



# THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

June/July 2013

## 2013 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

- Sunday, June 30, 7:00 am **Central CT Birding Tour**
- Friday, August 2, 2013, 6:00 pm **Beginner's Bird Walk at Sandy Point IBA, West Haven**
- Sunday, August 11, 2013, 7:00 am **Menunketesuck Flats and River Marsh and Salt Meadow Unit, Westbrook**
- Saturday, August 17, 2013, 7:30 am **Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens, NY**
- Saturday, August 24, 2013, 8:00 am **Lighthouse Point Bird Walk and Prep for Migration Festival**

Have you renewed your membership for 2013 - 14 yet? If not, there is a membership form on the last page of this newsletter.

## FROM THE BOARD

The next board meeting is Thursday, August 29, at 6:45 pm at the Regional Water Authority in New Haven.

The deadline for submissions to the August newsletter is July 26. Send to Donna Batsford: [donnabatsford@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:donnabatsford@gmail.com)

### The New Haven Bird Club is 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.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The New Haven Bird Club has enjoyed an active and full schedule of Indoor and Outdoor programs together with a successful change in venue for our Indoor programs under Mike Horn's leadership for the past two years. With Craig Repasz and Chris Loscalzo continuing in their respective roles as Indoor and Outdoor Program chairmen the upcoming year promises an exciting variety of

speakers and birding trips to satisfy the diverse interests and activity levels of our membership. Plans to integrate these programs will include talks focusing on developing birding skills followed by birding trips emphasizing these skills. We hope this will be particularly attractive to beginning birders while also appealing to all levels.

Our club naturally features birdwatching, but environmental and conservation issues are central to our mission and interests as well. Conservation co-chairs Winie Wirth and Craig Repasz are formulating our mission statement for conservation and broadening our "hands-on" restoration efforts. The recent "garlic mustard pull" at East Rock Park, featured in the New Haven Register, was a very successful example of these efforts. We encourage participation from all of our membership in these activities in the upcoming year.

We currently have nearly 500 members in the New Haven Bird Club. Mike Ferrari, our membership chair, has and continues to make improvements in our ability to communicate effectively with the membership. This will include, hopefully, switching to a more adaptable and efficient email service for communication. In the interests of conservation and costs we encourage electronic communication, including our newsletter, whenever possible and comfortable. We also welcome feedback and opinions from the membership about all of our activities.

We are a vibrant and diverse club with a distinguished tradition and past. It is certainly my pleasure and honor to begin my term as your president.

--Bill Batsford

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

## NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2013-2014

### OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Bill Batsford	203.787.1642 william.batsford@yale.edu
<i>Vice President</i>	Craig Repasz	203.230.1697 crepasz@hotmail.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Andy Stack	203-397-0818 ctstacks@optonline.net
<i>Secretary</i>	Paul Wolter	860-681-5548 pwolter6@earthlink.net

### BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation C0-Chairs</i>	Craig Repasz	203.230.1697 crepasz@hotmail.com
	Winie Wirth	203-859-2971 wirthwitte@att.net
<i>Education Chair</i>	Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe	203.630.9640 jubilee832001@yahoo.com
<i>Hospitality Chair</i>	Stacy Hanks	203.283.3898 flybird@optonline.net
<i>Indoor Programs</i>	Craig Repasz	203.230.1697 crepasz@hotmail.com
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Mike Horn	203.288.1891 mfhorn@att.net
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Kris Johnson	203.288.3087 kriswaxwing99@gmail.com
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Betty Zuraw	860.632.1156 bz4feathers@sbcglobal.net
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Mike Ferrari	203.435.5712 mike.ferrari@att.net
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford	203.787.1642 donnabatsford@gmail.com
<i>Nominating Chair</i>	Patrick Leahy	203.393.2427 ptjleahy@yahoo.com
<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Chris Loscalzo	203.389.6508 closcalz@optonline.net
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Larry Bausher	203.389.5918 lpbausher@comcast.net
<i>Social Chair</i>	Donna Caporaso	203.895.7669 donnacap@aol.com
<i>Yearbook Chair</i>	Betty Zuraw	860.632.1156 bz4feathers@sbcglobal.net

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>Birds in Words</i>	Kris Johnson	203.288.3087 kriswaxwing99@gmail.com
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo	203.389.6508 closcalz@optonline.net
<i>Hawk Watch Lighthouse Point Historian</i>	Steve Mayo	203.393.0694 rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net
	John Triana	203.758.7203 jtriana1@sbcglobal.net
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo	203.393.0694 rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net
<i>Web Master</i>	John Triana	203.758.7203 jtriana1@sbcglobal.net
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali	203.288.0621 vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net

## Conservation Challenge for Earth Day Report

Friends, Our event was a success! We had 14 NHBC members and 3 Milford Conservation Commission members helping on April 7. The place looks 98% better. According to Steve Johnson, the litter collection along the Indian River on the Marble Co Trail amounted to over 27 large contractor bags of materials, 8,218 pieces of estimated litter including an estimated 741 plastic shopping bags alone. Best of all, Steve now has documentation of the bag problem which he will submit to the Wetlands Officer (Mary Rose Palumbo) who can do something about the corporate responsibility (or lack thereof). I am very grateful for the support of the NHBC in this vital endeavor!

--Winie Wirth



---

## INDOOR PROGRAMS

Monthly indoor programs start in September and are held on the second Thursday of the month. The social half-hour at meetings begins at 7:00 pm; the meeting and program begin at 7:30 pm. 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.org](http://ctbird.org). Starting in September 2012, the meetings will be at Whitney Center, Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. The facility is wheelchair accessible.

### Directions to the Whitney Center (WC)

From I-95 North or South: Exit onto I-91 North in New Haven. Take Exit 6 (Willow St.). At end of ramp turn right onto Willow and proceed to the end (Whitney Ave.). Turn right onto Whitney and go approximately 4 miles. Turn left onto Putnam Avenue.

From I-91 South: Take Exit 6 (Willow St.) in New Haven. At end of ramp, turn right onto Willow and proceed to the end (Whitney Ave.). Turn right onto Whitney and go approximately 4 miles. Turn left onto Putnam Avenue.

From Wilbur Cross (Rte. 15) northbound: Take Exit 61 (Whitney Ave). Turn left at end of ramp, go 2.4 mi., turn right onto Putnam.

From Wilbur Cross (Rte. 15) southbound: Take Exit 61 (Whitney Ave. New Haven). At end of ramp go right. Proceed to Putnam.

On Putnam go approximately .7 mi, (3 traffic lights) and turn right onto Leeder Hill (ATT bldg is at that intersection). Go .6 mi. on Leeder Hill to the South Entrance (big sign) of Whitney Center on the left. Turn in and take an immediate left into a raised parking area. Meeting is in the South Building, accessed via the main door of the portico that is in view from the parking lot. Turn right down the hallway. The Cultural Arts Center is a short distance on the left.

---

The first program of the 2013 - 14 season will be on Thursday, September 12.

---

## 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 Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. *See directions to Whitney Center under Indoor Programs.* Go to main desk, sign in, and get directions to the 6<sup>th</sup> floor Conference Room. If you have any questions, please email or call Kris Johnson [kriswaxwing99@gmail.com](mailto:kriswaxwing99@gmail.com) or 203.288.3087.

---

Watch for an announcement of the book to be read this fall

---

## 2013 New Haven Science Fair

The New Haven Science Fair was held at Woolsey Hall at Yale from Tuesday May 14 through Thursday May 16, 2013. 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 an individual project, "Bringing Back the Blue," done by Courtney Haigler, a tenth grader from Hillhouse High school.

It is her intent to make a bluebird trail through a wetland near Hillhouse known as Beaver Ponds Park. To this end and with the help of her science teacher and mentor Ms. Beitler, she made five

bluebird boxes and put four of them out in the marsh. She kept weekly tabs of them and ended up with 2 pairs of tree swallows and 2 pairs of house sparrows. (No Bluebirds). She is still working on the birding (Bluebird) trail. She has run into developers from her own school who want to turn most of it into a workout area for sports. (Welcome to the real world kid.) She has waded into the nasty world of city politics with a good determined attitude.

She is into birding and will make a fine addition to our Club. Both Pat and I found her and her project highly appropriate for the prize.

--Mike and Pat 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](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.

---

### **Central CT Birding Tour Sunday, June 30, 7:00 am**

Join us as we visit several excellent birding locations in the CT central valley. We will decide which locations to visit a week or two before the trip, depending upon which ones are most productive at that time. Potential places to visit include Rentschler Field in East Hartford where we will look for Upland Sandpiper, Eastern Meadowlark, and Grasshopper Sparrow. Another location we may visit is Station 43, along the CT River in South Windsor. There we'll look for Least Bittern, Green Heron, Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow and other freshwater wetland species. We may also go to the Great Pond State Forest in Simsbury, where there are likely to be Eastern Kingbird, Veery, Wood Duck and many other species. Finally, we may go to Northwest Park in Windsor, where we will look for Orchard Oriole, Grasshopper Sparrow, Indigo Bunting and many other birds. Meet at the commuter lot off Route 68 in Wallingford, west of I-91 at Exit 15 (at the corner of Barnes Road and Leigus Road). Bring lunch and wear shoes you won't mind getting muddy. Leader – Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508 or [closcalz@optonline.net](mailto:closcalz@optonline.net)

### **Beginner's Bird Walk at Sandy Point IBA, West Haven Friday, August 2, 2013, 6:00 pm**

On this walk, we will focus on beach-nesting birds, such as the piping plover, and other shorebirds that use Sandy Point to rest and refuel during migration. Participants will also learn about threats to beach-nesting birds and strategies for protecting them. This walk is geared to beginners, but birders of all levels are invited to participate. Families are welcome. Birders with more advanced skills not only can enjoy a day out but also provide support and inspiration to the newcomers. The parking lot for Sandy Point is located on Beach Street, about a quarter mile east of Chick's restaurant. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe: 203 630-9640 or [cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org](mailto:cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org)

### **Menunketesuck Flats and River Marsh and Salt Meadow Unit, Westbrook Sunday, August 11, 2013, 7:00 am**

A new trip to a new location! We will walk along Seaside Avenue in Westbrook and out onto Menunketesuck Flats at low tide to look for shorebirds, terns and waterfowl. The three-mile round trip walk will be followed by a visit to the Salt Meadow Unit of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge where we'll look out into the marsh. This is one of the best locations in the state for Little Blue Heron and Glossy Ibis. There are woods

and brushy fields in the refuge that will feature land birds. Meet at the Dunkin Donuts parking lot on Route 1 where it intersects with Seaside Avenue (near Kingfisher Lane!) in Westbrook. Wear shoes that you won't mind getting wet or muddy. Leader: Chris Loscalzo: 203 389-6508 or [closcalz@optonline.net](mailto:closcalz@optonline.net).

### **Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens, NY Saturday, August 17, 2013, 7:30 am**

This birding hot spot is a great place to see a wide variety of shorebirds, herons, terns, and migrating passerines. It is a great place for uncommon large shorebirds such as American Avocet, Marbled Godwit, and Buff-breasted, Stilt, and White-rumped Sandpiper. Meet at 7:30 am at the commuter lot in Orange at Rte 34 and Greenway Road (at exits 57/58 of the Wilbur Cross Pkwy). We will carpool to the refuge, returning in the late afternoon. Bring lunch, water, and bug spray. Consider a cap and sunscreen, and wear shoes you won't mind getting muddy. Leader: Chris Loscalzo: 203 389-6508 or [closcalz@optonline.net](mailto:closcalz@optonline.net).

### **Lighthouse Point Bird Walk and Prep for Migration Festival Saturday, August 24, 2013, 8:00 am**

Ranger Dan Barvir and Arne Rosengren will lead the bird walk. We'll meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot at Lighthouse Point on New Haven Harbor. Then, beginning at 9:30 am, we will perform some light trail maintenance and cleanup. This is a great way to enjoy looking at birds and help preserve their habitat at the same time. Leaders: Dan Barvir: 203 946-6086 and Arne Rosengren: 203 248-2903.

---

### **Family Bird Walk: Kellogg Environmental Center Report**

Thank you to those whom came out for the Saturday Family Bird Walk at Kellogg Environmental Center/Osborndale State Park on March 30th. Although the day started out a little chilly, the temperature quickly warmed up. The five adults and two



Photo by Mike Horn

kids on the walk saw or heard 37 species; highlights including 2 Ring-necked Ducks, 1 Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Tree Swallows, 3 Eastern Bluebirds, 1 Field Sparrow, 1 Fox Sparrow, 1 Swamp Sparrow and a Winter Wren. We had great

looks at the Pileated Woodpecker as it flew over head calling loudly and took the time to age a Northern Mockingbird as after second year based on its eye color. Other species observed include: Mallard, Canada Goose, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Red-tailed Hawk, Turkey Vultures, Mourning Dove, Rock Pigeon, Downy and Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Blue jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, American Robin, Song Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, House Sparrow, European Starling.

--Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe

### April First Wednesday Walk – Milford Point and Silver Sands Report

The New Haven Bird Club “First Wednesday” Walk on April 3 was led by Steve Spector, assisted by Frank Mantlik and Bill Batsford. We visited Milford Point, then caravanned to Silver Sands SP to the east, totaling 46 species in all. The day was sunny, 40-45°F, with a cold brisk WNW wind.



Highlights at Milford Point were: male Eurasian Wigeon (in salt marsh), 7 Northern Gannets, Double-crested Cormorant (early migrant), 1 Great Egret, 7 Ospreys, 7 Piping Plovers, 4 American

Oystercatchers, 12 Greater Yellowlegs, with a total of 39 species.

The highlights at Silver Sands State Park were: 1 Northern Gannet, 1 Great Egret, 2 American Oystercatchers, 1 Greater Yellowlegs, 1 Bonaparte's Gull, 1 Northern Rough-winged Swallow. for a total of 27 species (+1 other taxa).

--Frank Mantlik

### East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance Report

On April 13, 12 members of the New Haven Bird Club met at the covered bridge at the Eli Whitney Museum for our annual Spring Bird Walk and Park Clean-up. After about an hour and half walk we tallied about 47 bird species. Highlights were numerous Pine and Palm warblers, along with both Ruby and Golden crowned Kinglets. Other interesting observations included nesting Ravens and a male Peregrine Falcon on guard on the cliff face.



After the walk, most of the group followed me up to the Archery Field area, where we began our clean-up effort. This hard working band of birders, helped pile up brush, liberated native trees

of invasive vines, like Asiatic Bittersweet, Wisteria and Japanese Honey suckle, and picked up trash.

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. Your efforts that day will have a positive impact on that area for years come. Now let's see what good birds show up at this reclaimed area.

-- Daniel Barvir, East Rock Park Ranger

### Bird Walk for Kids at East Rock Park Report

Birds were less plentiful on this year's walk on April 27 than they have been for our past spring kids' walks, but we found 32 species, quite a few of them by ear. Red-wings and grackles gave us many opportunities to admire their beautiful colors, a Warbling Vireo was singing and flitting high in a tree, and by the covered bridge there were other spring migrants we were pleased to find: a phoebe, a Yellow Warbler, and a catbird. Among the more cooperative species were robins and two woodpeckers, a downy and two flickers. A pair of Wood Ducks hugged the river bank, and a pair of kingfishers blended in with the background as they perched on low branches across the river. Although we missed seeing or hearing ravens, from the footbridge we spotted a Peregrine Falcon high on East Rock, silhouetted against the sky.

--Flo McBride

### May First Wednesday Walk – East Rock Park Report

New Haven Bird Club 'first Wednesday' walk, co-led by Frank Mantlik & Renee Baade on May 1 in East Rock Park. We had a great turnout (40) on a beautiful spring day. We met at Eli Whitney Museum, walked downstream along the river, then back up along the higher trail; after a respite, at least 22 people drove up Davis to the park Summit lot, where we walked the wooded road up a ways. Birding was a bit slow, but we still tallied 50 species, and most people had good views of the highlight species. Highlights were good looks at both warbler species, Warbling Vireo, both orioles, the grosbeaks, Veery, Black Vulture, Ravens, and the perfect spring weather: sunny, blue skies, 50-65°F, light east wind.

49 species (+1 other taxa): Mute Swan, Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Mallard, Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night-Heron (adult roosting in shrub along river), Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Herring Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted), Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-throated Vireo (One heard by Renee at covered bridge), Warbling Vireo, Blue Jay, crow sp., Common Raven, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Veery, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Parula (Adult male along river by covered bridge; seen by all), Yellow Warbler (At least two males seen and heard singing), Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) (Heard by John O. (and others?)), Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Nice looks at 2 males), Red-winged

---

Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole (Adult male near Eli Whitney Museum), Baltimore Oriole (Three males, two were at covered bridge at Museum), American Goldfinch, House Sparrow

Thanks to Renee Baade for co-leading, and to John Oshlick for helping out.

--Frank Mantlik

### **East Rock Park Bird Walk Report**

The morning of May 4<sup>th</sup> was a wonderful blue sky day. Arriving at Rice Field, I was greeted by 52 enthusiastic Birders. Needless to say migration in our area has been slow so far. This may be due to east winds pushing birds to the west of us here in New Haven/Hamden. In spite of this, we still had a pretty good day. After four hours of searching, we amassed 57 species of birds. Highlights included 7 species of warblers, including Worm eating Warbler, Ovenbird and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. We also got good looks at a number of Blue-headed Vireos and a Cooper's hawk. The Raven's nest on the cliff face was active, and we observed a parent bird feeding 3 young at the nest site. Overall, it was one of the better days of birding in the park over the past weeks. I urge everyone not to worry, I am sure we will see more migrants over the next few weeks. I encourage everyone to get out daily, if you can, and keep looking up.  
--Leader: Ranger Dan Barvir

### **Naugatuck State Forest Field Trip Report**

On Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 16 club members went to the State Forest in Naugatuck for some springtime birding. We were a bit concerned when we met at the commuter lot at 7:00 am as rain was falling rather heavily. But, it stopped by the time we got to the end of Hunters Mountain Road to start our trip, and it only rained lightly and briefly on our walk. We saw and heard a number of interesting birds during our four-hour hike through the forest. Highlights included hearing a Barred Owl hooting from across the pond, hearing the characteristic variable speed drumming of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and seeing 15 Warbler species. The most notable warblers were: Hooded Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Northern Parula, Prairie Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Louisiana Waterthrush. We were also treated to the bubbly song of a Winter Wren on our walk down the cascade trail that takes you along a scenic stream and waterfall. Other memorable birds were two Blue-headed Vireo, several Rose-breasted Grosbeak visiting the feeders at the log cabin near the entrance to the forest, and Eastern Bluebirds in the weedy field north of the road. We tallied a total 58 species on this fine spring morning. The forest is a beautiful and natural place that is home to a great variety of breeding bird species. We will look forward to returning to the forest again and exploring it even more.

--Chris Loscalzo

### **Nehantic State Forest and Hartman Park Field Trip Report**

On Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 15 enthusiastic birders visited these two prime birding locations in Lyme for a morning of springtime birding. We began at the southwest corner of the forest and

drove through to the northeast end of the forest, stopping at a number of locations along the way to see what we could find. We hiked several trails and visited the two large ponds in the forest. We saw and heard a number of interesting birds, including Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Wood Pewee, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Veery, Cedar Waxwing, Prairie Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Scarlet Tanager, and Baltimore Oriole. We also saw a Turkey Vulture picking at a large turtle carcass in a swamp pond in the forest. We stopped at the north end of Keeny Road after leaving the forest and found some good birds at a field there, including a singing male Indigo Bunting, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and a pair of Eastern Bluebirds. We then visited Hartman Park where we saw a number of interesting birds. The highlight (and the target species for this portion of the trip) was a Cerulean Warbler. This species is known to breed at this location, and we were delighted to get good looks at a male singing on territory. Other notable sightings were: Least Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Prairie Warbler, and Worm-eating Warbler. At the two locations combined, we saw a total of 60 species. Each location is memorable in its own way, with the forest being wild with dense vegetation and the park with numerous trails and a shrubby power line cut. We'll be visiting these birding locations in the future, for sure.

--Chris Loscalzo

### **Barn Island Wildlife Management Area Field Trip Report**

On Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, ten club members went to the southeast corner of our state to see a wide variety of birds at this excellent birding location. The refuge boasts a variety of habitats including salt marsh, tidal pools, woodlands, and brushy fields. We were also able to observe birds in the nearby bay and barrier islands. Not surprisingly, we saw a total of 68 species in four hours of birding. We started the birding by stopping on Palmer Neck Road that leads into the refuge. There, we looked out into the fields and saw two male Bobolink, singing and flight-displaying over their territories. Notable species seen or heard at Barn Island itself were: Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon, Glossy Ibis, Broad-winged Hawk, Black-bellied Plover, Willet, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Willow Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Marsh Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Saltmarsh Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, and lots of Yellow Warbler. Yellow Warbler is truly an abundant species at this location. There is no other place in Connecticut quite like Barn Island. That is one reason we find ourselves going back to it year after year.

--Chris Loscalzo

---

### **Birding Aids Alzheimer's Patients**

Thanks to Barbara DeRienzo for sending a link to information about a very interesting article about the use of a bird-watching program to help Alzheimer's patients. You can read about it at:

[Innovative Audubon Program Connects Elders with Alzheimer's to the Outdoors While Creating Healthy Bird Habitats](#)

---

---

## MEET THE BOARD

### Mike Ferrari: Membership Chair

**Mike Ferrari** is NHBC's Membership Chair, one of the most involved and time-consuming positions on the Board. Applause for him, and what a boon for the Club: He freely volunteered for any job NHBC might have because, as he explained, he wanted to give back to a group that has afforded him so much pleasure and satisfaction. When the Membership opening occurred, he immediately stepped in. For lucky qualifications, he's a computer whiz who has brought the latest in electronic wisdom to the NHBC database and email distribution list. And to borrow an old ad slogan, "There's more!" Mike is super-efficient; he handles all of this along with a job in New York that requires long hours and a daily commute from his home in Milford, where he has resided for 17 years.



always takes his binoculars on business trips. Especially on the many store visits he made during his store management years, he got to bird in some highly desirable spots in the U.S. He was especially thrilled—understandably—when his company opened a store in McAllen, Texas, the well known hub for some of the best birding destinations in that state.

Though Mike has not taken any birding trips per se, he always manages to arrange a day or two of intense birding for himself with a guide when he and his wife travel, and they've been to an impressive list of destinations: Ecuador,

A nine-year member of the NHBC, Mike is a Massachusetts native. His earliest encounter with birding was in his pre-teen years when he remembers getting excited at being able to ID a Rufous-sided Towhee by himself using his Golden Guide. By the time he got to high school and college, birding became more sporadic but his studies paid off. He earned a BA *summa cum laude* in Philosophy from UMass and later an MA in Philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh. But birding has kept weaving itself through as an important and fulfilling part of his life. When his mother was in the early stages of Alzheimer's, Mike tried to find gentle activities to share with her. Birding filled the bill. They became regulars at bird walks in their area. Mike finds birding therapeutic for himself too. In his words, "It's an activity that has allowed me to quiet my mind and escape corporate pressures and competition."

Mike's entire working career has been in the bookselling business. After college he happened to take a job in a bookstore, and that set the lifelong career path of this book lover. He moved on to Walden Books, a fixture to those who remember the '80s, and worked in operations, book buying, and store management for that company and others, including Barnes and Noble. Now he's with a venture capital start-up company that's building an e-commerce website to sell selected books and related products.

As a convenient bonus, Mike's career has afforded him opportunities for some excellent birding experiences. He

Argentina, Spain, Laos, Egypt, Panama, Turkey, Mexico, and Guatemala, among others. In fact, his most memorable birding experience took place in Guatemala, where he hiked, starting at 4:00 a.m., straight up the side of a volcano in search of the Horned Guan, which inhabits the top. The trek up was fierce, hot, and exhausting but the guide did point out many fabulous birds along the way. Except, alas, the Guan. When the climbers reached the top, strong winds made a sighting of the normally elusive bird even more impossible. But the sunrise and scenery were absolutely breathtaking from those heights, fairly respectable compensation according to easygoing Mike. Fortunately, he has had better luck with his favorite bird, the Manakin, which he has seen on several of his rainforest forays. He happily reports that the first of that species that he was able to ID on his own was the Lance-tailed Manakin in Panama, though he guiltily confesses he did go a bit off the prescribed trail to get the bird.

Mike has been married for 30 years; his wife Rebecca is a college administrator, currently at Columbia University. They have one daughter who is married and will be starting law school in the fall. Mike's busy schedule doesn't afford too much spare time, but animal-lover that he is, he's devoted to two pets, both terrier-mix rescue dogs. And he even spends extra time helping the SPCA with dog adoptions. Mike's friendliness and enthusiasm for everything he does are infectious. Be sure to introduce yourself to him at the next meeting or other Club event.

--Betty Zuraw

---

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kathleen Duffy  
Hamden

Marta Fernandez-Fuertes  
Miguel Moreno-Mateos  
New Haven

Courtney Haigler  
New Haven

Steve Johnson  
Milford

Lia Kidd  
David Nock  
East Haven

Halina and Tom Platt  
Hamden

Nancy L. Polydys  
Scotland

Jannie Shapiro  
Cromwell

Amanda Smith  
Sdenne Smith  
Branford

---

## NHBC Winter Feeder Survey 2012-2013: Final Report

Last year we had a hurricane and snow storm before our survey, and this year we had a hurricane before our survey and during the survey a major snow storm (February 8-9, 2013). But this year we had some great species show up during the survey. Just before the survey started we had an influx of Pine Siskins which stayed for some surveyors throughout the survey, and in December we had some Common Redpolls show for a few weeks. The Common Redpoll was first seen in week 9 with a high of 63 in week 11, and they tapered off to 1 in week 18.



*Common Redpoll*

Another species seen in greater numbers this year was the Red-breasted Nuthatch which was reported every week. In 2010-2011 it was seen sporadically (not every week, with a maximum of 5 seen in one week). Last year according to my records none were seen, and this year we had 5 to 13 a week.

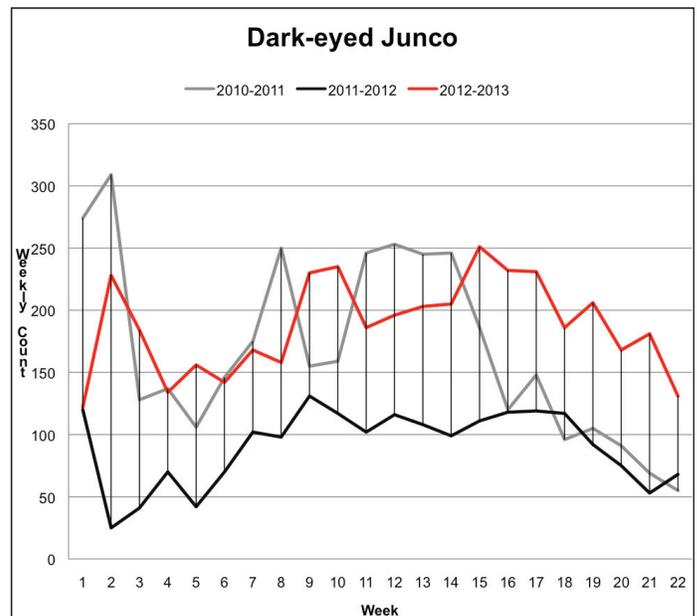
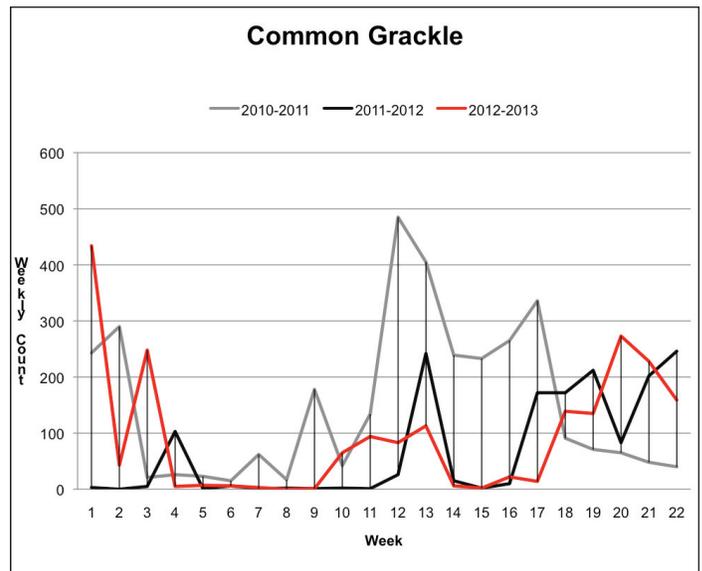
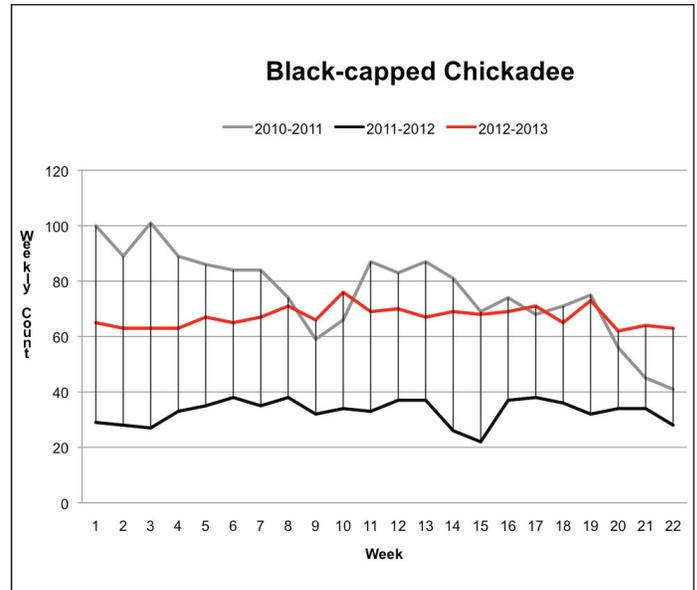
We were 21 surveyors this year, up from 16 last year. Again, we were widely scattered around New Haven County: Branford, Cheshire, Durham, Guilford, Hamden, Killingworth, Milford, New Haven, Northford, North Haven, Orange, Prospect, and Wallingford. We have 6 using Postal Mail, 14 using email and myself.

We saw 50 species of birds this year, 1 down from last year. We added to the Uncommon Species list 2 this year, and both were seen by Jessica Missios: American Woodcock (Week 17) and a Vesper Sparrow (week 11). Added to the animal species list were: Bobcat, Mole and Rabbit. The Pine Siskins started the Survey in week 1 with 142 and slowly dropped down to 10 in week 7, but then between week 8 and 18 the numbers fluctuated from 14 to 33. There were a few species which only showed up once during the whole survey, and these were: American Woodcock, Fish Crow, Northern Oriole (Baltimore), Pileated Woodpecker, Ruby Crowned Kinglet, Vesper Sparrow, Wood Thrush.

I have attached graphs of 5 species which are showing 3 trend lines one for each year: 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2012-2013. I switched from the Downy Woodpecker to the Black-capped Chickadee this year because every surveyor saw them throughout the whole survey. I have also attached showing all the species seen and the maximum number for that species seen in any one week.

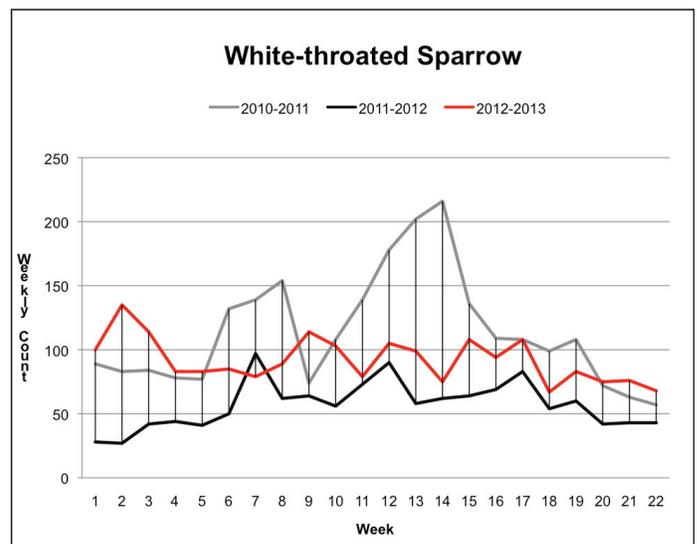
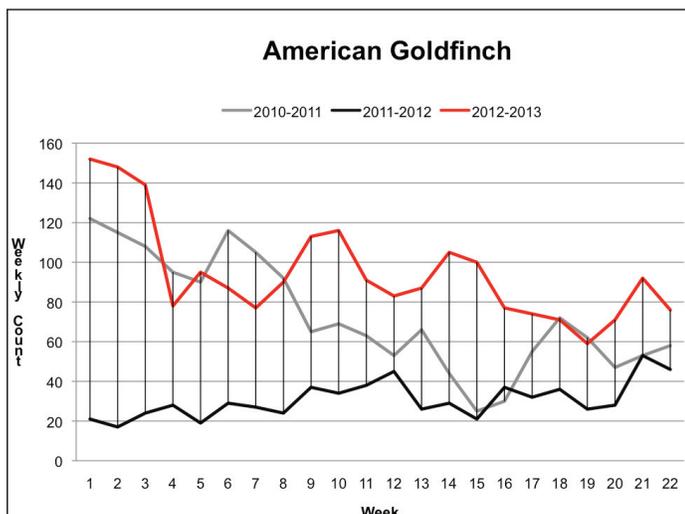
Please send me comments and suggestions on how to improve the survey.

Peter Vitali  
NHBC Winter Feeder Survey Chairman



Maximum Number of a Species Seen During Any 1 Week of the Survey

	Common species	Max	Uncommon Species	Max	Waterfowl	Max	Animals	Max
		1		1		1		1
		WK		WK		WK		WK
1	American Crow	12	American Tree Sparrow	8	American Black Duck		Black Squirrel	1
2	American Goldfinch	152	American Woodcock	1	Canada Goose		Bob Cat	1
3	American Robin	43	Blackpoll Warbler		Great Blue Heron		Brown Rat	
4	Black-capped Chickadee	76	Black Vulture	2	Herring Gull		Chipmunk	6
5	Blue Jay	66	Broad-winged Hawk		Hooded Merganser		Coyote	
6	Brown-headed Cowbird	56	Brown Creeper	4	Mallard	1	Feral Cat	5
7	Carolina Wren	13	Cedar Waxwing	10	Ring-billed Gull		Flying Squirrel	
8	Chipping Sparrow	5	Common Redpoll	63	Wood Duck		Gray Fox	
9	Common Grackle	434	Eastern Kingbird				Gray Squirrel	78
10	Cooper's Hawk	8	Eastern Phoebe				Mole	1
11	Dark-eyed Junco	251	Eastern Towhee	2			Opossum	3
12	Downy Woodpecker	58	Field Sparrow	1			Rabbit	1
13	Eastern Bluebird	8	Fish Crow	1			Raccoon	9
14	European Starling	138	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1			Red Fox	1
15	Fox Sparrow	16	Hermit Thrush	3			Red Squirrel	1
16	Hairy Woodpecker	15	Lincoln Sparrow	2			Short-tailed Rat	
17	House Finch	84	Merlin				Short-tailed Shrew	
18	House Sparrow	127	Monk Parakeet	13			Skunk	1
19	Mourning Dove	183	Northern Harrier	1			Mole	1
20	Northern Cardinal	91	Northern Oriole	1			White Tail Deer	7
21	Northern Flicker	10	Pileated Woodpecker	1			Woodchuck	1
22	Northern Mockingbird	6	Pine Siskin	142				
23	Purple Finch	39	Pine Warbler					
24	Red-bellied Woodpecker	29	Raven					
25	Red-tailed Hawk	4	Red-breasted Nuthatch	13				
26	Red-winged Blackbird	226	Red-shouldered Hawk	3				
27	Rock Dove (Pigeon)	26	Rusty Blackbird	6				
28	Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1				
29	Song Sparrow	22	Savannah Sparrow					
30	Tufted Titmouse	82	Swamp Sparrow					
31	White-breasted Nuthatch	38	Turkey Vulture	1				
32	White-throated Sparrow	135	Vesper Sparrow	1				
33	Wild Turkey	28	Winter Wren	1				
34	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	Wood Thrush	1				
35			White-crowned Sparrow					
36			Yellow-rumped Warbler	1				





*Eastern Screech-Owl in Hamden  
Photo by Flo McBride*



*Bald Eagles in Hamden Nest  
Photo by Mike Horn*



*NHBC Walk at White Memorial Foundation  
Photo by Nancy Specht*

**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](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](http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctdailyreport_lists.ctbirding.org)

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