



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

June 2014

2014 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Saturday, June 14, 8:30 am **Beginner's Bird Walk at Bent of the River IBA, Southbury**

FROM THE BOARD

The next board meeting is Thursday, June 26, at 7:00 pm at Bill and Donna Batsford's apartment in New Haven.

The deadline for submissions to the August newsletter is July 28. Send to Donna Batsford: donnabatsford@gmail.com

If you take pictures of NHBC events or on NHBC trips, please consider sending one to the newsletter to be included with the report. Send them to Donna Batsford at donnabatsford@gmail.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Steven G Berg
Newtown

Marg Heerema
Milford

Reg Body
North Haven

Tom Maguire
Milford

Gail Cameron
Hamden

Janet & Dart Messick
Madison

Phyllis Clark
Branford

Griffin Richards
Madison

Brian P. Donovan
Stamford

Eliza Shaw Valk
New Haven

Robert A. Havlena
Shelton

Helen S Wilson
Cheshire

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This has been a very rewarding year to summarize!

Where do I begin? This past "First Wednesday" I, along with about 40 others, had the opportunity to bird White Memorial with Greg Hanisek. I saw/heard 62 of the 69 reported species. What a special opportunity to "bird"/"bird by ear" with Greg Hanisek! You want to improve your

skills? Come on a NHBC walk!

You want to learn about hummingbird feeding techniques? Come to a NHBC program!

Fall migrants confuse you? Come to another NHBC Indoor Program!

Want to witness an artist's view and rendering of nature? The NHBC Indoor Program is the place.

By the way, the attendance at the talks at the lovely facility at Whitney Center has been excellent – exceeding on a regular basis the average attendance previously.

I haven't yet mentioned what an enjoyable and successful Annual Banquet we had! – well attended, excellent auction, brilliant speaker – a recipe for a wonderful evening.

And now, I'm looking forward to an even more exemplary year in 2014-2015! We have a great series of Indoor Programs scheduled and a diverse and inclusive schedule of Outdoor Programs as well. Visit our newly revised website for all details – it should be available in August!

Thanks for being NHBC members – and take full advantage of the offerings for the coming year.

--Bill Batsford

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2013-2014

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Bill Batsford william.batsford@yale.edu	203.787.1642
<i>Vice President</i>	Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com	203.230.1697
<i>Treasurer</i>	Andy Stack ctstacks@optonline.net	203.397.0818
<i>Secretary</i>	Paul Wolter pwolter6@earthlink.net	860.681.5548

BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation CO-Chairs</i>	Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com Winie Wirth wirthwitte@att.net	203.230.1697 203.859.2971
<i>Education Chair</i>	Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe jubilee832001@yahoo.com	203.630.9640
<i>Hospitality Chair</i>	Stacy Hanks flybirdhanks@gmail.com	203.727.1063
<i>Indoor Programs</i>	Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com	203.230.1697
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Mike Horn mfhorn@att.net	203.288.1891
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Mike Ferrari mike.ferrari@att.net	203.435.5712
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford donnabatsford@gmail.com	203.787.1642
<i>Nominating Chair</i>	Patrick Leahy ptjleahy@yahoo.com	203.393.2427
<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net	203.389.6508
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Larry Bausher lpbausher@comcast.net	203.389.5918
<i>Yearbook Chair</i>	Betty Zuraw bz4feathers@sbcglobal.net	860.632.1156

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<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>Email List</i>	Mike Ferrari mike.ferrari@att.net	203.435.5712
<i>Hawk Watch Lighthouse Point</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	203.393.0694
<i>Historian</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net	203.393.0694
<i>Web Master</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	203.288.0621

BIRDS IN WORDS

Birds in Words is NHBC's book discussion group for people who like to read about their favorite hobby. Meetings are at 7:00 pm in the 6th floor Conference Room at Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. If you have any questions, email or call Kris Johnson kriswaxwing99@gmail.com or 203-288-3087.

The next meeting of the NHBC Book Group, Birds in Words will be on June 24th 7:00-9:00 pm. We will be reading, *A Supremely Bad Idea: Three Mad Birders and Their Quest to See It All* by Luke Dempsey.

All members of the club are welcome to attend, and we hope to see you there.

--Kris Johnson

BIRDERS' EXCHANGE

The New Haven Bird Club is collecting binoculars, scopes or Neotropical field guides that we will donate to the Birders' Exchange Program which is part of ABA. This organization donates all binoculars and other equipment to worthy individuals involved in crucial bird conservation projects and education work in Central and South America.

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

Twin Eagle Chicks

It is my pleasure to report that the eagles on State Street in Hamden have produced fine healthy twins. They both look plump and well fed. They both have all the food they could possibly want so at 5 weeks old, they get along fine. The picture was taken at 4 weeks old. They are now getting head feathers.



--Mike Horn

FIELD TRIPS / OUTDOOR EVENTS

The New Haven Bird Club does not charge trip or leader fees for its outdoor programs, but participants are responsible for the cost of their food, transportation, and entrance fees (where charged), unless prior arrangements are made by the Club. Carpooling is encouraged to avoid parking problems at some destinations and to promote conservation of our natural resources. All levels of birders are invited to all field trips, and every effort is made on all trips to help beginning birders. 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. You can check the Club's website www.newhavenbirdclub.org for trip information and watch for emails sent by the Club or contact trip leaders directly if you have questions about any of their trips.

Cancellation Policy: Inclement weather or another emergency may cancel a field trip. Check the sources listed above or contact the leader of the trip directly if you have any questions about a possible cancellation.

Beginner's Bird Walk at Bent of the River IBA, Southbury Saturday, June 14, 2014, 8:30 am

The Bent of the River Audubon Sanctuary provides a breadth of habitat for bird species, from forests to riparian areas to shrubby meadows. On this walk we'll look for nesting shrubland birds, including Blue-winged Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Field Sparrow and Indigo Bunting. Shrubby meadows are uncommon in Connecticut so it's a special treat to see and hear these species. This walk is geared to beginners, but advanced birders and families are welcome. Advanced birders can enjoy a day out and provide support and inspiration to the newcomers. The Bent is located at 185 East Flat Hill Rd. Meet in the parking lot just beyond the entrance. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe: 203-630-9640, cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org

April 12th East Rock Park Bird Walk and Archery Field Cleanup Report

On April 12th, 13 members of the New Haven Bird met at the covered bridge at the Eli Whitney Museum for our annual Spring Bird walk and Park cleanup. After about an hour and half walk we tallied about 44 bird species. Highlights were numerous Pine warblers and a gray phase Eastern Screech Owl. Other interesting observations included nesting Ravens and a male Peregrine Falcon on guard on the cliff face.



Gray Phase Eastern Screech Owl
Photo by Bill Batsford

After the walk we proceeded to tackle clean up of the birding area at the north end of East Rock Park, in preparation for the upcoming Spring Migration season. This hard working band of birders piled up brush and liberated native trees of invasive vines along with picking up trash along the trail sides. We also tackled removing household trash and tires from the rocky slope below Whitney Circle.

I would like to thank the New Haven Bird Club members for their support and commitment to one of New Haven's Important Bird Areas. The efforts that day will have a positive impact on that area for years come. After our long cold winter, I am sure everyone is looking forward to a great spring birding season.

-- Daniel Barvir, East Rock Park Ranger

The Richard English Memorial Field Trip Report

On Sunday, April 13, Mike Horn led the trip which started at Lighthouse Point Park, went on to the Richard English Bird Sanctuary on Deer Lake in Killingworth, and finished at Hammonasset Beach State Park.



Birders on the English Refuge Bridge
Photo by Mike Horn

Thanks to the efforts of Ranger Dan Barvir and New Haven Parks, the marsh trail at Lighthouse Point has been extended to meet the woods trail. We can now hike in a continuous loop around LPP through four different habitats! A highlight was 4 Glossy Ibises and many groups of Long-tailed Ducks at LPP. (And, we picked up twelve shopping bags of litter!)

Over the entire day we saw 50 species (L= Lighthouse Point Park; D=Deer Lake; H= Hammonasset): Canada Goose (H), Brant (L,H), Mute Swan (H), American Black Duck (H), Mallard (L,H), Surf Scoter (H), Long-tailed Duck (L), Red-breasted Merganser (L,H), Red-throated Loon (L), Common Loon (L), Double-crested Cormorant (L), Great Egret (H), Glossy Ibis (L), Turkey Vulture (D), Osprey (L,D,H), Red-tailed Hawk (L,D), Black-bellied Plover (H), Killdeer (H), Ruddy Turnstone (H), Sanderling (H), Purple Sandpiper (H), Ring-billed Gull (L), Herring Gull (L,H), Greater Black-backed Gull (L), Rock Pigeon (L), Mourning Dove (L), Red-bellied Woodpecker (L), Downy Woodpecker (D), Northern Flicker (L), Eastern Phoebe (D,H), Blue Jay (L,D), American Crow (L), Fish Crow (L,D), Tree Swallow (H), Black-capped Chickadee (D), Tufted Titmouse (D), White-breasted Nuthatch (D), Carolina Wren (L,H), American Robin (L), Northern Mockingbird (L), European Starling (L), Pine Warbler (D), Song Sparrow (L,D,H), White-throated Sparrow (L), Northern Cardinal (L,D), Red-winged Blackbird (L,D,H), Common Grackle (L), Brown-headed Cowbird (L,D), House Finch (L,H), House Sparrow (L,H)

--Winie Wirth, Scribe

West Rock Ridge Field Trip Report

On Sunday, April 13, Steve Broker led a group to West Rock Ridge to see the nesting Peregrine Falcons and Common Ravens.



Photo by Dewitt Allen



Photo by Dewitt Allen



Peregrine Falcon

Photo by Mike Ferrari

Ansonia Nature Center Trip Report

On Saturday, April 19, Maria Stockmal led a walk at Ansonia Nature Center. There were 13 participants, and 30 species were seen: Turkey Vulture, Mallard, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered Hawk, Mourning Dove, Northern Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Robin, Hermit Thrush, Pine Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, White-throated Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow

--Maria Stockmal

East Rock Park Bird Walk and Garlic Mustard Pull Trip Report

On May 3rd, at 8am, about 35 birders gathered at Rice Field to bird English Drive. We were greeted by Baltimore Orioles and a male Scarlet Tanager in the oak trees along the roadside.

We wandered up English Drive, which is excellent for leading a large group because we can bird in mob and not single file on a trail. This way everyone helps each other in locating the birds. Birds were found amassed in pocketed flocks. Best birds in this section of the park were Worm-eating warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Baltimore Orioles and good sightings of a few Yellow-throated vireos.

About 11am, we moved over to the Eli Whitney Museum area, where we added a few more bird species to our walk's list. Resident Ravens and Peregrine Falcons were present on the Cliff face. Orchard Orioles were found across the street at the Water Plant.

After the walk, members of the Bird Club and 15 young interns from the Eli Whitney museum spent about an hour and a half removing invasive Garlic Mustard from the northern part of the Park. We all had fun, found a Garter Snake and removed about ten trash bags of Garlic Mustard.

Over all it was a good walk, a lot of people and some decent birds. This field trip amassed a total of 66 bird species, including 6 species of Warblers (a little low).

--Daniel Barvir
East Rock Park Ranger
& Bird Club Member

Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary Trip Report

On Sunday, May 4th, Roy Harvey led a walk at Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary. More than 50 species were seen on a nice spring day.



Scarlet Tanager at Bent of the River
Photo by Gege Li

May 1st Wednesday Walk Report: East Rock Park

On May 7 Renee Baade, Frank Mantlik and John Oshlick led the First Wednesday walk in East Rock Park. There were about 42 people, and 60 bird species were seen.



--Frank Mantlik



*Bagging More Than Spring Warblers on the May 1st Wednesday Walk
Photo by Louisa Cunningham*

Nehantic State Forest and Hartman Park Trip Report

On May 17 Paul Wolter led 16 participants. We saw or heard a total of 59 species collectively. Half the participants left at 11.45, but I think everyone had at least a momentary view of the Cerulean Warbler - it did not sing. Those who stayed saw a singing Acadian Flycatcher.

--Paul Wolter

June 1st Wednesday Walk Report: White Memorial Foundation

June 4th's 1st Wednesday Walk took place at White Memorial Foundation in Litchfield and was well attended by 32 birders including our leader Greg Hanisek. We tallied 69 species, the



Photo by Lynne Chase

highlights being the branching Barred Owlet and the young Pileated Woodpecker peeking out of its nest cavity.



*Branching Barred Owlet
Photo by John Schwartz*



*Young Pileated Woodpecker
Photo by John Schwartz*

After lunch, twenty of us visited the Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy for a private tour led by the aviculturist, Nick Tiberio. We enjoyed wonderful looks at various waterfowl from around the world including adult Smews as well as Smew ducklings.

Many thanks to Greg and to everyone who attended the walk and visit to the LRWC.

--Tina Green
1st Wednesday Walk Coordinator

2014 New Haven Science Fair

The New Haven Science Fair was held at Woolsey Hall at Yale from Monday, May 12, through Wednesday, May 14, 2014. The New Haven Bird Club offers the Letis Memorial Prize of \$200.00 (\$100.00 of it from Mike and Pat Horn) and a one-year Club membership to the winner. This year's winner was a 2 person project done by eighth graders Bianca Petti and Maggie Gaurino-Trier from Edgewood School; left and center in the picture with their teacher, Sheila Davis, on the right.

The name of the project was "Pre-Recorded Prey." The project brings a truly unique view to the predator/prey relationship. It was the intent of the project to see if predators – 4 domestic house cats – would recognize and react to the recorded songs of local birds i.e. Robins and the like vs. Macaws and other non-native species. To the students' surprise, the cats did not react the same - and some not at all - to non-native species whereas they showed great interest in the sound of our local birds.

Pat and I were very impressed by their paper, especially their conclusions. Our interview with them convinced us that they



will have bright futures. They are into birding and will make fine additions to our Club.

We would also like to thank their teacher, Sheila Davis, for nurturing such fine young minds.

--Mike and Pat Horn

NHBC Winter Feeder Survey 2013-2014 - Final Report

May 17, 2014

This year we had a lot of snow storms and it was very cold for a long time. Many of us did not believe that spring would ever show up. There was 1 Common Redpoll seen in week 5 by Helen Wilson, but no Red-breasted Nuthatches, or Pine Siskins. We had 34/34 or 100% of the Common Birds on the list. In the last seven weeks of the survey we had 10/33 or 33% of the Uncommon Birds on the list, 2 Waterfowls and 10/20 or 50% of the Animals on the list.

We started at 22 surveyors this year but lost 2 for unknown reasons during the year. Again we were widely scattered around New Haven County and beyond: Cheshire (2), Durham (1), Guilford (3), Hamden (6), Killingworth (1), Milford (2), Monroe (1), New Haven (1), Orange (2), Wallingford (2) and Woodbridge (1). We have 3 using Postal Mail, 3 receiving email but replying using Postal Mail and 15 using email and myself.

We saw 44 species of birds this year, down 6 from last year. The only species not on our list that was seen this year is Woodcock, and this was seen by Ellie Tessmer. Those on the Uncommon List seen during the last 7 weeks were: Brown Creeper (Maris Fiondella, Carol Goertz, Charlotte K. White), Cedar Waxwing

(Tim Rodgers), Eastern Phoebe (Winie Wirth), Eastern Towhee (Bev Propen), Hermit Thrush (Carol Goertz, Winie Wirth), Monk-parakeet (Winie Wirth), Red-shouldered Hawk (Carol Goertz, Bev Propen), Rusty Blackbirds (Nancy Rosenbaum, Ed Sprowson), Woodcock (Ellie Tessmer), Yellow Rumped Warbler (Andy Verderame).

In the Waterfowl category a Mallard was the only fowl seen and that was by Nancy Morand.

In the Animal category we had 10 out of 20 for 50%. Gray Squirrel led the way, followed by Chipmunk, and then by Black Squirrel, Feral Cat, Opossum, Rabbit, Raccoon, Skunk, White-tail Deer, and Woodchuck.

I have attached graphs of 5 species which are showing 3 trend lines one for each year:

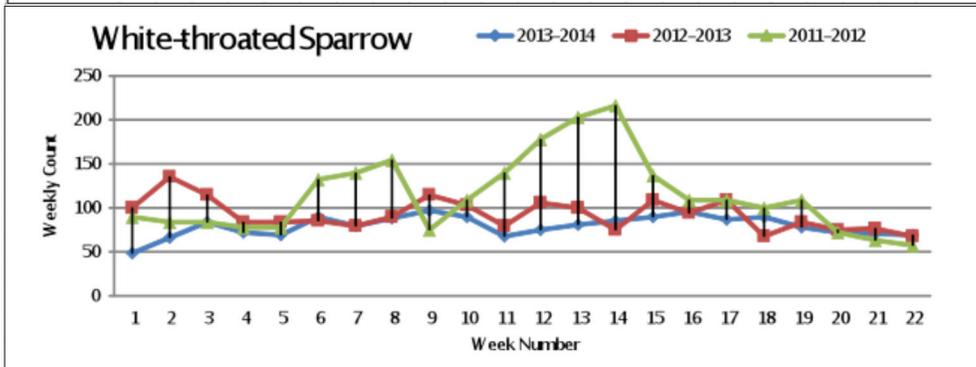
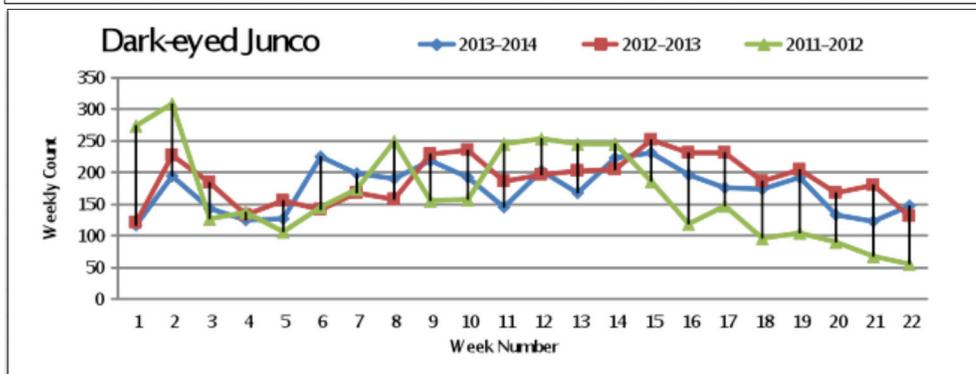
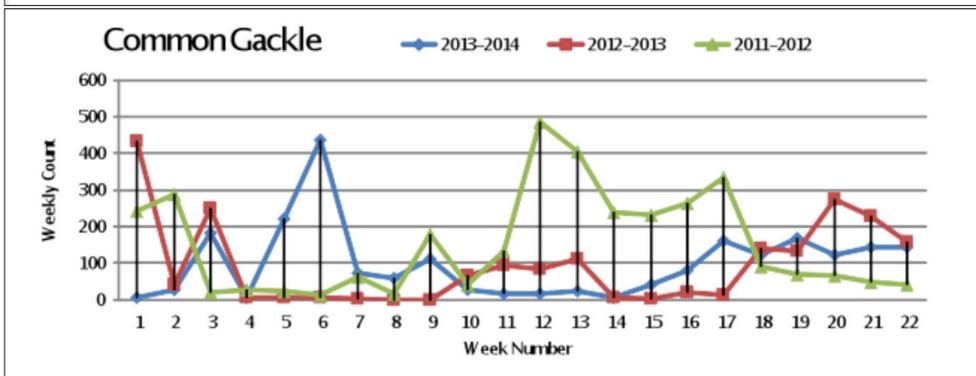
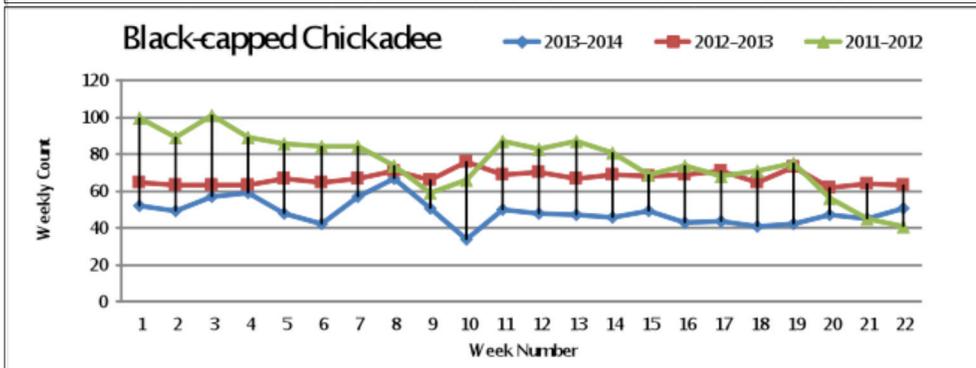
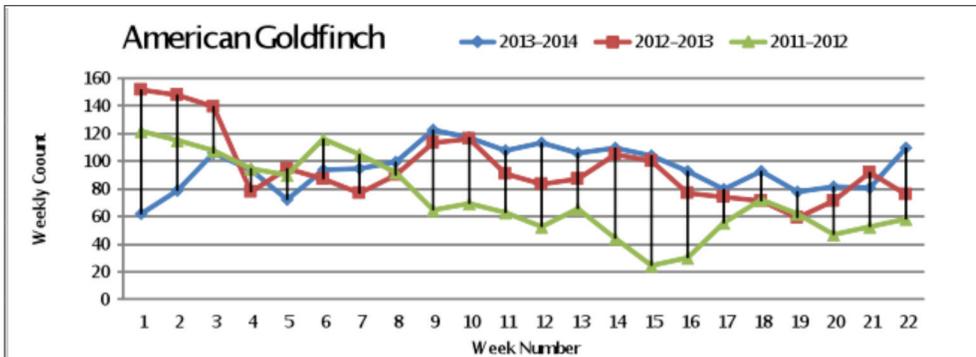
2011-2012 Green, 2012-2013 Red, and 2013-2014 Blue. The White-throated Sparrow is down 119 from 2011-2012 and 38 from last year. The others seem to be holding their own.

--Peter Vitali

NHBC Winter Feeder Survey Chairman

Maximum Number of a Species seen during any 1 week of the Survey

	Common species		Uncommon Species		Waterfowl		Animals	
1	American Crow	29	American Tree Sparrow	3	American Black Duck		Black Squirrel	2
2	American Goldfinch	123	American Woodcock	1	Canada Goose	1	Bob Cat	
3	American Robin	126	Blackpoll Warbler		Great Blue Heron		Brown Rat	
4	Black-capped Chickadee	67	Black Vulture	7	Herring Gull		Chipmunk	4
5	Blue Jay	66	Broad-winged Hawk		Hooded Merganser		Coyote	
6	Brown-headed Cowbird	50	Brown Creeper	3	Mallard	30	Feral Cat	6
7	Carolina Wren	23	Cedar Waxwing	12	Ring-billed Gull		Flying Squirrel	
8	Chipping Sparrow	7	Common Redpoll	1	Wood Duck		Gray Fox	
9	Common Grackle	438	Eastern Kingbird				Gray Squirrel	72
10	Cooper's Hawk	4	Eastern Phoebe	2			Mole	2
11	Dark-eyed Junco	232	Eastern Towhee	3			Opossum	2
12	Downy Woodpecker	58	Field Sparrow				Raccoon	1
13	Eastern Bluebird	16	Fish Crow	1			Rabbit	5
14	European Starling	108	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2			Red Fox	2
15	Fox Sparrow	18	Hermit Thrush	2			Red Squirrel	1
16	Hairy Woodpecker	13	Lincoln Sparrow				Short-tailed Rat	
17	House Finch	95	Merlin				Short-tailed Shrew	
18	House Sparrow	135	Monk Parakeet	14			Skunk	2
19	Mourning Dove	181	Northern Harrier				Vole	15
20	Northern Cardinal	67	Northern Oriole	1			White Tail Deer	
21	Northern Flicker	8	Pileated Woodpecker				Woodchuck	1
22	Northern Mockingbird	3	Pine Siskin					
23	Purple Finch	14	Pine Warbler	1				
24	Red-bellied Woodpecker	24	Raven					
25	Red-tailed Hawk	3	Red-breasted Nuthatch					
26	Red-winged Blackbird	63	Red-shouldered Hawk	2				
27	Rock Dove (Pigeon)	24	Rusty Blackbird	60				
28	Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet					
29	Song Sparrow	22	Savannah Sparrow					
30	Tufted Titmouse	70	Swamp Sparrow					
31	White-breasted Nuthatch	37	Turkey Vulture					
32	White-throated Sparrow	97	Vesper Sparrow					
33	Wild Turkey	19	Winter Wren	2				
34	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	Wood Thrush					
35			White-crowned Sparrow					
36			Yellow-rumped Warbler	2				





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

Newsletter June 2014

The date on address labels is your membership expiration date.

NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____
State, Zip +4 _____
Phone _____
Email _____
(Please print clearly in block letters)

Dues:

Individual - \$15
 Couple/Family - \$20 # of family members _____
 Supporting - \$50 # of family members _____
 Student under 18 - Free
 Life Membership: A one-time payment of \$300
for 1 or 2 people at same address.
 Additional gift to support the NHBC \$ _____
 I would like to volunteer to help the club.

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

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 also for the following 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 your employer 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 preference, or national origin.

If your address, phone or email change, please send that information to the Club address given on the form to the left or contact the Membership Chair, Mike Ferrari: mike.ferrari@att.net or 203.435.5712.

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

The New Haven Bird Club is now on Facebook. So log onto facebook and like the page "New Haven Bird Club." You can post your photos, see other photos, participate in a discussion and check out the upcoming events.

CTBirds is an open discussion email list to discuss birds and birding in the state. To Subscribe, go to:
http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds_lists.ctbirding.org

The CTDailyReport list is used to distribute summaries of rare and uncommon bird sightings. To Subscribe, go to:
http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctdailyreport_lists.ctbirding.org

NHBC website: www.newhavenbirdclub.org