



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

February 2025

2025 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Saturday, February 1, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. **The Annual Mega Bowl of Birding in New Haven County**
and

Sunday, February 2, 5–7 p.m. **Mega Bowl Compilation Dinner**

Wednesday, February 5, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison**

CANCELLED

Sunday, February 9, noon - 3 pm **WINGSPAN Game Day at the Whitney Center**

Thursday, February 13 **Joan Morrison (Virtual only) – Crested Caracaras, 32 years later**
This virtual-only meeting will start at 7p.m.

Saturday, February 15, 8–11 a.m. **White Memorial Foundation: Birding and Tracking**

Saturday, February 22, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast**
Snow date - Sunday, February 23

Wednesday, March 5, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Stratford Shore & Great Meadows**

Thursday, March 13 **Diego Soto (Virtual only) – Environmental Justice through Bird Watching and Music-Making**
This virtual-only meeting will start at 7p.m.

Saturday, March 22, 8–11 a.m. **Edgewood Park, New Haven**

Sunday, April 6, 7:30–10:30 a.m. **West Rock Ridge State Park - Lake Wintergreen, Hamden**

Thursday, April 10, 7 p.m. **Julian Hough – Phantasms and Fallacies: Problems and Pitfalls in Bird Identification**

Saturday, April 19, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **The Richard English Memorial Field Trip: Lighthouse Point to the Richard English Refuge**

Saturday, April 26, 8-10:30 a.m. **Bauer Park, Madison**

Sunday, April 27, 7:30–10:30 a.m. **Kellogg Environmental Center and Osbornedale State Park, Derby**

NOTE: Please check the NHBC website for updated information on all programs. **Scheduled events may need to be changed or canceled** and events may be added during the year. www.newhavenbirdclub.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



February. The days are getting longer and soon the weather will be warmer, but right now there are some days that are so cold and raw and windy it's hard to think of going outside. Even so, I've tried to make weekly visits to some local spots that are interesting but that are not birded much. My goal is to fill in the eBird bar chart for each week in the year. While doing so, it's

always fun for me to see what birds are there – or not! – on any given day. With the recent stretch of below-freezing weather, my local ponds and even some small streams have pretty much stayed frozen. I'm always surprised and happy to see small bits of open water with a few ducks swimming or a songbird getting a drink. I'm not saying I always stay out for long, but once I do manage to get dressed in lots of layers, put my insulated boots on, and go out into the day, I'm rewarded with the sense of joy that comes from being outside and NOT sitting at a computer doing all those things that otherwise seem so pressing. I have a reminder pasted to the top of my laptop; it makes me smile even though I don't always pay attention and follow the directive: GO OUTSIDE!

That said, this month I'm writing only a short column with these two aims: 1) Encourage you, if you are able, to go outside or even look out the window; being in nature can help decrease anxiety levels and can help lessen stress and feelings of anger. 2) Submit my column to Donna (our wonderful editor of *The Chickadee* who is still looking for someone to take over that role), close my laptop, put on my warm clothes, and go outside.

--Chris Howe

Calling for Volunteers!

The NHBC Board would like to invite club members to join a special committee working on a redesign of our website. Your ideas and input will help us create a site that better reflects our community and makes it easier for fellow bird enthusiasts to connect, share, and explore. You do not need any experience in web design - just a desire to help improve the NHBC online presence. If you're interested, please reach out to Cheryl Cape at cherylc@newhavenbirdclub.org by March 1. We look forward to working together to make our website even better!

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2024-2025

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Christine Howe
<i>Vice President</i>	Meg Bollin
<i>Treasurer</i>	Celeste Echlin
<i>Secretary</i>	Bobbie Fisher

BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation Chair</i>	Craig Repasz
<i>Education/Outreach Chair</i>	Meg Bollin
<i>Indoor Meeting Programs</i>	Gail Martino
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Glen Cummings
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	(vacant)
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Laurie Reynolds
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	NHBC Executive Board
<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	DeWitt Allen
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Emmeline Kaiser
<i>Website</i>	Cheryl Cape
<i>Yearbook</i>	Christine Howe

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	Craig Repasz
<i>Bluebird Trail</i>	Pat Leahy
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo
<i>Hawk Watch at Lighthouse Point</i>	Steve Mayo
<i>Historian</i>	John Triana
<i>Hospitality</i>	Joyce Alton
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali

New Haven Bird Club Website:
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

New Haven Christmas Bird Count Report

On Saturday, December 14, 2024, 98 intrepid birders participated in the 125th annual New Haven Christmas Count. The air was cold, but it was sunny and there was little wind on count day. The weather conditions made for good birding from dawn to dusk and lots of birds were found. Waterfowl, raptors and woodpeckers were all found in good numbers and several rarities were found. These included a Eurasian Wigeon in Morris Creek at Lighthouse Point Park, a Clay-colored Sparrow in the weedy area opposite the entrance to the Sandy Point Preserve in West Haven, a Yellow-breasted Chat in Branford and two Lincoln's Sparrows, with one in Branford and another at Maltby Lakes. Other notable sightings included a late American Oystercatcher, Northern Pintail and Shoveler, Wilson's Snipe, Pied-billed Grebe, American Kestrel, Brown Thrasher, and Palm Warbler. A Pine Warbler was found the day before the count by Flo McBride in Hamden, but it could not be relocated on count day. And, in the category of near misses, a Black-throated Gray Warbler was observed at a feeder at a private residence in Branford the day before the count. If the property had been within our count circle, the bird would have been recorded as a "count week" bird. Alas, the property was outside the count circle by about 1/10 of a mile. The final total was 121 species, which is right around our 30-year average.

The most notable (and therefore disturbing) absence from our list was Sanderling, a species that has been abundant in early winter along our shores in years past but whose numbers have fallen precipitously in the last few years. This annual census gives us important information with regards to the early winter populations of the birds in our area and the changes for better and for worse of these populations over time. Sincere thanks are extended to all who participated in the year's count and most especially to the birders who served as captains for the 14 areas that comprise the count circle.

Everyone's participation is much appreciated!
--Chris Loscalzo, NH CBC Compiler

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 27 via Zoom.

Deadline for submissions to the next *Chickadee* is March 28. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at donnabatsford@gmail.com.

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

If you are not receiving email notifications, contact us at membership@newhavenbirdclub.org to receive an invitation to join this group.

Every effort is made to list member information accurately in the yearbook. Please inform us of errors and update us with any changes during the year. Update via the Club website or send an email to membership@newhavenbirdclub.org.

Welcome New Members

Alex Navarro Hamden	Christie Gilully Westbrook	John and Elizabeth DePalma Cheshire
Lynn Sadlon Norwalk	Thomas Acri Milford	Margret Hofmeister and Linda Erlanger Branford
Linden Abston New Haven	Patricia Burke Milford	Justin, Sam, and Randy Kern New Haven
Mahathi Narayanaswamy New Haven	Elizabeth Kingsley New Haven	

Indoor Programs

Please check the NHBC website and newsletter for updated information before planning to attend any event.

Indoor programs start in September and are held on the second Thursday of the month except for June, July, and August. Monthly program meetings are held in the Whitney Center's Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden CT. The facility is wheelchair accessible. Enter via the main door of the portico at the front of the building. Turn right down the hallway. The Cultural Arts Center is a short distance on the left. **The social half-hour begins at 7 p.m.; the meeting and program begin at 7:30 p.m. and end about 9 p.m.**

Some indoor programs are held only as virtual, online presentations and noted as such in the descriptions. The online presentation starts at 7 p.m.

Cancellation Policy: Inclement weather or other emergency may cancel in-person meetings. Cancellation notices will be sent via the Club email and posted on the CTBirds listserv when possible.

Bird Book Sales now will be held at EACH indoor meeting in the "Book Nook" area using the honor system and with no set prices. Sort through your bird- and nature-related books (kids' books too). Bring them to each indoor meeting for donation, or call Chris Howe, 203-389-1175, to make special arrangements.

PARKING: Enter the Whitney Center's South Entrance, marked with a sign. Either make an immediate left into the raised parking lot (park *only* in the upper level and *only* in unnumbered spaces) or follow the main driveway past the front entrance of the building. At the stop sign, turn right into the visitor and employee parking area and walk back from there to the front entrance.

NOTE: Please check the NHBC website and newsletter periodically for updated information on all programs. Scheduled events may need to be changed or canceled and events may be added during the year. www.newhavenbirdclub.org

Thursday, February 13 Joan Morrison – Crested Caracaras, 32 years later (Virtual only)
****This virtual-only meeting will start at 7p.m.****

Dr. Joan Morrison will share highlights from her research on the federally threatened Crested Caracaras in Florida, uncovering new insights into their breeding biology, diet, social behavior, and spatial ecology. Her work has been pivotal in understanding these birds; their intelligence and gregarious nature makes them challenging to study. The primary threat to their population is habitat loss, necessitating collaboration with federal and state agencies and private landowners. She will also touch upon her recent research on Caracaras in Arizona. Dr. Morrison holds a Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida, with extensive teaching and research experience in avian ecology, particularly raptors, at Trinity College and elsewhere. Now retired in New Mexico, she continues her impactful research on Caracaras across different states.

Thursday, March 13 Diego Soto – Environmental Justice through Bird Watching and Music-Making (Virtual only)
****This virtual-only meeting will start at 7p.m.****

Historically redlined neighborhoods are the most undersampled urban areas for bird biodiversity today, a fact which can impact conservation priorities and further urban environmental inequities. Diego Ellis Soto's research in this area goes beyond the traditional extent of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines and takes a look into the role humans play in shaping the past, present, and future of our

natural world. He proposes an innovative educational concept combining technology, music-making, and bird watching to work toward a more equitable sampling of biodiversity data.

Diego Ellis Soto is a Uruguayan Ph.D. candidate in Ecology at Yale University and a NASA FINESST Future Investigator. Working at the intersection of spatial ecology, technology, conservation, and environmental justice, he studies how animals move across the world and cope with increasing human threats and a rapidly changing climate. He is interested in how our access to biodiversity data is shaped by our socioeconomic status and how past and present social inequalities amplify current disparities in environmental sciences.

NOTE: The April meeting is our Annual Meeting, as specified in the Club's by-laws. This is an election year and members will vote for a slate of officers.

Thursday, April 10 Julian Hough – Phantasms and Fallacies: Problems and Pitfalls in Bird Identification

Why is it that a large group of birders can look at one species and all of them will misidentify it? Why do certain people consistently find an inordinate number of rare birds? Why are some birders seemingly able to identify birds at great distance on brief or distant views with Ninja-like ability? These questions and many more will be explored by Julian Hough, who will delve into the psychology of how we observe birds, the subconscious workings of our brain, and how we can often be led astray in the field.

Wingspan Game Day February 9 CANCELLED

The New Haven Bird Club will once again hold a free Wingspan Game Event on Sunday, February 9, noon to 3 p.m. at the Whitney Center's Cultural Arts Center. Wingspan is a board game that uses bird behavior and characteristics to control the flow of the game. This event is for anyone who plays or is interested in learning how to play Wingspan. For

those who have never played before, we will have a learning session. To learn more about Wingspan or to watch a tutorial video, go to <https://stonemaiergames.com/games/wingspan/rules/>. If you own a Wingspan game set and would like to bring it so that we have enough sets for all to play, please let me know at jswattbirds@gmail.com.

--Jack Swatt

Outdoor Programs

Cancellation Policy: Inclement weather or other emergencies may cancel a field trip. Cancellation notices will be sent via the Club email and also posted on the CTBirds listserve when possible. Check the NHBC website *or contact the leader of the trip directly* if you have any questions about a possible cancellation.

Birders of all levels are welcome on all field trips, and every effort is made to help beginners. If you are new to birding or have any special needs, be sure to let the leader know. The Club welcomes everyone regardless of age, race or ethnicity, sex, gender identification, sexual orientation, or national origin. The ending times of walks are approximate.

The New Haven Bird Club does not charge any fees for its outdoor programs, but participants are responsible for the cost of their food, transportation, and entrance fees (where charged), unless the Club makes prior arrangements. Carpooling is usually encouraged to avoid parking problems at some destinations and to promote conservation of natural resources.

NHBC Conservation and Education Activities

The New Haven Bird Club routinely works to preserve and restore bird populations and their habitats and to provide opportunities for learning about birds, where to see them, and how to help ensure their future. Additional environmentally-focused, family-friendly walks may be planned and posted on the NHBC website.

The NHBC has been developing relationships with local public schools and camps to encourage children to embrace birding. We view this activity as directly connected to our Club objectives, and usually present a very basic birding skills class followed by a nearby bird walk. The Education Chair also organizes the Club's representation at various public events throughout the year.

The Annual Mega Bowl of Birding in New Haven County Saturday, February 1, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

and

Mega Bowl Compilation Dinner Sunday, February 2, 5–7 p.m.

Birders of all ages and skill levels are welcome to participate in a fun and friendly event! Go birding for all or part of the day to see how many species you can observe. Earn points for each species found. The rarer the species, the more points earned. Birders can participate alone or in a group of up to five people. Compete against yourself or other birders and win prizes for participating. Teams can bird within a town, an entire county, or a circle with a five-mile radius that includes their residence. We meet the following day for a celebratory dinner to go over the results, share stories and enjoy a fine meal at the Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby. Registration for the event will be required. Checklists will be sent out in advance to all registrants. Participants are encouraged to be creative in coming up with a name for their team.

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

First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison Wednesday, February 5, 8–11 a.m.

Meet outside the park at the Shoreline Greenway Trail parking area on Boston Post Road, Madison, just east of the park's main entrance road.

Enjoy a mid-week field trip to Hammonasset Beach State Park, one of the state's best birding locations in any season of the year. We will look for sea ducks, grassland species, and rarities.

Leader: Greg Hanisek, ctgreg@yaho.com

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White Memorial Foundation: Birding and Tracking Saturday, February 15, 8–11 a.m.

Meet in the public parking lot at White Memorial at 80 Whitehall Road in Litchfield.

White Memorial Foundation is a 4,000-acre nature preserve. The diverse mixture of habitats includes mature deciduous and evergreen forests, as well as fields of tall grass, weeds, and shrubs that are managed for various stages of succession. One of the best birding sites in the state and an Important Bird Area, White Memorial Foundation has approximately 35 miles of woodland roads, trails, and boardwalks. We could observe a variety of sparrows, woodpeckers, possibly winter finches, owls and more. We will be joined by experienced trackers Christin Arnini and Gail Cameron. Mammals that reside at White Memorial such as otters, beavers, bobcats, foxes, deer, coyotes, and mink are active in the winter and leave clues about their travels and ways of surviving this most difficult time of the year.

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

Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast Saturday, February 22, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Snow date - Sunday, February 23

Meet at the Branford commuter lot, Exit 55 off I-95, or contact the trip leader for time and location of the first stop in Rhode Island.

This all-day trip includes stops at Beavertail State Park, Moonstone Beach, Trustum Pond, and other great birding sites along the Rhode Island coast. We will see lots of sea ducks including all three scoter species, Common Eider, and Harlequin Duck. We'll look for birds of prey, including Rough-legged Hawk and several owl species. We'll also be on the lookout for alcids and rare gulls. Dress warmly—it's likely to be cold and windy on the coast. The walk can be a bit strenuous. Bring lunch and a scope, if you have one.

Leader: Chris Loscalzo, closcalz@optonline.net or 203-389-6508 (home).

**First Wednesday Walk: Stratford Shore & Great Meadows
Wednesday, March 5, 8–11 a.m.**

Meet at the Dunkin Donuts parking lot at 60 Access Road, Stratford, near the intersection with Main Street (Route 113); we carpool from there.

Join us on a visit to this excellent birding area. We'll look for shorebirds and birds such as Long-tailed Duck and scoters, as well as raptors and shorebirds.

Leader: Frank Mantlik, mantlik@sbcglobal.net, 203-984-9410.

**Edgewood Park, New Haven
Saturday, March 22, 8–11 a.m.**

Meet at the Edgewood Park parking lot next to the tennis courts, entrance off West Rock Avenue, just south of Whalley Avenue, New Haven.

A late winter walk at this urban park with varied habitat including woodlands, fields, streams, and ponds. Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Brown Creeper are all possible. Walking is easy and flat with one dirt path through a wooded area. Total distance is approximately 2.5 miles.

Leaders: Chris Howe, clhowe2@yahoo.com, 203-530-1066 and DeWitt Allen, allendatlow@gmail.com, 860-949-0995.

**West Rock Ridge State Park - Lake Wintergreen, Hamden
Sunday, April 6, 7:30–10:30 a.m.**

Meet at the Lake Wintergreen parking lot off Main Street, Hamden

Join Molly Zahn and Peter Grund for a walk at the Lake Wintergreen area of West Rock Ridge State Park. We will circle the lake and, if there is time, walk up to the water tower close to the top of the ridge. The walk around the lake is on gravel or dirt paths and is mostly flat. The walk to the ridge is uphill. We hope to see a broad range of woodland birds, as well as some waterfowl on and around the lake. Possible birds are (among others) Golden-crowned Kinglet, Purple Finch, Pine Warbler, Bald Eagle, and Ring-necked Duck, as well as early migrants such as Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Towhee, and perhaps Brown Thrasher, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Palm Warbler.

Leaders: Molly Zahn, mollymzahn@gmail.com, 785-383-8695 and Peter Grund, petergrund93@yahoo.com, 785-727-3962.

**The Richard English Memorial Field Trip: Lighthouse
Point to the Richard English Refuge
Saturday, April 19, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Meet at the Hawk Watch parking lot, Lighthouse Point Park, 2 Lighthouse Road, New Haven.

Bird the harbor shore at Lighthouse Point Park for gulls, loons, ducks, and early returning shorebirds. Then we proceed to the Richard English Bird Sanctuary at the Deer Lake Camp in Killingworth. Check with the trip leader for approximate arrival time at each location. Bring lunch and dress warmly.

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

**Bauer Park, Madison
Saturday, April 26, 8-10:30 a.m.**

Meet at the Community Gardens parking area, 257 Cope Road, Madison.

Join nationally-recognized wildlife artist and birder Mike DiGiorgio for a walk to look for resident and migrating songbirds. We'll explore the fields, gardens, and woodland trails. Birders of all ages and skill levels, including beginners, are welcome.

Leader: Mike DiGiorgio, mdigiorgio@comcast.net.

**Kellogg Environmental Center and Osbornedale State
Park, Derby
Sunday, April 27, 7:30–10:30 a.m.**

Meet at the Kellogg Environmental Center parking lot at 500 Hawthorne Avenue, Derby.

Osbornedale State Park offers a variety of species in its fields and forest, and around its ponds. It is always a surprise as species are discovered walking through the park. We may see a flyover Bald Eagle, nesting Bluebirds, early warbler migrants, Green Heron, and Orchard Oriole, as well as Indigo Bunting, Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, and the various thrushes. We will explore the Kellogg Environmental Center grounds and then walk over to Osbornedale Park to explore and see what we find.

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

Trip Reports

First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Trip Report

On Wednesday, December 4, a dozen or so participants enjoyed a sunny, low wind day at Hammonasset State Park. Temperature was in the high 20's, but comfortable enough. The group logged an impressive 48 species.

Highlights included several Common Loons, approximately 20 Red-throated Loons, 1 Horned Grebe, 1 Great Cormorant, 6 Common Eider (one drake), 1 Bald Eagle, several Northern Harriers, a couple of Cooper's Hawks, Ruddy Turnstone, 60-plus Dunlin, 1 Purple Sandpiper, Belted Kingfisher, 6 Common Eider, Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1 American Pipit, Horned Lark (dozens), a couple dozen Snow Buntings, 1 Lapland Longspur, and 1 American Tree Sparrow.

Extra special finds included a late Vesper Sparrow and a point-blank encounter with a very cooperative American Bittern!

-- Jerry Connolly

Kathan Woods Trip Report

On December 7, 2024, 10 people came out to hike and look for birds at the Prospect Land Trust's property, Kathan Woods which has a trailhead at the end of Boardman Drive. The original plan was to meet here, carpool to the end of Cornwall Ave. and then walk the Quinnipiac Trail back to Boardman Drive. However, the snow from a few days before would have made part of the West Rock Ridge section dangerous, so we decided to only walk the trails at Kathan Woods.

Only 16 species were seen in this deciduous upland forest. Most are what you'd expect to see during the winter in Connecticut. The little passerines were the most prevalent – Tufted Titmouse, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue Jay, House Finch, and American Goldfinch. One Carolina Wren was heard singing in the

distance when we got down to Rt. 68. Woodpeckers included Hairy, Downy, and Red-bellied. We had a probable Yellow-bellied Sapsucker near the end of the walk. There were flyovers of Canada Geese, Ravens, Turkey Vultures, and a Red-tailed Hawk. The last species seen was Dark-eyed Junco under a feeder in a backyard near the trail.

--John Triana

Second Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park

Sherwood Island State Park has been the location for the January First Wednesday Walk for many years. The diverse habitats allow for the possibility of seeing different types of species in the park at any time of the year.

Due to bitter cold temperatures and very high winds, the walk was postponed from January 8th to January 13th. Warmer temperatures, light winds, and partly cloudy conditions thankfully prevailed. Eighteen birders joined me in tallying 45 species. Most folks saw and/or heard all birds in the checklist except for the huge surprise “bird of the day,” a Black-throated Gray Warbler. Several participants saw the bird flitting about in the trees at the west end of the model airplane field, but I was the only person who got a brief but good view to actually identify the warbler. Maybe this species was a first for a New Haven Bird Club Walk?

Our first stop was the point to check for waterfowl and gulls on Long Island Sound and along the shore. Although we saw 11 species of waterfowl, the ever-present Lesser Black-backed Gull was nowhere to be found. Only one Common Loon was spotted on the water, which was unusual but probably due to the choppy water conditions. Four of the continuing Eastern Meadowlarks, since mid-October, put on a nice show for the group and made for a pleasant morning of birding.

Here is the eBird checklist with a complete list of species, including the details of seeing the Black-throated Gray Warbler. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S209200921>

--Tina Green

Milford Hotspots Trip Report



On Saturday, January 11, I led my annual “Milford Hotspots” trip. With 2” of fresh snowfall, more than the forecasted “dusting,” 16 eager birders gathered at the commuter lot meeting site. There an

immature Red-shouldered Hawk was perched in a nearby tree, affording scope views. Our first stop was the CAS Coastal Center at Milford Point. Viewing the flooded salt marsh (very high tide), we saw several duck species, including Gadwall, Bufflehead, and Red-breasted Merganser. Several Swamp and Song Sparrows teed up as they fed on seeds of Marsh Elder. Next we walked out on the main sandbar, where we saw sea ducks such as Long-tailed Ducks and Common Goldeneyes, as

well as Common Loon. It was delightful to be out in this coastal beach habitat, coated in fresh snow, and without the biting cold wind of recent days. A flock of Horned Larks was there too, feeding on the tiny seeds of the dune vegetation, and leaving a maze of fresh tracks in the snow. A calling American Pipit flew overhead. But it was further along where we encountered our prime quarry: a beautiful SNOWY OWL standing on a log in the snow-covered dune! We enjoyed great scope views of this heavily barred immature female, a bird that has been in the area for over a month. Tip: to find this owl, just look for the photographers! Next we birded the Coastal Center Sanctuary, netting a Fox Sparrow, 2 Yellow-rumped Warblers, and several more common land birds.

After a restroom stop, we drove to Silver Sands State Park. We walked a big loop, starting at the marsh boardwalk to the beach. We failed to elicit a response call from the wintering Clapper Rails, but a Great Blue Heron flushed. Along the Sound beach, we tallied Brant, a large raft of Greater Scaup, a few Black and Surf Scoters (thanks Gina!), more Long-tailed Ducks (superb views), a Horned Grebe, and a flock of Dunlin. Toward the west end, we found three SEMIPALMATED PLOVERS, very rare in CT in winter. While returning through the wood lot and old dump road, we saw Northern Harrier, adult Red-shouldered Hawk, and 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets among some Chickadees and Titmice. A Cooper’s Hawk and some Wild Turkeys rounded out the list.

In all, we tallied an even 50 bird species for the morning. It was great sharing the birds of these hotspots with all on this beautiful winter morning.

--Frank Mantlik

January Indoor Program History of the New Haven Bird Club

The January Indoor Program featured a presentation by John Triana, NHBC’s historian, on the history of the New Haven Bird Club. There were a total of 47 attendees (19 attendees participated in person, while 28 joined virtually).

The presentation included an extensive “show and tell” session, featuring various historical items from the NHBC archives. We



were also joined by **Emma Norden, Research Librarian from the New Haven Museum**, who brought additional materials from the NHBC archives housed at the museum. Attendees had the opportunity to view these historical items up close and learn more about NHBC’s long-standing legacy in the birding community.

A zoom recording of the presentation is available.

--Gail Martino

NHBC Winter Feeder Report 2024-2025

End of Week 10



Because we started one week later than usual, we are out of sync with the publication of the Newsletter. Instead of finishing at week 11, we had to compile what we had seen to week 10. This means that out of 17 surveyors,

only 12 were able to send reports to week 10; the other 5 would send them in at the end of week 11. Therefore, the data is not complete and may drastically change, especially since one of the surveyors that normally reports Waterfowl sends in the report by Postal Mail after the completion of week 11.

After completing week 10:

Common Species: We had 22 of 22. Notable among the 22 species we had multiple sightings of **American Goldfinch** with numbers in the teens, **Common Grackle** with flocks of 50 to 60 and one sighting of greater than 200. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were seen in large numbers: Bev Proppen 26, Cate and Dave Rauch 20, DeWitt Allen 45, Pete Vitali 20, and Tim and Kate Rodgers 25.

Semi-Common Species: We had 7 of 12. **Fox Sparrow** 2 Surveyors, **Northern Flicker** 7 Surveyors, **Northern Mockingbird** 4 surveyors, **Purple Finch** 2 Surveyors, **Red-tailed Hawk** 3 surveyors, **Red-wing Black Bird** 4 surveyors.

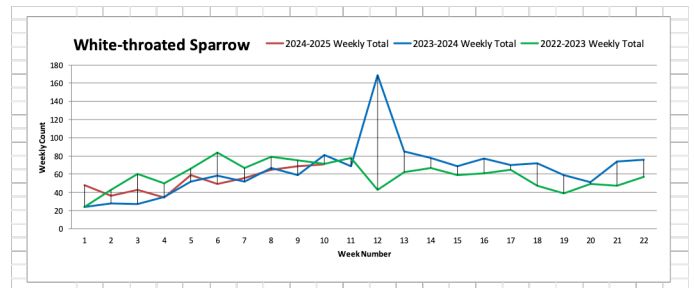
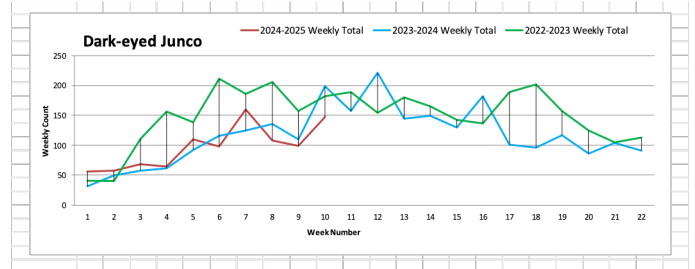
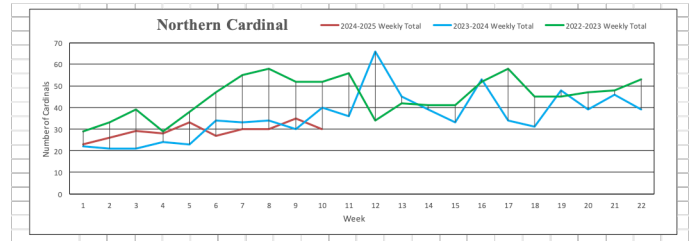
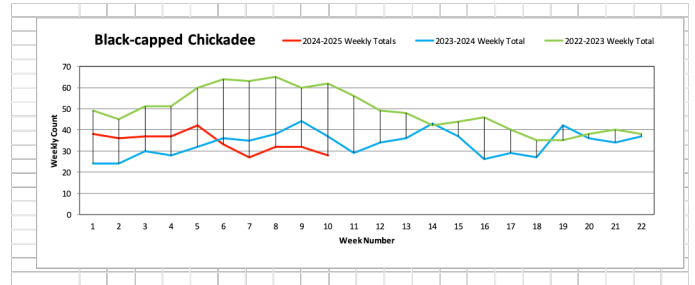
Uncommon Species: We had 6 of 42. **Belted Kingfisher** (Dean and Maryanne Rupp), **Brown Creeper** (Laurie Reynolds), **Golden Crowned Kinglet** (Laurie Reynolds), **Pine Siskin** (Martha Asarisi), **Raven** (Martha Asarisi), and **Red-shouldered Hawk** (Martha Asarisi, Dean and Maryanne Rupp).

Waterfowl: We had 1 of 9. **Canada Goose** (Dean and Maryanne Rupp).

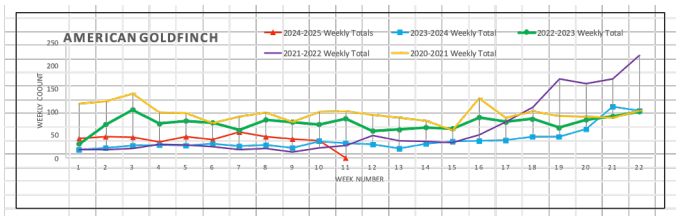
Animals: We had 11 of 27. **Gray Squirrel**, **Chipmunk**, **Bobcat**, **Brown Rat**, **Feral Cat**, **Flying Squirrel**, **Mouse**, **Opossum**, **Rabbit**, **Raccoon**, **Red Fox**, **Skunk**, **Vole**.

Normally Seen all Year Long

The RED line is this year.



--Pete Vitali
Chairman NHBC Winter Feeder Survey





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

February 2025

NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Area Code / Phone _____
Email _____

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Membership Levels (check appropriate category):
____ Individual - \$15 ____ Family - \$20
____ Supporting - \$50 ____ Student under 18 - Free
____ Life Membership - \$300 for 1 or 2 people at same address.

Additional gift to support NHBC programs: \$ _____
Make check payable to New Haven Bird Club and send to:
New Haven Bird Club, PO Box 9004, New Haven CT 06532-0004

You can also join or renew membership at the NHBC website with credit card or PayPal.
The NHBC membership year is from July 1 to June 30. New members joining between January 1 and June 30 are given full membership for the rest of the current year and for the whole next membership year.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

New Haven Bird Club is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All dues and donations are fully tax-deductible. If you work for a company that gives matching grants, please take advantage of the offer. It's free and helps NHBC's program budget.

The Club welcomes everyone irrespective of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, or national origin.

If your address, phone or email change, please send that information to: New Haven Bird Club, PO Box 9004, New Haven CT 06532-0004 or membership@newhavenbirdclub.org.

The NHBC website, www.newhavenbirdclub.org, offers information about the Club, its programs, and other Club and member news. If you have any questions, please email us at ask@newhavenbirdclub.org.

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