

The robin in question that **I** found, but that my brother Frank and his friend Billy got notoriety for in this photo from 1953.

The Daily Item
Port Chester, NY

BYRAM CUB SCOUTS William Proudfoot and Frank Moeller, both eleven, are learning their nature at first hand. Foster parents of a fledgling robin found in the Moeller backyard ten days ago, the two Byram youngsters are feeding the stray a steady diet of worms and strawberries. Now it refuses to leave its plush life with the Byram Cubs. Bill is the son of John Proudfoot, leader of Cub Scout Pack One. Frank is the son of Mrs. Robert C. Moeller, Den Mother. They are close Henry Street neighbors in Byram. —Staff Photo

A Ring-billed Gull at the marina in Byram Park, where I often fished or went out on a small boat into Long Island Sound.



Gulls and a tern rest on a jetty at Byram Beach, where I swam as a child. From left to right, a juvenile Herring Gull, two Ring-bills, and a Common Tern.

On a visit in March 2013, the waters off Greenwich's Tod's Point was home for gulls and Brant.



On that visit I first witnessed gulls dropping clams to break them open on the rocks below.
(See my article on this behavior in the May/June 2016 edition of *The Peregrine*.)

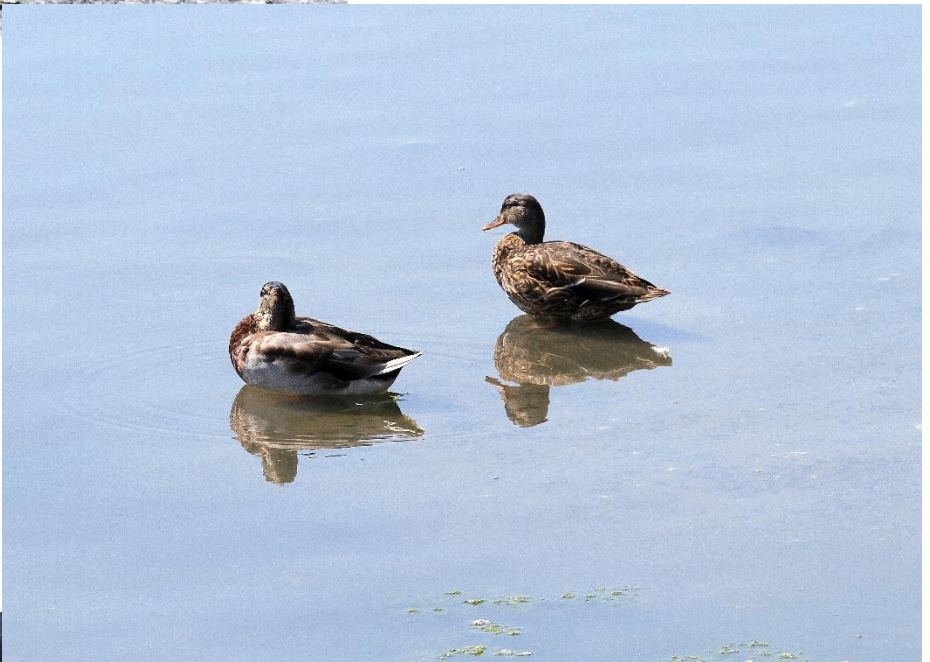
Here are the remnants of a shell broken on the pavement by a gull and picked clean.





Everyday birds are found in Connecticut too. A spunky Song Sparrow posed on a rock for me at Tod's Point.

Mallards are everywhere too. This pair was at Byram Shore. I most likely saw them as a youngster there too, but they didn't register.



A beautiful Mute Swan swam by the seawall of Byram Park at high tide. Yet another 'common' bird I could have seen as a child.

In the afternoon before my reunion, I visited the Kimberlin Nature Education Center, home of Greenwich's Audubon chapter.



At the Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch on the grounds, I watched raptors and more pass overhead. Here a Sharp-shinned Hawk soared by.



Another quick pass was by this American Kestrel.





A juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk filled the sky with its broad wings. Note the “windows” of light near the end of each wing.

I did not expect to see a Common Raven fly over, but its wedge-shaped tail is diagnostic.



The morning after my 2015 reunion, the group met back at Greenwich Point (Tod’s Point), where I found two egrets, a large Great Egret and a smaller Snowy Egret in the shallows.

Both egrets were successful in their fishing.
The Great Egret scooped up a fish which
looked tiny compared to the shorebird.

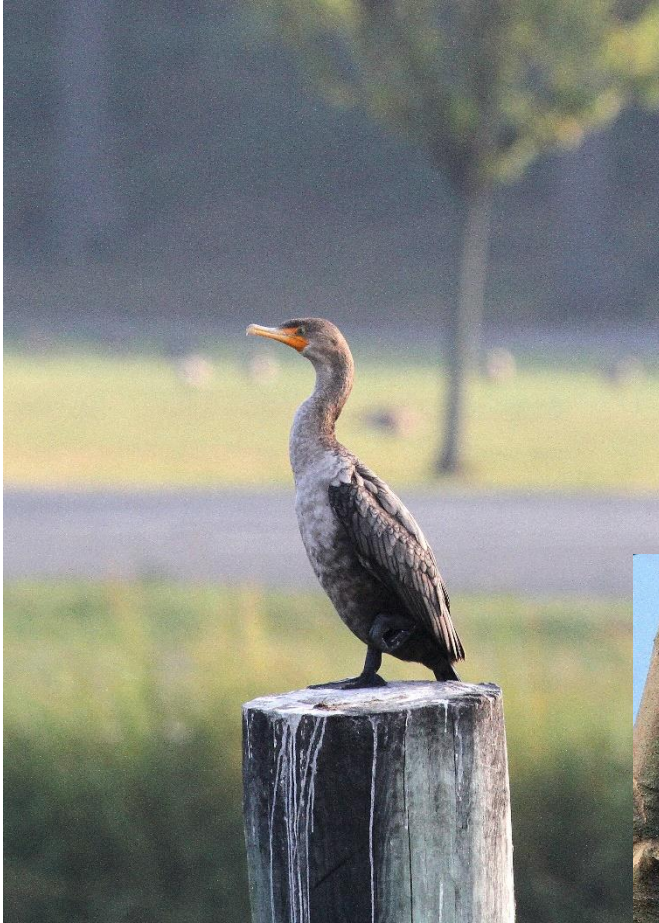


The Snowy Egret found a fish
amongst the seaweed along the shore.



Twice during that trip I visited
Cummings Park on the water in
Stamford. There I caught a Great Black-
backed Gull in flight.





On a post at Cummings Park this juvenile Double-crested Cormorant showed its brown neck and grayish body feathers.



A crow in a tree opened its mouth to reveal it was a Fish Crow with its nasal squawk.



On the beach Laughing Gulls of different ages gathered. Most look like first or second year birds.

Gerli Park at the mouth of the Noroton River in Stamford is on the edge of Holly Pond (a brackish pool), filled with waterbirds: geese, egrets, gulls, and shorebirds.



A pair of Lesser Yellowlegs stride past a Ring-billed Gull busy preening in shallow water of the “pond.”

A family of five Mute Swans take a Sunday afternoon dip in the estuary, proof of swans breeding in Connecticut.

