover the Birds of Costa Rica**

Discover the birds of Costa Rica with Peter Christoph. Have you ever wondered why over 600 birds call Costa Rica their year-round home? Due to its diverse topography, this tropical nation contains several life zones supporting a wide variety of birds, from tiny iridescent hummingbirds to colorful toucans. Discover Costa Rica's national treasures with a top wildlife photographer as he travels by boat through mangrove swamps and wetlands, and hikes into lush rainforests on the side of a volcano in search of wildlife. By sharing these remarkable photographs, Peter hopes you will develop a deeper appreciation for the birds, animals, and plants that inhabit this fragile tropical paradise where the rainforest meets the sea. Peter Christoph is a well-known wildlife advocate, naturalist and award-winning wildlife photographer based in Lancaster, MA. He has a great respect for wildlife and through his presentations seeks to raise awareness of the need to conserve bird habitat. He has been the recipient of many prestigious national and international awards and gold medals recognizing his photographic talent. Peter is also responsible for publishing three bird photography books, including his latest, *The Art of Bird Photography*.

### **Thursday, December 12 – Colleen Peters Avian Ambassadors (with live birds)**

With the help of our avian ambassadors, students learn about the amazing adaptations that enable birds to thrive in their specialized environments. Colleen Peters is the Director of Education at the Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy in Litchfield CT.

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## Outdoor Programs

Birders of all levels are welcome on all field trips, and every effort is made to help beginners. If you are new to birding or have any special needs, please be sure to let the leader know at the start of the field trip. More details, if required, and/or updates on these trips will be given at the indoor meetings and in the newsletter. Watch for emails sent by the Club. You can also check the Club's website: [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org) for updated trip information and a Google Map link to the meeting place. Contact trip leaders directly if you have questions about any of their trips. The New Haven Bird Club does not charge any fees for its outdoor programs, but participants are responsible for the cost of their food, transportation, and entrance fees (where charged), unless the Club makes prior arrangements. Carpooling is encouraged to avoid parking problems at some destinations and to promote conservation of natural resources.

### NHBC Conservation and Education Activities

The NHBC routinely works to preserve and restore bird populations and their habitats and to provide opportunities for learning about birds, their habitats, where to see them, and how to help ensure their future. The NHBC provides information and displays at multiple events throughout the year, including the Connecticut Green Expo and at the Lighthouse Point Park Migration Festival in September. The Club also is building a presence in local public schools and camps to encourage children to embrace birding. We view this activity as a direct connection to our Club objectives and usually present a very basic birding skills class followed by an hour-long bird walk.

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

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

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

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

#### ***Date Change***

#### **Osbornedale State Park, Derby Sunday, October 6, 8:00–11:00 a.m.**

Osbornedale State Park offers a variety of habitats for a fall bird walk, from fields to ponds and woodland streams to deciduous forest. On this walk we explore these habitats in search of sparrows, kinglets, late migration warblers, woodpeckers, and more. The walk is open to birders of all levels. We will not only see and hear birds, but will also talk about their identification and their habits. More advanced birders can enjoy a day out and also provide support and inspiration for newcomers. We will meet at the Kellogg Environmental Center located at 500 Hawthorne Ave. in Derby.

Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-405-9116 (office), 203-233-0535 (cell), or [cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org](mailto:cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org)

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

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

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

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

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

THE BIG SIT!, established by the NHBC, has become an international event, with birders from all over the world participating. The object is to record as many species of birds as possible in one day from one 17-foot diameter circle. The circles are located at a number of birding hot spots throughout CT. Join other birders in one of the established circles or create your own. You don't have to be a hardcore birder to join in the

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fun. Bird Watcher's Digest runs the event now. For details, go to the Bird Watcher's Digest website ([www.birdwatchersdigest.com](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com)). Contact: John Triana, 203-758-7203 or [jtriana1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtriana1@sbcglobal.net)

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

Join a fall walk to see what can be found at these picturesque locations. The group will explore trails at Lake Bethany, then proceed to properties not open to the public, Lake Watrous and Lake Dawson. Fall migrants should be working their way through the area and the scenery will be breathtaking. Meet at Lake Bethany Regional Water Authority parking area on Hatfield Hill Road, Bethany.

Leader: Pat Leahy, 203-393-2427 (home), 203-314-0566 (cell), or [ptjleahy@yahoo.com](mailto:ptjleahy@yahoo.com)

**Cheshire Hotspots**

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

We bird several hotspots in the Town of Cheshire, including Boulder Knoll, Broad Brook Reservoir and associated trails, Fresh Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary (Cheshire Land Trust), and the Farmington Canal Lock 12. Boulder Knoll is good for sparrows in fall. Broad Brook Reservoir annually hosts 200–400 Ruddy Ducks, one of the highest concentrations of this diving duck in the state. Fresh Meadows and the Canal Line offer a diversity of bird species through the year. Meet at Boulder Knoll at the kiosk off Boulder Road, Cheshire.

Directions: Drive North on Route 10 (Whitney Avenue) and enter Cheshire at Old Lane Road (on right). Continue driving north on Route 10 for 0.7 miles, and turn right on Cook Hill Road. Drive 1.0 miles, and turn left on Half Moon Road. Drive 0.4 miles, and turn right on Boulder Road. Drive 0.4 miles (passing Boulder Knoll Montessori School), and turn left into small Parking lot at Boulder Knoll kiosk and power line.

Leaders: Steve Broker, 203-272-5192 (home) 203-747-6843 (cell), or [LS.Broker@cox.net](mailto:LS.Broker@cox.net); Melissa Baston, 860-995-0656 or [mbaston@gmail.com](mailto:mbaston@gmail.com)

**Hamden Town Center Park**

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

Two opportunities to explore Town Center Park in Hamden—Thursday October 31 at 3 p.m. (to coincide with the final Farmer's Market of the season), plus the following Saturday morning, November 2, 2019, at 8:30 a.m., to allow for comparison of what's seen at different times of day. This park is home to many human social events and hosts the athletic events of the Middle School. It also is a nature sanctuary, with a variety of common birds plus some surprising occasionals, and notable other animals including coyote, bobcat, and deer. Explore the recent changes to the park including a bridge across Shepherd Brook and a trail linking to the Farmington Canal Trail. This is a collaborative event with the Town Center Park Commission, the Hamden Land Conservation Trust, and the NHBC.

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

**Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve  
Saturday, November 2, 8 a.m.**

Fargeorge Preserve is always full of surprises. We have seen everything from woodcock to eagles to snow geese, lots of fall migrants, wintering ducks, and more. It is a varied habitat with excellent view of the lower Quinnipiac River. Directions: Go South on Quinnipiac Avenue from Rt. 80. Make a right just past the railroad overpass. Drive through the open gate onto the property. This is a joint trip with the New Haven Land Trust and the NHBC.

Leader: Mike Horn, 203-288-1891 or [mfhorn@att.net](mailto:mfhorn@att.net)

**Hamden Town Center Park  
Saturday, November 2, 8:30 a.m.**

(see information for Thursday, October 31)

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

**First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park,  
Westport**

**Wednesday, November 6, 8–11 a.m.**

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](mailto:tina@renaissancestudios.com)

**First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park,  
Madison**

**Wednesday, December 4, 8–11 a.m.**

At any time of year, Hammonasset is a true gem. Enjoy a midweek 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](mailto:birdshop@sbcglobal.net)

**Surveying New Haven's Area K for the Christmas Bird  
Count**

**Saturday, December 7, 8 a.m. to noon**

**Rain Date: Sunday, December 8**

We survey Area K the weekend prior to the Saturday, December 14 New Haven Christmas Bird Count. This highly productive area includes Ora Avenue / Proto Drive / Morris Creek Marshes, Cosey Beach, Lighthouse Point Park, Beacon Hill and the Trolley Line, Furnace Pond, and the lower Farm River. Area K typically produces 75–80 species on count day, including waterfowl, loons, herons, raptors, shorebirds, woodpeckers, and such songbirds as wrens, thrushes, sparrows, flocking birds, and finches. From Coe Road in East Haven, turn onto Proto Drive / Ora Avenue and drive west toward the large

asphalt pile. When you come to a fork in the road, take it!  
(Actually, we meet at the fork.)  
Leader: Steve Broker, 203-272-5192 (home), 203-747-6843  
(cell), or LS.Broker@cox.net

### 119th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 14, all day

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 p.m. at the Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden.

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

## Field Trip Reports

### Shorebirds and Terns at Milford Point Trip Report

On the morning of Saturday, August 10, I led the New Haven Bird Club "Shorebirds and Terns" Walk at Milford Point. It was beautiful weather and was well attended by 30 people. Forty-seven species were tallied. We first viewed birds from the marsh platform - including families of Spotted Sandpipers, Ospreys, Mallards, and Purple Martins. Then we walked out on



Photo by Frank Mantlik

the main sandbar on the beach side. There we saw many of the common shorebirds migrating through now, plus six juvenile Piping Plovers. Among ten species seen was one Red Knot. We thrilled in watching Least Terns feed their chicks small fish. Also there were about 1,000 Common Terns in the area, with a few hundred flying in as the tide fell. We looked through them to try to find more uncommon species. An immature Peregrine Falcon made a couple of over-flights, putting up enormous flocks of birds. In addition there was a steady stream of migrating Barn Swallows and Monarch butterflies. The eBird List is here: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S58886128>

--Frank Mantlik

### September First Wednesday Walk at Milford Point Trip Report



Photo by Frank Mantlik

On Wednesday, September 4, Tina Green led a large group of birders at the CT Audubon Coastal Center at Milford Point. Although shorebird numbers were low due to the lower tide, the date and the Peregrine Falcon, we had excellent views of the American Avocets and the Whimbrels in the marsh north of

the "Big Sit" platform. The entire group had excellent views of the 3 avocets feeding and then roosting. The weather was very humid, partly sunny, very warm, but thankfully there was a nice breeze off the water. We saw 38 species.

--Tina Green



Photo by Chris Howe

### Edgewood Park, New Haven Trip Report

On Saturday, September 28, 12 of us took advantage of a gorgeous late-summer day to bird Edgewood Park, an urban park in New Haven. Edgewood has a long history of hosting the New Haven Bird Club and has a nice variety of habitats with both resident and migrant species. Highlights of our walk included a pair of Belted Kingfishers, 6 Wood Ducks, 5 Great Blue Herons, 3 woodpecker species (Downy, Red bellied and Northern Flicker), and Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks. Eastern Phoebe, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Mallards were abundant. A lovely, productive walk on a beautiful day was enjoyed by all.

--Bill Batsford

### Migration Festival at Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven

On Sunday, September 15, the annual Migration Festival at Lighthouse Point Park was a great success. The bird walks led by Chris Loscalzo, Mike Horn and Flo McBride were very popular. Steve Mayo's hawk identification discussion was appreciated by many. The raptor demonstrations are always enjoyed. The bird-banding table drew a lot of observers. As did the Monarch Butterfly tagging. Lori Datlow and DeWitt Allen interacted with a lot of people at the New Haven Bird Club table.

Across the road from the bird-banding table was a reminder that the hawk watch has been at this location for many years. There is a plaque which says:

#### The New Haven Bird Club

dedicates this plaque in appreciation of these people of the Lighthouse Point Park Hawk Watch. For over 20 years they gave their time, expertise, and goodwill to help make this the best spot in Connecticut to watch migrating hawks.

We are also grateful to the many others whose participation continues to contribute to the success of this Hawk Watch.

October 8, 1994

Edward Shove  
Neil Currie  
Richard English  
Millie and George Letis

Salvator Masotta  
Marjorie Pitcher  
Arne Rosengren  
Tony Tortora



Photo by Donna Batsford

## Water Festival at West River Memorial Park on July 13



I led a bird walk as part of the Water Festival at West River Memorial Park in New Haven on Saturday, July 13. The children also had an opportunity to learn to kayak. The young children who donned binoculars provided by NHBC were more than once heard to exclaim “Oh WOW! I’ve never seen that before!” “WOW!” It was exhilarating. We saw Tree Swallows, Song Sparrows, Osprey, Snowy Egrets, Spotted

Sandpipers, American Robins, Baltimore Orioles, lots of butterflies and grasshoppers. It was a fabulous day!

--Deborah L Johnson

## Harbor Walk September 8

This walk was hosted by the West River Watershed Coalition, and co-hosted by the New Haven Bird Club. There were 45 people there!! Several were bird watchers; most were there for the beautiful day and the historic walk. The river was at low tide so we did see quite a few birds on the mud flats — a swarm of gulls almost all Laughing and one Herring and more and more as the tide turned, multiple Osprey all with fish, lots of Common Terns with gulls hot on their tails as soon as the next fishing spot was discovered, 2 Yellowlegs, a Willet (!), 2 Great Blue Herons, multiple Egrets, one Black-crowned Night Heron, one



Photo by Stephanie Fitzgerald

Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 2 sandpipers of some sort, one Green Heron, several Mockingbirds, several Song Sparrows, a flock of 20 or so Starlings, and the whole contingent of the West Haven Mute Swans (~35).

--Deborah Johnson

## Winter Feeder Survey 2019-2020



I want to welcome all members and non-members to the 2019–2020 Winter Feeder Survey. We had good participation last year and I hope to see more members involved this year. In a nutshell, all that you have to do is to record

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

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

There will be 2 Sessions this year due to the increasing presence of Black Bears and their taking down of feeders.

The **First Session** will start on **Monday, November 4, 2019** and finish on **Sunday, April 4, 2020**. This is for those who have not had any reports of bears in their area and is 22 Weeks long.

The **Second Session** will start on **Monday, December 2, 2019** and end on **Sunday, March 1, 2020**. This is for those who fear bears attacking their feeders. During this time the bears should be in hibernation and no threat to the feeders. It will be 13 weeks long.

For more information you can email me at [vitali\\_peter\\_e@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net) or phone me at: 203 288-0621.

Peter Vitali  
Survey Coordinator  
Chairman NHBC Winter Feeder Survey

## Welcome New Members

Alexander Gordon  
Hamden

Tomas Koeck  
Fairfield

Jeffrey Brenzel  
New Haven

Jayne Champion  
Beacon Falls

Jesse Dunietz  
New Haven

Ruth Hoberman  
New Haven

Jeannine Privat and Daniel Friedman  
Woodbridge

Maria Pinango  
New Haven

Nelson Donegan  
New Haven

Robert Goldenberg  
Madison

Carolyn Levinson  
West Haven

Lee Barbera and Mary & Kindy Lamo  
East Haven

Emily Aber and Robert Wechsler  
North Haven



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

Newsletter October 2019

#### **NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code / Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

**Membership Levels (check appropriate category):**

\_\_\_ Individual - \$15

\_\_\_ Family - \$20

\_\_\_ Supporting - \$50

\_\_\_ Student under 18 - Free

\_\_\_ Life Membership - \$300 for 1 or 2 people at same address.

Additional gift to support NHBC programs: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to New Haven Bird Club and send to:

New Haven Bird Club,

PO Box 9004

New Haven CT 06532-0004

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

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

#### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

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

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

If your address, phone or email change, please send that information to: New Haven Bird Club, PO Box 9004, New Haven CT 06532-0004 or contact the Membership Chair, Laurie Reynolds: 203-434-2134 or warmstove@hotmail.com.

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

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

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

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