



For Immediate Release  
May 12, 2022  
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## FIRST-EVER HARTFORD BIRD WEEK TAKING FLIGHT AT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

### *Celebration of urban birding includes events across the city*

(Hartford, CT) – Hartford Public Library has organized the first-ever Hartford Bird Week to begin later this month, with events scheduled at library branches and parks across the city meant to inspire both the young and old to explore the growing hobby of birdwatching.

The events in Hartford will be held in conjunction with #BlackBirdersWeek2022 (May 29-June 4), a national effort from the organization @BlackAFinSTEM that began in 2020 to highlight Black nature enthusiasts, increase visibility of Black birders and inspire people to become involved in birding. Hartford Public Library received a \$2,500 Celebrate Urban Birds Equity, Birds, and Culture grant from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to support its efforts.

“I love city birds. There is so much we can learn from our winged neighbors, even pigeons, sparrows and geese have fascinating histories. It is hard not to be inspired, or at least smile, when watching the goslings at Keney Park. The adult geese perfectly model how it takes a caring community to raise children, and that we all need support to survive in this world,” said **Hartford Public Library Systemwide Teen Services Librarian Victoria Palmatier**.

“Connecticut has a rich history of birding. One of America’s first formal birdwatching groups began in New Haven, and Roger Tory Peterson of the famed Peterson guidebooks is from Old Lyme. The Hartford Parks are exceptional and accessible and home to a wide array of native and migrant birds/wildlife.”

In addition to organizing more than a dozen programs that will be held over the course of four days, Hartford Public Library has compiled a suggested reading list for Hartford Bird Week and has purchased numerous birding guides that will be available for borrowing. Customers can also visit any library location during regular hours to participate in a Connecticut bird scavenger hunt or create a “Vision Bird” art piece.

“Hartford’s birds have a vibrant network of groups and enthusiasts supporting them,” **Palmatier said**. “The park rangers from the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Greater Hartford Area Audubon Society, Conte Urban Partnership/Park River Watershed and the folks from the Connecticut-based Facebook group Anti-Racist Collective of Avid Birders were invaluable resources during the learning and planning for this week. The library is a place where community can come to be curious and find connection, so it makes sense for us to throw open the library doors and connect our customers to our parks and wildlife neighbors.”

The full lineup of events for Hartford Bird Week is as follows. For more information call 860-695-7439 or email [vpalmatier@hplct.org](mailto:vpalmatier@hplct.org).

### **May 31**

#### **Tweet Tweet! Sing Like A Bird**

Albany Library, 10 a.m.

Join Selina at Albany for a bird story time and craft.

#### **Birdémon Arceus! Nature Walk**

Bushnell Park Performance Pavilion, 11 a.m.

Join Victoria and expert New England birder John Green on a nature walk, and hear John's bird sounds.

#### **Birds in the Garden!**

Albany Library and Barbour Library, 3 p.m.

Decorate a potted plant and learn how to attract birds to your home.

#### **Birdémon GO!**

YOUmedia, Downtown Library, 2 p.m.

Join Mr. Marc from YOUmedia for a bird-themed augmented reality scavenger hunt.

### **June 1**

#### **Beautiful Bushnell Birds**

Bushnell Park Playground, 2 p.m.

Join Miss Katherine for birdwatching in Bushnell Park. Can you find New England's blue flamingo, the heron?

#### **Birdémon Snap! Bird Photography and Lunch**

Keney Park Pondhouse, 2 p.m.

Learn how to shoot nature photography with local photography expert Frederica Gray, and enjoy a lunch with librarians. RSVP at 860-695-7439.

#### **Hummingbirds in Hartford**

Barbour Library, 2 p.m.

Join Irene for a poem and craft! Take home a potted plant to attract hummingbirds. RSVP: 860-695-7401.

#### **Birdémon GO!**

Barbour Library, 2 p.m.

Join Mr. Marc from YOUmedia for a bird-themed augmented reality scavenger hunt.

### **June 2**

#### **Blessed Nests**

Albany Library, 3:30 p.m.

Learn about nests from Sydnee Foster from the Roaring Brook Nature Center, and make your own birdhouse for Albany's neighborhood nest!

### **June 3**

#### **Tweet Tweet! Sing Like A Bird**

Albany Library, 10 a.m.

Join Selina at Albany for a bird story time and craft.

#### **Baby Birds at the Library**

Downtown Library, 3rd Floor, 11 a.m.

Tweet tweet baby birds! Join Miss Lina for a baby bird story time and craft.

#### **Fowl Play: Pope Park Scavenger Hunt**

Putnam Street Playground at Pope Park North, 11 a.m.

Join Miss Nancy and community nature leaders for a bilingual (Spanish) nature walk and native Connecticut bird scavenger hunt.

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### **About Hartford Public Library**

With roots dating to 1774, Hartford Public Library remains at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st century. With seven locations throughout the city, the library provides education, intellectual enrichment and cultural development for thousands of children, youth and adults every year. Hartford Public Library has also gained local and national recognition for its wide range of new initiatives and partnerships designed to meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic city and region, including immigration services, employment assistance and youth leadership training. [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org).