



# THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

April 2016

## 2016 CALENDAR

*(See inside for details)*

Sat, April 2, 8:30 am **The Richard English Memorial Field Trip: Lighthouse Point to the Richard English Bird Sanctuary**

Sat, April 2, 11:30 am **Gull and Gannet Frenzy: Southport Beach, Southport**

Wed, April 6, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford**

Sat, April 9, 8:00 am **East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance, New Haven**

Thur, April 14, 7:00 pm **Michele Parrett – Beyond the Scope: The Social Lives of Captive Parrots**

Wed, April 20, 7:30 am **Lake Chamberlain, Bethany**

Sat, April 23, 7:30 am **Ansonia Nature Center, Ansonia**

Sun, April 24, 10:00 am to noon **East Rock Garlic Mustard Pull**

Sat, April 30, 9:00 am **Bird Walk for Families at East Rock Park, New Haven**

Sun, May 1, 7:30 am **Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary**

Wed, May 4, 7:30 am **First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park**

Sat, May 7, 6:00 am **Big Day Marathon**

**New date:** Sat, May 7, 8:00 am **East Rock Park with Ranger Dan, New Haven**

Sun, May 8, 7:30 am **Housatonic River, Kent**

Thur, May 12, 6:00 pm **Annual Banquet: Chris S. Elphick — Canaries in the Saltmarsh: The Conservation of Saltmarsh Sparrows and Other Tidal Marsh Birds**

Sat, May 14, 6:25 am **Nehantic State Forest and Hartman's Park, Lyme**

Sun, May 15, 7:00 am **Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**

Sat, May 21, 7:00 am **Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington**

**New walk:** Sun, May 22 10-1 am **Bluebirds and Tree Swallows on Lake Chamberlain, Bethany**

Sat, May 28, 7:30 am **Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale State Park, Derby**

Wed, June 1, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: White Memorial, Litchfield**

Sat and Sun, June 4-5 **New Haven Summer Bird Count**

Sat, June 4, 8:00 am **National Trails Day Hike, Naugatuck SF**

Fri through Sun, June 10-12 **Outer Cape Cod, MA**

Sat, June 11, 7:00 am **Beginners' Bird Walk: Grassland and Shrubland Bird IBAs**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Connecticut Ornithological Association (COA) will impact birding fashion in the state for years to come. They (or we, because most of us, New Haven Bird Club, are members. So they are us and we are them) have introduced a new hat with a beautifully embroidered Connecticut Warbler displayed. If COA members wear these hats while birding, I will have significantly increased my

chances of seeing this rare warbler in Connecticut, although in the embroidered morph. The bird is rarely seen in the state in which it is named. Interesting choice for a mascot, indeed.

I have seen this bird only once, and by the standards of many birders I cheated. A Connecticut Warbler was caught in a banding station during a New Haven Migration Festival at Light House Point. The news of the captured bird was communicated by yells throughout the park. Everybody dropped what they were doing and kicked up dust as they ran to the banding station. It was as if a fight had broken out between the two biggest fourth grade bullies during recess leaving the school ground deserted except for the mob around the combatants. The crowd converged around the warbler were awestruck and silent. They were four-deep circling the banding station table. The only noises were clicking cameras and hushed reverent whispers. An awesome bird.

This warbler is a rare and elusive bird and does not nest in the state. Our recent speaker William Burt described the trouble he went through just to find a nest in a sphagnum bog. Neil Hayward, the Big Year record holder, described a special trip to the Sax-Zim bog in northern Minnesota just to see one. We Nutmeg birders hang on e-Bird and CT Bird for news of a sighting during migration. Such difficulties to a namesake.

This new COA hat has me thinking about the NHBC mascot, the Black Capped Chickadee. As I write, this little bird calls back to the fading winter with its namesake "chickadee" call and also sings to spring with his "hey sweetie" song. Or is it "phoebe" or "feed me?" It is an iconic winter bird that graces our feeders in winter and then announces the coming spring even before the daffodils and forsythia explode with color.

Although it is not named after our state or county, it is the most appropriate bird to represent us. The Black Capped Chickadee is a true stalwart friend. It is with us when most of the pretty songsters have deserted us for warmer climates. Any birding trip

*(Continued on next page)*

## NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2015-2016

### OFFICERS

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<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Larry Bausher	203.389.5918
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<i>Yearbook Chair</i>	Betty Zuraw	860.632.1156
	bz4feathers@sbcglobal.net	

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	John Triana	203.758.7203
	jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	
<i>Birds in Words</i>	Kris Johnson	203.288.3087
	kriswaxwing99@gmail.com	
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo	203.389.6508
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### *(President's Message Continued from first page)*

in Connecticut is not complete without them. Their abundance guarantees that we will always see something. Their courage is disproportionate to their size as they help find owls for us as they flock and scold around an annoyed, sleepy Screech Owl. A consistent neighbor they can be seen daily at our feeders. They are not shy and will come to us while we are loading the feeders with black sunflower seeds. Some people have trained the chickadees to eat out of their hands. Connecticut has been called 'the land of steady habits.' A sobriquet that truly applies to this little guy.

The Black Capped Chickadee has many relatives across the globe that offer the same companionship when we bird abroad. It is as if we are being welcomed by a relative of a good friend. The family was once called Parus but has since been divided into parus, poecile, bachelophus, cyanestes and pariprus to name a few. But the British just call many of these species tits. A name that may bring a blush to a politically correct New England Birder.

Our Chickadee is a gregarious bird. It has a wonderful habit in winter of forming a frolicking flock that rolls through the woods. Other birds can get swept up as well in these flocks, I have seen nuthatches, titmice, juncos, downy woodpeckers and golden crowned kinglets. This grouping reminds me of our club. Open, inviting, friendly and steady.

Great choice for a mascot, indeed.

--Craig Repasz

## FROM THE BOARD

Chris Howe has volunteered to take on the Yearbook responsibilities from Betty Zuraw. She will not serve on the Board of Directors due to a scheduling conflict. We welcome her and look forward to working with her to get the Yearbook out to the membership.

The Nomination Committee responsibilities will be fulfilled by the entire Board of Directors until a Chairperson can be found.

Winie Worth will step down as the Conservation Chair at the end of the club year in May. We will seek a replacement. Thank you Winie for your dedication, drive and hard work. We hope to see you back when your schedule permits.

Mike Ferrari will step down as Membership Chair. Mike has worked hard to have the membership process streamlined through the use of computers. We are looking for a replacement or a person to take on a few of the responsibilities.

The next board meeting is Thursday, April 28 at 6:45 pm at the Batsford's apartment.

The deadline for submissions to the June *Chickadee* is May 27. Send to Donna Batsford: donnabatsford@gmail.com

If you take pictures of NHBC events or on NHBC trips, please consider sending one to the newsletter to be included with the report. Send them to Donna Batsford at donnabatsford@gmail.com

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## INDOOR PROGRAMS

Monthly indoor programs start in September and are held on the second Thursday of the month. The social half-hour at meetings begins at 7:00 pm; the meeting and program begin at 7:30 pm. Inclement weather or other emergency may cancel a meeting. Cancellation notices will be sent via the club email, and will be posted on the club website, and online on ctbird. Meetings are at Whitney Center, Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden. The facility is wheelchair accessible.

### ***Directions to Whitney Center (WC):***

From I-95 North or South: Exit to I-91 North in New Haven. Take Exit 6 (Willow St.). At end of ramp go right onto Willow and proceed on Willow to the end (to Whitney Ave.). Turn right onto Whitney; go 1.7 mi. to Treadwell St. (at Citgo Gas intersection) and make SHARP left onto Treadwell. Proceed 0.7 mi. on Treadwell, turn left onto Leeder Hill Drive (traffic light). Whitney Center is shortly on the right. Enter SECOND drive-way (South Entrance) and take immediate left into raised parking lot.

From I-91 South: Take Exit 6 (Willow St.) in New Haven. At end of ramp, turn right onto Willow and proceed as above.

From Wilbur Cross (Rt. 15-North or South): Take Exit 60. Right at end of ramp (Dixwell Ave./Rt.10). Go about 1 mi. to traffic light at Treadwell St. Left on Treadwell. Go 0.3 mi. to traffic light (Leeder Hill), turn right. WC is shortly on the right. Enter SECOND drive-way (South Entrance), take immediate left into raised parking lot.

Meeting is in WC's South Building, accessed via the main door of the portico that is in view from the parking lot. Turn right down the hallway. Cultural Arts Center is a short distance on the left.

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### **Thursday, April 14—Michele Parrett**

#### **Beyond the Scope: The Social Lives of Captive Parrots**

Parrots have enchanted us for centuries. We find their plumage breathtaking, their intellectual abilities intriguing, and their antics amusing. Above all, perhaps we're most fascinated by their ability to talk and by the ways they use words to connect with us. Parrots are highly social by nature, but we usually underestimate their need for attention and interaction when we bring them into our homes. Join us for an inside look at the social and emotional lives and needs of captive parrots. Even if you've never owned a parrot, this presentation will shed intriguing light on how wonderfully complex, intelligent, sensitive, and amusing parrots truly are. Our speaker has pursued a lifelong passion and fascination with parrots. A onetime owner of a parrot store, she now is Director of Humane Education with Foster Parrots, Ltd. and The New England Wildlife Sanctuary in Rhode Island, where she works on behalf of parrots that would otherwise have no place to call home. Her other passion is humane education, and through numerous programs she works tirelessly to encourage people of all ages to become thoughtful, responsible stewards of the Earth.

### **Annual Banquet: Thursday, May 12 — 6:00 pm**

#### ***Banquet speaker and program:***

#### **Chris S. Elphick — Canaries in the Saltmarsh: The Conservation of Saltmarsh Sparrows and Other Tidal Marsh Birds**

Chris, a professor in UConn's Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, is well known for his research on aquatic species that occur in wetland or agricultural habitats. Tonight he discusses tidal marsh birds, with a special focus on the Saltmarsh Sparrow. With increased coastal development and rising sea levels, tidal marsh birds face many threats. Among the saltmarsh specialists that nest in Connecticut, Saltmarsh Sparrow is most vulnerable. We'll learn about the status of tidal marsh birds not just in Connecticut but throughout the Northeast, and we'll hear about the specific threats faced by Saltmarsh Sparrows. Chris will also talk about ongoing research on how to conserve these birds and on the effects of Hurricane Sandy and habitat restoration.

*Don't miss this festive event at Amarante's Restaurant—always great company, great food, and a great program. Reservations required; form included in this newsletter or go to the website. Early reservations are greatly appreciated!*

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## BIRDS IN WORDS

Join in on "Birds in Words," NHBC's gathering of people who like reading books on their favorite hobby. Since the group began, we've read more than 25 books on just about every aspect of birds, birding, and birders and had some lively discussions. Share in the fun. We meet at 7 pm at Whitney Center. For details, contact: Kris Johnson: kriswaxwing99@gmail.com, 203-288-3087.

We are next reading *The Rarest Bird in the World, The Search for the Nechisar Nightjar* by Vernon R. L. Head and will discuss this book on Tuesday, June 21, 7-9 at Whitney Center in the 6th floor conference room. Hope to see you there.

--Kris Johnson

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Patricia Collins  
Guilford

Daniel Gutherz  
Hamden

Zenobia Meckley  
New Haven

Gail White  
South Glastonbury

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## FIELD TRIPS / OUTDOOR EVENTS

All levels of birders are invited to all field trips, and every effort is made on all trips to help beginners. If you are new to birding or have any special needs, please be sure to let the leader know at the start of the field trip. More details, if required, and/or updates on these trips will be given at the indoor meetings and in the newsletter. You can also check the Club's website: <[www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)> for trip information and watch for emails sent by the Club. Or contact trip leaders directly if you have questions about any of their trips. 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 prior arrangements are made by the Club. Carpooling is encouraged to avoid parking problems at some destinations and to promote conservation of natural resources.

*Cancellation Policy:* Inclement weather or another emergency may cancel a field trip. Check the sources listed above or contact the leader of the trip directly if you have any questions about a possible cancellation.

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### **Lighthouse Point to the Richard English Bird Sanctuary The Richard English Memorial Field Trip Saturday, April 2, 8:30 am**

Meet at the Lighthouse Point Park hawk watch parking lot (2 Lighthouse Rd, New Haven) and bird the harbor shore for gulls, loons, ducks, and early returning shorebirds. We then proceed to the Richard English Bird Sanctuary at the Deer Lake Scout Camp in Killingworth (101 Paper Mill Rd, Killingworth). We finish our birding tour with a visit to Hammonasset Beach State Park. This is an all-day trip; bring lunch and dress warmly. Leader: Mike Horn 203-288-1891 or [mfhorn@att.net](mailto:mhorn@att.net).

### **Gull and Gannet Frenzy, Southport Beach, Southport Saturday, April 2, 11:30 am**

Join us as we search for plankton-feeding flocks of gulls, including the rare Little and Black-headed Gulls. We'll also hope to see Northern Gannets plunge-feeding offshore. Wear waterproof shoes for walking on the tidal mudflats, and dress warmly. We may also carpool to nearby sites. End by 2:30 pm. Meet at 11:30 am at Southport Beach, 1505 Pequot Ave., Southport, (at the intersection of Pequot and Sasco Creek Road, along the Westport/Fairfield border). Leader: Frank Mantlik; 203-984-9410 or [mantlik@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mantlik@sbcglobal.net)

### **First Wednesday Walk: CT Audubon Coastal Center, Milford Wednesday, April 6, 8:00 am**

Enjoy an early spring trip to one of the best local birding spots. We look out into the marsh and along the shore for waterfowl, shorebirds, waders, and raptors. Last year there was a late Snowy Owl. Meet at the Coastal Center parking lot, located at 1 Milford Point Rd. Leader: Stephen Spector: 203-876-7461 (home), 203-928-8089 (cell) or [charsjs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:charsjs@sbcglobal.net)

### **East Rock Birding and Trail Maintenance, New Haven Saturday, April 9, 8:00 am**

Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot (915 Whitney Ave., Hamden) for a bird walk from 8-9:30 am. Then join Park Ranger Dan Barvir to help with light trail maintenance along the river until noon. Bring work gloves & pruning shears if you have them. Leader: Dan Barvir: 203-946-6086 or [dbarvir@newhavenct.net](mailto:dbarvir@newhavenct.net)

### **Lake Chamberlain, Bethany Wednesday, April 20, 7:30 am**

Join Past-president Bill Batsford to check out this excellent birding area. Lake Chamberlain, a Regional Water Authority property, is surrounded by coniferous forest and it has open fields and thickets. Early spring migrants likely to be seen are Palm and Pine Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-headed Vireo, and Eastern Phoebe. Bluebirds and Tree Swallows nest in birdhouses. Meet at the RWA parking lot on Sperry Rd., on the right just past Morris Rd. in Bethany. Leader: Bill Batsford: 203-787-1642 (home), 203-494-4325 (cell), or [william.batsford@yale.edu](mailto:william.batsford@yale.edu)

### **Ansonia Nature Center, Ansonia Saturday, April 23, 7:30 am**

Enjoy a walk at this great birding location. The nature center has a small pond, grassy fields, thickets, wetlands, and woods. The woods have had Northern Goshawk and Great Horned Owls nesting there, and there are often surprises. Meet at the nature center parking lot, 10 Deerfield Lane (off Benz Rd.) in Ansonia. Leader, Maria Stockmal: 203-305-3728, [m.stockmal@snet.net](mailto:m.stockmal@snet.net)

### **East Rock Garlic Mustard Pull Sunday, April 24, 10 am to noon**

Take part in a crucial conservation project. Help remove garlic mustard from East Rock Park, an Important Bird Area that's a vital migratory bird stopover and breeding habitat. This invasive plant is a pernicious, prolific pest that can overrun forested areas, squeeze out native spring flowers, kill butterfly caterpillars, and alter the habitat of our native birds. In 3 years, we've already made a significant improvement at this site! Long pants and sleeves are recommended. Bring work gloves if you have them. Meet at Eli Whitney Museum, 915 Whitney Ave., Hamden. Leader: Winie Wirth: 203-859-2971 or [wirthwitte@att.net](mailto:wirthwitte@att.net)

### **Bird Walk for Families at East Rock Park, New Haven Saturday, April 30, 9:00 am**

On this walk by the park's Mill River, children, accompanied by adults, will search for warblers and other spring migrants. Other interested adults are also welcome to join the walk in this famous spring birding site. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Ave., Hamden. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Leader: Florence McBride: 203-288-6777 or [fincb\\_warbler@yahoo.com](mailto:fincb_warbler@yahoo.com)

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**Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary, Southbury**  
**Sunday, May 1, 7:30 am**

Explore a prime birding location along the Pomperaug River in Southbury where more than 100 species of birds have been observed in a single day. This beautiful and highly diverse habitat is owned and maintained by the National Audubon Society. Take Exit 14 off Rt. 84. Go north on Rt. 172, then turn left onto East Flat Hill Rd. (church on corner). Continue to sanctuary entrance on left. The trip involves moderately strenuous hiking. Leader: Roy Harvey: 203-888-5757 or rmharvey@snet.net

**First Wednesday Walk: East Rock Park, New Haven**  
**Wednesday, May 4, 7:30 am**

East Rock Park in early May is one of the best places in the state to see migrant warblers. Fifteen to twenty species are possible on a good day. Meet at the covered bridge near the Eli Whitney Museum, 915 Whitney Ave., Hamden. Leaders:

Bill Batsford: 203-494-4325, or william.batsford@yale.edu  
Frank Mantlik: 203-984-9410 or mantlik@sbcglobal.net  
John Oshlick: 203-584-1955 or john.oshlic@yahoo.com

**Big Day Marathon**  
**Saturday, May 7, 6:00 am**

Take part in all or part of this event. We'll focus on New Haven area hotspots, seeking 100-130 species. We start at East Rock and search several other local migrant traps, as well as the coast from Lordship to Hammonasset. Meet at the Eli Whitney Museum parking lot, 915 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, at 6:00 am. Leader: John Oshlick: 203-584-1955 or john.oshlic@yahoo.com

*Note new date*

**East Rock Park with Ranger Dan, New Haven**  
**Saturday, May 7, 8:00 am**

Join Ranger Dan Barvir at this premier site for warblers and other spring migrants. We will meet at the Rice Field (baseball field) end of East Rock Park on English Drive. Leader: Ranger Dan Barvir: 203-946-6086 or dbarvir@newhavenct.org

**Housatonic River, Kent**  
**Sunday, May 8, 7:30 am**

Today we enjoy the riparian woodlands along the Housatonic in Kent, CT. We meet at the parking area on the southwest corner of Bull's Bridge Rd and Rt. 7 (Kent Rd.) south of Kent. We car-pool from there, paralleling the Housatonic via Schaticoke Rd, and Skiff Mountain Rd to River Rd, listening and looking for spring migrants. The area is famed for warblers, including Cerulean, Worm-eating, and many others. Veery, Swainson's and Wood Thrushes and Pileated Woodpecker are also possible. Bring lunch or eat in charming Kent. Leader: Renee Baade: 203-526-7667 (cell), 203-270-9953 (home) or rbaade@juno.com

**Nehantic State Forest and Hartman's Park, Lyme**  
**Saturday, May 14, 6:25 am**

Today we explore two prime birding locations in Lyme. Nehantic State Forest, a 1,200-acre woodland, is home to Hooded and Worm-eating Warblers and numerous other species. There are

large ponds where we can find waterfowl, flycatchers, and other species. Nearby Hartman's Park is known for its breeding population of Cerulean Warblers. Meet at 6:25 at the commuter lot at Exit 55 off I-95 in Branford or at 7:00 am at the Keeny Road entrance to Nehantic State Forest on Rt. 156, Lyme. Leader: Paul Wolter: 860-681-5585 or pwolter6@earthlink.net

**Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck**  
**Sunday, May 15, 7:00 am**

Join us at the peak of spring migration on this moderately strenuous and long hike in a fine birding location. We search for both migrants and residents. We often see more than 15 warbler species on this trip, including nesting Hooded and Worm-eating Warblers. Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and many other species are common here. Meet at the commuter lot at Exit 25 off Rt. 8, Naugatuck. Leader: Chris Loscalzo: 203-389-6508 or closcalz@optonline.net

**Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington**  
**Saturday, May 21, 7:00 am**

This will be our twelfth annual trip to this excellent birding spot. We'll meet at the commuter lot at Exit 55 of I-95 and carpool to Barn Island. The area consists of large expanses of salt marsh, tidal pools, wetlands, woodlands, and open fields. We should see wading birds, shorebirds, and area residents such as Saltmarsh Sparrow, Marsh Wren, White-eyed Vireo, American Redstart, Willow Flycatcher, Bobolink, and many other species. Leaders: Renee Baade: 203-393-1954 or rbaade@juno.com and Carolyn Cimino: 860-447-3565, or sailcarm@aol.com

*Note new walk*

**Bluebirds and Tree Swallows on Lake Chamberlain, Bethany**  
**Sunday, May 22 10-1 am**

For the last 5 years members of the New Haven Bird club have been maintaining about 50 boxes on Regional Water Authority properties in Bethany and Woodbridge. Please join Pat Leahy, DeWitt Allen and Mike Ferrari to view activity in the bluebird and tree swallow boxes on Lake Chamberlain. We will be explaining how we build and take care of the houses. We will also be showing what is going on in a couple of special viewing boxes where we can see inside without bothering the new families. This program will be open to all, welcoming children and grandchildren as well as more experienced birders. We will make a special effort to show our younger participants how these wonderful birds live. Park in the Lake Chamberlain parking lot on Sperry Road, Woodbridge. Take the path toward the dam. Contact: Pat Leahy: 203-314-0566 or ptjleahy@yahoo.com

**Kellogg Environmental Center/Osbornedale State Park, Derby**  
**Saturday, May 28, 7:30 am**

Join us on a visit to this excellent birding location where we look for late spring migrants and early nesting species. The center and park have open fields, woods, ponds, and streams. Meet at the Kellogg Center parking lot, 500 Hawthorne Avenue. Leader: Maria Stockmal: 203-488-3876 or m.stockmal@snet.net

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**First Wednesday Walk: White Memorial, Litchfield**  
**Wednesday, June 1, 8:00 am**

The White Memorial Foundation is a 4,000-acre nature preserve with extensive woodlands, conifer plantations, wetlands, thickets, and fields. The preserve is home to more than 115 breeding species and is visited by many migrant species. Notable breeding species include: Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Northern Goshawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, and Blackburnian Warbler. Meet at the visitor center parking lot off Bissell Road, off Rt. 202. Leader: Greg Hanisek: 203-525-1558 (cell), 203-754-4401 (home), or [ctgreg@yahoo.com](mailto:ctgreg@yahoo.com)

**New Haven Summer Bird Count**  
**Saturday and Sunday, June 4-5**

This is a wonderful opportunity to work on your song identification skills and see what birds are nesting in your area. For the names of area captains and other information, contact leader Steve Mayo: 203-393-0694 or [rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rsdmayo@sbcglobal.net)

**National Trails Day Hike at Naugatuck State Forest**  
**Saturday, June 4, 8:00 am**

National Trails Day is celebrated across the country with hikes, trail work, and naturalist events. NHBC will commemorate the day with a birding hike on the oldest hiking trail in CT, the Quinipiac Trail in the Mt. Sanford Block of Naugatuck SF. We'll leave from the trail head parking area entrance of Naugatuck SF, 2705 Downes Rd., Hamden, and go through the mountain laurel, beech, birch, hickory and oak forest; then up and over Mt. Sanford, at an elevation of 890 feet, for beautiful views to the east. Possible birds to be seen are Veery, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, hawks, and warblers. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, and bring water and snacks. The hiking is a bit strenuous. Leader: Craig Repasz: 203-230-1697 (home), 203-745-6683 (cell) or [crepasz@hotmail.com](mailto:crepasz@hotmail.com)

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**Outer Cape Cod, MA (from Eastham to Provincetown)**  
**Friday through Sunday, June 10-12**

This weekend of birding and fellowship is being made available to 15 club members by advance registration. Our birding localities during the three-day period include Fort Hill (Eastham), Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Wellfleet Harbor and the Herring River (Wellfleet), Pilgrim Heights and High Head (North Truro), and the Beech Forest, Race Point, and Herring Cove (Provincetown). Our base of operations is "At Long Last," the Broker family cottage in Wellfleet. Lodging options are: (1) motel in Wellfleet (for suggestions contact the trip leader); or (2) camping at the Broker yard near Long Pond, Wellfleet (discuss tent/sleeping bag needs in advance). Leader: Steve Broker: 203-272-5192, 203-747-6843, 508-349-2806 or [Ls.Broker@cox.net](mailto:Ls.Broker@cox.net)

**Beginners' Bird Walk: Grassland and Shrubland Bird IBAs**  
**Saturday, June 11, 7:00 am**

On this trip we look for grassland and shrubland birds, including Bobolink, American Kestrel, Savannah Sparrow, Blue-winged Warbler, and Indigo Bunting. Grasslands and shrublands are uncommon in CT so it is a real treat to see and hear species associated with these habitats. We meet at the Bent of the River Important Bird Area, then carpool to Good Hill Farm IBA, stop at Southbury Training School and return to the Bent to explore that Audubon Sanctuary. This walk is geared to beginners, but families and all levels of birders are welcome. More advanced birders can enjoy a great day out but also provide support and inspiration to the newcomers. The Bent is at 185 East Flat Hill Rd., Southbury. Meet in the parking lot at the entrance. Leader: Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe: 203-630-9640 (home-preferred), 203-233-0535 (cell—use only on the day of the trip) or [cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org](mailto:cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org)

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**FIELD TRIP REPORTS**

**First Wednesday Walk at Hammonasset Beach State Park**  
**Trip Report**

On Wednesday, February 10 (rescheduled from February 3), Greg Hanisek led a walk at Hammonasset. The day was overcast with snow showers and minor accumulation. 37 species were seen: Canada Goose, American Black Duck, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Surf Scoter, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, gull sp., Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, sparrow sp., Northern Cardinal, Common Grackle, House Finch, American Goldfinch



*Photo by Félix Sangari Garcia*

**Rhode Island Coast Field Trip Report**

On February 27 we had a very good day. Twenty-five birders strong, our resolute group invaded the state to our east for a full day of birding. We started our day at Beaver-tail State Park in Jamestown. It was seasonably cold, but pleasantly calm and clear, and there were lots of birds. Most notably, there were several Razorbills just off the point at the south end of the park. We saw two or three at a time as they rested on the water's surface or dove in their characteristic way into its depths. We also got great looks at an adult Iceland Gull on the rocky shore. All the while, we were being serenaded by the whistling calls of the numerous Black Scoters that were there, along with Common Eider, Surf Scoters, and the spectacular Harlequin Ducks. We also saw Common and



*Photo by Félix Sangari Garcia*

Red-throated Loon, Great Cormorants, and Horned Grebes. Our next stop was Easton Pond in Newport. We saw Lesser Scaup, all three merganser species, a Ruddy Duck, a Kingfisher, and a drake Canvasback there. Then we went to the Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge in Middletown. There, perched on a log by the shore, was a Snowy Owl. It seemed undisturbed by our presence (it must be used to people gawking at it) and we noted that it was fitted with a radio tag attached to its



Photo by Amanda Kallenbach

back. There were more scoter, eider, and Harlequin Ducks there. A brief stop at nearby Third Beach netted a flock of Sanderlings. Then it was time for us to head west along the coast. Some of us were lucky to see a Northern Gannet as it flew past the bridge that connects Jamestown to Narragansett (others kept their eyes on the road). We stopped at Moonstone Beach and walked the beach to the south end of Trustom Pond (the trip leader makes us take this trek every year) where we saw Greater Scaup, Ruddy Ducks, Great Cormorants, and a wintering Double-crested Cormorant. From a distance, we spotted a Northern Harrier, two Common Ravens, and a Red-tailed Hawk flying over the fields and marsh. To our dismay, we found a dead seal pup washed up on the beach. Life and death are always intermingled. Our next destination was the Burlingame Park campgrounds area, but a locked gate thwarted our efforts to see the Red-headed Woodpecker that had been seen there. So, we went to Ninigret Park instead where we saw our old friend the Lesser Black-backed Gull (it's been wintering there for several years) as well as a first-year male White-winged Scoter, close to shore. Our final stop was the Weekapaug Marsh. It was quiet there, but as the sun was setting behind us, we saw four Great Blue Heron bedding down for the night. It was time for us to head off into the sunset, too, satisfied that we had succeeded in our quest. We saw a total of 62 species of birds. Not bad, for a group of out-of-state birders. We'll be back again next year, to see if we can conquer our neighbors again. ☺

--Chris Loscalzo

## First Wednesday Walk: Stratford Shore & Great Meadows Trip Report

On March 2 the New Haven Bird Club trip to Stratford coastal hotspots was led by Frank Mantlik, with 11 hardy others. We met at Dunkin Donuts lot. Sites visited were: Frash Pond, Sikorsky Airport, Great Meadows salt marsh, Long Beach, Lordship Seawall, Stratford Point, Short Beach, Birdseye boat ramp. The weather was mild, predawn rain ended by start time, with partial clearing, but steady brisk winds from the west. Highlights were Iceland Gull, Greater Yellowlegs, a good variety of ducks (14 species), and dramatic seas.

46 species were seen: Brant, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Great Cormorant, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Iceland Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Monk Parakeet, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Snow Bunting, Dark-eyed Junco, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, House Finch, House Sparrow

## Cromwell Meadows Trip on March 20



Photo by Amanda Kallenbach

## BIRDERS' EXCHANGE

The New Haven Bird Club is collecting binoculars, scopes or Neotropical field guides that we will donate to the Birders' Exchange Program, which is part of ABA. This organization donates all binoculars and other equipment to worthy individuals

involved in crucial bird conservation projects and education work in Central and South America.

At each indoor meeting there will be a box on the sign-in table where you can place your equipment donation.

## Opportunity To Be a Research Participant

We study birds. Now somebody wants to study birders.

Professor Thomas Palmeri of Vanderbilt University is conducting a laboratory study on expertise and will focus on birders. They are currently conducting a research project testing birding experts funded by the National Science Foundation. They are trying to recruit birders of all experience levels, from beginners to experts.

If you are interested their experiments are all online. Birders can simply register and participate by copying and pasting this link into their browser: <http://expertise.psy.vanderbilt.edu/>

If you wish to know more about the research, visit the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/pages/This-is-Your-Brain-on-Birds/158030504237705?sk=info&tab=page\\_info](http://www.facebook.com/pages/This-is-Your-Brain-on-Birds/158030504237705?sk=info&tab=page_info) or visit the website at <http://catlab.psy.vanderbilt.edu/>

## NHBC Winter Feeder Survey End of Week 15



We have finished the 15th week of the survey and we did not see any Pine Siskins or Common Redpolls during these last 5 weeks. Again the numbers of birds per species were relatively low, and we are way down in the number of Uncommon Species seen. The weather may have played a part in that it changed

on a daily basis. We went from warm (40o to 50oF) to extremely cold (0o to -2oF) back to warm every few days with sporadic heavy and light snow and periods of heavy and light rain, but basically it was warm. "Where are the Cardinals?" was a major cry during the 15 weeks. The number seen by many of the surveyors is between 2 and 4 with a few reporting between 7 and 8. We had a few surveyors reporting 0 for all 15 weeks and others 0 every few weeks. I am adding to this report a graph of the Northern Cardinal count from week 1 to week 15 for the years 2012-2013 to 2015-2016. As seen on the graph the numbers are mostly below all the other years for the 15 weeks.

We had 34 of the 34 Common Species show up for a score of 100%. We had 1 Fox Sparrow during week 5 seen by Biswajit Mukherjee and 1 Purple Finch seen in week 11 by Edward Sprowson.

There were no new species added to the Uncommon List and we had 6 of 37 species during this five-week period for 16% which is very low. Species seen were American Tree Sparrow (Maria Stockmal), Brown Creeper (Charlotte K. White, Laurie Reynolds), Eastern Towhee (Maria Stockmal), Gray Catbird (Tim and Kate Rodgers), Red-shouldered Hawk (Carol Goertz, Maria Stockmal) and Turkey Vulture (Deborah Johnson).

The only Waterfowl seen during these weeks were Mallard and that was by Nancy Morand.

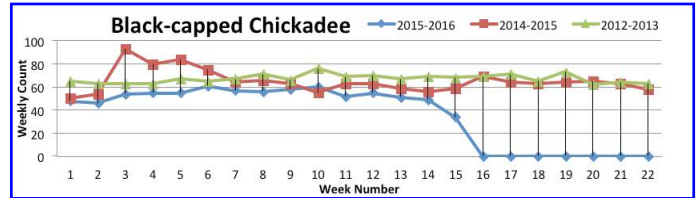
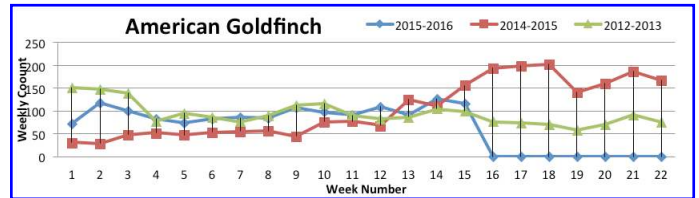
11 of 24 animals were seen during these five weeks for a 45% sighting. They were Gray Squirrel, Black Squirrel, Brown Rat, Chipmunk, Feral Cat, Fisher, Mole, Opossum, Rabbit, Raccoon and White-tailed Deer. The Fisher (Fisher Cat) is new to the list this year and showed up in week 13 and 14 by Laurie Reynolds.

The graphs of 5 Species are included below for weeks one to fifteen. I have also added a sixth graph for Northern Cardinal.

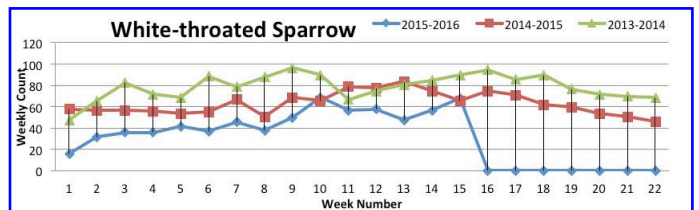
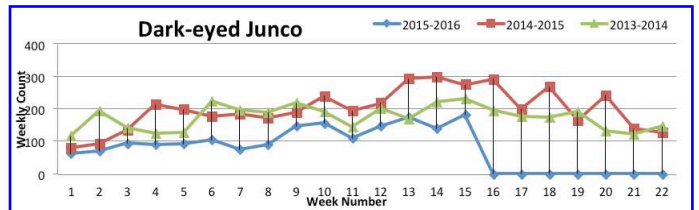
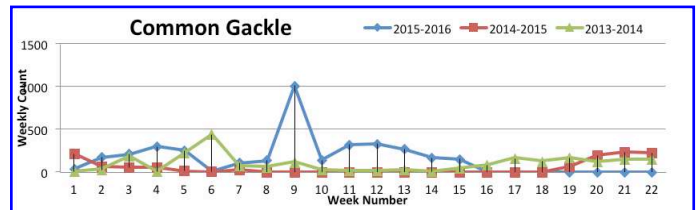
--Pete Vitali  
Chairman: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey

**BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
**[www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)**

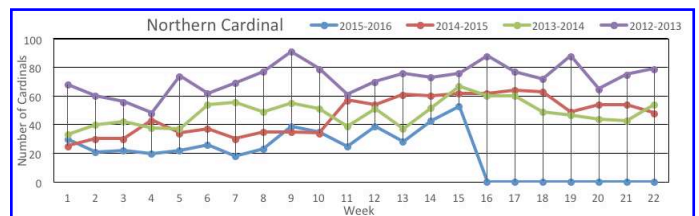
The website is organized to provide a comprehensive listing of our activities as well as useful resources for new and experienced birders in Connecticut.



Note: Common Grackle chart range is 1200. Major spike at week 9 throws the graph off.



This is the added one:



I do not know if this is a true phenomenon or is due to the number of surveyors and how many Cardinals they normally see. In the last few years we have lost some surveyors who normally reported a large number of Cardinals. Also during weeks 9 through 15 we had a few Snow Birds going to Florida and points south.



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## NHBC Will Award Grant to High School Student

We are very pleased to announce that the NHBC board has voted to award a \$1,500 grant to fund an assistant leader position at Common Ground High School in New Haven. The student will be working at the Urban Oasis sites.

This strongly meets the Club objectives of educating young people about the environment and encouraging the conservation of natural resources in New Haven and surrounding areas.

The New Haven Ecology Project, Inc. (NHEP) was founded in 1990 by a number of local educators seeking to promote and provide environmental education to residents in the greater New Haven area. The organization's mission is to cultivate habits of healthy living and sustainable environmental practices for a diverse community of children, adults and families. NHEP accomplishes this mission by: 1) Operating Common Ground High School, a public charter school with a focus on the environment and the academic foundation for post-secondary education, 2) Offering environmental education programs and demonstrating environmentally appropriate practices for the general commu-

nity; and 3) Maintaining an organic farm and managing the forested land of the site.

In addition to the high school, current programs include: Common Ground 21st Century Community Learning Center offering educational programs for students and families during non-school hours; After School Science Programs for elementary and middle school students; Educational Farm Tours for visiting groups of all ages; a Summer Ecology Camp for middle school students; Summer Vocational and Technical Job Training for high school students; Weekend Programs featuring crafts, animals, gardens, nature, food and healthy living; and Employment Opportunities for high school students.

All of the NHEP's programs are held on the organization's 20-acre farm site at the base of West Rock Ridge State Park in New Haven.

If anyone would like to learn more about Common Ground High School, please look at the school's website at [commongroundct.org](http://commongroundct.org).

--Lori Datlow  
Education Chair

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## From Our Conservation Chair

Spring is upon us, and our birds are returning! The birds need our help, and there are many April opportunities to join Audubon, DEEP, New Haven Parks, and others in conservation projects. Please consider participating in some of the following events, especially our own Garlic Mustard Pull at East Rock Park! Call Winie at 203-859-2971 or email [wirthwitte@att.net](mailto:wirthwitte@att.net) for questions.

See you in the field,

--Winie Wirth  
Conservation Chair

1) HELP INSTALL PLOVER STRING FENCING Audubon Alliance needs all the volunteers we can get, especially at Long Beach!

Wednesday, April 6th, 10:30 - Long Beach, Stratford

Meet at the far west parking area.

Monday, April 11th, 10:00 - Sandy/Morse Points, West Haven

Meet in the parking lot.

Friday, April 15th, 10:00 - Bluff Point, Groton

Meet in the parking area and CT DEEP will shuttle people out to the beach.

Volunteers should bring: work gloves, water, a snack, appropriate footwear, sunscreen, sunglasses, hats. Dress in layers as the temperature is unpredictable. Plan for heavy lifting and toting if able, but you can simply help stretch the string. Please email us at [ctwaterbirds@gmail.com](mailto:ctwaterbirds@gmail.com) if you can make it to any of these dates, or simply show up! These dates are rain or shine, but snow or thunderstorms will postpone them.

2) HELP MONITOR PLOVER NESTS Walk the beach each week this summer looking for shorebirds!

Sunday, April 17th, 10:00-noon -SandyBeach/Morse Point in West Haven.

Training session for new volunteers on how to monitor and collect data for Piping Plovers and Least Terns. Sightings are simply reported online. Meet at the parking lot on Beach Ave. before venturing out to the beach. Dress as described above, and bring binoculars if you have them. The rain date will be Sunday, April 24, and we will email you in the event of a cancellation if you register at [ctwaterbirds@gmail.com](mailto:ctwaterbirds@gmail.com).

3) EAST ROCK GARLIC MUSTARD PULL Help keep an invasive weed out of an Important Bird Area!

Sunday, April 24th, 10:00-noon. Eli Whitney Museum, 915 Whitney Ave., Hamden.

Help Ranger Dan Barvir and New Haven Parks improve the habitat! The New Haven Bird Club has already dramatically reduced the amount of garlic mustard encroaching on East Rock, but unless we keep at it, it will come back full force! It's easy work, but wear long sleeves and pants for ticks and poison ivy. Meet at the museum parking lot. C'mon, it's Earth Day time!

4) MONITOR AN OSPREY NEST Report activity, number of fledglings, date of arrival/departure, etc., to Osprey Nation! Ospreys are just now returning! Look online interactive map to see if a nest near you needs a monitor. Then simply check your nest about twice a month! See <http://www.ctaudubon.org/2015/04/osprey-nation/#sthash.DWNTFRWG.dpbs> for information.

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# New Haven Bird Club Annual Banquet

## Thursday, May 12, 2016



**Amarante's Sea Cliff, 62 Cove Street, New Haven**

**Cocktails and Hors D'oeuvres 6:00 - 7:00 PM**

**Dinner and Program 7:00 - 10:00 PM**

The dinner is \$35/person for members and guests. There will be a cash bar.  
Don't forget to bring money for the raffle.

**Dinner Options:   Filet Mignon & Shrimp Kabobs  
                          Chicken Marsala  
                          Vegetarian**

### **Canaries in the Saltmarsh: The Conservation of Saltmarsh Sparrows and other Tidal Marsh Birds Chris S. Elphick**



With increased coastal development and rising sea levels, tidal marsh birds face many threats. Among the saltmarsh specialists that nest in Connecticut, saltmarsh sparrow is most vulnerable. What is the status of tidal marsh birds throughout the northeast, and what are the specific threats faced by saltmarsh sparrows? Chris will share with us the ongoing research on how to conserve these birds, what were the effects of Hurricane Sandy, and the effects of habitat restoration.

Professor in UConn's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Chris Elphick considers himself a conservation biologist, an applied ecologist, and an ornithologist. His research interests span behavioral, population, community and landscape ecology. Most of Chris' research has focused on aquatic species that occur in wetland or agricultural habitats, but he's also worked in the tropical forest, the boreal zone, and the open ocean. The overriding goal that unites much of his work is understanding how best ecologists can guide management decisions so as to reconcile the conservation of biological diversity with other human activities.

**Reserve on the website [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org) or mail the form below.**

**New Haven Bird Club Annual Banquet — Thursday, May 12, 2016**

**The deadline for reservations is May 1, 2016. No tickets will be sold at the door.**

NAME(S): (As they should appear on name tag)

DINNER SELECTION: (Mark 1 for each person)

Beef/Shrimp     Chicken     Vegetarian

Beef/Shrimp     Chicken     Vegetarian

Beef/Shrimp     Chicken     Vegetarian

# of Persons  X \$35.00 (members & guests) = Total Due \$

Please mail your Main Course choice plus your name and address with a check made out to NHBC in the full amount to:  
NHBC, C/O Mike Ferrari, 415 Acorn Lane, Milford, CT 06461 203-435-5712, [mike.ferrari@att.net](mailto:mike.ferrari@att.net)



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

## Newsletter April 2016

*The date on address labels is your membership expiration date.*

### NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip +4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

----- New Member      ----- Renewal

#### Dues:

\_\_\_\_ Individual - \$15

\_\_\_\_ Couple/Family - \$20

\_\_\_\_ Supporting - \$50

\_\_\_\_ Student under 18 - Free

\_\_\_\_ Life Membership: A one-time payment of \$300  
for 1 or 2 people at same address.

\_\_\_\_ Additional gift to support the NHBC \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 web-  
site 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  
also for the following membership year.

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

New Haven Bird Club is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organiza-  
tion. **All dues and donations are fully tax deductible.** If  
your employer gives matching grants, please take advantage  
of the offer. It's free and helps NHBC's program budget.

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

**If your address, phone or email change**, please send that  
information to: New Haven Bird Club, PO Box 9004, New Ha-  
ven CT 06532-0004 or contact the Membership Chair, Mike  
Ferrari: [mike.ferrari@att.net](mailto:mike.ferrari@att.net) or 203.435.5712.

**NHBC does not release its membership list** or email ad-  
dresses to other organizations.

**The New Haven Bird Club is now on Facebook.** So log  
onto facebook and like the page "New Haven Bird Club."  
You can post your photos, see other photos, participate in a  
discussion and check out the upcoming events.

**CTBirds** is an open discussion email list to discuss birds  
and birding in the state. To Subscribe, go to:  
[http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds\\_lists](http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds_lists).  
[ctbirding.org](http://ctbirding.org)

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