**Forbush Bird Club 2008 Trip Reports**

The following are highlights of selected 2008 field trips of the Forbush Bird Club, listed in reverse chronological order:

**11/16/08 -- Salisbury & vicinity**

The leader was Paul Meleski, and there were 7 members participating. The day began with a passing shower, temperatures in the upper 40's and light winds. The temperature dropped into the upper 30's and the winds became quite blustery as the skies cleared. Highlights of the 58 species recorded were: Peregrine Falcon, Iceland Gull, Blackpoll Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, Snow Bunting.

Red-throated Loon

Common Loon

Horned Grebe

Northern Gannet

Double-crested Cormorant

Great Blue Heron

Mute Swan

Snow Goose

Canada Goose

Mallard

American Black Duck

Gadwall

Green-winged Teal

American Wigeon

Northern Pintail

Common Eider

Black Scoter

White-winged Scoter

Surf Scoter

Long-tailed Duck

Bufflehead

Red-breasted Merganser

Hooded Merganser

Northern Harrier

Red-tailed Hawk

Peregrine Falcon

Black-bellied Plover

Sanderling

Dunlin

Bonaparte's Gull

Ring-billed Gull

Herring Gull

Iceland Gull

Great Black-backed Gull

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Blue Jay

American Crow

Horned Lark

Black-capped Chickadee

Red-breasted Nuthatch

American Robin

European Starling

American Pipit

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Blackpoll Warbler

American Tree Sparrow

Savannah Sparrow

Song Sparrow

White-throated Sparrow

White-crowned Sparrow

Dark-eyed Junco

Snow Bunting

Northern Cardinal

Red-winged Blackbird

House Finch

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow

 (submitted by Paul Meleski).

**11/9/08 -- Northborough and vicinity including Solomon Pond, Carney Park, Bartlett Pond and Lake Chauncey**

Leader: Laura Lane

Observers: 8

Weather: After several days of rain, trip day dawned cloudy, but showed some promise of clearing. We experience some light drizzle at one stop, but the day cleared. It was sunny, but cool with light winds that increased at the end of the morning.

Species: 41

Bird List:

Canada Goose

Mute Swan

Wood Duck 3

Mallard

Green-winged Teal 3

Hooded Merganser 4

Common Loon 1

Pied-billed Grebe 1

Horned Grebe 3

Great Blue Heron 3

Turkey Vulture 1

Red-tailed Hawk 4

Merlin 1

Ring-billed Gull

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Downy Woodpecker

Blue Jay

American Crow

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

White-breasted Nuthatch

Brown Creeper 1

Golden-crowned Kinglet 1

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2

Eastern Bluebird 2

American Robin

Grey Catbird 1

Northern Mockingbird 1

European Starling

American Pipit ~20

Cedar Waxwing

American Tree Sparrow 1

Song Sparrow

Swamp Sparrow 1

White-throated Sparrow 2

Dark-eyed Junco

Northern Cardinal

Common Grackle

House Finch

American Goldfinch

 (trip report from Laura Lane)

**11/2/08 -- Gate 35, Quabbin Reservoir**

Six Members of the Forbush Bird Club attended the 1.5 mile Gate 35 walk into Quabbin Reservoir. Highlights included nice views of at least 4 Bald Eagles, Red-shouldered Hawk, Horned Grebes, Common Loons, Snow Bunting and Pine Siskins. One member arrived early and had a very nice look at a Bull Moose not far from the starting point of the trip.

Complete trip list:

American Black Duck 2

Bufflehead 14

Common Merganser 9

Common Loon 11

Horned Grebe 6

Red-necked Grebe 1

Bald Eagle 4

Red-shouldered Hawk 1

Red-tailed Hawk 4

Ring-billed Gull 15

Downy Woodpecker 2

Hairy Woodpecker 2

Pileated Woodpecker 2

Blue-headed Vireo 1

Blue Jay 13

American Crow 210

Common Raven 4

Black-capped Chickadee 18

Tufted Titmouse 1

Red-breasted Nuthatch 1

White-breasted Nuthatch 2

Winter Wren 1

Golden-crowned Kinglet 8

Eastern Bluebird 1

Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored) 8

Snow Bunting 34

Northern Cardinal 2

Pine Siskin 20

American Goldfinch 5

 (trip report from Tom Pirro)

**10/26/08 -- Wachusett Reservoir and Vicinity**

An afternoon Forbush Bird Club trip on October 26th was attended by 16 members of the FBC and one guest from England. The weather was unusually warm and calm for late October. Thirty-nine species were seen.

The trip list included:

Canada Goose 25

American Black Duck 1

Mallard 2

Greater Scaup 29

Black Scoter 3 (female)

Hooded Merganser 2

Common Merganser 70

Common Loon 10

Horned Grebe 5

Double-crested Cormorant 20

Great Blue Heron 1

Osprey 1

Cooper's Hawk 1

Red-tailed Hawk 2

Ring-billed Gull 30

Herring Gull 2

Mourning Dove 2

Belted Kingfisher 1

Downy Woodpecker 1

Blue Jay 6

American Crow 10

Black-capped Chickadee 8

Tufted Titmouse 1

White-breasted Nuthatch 1

Brown Creeper 1

Golden-crowned Kinglet 2

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1

Eastern Bluebird 5

American Robin 2

European Starling 6

American Pipit 4

Cedar Waxwing 2

Yellow-rumped Warbler 5

Chipping Sparrow 20

Song Sparrow 4

White-throated Sparrow 2

Dark-eyed Junco 20

Northern Cardinal 1

American Goldfinch 4

 (trip report from Francis McMenemy)

**10/19/08 - Lake Quaboag and vicinity**

On Sunday morning, October 19th, 12 observers joined trip leader Rodney Jenkins in birding Lake Quaboag and vicinity. It was sunny and cool, temperatures ranged around 45 to 50 degrees. Highlights: Gadwall, Red-breasted Merganser, 14 Ruddy Ducks, Great Cormorant, 15 American Pipits and 40 Pine Siskins.

5 species were recorded.

Canada Goose - 382

Mute Swan - 2

Wood Duck - 2

Gadwall - 3

American Black Duck - 31

Mallard - 656

Green-winged Teal - 1

Ring-necked Duck - 18

Red-breasted Merganser - 1

Ruddy Duck - 14

Great Cormorant - 1

Great Blue Heron - 1

Great Egret - 1

Turkey Vulture - 6

Osprey - 1

Bald Eagle (immature) - 2

Sharp-Shinned Hawk - 5

Coopers Hawk - 2

Red-tailed Hawk - 6

Merlin - 1

Ring-billed Gull

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Belted Kingfisher - 1

Downey Woodpecker - 1

Northern Flicker - 2

Blue Jay

American Crow

Common Raven

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

White-breasted Nuthatch

Carolina Wren

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 2

Eastern Bluebird - 4

Hermit Thrush - 2

American Robin

European Starling

American Pipit - 15

Yellow-rumped Warbler - 1

Blackpoll Warbler - 1

Chipping Sparrow - 1

Savannah Sparrow - 6

Song Sparrow - 15

Swamp Sparrow - 30

White-throated Sparrow - 75

Dark-eyed Junco - 6

Northern Cardinal

Red-winged Blackbird - 200+

Rusty Blackbird - 4

Common Grackle - 6

Brown-headed Cowbird

Purple Finch - 4

Pine Siskin - 40

American Goldfinch

 (trip report from Rodney Jenkins)

**10/5/08 - New Braintree and vicinity**

On Sunday morning, October 5th, 15 observers joined trip leader Rodney Jenkins in birding New Braintree and vicinity. It was cloudy and the temperatures ranged from 30 to 58 degrees. Nice weather, few birds. Highlights: Common Snipe, Northern Flickers, Lincoln's Sparrows, Bobolink and Rusty Blackbird.

50 species were recorded.

Canada Goose - 42

Wood Duck - 12

Mallard - 12

Wild Turkey - 3

Great Blue Heron - 1

Northern Harrier - 2

Sharp-Shinned Hawk - 3

Red-tailed Hawk - 3

American Kestrel - 1

Killdeer - 16

Common Snipe - 4

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove - 50

Belted Kingfisher - 2

Red-bellied Woodpecker - 2

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 1

Downey Woodpecker - 1

Hairy Woodpecker - 1

Northern Flicker - 17

Pileated Woodpecker - 1

Eastern Phoebe - 6

Blue Jay -

American Crow - 70

Common Raven - 1

Black-capped Chickadee

White-breasted Nuthatch

Carolina Wren - 1

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 1

Eastern Bluebird - 3

American Robin

Gray Catbird - 4

European Starling

American Pipit - 1

Cedar Waxwing - 75

Yellow-rumped Warbler - 8

Eastern Towhee - 1

Chipping Sparrow - 50

Savannah Sparrow - 8

Song Sparrow - 24

Lincoln's Sparrow - 2

Swamp Sparrow - 24

White-throated Sparrow - 12

Indigo Bunting - 1

Bobolink - 1

Red-winged Blackbird - 50

Rusty Blackbird - 1

Purple Finch - 3

House Finch - 12

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow

 (trip report from Rodney Jenkins)

**9/7/08 -- Plum Island and Vicinity**

Leader: John Shea

Observers: 8

Weather: A Tropical storm, the remains of hurricane Hanna, came through the night before and dropped 5 inches of rain in Worcester. It was very windy on the island but the sun was out so it wasn't too bad.

Species: 50

Canada Goose

Gadwall

American Wigeon

American Black Duck

Mallard

Blue-winged Teal

Northern Pintail

Green-winged Teal

Double-crested Cormorant

Great Blue Heron

Great Egret

Snowy Egret

Turkey Vulture

Osprey

Northern Harrier

Peregrine Falcon

American Golden-Plover

Semipalmated Plover

Spotted Sandpiper

Greater Yellowlegs

Lesser Yellowlegs

Whimbrel

Red Knot

Sanderling

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Least Sandpiper

White-rumped Sandpiper

Laughing Gull

Ring-billed Gull

Herring Gull

Greater Black-backed Gull

Common Tern

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Downy Woodpecker

Blue Jay

American Crow

Tree Swallow

Barn Swallow

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

American Robin

Gray Catbird

Northern Mockingbird

Brown Thrasher

European Starling

Cedar Waxwing

Northern Cardinal

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow

 (trip report from John Shea)

**9/6/08 - Wachusett Meadow Walk, Princeton**

The Forbush Bird Club planned on holding a trip on Saturday, September 6, 2008 at the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary in Princeton, MA. The weather had been rainy during the early morning hours and thunder was even heard after 6 a.m. with continued possible showers being forecast. Members who usually attend this trip chose to save the expensive $3.50 per gallon cost of gas and forgo the possibility of getting rained on or wet while walking under wet trees on wet trails. One member, our 1st Vice President, diligently watched the radar on TV and the internet and observed that the stormy weather was clearing in the sanctuary area. He took a chance and ventured there. He was rewarded with no rain, trails that were not that wet and the sighting of a Northern Goshawk, a Solitary Sandpiper, a Yellow-throated Vireo and 2 Otters (one was seen eating a frog). Alan Marble provided this report of an enjoyable and productive morning he spent birding solo.

Trip List: 35 species

Double-crested Cormorant

Great Blue Heron

Green Heron

Turkey Vulture

Canada Goose

Wood Duck

Mallard

Hooded Merganser

Northern Goshawk

Solitary Sandpiper

Mourning Dove

Belted Kingfisher

Downy Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

Eastern Phoebe

Yellow-throated Vireo

American Crow

Blue Jay

Black-capped Chickadee

White-breasted Nuthatch

House Wren

Eastern Bluebird

American Robin

Gray Catbird

European Starling

Cedar Waxwing

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Common Yellowthroat

Scarlet Tanager

Song Sparrow

Chipping Sparrow

Common Grackle

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe)

**8/14/08 -- South Beach, Chatham**

Leader: Ed Banks

Weather: Fair, 70's

20 Observers

A co-sponsored birding trip to South Beach in Chatham with the

Forbush and Cape Cod Bird Clubs on Thursday produced the following:

Canada Goose - 8

White-winged Scoter - 1

Double-crested Cormorant - 18

Black-crowned Night-Heron - 1

Northern Harrier - 2

Black-bellied Plover - 1000+

Semipalmated Plover - 1500+

Piping Plover - 8

American Oystercatcher - 15

Spotted Sandpiper - 1

Solitary Sandpiper - 1

Greater Yellowlegs - 100+

Willet -Eastern 100+ , Western - 8

Lesser Yellowlegs - 4

Whimbrel - 1

Hudsonian Godwit - 24

Ruddy Turnstone - 150+

Red Knot - 20+

Sanderling - 900+

Semipalmated Sandpiper - 1000+

Western Sandpiper - 2

Least Sandpiper - 20+

White-rumped Sandpiper - 30+

Dunlin - 20+

Short-billed Dowitcher - 500+

Long-billed Dowitcher - 6

Laughing Gull - 50+

Ring-billed Gull - 40+

Herring Gull - 100+

Great Black-backed Gull - 100+

Least Tern - 20+

Roseate Tern - 10+

Common Tern - 1500+

Mourning Dove - 2

Downey Woodpecker - 2

American Crow - 20

Horned Lark - 6

Tree Swallow - 20+

Barn Swallow - 20+

Blacked-capped Chickadee - 2

Cedar Waxwing - 10+

Chipping Sparrow - 2

Savannah Sparrow - 3

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow - 3

Song Sparrow - 4

Northern Cardinal - 2

Red-winged Blackbird - 10+

Brown-headed Cowbird - 10+

American Goldfinch - 4

House Sparrow - 4

Total Species - 50

(trip report from Ed Banks).

**8/6/08 -- Night Heron Walk at Institute Park**

On the Forbush Bird Club Night Heron Walk led by Bob Aiello J, a group of 11 observers attended a soggy summer evening. Here are the 16 species observed:

Mallard

Great Blue Heron

Green Heron

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Chimney Swift

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Belted Kingfisher

Downy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

Eastern Kingbird

American Robin

Gray Catbird

Song Sparrow

Red-winged Blackbird

American Goldfinch

(trip report from Joan Gallagher).

**7/26/08 -- Birds & Butterflies trip, Worcester Airport**

Dolores Price led 12 participants on a joint Forbush Bird Club / Massachusetts Butterfly Club trip to the fields on the Route 56 overlook of the Worcester Airport. Highlights were an Upland Sandpiper and three American Kestrels at the Worcester Airport; and an Osprey and Indigo Bunting at the Leicester landfill. Species: Butterflies 20, Birds 34.

The following 34 bird species were seen or heard:

Wild Turkey

Turkey Vulture

Osprey

Broad-winged Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk

American Kestrel

Upland Sandpiper

Mourning Dove

Chimney Swift

Eastern Kingbird

Red-eyed Vireo

Blue Jay

American Crow

Tree Swallow

Barn Swallow

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

House Wren

Hermit Thrush

Wood Thrush

American Robin

European Starling

Cedar Waxwing

Common Yellowthroat

Eastern Towhee

Savannah Sparrow

Song Sparrow

Northern Cardinal

Indigo Bunting

Bobolink

Eastern Meadowlark

Common Grackle

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow

 (trip report submitted by Alan Marble)

**7/6/08 -- Wachusett Reservoir, Gate 35 and Clinton Landfill**

Trip leader was Fran McMenemy. There were eleven participants, and 55 species recorded. The weather was Hazy, Hot, and Humid. This yearly trip usually counts on seeing newly hatch Loon chicks. This year the only two attempted nestings by loons were destroyed by the water level of the reservoir, which was raised significantly in June. Therefore there was no chance to see loon chicks this year. Surprisingly, the loon pair at Crescent Island re-nested on the new loon raft that the DCR had provided. We were able to see and hear this pair at the end of our walk-in at Gate 35.

Species seen or heard:

Common Loon

Double-crested Cormorant

Great Blue Heron

Turkey Vulture

Bald Eagle

Red-tailed Hawk

American Kestrel

Wild Turkey

Killdeer

Spotted Sandpiper

Ring-billed Gull

Mourning Dove

Chimney Swift

Red=bellied Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Eastern Phoebe

Eastern Kingbird

Yellow-throated Vireo

Warbling Vireo

Red-eyed Vireo

Blue Jay

American Crow

Tree Swallow

Barn Swallow

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

White-breasted Nuthatch

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Veery

American Robin

Gray Catbird

Brown Thrasher

Cedar Waxwing

Yellow Warbler

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Pine Warbler

Prairie Warbler

Ovenbird

Common Yellowthroat

Scarlet Tanager

Chipping Sparrow

Field Sparrow

Savannah Sparrow

Song Sparrow

Northern Cardinal

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Indigo Bunting

Red-winged Blackbird

Eastern Meadowlark

Common Grackle

Brown-headed Cowbird

Baltimore Oriole

House Finch

American Goldfinch

 (trip report from Fran McMenemy)

**6/7/08 -- South Quabbin Park**

On 6/7/08 I led 7 Forbush Club members on a trip to South Quabbin Park. It was 56 degrees when I left my house and 90 when I got back. At Quabbin it was very foggy. We saw or mostly heard 74 bird species.

Complete list:

Canada Goose

Wild Turkey

Double-crested Cormorant

Great Blue Heron

Green Heron

Turkey Vulture

Bald Eagle

Broad-winged Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk

Killdeer

Solitary Sandpiper

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Chimney Swift

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Belted Kingfisher

Downy Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

Pileated Woodpecker

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Least Flycatcher

Eastern Phoebe

Great Crested Flycatcher

Eastern Kingbird

Yellow -throated Vireo

Blue-headed Vireo

Red-eyed Vireo

Blue Jay

American Crow

Common Raven

Tree Swallow

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Barn Swallow

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

White-breasted Nuthatch

Brown Creeper

House Wren

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Eastern Bluebird

Veery

Wood Thrush

American Robin

Gray Catbird

European Starling

Cedar Waxwing

Yellow Warbler

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Magnolia Warbler

Blue-throated Blue Warbler

Black-throated Green Warbler

Blackburnian Warbler

Pine Warbler

Prairie Warbler

Blackpoll Warbler

Black-and-white Warbler

American Redstart

Ovenbird

Common Yellowthroat

Scarlet Tanager

Eastern Towhee

Chipping Sparrow

Field Sparrow

Song Sparrow

Northern Cardinal

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Indigo Bunting

Common Grackle

Brown-headed Cowbird

Baltimore Oriole

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow

(trip report from John Shea)

**6/1/08 -- Barre Falls/Rutland State Park**

Dick and Peg Knolwton led a trip to Barre Falls Dam and adjacent Rutland State Park. The thirteen participants observed 67 species on a very fine partly cloudy day with light winds and temperatures in the mid sixties. The following were seen or heard:

Canada goose (including a family with 6 goslings just upstream from the dam)

Mallard

Common Merganser (female)

Great Blue Heron

Turkey Vulture

Osprey

Bald Eagle

Broad-winged Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Hairy Woodpecker

Pileated Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

Alder Flycatcher

Willow Flycatcher

Least Flycatcher

Eastern Phoebe

Great Crested Flycatcher

Eastern Kingbird

Yellow-throated Vireo

Blue-headed Vireo

Warbling Vireo

Red-eyed Vireo

Blue Jay

American Crow

Common Raven

Tree Swallow

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Black-capped Chickadee

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Brown Creeper

Eastern Bluebird

Veery

Hermit Thrush

Wood Thrush

American Robin

Gray Catbird

European Starling

Cedar Waxwing

Blue-winged Warbler

Nashville Warbler

Yellow Warbler

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Magnolia Warbler

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Black-throated Green Warbler

Pine Warbler

Prairie Warbler

Black-and-white Warbler

American Redstart

Ovenbird

Northern Waterthrush

Common Yellowthroat

Scarlet Tanager

Eastern Towhee

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Chipping Sparrow

Song Sparrow

Indigo Bunting

Bobolink

Red-winged Blackbird

Common Grackle

Baltimore Oriole

Purple Finch

American Goldfinch.

NOTE: female Pine warbler along Tracy Rd approx. half way between the canoe launch and Brigham Rd. gathering fuzz from the fern stems for nesting material and Common yellowthroat female at intersection of Ruebin Walker and Coldbrook Rds also gathering nesting material. Baltimore oriole nest on Ruebin Walker just before the road takes a sharp right(south).

(trip report from Dick Knowlton).

**5/31/08 -- Oxbow National Refuge**

On Saturday, May 31, Jeffrey Roth led a Forbush trip to Oxbow NWR in Harvard, with 8 participants. At the start of the walk, it was mostly cloudy and 65 degrees F.

Here is a list of 54 species that were seen and heard:

Wood Duck

Mallard

Hooded Merganser

Great Blue Heron

Cooper's Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Chimney Swift

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Willow Flycatcher

Eastern Phoebe

Great Crested Flycatcher

Eastern Kingbird

Yellow-throated Vireo

Warbling Vireo

Red-eyed Vireo

Blue Jay

Tree Swallow

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

White-breasted Nuthatch

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Eastern Bluebird

Veery

Wood Thrush

American Robin

Gray Catbird

Brown Thrasher

Cedar Waxwing

Blue-winged Warbler

Yellow Warbler

Pine Warbler

Black-and-white Warbler

American Redstart

Ovenbird

Common Yellowthroat

Scarlet Tanager

Song Sparrow

Swamp Sparrow

Northern Cardinal

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Bobolink

Red-winged Blackbird

Common Grackle

Brown-headed Cowbird

Baltimore Oriole

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow

The following birds were seen on, visiting, or building a nest:

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Eastern Phoebe

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

American Robin

American Redstart

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Baltimore Oriole

(trip report from Jeffrey Roth)

**5/24/08 -- Millbury Area**

On Saturday, May 24th, 10 observers joined trip leader Alan Marble in birding selected areas in Millbury. The temperatures ranged from 50 to 60 degrees. It was partly sunny and breezy. Highlights included a very close flyby by a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 young Common Ravens in a nest and excellent, close views of a Veery, Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided and Black and White Warblers.

56 species were recorded.

Here is the complete list:

Mallard

Great Blue Heron

Turkey Vulture

Cooper's Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk

Ring-billed Gull

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Chimney Swift

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Belted Kingfisher

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Pileated Woodpecker

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Eastern Phoebe

Great Crested Flycatcher

Eastern Kingbird

Warbling Vireo

Red-eyed Vireo

Blue Jay

American Crow

Common Raven

Tree Swallow

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Barn Swallow

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

Carolina Wren

House Wren

Eastern Bluebird

Veery

Wood Thrush

American Robin

Northern Mockingbird

European Starling

Cedar Waxwing

Blue-winged Warbler

Yellow Warbler

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Prairie Warbler

Black-and-white Warbler

Ovenbird

Common Yellowthroat

Scarlet Tanager

Eastern Towhee

Chipping Sparrow

Field Sparrow

Northern Cardinal

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Red-winged Blackbird

Common Grackle

Brown-headed Cowbird

Baltimore Oriole

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow

(trip report from Alan Marble)

**5/22/08 -- Bolton Flats and Lancaster: Goatsucker and Woodcock Walk**

The Forbush Bird Club held an evening trip which was led by Barton Kamp that was scheduled to start from the paved parking lot off Route 110 in Bolton. Because of a lack of Whip-poor-wills the past two years and the hazardous river crossing conditions, the trip was relocated to the new Wild Life Management Area in Lancaster. The weather was partly cloudy and cool. Highlights were 4 low flying Nighthawks at the parking lot and 2 singing Vesper Sparrows, 4 Whip-poor-wills and 3 Woodcock at the gravel pit.

The following 26 species were seen or heard:

Canada Goose

Wood Duck

Mallard

Great Blue Heron

American Woodcock

Mourning Dove

Common Nighthawk

Whip-poor-will

Downy Woodpecker

Great Crested Flycatcher

Tree Swallow

Black-capped Chickadee

American Robin

Gray Catbird

Brown Thrasher

Yellow Warbler

Prairie Warbler

Common Yellowthroat

Chipping Sparrow

Field Sparrow

Vesper Sparrow

Song Sparrow

Red-winged Blackbird

Common Grackle

Baltimore Oriole

American Goldfinch

(trip report from Barton Kamp)

**5/18/08 -- Buck Hill, Spencer**

Leader: Susan LaBree

Weather: Sunny, cool, little windy

Participants: 10

Species: 60

Mallard 2

Ruffed Grouse 1

Great Blue Heron 1

Broad-winged Hawk 1

Mourning Dove 5

Ruby-throated Hummingbird 2

Belted Kingfisher 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker 2

Downy Woodpecker 3

Hairy Woodpecker 1

Northern Flicker 1

Eastern Wood-Pewee 2

Least Flycatcher 1

Eastern Phoebe 4

Great Crested Flycatcher 2

Eastern Kingbird 2

Yellow-throated Vireo 1

Blue-headed Vireo 3

Warbling Vireo 1

Red-eyed Vireo 8

Blue Jay 5

American Crow 4

Tree Swallow 8

Black-capped Chickadee 12

Tufted Titmouse 4

White-breasted Nuthatch 3

Winter Wren 3

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1

Veery 2

Hermit Thrush 2

Wood Thrush 3

American Robin 6

Gray Catbird 3

European Starling 2

Blue-winged Warbler 4

Yellow Warbler 1

Chestnut-sided Warbler 4

Magnolia Warbler 2

Black-throated Blue Warbler 3

Yellow-rumped Warbler 8

Black-throated Green Warbler 9

Pine Warbler 4

Black-and-White Warbler 1

American Redstart 2

Ovenbird 12

Northern Waterthrush 2

Common Yellowthroat 6

Scarlet Tanager 4

Eastern Towhee 1

Chipping Sparrow 3

Song Sparrow 2

Northern Cardinal 4

Rose-breasted Grosbeak 5

Bobolink Many

Red-winged Blackbird 6

Common Grackle 4

Brown-headed Cowbird 8

Baltimore Oriole 5

American Goldfinch 6

House sparrow 2

(trip report from Susan LaBree)

**5/17/08 -- Mt. Wachusett State Reservation, Princeton**

The Forbush Bird Club held a trip which was led by Francis X. McMenemy on May 17,2008 at Mt. Wachusett State Reservation in Princeton and at High Ridge Wildlife Management Area in Gardner. Due to rainy conditions at the start of the trip only 3 members attended. The light rain and sprinkles ended within an hour from the trip's start and resulted in a beautiful sunny day. There was an occasional strong breeze and temperatures rose from the high 40's to the high 60's. The three of us were rewarded with excellent views of many warblers as well as other highlights.

The following 57 species were observed:

Canada Goose 12 (6 young)

Mallard 1

Common Loon 2 (A pair calling from Wachusett Lake)

Turkey Vulture 4

Broad-winged Hawk 1

Solitary Sandpiper 1

Mourning Dove

Barred Owl 1 calling

Ruby - throated Hummingbird 1

Yellow - bellied Sapsucker 1

Pileated Woodpecker 1

Eastern Phoebe 1

Blue - headed Vireo 4

Red - eyed Vireo 5

Blue Jay

American Crow

Tree Swallow 14

Black - capped Chickadee 12

Tufted Titmouse 2

White - breasted Nuthatch 3

House Wren 1

Winter Wren 1

Veery 2

Wood Thrush 6

American Robin 15

Gray Catbird 2

Northern Parula 4

Yellow Warbler 4

Chestnut - sided Warbler 5

Magnolia Warbler 2

Black - throated Blue Warbler 4

Yellow - rumped Warbler 3

Black - throated Green Warbler 6

Blackburnian Warbler 2

Pine Warbler 2

Black - and - white Warbler 6

American Redstart 6

Ovenbird 15

Northern Waterthrush 2

Common Yellowthroat 5

Canada Warbler 1

Scarlet Tanager 2

Eastern Towhee 3

Chipping Sparrow 5

Song Sparrow 2

Swamp Sparrow 3

White - throated Sparrow 1

Dark - eyed Junco 12

Northern Cardinal 2

Rose - breasted Grosbeak 1

Indigo Bunting 1

Bobolink 1

Red - winged Blackbird 12

Common Grackle 12

Baltimore Oriole 2

American Goldfinch 6

House Sparrow 2

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe fide Joan Gallagher)

**5/11/08 -- Mt Auburn Cemetery**

Trip leader Dan Berard was joined by 16 participants for the Forbush Bird Club Mt Auburn extravaganza. Before the trip, highlights were a Bicknell's Thrush (in the rotary), Cerulean Warbler, and Bay-breasted Warbler (both behind the 'rotary' up on the hill). During the walk, participants were treated to spectacular views of many species including Wilson's Warbler, Orchard Oriole, parulas and Black-throated Blue Warblers everywhere, and several robin nests (a few in odd places). Locations of other noteworthy species are below.

Here is the full list:

Location: Mt. Auburn Cemetery--IBA

Observation date: 5/11/08

Notes: Forbush Bird Club

Number of species: 101

Canada Goose 2

Mallard 4

Common Loon 1

Double-crested Cormorant 1

Great Blue Heron 2

Green Heron 1

Cooper's Hawk 1

Red-tailed Hawk 2

Killdeer 1

Spotted Sandpiper 1

Greater Yellowlegs 1

Ring-billed Gull X

Herring Gull (American); X

Great Black-backed Gull X

Rock Pigeon 1

Mourning Dove X

Chimney Swift 3

Ruby-throated Hummingbird 3

Belted Kingfisher 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker 2

Downy Woodpecker X

Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted); 5

Alder Flycatcher 1

Least Flycatcher 2

Eastern Phoebe 3

Great Crested Flycatcher 3

Eastern Kingbird 1

Yellow-throated Vireo 1

Blue-headed Vireo 5

Warbling Vireo 1

Red-eyed Vireo 1

Blue Jay X

American Crow X

Tree Swallow 2

Northern Rough-winged Swallow 2

Barn Swallow 1

Black-capped Chickadee X

Tufted Titmouse X

Red-breasted Nuthatch 1

White-breasted Nuthatch 2

Brown Creeper 1

Carolina Wren 1

House Wren 2

Golden-crowned Kinglet 1

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1

Veery 2

Bicknell's Thrush 1 (rotary);

Swainson's Thrush 1 (dell);

Hermit Thrush 3

Wood Thrush 2

American Robin X

Gray Catbird X

Northern Mockingbird 1

Brown Thrasher 1

European Starling X

Cedar Waxwing 1

Blue-winged Warbler 1

Tennessee Warbler 2 (dell and 'ridge');

Nashville Warbler 7

Northern Parula 23

Yellow Warbler 2

Chestnut-sided Warbler 3

Magnolia Warbler 25

Cape May Warbler 2 (Harvard Hill + 'cart rd');

Black-throated Blue Warbler 28

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle); 40

Black-throated Green Warbler 4

Blackburnian Warbler 3

Pine Warbler 2

Prairie Warbler 1

Palm Warbler (Yellow); 5

Bay-breasted Warbler 1 (hill behind rotary);

Blackpoll Warbler 3

Cerulean Warbler 1 (hill behind 'rotary');

Black-and-white Warbler 30

American Redstart 8

Ovenbird 10

Northern Waterthrush 1 (Spectacle);

Louisiana Waterthrush 1 (Dell);

Common Yellowthroat 5

Wilson's Warbler 1 (Spectacle);

Canada Warbler 2 ('ridge' and Tower);

Eastern Towhee 1

Chipping Sparrow X

Field Sparrow 1

Song Sparrow X

Lincoln's Sparrow 1 (Dell);

White-throated Sparrow 7

Northern Cardinal X

Indigo Bunting 1 (Harvard Hill);

Bobolink 2

Red-winged Blackbird X

Common Grackle X

Brown-headed Cowbird X

Orchard Oriole 3

Baltimore Oriole 13

Purple Finch 2

House Finch X

American Goldfinch X

House Sparrow X

Butterflies:

Black Swallowtail - 1

Cabbage White - 7

Here is a link to a [gallery of photos](http://brucedegraaf.zenfolio.com/p433332992/) that were taken by Bruce deGraaf on the Mt Auburn trip.

(trip report from Dan Berard).

**5/10/08 -- Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston**

Jim & Kathie Hogan led eight members of the Forbush Bird Club on a bird walk at the Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, Ma. on May 10, 2008. The day was cloudy and damp with a temperature hanging around 45 degrees. The birds were scarce and tough to locate. In all 40 species were sighted.

The Day List

1.. Mallard

2.. Wild Turkey

3.. Common Loon

4.. Great Blue Heron

5.. Turkey Vulture

6.. Accipiter sp

7.. Mourning Dove

8.. Belted Kingfisher

9.. Red-bellied Woodpecker

10.. Downy Woodpecker

11.. Hairy Woodpecker

12.. Red-eyed Vireo

13.. Blue Jay

14.. American Crow

15.. Tree Swallow

16.. Black-capped Chickadee

17.. Tufted Titmouse

18.. White-breasted Nuthatch

19.. Eastern Bluebird

20.. Wood Thrush

21.. American Robin

22.. Gray Catbird

23.. Northern Mockingbird

24.. Brown Thrasher

25.. Pine Warbler

26.. Palm Warbler

27.. Black-and- white Warbler

28.. Common Yellowthroat

29.. Eastern Towhee

30.. American Tree Sparrow

31.. Chipping Sparrow

32.. Savannah Sparrow

33.. Song Sparrow

34.. Northern Cardinal

35.. Red-winged Blackbird

36.. Common Grackle

37.. Brown-headed Cowbird

38.. Purple Finch

39.. American Goldfinch

40.. House Sparrow

(report from Jim Hogan).

**5/4/08 -- East Quabbin "auto tour"**

4 Forbush club members took part in the annual "drive thru" of the gated back roads of East Quabbin on Sunday 5/4. Fortunately the rain subsided just after leaving gate 43 at 0720 making for better than expected weather conditions and fine day of birding. Recent weather conditions had held up some migrants and while the species total was 13 short of last year's total (56 vs. 69), the trip was not without highlights. Highlights included a Barred Owl nest with newly hatched downy white Owlets, peeking out the nest cavity, near Gate 44, great looks at Louisiana Waterthrush inside gate 45, hundreds of swallows (95% Tree) migrating north over the "big water". Pileated Woodpeckers were vocal, we tallied 7 (all identified by call or drumming) at various points between gates 43 and 35 as well as a nice wave of ~150 Yellow-rumped Warblers along the shoreline of the Reservoir. Two pairs of adult Bald Eagles toward the day's end was fitting conclusion to the trip. Once again, we express our gratitude to the DCR for the privilege of allowing us to drive the back roads of Quabbin.

 Species Number reported:

Canada Goose 18

Wood Duck 15

Mallard 4

Hooded Merganser 4

Common Merganser 4

Ruffed Grouse 3

Wild Turkey 4

Common Loon 8

Double-crested Cormorant 4

Great Blue Heron 1

Turkey Vulture 16

Osprey 2

Bald Eagle 4

Red-tailed Hawk 3

Mourning Dove 2

Barred Owl 5

Belted Kingfisher 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker 1

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2

Downy Woodpecker 1

Pileated Woodpecker 7

Eastern Phoebe 8

Blue-headed Vireo 22

Blue Jay 16

American Crow 3

Tree Swallow 500

Northern Rough-winged Swallow 1

Barn Swallow 11

Black-capped Chickadee 17

Tufted Titmouse 2

Red-breasted Nuthatch 2

White-breasted Nuthatch 2

Brown Creeper 4

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2

Veery 1

Hermit Thrush 4

American Robin 28

Yellow Warbler 1

Black-throated Blue Warbler 1

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) 178

Black-throated Green Warbler 10

Blackburnian Warbler 1

Pine Warbler 18

Black-and-white Warbler 4

Ovenbird 2

Louisiana Waterthrush 2

Eastern Towhee 19

Chipping Sparrow 27

Field Sparrow 1

Song Sparrow 2

Swamp Sparrow 1

Red-winged Blackbird 18

Common Grackle 10

Brown-headed Cowbird 7

Purple Finch 11

American Goldfinch 12

(trip report from Tom Pirro).

**5/3/08 Sylvester Street, Worcester Airport**

Trip Leader: Susan LaBree

Observers: 7

Weather: Wet, cloudy, cold 47 degrees at the beginning of trip, 41 degrees

at the end

- tough day!

The following 42 species were observed:

Canada Goose 7

Mallard 3

Common Merganser 10

Wild Turkey 4

Osprey 1

Cooper's Hawk 1

Spotted Sandpiper 1

Mourning Dove 4

Downy Woodpecker 2

Eastern Phoebe 1

Great Crested Flycatcher 1

Blue-headed Vireo 1

Blue Jay 4

American Crow 6

Common Raven 2

Tree Swallow 130

Black-capped Chickadee 8

Tufted Titmouse 3

Red-breasted Nuthatch 1

White-breasted Nuthatch 1

House Wren 1

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1

Veery 2

American Robin 7

European Starling 14

Yellow-rumped Warbler 4

Black-throated Green Warbler 3

Pine Warbler 4

Ovenbird 2

Eastern Towhee 3

Chipping Sparrow 4

Field Sparrow 1

Savannah Sparrow 2

Song Sparrow 3

White-throated Sparrow 2

Northern Cardinal 2

Red-winged Blackbird 6

Eastern Meadowlark 2

Common Grackle 6

Brown-headed Cowbird 12

Purple Finch 2

American Goldfinch 4

(trip report from Susan LaBree)

**4/27/08 -- Oxford and Dudley**

The Forbush Bird Club trip was lead by Paul Meleski, with 11 observers. It was overcast with intermittent light rain, light wind, and temps in the 50's. Highlights were: Spotted Sandpiper, Eastern Kingbird, Common Raven, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Black-and-White Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, and Eastern Towhee. A Mink was also observed making a pair of Wood Duck appear apprehensive.

The following species were recorded:

Canada Goose 7

Wood Duck 4

Mallard 7

Green-winged Teal 2 (pr)

Hooded Merganser 2 (pr) ( dead female hanging headfirst out of

Wood Duck box)

Ruffed Grouse 2

Double-crested Cormorant 1

Great Blue Heron 4

Killdeer 1

Spotted Sandpiper 1

Mourning Dove 4

Belted Kingfisher 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker 2

Downy Woodpecker 3

Northern Flicker 4

Eastern Phoebe 1

Eastern Kingbird 1

Blue Jay 9

American Crow 3

Common Raven 2

Tree Swallow 12

N. Rough-winged Swallow 6

Black-capped Chickadee 6

Tufted Titmouse 8

White-breasted Nuthatch 2

Carolina Wren 2

House Wren 1

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1

Eastern Bluebird 2 (pr)

American Robin 10

Gray Catbird 1

Brown Thrasher 3

European Starling

Yellow-rumped Warbler 24

Pine Warbler 4

Palm Warbler 12

Black-and-White Warbler 3

Northern Waterthrush 2

Eastern Towhee 3

Chipping Sparrow 6

Song Sparrow 8

Swamp Sparrow 1

Northern Cardinal 6

Red-winged Blackbird 8

Common Grackle 14

Brown-headed Cowbird 5

House Finch 2

American Goldfinch 6

House Sparrow

 Total of 49 Species.

(report from Paul Meleski).

**4/11/08 -- Spring evening walk - Mass. Wildlife Headquarters, Westborough**

Trip leader: Laura Lane

Observers: 5

Weather: A few sprinkles, but the heavy rains held off for us as we circled the fields and visited two small ponds. As we gathered we heard the trills of the Pine Warbler in a grove of pines next to the parking lot. The walk ended with the "beent" of the numerous American Woodcocks in the fields.

Also seen was a beaver and muskrat and we heard a chorus of Spring Peepers.

Canada Goose

Ring-necked Duck

Great Blue Heron

American Kestrel

American Woodcock

Mourning Dove

American Robin

Pine Warbler

Song Sparrow

Red-winged Blackbird

Common Grackle

(trip report from Laura Lane).

**4/6/08 -- Bolton Flats/Wachusett Reservoir**

Trip leader: Francis X. McMenemy

Observers: 4

Weather: Cloudy, temps 30’s to low 40’s with a northeast wind

Highlights: Glossy Ibis, Rusty Blackbirds, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs,

Solitary Sandpiper and Eastern Meadowlarks at Bolton Flats. Common Loons

and Common Goldeneyes at Wachusett Reservoir.

Trip list: 36 species

Canada Goose 7

Wood Duck 12

American Wigeon 1

American Black Duck 1

Mallard 38

Northern Pintail 1

Green-winged T 30+

Ring-necked Duck 2

Common Goldeneye 7

Hooded Merganser 3

Common Merganser 5

Common Loon 3

Great Blue Heron 2

Glossy Ibis 9

Killdeer 7

Solitary Sandpiper 1

Greater Yellowlegs 2

Lesser Yellowlegs 1

Wilson’s Snipe 11

Ring-billed Gull 50+

Northern Flicker 1

Blue Jay 5

American Crow 20+

Tree Swallow 1

Black-capped Chickadee 5

White-breasted Nuthatch 1

American Robin 65

European Starling 3

Song Sparrow 12

Northern Cardinal 3

Red-winged Blackbird 27

Eastern Meadowlark 2

Rusty Blackbird 2

Common Grackle 25

Brown-headed Cowbird 5

American Goldfinch 40

(trip report from Alan Marble)

**3/30/08 -- Forbush Bird Club trip: Brookfields**

Trip Leader: Francis X. McMenemy

Observers: 13

Weather: Cool (20's to 30's), clear, and slightly breezy morning.

Highlights: This year's first Eastern Phoebes at East Brookfield River, the large numbers of Common and Hooded Mergansers at Lake Lashaway, the Cedar Waxwings feeding on the ground near Ceramic Pond also in East Brookfield, the large variety of duck species at Slab City and the 3 Bald Eagles at Lake Wickaboag in West Brookfield.

The following 42 species were observed:

Canada Goose 55

Wood Duck 13

Gadwall 3 (2D, 1F)

American Wigeon 2 (pair)

American Black Duck 11

Mallard 110

Green-winged Teal 30

Ring-necked Duck 38

Greater Scaup 2 (Pair)

Bufflehead 1 F

Common Goldeneye 3 D

Hooded Merganser 48

Common Merganser 517

Pied-billed Grebe 2 (Lake Quaboag, Brookfield)

Great Blue Heron 2

Bald Eagle 3 (2 immature about 3 years, 1 almost adult plumage)

Red-tailed Hawk 1

Ring-billed Gull

Herring Gull 1

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Red-bellied Woodpecker 2

Downy Woodpecker 2

Hairy Woodpecker 1

Northern Flicker 1

Eastern Phoebe 2

Blue Jay

American Crow

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

Brown Creeper 1

White-breasted Nuthatch

American Robin 86 (an estimate)

European Starling

Cedar Waxwing 32

Pine Warbler 1

Song Sparrow

Northern Cardinal

Red-winged Blackbird

Common Grackle

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow

(trip report from Joan Zumpfe)