



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

August/September 2024

2024 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

Starts Sunday, September 1, 7 a.m. **Hawk Watch / Bird Count at Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven: Daily September to December**

Thursday, September 12, 7:00 p.m. **Patrick J. Lynch - A River Runs Through Us: The Environmental History of the Connecticut River Region**

Saturday, September 14, 8 a.m. to noon **Geology and Birds: Stony Creek and Quarry Park**

Sunday, September 15, 8–11 a.m. **Introduction to Lighthouse Point and Hawkwatching**

Saturday, September 21, 8–11 a.m. **Farm River State Park, East Haven**

Sunday, September 22, 8–10:30 a.m. **Great Meadows Unit, Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, Stratford**

Saturday, September 28, 8–11 a.m. **Edgewood Park, New Haven**

Wednesday, October 2, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven**

Saturday, October 5, 8–11 a.m. **Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Wednesday, October 9, 8–10:30 a.m. **Bauer Park (Bauer Farm), Madison**

Thursday, October 10, 7:00 p.m. **Dr. Chris Loscalzo - The Sparrows of Connecticut**

Saturday and Sunday, October 12–13 **THE BIG SIT! ®**

Sunday, October 13, 8–11 a.m. **Old Woodbridge Country Club**

Tuesday, October 15, 8–10:30 a.m. **Lake Chamberlain, Bethany**

Sunday, October 20, 7:30–10:30 a.m. **Branford Supply Ponds**

Sunday, October 20 *Note new date* **Fresh Meadows Preserve, Cheshire** Group 1: 8–9:30 a.m.; Group 2: 10–11:30 a.m. *Registration required*

Saturday, October 26, 8–11 a.m. **Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve; joint trip with Gather New Haven (formerly the New Haven Land Trust)**

Sunday, October 27, 8–11 a.m. **Farm River Trolley Trail with Friends of Farm River**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



July 1st marked the beginning of your New Haven Bird Club's 2024-2025 Club year. We extend a special "Welcome!" to our newer members and a heartfelt "Welcome Back!" to our renewing members.

Your Club has been especially hard at work over the past several months. Some of the results are obvious. Your new and renewing memberships were processed.

The NHBC yearbook arrived in your mailbox. Our usual indoor and outdoor programs are starting up for the year, the MailChimp reminder emails are being sent. And our website has been updated. You received an invitation to complete our online Member Survey to provide your NHBC Board members with feedback that will be important for the Board's Planning Retreat at the end of September. And you are reading your *Chickadee* newsletter.

Some of the Club's work may be less obvious but is just as crucial for the health of your Club. NHBC Board members continued to meet. Our Education/Outreach program was extremely active in making connections with and providing beginning birder education to students in various youth-oriented organizations in the New Haven area. Our Conservation program took the lead in NHBC co-sponsorship of the Bobolink and Wildlife Festival in Durham. Paperwork required by our status as a nonprofit organization was completed and filed. All kinds of questions sent in to our email address were answered. The NHBC's Big Sit!® program reached out to an exciting potential collaborator for this year's event in October. We obtained a storage unit at a more suitable and convenient facility and moved historical records, supplies for our annual banquet, and many boxes of newly-donated bird and nature books.

What's new? Given the popularity of the used book table at our annual banquet, we made arrangements to have a monthly "Book Nook" book sales area at each meeting instead of the annual Book Sale in November. Members at each indoor meeting can peruse and add new books to their birding and nature libraries; donations of books continue to be welcome either at each meeting or by special arrangement.

We have several new field trips this year including a September 14 walk with a combined focus on "Geology and Birds" co-led by our newest Board member, Cheryl Cape, and her husband Dan May; new leaders Beverly Propen and Nancy Clark led a successful walk on August 24.

--Chris Howe

NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2023-2024

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Christine Howe	203-530-1066 chrish@newhavenbirdclub.org
<i>Vice President</i>	(vacant)	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Celeste Echlin	860-485-2567 celestee@newhavenbirdclub.org
<i>Secretary</i>	Meg Bollin	860-806-2509 maeganbollin@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation Chair</i>	Craig Repasz	203-230-1697 crepasz@hotmail.com
<i>Education/Outreach Chair</i>	Meg Bollin	860-806-2509 maeganbollin@gmail.com
<i>Indoor Meeting Programs</i>	Gail Martino	617-504-7205 gmm1227@yahoo.com
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Glen Cummings	203-228-8072 gmc2@comcast.net
<i>Member-at-Large Membership Chair</i>	Laurie Reynolds	203-434-2134 membership@newhavenbirdclub.org
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford	203-787-1642 donnabatsford@gmail.com
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	NHBC Executive Board	
<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	DeWitt Allen	860-949-0995 allendatlow@gmail.com
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Emmeline Kaiser	225-368-7273 emmelinek@newhavenbirdclub.org
<i>Website</i>	Cheryl Cape	203-553-9325 capect13@gmail.com
<i>Yearbook</i>	Christine Howe	203-530-1066 chrish@newhavenbirdclub.org

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	Craig Repasz	203-230-1697 crepasz@hotmail.com
<i>Bluebird Trail</i>	Pat Leahy	203-393-2427 ptjleahy@yahoo.com
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo	203-389-6508 closcalz@optonline.net
<i>Hawk Watch at Lighthouse Point</i>	Steve Mayo	203-772-9842 scmayo999@gmail.com
<i>Historian</i>	John Triana	203-758-7203 jtriana1@sbcglobal.net
<i>Hospitality</i>	Joyce Alton	203-651-9712 joyceharned@hotmail.com
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo	203-772-9842 scmayo999@gmail.com
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali	203-288-0621 vitgoo39@gmail.com

New Haven Bird Club Website:
www.newhavenbirdclub.org

2024 Summer Bird Count

Once again, the weather on June 8th and 9th was great for this enjoyable bird census. Participation was down a bit from the previous year's record, but coverage was good, and species totals seem similar to those of last year. For this year's report, and in accordance with COA compilation guidance, recently fledged young have been included in the species totals.

Historical New Haven Area specialties returned, including the nightjars (Eastern Whippoorwill, Common Nighthawk) and Ammodramus sparrows (Salt Marsh and Seaside). Other rare/potential CT breeders included Common Merganser, Virginia Rail, Northern Harrier, Hermit Thrush, Acadian Flycatcher, and a (lingering) count period White-throated Sparrow. There were plenty of other lingerers, such as the loons and shorebirds at Sandy Point. A reported Merlin rounded out the oddities. I suspect Laughing Gull may become more common in subsequent years. A notable miss was American Black Duck, which has been declining steadily in our area. We missed on the lingering warblers that were so common last year.

Additional analysis will be published in a future volume of COA's Connecticut Warbler. Corrections are always welcome for that report. Thanks everyone, for coming out and participating in this important conservation and bird distribution research.

--Steve Mayo

Welcome New Members

Fernanda Moore
Hamden

Cheryl Schnepf
Orange

Tracy Porosoff
Westport

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

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, September 12 – Patrick J. Lynch A River Runs Through Us: The Environmental History of the Connecticut River Region

After 11,000 years of Indigenous Peoples' history and more than 400 years of inhabitants from Europe and the rest of the globe, New England presents us with a uniquely humanized American landscape. The soft, domesticated contours of the familiar New England wilds don't easily fit into romantic notions of unspoiled wilderness. Steeped as it is in human and ecological history, with deeply layered cultural associations and great beauty, nature in New England is neither a determining force nor a passive victim. It sometimes seems that New England's landscape was designed to teach us that people are never outside the natural world and that looking for a pristine wilderness today is a fool's errand. This talk will look

at the myriad ways that interactions between the land, wildlife, and people have shaped the Connecticut River region we know today.

Thursday, October 10, 2024 – Dr. Chris Loscalzo The Sparrows of Connecticut

Join Chris as he takes us through the various sparrow species found in Connecticut at the height of sparrow migration. Learn facts and useful ID points for these entertaining but underappreciated birds. Chris will discuss the sparrow species from the most to the least common. Chris is past-President of the New Haven Bird Club and the Connecticut Ornithological Association, the longtime compiler of the New Haven Christmas Count, and the creator and compiler of the Mega Bowl of New Haven County and Connecticut.

Bird Book Sales

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.

Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 26 via Zoom.

Deadline for submissions to the next *Chickadee* is September 27. 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.

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.

Hawk Watch / Bird Count at Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven: Daily September to December Starts Sunday, September 1, 7 a.m.

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

Lighthouse Point Park on New Haven Harbor is a premier location in southern New England for observing migrating raptors and a wide variety of songbirds. The watch starts daily at 7 a.m. and continues as long as the hawks keep flying. Stop by anytime.

Coordinator is Steve Mayo, scmayo999@gmail.com, 203-772-9842

Geology and Birds: Stony Creek and Quarry Park Saturday, September 14, 8 a.m. to noon

Meet at the Kelley Memorial Preserve parking lot, 103-127 Quarry Road, Branford.

Join a new field trip that explores natural resources and birds in two rock areas in rural Branford and suburban New Haven. The trip starts in the Kelley Memorial Preserve in Branford, which surrounds the active Stony Creek quarry. Stony Creek granite is a building stone mined here since the late 19th century. We hike a moderately strenuous loop of 1.5 miles, observing the geological features and the birds in woodland and riparian settings. An optional (and shorter) second part of the trip, after a rest stop on I-95, will be at Quarry Park Preserve in Fair Haven Heights. This small, wooded preserve in sandstone bedrock was quarried from the 1700s to the early 1900s.

Leaders: Cheryl Cape and Dan May, capect13@gmail.com, 203-343-4490

Introduction to Lighthouse Point and Hawkwatching Sunday, September 15, 8–11 a.m.

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

Join Hawk Watch Coordinator Steve Mayo for an introduction to identifying and counting the raptors that stream over and through Lighthouse Point Park during fall migration.

Lighthouse Point is a premier location on the East Coast and watching the migrating raptors pass through can be thrilling.

Leader: Steve Mayo, scmayo999@gmail.com, 203-772-9842

Farm River State Park, East Haven Saturday, September 21, 8–11 a.m.

Meet at the dirt parking lot at the corner of Mansfield Grove Road and Hoop Pole Lane, East Haven.

Join us for a walk in this species-rich but under-birded state park in East Haven. September possibilities include shorebirds and herons, various migrating hawks and falcons, resident woodpeckers, and a wide range of resident birds and other passerines in migration. If time allows, we will also walk the short East Haven Greenway Trail loop, which offers a variety of species.

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

Great Meadows Unit, Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, Stratford Sunday, September 22, 8–10:30 a.m.

Meet in the Refuge parking lot at approximately 600 Long Beach Boulevard, Stratford.

The beautiful salt marshes of Connecticut are active during early fall migration. Come visit one of the state's largest salt marshes to observe Palm Warblers, wading birds, shorebirds, migrating sparrows and swallows, Merlins, and Northern Harriers. Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Connecticut, will also discuss salt marsh ecology and the large marsh restoration project that is in progress at Great Meadows.

Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org, 203-233-0535

Edgewood Park, New Haven
Saturday, September 28, 8–11 a.m.

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

Edgewood Park is an important stop-over site for migrating birds in the fall, and a wide variety of song-birds, raptors, and land-birds are possible. Join us as we explore river, woods, pond, and open field habitats. The walk is easy and flat, but might include one dirt path through a wooded area and an often-wet field. Wear appropriate shoes. 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

First Wednesday Walk: Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven
Wednesday, October 2, 8–11 a.m.

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

Join us on a visit to this premier local birding location, renowned for its migrating raptors and other passerines. If the weather conditions are favorable, we may see hundreds of hawks in flight over the park.

Leader: Frank Gallo, peeplo@aol.com, 203-644-2163

Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison
Saturday, October 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.

Visit one of our state's best fall birding spots, where the abundance of some migrants and sightings of less common species can make for a truly memorable trip. The walking is easy, all on level ground.

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

Bauer Park (Bauer Farm), Madison
Wednesday, October 9, 8–10:30 a.m.

Meet at the Bauer Park Community Gardens parking area, 257 Copse Road, Madison.

Explore fields, community gardens, and woodland trails for resident birds and migrants. The terrain is easy and mostly flat.
Leader: Chuck Imbergamo, imbercj@comcast.net

THE BIG SIT! ®
Saturday and Sunday, October 12–13

THE BIG SIT!®, established by the NHBC, has become an international event, with birders from all over the world trying to record as many species of birds as possible in one day from one 17-foot diameter circle. There are local circles at a number of birding hot spots throughout Connecticut. Join other birders at one of the established circles or create your own circle. You can do as many or as few hours as convenient, and don't have to be a hardcore birder to join in the fun. Visit The Big Sit! website (www.thebigsit.org) for details.

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

Old Woodbridge Country Club
Sunday, October 13, 8–11 a.m.

Meet at the parking lot on Woodfield Road in Woodbridge, opposite the old clubhouse.

Three days after Chris Loscalzo's presentation on sparrows at NHBC's October indoor meeting, we walk this abandoned golf course property where the fairways have been replaced by weedy fields and where birds abound. We'll look for sparrows and other fall migrants.

Leader: Chris Loscalzo, closcalz@optonline.net, 203-389-6508

Lake Chamberlain, Bethany
Tuesday, October 15, 8–10:30 a.m.

Meet at Lake Chamberlain Regional Water Authority parking area on Sperry Road, south of Morris Road, Bethany.

Join Pat Leahy for a walk on Regional Water Authority property in Bethany. The swallows will be gone, but we will see fall migrants and winter residents. Walking is on fairly flat and well-maintained trails and is not strenuous.

Leader: Pat Leahy, ptjleahy@yahoo.com, 203-314-0566

Branford Supply Ponds
Sunday, October 20, 7:30–10:30 a.m.

Meet at the larger gravel parking lot on Chestnut Street off Route 1 in Branford.

This is a good time to look for fall and early winter migrants. There can be quite a mix seeing Baltimore Oriole, Pine Warbler, American Coot, Common Raven, Winter Wren, Fox Sparrow, and Red-shouldered Hawk. The Supply Ponds Preserve offers two generous ponds, a forest area, and a power-line cut. The forest has been damaged by severe storms in 2020 and tops of trees are gone. There is much dead wood on the ground, and the ground is receiving more sunlight. New plants are rising and bird dispersal is changing.

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

Fresh Meadows Preserve, Cheshire
Sunday, October 20 *Note new date*
Group 1: 8–9:30 a.m.; Group 2: 10–11:30 a.m.

Meet at the information kiosk on Cook Hill Road. Park there or across the street on Corliss Lane.

Cheshire Land Trust's Fresh Meadows Preserve includes a variety of habitats that appeal to a wide variety of bird species looking for a place to rest and refuel on their southbound migration. With conifer groves, deciduous woodlands, and meadows, all located along the Mill River, it's worth a visit. Expect a 1-2 mile walk on mostly level ground. Wear muck boots if it has been a rainy fall. We will have two groups of 10 people each. **Registration is required.** Watch for the NHBC email announcement.

Leaders: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org, 203-233-0535, and Craig Repasz, crepasz@hotmail.com, 203-745-6683

Fargeorge Wildlife Preserve; joint trip with Gather New Haven (formerly the New Haven Land Trust) Saturday, October 26, 8–11 a.m.

Turn into the wide driveway at 1040 Quinnipiac Avenue, just south of the railroad overpass. Go through the open gate onto the property and look for our group.

Quinnipiac Meadows Eugene B. Fargeorge Preserve, a varied habitat with excellent views of the lower Quinnipiac River is always full of surprises. We have seen everything from Woodcock to Bald Eagles to Snow Geese, lots of fall migrants, wintering ducks, and more. We will be walking on flat surfaces.

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

Farm River Trolley Trail with Friends of Farm River Sunday, October 27, 8–11 a.m.

Meet in the rear parking lot of the Shore Line Trolley Museum, 17 River St, East Haven.

We walk the Trolley Museum tracks through several productive habitats. A great trip for migrating raptors plus salt marsh and woodland birds.

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

Trip Reports

Chippen's Hill Grassland Birds Trip Report

Fourteen birders made the trip to Bristol to see the grassland birds at several spots in the Chippens Hill area on June 2nd. It was a beautiful day with cool temperatures at the start, but warmed up quickly with the sunshine. We started at Roberts Field where there has been some recent habitat management and removal of invasive species for the grasshopper sparrows that nest there. Last year's trip did not yield any grasshopper sparrows, but this year we did hear one individual shortly after we started the walk. We were unable to locate the singing bird, but continued on to see many field sparrows, willow flycatchers, goldfinch, cedar waxwings and yellow warblers. On the farther side of the field, we found blue-winged warblers and prairie warblers. On our return back to the parking lot, we decided to take one more look for the grasshopper sparrow, and we were finally able to see it perched on a small, distant cedar tree. We were also able to spot a brown thrasher, perched in another tree close by. We then headed to some hay fields along Hill St. and were able to find Bobolinks at several of the unmowed fields. With several new housing developments in the area, we can only hope that some more habitat for these grassland species will be conserved.



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

--Jack Swatt

Ewen Farm Preserve, Orange Trip Report

On a beautiful, sunny Saturday August 24th morning, 28 birders enjoyed a walk around the Ewen Farm Preserve in Orange. Ewen Farm Preserve comprises 43 acres of deep woods, meadows, ponds, wetlands and open fields, owned by the same family since 1820. Everyone was helpful in pointing out birds and bird songs.

A few highlights were American Redstarts, several Eastern Wood Peewees, Eastern Phoebe, Flycatcher species, and two hummingbirds flying around together like travelling companions, as well as some hawks soaring through the fields. Thank you everyone,

--Bev Proppen and Nancy Clark

School Visit to Hamden Hall

On May 30th, the New Haven Bird Club, led by Christin Arnini and Meg Bollin, was invited to share some birding time with Emily Davies' 3rd grade classroom at Hamden Hall to assist with her ongoing class birding unit. Christin helped guide the students on a school yard bird walk. The students had



practiced how to use binoculars with their teacher and were excited to try them out on this sunny day to observe nesting House Finches and House Sparrows, as well as Robins and Black Vultures soaring overhead. Through the telescope which Christin

set up, they were amazed and delighted to see the Crows sitting atop a distant tree. It was a wonderful experience working with Emily and her students, and we look forward to continuing to build our relationship with Hamden Hall and other local schools.

--Maegan Bollin

The Bobolink and Wildlife Festival

The New Haven Bird Club, in sponsorship with the Cuginchaug Valley Education Foundation with Birding for Pleasure in Durham & Middlefield proudly helped sponsor the Bobolink and Wildlife Festival in Durham CT, on Saturday July 13th. The NHBC also had an exhibit table at the Durham Community Center. Annyta Vizard, Executive Director of Birding for Pleasure in Durham and Middlefield did a wonderful job of bringing the community together in engaging conversations about restoration and habitat for these wonderful birds.

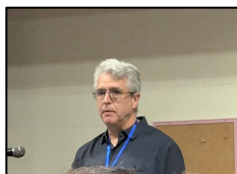


We had many people stop by and talk with us at our table throughout the event including a very enthusiastic young man of about 8 (who already is a birder) and his mother. They were very interested in learning more about future family walks.

Throughout the day, we made some great connections and reconnections with other organizations, especially those in the Durham area including the Middlesex Land Trust, Everyone Outside, Middlesex Pollinator Pathway, and the Rockfall Foundation.

The morning walk led by Chris Howe at Frederick White Farm was unfortunately cancelled due to rain, but about 38 people attended the afternoon walk. Celeste Echlin, one of the two walk leaders, along with Debbie Evans did a fantastic job guiding the group. Thank you Celeste and Debbie! And Chris Howe helped direct traffic, talked with people before and after the walk, and lent out six pairs of NHBC binoculars. NHBC was instrumental in support at the walks.

Craig Repasz (there with two hats on) gave his wonderful Lights Out Connecticut talk and also supported the NHBC efforts in person. Craig was our NHBC point of contact with Annyta. Thank you Craig for all your hard work and effort!



Overall, it was a wonderful experience and we look forward to partnering with the Bobolink and Wildlife Festival next year.

--Maegan Bollin

Visit to Farnam Camp

On Tuesday July 30th, Christin Arnini and Meg Bollin visited with the campers of Farnam Camp in Durham, CT. Throughout the course of the morning we shared our love of birding with about thirty K-4 students. It was a wonderful morning!

With the help of Glen Cummings, Ricci Cummings and DeWitt Allen, we were able to make this wonderful connection with Farnam Camp and with Marcquis Knox, the camp's fearless leader. Marcquis welcomed us with open arms and we look forward to this continued partnership.

The morning was full of talking about birds, looking through bird books, learning to use binoculars, finding birds in nature and doing a nature scavenger hunt. And of course, bird stickers! The students were precious and so excited - we only wish we had more time with them!



A big heartfelt thank you to Christin Arnini who has been influential in helping us make connections with educational groups throughout the New Haven area as well as sharing her teaching and birding expertise with the area youngsters.

All in all, our visit to Farnam Camp was fantastic and we will be back again next summer.

--Meg Bollin

NHBC Winter Feeder Survey 2024-2025



I want to welcome all members and non-members to the **2024-2025 Winter Feeder Survey**.

I know that a great portion of our membership are going on walks, or trips, now and into the fall, but once winter comes you will be looking out your window and checking to see what species are at your feeders. Why not make it a part of our own New Haven Bird Club Winter Feeder Survey? Our survey is not affiliated with any national survey and was started years ago for our Club members who did not want to do any of the national surveys at that time. You can still do the national surveys and ours. I have been doing compilation and reports for the last 13 years. Usually, we have from about 15 to 25 members and non-members a year. If you have friends who are not members of the NHBC, they can participate since we are open to the public.

We had good participation last year, and I hope to see more members involved this year. In a nutshell, all that you must do is record the largest number of birds of a species that you see at one sighting at your bird feeders during one day of the week and report that number to me. You do not have to do it every day or at the same time of day, but at least one day during the week or weekend. Anytime you look out at your birdfeeders, just record the number of birds of a species that you see.

This year I am looking for a few more participants since I have been informed by a few of my long-time surveyors that they are moving and will not be able to participate.

There will be **2 Sessions** this year due the increasing presence of **Black Bears** and their taking down of feeders.

The **First Session** will start on **Monday**, November 4th, 2024, and finish on **Sunday** April 6th, 2025. This is for those who have not had any reports of bears in their area and is **22 Weeks**.

The **Second Session** will start on **Monday, December 9, 2024**, and end on **Sunday, March 9, 2025**. This is for those who fear bears attacking their feeders. During this period, the bears should be in hibernation and no threat to the feeders. It will be 13 weeks long.

Let me know what session you will be doing.

We had **19** surveyors last year and again we were widely scattered around New Haven County: Bethany (1), Durham (1), Guilford (3), Hamden (6), Meriden (1), Milford (1), North Branford (1), Orange (1), Wallingford (1) and Woodbridge (1). We have two surveyors outside New Haven County: Killingworth (1) (Middlesex County) and Monroe (1) (Fairfield County). We have 4 receiving emails but replying using Postal Mail and 14 using email and myself.

For more information you can email me at vitgoo39@gmail.com or phone me at: **203-988-1841 (cell)**. **My phone has a recorder on it so leave a message, and I will get back to you.**

--Peter Vitali
Survey Coordinator
Chairman NHBC Winter Feeder Survey



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

August/September 2024

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>.