



# THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

February 2011

## 2011 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

- Thursday, February 10, 2011 **J. Alan Clark**  
**Penguins in Peril: How Climate Change Impacts Penguins**
- Saturday, February 12, 2011, 8:00 am **Connecticut River Valley and Eastern Shore**
- Saturday February 19, 8:30 am **Saturday Family Bird Walks, East Rock Park, New Haven**
- Saturday, February 26, 2011, 7:00 am **Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast**
- Wednesday, March 2, 2011, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: Sikorsky Airport & Great Meadows, Stratford**
- Thursday, March 10, 2011 **Gina Nichol**  
**Colombia's Avian Treasures**
- Sunday, March 20, 2011, 8:00 am **Southwest Connecticut Coast**
- Wednesday, March 30, 7:00 pm **Birds in Words: *Wandering Through Winter* by Edwin Way Teale**
- Saturday, April 2, 2011, 9:00 am **West Rock Ridge SP: Woodbridge, New Haven, and Hamden**
- Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 8:00 am **First Wednesday: Milford Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**
- Saturday, April 9, 2011, 8:00 am **East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance, New Haven**
- Sunday, April 10, 2011, 8:30 am **Lighthouse Pt/ Richard English Bird Sanctuary, Killingworth**
- Thursday, April 14, 2011 **Members' Night**
- Saturday, April 16, 2011, 8:00 am **Beginners' Bird Walk at Lake Wintergreen, Hamden**
- Saturday, April 23, 2011, 8:00 am **Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center, Ansonia**
- Saturday, April 30, 2011, 8:00 am **East Rock Park with Ranger Dan**
- Saturday, April 30, 2011, 9:00 am **Bird Walk for Kids at East Rock Park, New Haven**
- Save the Date:* Thursday, May 5 **NHBC Annual Banquet**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Traveling can be quite an experience. I went on an excursion that first brought me to Essex, CT. Being lost since the facility I was looking for moved, I finally found the right parking lot and building only to be greeted with a delay in traveling. It seems the van would not start and we would have to wait for the second van to arrive from New York which was on the way and should arrive within a half an hour.

I said it was fine with me. Another traveler arrived, was informed of the delay and she said it was fine with her too. So, we all went to Dunkin Donuts for coffee and waited. Amazingly, the van did arrive in the half hour stated and it wasn't long before we were off to pick up two other travelers after stopping for gas.

The additional travelers called our leader to say they would be a few minutes late ... or so. We ate the dinner we brought ourselves in the van either on the way down or as we were waiting for the final travelers.

We were to start our excursion at 5 p.m. from Essex and arrive in Massachusetts earlier than we did. When we entered Massachusetts we stopped at Friendly's for a rest stop and when we returned to the van we were told the doors were locked and the keys were inside with no spare key. Luckily, the company had AAA and they were called.

Meanwhile, we calmly waited inside the building remarking that this was traveling and it happens. No of us were discouraged, upset, or angry. But, we began to worry that we might not be in time for our quest. The man from AAA said the van wasn't locked after all but the door was jammed.

Finally we received some good news. We were informed that a bird had been trapped and it would be held for us until we arrive. Yea!!! We felt better.

Then, our driver got lost and missed the road. She called the station and they calmly gave us new directions from where we were located and we drove around some more. Finally, we were on the right road and were greeted by two madly waving men to make sure we found them.

(continued on next page.)

## New Haven Bird Club - 2010 - 2011

### OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Maria Stockmal m.stockmal@snet.net	203.488.3876
<i>Vice President</i>	Mike Horn mfhorn@att.net	203.288.1891
<i>Treasurer</i>	Gary Lemmon lemmon@snet.net	203.488.7813
<i>Secretary</i>	Judy Moore judymoore@optonline.net	203.387.4582

### BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Audubon CT Liaison</i>	Pat Leahy ptjleahy@yahoo.com	203.393.2427
<i>Conservation Chair</i>	Bill Batsford william.batsford@yale.edu	203.787.1642
<i>Education Chair</i>	Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe jubilee832001@yahoo.com	203.630.9640
<i>Hospitality Chair</i>	Stacy Hanks flybird@optonline.net	203.283.3898
<i>Indoor Programs</i>	Kris Johnson krisjohnson99@snet.net	203.288.3087
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Ralph Amodei ramodei@att.net	203.467.9515
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	203.288.0621
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Betty Zuraw bzfeathers@sbcglobal.net	860.632.1156
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford dbatsford@footeschool.org	203.787.1642
<i>Nominating Chair</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net	203.389.6508
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Larry Bausher lpbausher@comcast.net	203.389.5918

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT!®</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net	203.389.6508
<i>Email List</i>	Ralph Amodei ramodei@att.net	203.467.9515
<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo smayo@sikorsky.com	203.393.0694
<i>Lighthouse Point Historian</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo smayo@sikorsky.com	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
<i>Yearbook</i>	Betty Zuraw bzfeathers@sbcglobal.net	860.632.1156

The NHBC website is [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)

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

Hurray!! We are finally here and need to hike up the hill to the station. Nearing our destination I could first see the aura of lights and then the lights themselves. I could hear talking about cord lengths and weights and debates about the color of the covert feathers. Northern Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) were being banded on this cold late October night.

We were able to see the owl that was kept for us until we arrived. We went out to search the mist nets from more owls that were pleasantly surprised in capturing seven or eight owls that night. We cried that we were the luck since that was the first time so many owls were captured in one night thus far. One owl was captured and recaptured three times.

We all got to hold the Saw-whets and had our pictures taken with them. Reluctantly, we left around nine o'clock to head back home.

--Maria Stockmal

## FROM THE BOARD

The January 19 board meeting was canceled due to weather conditions. The next board meeting will be February 24. If anyone has concerns or items they would like discussed at the meeting, please let a board member know.

### Open Board Position

We are looking for a person to fill the open position of Indoor Program Chair on the board for next 2 years (2011-2012 & 2012-2013).

The Indoor Program Chair sets the schedule of speakers for the monthly indoor programs that occur from September to May. Typically, potential speakers are suggested to the Chair from other members, often at the monthly board meetings. The outgoing Indoor Program Chair also has a notebook filled with leads that have been accumulated through the years. This position requires good organizational skills. Attendance at the board and indoor meetings would be expected.

If you are interested in this position, please contact me at [jtriana1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtriana1@sbcglobal.net). I will be happy to answer any questions you have.

The continued success of the club depends on dedicated volunteers. I hope you'll consider serving on the board.

--John Triana

The deadline for submissions to the April newsletter is March 25. Send to Donna Batsford [dbatsford@footeschool.org](mailto:dbatsford@footeschool.org)

## Please Consider...

If you indicated that you wanted to receive the newsletter electronically only, you will not receive a paper copy of this issue of the *Chickadee*. Others will receive a copy in the mail soon. The club encourages you to take the "email only" option to receive this newsletter as it saves paper and postage. If you would like to become an "email only" recipient, please contact the Membership Chair, Betty Zuraw, [bzfeathers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bzfeathers@sbcglobal.net) or 860.632.1156.

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## INDOOR PROGRAMS

Monthly indoor programs run September through April. They are held on the second Thursday of the month (except on holidays) in the Jones Auditorium at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven. The social half-hour at meetings begins at 7:00 pm; the meeting and program begin at 7:30 pm. The facility is wheelchair accessible with a ramp and elevator.

*Directions:* Go north 1.4 miles from the New Haven Green on Whitney Avenue, turn left onto Huntington Street. The entrance to the station is on the right, just past the first cross street.

*Cancellation Policy:* Inclement weather or another emergency may cancel a meeting. For cancellation notices, check TV channels WTNH (New Haven) and WFSB (Hartford). Cancellation notices will also be posted online on ctbird.

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### **Thursday, February 10, 2011 — J. Alan Clark Penguins in Peril: How Climate Change Impacts Penguins**

While in New Zealand studying endangered species law and policy, Dr. Clark heard “the call of the wild.” The upshot: He left his law practice and began studying penguins, in particular: Magellanic Penguins. He is primarily interested in animal behavior and conservation biology, but by focusing on a group of well-known and beloved creatures, penguins, he hopes to achieve two goals. First, to boost the public’s awareness and concern about climate change, and second, to help people appreciate some of the more subtle and even unexpected consequences of climate change’s serious environmental challenges. Alan’s extensive research on the Magellanic Penguin and numerous papers and lectures on this bird have given him a unique understanding of the perilous future of this species. Dr. Clark is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Fordham University. In addition to a law degree, he has graduate degrees in biology and natural resource policy. He is also an analyst of U.S. Endangered Species Act recovery plans and was lead author of the main summary paper.

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### **Thursday, March 10, 2011— Gina Nichol Colombia’s Avian Treasures**

Colombia boasts more avian species than any other country in the world—at least 1,870, of which more than 73 species are endemics. Twenty-one of them were first discovered as recently as the past 24 years. For decades, security concerns kept Colombia’s dazzling birding opportunities off-limits to visitors, but in recent times, recognizing the ecotourism goldmine in their midst, the Colombian government and military have addressed safety issues and have improved conditions so significantly that Colombia is now open for birding. Gina, having spent the better part of two months in 2009 birding Colombia, is working with the Colombian government and ornithological community to develop tours to this treasure house of birds. Tonight’s program, generously illustrated with stunning photos, will reveal the avian riches of this once-forbidden land and give a first hand sense of what it is like to bird this remarkable destination.

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#### **Birder Tag Sale at the March Meeting!**

Do you have a bird book you no longer use?  
Some avian art you no longer have room for?  
Bring the items to the February meeting; we’ll sell them at the March meeting.  
Items will be priced at \$1, \$5, and \$10.  
Proceeds go to NHBC’s Conservation Fund.

Please Note: As per the Club’s by-laws, the April meeting is traditionally the Annual Meeting, which includes presentation of a slate of officers and their election.

### **Thursday, April 14, 2011 Members’ Night**

Don’t be bashful! Be sure not to miss this opportunity to add another 15 minutes of fame to your birding memoirs. Remember: you’ll be among the best of birding friends. Members’ Night is a chance to share your favorite photos, stories, birding haunts, and memories of birds and bird club activities with an appreciative audience. We will have slide and PowerPoint capability. Please contact Program Chair Kris Johnson: krisjohnson99@snet.net or 203.288.3087 with the details of what you would like to show. Members’ Night is a lot of fun!

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## BIRDS IN WORDS

Birds in Words is NHBC’s book discussion group for people who like to read about their favorite hobby and then discuss the books at casual and thought-provoking sessions. Please feel free to attend any of the meetings. All are welcome! Meetings start at 7:00 pm at The Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Dr., Hamden. If you have any questions, please email or call Sara Zagorski: szagorski@daypitney.com, 860.721.1814.

*Directions:* From Whitney Avenue northbound, turn left on Putnam Avenue, then right on Leeder Hill Drive. Park on the road and go to main desk, sign in, and get directions to the meeting room. Directions are also available at: <http://www.whitneycenter.com/directions.html>

### **Wednesday, March 30**

The book we will be featuring is *Wandering Through Winter* by Edwin Way Teale. Mr. Teale and his wife Nellie used to live in Connecticut at Trail Wood in Hampton. This 168 acre sanctuary is now managed by the Connecticut Audubon Society. Teale won the 1966 Pulitzer Prize for *Wandering Through Winter: A Naturalist’s Record of a 20,000-Mile Journey Through the North American Winter*, which is the account of the birds, animals, plants and people that Teale and his wife encountered on an automobile journey from the southwestern U.S. and parts of the Midwest, ending up in northeastern Maine.

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## 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. Car-pooling 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 too: <[www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)> for trip information and watch for emails sent by the Club or contact trip leaders directly.

*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.

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### **Saturday, February 12, 2011, 8:00 am** **Connecticut River Valley and Eastern Shore**

Meet at the entrance to Hammonasset State Park (I-95 Exit 62) in Madison. We'll search the shore from Madison to the Connecticut River Lower Valley for wintering shorebirds and hawks as well as the trip specialty, eagles. Please bring a spotting scope if you have one. Co-leaders: Arne Rosengren: 203.248.2903 & Nancy Rosenbaum: 203.288.8997, [nancy.rosenbaum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nancy.rosenbaum@sbcglobal.net)

### **Saturday February 19, 8:30 am** **Saturday Family Bird Walk, East Rock Park, New Haven**

The New Haven Bird Club is excited to offer a series of free bird walks geared for families. These walks will focus on what birds and other wildlife can be found at East Rock Park over the course of the year beginning with a winter walk. The walk will begin at the covered bridge by the Eli Whitney Museum Parking lot. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them, appropriate clothing, and a little bit of curiosity about birds and the natural world. All ages are welcome. For more information contact: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-630-9640, [jubilee832001@yahoo.com](mailto:jubilee832001@yahoo.com).

### **Saturday, February 26, 2011, 7:00 am** **Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast**

This all-day trip includes stops at Sachuest Point, Beavertail State Park, Moonstone Beach, and Trustum Pond, all superb Rhode Island birding locations. We should see grebes, loons, scoters, eiders, Purple Sandpipers, and lots of Harlequin Ducks. We'll look for alcids, gannets, rare gulls, and waterfowl. Dress warmly—it's cold and windy on the coast. The hiking is a bit strenuous in places. Bring lunch and a spotting scope if you have one. Meet at the Branford commuter lot at Exit 55, I-95. We carpool from there. Leader: Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508, [closcalz@optonline.net](mailto:closcalz@optonline.net)

### **Wednesday, March 2, 2011, 8:00 am** **First Wednesday Walk: Sikorsky Airport & Great Meadows, Stratford**

Join us on a visit to this fine birding area. We will meet at the Long Beach parking lot and bird the marsh and beach and then visit Sikorsky Airport and Frash Pond. We'll look for sea birds such as Long-tailed Duck and scoters, as well as raptors and shorebirds. Directions: Follow signs to Sikorsky Airport from Exit 30 off I-95. Go past the airport entrance and fol-

low the causeway to the end. Take the first right onto Oak Bluff Avenue and follow it to the entrance of Long Beach. Leader: Scott Kruitbosch. Contact: Tina Green: 203.247.2660, [tina@renaissancestudios.com](mailto:tina@renaissancestudios.com)

### **Sunday, March 20, 2011, 8:00 am** **Southwest Connecticut Coast**

Welcome spring today by birding some of the state's coastal hot-spots. We'll explore the various habitats of Stratford's shoreline in search of raptors, ducks, gulls, and early migrants. Time permitting, we may also visit surrounding towns. We'll finish by noon or 1:00 pm. Carpooling is encouraged, Meet at Sikorsky Airport, Stratford (in parking lot for main terminal off Rte. 113). Leader: Frank Mantlik: 203.984.9410, [mantlik@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mantlik@sbcglobal.net)

### **Saturday, April 2, 2011, 9:00 am** **West Rock Ridge SP: Woodbridge, New Haven, and Hamden**

We'll focus on only two breeding species for this trip to West Rock Ridge State Park: Common Raven and Peregrine Falcon. Common Raven was first confirmed as a breeding bird at West Rock Ridge in 2002, and the species has nested there every year since then at two different sites. We'll begin by scoping from the western lowlands below West Rock (on Lunar Drive in Woodbridge) to observe the female incubating a clutch of eggs. Then we'll drive to the top of the ridge to study the male raven perched, soaring, bringing in food, defending territory, and trading incubation duties with the female. Later, we turn our attention to the peregrines. We'll view the resident pair as they move toward egg-laying. The behaviors to observe include perching, preening, stooping for prey and feeding on a freshly collected prey item, defending territory, nest preparation, and copulation. Bring binoculars and spotting scopes. Meet at Lunar Dr., Woodbridge, near the south end of Konold's Pond. Leader—Steve Broker: 203.272.5192 (cell: 203.747.6843), [ls.broker@cox.net](mailto:ls.broker@cox.net)

### **Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 8:00 am** **First Wednesday: Milford Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**

Today we visit this well-known hotspot on Long Island Sound to look for waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors. We should see loons, grebes, and goldeneye in the Sound, and shorebirds, herons, and ducks in the marsh. We will look for Northern Harriers and early-arriving Osprey. Meet in the parking lot. Renee Baade leads. Contact—Tina Green: 203.247.2660, [tina@renaissancestudios.com](mailto:tina@renaissancestudios.com)

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**Saturday, April 9, 2011, 8:00 am**  
**East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance, New Haven**

Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot for a bird walk from 8 to 9 am. Then join Ranger Dan and help with light trail maintenance along the river from 9 am to noon. Bring pruning shears and work gloves if you have them. Leader—Dan Barvir: 203.946.6086

**Sunday, April 10, 2011, 8:30 am**  
**Lighthouse Pt/ Richard English Bird Sanctuary, Killingworth**

Meet in the Lighthouse Point Hawk Watch parking lot and bird the harbor for gulls, loons, ducks, and early returning shorebirds. We will then go to the Richard English Bird Sanctuary on Deer Lake in Killingworth, where we'll see a variety of land birds. We finish our birding tour at Hammonasset State Park in Madison. This is an all-day trip so bring lunch and dress warmly. Co-leaders—Dick English: 203.865.8610 and Mike Horn: 203.288.1891, mfhorn@att.net

**Saturday, April 16, 2011, 8:00 am**  
**Beginners' Bird Walk at Lake Wintergreen, Hamden**

Get a jump on spring migration and see some early migrants such as Palm, Pine, and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Eastern Phoebes. The walk will be oriented to the beginning birder. Meet at the Lake Wintergreen parking lot at the south end of Main Street. Leader—Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508, closcalz@optonline.net

**Saturday, April 23, 2011, 8:00 am**  
**Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center, Ansonia**

Join our club president on a walk at this fine birding site where there often are exciting surprises. The Center has a wide range of habitats—small ponds, wetlands, thickets, fields, and woods that have had nesting Northern Goshawks and Great Horned Owls. Meet at the nature center parking lot on Deerfield Lane (off Benz Road) in Ansonia. Leader—Maria Stockmal: 203 488-3876, m.stockmal@snet.net

**Saturday, April 30, 2011, 8:00 am**  
**East Rock Park with Ranger Dan**

Join Ranger Dan Barvir at this premier site for warblers. We will meet at the Rice Field (baseball field) end of East Rock Park. This is a great location to see a variety of spring migrants. Leader—Ranger Dan Barvir: 203.946.6086

**Saturday, April 30, 2011, 9:00 am**  
**Bird Walk for Kids at East Rock Park, New Haven**

On this walk by the park's Mill River, children, accompanied by adults, will search for warblers and other spring migrants. Interested adults are also welcome to join the walk in this famous spring birding site. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Leader—Florence McBride: 203.288.6777, j.mcbride@yale.edu

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## SATURDAY FAMILY BIRD WALKS

The New Haven Bird Club is excited to offer a series of free bird walks geared for families. These walks will focus on what birds and other wildlife can be found at East Rock Park over the course of the year beginning with a winter walk on Saturday Feb. 19th at 8:30am. In spring, we'll join the previously scheduled "Bird Walk for Kids" on April 30th at 9:00 am to search for warblers and other spring migrants. Summer and fall walks will be on June 25th and Oct. 1st at 8:30am. The walks will begin at the covered bridge by the Eli Whitney Museum Parking lot. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them, appropriate clothing, and a little bit of curiosity about birds and the natural world. All ages are welcome. For more information contact: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, 203-630-9640, jubilee832001@yahoo.com.

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### *Save The Date*

## NHBC Annual Banquet

Thursday, May 5, 2011 — 6:00 pm  
Amarante's Restaurant, New Haven

*Please Note: The banquet will be held on the first Thursday of the month, May 5, rather than the customary second Thursday.*

Be sure to join us for the Club's Annual Banquet—always great company, great food, and a great program. Reservations required; watch the April newsletter, Club emails, and the Club website for details and reservation forms. Early reservations are greatly appreciated!

There will also be the always-fun raffle of interesting, exciting, and worthwhile prizes!

The program, "The Singing Life of Birds," will be presented by Donald Kroodsma. He is recognized by the American Ornithologists Union as the "reigning authority on avian vocal behavior." He has published hundreds of articles in the field of acoustic communication among birds, and he is the editor and author of books in that area, including his monumental and legendary *The Singing Life of Birds*.

This is an evening not to be missed.

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## NHBC Merchandise Available

You can purchase New Haven Bird Club merchandise - shirts, hats, mugs, etc. - from Café Press. Items are sold for only one dollar over cost to provide members with good affordable items. To view the items or make a purchase, go to the Club's website - [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org) - and click on the "NHBC Merchandise" link.

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## 111th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count Summary:

On Saturday, December 18th, 2010, 80 members of the New Haven Bird Club took to the fields, woods, and shores (or stayed home and watched their feeders), as participants in the 111th annual Christmas Bird Count for the National Audubon Society. The weather was excellent for birding as it was clear and calm, and there were many unusual and interesting birds seen. An impressive total of 131 species was recorded, with the rarest being a Broad-winged Hawk seen by Carol and Gary Lemmon in Branford. Other notable sightings included a Glaucous Gull seen by Brendan and Sean Murtha and Noble Proctor in Branford, and a Great Egret seen by Roberta Gowing and others in Milford. There was, in addition, an intriguing report from Ralph Amodei of a possible Brewer's Blackbird in New Haven, but as the bird could not be distinguished with certainty from a Rusty Blackbird, the sighting is not included in the official report.

There are many observations to be gleaned from our census, as we compare this year's results to past years and note trends or differences. For example: the 3 Greater White-fronted Geese seen in Lake Wepawaug in Orange represent an all-time high for this species in our count circle, Brant continue to be abundant along the coast, Wood Duck numbers were surprisingly high (given the cold weather for the weeks prior to the count), the Eurasian Wigeon was a nice find in Morris Creek at Lighthouse Point Park, Black Duck numbers continue to decline as Mallard numbers continue to rise, Black Vultures are now year-round residents in our area, and Red-tailed Hawks were abundant. Also, although Sharp-shinned Hawks outnumber Cooper's Hawks by about 6:1 during fall migration, the wintering populations of these two accipiters are roughly equal in our area; several lingering shorebirds were seen, including two American Oystercatchers and two Greater Yellowlegs; Monk Parakeet numbers are down compared to years past, perhaps related to the efforts to eradicate their nests from utility poles; Red-bellied and Pileated Woodpeckers were seen in good numbers; American Crow, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and White-breasted Nuthatch all seem to be doing well in our area, with stable or increasing populations; Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Yellow-rumped Warbler were generally scarce this season as they have been for the past few years; the two Yellow-breasted Chats and two Palm Warblers were good finds as were the two "Ipswich race" Savannah Sparrows; Fox and American Tree Sparrow numbers were low; there were no large flocks of blackbirds or grackles seen; and the 4 Purple Finches and lone Pine Siskin were the only winter finches seen on count day. So, as you can see, there is much to be learned about the early winter populations of the birds in our area by participating in and reviewing the results of the Christmas Bird Count! The complete and final results for the count follow.

SPECIES: Greater White-fronted Goose, 3; Snow Goose, 1; Brant, 1192; Canada Goose, 5328; Mute Swan, 352; Wood Duck, 44; Gadwall, 167; Eurasian Wigeon, 1; American Wigeon, 62; American Black Duck, 500; Mallard, 2893; Black Duck/Mallard Hybrid, 6; Northern Shoveler, 3; American Green-winged

Teal, 29; Canvasback, 6; Redhead, CW; Ring-necked Duck, 208; Greater Scaup, 2600; Lesser Scaup, 13; Surf Scoter, 3; White-winged Scoter, 4; Black Scoter, 4; Long-tailed Duck, 56; Bufflehead, 273; Common Goldeneye, 362; Hooded Merganser, 753; Common Merganser, 38; Red-breasted Merganser, 184; Ruddy Duck, 38; Wild Turkey, 27; Red-throated Loon, 23; Common Loon, 29; Pied-billed Grebe, 3; Horned Grebe, 70; Northern Gannet, 1; Double-crested Cormorant, 8; Great Cormorant, 10; Great Blue Heron, 38; Great Egret, 1; Black-crowned Night-Heron, 1; Black Vulture, 8; Turkey Vulture, 56; Bald Eagle, 3; Northern Harrier, 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 18; Cooper's Hawk, 18; Red-shouldered Hawk, 16; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 123; American Kestrel, 1; Merlin, 2; Peregrine Falcon, 5; Clapper Rail, 1; American Coot, 49; Killdeer, 8; American Oystercatcher, 2; Greater Yellowlegs, 2; Ruddy Turnstone, 4; Sanderling, 130; Purple Sandpiper, 46; Dunlin, 6; Wilson's Snipe, 3; American Woodcock, 2; Bonaparte's Gull, 1; Ring-billed Gull, 3524; Herring Gull, 1429; Glaucous Gull, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 87; Rock Pigeon, 1569; Mourning Dove, 752; Monk Parakeet, 112; Barn Owl, 1; Screech Owl, 20; Great Horned Owl, 8; Barred Owl, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 24; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 135; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 8; Downy Woodpecker, 176; Hairy Woodpecker, 34; Northern Flicker, 57; Pileated Woodpecker, 6; Blue Jay, 657; American Crow, 5623; Fish Crow, 284; Common Raven, 7; Horned Lark, 118; Black-capped Chickadee, 712; Tufted Titmouse, 414; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 11; White-breasted Nuthatch, 155; Brown Creeper, 4; Carolina Wren, 1; House Wren, 1; Winter Wren, 6; Marsh Wren, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 17; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Eastern Bluebird, 74; Hermit Thrush, 6; American Robin, 810; Gray Catbird, 11; Northern Mockingbird, 136; Brown Thrasher, 2; European Starling, 3123; American Pipit, 32; Cedar Waxwing, 61; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 4; Palm Warbler, 2; Yellow-breasted Chat, 2; Eastern Towhee, 11; American Tree Sparrow, 206; Chipping Sparrow, 2; Field Sparrow, 25; Savannah Sparrow, 19; Savannah Sparrow, Ipswich race, 2; Fox Sparrow, 11; Song Sparrow, 280; Swamp Sparrow, 14; White-throated Sparrow, 1058; White-crowned Sparrow, 9; Dark-eyed Junco, 853; Snow Bunting, 2; Northern Cardinal, 392; Red-winged Blackbird, 165; Rusty Blackbird, 9; Common Grackle, 149; Brown-headed Cowbird, 68; Baltimore Oriole, 1; Purple Finch, 4; House Finch, 481; Pine Siskin, 1; American Goldfinch, 338; House Sparrow, 1485. TOTAL SPECIES: 131. TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 41,790.

PARTICIPANTS: Marian Aimesbury, Ralph Amodei, Toby Appel, Margaret Ardwin, Christin Arnini, Bill Banks, Dan Barvir, Bill Batsford, Larry and Phyllis Bauscher, Barney Bontecou, Peter Borgemeister, Andy Brand, Stephen Broker, Lauren Brown, Kevin Burgio, Michael Carpenter, Nancy Clark, Jonah Cohen, Beth Dock, Natasha and Randy Domina, Richard English, John Farley, Michael Ferrari, Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, Frank Gallo, Roberta Gowing, Christine Haley, Stacy Hanks, John Himmelman, Mike Horn, Jim Hunter, Kevin Jensen, Kris Johnson, Richard Johnson, Lynn Jones, Bill Kobak, Bernice Lattanzi, Pat Leahy, Carol and Gary Lemmon, Chris and Monica Loscalzo, Nancy Mancini,

Steve Mayo, Flo McBride, Patrick McCreless, Vanessa Mickan, Robert Mitchell, Judy Moore, Fred Morrison, Brendan and Sean Murtha, Gina Nichol, Phil Pivawer, Noble Proctor, Bev Propen, Frank and Nancy Ragusa, Linda Rediker, Douglas Rees, Nancy Rosenbaum, Paul Rubino, Sam Saulys, Lee Schlesinger, Jeff Severino, Charla and Steve Spector, Maria Stockmal, Marge Thomas, Tony Tortora, John Triana, Marianne Vahey, Peter Vitali, Charlotte Weston, Robert White, Chris Woerner, Paul Wolter, George Zepko, and Betty Zuraw.

Thanks to all who participated. Happy New Year to all!!  
 --Chris Loscalzo

### Stratford/Milford Birding Tour Field Trip Report

On Sunday, January 16th, eight club members braved subzero (Celsius) temperatures to venture to birding spots in Stratford and Milford. We saw interesting birds at each location. Our first stop was Long Beach State Park. There, we saw Common Goldeneye, Long-tailed Ducks, and American Black Ducks in the L.I. Sound and two Northern Harriers over the marsh. One of the harriers was an adult male, referred to as a "Gray Ghost" because of its pale gray and white plumage. Our second stop was the beach behind Marnick's Restaurant, at the corner of Washington Pkwy and Shoreline Drive. At this location, there was a large flock of White-winged Scoter, with a few Surf Scoter noted amongst them. There were also Greater Scaup and flyby Brant and a Red-throated Loon. Our third stop was Stratford Point. It was cold and windy there, but we were still able to find and enjoy looks at Gadwall, American Wigeon, a lone male Canvasback, and a frigid Killdeer on the beach. Noteworthy sightings at our next stop, which was a nearly completely frozen Frash Pond, were a roosting juvenile Black-crowned Night-Heron and Hooded Mergansers. Our last stop in Stratford was the Birdseye Boat Ramp. There, we saw American Coots, Green-winged Teal, a female Common Merganser and several more Killdeer. From



*American Coot*  
 Photo by Bill Batsford

there, we headed to Milford Point. There, we saw a large flock of Dunlin (with one Sanderling amongst them) on the shore, and Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Horned Grebes in the sound. A Sharp-shinned Hawk and a second adult male Northern Harrier rounded out our sightings there. We concluded our trip at this point, as there was construction at Silver Sands State Park and Mondo Pond was frozen over. Our total was 45 species, with nearly half of them being waterfowl. We're looking forward to taking this tour again next year.

--Chris Loscalzo

### Photo from Ora Avenue Field Trip December 11, 2010



*Red-tailed Hawk*  
 Photo by Mike Horn

### Hammonasset State Park Field Trip Report

On Saturday, January 29th, the fields, and even the marshes, were completely covered by more than a foot of snow. The Moraine and Willard Island trails were impassable. The roads and parking areas were lined by walls of snow at least three feet high. Yet, for the twelve club members who participated on this winter excursion, the trip was a breeze, as we were treated to excellent views of a number of interesting and beautiful birds, and were even the beneficiaries of some decent weather conditions. The highlights included a large flock of Snow Buntings and Horned Larks on and around the nature center

parking lot, Common Eider, Surf Scoter, Common and Red-throated Loon, and Horned Grebe in the Sound at Meig's Point, Purple Sandpiper, Sanderling, and Dunlin on the Meig's Point jetty, and Rough-legged Hawk and Merlin in the campgrounds area. We also caught a glimpse of a Great Horned Owl as it was flushed from its hide-out in



*Rough-Legged Hawk*  
 Photo by Bill Batsford

the campgrounds by a vociferous group of crows. Other species of note included Long-tailed Duck, Northern Harrier, Northern Flicker, Cedar Waxwing, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. All told, we saw 38 species. Where else in the state can you go to see sea ducks, shorebirds, raptors, and grassland birds in the middle of winter? Hammonasset is truly a special place, with surprises to be found by anyone willing to brave its shores, marshes, and open fields. We'll be back next year for sure, to see what awaits us at this excellent seaside birding location.

--Chris Loscalzo

Robins on Ora Avenue  
Photos by Mike Horn



Snow Buntings and Horned Larks at Hammo  
Photos by Bill Batsford



## Newsletter FEBRUARY 2011

### NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print clearly in block letters)

New Member  Renewal

Membership Levels (check appropriate category):

\$15 for individual  \$50 Supporting

\$20 for family  \$5 student under 18

\$300 for life for 1 or 2 people at same address

Gift Membership for any of above levels. We'll send a notice telling recipient that the gift is from (your name): \_\_\_\_\_

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

All contributions are tax-deductible. If your employer gives matching grants, please take advantage of the offer. It's free and it helps NHBC's program budget.

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

*The date on address labels is your membership expiration.*

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**TO JOIN NHBC**, use the same form. Indicate New Member.

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**CT Daily Report** A daily electronic report of rare and uncommon bird sightings in CT may be obtained by checking this website for directions on subscribing: [http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds\\_lists.ctbirding.org](http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds_lists.ctbirding.org) ctbirds is an open discussion email list that posts members' unedited comments on birds and birding in CT.

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