**Forbush Bird Club 2003 Trip Reports**

The following are highlights of selected 2003 field trips of the Forbush Bird Club, listed in reverse chronological order:

**11/16/03 -- Northboro and Westboro**

Ann Boover led 10 Forbush Bird Club members on a trip in Northboro and Westboro. The calm atmosphere was a relief after several days of extreme winds. It was sunny and in the mid 20's at the start but warmed to the low 40's by the trip's end. There was some cloudiness mid-morning but it gave way to partly sunny skies.

The following 58 species were observed:

> Great Blue Heron 1

> Turkey Vulture 1

> Canada Goose 125

> Mute Swan 4

> Wood Duck 9

> Gadwall 1 D

> American Wigeon 6

> American Black Duck 6

> Mallard ~70

> Green-winged Teal 1 D

> Lesser Scaup 2 (pair)

> Greater Scaup 1 F

> Bufflehead 2 F

> Hooded Merganser 4 (2 pair)

> Northern Harrier 1 F

> Sharp-shinned Hawk 1

> Red-tailed Hawk 2

> American Coot 1

> Killdeer 3

> Ring-billed Gull

> Herring Gull

> Mourning Dove

> Great Horned Owl 1

> Belted Kingfisher 2

> Red-bellied Woodpecker 2 males

> Downy Woodpecker 3

> Hairy Woodpecker 1

> Northern Flicker 1

> Blue Jay

> Rock Pigeon 9

> American Crow

> Black-capped Chickadee

> Tufted Titmouse

> Red-breasted Nuthatch 4

> White-breasted Nuthatch 5

> Brown Creeper 2

> Carolina Wren 3

> Easter Bluebird 3

> American Robin

> Gray Catbird 1

> Northern Mockingbird 3

> European Starling

> Cedar Waxwing 31

> Yellow-rumped Warbler 2

> Pine Warbler 1

> American Tree Sparrow 51

> Chipping Sparrow 1

> Fox Sparrow 1

> Song Sparrow 12

> Swamp Sparrow 2

> White-throated Sparrow 5

> Dark-eyed Junco 43

> Northern Cardinal 3

> Red-winged Blackbird

> House Finch

> American Goldfinch

> House Sparrow

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe).

**11/9/03 -- Gate 35, Quabbin Reservoir**

On the morning after a Lunar Eclipse, which was well seen due to clear skies, Chris Buelow led 13 members of the Forbush Bird Club on 11/09/03 through Gate 35 at the Quabbin Reservoir. The calm day began in the low 20's and warmed to the high 30's.

The following species were observed:

> Common Loon, 10

> Horned Grebe, 2

> Common Merganser, 6

> Bald Eagle, 3

> Ring-billed Gull, 9

> Ruffed Grouse, 1

> Black-bellied Plover, 2

> Pileated Woodpecker, 1

> Downy Woodpecker, 1

> Black-capped Chickadee, 7

> Tufted Titmouse, 1

> Red-breasted Nuthatch, 5

> White-breasted Nuthatch, 3

> Northern Raven, 2

> American Crow, 3

> Blue Jay, 7

> Golden-crowned Kinglet, 5

> American Tree Sparrow, 1

> Dark-eyed Junco, 30

> Snow Bunting, 1

> Red-winged Blackbird, 12

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe).

**11/2/03 -- Forbush Bird Club Trip at Wachusett Reservoir**

On Sunday, November 2, 2003, Francis X. McMenemy led 19 members and friends of the Forbush Bird Club on a trip around Wachusett Reservoir in the towns of Sterling (the Quag, East and West Lake Waushacum), Clinton and Boylston. Much to our dismay, it started to rain at the onset of our trip, at noon, at River Road in West Boylston, but fortunately it stopped within a 1/2 an hour. The rain made it difficult to look for sparrows at Sterling Peat, but the windless conditions made for almost perfect viewing on the reservoir. Temperatures were in the high 50's and the wind picked up only slighly by the end of the trip while at Gate 22. Highlights included 3 Otters at the Quag, 22 Common Loons near Gate 36, Bufflehead at several stops, 3 Grebe species, 3 Red-breasted Mergansers and all 3 scoter species. The club welcomed new member Linda Loyd of Hardwick and her 2 teenaged sons, Sky and Zachary, who were enthusiastic participants.

The following 42 species were observed:

Common Loon 29

Pied-billed Grebe 1

Horned Grebe 10

Red-necked Grebe 1

Double-crested Cormorant 4

Great Blue Heron 1

Canada Goose

American Black Duck 206

Mallard

Green-winged Teal 3

Ring-necked Duck 93

Greater Scaup 42

Surf Scoter 2

White-winged Scoter 1

Black Scoter 2

Bufflehead 29

Hooded Merganser 11

Common Merganser 10

Red-breasted Merganser 3

Sharp-shinned Hawk 1

Red-tailed Hawk 1

Ring-billed Gull

Herring Gull

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Belted Kingfisher 1

Downy Woodpecker 1

Hairy Woodpecker 1

Blue Jay

American Crow

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse 1

White-breasted Nuthatch 2

American Robin 2

European Starling

American Tree Sparrow 3

Chipping Sparrow 1

Field Sparrow 1

Swamp Sparrow 1

White-throated Sparrow 2

Dark-eyed Junco 12

American Goldfinch 1

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe).

**10/26/03 -- Forbush Bird Club Trip, Brookfields and Charlton**

Rodney Jenkins led 20 members of the Forbush Bird Club on a trip Sunday, October 26, 2003. The weather was drizzly initially but the rain soon stopped. The winds were from the south and the temperatures were in the mid 50's to the low 60's. It rained again at 11:30 a.m. causing an early end to the trip. Among the following 44 species that were enjoyed were 26 Ruddy Ducks and 19 Snow Geese at Orlando's Farm in Charlton, 6 American Coot at Lake Quaboag, a drake Gadwall and 2 Northern Pintail at Slab City:

Great Blue Heron 2

Snow Geese 19 (9 A, 10 Young)

Canada Goose 35

Gadwall 1 D

American Wigeon 4

American Black Duck 25

Mallard 325

Northern Pintail 2

Green-winged Teal 2

Bufflehead 3 F

Ruddy Duck 26

Bald Eagle 2

Northern Harrier 1

Sharp-shinned Hawk 1

Cooper's Hawk 1

American Coot 6

Killdeer 2

Ring-billed Gull 125

Herring Gull 2

Great Black-backed Gull 1

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Downy Woodpecker 2

Eastern Phoebe 1

Blue Jay 1

American Crow

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

White-breasted Nuthatch

American Robin 100 +

Gray Catbird 1

European Starling

American Pipit 10

Cedar Waxwing 50

Savannah Sparrow 6

Song Sparrow 10

Swamp Sparrow 3

White-throated Sparrow 15

White-crowned Sparrow 3

Northern Cardinal 6

Red-winged Blackbird 30

Common Grackle 300

Purple Finch 2

House Sparrow 10

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe).

**10/5/03 -- FBC Trip Winnimusset Meadows/New Braintree**

Rodney Jenkins led 6 members of the Forbush Bird Club on a trip to New Braintree on 10/05/03. The day started out foggy then started to clear with high and thin clouds to clear and sunny and enede with heavy dark clouds often blocking the sun and cold northerly breezes. The temperatures ranged from the mid 30's to the high 40's.

The following were observed:

Pied-billed Grebe 2

Great Blue Heron 3

Turkey Vulture 10

Canada Goose

Wood Duck 3

Mallard

Northern Harrier 1

Sharp-shinned Hawk 1

Cooper's Hawk 1

Red-tailed Hawk 2

Peregrine Falcon 1

SORA 1

Killdeer 4

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Belted Kingfisher 2

Downy woodpecker 2

Northern Flicker 30

Eastern Phoebe 6

Blue-headed Vireo 1

Blue Jay

American Crow

Black-capped Chickadee

White-breasted Nuthatch

American Robin

Gray Catbird 6

European Starling

Cedar Waxwing

Nashville Warbler 1

Yellow-rumped Warbler 6

Black-throated Green Warbler 1

Blackpoll Warbler 1

Common Yellowthroat 3

Scarlet Tanager 1

Chipping Sparrow 92

Field Sparrow 1

Savannah Sparrow 125

Song Sparrow 25

Lincoln's Sparrow 6

Swamp Sparrow 60

White-throated Sparrow 12

White-crowned Sparrow 3

Dark-eyed Junco 1

Northern Cardinal 1

Indigo Bunting 1

Bobolink 1

Purple Finch 2

House Sparrow

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe).

**9/7/03 -- FBC Trip Bolton Flats**

Eric Salmela led 9 members of the Fobush Bird Club on a trip to Bolton Flats on 09/07/03.

The Following were observed:

Great Blue Heron

American Bittern

Mallard

Wood Duck

Turkey Vulture

Broad-winged Hawk

Northern Harrier

Osprey

American Kestrel

Killdeer

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Northern Flicker

Downy woodpecker

Great Crested Flycatcher

Barn Swallow

Blue Jay

American Crow

Black-capped Chickadee

White-breasted Nuthatch

Gray Catbird

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

American Robin

Cedar Waxwing

Red-eyed Vireo

Black-throated Green Warbler

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Blackpoll Warbler

Common Yellowthroat

American Redstart

Bobolink

Red-winged Blackbird

Baltimore Oriole

Northern Cardinal

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Indigo Bunting

Swamp Sparrow

Song Sparrow

American Goldfinch

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe).

**8/30/03 -- Forbush Bird Club Trip 08/30/03 at Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary**

The Forbush Bird Club held a trip at Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary on Saturday August 30, 2003. It was led by Joan Zumpfe with Francis McMenemy and Peg Knowlton assisting the 15 members and guests attending.The weather was humid and overcast with temperatures in the low 70's. Highlights were the Monarch and Common Wood Nymph Butterflies, the many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds feeding and flying in several locations and the cookies and drinks provided by Peg Knowlton outside her home.

The following bird species were observed:

Great Blue Heron at least 18

Green Heron 2

Wood Duck 21

Mourning Dove 5

Chimney Swift 1

Ruby-throated Hummingbird 8

Belted Kingfisher 3

Downy Woodpecker 3

Northern Flicker 1

Eastern Phoebe 15

Eastern Kingbird 2

Red-eyed Vireo 2

Blue Jay

American Crow 5

Tree Swallow 10

Barn Swallow 12

Black-capped Chickadee 2

White-breasted Nuthatch 2

Gray Catbird 3

European Starling

Cedar Waxwing 5

American Redstart 1 F

Common Yellowthroat 3

Scarlet Tanager 1 F

Chipping Sparrow 24

Song Sparrow 4

Rose-breasted Grosbeak 3 F

Red-winged Blackbird 1

Common Grackle 1

House Finch 1

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe).

**8/9/03 -- Forbush Bird Club Trip "Birds and Butterflies"**

Delores Price led 7 members of the Forbush Bird Club and Massachusetts Butterfly Club on a "Birds and Butterflies" walk in Leicester behind the Worcester Airport and at the former Leicester landfill. In spite of hot, humid and hazy weather with overcast skies, butterflies were abundant.

The following 28 Bird and 22 Butterfly species were observed:

Great Blue Heron 1

Canada Goose 5

Turkey Vulture 1

Broad-winged Hawk 1

Wild Turkey 12

Mourning Dove

Chimney Swift 3

Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1 perched female

Eastern Phoebe 1

Eastern Kingbird 3

Tree Swallow 1

Barn Swallow 13

Northern Rough-winged Swallow 3

Blue Jay 2

American Crow 8

American Robin

Gray Catbird 4

Cedar Waxwing 2

European Starling ~ 350

Northern Cardinal 1

Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1 F

Eastern Towhee 4

Savannah Sparrow 1

Song Sparrow 2

Red-winged Blackbird

Eastern Meadowlark 6

Baltimore Oriole 1

American Goldfinch

Black Swallowtail 4

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 4

Spicebush Swallowtail 3

Cabbage White 16

Clouded Sulphur 6

Eastern Tailed Blue 12

Great Spangled Fritillary 1 on Thistle

Pearl Crescent 82

Question Mark 1

American Lady 1

Red-spotted Purple 1

Viceroy 3

Common Ringlet 7

Common Wood Nymph 66

Monarch 1

Silver-spotted Skipper 15

Wild Indigo Duskywing 2

Least Skipper 23

Northern Broken dash 1

Little Glassywing Skipper 1

Delaware Skipper 1

Dun Skipper 7

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe).

**7/31/03 -- Forbush Bird Club Trip to Salisbury Pond at Institute Park**

Bob Aiello led 7 members of the Forbush Bird Club on a walk to look for herons. The weather was perfect with clear skies, calm air and temperatures in the high 70's.

The following 24 bird species were enjoyed as well as a bat that flew low over us several times:

Great Blue Heron 1

Green Heron 3 (much interaction/calling among them, probably a family)

Black-crowned Night Heron 3 ( 1 A ) ( the other 2 flew over us as we were leaving in the dark, 1 of which was calling, age wasn't discerned, but most likekly a hatching year bird)

Canada Goose 5

American Black Duck 7

Mallard ~ 175

Killdeer 1

Ring-billed Gull 1

Rock Dove

Mourning Dove

Chimney Swift 1

Eastern Kingbird 6

Barn Swallow 3

American Robin

Gray Catbird 2

Northern Mockingbird 1

European Starling

Yellow Warbler 3

Chipping Sparrow

Song Sparrow

Red-winged Blackbird

Common Grackle

Brown-headed Cowbird

American Goldfinch

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe).

**6/29/03 -- Wachusett Reservoir**

Francis X. McMenemy led 11 members of the Forbush Bird Club on a trip to Wachusett Reservoir on June 29, 2003. Temperatures ranged from 62 to 82, with a quick shower midway. The initial high humidity and the early cloudiness decreased by the end of the trip. A walk through Gate 22 provided excellent viewing of the adult Common Loon on the South Bay (route 140) nesting raft. July 7th is the approximate hatching date. A walk through gate 35 left us concerned about the pair that had been nesting at Crescent Island. No loon was seen near the island but a pair was seen near gate 36 along route 110, hopefully not the nesting pair. Recent rains and the addition of water into the reservoir from the Quinopoxet Reservoir may have washed out the nest.

The following 58 bird species were observed:

Common Loon 3

Double-crested Cormorant 3

Great Blue Heron 1

Mallard 1

Red-tailed Hawk 1

Spotted Sandpiper 2

Ring-billed Gull 5

Herring Gull 1

Rock Dove

Mourning Dove 5

Chimney Swift 1

Belted Kingfisher 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker 1

Northern Flicker 1

Eastern Wood Pewee 10

Eastern Phoebe 1

Great Crested Flycatcher 2

Eastern Kingbird 3

Warbling Vireo 1

Red-eyed Vireo 3

Blue Jay 5

American Crow 7

Northern Rough-winged Swallow 2

Black-capped Chickadee 17

Tufted Titmouse 5

White-breasted Nuthatch 2

Brown Creeper 1

House Wren 1

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 4

Hermit Thrush 1

Wood Thrush 2

American Robin 9

Gray Catbird 2

European Starling

Cedar Waxwing 3

Blue-winged Warbler 2

Yellow Warbler 3

Chestnut-sided Warbler 3

Black-throated Green Warbler 1

Pine Warbler 7

Prairie Warbler 2

Black-and-white Warbler 1

American Redstart 3

Ovenbird 4

Common Yellowthroat 6

Scarlet Tanager 3

Eastern Towhee 4

Chipping Sparrow 8

Song Sparrow 9

Northern Cardinal 1

Rose-breasted Grosbeak 2

Red-winged Blackbird 4

Common Grackle 3

Brown-headed Cowbird 2

Baltimore Oriole 3

House Finch 6

American Goldfinch 11

House Sparrow 3

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe).

**5/31/03 -- Forbush Bird Club Trip, Quabbin Reservoir Gate 37**

Rodney Jenkins led 14 members of the Forbush Bird Club on a trip at Quabbin Reservoir that started from gate 37 after meeting in Petersham Center. The major highlight was the sighting of a Bull Moose. Additional highlights were Porcupine, Osprey and Bald Eagles. The weather was sunny, cool and calm in the mid 60's.

The following 65 bird species were observed:

Common Loon 4

Great Blue Heron 6

Canada Goose were seen with young

Wood Duck 2

Osprey 1

Bald Eagle 3

Red-shouldered Hawk 1

Wild Turkey 1 hen (West Street)

Spotted Sandpiper 1

Mourning Dove

Downy Woodpecker 1

Pileated Woodpecker 1

Eastern Wood-Pewee 6

Alder Flycatcher 1

Least Flycatcher 6

Eastern Phoebe 1

Great Crested Flycatcher 4

Eastern Kingbird

Blue-headed Vireo 1

Yellow-throated Vireo 1

Red-eyed Vireo 30

Blue Jay

American Crow

Tree Swallow

Northern Rough-winged Swallow 1

Barn Swallow 1

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse1

White-breasted Nuthatch 1

Brown Creeper 3

House Wren 1

Golden-crowned Kinglet 1

Veery 20

Hermit Thrush 1

Wood Thrush 1

American Robin

Gray Catbird

Northern Mockingbird

Cedar Waxwing

Yellow Warbler

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Black-throated Blue Warbler 6

Yellow-rumped Warbler 3

Balck-throated Green Warbler 6

Blackburnian Warbler 4

Pine Warbler 4

Prairie Warbler 1

Black-and-white Warbler

Ameriacn Redstart

Ovenbird 30

Common Yellowthroat Warbler

Scarlet Tanager 6

Eastern Towhee 10

Chipping Sparrow

Song Sparrow

Swamp Sparrow 1

Northern Cardinal

Rose-breasted Grosbeak 3

Red-winged Blackbird

Common Grackle

Brown-headed Cowbird

Purple Finch 2

House Finch

American Golfinch

House Sparrow

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe).

**5/18/03 -- Forbush Bird Club Trip Westminster, Princeton & Gardner**

On May 18, 2003, 14 members of the Forbush Bird Club were led by Francis X. McMenemy on a perfect weather day that started at 36 degrees but felt much warmer due to clear blue skies and no wind. The temperature reached 70 degrees by the trip's end. Birding spots visited included the towns of Gardner (High Ridge), Princeton and Westminster (Redemption Rock and Wachusett Mountain). Highlights included Pied-billed Grebes calling and seen, American Bittern and many Warbler species.

The following 64 species were observed:

Pied-billed Grebe 2

American Bittern 1

Great Blue Heron 1

Turkey Vulture 9

Canada Goose 2

Mallard 3

Bald Eagle 1

Broad-winged Hawk

Killdeer 3

Mourning Dove 2

Yellow-bellied Sapsuker 1

Downy Woodpecker 1

Hairy Woodpecker 1

Northern Flicker 1

Pileated Woodpecker 1

Least Flycatcher 1

Eastern Phoebe 2 (nesting at Redemption Rock site)

Great Crested Flycatcher 3

Blue-headed Vireo 3

Warbling Vireo 1

Red-eyed Vireo 7

Blue Jay 3

American Crow 3

Tree Swallow 3

Bank Swallow 2

Barn Swallow 6

Black-capped Chickadee 9

Tufted Titmouse 5

Red-breasted Nuthatch 1

White-breasted Nuthatch 3

Brown Creeper 1

Winter Wren 2

Eastern Bluebird 1

Veery 1

Wood Thrush 2

American Robin 8

Gray Catbird 6

Nashville Warbler 1

Northern Parula Warbler 2

Yellow Warbler 3

Chestnut-sided Warbler 3

Black-throated Blue Warbler 4

Yellow-rumped Warbler 10

Black-throated Green Warbler 8

Blackburnian Warbler 1

Pine Warbler

Black-and-white Warbler 7

American Redstart 7

Ovenbird 13

Northern Waterthrush 1

Common Yellowthroat 6

Scarlet Tanager 7

Eastern Towhee 4

Chipping Sparrow 10

Song Sparrow 2

Dark-eyed Junco 2

Rose-breasted Grosbeak 4

Indigo Bunting 1

Red-winged Blackbird

Common Grackle 1

Brown-headed Cowbird 1

Baltimore Oriole 3

American Goldfinch 9

House Sparrow 3

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe).

**5/17/03 -- Sterling Peat , Sterling**

On May 17, 2003, 7 members of the Forbush Bird Club were led on a trip to Sterling Peat by former club president Bob Ricci. The weather was damp and in the low 40's at the start but warmed up to the mid 50's with sunshine.

These 70 species were found:

Double-crested Cormorant

Great Blue Heron

Green Heron

Canada Goose

Mallard

Turkey Vulture

Red-tailed Hawk

Killdeer

Solitary Sandpiper

Least Sandpiper

Ring-billed Gull

Rock Dove

Mourning Dove

Chimney Swift

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Belted Kingfisher

Hairy Woodpecker

northern Flicker

Pileated Woodpecker

Eastern Phoebe

Great Crested Flycatcher

Eastern Kingbird

Tree Swallow

Bank Swallow

Barn Swallow

Blue Jay

American Crow

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

Red-breasted Nuthatch

White-breasted Nuthatch

Brown Creeper

House Wren

Eastern Bluebird

Veery

Wood Thrush

American Robin

Gray Catbird

Northern Mockingbird

Cedar Waxwing

European Starling

Warbling Vireo

Red-eyed Vireo

Nashville Warbler

Northern Parula Warbler

Yellow Warbler

Magnolia Warbler

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Black-throated Green Warbler

Pine Warbler

Prairie Warbler

Black-and-white Warbler

American Redstart

Ovenbird

Louisiana Waterthrush

Common Yellowthroat

Northern Cardinal

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Eastern Towhee

Chipping Sparrow

Field Sparrow

Savannah Sparrow

Song Sparrow

Bobolink

Red-winged Blackbird

Common Grackle

Brown-headed Cowbird

Northern Oriole

House Finch

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe).

**5/10/03 -- Forbush Bird Club Trip Buck Hill, Spencer**

On May 10, 2003, 14 members of the Forbush Bird Club were led by Susan Sachs on a birding trip through Buck Hill Wildlife Management Area in Spencer. Temperatures started out cool but warmed up gradually by the clear blue skies and slight breezes. Highlights were Yellow-throated Vireo; Nashville and Northern Parula Warblers; Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes; Baltimore Orioles. These wildflower species were also enjoyed: Marsh Marigold, Dwarf Gentian, Purple Trillium, Wild Oats, Partridge Berry, Checkerberry, Wood Anemone, and Gold Thread.

The following 50 bird species were observed:

Canada Goose 2

Turkey Vulture 4

Red-tailed Hawk 1

Spotted Sandpiper 1

Ruffed Grouse 1

Mourning Dove 4

Red-bellied Woodpecker 2

Downy Woodpecker 1

Northern Flicker 2

Least Flycatcher 6

Eastern Phoebe 1

Eastern Kingbird 1

Tree Swallow 12

Blue Jay 4

American Crow 1

Black-capped Chickadee 10

Tufted Titmouse 8

White-breasted Nuthatch 3

Brown Creeper 3

Veery 1

American Robin 8

Gray Catbird 2

Blue-headed Vireo 3

Yellow-throated Vireo 1

Warbling Vireo 7

Nashville Warbler 1

Northern Parula Warbler 1

Yellow Warbler 4

Chestnut-sided Warbler 2

Yellow-rumped Warbler 10

Black-throated Green Warbler 8

Pine Warbler 3

Black-and-white Warbler 8

Ovenbird 23

Northern Waterthrush 1

Louisiana Waterthrush 2

Common Yellowthroat 1

Northern Cardinal 1

Rose-breasted Grosbeak 2

Eastern Towhee 1

Chipping Sparrow 3

Savannah Sparrow 1

Song Sparrow 2

White-throated Sparrow 2

Red-winged Blackbird 5

Common Gracle 3

Brown-headed Cowbird 4

Baltimore Oriole 4

Purple Finch 1

American Goldfinch 7

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe).

**4/27/03 -- Forbush Bird Club Trip : Shrewsbury and Grafton**

On April 27, 2003, 6 members of the Forbush Bird Club were led by Mike Bellows on a birding trip in Shrewsbury and Grafton. It was in the low 40's with a fine mist and 10 mph NW winds at the start. It gradually warmed to the mid 50's with clearing skies and calmer breezes.

Highlights were: (1) a singing Brown Thrasher at Rotary Park; (2) fantastic looks at a female Red-bellied Woodpecker (showing a yellow throat) at Mike's home, where his wife Nancy treated us to home-made pastries: (3) walking along the power lines at Pleasant Street in Grafton to view 2 Great Horned Owl owlets sitting in their nest on a tower less than a mile from the road (overlooking Fisherville Pond). One parent was also seen in the nest when we looked from near the road. The owlets appear to be close to fledging.

The following is the trip list (sightings were in Shrewsbury unless otherwise noted):

Great Blue Heron 1

Turkey Vulture 3

Canada Goose 4 ( 2 on nests)

Mallard

Red-tailed Hawk 4 (2 A, 2 Y seen on nest in Grafton)

Ring-billed Gull 2

Rock Dove

Mourning Dove

GREAT HORNED OWL 3 (1 A, 2 Young on nest in Grafton)

Belted Kingfisher 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker 1 (F)

Downy Woodpecker 4 ( digging holes in trees)

Northern Flicker 8

Eastern Phoebe 2

Blue Jay

American Crow

Tree Swallow ~ 20

Northern Rough-winged Swallow 2

Barn Swallow 1

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse (calling everywhere)

White-breasted Nuthatch 3

Carolina Wren 1

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1

Eastern Bluebird 2 (pair)

American Robin ~ 40 in Dean Park

Northern Mockingbird 2

Brown Thrasher 1

European Starling

Pine Warbler 2

Chipping Sparrow 20

Field Sparrow 8 (Grafton Power Lines)

Song Sparrow

Northern Cardinal 6

Red-winged Blackbird

Common Grackle

Brown-headed Cowbird 2

House Finch

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow

Total species is 40

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe).

**4/6/03 -- Forbush Bird Club Trip Bolton Flats/Delaney**

The Forbush Bird Club held a trip to Bolton Flats, Oxbow and Delaney Wildlife Management Areas. The weather was sunny but cold, from the mid 20's to the low 30's and rather windy (10-15 mph). Fran McMenemy was trip leader for the 8 members attending.

The following species were observed:

Great Blue Heron 15 (12 on nests at Delaney)

Turkey Vulture 2

Canada Goose approximately 300 at Bolton Flats

Wood Duck 13

American Wigeon at least 5 (viewing through trees)

American Black Duck

Mallard

NORTHERN SHOVELER 2 drakes in breeding plumage on

 south side of rte. 117

Green-winged Teal 24 + approximately 100 seen flying

Ring-necked Duck 73

Common Goldeneye 4

Hooded Merganser 8

Sharp-shinned Hawk 1

Red-tailed Hawk 4

American Kestrel 1

Killdeer 10

Ring-billed Gull

GREAT HORNED OWL 1 in a nest in a White Pine above the

 main cluster of Heron Nests

Rock dove

Mourning Dove

Downy Woodpecker 1

Northern Flicker 2

Eastern Phoebe 1

Blue Jay

American Crow

Tree Swallow 6

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

White-breasted Nuthatch 2

Eastern Bluebird 3

American Robin

European starling

American Tree Sparrow 2

Song Sparrow 6

Dark-eyed Junco 3

Northern cardinal 1

Red-winged Blackbird

Common Grackle

Brown-headed Cowbird 8

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe).

**3/29/03 -- Forbush Bird Club Trip Lake Quaboag and Brookfields**

A Forbush Bird Club Trip was held on 03/29/03 in the Brookfields on a cloudy day in the mid 50's with occasional drizzle and fog over the ice on Lake Quaboag. Rodney Jenkins was the trip leader for 17 members who were rewarded with some spectacular views of a pair of Bald Eagles. The eagles were first seen sitting near the nest they've been working on for 2 years. Then they flew to the edge of the ice and worked on a fairly large fish that a gull had been pecking at. Two crows showed up and sat close to the eagles affording good size comparisons. The eagles again provided magnificent views as they flew across the lake. The second main highlight of the trip was being hosted to a hot lunch of chowder and soup by Will and Ann Early, club members from West Brookfield who live on Lake Wickaboag.

The following species were observed:

Great Blue Heron 3

Turkey Vulture 5

Canada Goose

Mute Swan 1

Wood Duck 17

American Black Duck 12

Mallard

Green-winged Teal 3

Ring-necked Duck 126

Bufflehead 6

Common Goldeneye 1 f

Hooded Merganser 14

Common Merganser 26

Bald Eagle 2 adults

Sharp-shinned Hawk 1

Red-tailed Hawk 2

American Kestrel 1

Wilson's Snipe 1

Ring-billed Gull

Herring Gull 2

Great Black-backed Gull 1

Rock Dove

Mourning Dove

Belted Kingfisher 2

Red-bellied Woodpecker 1

Downy Woodpecker 3

Northern Flicker 3

Eastern Phoebe 6

Blue Jay

American Crow

Tree Swallow 10

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

White-breasted Nuthatch

Eastern Bluebird 1

American Robin

Northern Mockingbird

European Starling

American Tree Sparrow 3

Song Sparrow

White-throated Sparrow

Dark-eyed Junco

Northern Cardinal

Red-winged Blackbird

Rusty Blackbird 2

Common Grackle

Brown-headed Cowbird

House Finch

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe).

**1/1/03 -- Forbush Bird Club New Year's Day 2003 Trip**

At noon, on New Year's Day, 15 members and guests of the Forbush Bird Club participated in a 3 hour trip led by Joan Zumpfe. Initially, the weather was calm, overcast and in the low 40's. Our stops included Notre Dame Cemetery; downtown Worcester; Lake Quinsigamond viewed from behind Maronis Park and Vinny Testa's Restaurant; Wachusett Reservoir's South Bay;and lastly, gate 26 near the Stone Church in West Boylston. The trip was shortened due to increasingly heavy rains that started before 2 p.m.

The following bird species were observed:

Canada Goose

Wood Duck 1 drake (Lake Quinsig.)

American Black Duck

Mallard (large numbers at Notre Dame & Lake Quinsig.)

Tufted Duck 1 drake

Greater Scaup 47

Common Goldeneye

Hooded Merganser

Red-tailed Hawk 4

MERLIN 1 (in Shrewsbury)

American Coot 4 (Lake Quinsig.)

Ring-billed Gull

Herring Gull

ICELAND GULL 1 (South Bay)

Great Black-backed Gull

Rock Dove

Downy Woodpecker

Blue Jay

American Crow

Black-capped Chickadee

White-breasted Nuthatch

Northern Mockingbird

European Starling

Northern Cardinal

American Tree Sparrow

Song Sparrow

SWAMP SPARROW 1 (Notre Dame)

Dark-eyed Junco

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe).