



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

October 2021

2021 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Saturday, October 2, Group 1: 8-9:30 a.m., Group 2: 9:30-11:00 a.m. **Fresh Meadows, Cheshire Land Trust**
Pre-registration is required.

Wednesday, October 6, 8-11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven**

Saturday, October 9, 8-11 a.m. **Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Thursday, October 14, 7 p.m. **Dr. Connor M. Wood – From Spotted Owls to Cell Phones: The Future of Acoustic Monitoring**
Virtual meeting

Saturday–Sunday, October 9-10 **The Big Sit!**[®]

Saturday, October 16, 7:45-11 a.m. **Fall Birds and Foliage along the West River**

Sunday, October 24, 8 a.m. to noon **Cheshire Hotspots**

Saturday, October 30, 8-11 a.m. **Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve**

Sunday October 31, 7:30-10:30 a.m. **Branford Supply Ponds**

Wednesday, November 3, 8-11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport**

Saturday, November 6, 8-11 a.m. **Lake Hammonasset, Killingworth**
Rain Cancels

Thursday, November 11, 7 p.m. **Dr. Lauryn Benedict – Female Bird Song**
Virtual meeting

Wednesday, December 1, 8-11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Thursday, December 9, 7 p.m. **Adriaan Dokter – Radar Ornithology**
Virtual Meeting

Saturday, December 18, all day **122nd Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count**

New Haven Bird Club Website:
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It was a beautiful early fall morning, cool enough for a sweatshirt but warming as the sun rose higher. About twenty of us had gathered at Edgewood Park in New Haven for a birdwalk with former NHBC president and long-time board member Bill Batsford leading.

All was quiet as we started down the park road, talking softly among ourselves, but gradually we began hearing Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers. Catbirds mewed and moved around in the greenery, picking berries between the leaves. Cardinals chipped. Soon we started seeing our birds, not just hearing them – a group of warblers, a Green Heron, Wood Ducks, Belted Kingfisher, Great Egret and Great Blue Heron, a scruffy-looking but very cooperative young Carolina Wren, the resident Red-tailed Hawks, a Bald Eagle, and so on.

These are the usual suspects in Edgewood Park; as always, they were a pleasure to see and hear. But also, by the time we finished our walk, we had collectively turned up some much less common and very satisfying finds. Bill's trip report, which follows in this issue, lists most of them. We kept saying as we moved along, "that one was the bird of the day." Until we came across the next one – "that was the bird of the day." And so on and so on.

It was a wonderful morning, well-spent with a great group of people. We were pretty evenly mixed, male and female, individuals and couples together. We skewed slightly older, a few of us quite a bit older, but there were younger people as well, including several graduate students from Yale.

What struck me, though, was how many were visiting Edgewood Park for the first time. The first time because they had only recently moved to Connecticut, or they hadn't been birding beyond their own neighborhoods and towns, or they hadn't heard about Edgewood and its reputation as a lively resting stop for migrating songbirds in the fall.

But they all were eager to visit somewhere new, in this case one of New Haven's premier birding spots, with a knowledgeable guide who birds there frequently all year round.

The New Haven Bird Club is many things – an organizer of bird walks all around the state (about fifty of these a year). A supporter of environmental conservation projects. A monthly forum for researchers and bird photographers, rehabilitators and experts in every conceivable type of ornithological and nature study to share their findings and experiences. And

(Continued on next page)

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2021-2022

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>Book Group</i>		
<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>		
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<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo scmayo999@gmail.com	203-551-1707
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali vitgoo39@gmail.com	203-288-0621

(President's Message Continued from first page)

perhaps most important, a friendly social group of people with similar interests.

As our walk in Edgewood Park reminded me, the New Haven Bird Club is a great organization for those who are new to birding or new to the area. It's a welcoming place to find new friends, to explore birding hotspots in the company of expert leaders and supportive birders at all levels of skill. New members keep joining us, at a rate that speaks well for our Club, and I hope you'll help make them feel welcome. I hope, too, I'll be seeing more of you as we move farther into our 2021-2022 schedule of events – on a birdwalk or a monthly membership meeting. Happy birding.

--DeWitt Allen

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be 7 p.m. on October 28.

Deadline for submissions to the next *Chickadee* is November 21. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at donnabatsford@gmail.com.

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

If you are not receiving email notifications, contact us at membership@Newhavenbirdclub.org to receive an invitation to join this group. Add nhbirdclub@gmail.com to your contact list to ensure emails arrive in your inbox.

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

Joyce Alton
New Haven

Meredith Barges
New Haven

Janice Beeghly
Hamden

Harold E. Day
East Haven

Abhishek Dev
New Haven

Stacey Essaid
Old Greenwich

Claudia Schechter
Madison

New Haven Bird Club Website:
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

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

Indoor Programs

We cannot predict how the future course of the coronavirus pandemic will affect our schedule of events. Our first priority is protecting the health and well-being of our members and the general public, and it may become necessary to adjust or cancel some events. The recommendations and policies of local, state, and national health authorities will continue to guide all decisions about our schedule. Please check the NHBC website and newsletter for updated information before planning to attend any event.

This year, our September, October, November, and December meetings will be held virtually on Zoom. Virtual meetings begin at 7 p.m. Information and instructions for joining virtual meetings are emailed to members who have signed up for the Club email list; to sign up, contact membership@newhavenbirdclub.org. We hope to resume in-person meetings in January 2022. Our expectation is that meetings will resume at Whitney Center's Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden CT, as in previous years. However, all plans are tentative at this time.

Inclement weather or other emergencies may cancel a meeting. Cancellation notices will be sent via the club email. Also check TV channels WTNH (New Haven) and WFSB (Hartford).

“Birds in Words” Book Group – 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 many 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). Birds in Words will resume meeting when Whitney Center re-opens to outside groups; hopefully this will be in 2022. For current details contact Kris Johnson: kriswaxwing99@gmail.com or 203-288-3087.

Thursday, October 14 – Dr. Connor M. Wood
From Spotted Owls to Cell Phones: The Future of Acoustic Monitoring
Virtual meeting

Low-cost audio recording hardware and high-performance sound analysis software have opened up new frontiers in bird conservation. Dr. Connor Wood of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s K. Lisa Yang Center for Conservation Bioacoustics traces his own involvement in the field of bioacoustics from the development of a new paradigm in Spotted Owl population monitoring and its evolution towards a program capable of monitoring the entire bird community across tens of thousands of square miles. The same technology that makes this research possible is also freely accessible to the public. Dr. Wood will then share research that he and his colleagues are conducting using the BirdNET app, and will outline the ways it can transform bird conservation – and how you can help!

Thursday, November 11 – Dr. Lauryn Benedict
Female Bird Song
Virtual meeting

Join us to learn about female bird song with Dr. Benedict from the University of Northern Colorado. Her research focuses on bird song as a model system for understanding how signals evolve in nature. Her current projects examine the function and evolution of male and female vocalizations among Colorado wren species, New World sparrows, and Old World warblers. Research in the lab combines field observation, population-monitoring, and sound recording analyses.

Thursday, December 9 – Adriaan Dokter
Radar Ornithology
Virtual Meeting

Adriaan Dokter is a Research Associate at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology who studies avian populations and seasonal migrations of birds. He leverages or develops weather radar networks as well as individual tags to address questions in migration ecology. He will talk about his latest projects.

Winter Feeder Survey 2021 - 2022



I want to welcome all members and non-members to the 2021–2022 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 must 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 the increasing presence of Black Bears and their taking down of feeders. The First Session will start on Monday, November 1, 2021, and finish on Sunday, April 3, 2022. 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 6, 2021, and end on Sunday, March 6, 2022. This is for those who fear bears attacking their feeders. During this period the bears should be in hibernation and no threat to the feeders. It will be 13 weeks long.

For more information you can email me: vitgoo39@gmail.com or phone me: 203 288-0621. My phone has a recorder on it, so leave a message and I will get back to you.

--Peter Vitali
Survey Coordinator
Chairman NHBC Winter Feeder Survey

Outdoor Programs

We cannot predict how the future course of the coronavirus pandemic will affect our schedule of events. Our first priority is protecting the health and well-being of our members and the general public, and it may become necessary to adjust or cancel some events. The recommendations and policies of local, state, and national health authorities will continue to guide all decisions about our schedule. Please check the NHBC website and newsletter for updated information before planning to attend any event.

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 ending times of walks are approximate.

More details, if required, and/or updates on these trips will be given at the indoor meetings and in the newsletter. You should also check the Club's website, www.newhavenbirdclub.org, for updated trip information, and watch for emails sent by the Club. *Contact trip leaders directly if you have questions about 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 usually is encouraged to avoid parking problems at some destinations and to promote conservation of natural resources, but check current coronavirus recommendations.

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, their habitats, 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 Chairperson also organizes the Club's representation at various public events throughout the year, such as the Lighthouse Point Migration Festival and local Earth Day celebrations. Volunteers to help at events are always welcome! Please contact Lori Datlow, Education Chair, at [loridatlow@frontier.com](mailto:lорidatlow@frontier.com).

Fresh Meadows, Cheshire Land Trust

Saturday, October 2,

Group 1: 8–9:30 a.m.

Group 2: 9:30–11:00 a.m.

Cheshire Land Trust's Fresh Meadows Preserve includes a variety of habitats that appeal to a wide variety of bird species looking for a place to rest and refuel on their southbound migration. With conifer groves, deciduous woodlands, and meadows, all located along the Mill River, it's worth a visit. Expect a 1-2 mile walk on mostly level ground. Do wear muck boots if it has been a rainy fall. We will have two groups of 10 people each. Pre-registration is required. Park on Cook Hill Road or Corliss Lane.

Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-233-0535 or cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org.

First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven

Wednesday, October 6, 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 peeple@aol.com.

Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison

Saturday, October 9, 8–11 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 parking lot on Boston Post Road. Directions: Take Exit 62 off I-95. At the end of the connector (traffic light), go left onto Boston Post Road. The parking lot is the first right, a short distance away. Leader: Bill Batsford, 203-494-4325 or william.batsford@yale.edu.

THE BIG SIT!®

Saturday–Sunday, October 9-10

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 a 17-foot diameter circle. There are local circles at a number of birding hot spots throughout Connecticut. Join other birders in one of the established circles or create your own. You don't have to be a hardcore birder to join in the fun. For details, visit www.thebigsit.org.

Coordinator: Craig Repasz, 203-745-6683 or crepasz@hotmail.com.

Fall Birds and Foliage along the West River

Saturday, October 16, 7:45–11 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. Walking is not strenuous and is on well-maintained trails. Meet at Lake Bethany Regional Water Authority parking area on Hatfield Hill Road, Bethany.

Leader: Pat Leahy, 203-314-0566 or ptjleahy@yahoo.com.

Cheshire Hotspots

Sunday, October 24, 8 a.m. to noon

We bird several hotspots in the Town of Cheshire, including Broad Brook Reservoir, Boulder Knoll, and Fresh Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary (Cheshire Land Trust). Broad Brook Reservoir annually hosts 200-400 Ruddy Ducks in fall, one of the highest concentrations of this diving duck in the state. Boulder Knoll is good for sparrows at this time of year. Fresh Meadows offers a diversity of bird species through the year. Broad Brook Reservoir - level walking (100 yards) on leaf-covered paved road; Boulder Knoll - moderate walking (300 yards) on gravel road with some gradual slopes to navigate; Fresh Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary - level walking (500 yards) with water-resistant boots recommended. Meet at the Route 68 access to Broad Brook Reservoir, north side of the road. Parking is available at a safe pullout opposite the water company gate in the lowest section of Route 68. Look for our cars.

Leaders: Steve Broker, 203-747-6843 or stephenpaulbroker@gmail.com; Melissa Baston 860-995-0656 or mbaston@gmail.com.

Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve; joint trip with Gather New Haven

Saturday, October 30, 8–11 a.m.

Fargeorge Preserve is always full of surprises. We have had 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. Walking is on flat surfaces. Go South on Quinnipiac Avenue from Rt. 80. Make a right just past the railroad overpass. Go through the open gate onto the property.

Leader: Mike Horn, 203-288-1891 or mfhorn@att.net.

Branford Supply Ponds

Sunday October 31, 7:30–10:30 a.m.

This a good time to look for late spring migrants and early winter migrants. There can be quite a mix seeing Baltimore Oriole, Pine Warbler, American Coot, Common Raven, Winter Wren, Fox Sparrow, and Red Shouldered Hawk. The Supply Ponds boast two generous ponds, a forest area, and a power-line cut. The forest has been damaged by severe storms in 2020 and tops of trees are gone. There is much dead wood on the ground and the ground is receiving more sunlight. The dispersal of birds in the fall has yet to be determined. Meet at the larger gravel parking lot on Chestnut Street off Rte. 1 in Branford.

Leader: Maria Stockmal, 203-305-3728 or m.stockmal@snet.net.

First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport

Wednesday, November 3, 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.

Lake Hammonasset, Killingworth

Saturday, November 6, 8–11 a.m.

Rain Cancels

Join us for a vigorous walk around Lake Hammonasset in search of fall birds. The walk will be a loop of the entire lake. The terrain is easy to moderate, but there are plenty of uneven surfaces, so wear sturdy shoes. Meet at the Lake Hammonasset recreation parking lot on Route 80 in Killingworth.

Leader: John Triana, 203-758-7203 or jtriana@sbcglobal.net.

First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison

Wednesday, December 1, 8–11 a.m.

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

Leader: Jerry Connolly, 203-710-2011 or birdshop@sbcglobal.net.

122nd Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 18, 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.

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

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.newhavenbirdclub.org

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

Trip Reports

Shorebirds and Terns at Milford Point Trip Report



Photo by Lynnette Clemens

side as the tide was rising. We saw a nice assortment of expected shorebird species (11), including Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers, colorful Ruddy Turnstones, and many American Oystercatchers. We saw all ages of Piping Plovers, including some cute hatchlings. Relatively low numbers of Common and Least Terns were also seen.

Rarer species were highlighted by two Peregrine Falcons (one eating prey on the mudflat), an early Northern Harrier hunting the salt marsh, a summering Brant, a few migrating Bobolinks, and lots of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. Some saw a Clapper Rail with two small black chicks. In all, 54 bird species were tallied. The leader also identified various plants including several species of marsh grasses, the native Prickly Pear Cactus, and some invasive plants. He also pointed out various seashells, and some insects, including a Cicada Killer wasp. The complete eBird list is here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S92904325>.

-- Frank Mantlik

Edgewood Park Trip Report

Twenty birders joined me for a productive walk on a fabulous late September day at Edgewood Park in New Haven. Many good eyes gathered a total of 47 species with several excellent looks at highlight birds. Seeing Wood Duck (male and female) is always a pleasure – a pleasure we got 17 times! Early ducks

On Saturday, August 7, Frank Mantlik led NHBC's first outdoor trip of the new "fall" season to Milford Point. He was joined by a large, eager crowd of 34 birders, following 17 months of the Covid-19 pandemic. The weather was seasonably warm, 69-82°F, hazy sun and a veil of clouds, WSW breeze at 10mph. We started during low tide viewing the Wheeler salt marsh, then walked through the sanctuary/gardens, then walked the entire sandbar on the Sound



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

included Green Heron, Belted Kingfisher, 11 Northern Flickers, Warbling Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and female Scarlet Tanager. To top off an outstanding trip an adult Bald Eagle soared above the park. A truly outstanding trip to a park which has hosted many NHBC trips in the 114 years of its existence. The complete eBird list is here:

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S95153932>.

--Bill Batsford

included a female Hooded Merganser and 2 Northern Shovelers (my first in this park). A special find by a few of the birders was a Red-headed Woodpecker first seen on a bare branch but unfortunately it flew away before all got to see it. Other notable finds



Photo by Lori Datlow

The Big Sit!®

The New Haven Bird Club is now in our second year as the administrators for the Big Sit!. Club President John Himmelman originated the event in 1992. *Bird Watcher's Digest* started managing the event in 2001, using its web technologies and print media, *Bird Watcher's Digest* was able to expand the event to 234 circles in over 10 countries by 2010. With the passing of its editor/publisher Bill Thompson, *Bird Watcher's Digest* had made the decision to pass The Big Sit! back to the New Haven Bird Club in 2019.

We are a small club and had to use a combination of approaches to keep The Big Sit! going. We built a website to inform the participants, we used eBird for data handling and Facebook for comments, chats, and photos. Many organizations still used The Big Sit! to raise funds for conservation. Last year even during a pandemic the Big Sit had 102 circles in three countries.

This year we have found more ways to promote the event on social media. We added a listing feature to the website so the circle captains can list their circle so other birders can find them. At this point we have 30 circles listed. We have new circles listed in Italy, Sweden, South Africa, and Nigeria. There is interest in Australia. Hopefully soon we could be back to 2010 levels.

If you do not already participate in a Big Sit! circle, we encourage you to either create your own or find a local event. It is a lot of fun. [Home - The Big Sit!](#)

--Craig Repasz

Lights Out New Haven

Most birds migrate at night. Birds will use barometric pressure, magnetic fields, and stars. They evolved millions of years ago to navigate at night in a dark world. Man has always tried to light the night with fire and torches. Since 1807, when gas streetlamps were introduced, man has continued to try to further push back the night. Although a benefit to us, the birds pay a price.

It is estimated that annually four billion birds move south into the contiguous United States every autumn. At the same time 4.7 billion birds leave the United States for southern winter grounds in the tropics. The reverse trip sees diminished numbers in the spring with 3.5 billion crossing back into the United States and 2.6 billion returning to Canada across the border. The diminished numbers are due to deaths on the wintering grounds as well as to succumbing to perils during migration. The return rate back to Canada is 64% and the return home to the United States is 76% according to researchers at Cornell University.

Connecticut is an important area along the Atlantic Flyway as birds follow rivers, mountain ranges and dark corridors during migration.

The air is habitat. Between the treetops and the mountain tops to the stratosphere there is a layer cake of air currents, bands of cold and warm air, jet streams, head winds and tail winds that are only important to birds and weather geeks. These layers can both help and hinder migrating birds by giving tail winds and updrafts or they can kill birds with strong headwinds, storms and microbursts.

Our man-made structures reach up into this layer cake of air. In New Haven this upward reach originates from our homes and our small buildings and extends to the communication towers and powerlines that crisscross the landscape. Our migrating birds need air space, starting at 200 feet for waterfowl, 500 feet for songbirds, and 700 feet for raptors. These elevations are for birds cruising along. They risk collisions as they land and take off day after day during migration. According to Cornell Lab of Ornithology, it is estimated that annually 253 million birds are killed colliding into our residences, 22.8 into powerlines, 366 thousand into wind turbines, 6.6 million into communication towers and 340 million into large buildings. To increase these perils man has reached upward into these layers not only with our structures but with spiking light beams from towers,

airports and monuments that emanate out of the sky-glow that halos our sprawling megalopolis.

Most songbirds do not migrate in large flocks like geese. There will be a single bird or a small group. They interact with each other using flight calls. Artificial light obscures the birds' view of the stars but will also disorient the birds and cause them to jam up into tight flocks. Think of how it would be driving on I-91 in blinding snow and you become confused and disoriented, unable to see any of the roadway marks and surrounding landmarks. Panicked, your flight calls become loud, rapid honking and the traffic jam turns into carnage. In their confused state these birds can become exhausted and drop out of the sky in flocks or the flock will crash into windows that are reflecting trees or other hospitable landscapes needed by a weary bird. Although this information is coming from studies that have focused on the Twin Tower beacons in New York, an extreme example, it has shed light on the effects of artificial light on migrating birds. This phenomenon is observed over the course of a several busy nights in the spring and then again in the fall. If these lights can be controlled during these short migration windows, tens of thousands of birds could be saved.

It is important that towns and cities darken their night skies. Light pollution can be deadly to nocturnal migrating birds.

National Audubon is encouraging building owners and managers to adopt these measures to help provide safe passage.

During Migration September 1 to November 15:

- Turn off exterior decorative lighting
- Extinguish pot and flood-lights
- Substitute strobe lighting wherever possible
- Reduce atrium lighting wherever possible
- Turn off interior lighting especially on higher stories
- Substitute task and area lighting for workers staying late or pull window coverings
- Down-shield exterior lighting to eliminate horizontal glare and all light directed upward
- Install automatic motion sensors and controls wherever possible
- When converting to new lighting assess quality and quantity of light needed, avoiding over-lighting with newer, brighter technology

More information about this program is available at [Lights Out National Audubon](#).

--Craig Repasz



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

October 2021

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 about the Club, you can send an email to ask@newhavenbirdclub.org.

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.

The NHBC is also on Instagram as [newhavenbirdclub](https://www.instagram.com/newhavenbirdclub).

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