



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club October 2026

◆ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We were at our friend's house in S. France in July. It had been very hot, and we had still done some birding. I was birding in their beautiful garden in an area with many lavender plants. Bees were buzzing at the blossoms when all of a sudden a very small hummingbird appeared. I had never seen one so little, wondered if it was a juvenile. Merlin did not list any hummingbirds. I read on google that there are none in France. Searching further, I found that there is an insect called Hummingbird Hawk moth. Look it up, it's amazing. I told my Entomologist daughter about it and she wrote back that she was proud that I learning about insects. Of course, I thought I was birding, but glad I learned about them, they're incredibly cute and hard working.

We did see 2 griffons as well!!

Now that the weather has cooled a little here, I like to get outdoors as much as I can. I feel so much peace when I take the time to be outside. ~Margaret Fikrig



◆ SPECIAL NOTE:

Although I have enjoyed being your president this past year, I will not be able to continue next year.

That means that we need both a President and Vice President beginning in July 2026.

Please carefully consider taking either of these roles. Members of the Board are dedicated and supportive.

Sharing your time and energy is a wonderful way to give back to the Club. And, it key to our club's longevity. ~Margaret

◆ UPCOMING EVENTS & WALKS

Click on the blue highlight for details

- All of** [Hawk Watch is active!](#)
Oct & Nov Visit Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven: Help to count the birds migrating across CT, or just watch. Every day. Any time after 7 AM.
- Sat** [Hammonasset Beach State](#)
Oct 3 [Park](#) Madison, Maria Stockmal 8-11 AM
- Wed** [Lighthouse Point Park](#), New
Oct 7 Haven – Frank Gallo 8 -11 AM
Registration required!
- Thu** [INDOOR PROGRAM](#)
Oct 8 **Twitching (Birding) at the Yale Center for British Art – Mark Aronson**
7 - 9 PM [See p 2](#)
- Sat** [Fall Migration Festival](#), Lighthouse
Oct 10 Point Park, New Haven
8 AM - 3 PM [See p.2](#)
- Sat Oct 10/** [The Big Sit!™ 2026](#)
Sun Oct 11 **Give it a try, it's easy and fun!**
- Wed** [Bauer Park \(Bauer Farm\)](#),
Oct 14 Madison – Chuck Imbergamo
8 - 10:30 AM

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◆ UPCOMING EVENTS *continued*

- Wed Oct 14** [Youth Education – Lights Out CT: Migration – “Bird Collisions in the Anthropocene” Project](#)
4-5 PM New Haven Public Library
[Register here.](#)
- Fri Oct 16** [SPECIAL EVENT \(Virtual Only\): Identification of Connecticut’s Sparrows – Chris Loscalzo](#)
7-8 PM
- Sat Oct 17** [Country Club of Woodbridge Property, Woodbridge](#)
– Chris Loscalzo 8-11 AM
Registration Required!
- Sat Oct 24** [Ansonia Nature Center, Ansonia](#)
– Ranger Evelyn and Kelly Meineke 8-11 AM
- Sun Oct 25** [Farm River Trolley Trail with the Friends of the Farm River and Estuary, East Haven – DeWitt Allen](#) 8-11 AM
- Sun Oct 25** [Wingspan Game Event](#)
Peter Grund & Ann Meacham 1-3 PM
- Sat Oct 31** [Lake Dawson, Woodbridge – Pat Leahy](#) 8-11 AM
- Sun Nov 1** [Cheshire Hotspots – Melissa Baston](#)
8 AM-12 PM
- Wed Nov 4** [Sherwood Island State Park, Westport – Tina Green](#) 8-11 AM
- Wed Nov 7** [Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison – Corrie Folsom O’Keefe](#)
8-11 AM
- Sat Nov 14** [Lake Chamberlain, Bethany – Pat Leahy](#) 8-11 AM
- Thu Nov 12** **VIRTUAL ONLY!** [The Common Loon: Stories About a Loon’s Life and Loon Conservation – Eric Hansen](#)
Watch your remail for the link.



Please volunteer to spend 1 hour at the NHBC table. Contact Ann Meacham annm@newhavenbirdclub.org



Twitching (Birding) at the Yale Center for British Art – Mark Aronson
Hybrid meeting.

In-person: 200 Leeder Hill Drive,
Hamden, CT

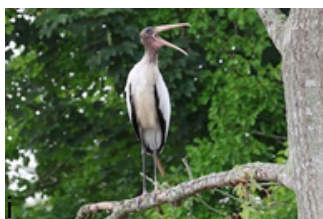
Social hour 7:00 pm.

Program 7:30 -9:00 pm.

[Click here for Zoom link](#) to the program.

◆ TRIP REPORTS

Harkness Memorial State Park, Aug 30, 2026



Our morning started off with a very cooperative juvenile Wood Stork that had been present at the park since the beginning of July. We

Photo by Alan Melina
were able to get some decent looks at a Green Heron while viewing the stork. We headed down towards the Goshen Cove blind after everyone got their fill where we ran into a skulky



Photo by Lori Datlow

migrant Northern Waterthrush chipping away. At the flats we enjoyed studying Semipalmated Plovers and Least Sandpipers. A frosty Forster's Tern was seen flying in the cove past the wooden bridge. We saw some Laughing Gulls from the observation deck, a Bald Eagle and underwhelming looks at a very distant Bonaparte's Gull. From the point we saw a Common Eider. Then, the Wood Stork graced us with its presence again as it flew across the yard! The rest of the walk was pretty still, until likely the same Green Heron flew right toward us and landed in the marsh on the East side of the park. Eventually, we made our last stop at the flower garden to enjoy some butterflies and were surprised to find a Prairie Warbler there. A great way to put a cap on the walk." ~Dan Errichett

◆ GOOD TO KNOW

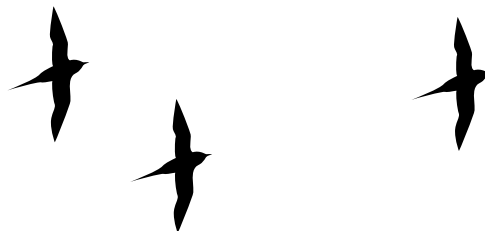
- ◆ If you haven't seen it already, be sure to watch the Audubon production of **"Birds on the Move"** on YouTube. (No subscription required.)
- ◆ Youth Education and Outreach now has a [dedicated page](#) on the NHBC website, plus its own email: education@newhavenbirdclub.org.

Swallow Cruise Sep 9, 2026

A "full boat" of birders enjoyed the spectacle performed by the tree swallows that gathered before their migration in early October. The weather had threatened storms, but cleared enough for our group head out. Thank you Gina from Sunrise Birding for organizing this event.



Photos by Lori Datlow



Fresh Meadows Preserve, Cheshire Land Trust, Sep 12, 2026



Photo by Darryl Rathbun

The weather was sunny. Approximately 40 species were observed including 1 each American Redstart, Magnolia Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler. (Corrie Folsom-Okeefe).

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◆ NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB 2026 – 2027 OFFICERS

President	Margaret Fikrig
Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer	Celeste Echlin
Secretary	Bobbie Fisher

BOARD MEMBERS

Annual Banquet Chair	Gail Martino
Conservation Chair	Craig Repasz
Indoor Meeting Programs	Gail Martino
Member-at-Large	Glen Cummings
Member-at-Large	Patrick McGovern
Membership Chair	Laurie Reynolds
Newsletter Editor	Ann Meacham
Nominating Committee	NHBC Exec. Board
Outdoor Programs	DeWitt Allen
Announcement Coord.	Emmeline Kaiser
Website	Cheryl Cape

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The BIG SIT	Craig Repasz
Bluebird Trail	Pat Leahy
Christmas Bird Count	Chris Loscalzo
Education/Outreach Chair	
Hawk Watch	Steve Mayo
Historian	John Triana
Hospitality	Joyce Alton
Summer Bird Count	Steve Mayo
Yearbook	Christine Howe

◆ NOTES FROM THE BOARD

If you need to update your information, email the changes to:

membership@newhavenbirdclub.org

New Haven Bird Club is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All dues and donations are fully tax-deductible.

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

White Memorial Little Pond & Boardwalk Sep 16, 2026

Nine NHBC members explored the 1.2 mile elevated boardwalk around Little Pond and connecting woods and wetland trails in the sanctuary. One American Bittern surprised us with a sudden appearance flying close by



the boardwalk, landing and disappearing into the reeds. A Cooper's Hawk flew in across Little Pond, then circled around and landed in trees bordering the Greenway trail to the north. We debated its identity, but photos confirmed as a Cooper's, not a Sharp-shinned. ~Celeste Echlin

Farm River State Park Sep 19, 2026

Ten of us scoured the leafy state park for bird species. We were rewarded with three Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Eastern Wood Pewee, a flying escapade of the Belted King Fisher, and a Northern House Wren. Hawk migration was in action with flythroughs of Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Red-shouldered Hawk. There were many Gray Catbirds and Eastern Phoebe that could not be ignored. 50 Tree Swallows and a notable Prairie Warbler. ~Maria Stockmal

Email your comments, suggestions, and photos you'd like to share in the newsletter to: Ann Meacham
annm@newhavenbirdclub.org
Deadline for December Chickadee submissions is Nov 20, 2026.

Come to an outdoor walk or an indoor program and check us out .
We'd love to see you in the field!