



# THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

October 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**

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/or 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: 9:30–11:00 a.m. *Registration required*

Sunday, October 20, noon – 2 p.m. **Six Lakes (Olin Powder Farm) Conservation Event**

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**

Saturday, November 2, 8–11 a.m. **Lake Dawson, Woodbridge**

Sunday, November 3, 8 a.m. to noon **Cheshire Hotspots**

Wednesday, November 6, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport**

Wednesday, December 4, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**

Saturday, December 7, 8–11 a.m. **Quinnipiac Trail, Prospect**

Saturday, December 14, All day **124th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count**

**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](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This column is about email: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.

First, the Good. Club members who are on the MailChimp email distribution list received an invitation in early August to complete a member survey. The Board is working to evaluate the activities and functions of the Club with an eye towards both our past and our future, and obviously

wanted to involve our members. We received 128 individual responses to the survey. Although there is no standard threshold for a good survey response rate, we consider that an excellent response given our membership base of about 500 households. Sincere thanks to those who took the time to give us your feedback and ideas.

The survey results indicated we are doing a good job in our current programs including our many bird walks, our monthly member meetings and banquet, bird counts including the Mega Bowl and Big Sit!, educational outreach, and conservation. You indicated that our Club priorities and focus for the coming years should include outdoor programs, conservation efforts, and educational outreach. Only a few members were interested in information about joining the Board, but one-third of the respondents would be willing to work with us in the same top three priority areas of conservation, educational outreach, and outdoor programs.

The Board reviewed your feedback as part of our Leadership and Planning Retreat, held on Sunday, September 29, 2024. Meg Bollin and Celeste Echlin did an amazing job over many months, working with our professional facilitator Jim Leahy and organizing everything down to the smallest details. Board and Club members along with leaders from a few other volunteer organizations got together for five hours at Bent of the River Audubon Center for a structured goal-setting and planning session. After brainstorming as a group, smaller working groups were established for Youth/School Outreach, Conservation, and Coalition Building/Community Outreach. This work will be ongoing. Further updates on these activities will be shared with our members as the work progresses.

Next, the Bad and Ugly: It is becoming more common for any and all of us to receive not only spam email but also “phishing” email. Phishing emails appear to come from someone we know or from an organization we belong to, but in reality are part of a scam. The New Haven Bird Club is not alone in having to deal with this unfortunate fact of online life.

If you are at all suspicious about any emails from the Club, our officers, or our committee, follow these general guidelines before you respond or click a link. You also can ask any of us

## 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	203-397-6016 gailm@newhavenbirdclub.org
<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 cherylc@newhavenbirdclub.org
<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](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)

directly to confirm we've emailed you. Our contact information is in your Club yearbook.

1. **Verify the sender** is who you think it is. Depending on your specific system, you may be able to double-click the sender's name at the top of the email to view the real email address. Alternately, if you start to "reply" to the email, the real email address will show up in the "To" section. If you cannot verify the sender, do not click any links or actually reply. If the email refers to a known website, do not click on it, but type that website address into a new browser window instead and check for information there.
2. **Think critically** about the way the email is worded and what the request is. Anything urgently requesting action regarding financial transactions or asking for sensitive information should be a red flag to investigate carefully.
3. **Report** any communication (email or text) you suspect is a phishing attempt. The information you give to the following organizations helps fight scammers:

If you got a phishing **email**, forward it to the Anti-Phishing Working Group at: [reportphishing@apwg.org](mailto:reportphishing@apwg.org).

If you got a phishing **text message**, forward it to SPAM (7726).

In either case, report the phishing attempt to the FTC at **ReportFraud.ftc.gov**.

Until next time, I hope you all enjoy the autumn weather and the remainder of migration season.

--Chris Howe

### **Notes from the Board**

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 24 via Zoom.

Deadline for submissions to the next *Chickadee* is November 24. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at [donnabatsford@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:membership@newhavenbirdclub.org).

### **Welcome New Members**

Elisa Scholsohn-Black Woodbridge	Linda Meyer Branford	Jorge Velasquez New Haven
Adrienne Dest Branford	Lisa Wahle Chester	
Lukey Nuthmann New Haven	Carol Lambiase Bethany	Caroline Alexander Hamden

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## 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](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)

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### Thursday, October 10 – 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.

### Thursday, November 14 – Member's Night

Members' Night is all about sharing your favorite photos, stories, and/or memories from birding adventures and bird club activities. Details, including how to volunteer as a presenter, are on page 7 or via the Club email group and on our website.

### Thursday, December 12 – Joseph Zbyrowski Barn Owls and Barn Owl Restoration

Join us for a presentation by local raptor specialist, Joseph Zbyrowski, during which he will emphasize barn owl characteristics, physical features, and behavior. He will also discuss restoration methods to encourage owls to nest and reproduce. Joseph has been working with hawks and owls for more than 30 years. He is a retired teacher of environmental science; master bird-bander; and former raptor rehabilitator and volunteer with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island. He conducts an annual hawk migration count in Rhode Island and is currently involved with Peregrine Falcon and Barn Owl restoration projects.

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### September 2024 Indoor Meeting

The NHBC launched its 2024-2025 indoor program on September 12th, with 75 participants—41 attending in person and 34 joining online.

Our featured speaker, Patrick J. Lynch, gave an engaging presentation titled "A River Runs Through Us: The Environmental History of the Connecticut River Region." His talk explored the intricate cultural and ecological interactions that have shaped the Connecticut River region, offering insights into the landscape that defines New England today. This



presentation was based on his newly published book, *A Field Guide to the Connecticut River: From New Hampshire to Long Island Sound*, released by Yale University Press in April 2024. In addition, the Audubon Shop was present, offering attendees the opportunity to purchase signed copies of Patrick's book.

The meeting also marked the debut of NHBC's new "Book Nook" initiative, where attendees could choose a book and pay what they wished. The initiative was warmly received, and we plan to continue it at future indoor events. Joyce's delicious homemade baked goods added a special touch to the evening, delighting everyone.

Thank you to all who joined us, whether in person or online. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting in October!

--Gail Martino

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## 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.

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#### **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](mailto:scmayo999@gmail.com), 203-772-9842

#### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:imbercj@comcast.net)

#### **THE BIG SIT! ® Saturday and/or Sunday, October 12–13 (your choice)**

THE BIG SIT!®, established by the NHBC, has become an international event, with birders from all over the world participating. The object is to record as many species of birds as possible in one day from one 17-foot diameter circle. Local circles are 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, on one or both days, and don't have to be a hardcore birder to join in the fun. Visit The Big Sit! website ([www.thebigsit.org](http://www.thebigsit.org)) for details.

Coordinator: Craig Repasz, [crepasz@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:closcalz@optonline.net), 203-389-6508

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**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](mailto: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](mailto: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: 9:30–11:00 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. Muck boots or other waterproof boots and footwear are strongly advised, especially if there has been recent rain. We will have two groups of 10 people each. **Registration is required.** Watch for the NHBC email announcement.

Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe,  
[cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org](mailto:cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org), 203-233-0535.

**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, [mhorn@att.net](mailto:mhorn@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, [mhorn@att.net](mailto:mhorn@att.net), 203-288-1891

**Lake Dawson, Woodbridge**  
**Saturday, November 2, 8–11 a.m.**

Meet at Lake Chamberlain Regional Water Authority parking area on Sperry Road south of Morris Road, Bethany. We carpool to Lake Dawson from there.

Join Pat Leahy for a walk on protected Regional Water Authority property in Woodbridge. We will see fall migrants and winter residents. Some mild slopes on a well-maintained road.

Leader: Pat Leahy, [ptjleahy@yahoo.com](mailto:ptjleahy@yahoo.com) or 203-314-0566.

**Cheshire Hotspots**  
**Sunday, November 3, 8 a.m. to noon**

Meet at the Route 68 access to Broad Brook Reservoir, north side of the road. Parking is available at a safe pullout opposite the water company gate in the lowest section of Route 68. Look for our cars.

Bird several hotspots in the Town of Cheshire, including Broad Brook Reservoir and Fresh Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary. Broad Brook Reservoir annually hosts 200-400 Ruddy Ducks in fall, one of the highest concentrations of this diving duck in the state. Fresh Meadows offers a diversity of bird species through the year. Broad Brook Reservoir is level walking (100 yards) on leaf-covered paved road; Fresh Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary is level walking (500 yards) with water-resistant boots recommended.

Leaders: Steve Broker, [stephenpaulbroker@gmail.com](mailto:stephenpaulbroker@gmail.com) or 203-747-6843, and Melissa Baston, [mbaston@gmail.com](mailto:mbaston@gmail.com) or 860-995-0656.

**First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport**  
**Wednesday, November 6, 8–11 a.m.**

Meet at Sherwood Island State Park: take Exit 18 off I-95 in Westport and head south on the Sherwood Island Connector. Drive into the park and meet at the main parking lot.

Join a midweek trip to this outstanding Long Island Sound birding spot. We check for loons, grebes, goldeneye, and other sea ducks. The fields are a good place to look for Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, and sparrows.

Leader: Tina Green, [tina@renaissancestudios.com](mailto:tina@renaissancestudios.com) or 203-247-2660.

**First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison**  
**Wednesday, December 4, 8–11 a.m.**

Meet outside the park at the Shoreline Greenway Trail parking

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area on Boston Post Road, Madison, just east of the park's main entrance road.

At any time of year, Hammonasset is a true gem. Enjoy a mid-week trip to explore this birding hotspot for fall migrants. The varied habitat attracts shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds.

Leader: Jerry Connolly, [birdshop@sbcglobal.net](mailto:birdshop@sbcglobal.net) or 203-710-2011.

### **Quinnipiac Trail, Prospect Saturday, December 7, 8–11 a.m.**

Meet at the end of the cul-de-sac on Boardman Drive, Prospect. We'll carpool to Cornwall Avenue and walk back to Boardman Drive.

Join us for a vigorous walk along the Quinnipiac Trail from Cornwall Avenue in Prospect through Regional Water Authority and Prospect Land Trust property off of Boardman Drive. Expect many steep areas with rough terrain. Wear appropriate footwear and bring water. Inclement weather cancels.

Leader: John Triana, [jtriana1@rwater.com](mailto:jtriana1@rwater.com), 203-758-7203.

### **125th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 14, All day**

Join other NHBC members in this fun event, steeped in tradition. Join birders in the field or report what you see in your backyard (if you reside within the count circle). Take part for a few hours or all day. The results of the count are sent to the National Audubon Society for inclusion in an international census of early winter bird populations. The compilation dinner is at 5 p.m. at the Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. To join in, contact the Compiler.

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

## **Trip Reports**

### **Geology and Birds: Stony Creek and Quarry Park Trip Report**



On Saturday, September 14, 24 birders hiked into the Kelley Memorial Preserve in Branford to look at both rocks and birds. We heard about the geologic and quarrying history of the granite outcrops in the area, and the group was

able to see the active quarry from a trail adjacent to the rim. Birding was light but it was a good day for woodpeckers, as a few birders in the group were able to catch sight of a Red-headed Woodpecker, along with Northern Flicker, Downy, Hairy, Pileated and Red-bellied. There were 28 species observed in total. On the second stop of the trip at the Quarry Park Preserve, the group learned about the local use of the New Haven Arkose sandstone for historical building and foundation stones. It was impressive to see the pits that were dug by hand

in the bedrock starting in the 1600s. Birding was quiet in this small urban preserve, with a total of 11 observed species.

--Cheryl Cape and Dan May

### **Introduction to Lighthouse Point and Hawkwatching Report**

On September 15, seventeen enthusiastic and inquisitive birders attended this short course on the Lighthouse Point Park Hawk Watch. Topics covered included the history of birding and hawkwatching at Lighthouse Park, resources available to birders, and migration factors such as topography, time of day, seasons, weather, and climate. The availability of almost 50 continuous years of hawk watch data allows accurate trending of migrating raptor populations and these were also summarized. Abby Sesselberg's photos of Lighthouse Park raptors were used to highlight key field marks of each of the common hawk migrants. Many participants stayed well into the afternoon to help to find and count raptors. Of the many hawks seen, 82 were considered passage migrants and were reported to HawkCount. We had a total of 45 species of birds just at the watch site, including 2 heard-only Dickcissels. Several attendees noted that some of these birds were "lifers."

--Steve Mayo

### **Farm River Bird Walk Report**

Despite a poor migration showing so far this season we were able to record 33 species on Saturday, September 21. Highlights included: a Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, 3 flyover Red-throated Loons, juvenile Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Phoebe, thrush species (only saw the breast but appearing to be a Hermit Thrush), and a Common Yellowthroat.

--Maria Stockmal

### **Great Meadow Marsh Trip Report**

On Sept. 22nd, eleven birders joined trip leader Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe for a walk at the Great Meadow Marsh Unit of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge in Stratford, CT. The trip began with an overview of the restoration project at Great Meadows. In the 1950's, dredged material from Bridgeport Harbor was deposited on site, turning a healthy marsh ecosystem into an invasive plant filled upland area. The restoration project, which took place primarily from 2021-2022, involved the removal of most of the dredge and invasive plant material, regrading of the site, and planting more than 180,000 native grasses, perennials, and shrubs. Since 2022, the vegetation has really filled in, but there is still some work to do. Audubon and partners continue to manage invasive plants, make hydrological adjustments that allow water to naturally flow onto the site with the tides, and monitor restoration.

Twenty-two species were observed during the trip. Double-crested cormorants were observed swimming in Long Beach Blvd. pond while Savannah Sparrows foraged in the surrounding shrubs. A Northern Harrier, Great and Snowy Egrets, and Osprey could be seen flying along the edges of Lewis Gut. Along the railroad trail, participants observed Least Sandpiper feeding on mud flats and Song Sparrows scrounging for seed along the trail. As the morning warmed, Tree

Swallows began feeding overhead. A shout-out to Mike Digioia for taking pictures. From Mike's photos we were able to determine that a high flying falcon was in fact a Peregrine!

--Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe

### Edgewood Park Trip Report



On Saturday morning, September 28, twenty-nine eager birders set out to circle Edgewood Park, which is known as a productive stopover for migrating passerines. As it turned out, the number of identifiable migrants was few, but the park's reliables came through in big fashion. You can count on seeing

numerous Wood Ducks and we got long, good looks in several places at groups in breeding plumage already. Awesome. A pair of Belted Kingfishers kept flying back and forth and perching in excellent photographic poses. A kestrel and a merlin made themselves available, and we kept seeing Great Blue Herons in flight and perched nearby, until on the dirt trail back to the parking lot, we found five perched together, high in the trees. All in all, we had 38 species, including a couple of warblers, a vireo or two, and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. The morning started slow but finished in a rush.

--DeWitt Allen and Chris Howe

### NHBC Conservation Event: Six Lakes (Olin Powder Farm) Sunday October 20, noon-2pm

Join the New Haven Bird Club at a trash cleanup sponsored by Save the Sound at a potential future open space in Hamden. While we can't access the property, we can still show our support for the future of Six Lakes (the Olin Powder Farm; eBird Hotspot "Olin pond") and help protect nearby waterways like Lake Whitney and the Mill River. This event starts at noon, so you can attend after either of our other NHBC walks that day.

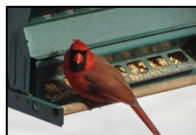
Registration is required through Save the Sound. When you sign up, select "Register as an organization" and enter New Haven Bird Club as your organization:

<https://www.savethesound.org/take-action/volunteer/2024-coastal-cleanup/>.

Hope to see you there!

Coordinator: Chris Howe, 203-530-1066  
or [chrish@newhavenbirdclub.org](mailto:chrish@newhavenbirdclub.org)

## NHBC Winter Feeder Survey 2024-2025



I want to welcome all members and non-members to the 2024– 2025 Winter Feeder Survey. 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 to 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 to the increasing presence of Black Bears and their taking down of feeders.

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

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.

For more information you can email me at [vitgoo39@gmail.com](mailto: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

## Members' Night Share Your Birding Adventures!

Date: November 14

Time: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: Indoor Meeting at Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Dr, Hamden, CT 06517

Don't be shy! Join us for a special Members' Night, where you can shine and share your favorite birding photos, stories, and memories with fellow enthusiasts. Each member will have 10 minutes to present their experiences, making it a fantastic opportunity to connect and inspire one another.

If you're interested in presenting, please contact Gail Martino at [gailm@newhavenbirdclub.org](mailto:gailm@newhavenbirdclub.org). We look forward to hearing your stories and celebrating our shared passion for birding!



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

**October 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](mailto:membership@newhavenbirdclub.org).

The NHBC website, [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://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](mailto: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>.