



# Chickadee Chatter



March/April 2022

Litchfield Hills Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 67/Issue 2

*The mission of the Litchfield Hills Audubon Society is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitat, for the benefit of the community, through conservation, education, and research.*

## President's Message

By Marie Kennedy, President



Alas, the winter is waning. I certainly won't miss the hassles; shoveling, de-icing walkways, helping my elderly dog find a safe place for relief. But I will miss the magical moments of a fresh snowfall and the cozy fires that warm my soul. I truly hope

you have taken advantage of our winter days to go skiing or snowshoeing or enjoy a quiet walk in the forest to be touched by its unique beauty.

Our wintering birds continue to need your support with seed and fresh water. With the days growing longer, we look ahead for the signs of awakening. Bears will stretch their legs and sniff the air while crocus bulbs push their buds through the chilled earth. We joyfully anticipate the returning migrating birds as they seek the best nesting grounds and a perfect (or willing) mate. Ahh, spring!

LHAS is poised to amp up its various programs in the coming months. We will go back to in-person meetings in March with a program on preventing bird window strikes (see page 6). The monthly presentations will be hybrid — in-person and Zoom. We hope you will join us either way.

Migration season field trips are starting up in April — the always popular "Wednesdays with Ray," a six-week series with Ray Belding leading us to his favorite birding hot spots. Debbie and Rich Martin will host an evening Woodcock Walk at Boyd Woods. Ann Orsillo will take us to Goshen's John Ross Trail. Join me on a Daffodil Walk at Kalmia Sanctuary in Harwinton with a short hike into Roraback State Forest for those interested. You will find the dates and other details on pages 6-8. Also check our website, [lhasct.org](http://lhasct.org), for the latest information on scheduling updates or cancellations.

LHAS is accepting applications for scholarships to be awarded to two high school graduates going on to conservation or environmental studies in college. Applications are available

## See Calendar on pages 6-8 for our Upcoming Meetings & Field Trips

on our website. We also have some funds available for Audubon's Hog Island Camp; see article on page 9.

As a chapter of National Audubon, we strive to be your local bird and conservation organization. Among the ways we do that, LHAS continues working on our forest management plan, the American Chestnut Tree restoration plantation, a bluebird nest box program, and community outreach to raise awareness on the importance of planting bird-friendly gardens. LHAS also supports our

*(continued on page 3)*

### Bird-Friendly Communities

#### Planning Your Spring Garden? Use Audubon's Native Plants Database

Bird-friendly native plants are not only beautiful—they require less upkeep and save water, time, and money.

With native species, your yard, patio, or balcony be-



**Rudbeckia.**

Photo: Diane Friend Edwards

comes a vital recharge station for birds passing through and a sanctuary for nesting and overwintering birds.

The Audubon Native Plants Database will help you find the best plants for birds in your area. Go to [audubon.org/native-plants](http://audubon.org/native-plants) and enter your

ZIP code; you will find a list of native trees, shrubs, and flowers that will grow well in our area.

*Could your town use some guidance on plants that can make the town a Bird-Friendly Community? If so, contact LHAS board member Vickie Dauphinais at [fdauphinais@optonline.net](mailto:fdauphinais@optonline.net) or 860-805-9167.*

**LHAS Officers**

President	Marie Kennedy	914-393-6270
Vice President	Diane Edwards	860-309-5139
Treasurer	Mia Coats	817-691-2525
Rec. Secretary	Karen G. Nelson	860-309-9018
Corresp. Secretary	Terri Bianchi	860-489-8821

**Board of Directors**

Michael Audette	2022	860-388-7874
Keith Johnson	2022	860-618-5720
Irek Rychlik	2022	860-480-6685
Carol Perrault	2023	860-628-1612
Carol Kearns	2023	860-307-0807
Rich Martin	2023	860-736-7714
Beverly Baldwin	2024	860-921-7075
Vickie Dauphinais	2024	860-805-9167
George Stephens	2024	860-921-7150

**Committee Chairpeople**

Boyd Woods Sanctuary	Debbie & Rich Martin	860-819-7462
Communications & Digital Media	Rich Martin	860-736-7714
Conservation	Diane Edwards	860-309-5139
Education	Vickie Dauphinais	860-361-9051
Facebook	Diane Edwards	860-309-5139
Field Trips	David Zomick	860-513-8600
Fundraising	<i>vacant</i>	
Historian	<i>vacant</i>	
Hospitality	Carol Perrault	860-628-1612
Kalmia Sanctuary	Irek Rychlik	860-480-6685
Membership Outreach	Beverly Baldwin	860-921-7075
Membership Records	Doreen Orciari	860-307-3102
Newsletter	Diane Edwards	860-309-5139
Programs	Angela Dimmitt	860-355-3429
Publicity	Shirley Gay	860-482-0819
Scholarships	Carol Kearns & Harry Schuh	860-307-0807
Wigwam Brook Sanctuary	John Baker	860-567-8427

**Research**

Christmas Bird Count	Dave Tripp	dtrippjr@gmail.com
Summer Bird Count	Dave Tripp	dtrippjr@gmail.com
Nest Box Program	Rebecca Purdy	860-485-8530

**NEW MEMBERS***By Doreen Orciari, Membership Records Chair*

Rachel Ackerman	Salisbury
Angela Barna	New Milford
John Betar	Sharon
Susan Campbell	Colebrook
Kenneth Clark	Sharon
Michael Crotta	Morris
Richard Dunkelberger	Barkhamsted
Thomas Fisher	Falls Village
Eileen Flint*	Watertown
Marybeth Folchi	New Milford
Vincent Follert	New Hartford
Brett Fromson	Salisbury
Cheryl & Dave Godding*	Winsted
Sarah Gold	Litchfield
Angela Goldrach	Sharon
Betsy Goodwin	Litchfield
Ferris Gorra	Washington
Angela Grano	New Hartford
Karl Hermonat*	New Milford
Raffaella Hourin	Roxbury
Madeleine Hubert	Torrington
Judith Husted*	Thomaston
Sandra Jennings	Kent
Dale Johnson	Bristol
Mary Jordan*	Gaylordsville
Patricia Keith	Bristol
Linda Kingman	Warren
Sue Kirber	Lakeville
Elena LaRosa	Lakeville
Low Road Foundation	Sharon
Lawrence Master	West Cornwall
Alice McKown	Sharon
Carol Milczarski	New Milford
Ursula Morrisey	Bristol
Leslie Palmer	Torrington
Elizabeth Paluba	New Hartford
Allan Priaulx	Kent
Stephen & Priscilla Price	Woodbury
Howard Randall	Sharon
Janet Recidivi	Torrington
Patricia Rimany	Kent
Caitlin Rogers	Kent
Sandra Ruzicka	Bethlehem
Janet Savin	West Cornwall
Virginia Schoonmaker	Barkhamsted
Ellen Schroeder	Torrington
Jill Seavey	Warren
Michael Shafer	Torrington
Robin Shefto	Torrington
Katherine Smith	Roxbury
Virginia Steinway	Morris
Beverly Sullivan*	Sharon
Deborah Swanson	New Milford
Anne Swift	Goshen
Martha Tillmann*	Goshen
Peter Tomaino	New Milford

**Chickadee Chatter** is published in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Submission deadline for the **May/June 2022** issue is **April 1**.

Please email items to appear in the newsletter to **Diane Edwards** at [edwardsd68@charter.net](mailto:edwardsd68@charter.net) or mail them to her at **68 Shingle Mill Road, Harwinton, CT 06791**.

Send other business to the appropriate chairperson at **LHAS**, **P.O. Box 861, Litchfield, CT 06759-0861** or [lhasct@me.com](mailto:lhasct@me.com).

Wayne Tomascak .....New Milford  
 Guy Vincent .....Winsted  
 Bo G. Wallen ..... West Cornwall  
 Seth Warner .....Litchfield  
 Amber Werner.....New Milford  
 Pat Wilcox ..... Morris  
 Lois Wilderoter\*.....New Milford

\*Welcome back

LHAS Membership is at 1,068.

**If your newsletter is addressed incorrectly, please send an email to Doreen Orciari at [doreen.orciari@gmail.com](mailto:doreen.orciari@gmail.com).**

**Condolences**

LHAS extends our sincere condolences to Angela Dimmitt, whose brother passed away in January.

---

**LHAS Has New Education Chair**

After many years of chairing our Education Committee, Donna Rose Smith has turned over the task to LHAS board member Vickie Dauphinais.



**Donna Rose Smith**

Many thanks, Donna Rose, for all you've done to help young people learn about nature and conservation! And thank you, Vickie, for stepping up.



**Vickie Dauphinais**

**Two Committee Chairs Vacant**

LHAS needs volunteers to lead two other committees: Fund-raising and Historian. Neither "job" would take a lot of time. **Fund-raising** involves coordinating the printing and mailing of our Annual Appeal in late fall. In the past (pre-pandemic), we've had a "mailing party" with a dozen or so members helping to stuff envelopes, followed by a pizza lunch. So you wouldn't be doing this all alone. The only other fund-raising task is to register LHAS for the Connecticut Community Foundation's Give Local Campaign each spring.

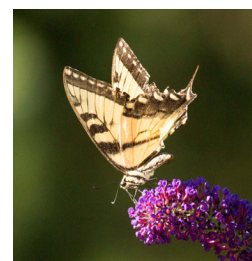
The **Historian** maintains ring binders with news clippings that mention LHAS. This task could be done electronically these days — want to try it?

If you're interested in helping with either position, please contact Marie Kennedy at [mariekennedy226@gmail.com](mailto:mariekennedy226@gmail.com) or 914-393-6270.

**Will You Help?**

Want to help **engage young people in birding, nature, and conservation**? Our **Education Committee** needs volunteers. The main goal of the committee will be to work on programs and activities that can be offered outside of the classroom. The committee will also explore partnerships with other like-minded organizations in the community to reach a broader audience. Time commitment will vary. Initially we will need to meet 1-2 times a month to brainstorm on plans for programs. Meetings can be virtual or in-person. If you are able and willing to share your time and expertise on this special endeavor, **contact Vickie Dauphinais at [fdauphinais@optonline.net](mailto:fdauphinais@optonline.net) or 860-805-9167.**

**Enjoy gardening?** LHAS needs volunteers to **help maintain the butterfly garden** at our Kalmia Sanctuary in Harwinton and **start a pollinator garden** at Wigwam Sanctuary in Litchfield. If you have an interest in gardening, both learning about or sharing your knowledge of bird-friendly plants, please consider joining. The birds and the bees need you! **Contact Vickie Dauphinais at [fdauphinais@optonline.net](mailto:fdauphinais@optonline.net) or 860-805-9167.**



**Tiger Swallowtail at Kalmia Sanctuary**

---

**Thank You, Annual Appeal Donors!**

As of late January, our Annual Appeal has raised more than \$13,000. We can't thank you enough for helping us gain the resources we need to pursue the three prongs of our mission: conservation, education, and research. We don't close the books on our fiscal year until April 30, so if you haven't donated yet but would like to, there is still time. Please send it to LHAS, P.O. Box 861, Litchfield, CT 06759-0861.

**President's Message**

*(continued from page 1)*

two nearby Audubon Centers: Sharon Audubon and Bent of the River in Southbury. Both of these offer wonderful trails; the Bent has a handicap accessible walk, while Sharon has outdoor rehabilitated-bird enclosures, a great experience for young and old alike.

So get ready to spread your wings as we wait for the warm breezes to lift our spirits.

My very best,

Marie

## Conservation News

By Diane Edwards, Conservation Chair

### Connecticut Receives Grant to Restore Another Saltmarsh Habitat

Coastal wetland habitat conservation is critical to ensure that important habitat, wildlife, and coastal communities continue to thrive. Connecticut is fortunate to be one of the states selected to receive funding through the National



**Saltmarsh Sparrow**

Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Coastal Wetlands Grant Program. These funds will help the state restore 82 acres of saltmarsh habitat in Rocky Neck State Park in East Lyme and to improve and enhance coastal saltmarsh habitat to increase resilience to climate change and sea level rise. Saltmarsh restoration is already

under way at Great Meadows Marsh in Stratford.

### Great Meadows Marsh Has New Creek

As part of a major restoration project, a new creek has been created at Great Meadows Marsh in Stratford, near Sikorsky Airport. Construction equipment widened a channel to allow saltwater to enter the marsh when the tide comes up. The previous lack of a tidal creek allowed freshwater pools to develop, which were perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes. The influx of saltwater also helps to discourage invasive species, such as phragmites, while fostering the growth of native grasses. To read more about this, go to [ct.audubon.org/news/new-tidal-creek-established-great-meadows-marsh](http://ct.audubon.org/news/new-tidal-creek-established-great-meadows-marsh).

### Donate Part of Your State Income Tax Refund to Support Wildlife Conservation

When doing your Connecticut state income taxes this year, consider making a donation to the **Endangered Species/Wildlife Income-Tax Check-Off Fund**. This fund was created in 1993 by the State Legislature to allow Connecticut state income taxpayers to voluntarily donate portions of their tax refund to support efforts aimed at helping Connecticut's endangered species, natural area preserves, and watchable wildlife. From acoustic bat monitoring to tern recovery efforts to bog turtle conservation research,

multiple projects have been fully or partially funded by the Connecticut Endangered Species/Wildlife Income Tax Check-off Fund.

### CT DEEP Request: Be on the Lookout for Chinese Mitten Crab

The Chinese Mitten Crab is an invasive species, meaning it is an animal that is not from this area but is able to live, reproduce, and establish a population here. When abundant, Chinese Mitten Crabs can damage fishing gear, clog pumps and intake pipes, cause riverbank erosion through their burrowing activities, feed on recreationally important fish species' eggs, and outcompete native species for food and habitat.



**Chinese Mitten Crab**

Photo: CT DEEP

CT DEEP says, "We need YOUR help! Be on the lookout for Chinese Mitten Crabs!"

These crabs have several distinct characteristics:

- Brownish-orange to greenish-brown color.
- Hairy, white-tipped claws (look like mittens).
- Distinct notch between the eyes.
- Four spines along each side of the shell.
- Legs are twice as long as the width of the shell.

Any crab found in freshwater should be investigated since there are no freshwater crabs in New England. If you spot a mitten crab, do not release it! Capture the crab and freeze it and *report your findings to david.molnar@ct.gov or call 860-434-6043*.

### Locations in Southeastern CT Designated as National Estuarine Research Reserve

The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has designated a network of Connecticut state-owned properties in Lyme, Old Lyme, and Groton, and portions of the surrounding waters as the nation's 30th National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR).

## Conservation News

Continued

The new Connecticut NERR spans 52,160 acres, including the land areas of Lord Cove Natural Area Preserve; Roger Tory Peterson Natural Area Preserve (formerly Great Island Wildlife Management Area); Pine Island; Haley Farm State Park; and Bluff Point State Park, Coastal Reserve and Natural Area Preserve, as well as portions of the surrounding open-water areas of Long Island Sound and the Thames and Connecticut Rivers. It also includes the DEEP Marine District Headquarters in Old Lyme and the UConn Avery Point campus in Groton. These locations provide critical habitat for birds, fish, and other marine and coastal species of plants and animals in the region.

The NERR System is a network of coastal sites designated to protect and study estuarine systems. They represent a partnership program between NOAA and coastal states. NOAA provides funding and national guidance, and each reserve is led by a state organization (in Connecticut, it's DEEP) with input from local partners. NERRs provide access to a variety of resources including municipal trainings on coastal best management practices, K-12 programs to engage students and teachers in hands-on science, expanded opportunities for estuarine research and long-term monitoring, and programs for environmental stewardship.

### DEEP Asks: Report Certain Wildlife Sightings

The DEEP Wildlife Division collects sighting reports of various wildlife species to help with ongoing research projects, as well as to track distribution and abundance of certain populations. You can help by reporting your observations of the following wildlife species: bears, bobcats, moose, fishers, bats, dead birds, and Bald Eagle nest locations. For more information about these species and how to report sightings, go to <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Report-a-Wildlife-Sighting>.

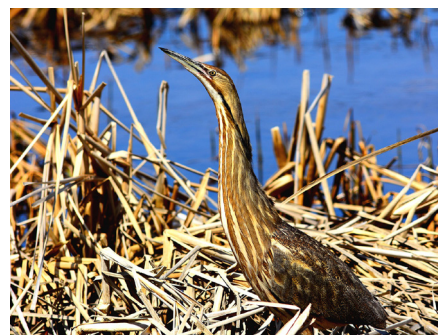
### House Committee Backs Bipartisan Wildlife Funding Bill

The U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources has voted to advance the **Recovering America's Wildlife Act** with a bipartisan 29-15 vote. The act will provide nearly \$1.4 billion in dedicated annual funding for proactive, collaborative efforts by the states and tribes to recover wildlife species at risk. At least 15% of the resources would be used to recover species listed as threatened or endangered. State

Wildlife Action Plans would guide spending from the bill. Developed by state agencies, these plans have identified 12,000 species of wildlife and plants in need of conservation assistance.

Tribal Nations would receive \$97.5 million annually to fund proactive wildlife conservation efforts on the lands they manage. Many Tribal Nations have pioneered wildlife conservation efforts for decades without a consistent source of funding.

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) notes that more than one-third of all wildlife species in the U.S. are at heightened risk of extinction and need immediate conservation action. "The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act is the most significant piece of wildlife legislation since the Endangered Species Act passed in 1973," said Colin O'Mara, NWF president and CEO.



**The American Bittern is listed as endangered in Connecticut**

Photo: Rick Bohn/USFWS/Wikimedia Commons

You will find Connecticut's State Wildlife Action Plan and information on the state's endangered and threatened species at [ct.gov/deep/wildlife](http://ct.gov/deep/wildlife); look under "Publications and News."

### Morris to Ban Feeding of Wildlife — Backyard Bird Feeders Excepted

The Board of Selectmen in Morris, CT, has approved an ordinance banning the feeding and baiting of wildlife in the town. But a spokesman from the First Selectman's office said backyard bird feeders will still be allowed. The intent of the ordinance is to stop people from intentionally feeding bears, deer, and other animals that may become problematic.

## Meetings, Bird Walks and Activities

### LHAS Calendar — Winter/Spring 2022



**NOTE:** Unless otherwise indicated, **General Meetings** are held on the first Monday of each month. When the first Monday of the month falls on a holiday, the meeting is held on the second Monday. Meetings are held at the Litchfield Community Center, 421 Bantam Road (Route 202), Litchfield, and/or via Zoom.

**Board of Directors Meetings** are held the third Tuesday of every other month at 7 p.m.

## GENERAL MEETINGS

*Note: Our meetings will now be hybrid: in-person and Zoom. If you want to attend via Zoom, go to the Calendar section of our website, [lhasct.org](http://lhasct.org), to register.*

### March 7 . . . . . **Making Your Windows Safer for Wild Birds** . . . . . **Monday, 7 PM**

Wild birds, our closest neighbors, provide a multitude of ecosystem services to improve and support human life. These precious creatures face many deadly threats in the human landscape that jeopardize their survival. Vickie Dauphinais will discuss the threats birds face in our own backyards from window strikes and explain how widespread the problem is. She will review what can be done to mitigate the problem, including easy, economical approaches we can use on our homes and places of business. Vickie is a board member of LHAS. She has been an active LHAS member for the past six years. Vickie enjoys hiking and birding with her Audubon friends. Since retirement from health care, she is planning on getting more involved in fulfilling the LHAS mission to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife and their habitats.

### April 4 . . . . . **Hawks in Connecticut — Their Life Histories & How to ID Them.** . . . . . **Monday, 7 PM**



Did you know that an average of 20,000 hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures migrate over hawk watch sites in Connecticut every fall? Audubon naturalist Ryan MacLean will talk about how to identify these skilled hunters of the air, and also their life histories. He'll tell how hawk watching plays a vital role in community science efforts toward bird conservation across North America. Ryan is the bird education specialist of the Greenwich Audubon Center. At the center's 300-acre preserve, he conducts bird-related programs such as bird tours and identification workshops, and school programs, and oversees the center's public opportunities for community science bird research such as the Hawk Watch, Project Feeder Watch, and the Summer and Christmas Bird Counts. As a professional hawk watcher, he served as official counter for six seasons at the center's Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch.

### May 2 . . . . . **Aves Agonistes: The Intertwined Lives of Peregrines and Ravens** . . . . . **Monday, 7 PM**

Peregrine Falcons and Common Ravens prefer similar nest sites, especially tall cliffs where they are fairly safe from potential predators. This shared habitat preference puts them in regular conflict during breeding and non-breeding seasons. For the past 20 years, peregrines and ravens have been nesting within 40 yards of each other at West Rock Ridge State Park in Woodbridge, CT. These are equally fascinating birds with elaborate courtship displays, nest-building strategies, food-gathering capabilities, territorial defenses, and related behaviors. Tonight's presenter, Steve Broker, has been studying the two species for 20 years, as they live in close proximity. Steve's field studies focus on the breeding peregrines and ravens at West Rock, marsh birds on Outer Cape Cod, and recent breeding bird atlases in Connecticut and Massachusetts. He is a past president of the Connecticut Ornithological Association (COA). This is a truly fascinating presentation with fabulous photographs.

**The next Board Meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15. Contact Marie Kennedy at [mariekennedy226@gmail.com](mailto:mariekennedy226@gmail.com) to see if the meeting will be in person or via Zoom.**

## BIRDING EVENTS AND FIELD TRIPS

### **April 3. . . . . "What's Happening in the Woods?" A Boyd Woods Walk. . . . . Sunday 1:30 PM**

Woodchucks! Wood Ducks! Woodpeckers! Wood Frogs! At the Boyd Woods Sanctuary, maintaining a healthy forest for all woodland inhabitants is a top priority. On this walk, led by sanctuary chairpersons Rich and Debbie Martin, we'll pass through areas that are being maintained while discussing the wildlife that require these habitats for food and shelter. Wandering about on this early spring afternoon, we'll certainly see and hear some of the sanctuary's wild woodland residents. If you've been to Boyd Woods recently, and have wondered about all of the blue paint blazes on the trees, be sure to join us for this informative walk to discover "What's Happening in the Woods." Rain date: April 10. No dogs. *For additional information, contact Debbie Martin at 860-819-7462 or barnowl524@hotmail.com.*

### **April 16. . . . . Full Moon Woodcock Walk at Boyd Woods . . . . . Saturday, 7:15 PM**

As we wait for the woodcocks to begin their nightly performance, we'll walk through (and discuss) their preferred nesting habitat. Nearby, on a new trail through the conifer plantation, we may hear (or see!) our resident Barred Owl pair. Arriving at the Monarch Meadow, we'll discover the male woodcocks overhead (illuminated by the Full Pink Moon!) performing their impressive dance (for us.....and female woodcocks on the ground) and then spiraling, chirping, and tweeting as they fall back to Earth. And.....if this isn't enough excitement for one night, we may hear "hundreds of very noisy turkeys" over by the pond. What could be causing this commotion? We'll investigate! Bring a flashlight. Dress warmly and wear sturdy walking shoes. No dogs! Meet at the Boyd Woods Sanctuary parking lot on Route 254 in Litchfield. *For additional information, contact Debbie Martin at barnowl524@hotmail.com or 860-819-7462.*

### **April 23. . . . . Hike the Goshen Land Trust's John Ross Trail. . . . . Saturday, 8:30 AM**

Join Ann Orsillo for a walk through a forest and along a marsh. Directions: Take Route 63 toward Goshen. From the south, look for Pie Hill Road on the right just opposite the Goshen Fair Grounds. From the north, the road will be on the left. Go about a mile or so to the bridge and park in the turnoff just over the bridge. *Please let Ann know in advance if you are coming: Call 910-880-1518 or email spoonbill@optonline.net.*

### **April 27. . . . . Wednesday Morning Birding with Ray. . . . . Wednesday, time TBD**

Ray Belding's spring migration bird walks will begin the last Wednesday of April and end the first Wednesday of June. If interested in attending, send your email address to Ray ([turaco3000@gmail.com](mailto:turaco3000@gmail.com)) so he can let you know where and when the walks will take place.

### **April 30. . . . . Daffodil Walk at Kalmia Sanctuary . . . . . Saturday, 9 AM**

We'll start with a walk on the trail through Kalmia's forest leading to the spot where volunteers planted daffodils last fall. For those interested, we'll also walk into the Roraback State Forest bordering Kalmia to look for returning warblers. The walk is easy, but wear sturdy footwear. Meet Marie Kennedy in the Kalmia parking lot at the end of Laurel Road in Harwinton; follow the sign to the parking lot on the right, past the last house. *For more information, contact Marie at [mariekennedy226@gmail.com](mailto:mariekennedy226@gmail.com) or 914-393-6270.*

### **May 4 . . . . . Wednesday Morning Birding with Ray. . . . . Wednesday, time TBD**

If interested in attending, send your email address to Ray ([turaco3000@gmail.com](mailto:turaco3000@gmail.com)) so he can let you know where and when the walks will take place.

### **May 11 . . . . . Wednesday Morning Birding with Ray. . . . . Wednesday, time TBD**

If interested in attending, send your email address to Ray ([turaco3000@gmail.com](mailto:turaco3000@gmail.com)) so he can let you know where and when the walks will take place.

### **May 18 . . . . . Wednesday Morning Birding with Ray. . . . . Wednesday, time TBD**

If interested in attending, send your email address to Ray ([turaco3000@gmail.com](mailto:turaco3000@gmail.com)) so he can let you know where and when the walks will take place.

*(continued on page 8)*

## Calendar

(continued from page 7)

### May 25 . . . . . Wednesday Morning Birding with Ray. . . . . Wednesday, time TBD

If interested in attending, send your email address to Ray ([turaco3000@gmail.com](mailto:turaco3000@gmail.com)) so he can let you know where and when the walks will take place.

### June 1 . . . . . Wednesday Morning Birding with Ray. . . . . Wednesday, time TBD

If interested in attending, send your email address to Ray ([turaco3000@gmail.com](mailto:turaco3000@gmail.com)) so he can let you know where and when the walks will take place.

## Safe Passage for Migratory Birds

### How You Can Help

By Vickie Dauphinais, LHAS Board Member

Spring migration is approaching, and billions of birds will be traveling from their wintering sites to their summer breeding grounds. We know from science that they face many lethal hazards as they travel through the human-dominated landscape. As a result, many birds fail to reach their destinations during spring migration.

The good news is that all of us can take simple steps to make migration a little easier. Here are a few suggestions to consider.

#### Turn off the lights

As migratory birds travel through cities with large buildings and bright lights, they can become disoriented by the lights, causing them to collide. You can help by turning off all non-essential lights from dusk to dawn.

#### Make window glass visible to birds

It is estimated that bird-window glass strikes at residential and low-rise commercial buildings kill more than 1 million birds daily in the U.S. alone. You can help reduce the bird deaths by making window glass visible to birds. This can be accomplished by applying dots, films, paints, or decals on the outside of the glass. Make sure the spacing between whatever you choose isn't bigger than 2" x 4" or an adult handprint. And for the slackers, here's something to feel good about: dirty windows also reduce collisions!

#### Protect birds from cats and dogs

Cats are instinctive predators. So, keep them indoors or on a leash. It is safer for them and wildlife. Keep your dog on a leash when hiking to avoid disturbing birds that nest on the ground.

#### Use less plastic

Birds can ingest plastics or become entangled in them, causing serious injury or even death. Consider using reusable bottles, cups, bags, and utensils.

#### Dispose single-use Covid-19 protective gear properly

Birds and other wildlife can die from entrapment and entanglement with disposable gloves and masks. To curb this growing hazard, cut up disposable gloves and snip the straps off single use masks.

#### Provide a welcoming habitat

Make your yard a welcome habitat where birds can rest and refuel. Provide feeders, water fountains, and bird-friendly plants for food and cover. Check out the native plant database at [audubon.org/native-plants](http://audubon.org/native-plants) to find a list of plants native to your area.

Imagine how many birds you can help finish their migratory journey with these simple solutions!

*The members of Litchfield Hills Audubon Society are available to provide support and guidance in establishing essential, safe habitats for migrating birds in your community. Feel free to contact us at [lhasct.org](http://lhasct.org).*

This newsletter and other LHAS features can be seen **IN LIVING COLOR** at [www.lhasct.org](http://www.lhasct.org).



Scan the QR code at left with your smartphone to go to [www.lhasct.org](http://www.lhasct.org).

Follow us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/LitchfieldHillsAudubonSocietyLHAS](https://www.facebook.com/LitchfieldHillsAudubonSocietyLHAS)

Chickadee Chatter was printed by **Photo Arts Printing Company**, Torrington, CT.

Special thanks to **Doreen Orciari** and **Janet Baker** for proof-reading this newsletter!





**Mark Your Calendar:**

**Give Local Campaign — April 26–27**

**Your donation can help us raise bonus funds!**

The Give Local campaign for Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills is a great way to support causes that matter to you. We hope that includes LHAS! During the 36-hour online campaign, LHAS and other nonprofits will earn bonus dollars for every donor we secure and will have an opportunity to vie for cash prizes. For more information, visit [givelocalccf.org](http://givelocalccf.org).

**LHAS Offers Subsidies for Hog Island Audubon Camp**



The National Audubon Seabird Restoration Program (Project Puffin) offers fascinating residential programs on birds and

birding, mostly at Hog Island, a quarter mile offshore in Bremen, Maine. Here are the dates of this season’s programs:

- Spring Migration & Monhegan Island: May 29–June 3
- Joy of Birding: June 5–10
- Puffin Islands: June 12–17
- Coastal Main Bird Studies for Teens-One: June 12–17
- Coastal Main Bird Studies for Teens-Two: June 19–24
- Field Ornithology: June 19–24
- Mountains to Sea Birding for Teens: June 26–July 1
- Arts & Birding — Sketching & Painting: July 10–15
- Arts & Birding — Photography: July 10–15
- Sharing Nature: An Educator’s Week: July 11–16
- Costa Rica Teen Camp: July 28–August 3
- Family Camp I: August 7–12
- Family Camp II: August 14–19
- Creating Bird Friendly Habitats: August 21–24
- Birds of Maine Islands, A Service Week: September 4–9
- Fall Migration & Monhegan: September 4–9

- Raptor Migration & Monhegan Island: September 11–16
- Visit [hogisland.audubon.org](http://hogisland.audubon.org) for more details.

LHAS can offer two members each a partial subsidy to attend a Hog Island program. If you are interested, contact LHAS President Marie Kennedy at [mariekennedy226@gmail.com](mailto:mariekennedy226@gmail.com) or 914-393-6270.

**LHAS Giving Scholarships to Teens**

The Litchfield Hills Audubon Society is once again pleased to offer two \$2,000 scholarships. Each scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior or a graduate of a high school in the LHAS area who has been accepted into a college program for environmental studies or a related field.

Applicants should focus on the mission of the LHAS: “To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitat, for the benefit of the community, through conservation, education and research.”

The scholarship application form is available on our website, [lhasct.org](http://lhasct.org), by clicking the Education tab on our home page. Scholarship applications are due by Friday, April 22, 2022. Scholarships will be awarded by the end of May.

Email scholarship applications to [hschuh@charter.net](mailto:hschuh@charter.net) or send to Mr. Harry Schuh, LHAS Scholarship Co-Chair, 484 Burlington Road, Harwinton, CT 06791.

We thank you for encouraging deserving students to apply for our LHAS scholarships!

**Seeds 'n' Suet, January 2022****A Pox on Plagues and Precipitation!**

By Russ Naylor

Woodbury/Roxbury Christmas Bird Census (CBC): rain. LHAS CBC: frigid and high winds. Sherman CBC: fog and rain. Shepaug Dam Bald Eagle Observatory: rain or ice each Wednesday and weekend since opening day, then closed due to COVID. Angela Dimmitt's shorebird trip on January 9: ice and rain. It seems we can't have any field trips or bird counts these days without a storm cloud hovering over our heads. Even our mid-winter Bald Eagle survey was bollixed up by a snowstorm followed by ice and frozen rain.

Between storms and COVID surges, I am in semi-hibernation and putting all field trips on hiatus until possibly April (if spring gets here by then!). So, like lots of others shut in, I am keeping the feeders full, the bird bath heated and clean (if I can keep our mob of some 200 starlings away — a murmuration they're not!), and am watching the visitors from a window-side seat. It's a three-ring circus that passes the day. Our squirrels try

to hide peanuts from each other and engage in comical "cartoon-esque" chases that keep them bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. The

Blue Jays are forever stashing sunflower and peanut hearts while figuring out how to land on soft snow without falling over. Thirty-five or so House Finches are jockeying for seed with 80 to 100 juncos, a smattering of other sparrows, and titmice snatching the fattest seeds.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Photo: Diane Friend Edwards

**Tufted Titmouse**

Photo: Diane Friend Edwards

The White-breasted Nuthatches are fussy eaters, sampling and dropping seeds until they find one to their liking. Our cardinal pair pays only an occasional visit, while Mourning Doves and a corpulent cowbird stop by twice daily to stuff

their crops and drink.

In between all this, our chickadees flit in between the bigger birds for a fair share of safflower and sunflower seeds. Four

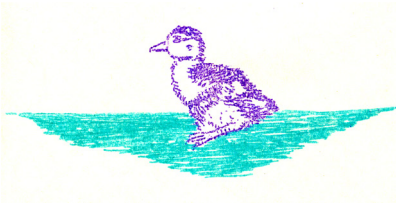
Chipping Sparrows are gleaning millet and other small seeds, so I've been putting out extra for them so the juncos don't hog it all. Our Red-bellied Woodpecker occasionally drops by for a snack — I would put out suet for her but for the Black Bear and 200 or so gluttonous starlings!

Our bird bath gets well-used too — robins and bluebirds gathering in a circle to drink toasts in a refined manner when they're not feasting on our native plantings of holly, hawthorn, crab apple, and viburnum. And each day another frugivore (a fruit-eating bird) takes a break from juniper fruit for a quick sip — a juvenile Myrtle Warbler drawn here by native honeysuckle berries. This is a testament to how native plantings and a little judicious bird feeding, along with shelter and water, can enhance your household habitat and keep you in touch with your natural world even when shut in because of coronavirus and seemingly constant inclement weather.

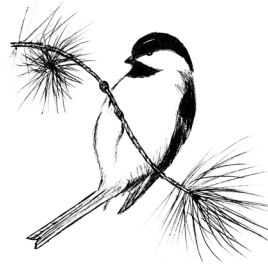
*So, like lots of others shut in, I am keeping the feeders full, the bird bath heated and clean . . . and am watching the visitors from a window-side seat. It's a three-ring circus that passes the day.*

# History and Evolution of Litchfield Hills Audubon Society's Logo

By Rich Martin



This colorful cute duckling illustration adorned the cover of the first issue, Summer 1956, of LHAS' newsletter. Unknown artist.



An editorial in the August 1973 newsletter asked LHAS members to provide suggestions on what the newsletter cover should look like. In the November 1973 newsletter it was announced, due to some concerns of losing the chickadee, that the illustration of the Black-capped Chickadee you see here, from "an anonymous non-artist," would adorn the cover of the LHAS newsletter.



In the Fall 1956 edition of the LHAS newsletter, the Song Sparrow embellished the cover. This sparrow symbol remained on the cover of the newsletter until 1958. Unknown artist.



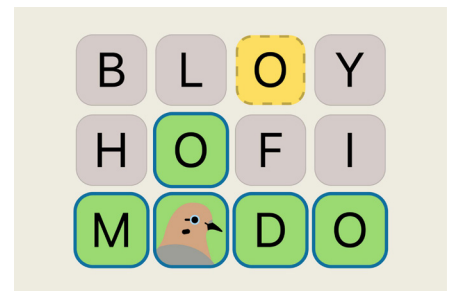
In 2008 the chickadee illustration from 1973 was used as a template to create a digital version of this wonderful and cheerful bird that you now see throughout all LHAS' publications. Digital recreation by Rich Martin, Terryville, CT.



This Screech Owl illustration was adopted by LHAS as the symbol for the newsletter to its members in its second edition, 1958. It was based on the fact that not only is the Screech Owl a very well known member of the woods of our area, but also its presence may serve to remind us all that Connecticut was the first state to enforce the protection of hawks and owls. Artist: Edmund K. Swigart

## Like Wordle? You'll Love Brdl!

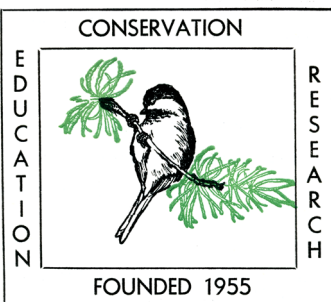
The popular Internet word game Wordle has inspired a birdy spinoff called Brdl, developed by Audubon graphic designer Alex Tomlinson. Whereas



Graphic: Alex Tomlinson/Audubon

Wordle has you guess a five-letter mystery word of the day, Brdl challenges you to guess a four-letter bird banding code — like MODO for Mourning Dove. When you type in a letter, color cues let you know if the letter is part of the code of the day: Green means it is and is in the correct position; yellow means the letter is in the code but is not in the right place; gray means the letter is not in the code. To try it yourself, visit [brdl.alex.gd](http://brdl.alex.gd).

In case you're not familiar with the four-letter banding codes, you will find a list at [www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/manual/speclist.cfm](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/manual/speclist.cfm).



In the 1963, Volume 3, No. 2, issue of the newsletter, the Black-capped Chickadee illustration shown here appeared on its front cover. The design was created by Marilyn Caldwell of Watertown. The border, with LHAS's core values, was added to the design and was published in the 1965,



Litchfield Hills Audubon Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 86 I  
Litchfield, CT 06759-086 I

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 30  
Torrington, CT 06790

**Like Us On Facebook!**

[www.facebook.com/LitchfieldHillsAudubonSocietyLHAS](https://www.facebook.com/LitchfieldHillsAudubonSocietyLHAS)

**Visit Our Website!**

[www.lhasct.org](http://www.lhasct.org)

**Follow Us On Instagram**

[https://www.instagram.com/litchfield\\_hills\\_audubon/](https://www.instagram.com/litchfield_hills_audubon/)



Printed on Recycled Paper

**DATED MATERIAL — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

**Audubon Study:**

## **Climate Change, Habitat Availability Both Affecting Birds**

The study, published in *Global Change Biology*, used 90 years of Christmas Bird Count data to analyze how birds of the eastern United States have responded due to climate change and habitat availability in the last 90 years.

The researchers determined that winter ranges of all birds have moved in response to climate change, and that bird species with specific habitat needs (for example, grasslands or wetlands) are even more restricted by habitat availability where they can exist in a climate-altered future. Few studies have yet to analyze how climate change and habitat suitability are linked with respect to bird populations, but the longevity of Audubon's Christmas Bird Count data set allowed Audubon researchers to explore this connection, with important implications for wildlife conservation efforts in the future.

"Birds tell us that climate change is already having an effect on them, but not all birds are equally vulnerable to climate change," said Sarah Saunders, Ph.D., primary author of the study and quantitative ecologist at Audubon. "If we want to give birds the best chance at survival, habitat conservation needs to be part of our efforts to fight climate change. We

can still secure a future for birds and people, but the science is clear: we need to act on climate now."

In order to interpret more than 90 years of Christmas Bird Count observations from 119 different count circles in the eastern U.S., the Audubon researchers sorted 89 species of birds into the following groups: large forest birds, forest passerines, grassland birds, mixed-habitat birds, waterbirds, shrubland birds, waterfowl, wetland passerines, and woodpeckers. Results showed that climate-related changes in temperature and precipitation impacted the winter ranges for all groups of birds. For example, large forest birds and woodpeckers are now wintering farther north than before. However, while habitat-restricted birds like waterfowl, wetland birds, and grassland birds are also responding to climate change, they are only spending the winter where there is suitable habitat remaining. Gaining a deeper understanding of how different species respond to climate change versus habitat change can better inform conservation efforts.

"This study confirms that protecting birds from climate change in the future needs to go hand-in-hand with protecting healthy natural spaces that birds need right now," said Marshall Johnson, chief conservation officer for Audubon.

You can read more about this study at [audubon.org/news](http://audubon.org/news).