

The Chickadee

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Issued annually chronicling the affairs of the Club, reporting items of interest concerning Worcester County birds, and stimulating a more serious study of birds.

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To promote the study of birds with relation to their distribution,
ecology, food requirements and populations;
and to promote a desire for the conservation of all our natural resources.

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Field Notes: WORCESTER COUNTY BIRDS: 2015

As this year began, the weather by February alternated between report-breaking snow falls and bone-chilling temperatures. Snow was measured in many feet and you didn't know where you were going to put the next shovel-full because it was piling up higher than your head. Roofs collapsed and gutters fell. There hasn't been a more challenging time to bird in central Massachusetts. Snow continued well into March, but normal temperatures finally returned in April, though dirty, icy snow piles remained in parking lots well into spring. Finally, by summer we had average temperatures, though below average rainfall. Fall was mild and warm and this continued into December with warmer than typical temperatures and little precipitation.

Birders tallied a respectable 244 species seen in the County for 2015. This included a new County species: a Crested Caracara noted from Dexter Drumlin, and unfortunately a "one day wonder". Decades ago, this sighting would have likely been dismissed as an "escape", but in recent years this uncommon and local Florida and Gulf Coast species has been found to very rarely wander well north of its range.

Other noteworthy birds seen in the County in 2015 included the 6th County report of Leach's Storm-Petrel. As usual, this was a storm driven waif, seen by many flying around and then eventually resting, likely exhausted, on West Waushacum. Leach's Storm-Petrels are a tough bird to tick even coastally in Massachusetts. The common storm-petrel, seen from shore and during whale watch trips, is Wilson's Storm-Petrels. They can be abundant in state off shore waters. But you need to get well offshore to see Leach's, like to Hydrographer's Canyon, which requires an over-night boat trip. Leach's Storm-Petrels do breed in state waters while Wilson's do not. Some Leach's breed on the Penikese Islands, where they make their nests in holes in the ground or old foundations or walls. But here's the weird thing: even though Wilson's are abundant off-shore in the state, the storm-petrel noted inland after hurricanes and other severe weather are all Leach's! So if you are fortunate to see a storm-petrel in the County, assume first that it is a Leach's, BUT obviously check it out carefully just in case it could be some other species. My last Leach's in the County was on 8-20-91 on Wachusett Reservoir, seen just as a hurricane was winding down.

Another County rarity noted was a Mississippi Kite, the 4th report for the County. This species is expanding its range in a number of areas, and is to be looked for in spring and early summer. A Purple Gallinule was found at Little Chauncy Pond in October and enjoyed by many. This was only the third County record of this species.

There was a modest flight of winter finches, mostly redpolls and siskin. Flocks of Bohemian Waxwings were found only very locally in north County.

Shorebird activity in the County is dependent on numerous factors. Key among them are well flooded fields in spring and low water at ponds and reservoirs by late summer. Inland birders have to be the only group of people who actually appreciate a modest drought in summer. Low water at Quaboag Pond and other sites meant there were muddy edges present and that meant

shorebirds. One of the most interesting shorebird finds this year was a Stilt Sandpiper, a very uncommon to rare County bird. If conditions are right, the active County birder has as good or better chance of seeing coveted “grass-pipers” like Baird’s or Buff-breasted Sandpipers inland than at the usual coastal shorebird locations.

Other highlights of the year included a Short-eared Owl, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat and Clay-colored Sparrow.

It is interesting to note certain species that several decades back would have been considered very rare, but now are becoming of a yearly occurrence. Barrow’s Goldeneye is one such species. When I began birding, I thought I would have to head to the coast to see this primarily northwestern migrant. But as recent observations have proven, Barrow’s seem to be a yearly migrant in the County. They can be seen briefly in late fall and early winter at certain locations like Sudbury Reservoir in Southborough, Wachusett Reservoir, Lake Quinsigamond and Quabbin Reservoir. Likewise, Greater White-fronted Goose seems to now be popping up in the County in fall and spring and sometimes even in mid-winter. One of the more likely explanations for this apparent increase in sightings of these species is the increase in the number of active birders. Simply put: more people in the field = more reports, especially of rarities.

The recent increase of reports of Fish Crows on the other hand likely represents an actual increase in the number of birds found in the County. This species is common at the southern end of the Blackstone National Corridor, especially in the vicinity of the Seekonk River between Providence and East Providence, Rhode Island where double digit counts are regular. Fish Crows are closely connected with water and do follow rivers up to find new territories to feed and eventually, breed. We still do not have proof of breeding in the County, but it is only a matter of time.

Despite starting out with a winter that we can all hope is never repeated, 2015 was another banner year for birds in Worcester County. Keep up the good work and get out there and bird!

Mark Lynch

Annual Compilation

2015

Abbreviations: # (and others); ACC (Athol Christmas Count); BBC (Brookline Bird Club); Bird Obs. (Bird Observer); CW (Count Week); GOCC (Groton-Oxbow Christmas Count); IBA (Important Bird Area); NWR (National Wildlife Refuge); QCC (Quabbin Christmas Count); Res. (Reservoir); SCC (Sturbridge Christmas Count); SF (State Forest); TTOR (The Trustees of Reservations); UCC (Uxbridge Christmas Count); v.o. (various observers); WMA (Wildlife Management Area); WoCC (Worcester Christmas Count); WRW (Ware River Watershed IBA); WS (Wildlife Sanctuary).

Taxonomy and species order follow the American Ornithological Society's Checklist 7th Edition, 58th Supplement.

Maximum counts can also be found in the Worcester Christmas Bird Count and Hawk Watch sections.

SNOW GOOSE (*Anser caerulescens*): All reports: Jan. 9 Westborough 4 (Larson *vide Bird Obs.*), Mar. 29 Bolton Flats 117 (Black, Brogan, Smoot), a single bird alternating from Bolton Flats and Dexter Drumlin from Apr. 4 (Lynch & Carroll, Marble) to Apr. 5 (v.o.). Then, Sept. 26 Barre Falls 1 (Schilling#), Oct. 17 Paxton 1 (Jenkins), and Dec. 14 Quaboag Pond 33 (Jenkins, Caron).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*A. albifrons*): Three reports: Jan. 3 Worcester 1 (B. Kamp), a single bird Apr. 2 Lancaster (Lynch & Carroll) to Apr. 6 (v.o.), and in Holden a bird Dec. 19 (Bourinot) to Dec. 20 (Lynch & Carroll).

BRANT (*Branta bernicla*): Two reports: May 19 Wachusett Res. 30 (Johnson) and Oct. 21 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lawson).

CANADA GOOSE (*B. canadensis*): Permanent resident. Max. Apr. 2 Bolton Flats 1200 (Johnson) and Dec. 19 WoCC 2123.

MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*): Permanent resident. Max. Jan. 1 Westborough 57 (Lynch & Carroll) and Nov. 26 Westborough 121 (Lynch & Carroll).

WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*): Reported throughout the year, but only scattered reports during winter. In spring, beginning Mar. 12 West Boylston 3 (Lawson) most out by Nov. 28 Leesville Pond 5 (Kittredge). Max. Apr. 2 Bolton Flats 141 (Lynch & Carroll) and Oct. 18 Westborough WMA 80 (Young).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Spatula discors*): Apr. 19 Oxbow NWR 2 (Luedemann) to May 9 Bolton Flats 2 (Paulson). Then, Aug. 26 Bolton Flats 2 (B. Kamp) and Aug. 30 Holden 2 (Lynch & Carroll) to Nov. 2 West Brookfield 1 (Lawson), and a late Nov. 14 to the 20th Northborough 1 (Dowling). Max. Oct. 6 Sterling 5 (Lawson) and Oct. 19 East Brookfield 5 (Lawson).

NORTHERN SHOVELER (*S. clypeata*): Three spring reports: One at Westborough WMA Apr. 7 (v.o.) to Apr. 17 (Spahr), Apr. 17 Broad Meadow Brook WS 2 (eBird), and Apr. 20 Wachusett Res. 2 (Lynch & Carroll). In fall, 2 reports: One at Quaboag Pond Sept. 10 (Lawson, Marble) to Sept. 24 1 (Jenkins) and Oct. 22 Westborough WMA 10 (v.o.).

- GADWALL (*Mareca strepera*):** Four reports of lingerers at various locations until Jan. 5 Millbury 8 (Lawson). Then, in spring Mar. 28 Worcester 2 (Lynch & Carroll), Apr. 4 and the next day at Wachusett Res. 2 (v.o.), Apr. 15 Bolton Flats 1 (Johnson), and also one there Apr. 26 (Paulson). Three fall reports: Oct. 30 West Brookfield 2 (Lawson), Nov. 6 Royalston 7 (Lynch & Carroll), and Dec. 21 to Dec. 24 West Brookfield 1 (Lynch & Carroll#).
- AMERICAN WIGEON (*M. americana*):** Winter report Jan. 3 Millbury 1 (Lawson). Then, main spring period Mar. 26 Millbury 1 (Lawson) to Apr. 19 Wachusett Res. 2 (Johnson). In the fall, Sept. 11 Brookfield 1 (Jenkins), Oct. 9 Templeton 1 (Pirro) to Dec. 14 West Brookfield 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. Oct. 28 Leesville Pond 4 (Kittredge).
- MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*):** Permanent resident. First half max. Max. Jan. 3 Lake Quinsigamond 325 (Lynch & Carroll), and Mar. 15 Bolton Flats 400 (Paulson). Second half max. Nov. 13 Gardner 300 (Pirro), Dec. 14 SCC 724, Dec. 19 WoCC 1147, and Dec. 26 WeCC 803.
- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK (*A. rubripes*):** Permanent resident, but only scattered reports during breeding season. First half max. Jan. 3 Lake Quinsigamond 62 (Lynch & Carroll) and Apr. 9 Bolton Flats 75 (Murray). Second half max. Dec. 14 SCC 37 and Dec. 19 WoCC 57.
- NORTHERN PINTAIL (*A. acuta*):** Winter reports, up to 2 birds in Clinton Jan. 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Jan. 3 (v.o.) and Jan. 15 Northborough 3 (Miller). Then, Mar. 13 Charlton 1 (Young) to Apr. 15 Bolton Flats 3 (Johnson, Lawson). In the fall, Oct. 18 Charlton 1 to Dec. 24 West Brookfield 4 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. Apr. 11 Bolton Flats 10 (Keeley, Sullivan).
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL (*A. crecca*):** Winter report: Jan. 7 Millbury 2 (B. Kamp). Then, Mar. 25 Sutton 2 and Millbury 1 (Lawson) to May 9 Oxbow NWR 2 (Paulson). In the fall, Aug. 19 Bolton Flats 2 (Bourget) and Sterling 1 (Bourget) to Dec. 24 West Brookfield 8 (Lynch & Carroll). Spring Max. Apr. 6 Lancaster 168 (Lynch & Carroll). Fall Max. Nov. 1 West Brookfield 42 (Lynch & Carroll).
- CANVASBACK (*Aythya valisineria*):** One report: Nov. 15 Quaboag Pond 1 (Bourget, Lawson) where it stayed until the next day (Lawson).
- REDHEAD (*A. americana*):** Two reports: Jan. 1 Southborough 2 (Lynch & Carroll, v.o.) to Jan. 2 (v.o.) and Jan. 2 Westborough WMA 2 (Paulson). Possibly the same birds.
- RING-NECKED DUCK (*A. collaris*):** Five scattered first half winter reports with a max. Jan. 1 of 353 in Southborough (Lynch & Carroll). Returning in spring, Mar. 12 West Boylston 6 (Lawson) to May 16 Royalston 1 (C. Kamp). A summer report on July 21 Sutton 1 (Holden). There was an early report on Sept. 17 Wachusett Res. 2 (Robo). Then, a more normal Oct. 21 Brookfields 17 (Lynch & Carroll) to year's end. Spring max. Apr. 3 Brookfields 118 (Lynch & Carroll). Second half max. Nov. 15 Southborough 569 (Lynch & Carroll).
- GREATER SCAUP (*A. marila*):** Two winter report locations: at Wachusett Res. Jan. 1, 55 (Lynch & Carroll), and Jan. 5, 65, also first half max., (Marble), decreasing to 4 on Jan. 10. The other winter location was Sudbury Reservoir in Southborough with up to 21 birds reported on Jan. 1 (Lynch & Carroll). In spring, Apr. 4 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Apr. 20 Wachusett Res. 3 (Lynch & Carroll). Returning Oct. 3 Clinton 2 (Johnson) to Dec. 19 WoCC 117, also second half max.
- LESSER SCAUP (*A. affinis*):** Four first half winter reports: up to 2 birds at Wachusett Res. Jan. 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Jan. 3 (Bourinot, Lawson), Jan. 1 Southborough 1 (Lynch & Carroll, Lawson), Jan. 3 Douglas 1 (Lynch & Carroll), and Feb. 17 Hubbardston 1 (Howes). In spring, only 2 reports: Apr. 10 West Boylston 2 (Shain) and Apr. 11 Brookfields 2 (Lynch & Carroll).

In fall, returning Oct. 3 Northborough 1 (Spahr) to Dec. 19 Holden 2 (Bourinot). Max. Dec. 6 Southborough 6 (Dowling).

SURF SCOTER (*Melanitta perspicillata*): Two reports: Oct. 10 Wachusett Res. up to 4 birds (Lynch & Carroll, Lawson, Monaco) and Oct. 26 Wachusett Res. 2 (Bourinot, Lawson, Marble).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (*M. fusca*): Three spring reports: May 8 Wachusett Res. 2 (Bourinot), May 18 Gardner 3 (Pirro), and May 19 Wachusett Res. 2 (Johnson). Three reports in the fall: Oct. 8 Wachusett Res. 14, also max., (Johnson, Lawson), Oct. 10 Wachusett Res. 1 (Johnson, Lawson), Oct. 18 Wachusett Res. 4 (Bourinot), and Nov. 22 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll).

BLACK SCOTER (*M. americana*): Only in the fall, from Oct. 8 at Wachusett Res. 3 (Lawson) to Oct. 31 5 birds (Bourinot). Max. Oct. 18 with a flock of 96 there (Bourinot). Only other location reported was Nov. 23 Westminster 1 (Pirro).

LONG-TAILED DUCK (*Clangula hyemalis*): A winter report of a single bird at Wachusett Res. from Jan. 1 (Lynch & Carroll, Paulson) to Jan. 3 (Bourinot). A spring report of one bird there from May 2 (Bourinot) to May 5 (Lawson). In the fall, Oct. 26 Wachusett Res. 38, also max., (Lawson). Then, seven interim reports. Last report Nov. 29 Wachusett Res. 3 (Dowling). Interim fall reports away from Wachusett were Nov. 10 Quaboag Pond 5 (Lawson), Nov. 11 Quaboag Pond 1 (Lawson), and Nov. 20 Lake Lashaway 1 (Dowling).

BUFFLEHEAD (*Bucephala albeola*): Two winter reports: Jan. 1 Southborough 3 (Lynch & Carroll, Schlotterbeck) and Jan. 3 Wachusett Res. 2 (Bourinot). In spring, Mar. 7 Sutton 1 (Lawson) to May 2 Westborough WMA 2 (Paulson). Spring max. Apr. 4 Wachusett Res. 10 (Lynch & Carroll). In fall, Oct. 21 Wachusett Res. 10 (Lawson) and Quaboag Pond 4 (Lynch & Carroll) to Dec. 24 Westborough 1 (McDaniel). Fall max. Oct. 27 Brookfields 29 (Jenkins) and Wachusett Res. 29 (Lynch & Carroll).

COMMON GOLDENEYE (*B. clangula*): Scattered winter reports with a first half max. Wachusett Res. 42 (Lynch & Carroll). In spring, Mar. 12 West Boylston 8 (Lawson), to Apr. 27 West Boylston 1 (Kittredge). 2 late birds were reported at Wachusett Res. May 19 (Johnson) and the next day (Lynch & Carroll). A summer report Aug. 31 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll). In fall, Oct. 21 Brookfields 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Dec. 31 Wachusett Res. 16 (Castriotta). Fall max. Dec. 6 Southborough 62 (Dowling, Sovay) and Dec. 19 WoCC 161.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*B. islandica*): A single bird was reported at the Sudbury Reservoir in Southborough from Oct. 30 (Lawson) to Nov. 27 (eBird, Megan).

HOODED MERGANSER (*Lophodytes cucullatus*): Present year round with open water. First half max. Jan. 3 Lake Quinsigamond 94 (Lynch & Carroll). Second half max. Nov. 19 Brookfields 118 (Lynch & Carroll), Dec. 14 SCC 130, and Dec. 19 WoCC 199.

COMMON MERGANSER (*Mergus merganser*): First half through May 19 West Boylston 2 (Kittredge). Spring max. Apr. 11 Westborough WMA 90 (Spahr). Scattered breeding reports around Quabbin and northwestern Worcester County. In fall, Sept. 23 Princeton 1 (Cook) to year's end. Second half max. Nov. 19 Brookfields 661 (Lynch & Carroll), Dec. 14 SCC 462, and Dec. 30 Westborough WMA 430 (Paulson).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*M. serrator*): Two spring reports: up to 3 birds at Wachusett Res. from Apr. 19 (Johnson) to Apr. 21 (Lynch & Carroll), and May 3 Quabbin Res. 1 (Pirro). In fall, eight reports: Oct. 10 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Nov. 27 West Brookfield 3, also max., (Bergeron).

- RUDDY DUCK (*Oxyura jamaicensis*):** Three winter reports: Jan. 1 to Jan. 3 Wachusett Res. 2 (Lynch & Carroll, B. Kamp), Southborough up to 3 (Lynch & Carroll, Schlotterbeck), and Jan. 22 Worcester 1 (Mulhearn). Three spring reports: Apr. 4 Wachusett Res. 3 (Lynch & Carroll), Apr. 17 Westborough WMA 3 (Lawson, Pulia, Spahr), and May 12 Westminster 1 (Pirro). In fall Oct. 7 Wachusett Res. 1 (Johnson) to Dec. 21 Brookfields 6 (Lynch & Carroll). Fall max. Nov. 5 Charlton 78 (Lawson), Nov. 17 Brookfields 85 (Lynch & Carroll), Nov. 14 West Brookfield 92 (Jenkins), and Dec. 14 SCC 155.
- RUFFED GROUSE (*Bonasa umbellus*):** Permanent resident, but scarce reports away from Quabbin area and northwestern Worcester County. Max. Aug. 28 Hubbardston 6 (Howes). Also, June 7 Quabbin Res. 2 adults with 5 chicks (Holzapfel).
- WILD TURKEY (*Meleagris gallopavo*):** Permanent resident. Max. Jan. 14 Templeton 110 (Small) and Dec. 19 ACC 336.
- PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*):** In spring, Mar. 22 Lake Quinsigamond 1 (Kittredge, Lawson) to May 2 Bolton Flats 1 (B. Kamp). Possible breeding reports: May 22 and June 14 Bolton Flats 1 (Arena). In fall, Aug. 28 Westborough WMA 1 (Miller) to Dec. 19 WoCC 1. Max. Nov. 15 Westborough 4 (Lynch & Carroll). One bird spent the second half winter at Louisa Lake in Milford from Dec. 20 to the Dec. 31 (Gosselin, Paulson, Rosenblatt).
- HORNED GREBE (*Podiceps auritus*):** In spring, only one report: Apr. 16 Westborough WMA 1 (Garvey, Lawson). In fall, Oct. 12 Wachusett Res. 3 (Lawson) to Dec. 5 Holden 1 (Lynch & Carroll). CW birds at Athol and WoCC on 12/19. Max. Nov. 9 Quabbin Res. 5 (Lynch & Carroll).
- RED-NECKED GREBE (*P. grisegena*):** Two spring reports: Apr. 14 Westborough WMA (Garvey, Lawson, Spahr) and Apr. 30, reported from same location (Paulson). In fall, Oct. 8 Wachusett Res. (Lawson) to Nov. 9 Quabbin Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll). A second half winter report Dec. 31 Upton 1 (Paulson).
- ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*):** Permanent resident. Max. Nov. 14 Whittier Farm, Sutton 200 (Lynch & Carroll), Dec. 8 Templeton 200 (Pirro), and Dec. 19 WoCC 481.
- MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaida macroura*):** Permanent resident. Max. Dec. 14 SCC 677.
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus americanus*):** May 10 Rice City Pond, Uxbridge 1 (Holden), Broad Meadow Brook WS, Worcester 3 (eBird) to Sept. 25 Hubbardston 1 (Howes). Max. May 10 Broad Meadow Brook WS, Worcester 3 (eBird) and June 8 Quabbin Res. Gate 43 3 (Paulson).
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO (*C. erythrophthalmus*):** May 7 Westborough WMA 1 (Kittredge) to Aug. 26 WRW 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. June 13 Quabbin Res Gate 37 3 (Tyers).
- COMMON NIGHTHAWK (*Chordeiles minor*):** First half: May 9 Bolton Flats 4 (Bourget, Johnson) to July 6 Hubbardston 1 (Howes). Spring max. Westborough 75 (Arena# *fide Bird Obs.*). Second half: Aug. 16 Rutland 4 (Greene) to Sept. 18 Heirloom Harvest CSA Westborough 8 (Johnson). Max. Aug. 24 Leicester; Rt. 56 Worcester Airport overlook 122+ (Lynch & Carroll).
- EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL (*Antrostomas vociferous*):** Apr. 29 Pine Hill Grasslands, Lancaster 1 (Johnson) to Aug. 29 Harvard 2 (BBC *fide Bird Obs.*). Max. May 15 Brookfields Quaboag IBA 11+ (Lynch & Carroll).
- CHIMNEY SWIFT (*Chaetura pelagica*):** Apr. 10 Northbridge 2 (Miller *fide Bird Obs.*) to Sept. 18 Heirloom Harvest CSA Westborough 1 (Johnson). Max. July 17 Clinton 70 (Johnson).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus colubris*): Apr. 23 Holden 1 (Mills *fide* Bird Obs.) to Oct. 4 Worcester 1 (LaBree *fide* Bird Obs.). Max. Aug. 12 Westborough WMA 9 (Spahr).

KING RAIL (*Rallus elegans*): One reported: May 22 Bolton Flats 1 (Arena *fide* Bird Obs.).

VIRGINIA RAIL (*R. limicola*): Apr. 9 Westborough WMA 1 (Paulson) to Oct. 31

Northborough 1 (Spahr). Max. Apr. 26 Bolton Flats 4 (Paulson), May 22 Bolton Flats 34 (Arena *fide* Bird Obs.), and May 24 New Braintree 4 (Buelow).

SORA (*Porzana carolina*): Becoming more difficult to find outside of Bolton Flats. Apr. 26 Bolton Flats 1 (Paulson) to Oct. 22 Westborough WMA 1 (Garvey, Lawson). Max. June 14 Bolton Flats 3 (Arena).

PURPLE GALLINULE (*Porphyrio martinicus*): Third Worcester County Record. This bird was initially found on Oct. 21 at the Westborough WMA (Lawson), and was enjoyed by many observers until the next day.

COMMON GALLINULE (*Gallinula galeata*): All reports: Apr. 26 Bolton Flats 3, also max., (Paulson), May 9 Westborough WMA 1 (Paulson), May 22 Bolton Flats (Arena), June 11 Bolton Flats 1 (Paulson), June 17 Bolton Flats 1 (B. Kamp) and July 4, Milford 1 (Paulson).

AMERICAN COOT (*Fulica americana*): In first half winter Jan. 1 Westborough WMA 4 (Lawson). No spring reports. In the fall, 4 reports at various locations from Oct. 22 Westborough WMA 1 (v.o.) to Nov. 10 Quaboag Pond 2 (Lawson). In second half winter, up to 5 birds reported from Westborough WMA from Dec. 24 (G. & J. Miner) to Dec. 31 (Ammerman, McDaniel).

SANDHILL CRANE (*Antigone canadensis*): One report: May 24 Petersham 2 (Small).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*): No spring reports. Sept. 8 Quinapoxet Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll) and Oct. 23 Hardwick 1 (B. Kamp).

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER (*P. dominica*): No spring reports. Two fall reports: A single bird present from Sept. 4 to Sept. 11 Quinapoxet Res. 1 (Lawson, v.o.) and Sept. 17 Westboro 1 (Lawson).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER (*Chardrius semipalmatus*): No spring reports. Fall: July 28 Gardner (Pirro) to Oct. 24 Lake Lashaway 1 (Jenkins). Max. Sept. 10 Quaboag Pond 4 (Lawson).

KILLDEER (*C. vociferus*): Mar. 11 Worcester 5 (Bailey) to Nov. 20 Westborough 3 (Spahr). Max. Sept. 30 Templeton 115 (Pirro).

STILT SANDPIPER (*Calidris himantopus*): A single bird present Sept. 7 Quinapoxet Res. 1 (Bourget, B. Kamp, v.o.) and reported again Sept. 24 (Lawson).

SANDERLING (*C. alba*): Two reports: Sept. 11 Quaboag Pond 1 juvenile (Jenkins) and Nov. 7 Lake Lashaway 1 juvenile (Jenkins).

DUNLIN (*C. alpina*): Spring: May 1 Bolton Flats 1 (Marble) and May 25 Wachusett Res. Gate 40 1 (Johnson). Southbound: Oct. 22 to Nov. 14 Lake Lashaway 1 (Jenkins, v.o.).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (*C. bairdii*): Two reports: Aug. 27 Paxton 1 juvenile (Lynch & Carroll) and Aug. 28 Hardwick 1 (B. Kamp).

LEAST SANDPIPER (*C. minutilla*): Spring: May 3 Bolton Flats 1 (Bourget, Johnson) to May 9 Oxbow NWR 6 (Paulson). Southbound: July 25 Sterling Peat 6 (Pirro) to Oct. 13 Leicester 2 (Jenkins). Max. Sept. 10 Quaboag Pond 65 (Lynch & Carroll).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*C. fuscicollis*): Sept. 11 Quinapoxet Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll, Monaco). Then, Oct. 25 Lake Lashaway 2 (Jenkins) to Nov. 3 Lake Lashaway 3, also max., (Jenkins, v.o.).

- PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*C. melanotos*):** Spring: Apr. 26 Bolton Flats 1 (Paulson) to May 13 Worcester 1 (Franklin). Southbound: Aug. 21 Quinapoxet Res. 1 (B. Kamp) to Oct. 30 Lake Lashaway 1 (Lawson). Max. Sept. 11 Quinapoxet Res. 4 (Spahr).
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (*C. pusilla*):** Only reported in the fall. Aug. 30 Quinapoxet Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Sept. 20 Brookfields 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. Sept. 7 Quinapoxet Res. 5 (Bourinot, v.o.).
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK (*Scolopax minor*):** Mar. 22 Uxbridge 4 (Lawson) to Nov. 15 Paxton 1 (Jenkins). A late report: Dec. 14 West Brookfield 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. May 15 Brookfields 9 (Lynch & Carroll) and Oct. 10 Westborough WMA 9 (Paulson).
- WILSON'S SNIPES (*Gallinago delicata*):** Spring: Apr. 2 Bolton Flats 4 (Lynch & Carroll) to May 7 Bolton Flats 1 (Hoye). Fall: Sept. 9 Quinapoxet Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Oct. 22 Westborough 1 (Paulson). Max. Apr. 6 Bolton Flats 57 (Bourget, Johnson).
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularius*):** Apr. 17 W. Boylston 1 (Robo) to Nov. 4 Wachusett Res. 2 (Lawson). Max. May 13 Wachusett Res. 7 (Lynch & Carroll) and Sept. 9 Quinapoxet Res. 7 (Bourget, Lawson).
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER (*Tringa solitaria*):** Spring: Apr. 19 Bolton Flats 1 (Bourinot) to May 22 Bolton Flats 1 (Johnson). Southbound: Aug. 12 WRW 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Oct. 13 Leicester 1 (Jenkins). Max. May 6 WRW 9 (Lynch & Carroll).
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*T. flavipes*):** Spring: Apr. 19 Bolton Flats 1 (Neilson and Lawson) to May 9 Rutland 1 (Bailey) and May 9 Quaboag Pond (Kittredge). Southbound: Aug. 5 Westborough (Spahr) to Sept. 15 Quaboag Pond (Kittredge). Max. Sept. 15 Sterling Peat 7 (Gove).
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS (*T. melanoleuca*):** Spring: Apr. 13 Bolton Flats 3 (Johnson) to May 17 Uxbridge (Lawson). One summer report July 11 Leicester 1 (Lawson). Southbound: Aug. 22 Sterling Peat (Bourinot) to Nov. 14 West Brookfield 2 (Menck). Max. Apr. 22 Bolton Flats 12 (Lynch & Carroll).
- BONAPARTE'S GULL (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*):** Apr. 13 Westborough 1 (Garvey, Spahr) and May 5 Wachusett Res. 2 (B. Kamp, Lawson). Then, in the fall, Oct. 2 Wachusett Res. 1 (Paulson) to Dec. 13 Westborough 1 (Arena). Max. Apr. 13 Westborough 3 (Garvey, Spahr).
- RING-BILLED GULL (*Larus delawarensis*):** Common, non-breeding, permanent resident. Max. Nov. 15 Indian Lake, Worcester 244 (Lynch & Carroll), Dec. 19 WoCC 1314.
- HERRING GULL (*L. argentatus*):** Reported each month with few reports during the summer. During the winter, high counts included: Jan. 1 Westminster 220 (Pirro), Mar. 15 Fitchburg Airport 450 (Pirro), Nov. 13 Gardner 225 (Pirro) and Dec. 15 Westborough WMA 246 (Miner).
- ICELAND GULL (*L. glaucoides*):** Reported from Jan. 1 Westminster Landfill 1 (Pirro) to Mar. 29 Worcester 1 (Marble). Late spring report: May 1 Clinton 1 (B. Kamp). Scattered reports from various locations including: Lake Quinsigamond, Lake Whalom, the Fair Plaza in Worcester, Westborough and Fitchburg. Max. Mar. 15 Fitchburg Airport 3 (Pirro).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*L. fuscus*):** Two individuals reported. Apr. 9 Westborough WMA 1 (Miller). Then, Nov. 7 to Nov. 15 Orlando's Pond, Charlton 1 (Jenkins, v.o.).
- GLAUCOUS GULL (*L. hyperboreus*):** All reports: Jan. 6 Lake Whalom 1 juvenile (B. Kamp), Apr. 8 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr), and Apr. 10 Blackstone Valley Shoppes Millbury 1 (Lawson).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*L. marinus*): Reported in the first half through Apr. 30 1 Westborough (Paulson). Then, Sept. 13 Bolton Flats 1 (Young) until the end of the year Dec. 31 Upton (Paulson). Max. Nov. 13 Gardner 45 (Pirro).

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*): Only in fall, with four reports: Oct. 14 Wachusett Res. 1 (B. Kamp), Oct. 28 Quaboag Pond 1 (Bourget, Lawson), Nov. 7 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll), and Nov. 11 Quaboag Pond 1 (Lawson).

COMMON LOON (*G. immer*): Reported throughout the year, but scattered reports in winter, all at Wachusett Res. until Jan. 20 with 2 birds (Spahr). In spring, beginning Apr. 4 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Breeding reports at Wachusett and Quabbin Res. and northern Worcester County lakes. Second half max. Sept. 28 Wachusett Res. 24 (Lynch & Carroll) and Oct. 10 Quabbin Res. 22 (Turner).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*): Sixth Worcester County Record. The first report since 1994. Oct. 2 West Waushacum in Sterling 1 (Paulson, v.o.).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax auritus*): Mar. 31 Leesville Pond 2 (VandenBoom) and Westborough WMA 1 (Rosenblatt) to Nov. 30 Wachusett Res. 1 (Berard). A late report of 4 on Dec. 19 during the WoCC. Max. May 17 Grafton an astounding 500 (Schain).

GREAT CORMORANT (*P. carbo*): On Oct. 10 Turner found an immature bird at the Quabbin Res. in Hardwick.

BROWN PELICAN (*Pelecanus occidentalis*): First Worcester County Record. Sept. 18 Southborough 1 (F. Perry, v.o.). A juvenile Brown Pelican was found underneath a tractor trailer in Southborough. The Animal Rescue League was called and the pelican was brought to Tufts Wildlife Clinic in Grafton. Unfortunately, the pelican died eleven days later likely from deep starvation.

AMERICAN BITTERN (*Botaurus lentiginosus*): Apr. 4 High Ridge WMA 1 (Pirro) to Oct. 11 Bolton Flats 1 (Paulson). Max. June 14 Bolton Flats 4 (Arena).

LEAST BITTERN (*Ixobrychus exilis*): Three reports: May 9 Westborough WMA 1 (Paulson), June 11 Bolton Flats 1 (Paulson), and June 14 Bolton Flats 2 (Arena).

GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*): Reported all year with scattered winter reports. In spring, Mar. 28 Worcester 3 (Lynch & Carroll) to most out by Nov. 26 Westborough 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. June 20 High Ridge WMA 53, including nestlings (Pirro).

GREAT EGRET (*A. alba*): Four spring reports: Apr. 17 Westborough WMA 1 (Lawson, Spahr), Apr. 30 Worcester 1 (Marble), May 5 Westborough WMA 1 (Kittredge), and May 9 WRW 2 (Lynch & Carroll). In the fall, July 4 Grafton 1 (Busick) to Oct. 17 Uxbridge 1 (Paulson).

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*): One report: Aug. 22 Sterling 1 (Gove).

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*E. caerulea*): One report: Aug. 27 Holden 1 (Lynch & Carroll).

GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*): Apr. 17 Worcester 1 (Robo) to Oct. 6 Lancaster 1 (Robo). Max. Aug. 19 Sterling 11 (Bourget).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*): Late spring report: May 27 Delaney WMA 6 (Cook). Five fall reports: Aug. 12 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr), Aug. 16 (Lawson) to Aug. 18 (Kittredge) 1 Worcester, Oct. 21 Worcester 3, also max., (Quimby), Oct. 25 Spencer 1 (Bailey), and Oct. 26 Worcester 1 (Bourinot).

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*): Only in spring. All reports: Apr. 5 (Lawson) to Apr. 13 Bolton Flats 5 (Johnson), Apr. 5 (Pirro) to Apr. 14 Westminster 3 (Pirro, Caron), Apr. 7 to Apr. 8 Lancaster 1 (Hirst), May 5 Bolton Flats 31 (Lawson), May 10 West Brookfield 1 (Higgins *fide Bird Obs.*)

- BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*):** First half winter reports of up to 5 birds from Jan. 11 (Abbott) to Feb. 4 (Caron) in Blackstone. A report Feb. 25 Gardner 1 (Pirro). Then, Mar. 7 Worcester 1 (Lawson) with 7 interim reports to May 9 Sterling 6 (Bourinot, Paine *fide* Bird Obs.). A summer report July 10 East Brookfield 1 (Bourget). In fall, Sept. 12 Mt. Wachusett 1 (v.o.) with 5 interim reports to Nov. 12 Millbury 2 (Miller), and a late bird reported in Southbridge during SCC count week 12/14.
- TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*):** First half winter reports in Blackstone from Jan. 11 (Abbott) to Feb. 6 (Murray), with a max. there of 20 on Jan. 23 (Hoye). Then, Feb. 18 one bird in Barre (Castriotta) to Nov. 20 Millbury 2 (M. & P. Wolter). Second half winter reports: Dec. 14 SCC 1, Dec. 28 Charlton 1 (Crosson), Dec. 29 Hardwick 2 (Kelliher) and Dec. 31 Milford 1 (Paulson). Spring max. Apr. 2 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 8. Fall max. Oct. 19 Shrewsbury 60 (eBird) and Oct. 22 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 52.
- OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*):** Mar. 26 Leesville Pond 1 (Kittredge) to Oct. 31 Southborough 1 (Toledano). Increasing breeding reports throughout Worcester County. Spring Max. Apr. 13 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 10. Fall max. Sept. 17 Mt. Wachusett Hawk Watch 34 and Sept. 26 Mt. Watatic Hawk Watch 18. Also, an astounding report Dec. 19 during ACC.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*):** Fourth Worcester County Record. On May 23 Steve Arena photographed a subadult in Westborough.
- BALD EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*):** Permanent resident with increasing breeding reports throughout Worcester County. Spring max. Apr. 15 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 5. Fall max. Sept. 16 Mt. Watatic Hawk Watch 10, and Sept. 15 Mt. Wachusett Hawk Watch 18.
- NORTHERN HARRIER (*Circus hudsonius*):** First half winter reports: Jan. 14 Uxbridge 1 (Rosenblatt) and Jan. 23 Bolton Flats 1 (Murray). In spring, Mar. 18 Westborough 1 (Mitchell) to May 5 Bolton Flats (Glagowski). In fall, Aug. 3 Bolton Flats 1 (Johnson) to Dec. 14 East Brookfield 1 (Caron). No spring max. Fall max. Sept. 16 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 4.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (*Accipiter striatus*):** First half through May 18 Millbury 1 (Marble). 3 summer reports June 19 Athol 1 (Small), June 29 Warren 1 (Lynch & Carroll), and Aug. 2 Athol (Lynch & Carroll). Then, Aug. 26 WRW 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to end of year. Spring max. May 4 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 7. Fall max. Sept. 16 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 24, Sept. 21 Mt. Wachusett Hawk Watch 38 and Sept. 26 Mt. Watatic Hawk Watch 56.
- COOPER'S HAWK (*A. cooperii*):** Reported throughout the year. Max. Sept. 13 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 6, Sept. 17 Mt. Watatic Hawk Watch 13 and Oct. 1 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 7.
- NORTHERN GOSHAWK (*A. gentilis*):** Permanent resident with scattered reports throughout the year. No max. reports.
- RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (*Buteo lineatus*):** Reported year-round, but only scattered winter reports. Main period Feb. 10 Charlton 1 (Geryk) to Nov. 15 Westborough 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Spring max. Apr. 2 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 4. Fall max. Nov. 8 Mt. Wachusett Hawk Watch 4.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*B. platypterus*):** Apr. 11 Millbury 1 (Marble) to Oct. 7 Barre 1 (Howes). Spring max. Apr. 16 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 85. Max. Sept. 17 Mt. Watatic Hawk Watch 2475, Sept. 17 Wachusett Mt. Hawk Watch 5433, and Sept. 16 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 1089.
- RED-TAILED HAWK (*B. jamaicensis*):** Permanent resident, with some movement spring and fall. Spring max. Apr. 2 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 10. Fall max. Nov. 2 and Nov. 4 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 11, Nov. 8 Mt. Wachusett Hawk Watch 21, and Dec. 19 WoCC 56.

- RED-SHOULDERED X RED-TAILED HAWK (*B. lineatus x jamaicensis*):** First reported in 2013 in the vicinity of the rail trail and Thomas Basin at Wachusett Res. (Schain). Reported at this same location sporadically through 2015.
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (*B. lagopus*):** One reported: Apr. 2 Bolton Flats 1 (Lynch & Carroll).
- GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*):** Two spring reports: Apr. 13 Royalston 1 (Small), Apr. 16 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 1. Nine fall reports, mostly from hawk watch locations until Dec. 19 Boylston 1 (Lynch & Carroll) and ACC 1.
- EASTERN SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops asio*):** Permanent resident, but more common in the southern Worcester County towns. Max. Dec. 19 WoCC 6.
- GREAT HORNED OWL (*Bubo virginianus*):** Permanent resident. Max. Dec. 14 SCC 7 and Dec. 19 WoCC 7.
- BARRED OWL (*Strix varia*):** Permanent resident. Max. Dec. 14 SCC 7.
- LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otus*):** One bird reported on Dec. 19 during the ACC.
- SHORT-EARED OWL (*A. flammeus*):** Two reports: Feb. 14 and Feb. 16 both from Worcester Airport fields in Leicester 1 (Greene), (Lynch & Carroll).
- NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL (*Aegolius acadicus*):** Uncommon permanent resident. Most reports from the banding station at Lookout Rock. Max. Dec. 14 SCC 4.
- BELTED KINGFISHER (*Megaceryle alcyon*):** Reported year-round with fewer reports in the winter. Max. Oct. 3 Quabbin Res. Gates 45-37 (10) (Turner).
- RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*):** All reports: One bird present at a residence in Sterling from Apr. 19 (Paine) to May 7 (Hoye). Apr. 7 Fitchburg 1 (Nuefoll). June 13 Wells State Park 1 adult (Lynch & Carroll). One bird present at Broad Meadow Brook WS, from Dec. 13 continuing until the end of the year (Liller, Robo, Gleason, v.o.).
- RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*M. carolinus*):** Permanent resident. Max. Dec. 14 SCC 94.
- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*):** Common summer resident, especially in the northern county towns. Scattered winter reports in Jan. and Feb. A pair were regular feeder birds from Jan. 7 to Feb. 12 in Millbury (Marble). Max. June 8 Quabbin Res. Gate 43 (14) (Paulson).
- DOWNY WOODPECKER (*Picoides pubescens*):** Permanent resident. Max. Dec. 14 SCC 246.
- HAIRY WOODPECKER (*P. villosus*):** Permanent resident. Max. Dec. 14 SCC 68.
- NORTHERN FLICKER (*Colaptes auratus*):** Present year-round. Max. Dec. 14 SCC 20.
- PILEATED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus pileatus*):** Permanent resident. Max. Dec. 14 SCC 12 and Dec. 19 ACC 12.
- CRESTED CARACARA (*Caracara cheriway*):** First Worcester County Record. Seen and photographed at approximately 7: 00 PM on August 5 (Krikorian) at Dexter Drumlin TTOR in Lancaster. This was presumed to be the same bird that was observed in Apr. in New York as both observers reported that the bird was missing an eye.
- AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*):** Two winter reports; Jan. 1 Oxbow NWR 1 (Murray) and Jan. 25 Worcester Airport 1 (Bailey). Then, Mar. 3 Westborough 1 (Lawson) to Nov. 23 Heirloom Harvest CSA Westborough 1 (Mitchell). Max. Sept. 20 Mt. Wachusett 10 (Perkins).
- MERLIN (*F. columbarius*):** A few winter reports: Jan. 1 Bartlett Pond 1 (Paulson), Jan. 11 Bolton Flats 1 (Bourinot), Jan. 22 Broad Meadow Brook WS 1 (Robo), Jan. 26 Westborough WMA 1 (Garvey), and Feb. 20 Sterling 1 (Bourinot). Spring: Apr. 3 Brookfields 1 (Lynch &

- Carroll) to Apr. 23 Gardener 2 (Pirro). Fall: Aug. 24 Leicester 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Nov. 1 Quabbin Res. Gate 37 (Lafley). Max. Sept. 18 and Sept. 19 Mt. Watatic 4 (Rusnica).
- PEREGRINE FALCON (*F. peregrinus*):** Scattered reports throughout the year. Still window box nesting in downtown Worcester. Max. Sept 19 Mt. Watatic 3 (Rusnica).
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER (*Contopus cooperi*):** All reports: Spring: May 16 WRW 1 (Lynch & Carroll), May 20 Rutland 1 (Bourinot), May 24 Westminster 1 (Pirro) and May 28 Bolton Flats 1 (Hudson). Only one fall report Aug. 12 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr).
- EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE (*C. virens*):** May 14 Sutton, Lancaster, Southborough 1, 1, 1 (Robo, Johnson, Garvey) to Sept. 23 Worcester 1 (Robo), with max. June 27 Upton 33 (Paulson).
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax flaviventris*):** All reports: May 21 Mt. Watatic 1 (Schain), May 25 Wachusett Mtn. 1 (Pirro), May 28 Spencer 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Then, Aug. 15 Quabbin 1 (Sender), Aug. 20 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll).
- ALDER FLYCATCHER (*E. alnorum*):** May 15 Westborough WMA, Uxbridge 1,1 (Johnson, Johnson) to Aug. 8 Ashburnham 1 (Zollo), with max. June 10 Royalston 8 (Lynch & Carroll).
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER (*E. traillii*):** May 8 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr). Then, May 16 WRW 4 (Lynch & Carroll) to Aug. 22 Sterling Peat 1 (Bourinot), with max. June 11 Bolton Flats 41 (Paulson).
- LEAST FLYCATCHER (*E. minimus*):** Apr. 26 Bolton 1 (Paulson) to Sept. 13 Westborough WMA 1 (Paulson), with max. May 16 WRW 29 (Lynch & Carroll).
- EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*):** Mar. 27 Brookfields 3 (Lynch & Carroll) to Oct. 28 Holden 1 (Hennin), with max. Apr. 11 Brookfields 42 (Lynch & Carroll) and Sept. 19 Otter River SF 42 (Lynch & Carroll).
- GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*):** May 3 Uxbridge 1 (Huntington) to Sept. 18 Westborough 1 (Johnson), with max. May 16 WRW 11 (Lynch & Carroll) and June 8 Quabbin Res. 11 (Paulson).
- EASTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus tyrannus*):** Early report on Apr. 18 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr). Then, Apr. 26 Bolton Flats 1 (Paulson) to Sept. 27 Northborough 1 (Paulson). Max. June 11 Bolton Flats 29 (Paulson) and Aug. 26 WRW 13 (Lynch & Carroll).
- NORTHERN SHRIKE (*Lanius borealis*):** Jan. 1 to Jan. 12 Bolton Flats 1 (Lynch & Carroll, v.o.), Jan. 15 Templeton 1 (Pirro), Feb. 4 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr) and Mar. 21 Barre 1 (Castriotta). No reports from fall to year's end.
- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*Vireo flavifrons*):** May 2 Oxbow, Westborough WMA 2, 2 (Nielson, Paulson/Watson) to Sept. 23 WRW 1 (Lynch & Carroll, Monaco), with max. May 16 WRW 7 (Lynch & Carroll).
- BLUE-HEADED VIREO (*V. solitarius*):** Apr. 16 Quabbin 2 (Hoye) to Oct. 24 Wachusett Res. 2 (Robo), with max. June 13 Templeton 12 (Paulson), Aug. 1 Otter River SF 14 (Lynch & Carroll) and Sept. 27 WRW 14 (Lynch & Carroll).
- WARBLING VIREO (*V. gilvus*):** May 2 Westborough WMA 1 (Paulson, Watson) to Sept. 21 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr), with max. May 29 Oxbow 17 (D. Swain) and June 11 Bolton Flats 17 (Paulson).
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*V. philadelphicus*):** All reports: Sept. 6 WRW 1 (Lynch & Carroll), Sept. 10 Templeton 1 (Pirro), Sept. 11 Princeton 1 (Spahr), Sept. 16 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr) and Sept. 20 Westborough WMA 1 (Lawson).
- RED-EYED VIREO (*V. olivaceus*):** May 5 Westborough WMA 1 (Kittredge) to Oct. 8 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr), with max. June 10 Royalston 128 (Lynch & Carroll).

- BLUE JAY (*Cyanocitta cristata*):** Permanent resident. Max. Nov. 17 Brookfields 59 (Lynch & Carroll), and Dec. 14 SCC 856.
- AMERICAN CROW (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*):** Permanent resident. Max. Mar. 4 Worcester 500 (Caron) and Dec. 19 WoCC 2871.
- FISH CROW (*C. ossifragus*):** Present in small numbers throughout the year, generally at lower elevations in southern Worcester County, with max. Apr. 30 Westborough WMA 3 (Paulson).
- COMMON RAVEN (*C. corax*):** Permanent resident. Max. Apr. 13 Royalston 27 (Small) and Dec. 19 ACC 76.
- HORNED LARK (*Eremophila alpestris*):** Spring reports: Jan. 20 Rutland 15 (Monaco) to Apr. 4 Wachusett Res. 1 (Paulson), with first half max. Mar. 9 Wachusett Res. 28 (Lawson). No breeding season reports. Fall reports: Oct. 1 Wachusett Res. 19 (S. Williams) to year's end. Max. Dec. 19 WoCC 57.
- PURPLE MARTIN (*Progne subis*):** Two reports: May 4 Westborough WMA 2 (Paulson) and Sept. 11 Quaboag Pond 1 (Jenkins).
- TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*):** Mar. 21 W. Boylston 3, 2 (Bourinot, Monaco) to Sept. 21 W. Boylston 1 (Caron). Max. Sept. 11 Quaboag Pond 500+ (Jenkins).
- NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*):** Apr. 4 W. Boylston, Westborough 4, 1 (Monaco, Paulson) to Sept. 11 Quaboag Pond 6 (Jenkins). Max. May 9 Uxbridge 12 (Paulson).
- BANK SWALLOW (*Riparia riparia*):** Apr. 14 Athol 1 (Small, Superchi), Apr. 23 Worcester 1 (Lawson) to Sept. 11 Quaboag Pond 6 (Jenkins). Max. June 13 Templeton 53 including 24 nests (Paulson).
- CLIFF SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*):** Spring: Apr. 26 Bolton 3 (Paulson) to May 20 Wachusett Res., Oxford 1, 2 (Lynch & Carroll, Mulhearn). Then, Aug. 12 North Brookfield 1 (Jenkins).
- BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*):** Apr. 21 Wachusett Res. 1 (Kittredge) and Sterling 1 (B. Kamp) to Sept. 15 Gardner 2 (Pirro). Max. Aug. 17 Sterling Peat 60 (Johnson).
- BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE (*Poecile atricapillus*):** Permanent resident. Max. Sept. 19 Otter River SF 114 (Lynch & Carroll) and Dec. 14 SCC 1895.
- TUFTED TITMOUSE (*Baeolophus bicolor*):** Permanent resident. Max. Apr. 3 Brookfields 21 (Lynch & Carroll) and Dec. 14 SCC 784.
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*):** Permanent resident. Max. Sept. 19 Otter River SF 41 (Lynch & Carroll) and Dec. 19 ACC 23.
- WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*S. carolinensis*):** Permanent resident. Max. Sept. 17 WRW 20 (Lynch & Carroll) and Dec. 19 SCC 437.
- BROWN CREEPER (*Certhia americana*):** Permanent resident. Max. Apr. 19 Upton 21 (Paulson) and Dec. 14 SCC 21.
- HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*):** Apr. 19 Upton, Southborough 1, 1 (Paulson, Toledano) to Oct. 16 Westborough 1 (Dowling). Max. of 10 birds on July 9 High Ridge WMA (Howes), Sept. 13 and Sept. 21 Westborough WMA (Spahr).
- WINTER WREN (*T. hiemalis*):** Four winter reports: Jan. 1 Millbury 1 (Marble), Jan. 2 Grafton 1 (Paulson), Jan. 19 Templeton 1 (Pirro) and Jan. 31 Hardwick 1 (Buelow). Then, Apr. 9 Templeton 2 (Pirro) to Nov. 17 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr), with scattered Dec. reports during the CBC season. Max. May 21 Mt. Watatic 7 (Schain).
- MARSH WREN (*Cistothorus palustris*):** Apr. 26 Bolton Flats 1 (Paulson) to Oct. 11 Bolton Flats 2 (Paulson). Later reports: Nov. 17, Dec. 10, and Dec. 22 all in Westborough 1 (B. Kamp,

Spahr). Max. June 11 Bolton Flats 12 (Paulson) and June 14 Brookfield 6 (Jenkins). Confirmed breeding locations: Bolton Flats and Brookfield along the Quaboag River. Possibly breeding behavior observed at Loiusa Lake in Milford Jul. 4 (Paulson).

CAROLINA WREN (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*): Permanent resident, but more common in lower elevations of the county. Max. Nov. 5 Brookfields 5 (Lynch & Carroll) and Dec. 14 SCC 36.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Polioptila caerulea*): Apr. 13 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr) to Sept. 17 Westborough WMA 1 (Lawson), with max. May 29 Oxbow NWR 10 (Swain) and Aug. 23 Westborough WMA 12 (Spahr).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus satrapa*): Present year round, with localized breeding at higher elevations in spruce and hemlock stands in northern half of Worcester County. Likely breeders, May 16, 23 WRW, Mt. Watatic 4, 2 (Lynch & Carroll, Gras), June 2, 8, 13 Rutland, Quabbin, Templeton 4, 2, 1 (Zollo, Paulson, Paulson). Max. Apr. Wachusett Mtn. 15 (Schain) and Dec. 19 ACC.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*R. calendula*): Northbound, Apr. 7 Westborough WMA 3 (Spahr) to May 16 WRW 1 (Lynch & Carroll), with max. Apr. 9 Westborough WMA 18 (Paulson). Then, southbound, Sept. 12 Petersham 1 (Howes) to Nov. 19 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr), with a few lingering individuals reported on CBCs, with max Sept. 27 WRW 15 (Lynch & Carroll).

NORTHERN WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*): Fifth Worcester County Record. Oct. 1 to Oct. 6 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lawson, v.o.). This bird was observed and photographed by several observers. It remained for six days in the rocks along the north dike in the vicinity of Gates 36 and 37.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia sialis*): Permanent resident. Max. Sept. 19 Southborough 22 (Toledano) and Dec. 14 SCC 151.

VEERY (*Catharus fuscus*): May 3 Oxbow NWR 1 (Bourget, Johnson) to Sept. 11 Worcester 2 (Robo), with max. May 16 WRW 64 (Lynch & Carroll).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*C. ustulatus*): Northbound: May 8 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr) to June 13 Quabbin Res. 1 (Jenkins). Five intermittent reports of singles. Southbound: Sept. 13 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr) to Oct. 11 Bolton Flats 1 (Paulson), with max. Sept. 16 Westborough WMA 3 (Spahr).

HERMIT THRUSH (*C. guttatus*): Three first half winter reports: Jan. 3 Uxbridge 1 (Holden), Jan. 29 Worcester 1 (Robo) and a well-documented winterer from Jan. 14 to Mar. 23 Worcester 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Then, Apr. 4 Athol 1 (Small) to Nov. 29 Brookfields 1 (Lynch & Carroll), with a few Dec. lingerers during the CBC season. Max. July 19 WRW 38 (Lynch & Carroll).

WOOD THRUSH (*Hylocichla mustelina*): May 2 Worc 1 (Robo) to Sept. 16 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr), with max. June 7 Upton 21 (Paulson).

AMERICAN ROBIN (*Turdus migratorius*): Present throughout the year. Max. Sept. 6 Bolton Flats 1040 (Johnson) and Dec. 14 SCC 1765.

GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*): Early arrival date Apr. 26 Bolton 1 (eBird), reported consistently May 1 Leominster 1 (Lawson) to Nov. 1 Quaboag IBA (Lynch & Carroll). Several late reports, Nov. 15 Oxford 1 (v.o.), Nov. 29 Westborough 1 (McDaniel) and Dec. 13 WRW 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. May 15 Quaboag IBA 67 (Lynch & Carroll)

BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*): Apr. 11 Quaboag IBA 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Oct. 11 Worcester 1 (Robo). A late report on Nov. 15 Westborough 1 (McDaniel). Max May 2 Westborough 4 (Paulson).

- NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus polyglottos*):** Permanent resident. Max. Dec. 14 SCC 29.
- EUROPEAN STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*):** Permanent resident. Max. Dec. 4 Worcester 800 (Berard) and Dec. 14 SCC 1683.
- BOHEMIAN WAXWING (*Bombycilla garrulus*):** Several flocks reported consistently around Gardner between Feb. 21 Gardner 4 (Pirro) and Apr. 5 Leominster 160 (Pirro). Max. Mar. 30 Gardner 297 (Pirro).
- CEDAR WAXWING (*B. cedrorum*):** Reported throughout the year, but only sparsely reported going into winter. Max. Apr. 5 Leominster 100 (Pirro) and Dec. 14 SCC 842.
- HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*):** Permanent resident. Max. Dec. 19 WoCC 1276.
- AMERICAN PIPIT (*Anthus rubescens*):** Heading north, Apr. 5 New Braintree 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to May 6 Bolton Flats 3 (B. Kamp) and May 9 Westborough 1 (Paulson). Then, in the fall, Sept. 16 Mt. Watatic 1 (Pirro) to Nov. 19 Quaboag IBA 7 (Lynch & Carroll). Fall max. Oct. 4 Wachusett Res. 70 (Lawson) and Oct. 25 East Brookfield 75 (Jenkins).
- EVENING GROSBEAK (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*):** Single report: May 19 Barre 1 (Bourinot). A Barre homeowner reported a pair coming to her feeder for several weeks.
- HOUSE FINCH (*Haemorhous mexicanus*):** Permanent resident. Max. Dec. 10 Westborough WMA 253 (Spahr) and Dec. 14 SCC 267.
- PURPLE FINCH (*H. purpureus*):** Irruptive, permanent resident. Jan. 2 Leicester 1 (Bailey) and Royalston 1 (Vale) to Dec. 30 Private Location 1 (Castriotta). Max. Apr. 29 WRW 14 (Lynch & Carroll) and Dec. 19 ACC 50.
- COMMON REDPOLL (*Acanthis flammea*):** Jan. 12 Athol 1 (Small) to Apr. 10 Gardner 3 (Pirro) and Westminster 1 (Pirro) and a late report Apr. 24 Worcester 1 (Grant *fide Bird Obs.*). Max. Mar. 21 Shrewsbury 103 (Lawson). One second half report Dec. 13 Millbury 1 (Berard).
- PINE SISKIN (*Spinus pinus*):** Multiple reports from the first half. Jan. 2. Royalston 1 (Vale) to June 1 Harvard 1 (Durrant). Max. Feb. 8 Athol 75 (Small). Then, Oct. 11 Bolton Flats 2 (Paulson) to Dec. 30 Westborough 4 (Paulson). Max. Oct. 25 Quaboag IBA 42 (Lynch & Carroll).
- AMERICAN GOLDFINCH (*S. tristis*):** Permanent resident. Max. Oct. 25 Westborough WMA 253 (Spahr), Dec. 14 SCC 484.
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR (*Calcarius lapponicus*):** Single first half report, Jan. 10 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Then, Oct. 3 Westborough 1 (Paulson) to Oct. 9 Clinton 1 (Walsh).
- SNOW BUNTING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*):** First half reports: Jan. 10 Wachusett Res. 20 (Lynch & Carroll) through Mar. 29 Fitchburg 1 (Pirro), with max. Jan. 16 West Boylston 100 (Robo). Then, Oct. 31 Boylston 3 (B. Kamp) to Nov. 17 Westborough 2 (Spahr) with a late report Dec. 19 Worcester 1 (Paulson). Second half max. Nov. 3 Mt. Wachusett 15 (Logan).
- EASTERN TOWHEE (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*):** No first half winter reports. Then, Apr. 14 Broad Meadow Brook WS 2 (Robo) to Oct. 23 Westborough 1 (Lawson). Max. May 16 WRW 29 (Lynch & Carroll). Late reports Nov. 6 Broad Meadow Brook WS (Robo) and Dec. 22 Millbury (Rosenblatt).
- AMERICAN TREE SPARROW (*Spizelloides arborea*):** Winter to Apr. 27 Paxton 1 (Jenkins). Max. Jan. 15 Westborough 35 (Rosenblatt). Then, Oct. 22 Westborough 1 (Williams) through Dec. 31 Uxbridge # (Gosselin). Max. Dec. 27 Westborough 130 (Spahr).
- CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*):** Winter report Jan. 18 Wachusett Res. 1 (Miller). Then, widely reported Apr. 5 Gardner 5 (Pirro) to Oct. 11 Quaboag IBA 5 (Lynch & Carroll).

Max. Oct. 4 Paxton 140 (Jenkins). Scattered Nov. and Dec. reports: Nov. 12 Wachusett Res. 3 (Lynch & Carroll), Millbury 3 (Miller), Nov. 14 Worcester 2 (Robo) and Dec. 14 Westborough 1 (Gras).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*S. pallida*): Just one report Sept. 29 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr, Garvey & Lawson).

FIELD SPARROW (*S. pusilla*): One winter report Jan. 14 Northbridge 1 (Rosenblatt). Then, Apr. 4 Spencer 2 (Lawson) and Broad Meadow Brook WS 2 (Robo). Max. Apr. 19 Upton 13 (Paulson) through Oct. 11 Quaboag IBA 2 (Lynch & Carroll). Then, a few Dec. reports: Dec. 10 Westborough 2 (Spahr), Dec. 19 WoCC 1 (Paulson) and Dec. 27 Westborough 2 (Spahr).

VESPER SPARROW (*Pooecetes gramineus*): Reported from Apr. 14 Lancaster 2 (Robo) to Oct. 25 Westborough 1 (Spahr). Max. Apr. 19 Lancaster 3 (Lawson#) and July 17 Lancaster 3 (Lynch & Carroll). Most reports during breeding season were from the Lancaster area, with one report from suitable fields near the Animal Hospital in Sutton May 10 1 (eBird).

SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis*): No winter reports. Then, Apr. 7 Westborough 6 (Spahr) to July 18 Quaboag IBA 6 (Lynch & Carroll). Fall reports Oct. 2 Wachusett Res. 3 (Lynch & Carroll) to Nov. 17 Westborough 2 (Lawson). Max. Oct. 15 Westborough 80 (Paulson). Three December reports: Dec. 16 Westborough 4 (Spahr), Dec. 19 WoCC 1 (Paulson) and Dec. 20 Westborough 1 (McDaniel).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (*Ammodramus savannarum*): May 6 Sutton 1 (Lawson) to July 17 Lancaster 5, also max., (Lynch & Carroll). One fall report: Oct. 3 Westborough 1 (Paulson).

FOX SPARROW (*Passerella iliaca*): Winter feeder report: Jan. 3 Northborough 1 (Gleavy). Spring reports: Mar. 28 Worcester 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Apr. 13 Templeton 1 (Pirro) with max. Apr. 9 Bolton Flats 11 (Murray). Fall reports: Oct. 25 Quaboag IBA 4 (Lynch & Carroll) to Nov. 17 Westborough 17, also max., (Spahr). Lingers: Dec. 10 and Dec. 16 Westborough WMA 4, 2 (Spahr).

SONG SPARROW (*Melospiza melodia*): Permanent resident, with some retraction during winter period. Max Dec. 14 SCC 103 and Dec. 14 SCC 103.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW (*M. lincolnii*): One spring report: May 19 Westborough 1 (Spahr). Fall reports Sept. 12 BBC trip Westborough 1 (Paulson, v.o.) to Oct. 25 Westborough 2 (Spahr). Max. Oct. 10 Westborough 9 (Paulson).

SWAMP SPARROW (*M. georgiana*): Scattered winter reports from Jan. 1 Bolton Flats 2 (Lynch & Carroll) to Mar. 31 Bolton Flats 1 (Bourget). Then, Apr. 5 Charlton 1 (Lawson) through Dec. 31 Hopedale 1 (Paulson). Max. Oct. 11 Bolton Flats 143 (Paulson).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia albicollis*): Breeding in northwestern Worcester County. First half max. May 2 Otter River SF 35 (Lynch & Carroll). Fall max. Oct. 25 Westborough 200 (Spahr). Breeding season reports: June 3, July 6, Aug. 1 Otter River SF 7, 19, 14 respectively (Lynch & Carroll), June 3 Gardner 1 (Pirro) and July 5 Ashburnham 2 (Block).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (*Z. leucophrys*): Two spring reports: May 10 Private Location 1 (Castriotta) and May 13 and May 14 Private Location 1 (Pack). Fall reports from Sept. 27 Westborough 1 (Paulson) through Oct. 25 Westborough 2 (Spahr). Max. Oct. 3 Westborough 8 (Paulson). Late report Dec. 2 Westborough 1 (Spahr).

DARK-EYED JUNCO (*Junco hyemalis*): Reported throughout the year. Winter through spring reports Jan. 1 Westborough 30+ (Lynch & Carroll) through May 30 Broad Meadow Brook WS Worcester 1 (Young). Max. Apr. 8 Westminster 160 (Caron) and Nov. 15 Paxton

300+ (Jenkins). Breeding season reports from Mt. Watatic, Wachusett Mtn., Quabbin Res. and Otter River SF with a breeding max. May 21 Mt. Watatic 13 (Schain). Fall reports: Sept. 6 Wachusett Mtn. 2 (Johnson) through Dec. 31 Princeton 2 (Dekker) with max Dec. 10 Westborough 264 (Spahr) and Dec. 14 SCC 1563.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (*Icteria virens*): One report Sept. 13 Westborough 1 (Spahr).

BOBOLINK (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*): May 3 Westborough 1 (Mitchell) to Oct. 11 Bolton Flats 2 (Paulson). Max. Aug. 7 Mt. Jefferson, Hubbardston 75 (Howes).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella magna*): Apr. 11 Delaney WMA 1 (Oxley#) to Oct. 31 Lancaster 1 (Bourget#). Max. Apr. 13 and Aug. 12 Dexter Drumlin, Lancaster 5 (Johnson). Possible pair May 23 Lancaster (Lynch & Carroll).

ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Icterus spurius*): May 3 Uxbridge 1 (Paulson) to Aug. 12 Westborough (Spahr). Max. May 8 Westborough 3 (Spahr).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*I. galbula*): May 2 Auburn 1 (VandenBoom) to Sept. 21 Westborough 1 (Spahr). Max. May 16 WRW 29 (Lynch & Carroll).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD (*Agelaius phoeniceus*): Reported throughout the year, but local in winter. Spring max. Apr. 2 Bolton Flats 386 (Lynch & Carroll). Fall max. Nov. 6 Petersham 2,000+ (Lynch & Carroll).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD (*Molothrus ater*): Scarce in winter. Winter reports: Jan. 1 Sterling 1 (Bourinot), Jan. 6, 26 and 29 Millbury 11, 8, 8 respectively (Marble). Then, Mar. 14 Sterling 1 (Bourinot) to Sept. 25 Boylston 100, also max, (Cook). Several Dec. reports from Dec. 5 Millbury 1 (Berard) to Dec. 19 WoCC 6 (Bourinot).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus carolinus*): One first half winter sighting Jan. 9 Milford 1 (Rosenblatt). Spring sightings Mar. 18 Millbury 8 (Bourget) to May 9 Westborough 1 (Paulson). Fall sightings Sept. 27 Westborough 1 (Paulson) to Nov. 17 Quaboag IBA 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Several second half winter reports: Dec. 20 Milford 1 (Rosenblatt), Dec. 30 Westborough 3 (Paulson) and Dec. 31 Milford 14 (Paulson). Max. Apr. 6 Bolton Flats 40 (Bourget, Johnson).

COMMON GRACKLE (*Quiscalus quisqualis*): Scarce in winter. Jan. 2 Grafton 2 (Paulson) to Dec. 31 Worcester 1 (Robo). Spring max. Apr. 2 Bolton Flats 111 (Lynch & Carroll). Fall max. Nov. 2 Lancaster 2,000 (Miller) and Nov. 4 Harvard 2,000 (Moreria).

OVENBIRD (*Seiurus aurocapilla*): Apr. 30 Millbury 1 (Marble) to Sept. 12 Princeton 1 (Robo), max. May 16 WRW 254 (Lynch & Carroll). One over-wintering bird: Dec. 14 East Brookfield 1 (Caron and Jenkins) is an excellent report for the county.

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helmitheros vermivorum*): Goat Hill location reports: May 9 Uxbridge 1 (Paulson) to June 9 Uxbridge 1 (Marble). All other reports: May 17 Mt. Wachusett 2 (Van Der Veen) and June 7 Upton State Forest 1 (Paulson). Max. 2 birds at various locations by v.o.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH (*Parkesia motacilla*): Apr. 11 Upton 1 (Marble) to June 26 Westminster 1 (Pirro). One later report Sept. 5 Otter River SF 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. Apr. 18 Spencer 4 (Lynch & Carroll).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (*P. novaboracensis*): Apr. 26 Princeton 1 (Lawson) to Sept. 26 Northborough 1 (Lynch & Carroll), with max. May 9 Douglas 10 (Lawson).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora cyanoptera*): May 2 Westborough 2 (Paulson) to Aug. 30 Worcester 1 (Lynch & Carroll). One later report on Sept. 20 Westborough 1 (Lawson). Max. May 28 Westborough 21 (Lawson).

BREWSTER'S WARBLER: June 6 Westborough 1 photographed (Arena).

LAWRENCE'S WARBLER: May 9 Petersham 1 (Horman).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (*Mniotilta varia*): Apr. 22 Millbury 1 (Lawson) to Oct. 11 Harvard 1 (Paulson). Max. May 16 WRW 41 (Lynch & Carroll).

TENNESSEE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis peregrina*): Six reports in the spring, May 9 Shrewsbury 1 (eBird) to May 26 Hubbardston 2, also max., (Howes). Five reports in the fall, Sept. 8 North Brookfield 1 (Jenkins) to Oct. 10 Westborough 1 (Paulson).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*O. celata*): Five fall reports: Oct. 3, Oct. 10 Westborough 1, 1 (both Paulson), Oct. 10 Moose Hill WMA Paxton 1 (Jenkins), Oct. 11 Harvard 1 (Paulson) and Oct. 18 Westborough 1 (Young).

NASHVILLE WARBLER (*O. ruficapilla*): May 6 WRW, Mendon 1, 1 (Lynch & Carroll, Pirro) to Sept. 23 WRW 1 (Lynch & Carroll), and later, Oct. 23, 25 Westborough 1 (Spahr). Max. 3 birds reported on several dates by v.o.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*): Three reports most certainly are of the same bird: Sept. 16 Westborough 1 (Spahr, Lawson), and Sept. 17 Westborough 1 (Paulson).

MOURNING WARBLER (*Geothlypis philadelphia*): Two spring reports, May 21 Mt. Watatic 1 (Schain) and 1 Auburn Banding Station (Blazis). Three fall reports: Aug. 30 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll), Sept. 17 WRW 1 (Lynch & Carroll) and Sept. 25 Paxton 1 (Jenkins).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (*G. trichas*): One winter report, Jan. 2 Grafton 1 (Paulson). Normal period: Apr. 29 Princeton 1 (Lawson) to Oct. 22 Westborough 1 (Paulson). Max. May 16 WRW 89 (Lynch & Carroll).

HOODED WARBLER (*Setophaga citrina*): Two reports: May 14 Lancaster 1 (Bourinot, v.o.) and Oct. 23 Princeton (Olson# *fide* Bird Obs.), also the latest Worcester County record.

AMERICAN REDSTART (*S. ruticilla*): May 2 Westborough 1 (Paulson) to Sept. 29 Westborough 1 (Spahr, Garvey). Max. June 8 Quabbin Res. 67 (Paulson).

CAPE MAY WARBLER (*S. tigrina*): Several spring reports May 3 Uxbridge 1 (Paulson) to May 21 Mt. Watatic 1 (Schain). Max. May 8 Worcester 2 (Gach). Fall reports: Sept. 12 Harvard 1 (Hopkins), and reports of a lone bird from a single location in Worcester consistently between Sept. 1 and Sept. 19 (Robo).

CERULEAN WARBLER (*S. cerulea*): Two spring reports; May 16 WRW 1 (Lynch & Carroll) and May 26 Quabbin Res. 1 (Hoye).

NORTHERN PARULA (*S. americana*): A fantastic report of a bird, continuing since Dec. 16, 2014, visiting a yard in Uxbridge and reported until Jan. 3 was well documented (Lodi). Spring, May 2 Worcester 1 (Robo) to June 13 Templeton 1 (Paulson). Spring max. May 5 Worcester 15 (Mulhearn). In the fall, Aug. 22 Westminster 3 (Aversa) to Oct. 12 Upton 1 (Paulson), with max. Sept. 13 Westborough 8 (Spahr).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER (*S. magnolia*): May 3 Barre 1 (Castriotta) to Sept. 22 West Brookfield 1 (Castriotta), with max. May 16 WRW 8 (Lynch & Carroll).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (*S. castanea*): In the spring, May 9 WRW, Douglas 1,1 (Lynch & Carroll, Paulson) to May 18 Westborough 1 (Spahr). One fall report, Sept. 5 Otter River SF 1 (Lynch & Carroll).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*S. fusca*): May 3 Quabbin Res 1 (Pirro) to Sept. 17 WRW 3 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. May 23 Rutland 16 (Waters).

YELLOW WARBLER (*S. petechia*): Apr. 28 Westborough 1 (Lawson, Garvey) to Sept. 24 Westborough 1 (Spahr, Williams). Max. May 15 Quabog IBA 55 (Lynch & Carroll).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*S. pensylvanica*): May 3 Uxbridge 1 (Paulson) to Sept. 19 Lancaster 1 (Johnson). Max. May 16 WRW 84 (Lynch & Carroll).

- BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*S. striata*):** Spring arrival May 8 with five reports to May 30 Worcester 1 (Young) and max. May 21 Mt. Watatic 11 (Schain). In fall, Sept. 11 Holden 1 (Spahr) to Nov. 1 Lancaster 1 (Johnson). Fall max. Oct. 10 Paxton 16 (Jenkins). Late report: Oct. 30 to Nov. 19 North Brookfield 1 (Jenkins), also the latest Worcester County record.
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (*S. caerulescens*):** May 2 Worcester 1 (Lawson) to Oct. 15 Bolton 1 (Luedemann), with max. May 16 WRW 28 (Young).
- PALM WARBLER (*S. palmarum*):** In the spring, Apr. 7 with multiple reports (v.o.) to May 6 Westminster 1 (Pirro), and max. Apr. 21 Westborough 27 (Spahr). Southbound: Sept. 6 Brimfield 1 (Cook) to Nov. 9 Moose Hill WMA Paxton 2 (Jenkins). Fall max. Oct. 10 Westborough 20 (Paulson).
- PINE WARBLER (*S. pinus*):** A very early or over-winterer, Feb. 1 Westborough 1 (eBird). Then, Apr. 6 Sutton 1 (Lawson) to Oct. 25 Quabbin Res. 1 (Howes), and also a late report on Dec. 29 Webster 1 (Beaumont). Max. Sept. 5 Otter River SF 95 (Lynch & Carroll).
- YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*S. coronata*):** Apr. 11 Westborough 1 (Spahr) to Nov. 29 Oxford 2 (Isakson). Max. Oct. 11 Harvard 156 (Paulson) and Oct. 10 Paxton 250+ (Jenkins).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER (*S. discolor*):** May 1 Gardner 1 (Pirro) to Sept. 25 Hubbardston 1 (Howes). Max. June 9 Upton 13 (Glagowski).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*S. virens*):** Apr. 27 Worcester 1 (Robo) to Oct. 18 Wachusett Res. 1 (Bourinot) and Paxton 1 (Jenkins). Max. July 6 Otter River SF 29 (Lynch & Carroll).
- CANADA WARBLER (*Cardellina canadensis*):** May 6 WRW 2 (Lynch & Carroll) to Sept. 6 Brimfield 1 (Cook). Max. May 16 WRW 6 (Lynch & Carroll).
- WILSON'S WARBLER (*C. pusilla*):** Northbound: May 9 Worcester 2 (Robo) and Warren 3, also max., (Zajda *vide* Bird Obs.) to May 24 Westborough 1 (Ann & Andrew Barndt). Only three fall reports: Oct. 1, Oct. 10 both Westborough 1 (both Paulson) and Oct. 11 Worcester 1 (Lawson).
- SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*):** May. 5 Bolton Flats 2 (Glagowski), Westborough 2 (Kittredge) and Worcester 1 (Robo) to Oct. 12 Upton 1 (Paulson). Max. May 16 WRW 42 (Lynch & Carroll).
- SUMMER TANAGER (*P. rubra*):** May 8 Warren 1 (Zajda *vide* Bird Obs.).
- NORTHERN CARDINAL (*Cardinalis cardinalis*):** Permanent resident. Max. Dec. 14 SCC 257.
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*):** Apr. 26 Oxbow NWR 1 (eBird) to Sept. 17 Westborough 1 (Paulson). Max. May 16 WRW 30 (Lynch & Carroll)
- INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*):** One early report on Apr 24 Worcester 1 (B. Kamp). Then, May 2 Otter River SF 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Oct. 11 Bolton Flats 1 (Paulson). Max. Sept. 21 Westborough 18 (Spahr).
- DICKCISSEL (*Spiza americana*):** All reports: Sept. 13 to Sept. 18 Heirloom Harvest CSA, Westborough 3, also max., (Paulson, v.o.), Sept. 21 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr), and Nov. 1 Moose Hill WMA Paxton 1 (Jenkins).

The Editorial Committee would like to thank all those who reported sightings in Worcester County for 2015.

**WACHUSETT MEADOWS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
BREEDING SEASON CENSUS**

The Fiftieth Annual Forbush Bird Club Breeding Season Census of Wachusett Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary, Princeton, Mass; June, 2015.

Canada Goose 8, Wood Duck 1, Great Blue Heron 5, Green Heron 1, Red-shouldered Hawk 5, Broad-winged Hawk 2, Mourning Dove 18, Barred Owl 1, Ruby-throated Hummingbird 4, Red-bellied Woodpecker 7, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 23, Downy Woodpecker 14, Hairy Woodpecker 8, Northern Flicker 2, Pileated Woodpecker 2, Eastern Wood-Pewee 33, Willow Flycatcher 1, Least Flycatcher 2, Eastern Phoebe 3, Great Crested Flycatcher 8, Eastern Kingbird 6, Yellow-throated Vireo 1, Blue-headed Vireo 9, Warbling Vireo 4, Red-eyed Vireo 70, Blue Jay 25, American Crow 6, Tree Swallow 44, Barn Swallow 74, Black-capped Chickadee 53, Tufted Titmouse 27, Red-breasted Nuthatch 3, White-breasted Nuthatch 18, Brown Creeper 4, Carolina Wren 2, House Wren 3, Eastern Bluebird 6, Veery 10, Hermit Thrush 17, Wood Thrush 8, American Robin 16, Gray Catbird 17, Cedar Waxwing 9, Yellow Warbler 8, Chestnut-sided Warbler 28, Black-throated Blue Warbler 4, Yellow-rumped Warbler 4, Black-throated Green Warbler 15, Blackburnian Warbler 7, Pine Warbler 16, Prairie Warbler 3, Black-and-white Warbler 9, American Redstart 5, Ovenbird 114, Common Yellowthroat 38, Eastern Towhee 5, Chipping Sparrow 15, Song Sparrow 20, Swamp Sparrow 6, Scarlet Tanager 23, Northern Cardinal 7, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 4, Bobolink 4, Red-winged Blackbird 26, Common Grackle 14, Brown-headed Cowbird 9, Baltimore Oriole 1, Purple Finch 2, American Goldfinch 13, House Sparrow 18.

Report submitted by: Dick Knowlton

**WORCESTER COUNTY CHRISTMAS COUNTS
2015**

Count Name:	Sturbridge	Athol*	Worcester	Groton-Oxbow**	Westminster	Quabbin*	Uxbridge
Date:	14-Dec	19-Dec	19-Dec	20-Dec	26-Dec	2-Jan	2-Jan
	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016
SPECIES							
Snow Goose	33					1	
Gr-Wh-fr Goose			1				
Canada Goose	421	255	2123	246	268	236	301
Mute Swan			18	23			14
Wood Duck		4					1
Blue-wing. Teal						1	
Gadwall	1						
Am. Wigeon	1						
Mallard	724	218	1147	164	803	49	225
Am. Black Duck	37	19	57	5	16	76	52
Northern Pintail	4						
Green-wing. Teal	4		2				
Ring-neck. Duck		19	20			3	6
Greater Scaup		2	117				1
Lesser Scaup	2		2				
Wh.-wing. Scoter						cw	
Long-tailed Duck						2	
Bufflehead	14	2	29		1	3	
Com. Goldeneye	3	cw	161		24	2	14
H. Merganser	130	51	199		66	82	89
Com. Merganser	462	8	214	70	16	231	5
Ruddy Duck	155						1
R.-nck Pheasant	5	3					
Ruffed Grouse	4		1			8	
Wild Turkey	29	336	5	70	56	38	36
Common Loon		3	13			16	
Pied-billed Grebe	1		1				
Horned Grebe		cw	cw			2	
D-c. Cormorant			4				
Gr. Blue Heron	11		8	4			1
Black Vulture	cw						
Turkey Vulture	1						20
Osprey		1					
Golden Eagle		1	1				
Northern Harrier	2					1	1
Shrp-shn. Hawk	1	1	3	2	1	2	1
Cooper's Hawk	11	4	10	4		3	4
Bald Eagle	2	15	7	2	1	16	4
Red-shld. Hawk	1		2	cw	1	2	1
Red-tailed Hawk	15	13	56	29	24	22	33

Count Name:	Sturbridge	Athol*	Worcester	Groton-Oxbow**	Westminster	Quabbin*	Uxbridge
Am. Woodcock	1						
Ring-billed Gull	282	22	1314	54	31	153	75
Herring Gull	25		79	11	136	7	2
Gr. Bl-bckd. Gull	9		2	1	5		
Rock Pigeon	575	305	481	85	231	192	308
Mourning Dove	677	189	337	85	195	283	180
E. Screech-Owl	5		6			2	43
Gr. Horned Owl	7	2	7	1	2	2	10
Barred Owl	7	1	1	cw	2	5	7
Long-eared Owl		1					
N. Saw-whet Owl	4	3	1			7	4
Belted Kingfisher	10	cw	4	3	2	3	6
R-h. Woodpecker			1				
R-b. Woodpecker	94	22	54	17	23	41	51
Y-b. Sapsucker	3			1			
Do. Woodpecker	246	100	115	66	94	59	81
H. Woodpecker	68	34	23	27	19	17	11
Northern Flicker	20	2	7	8	2	5	15
Pil. Woodpecker	12	12	5	5	6	19	1
Merlin			cw	cw			
Peregrine Falcon			3			1	
Northern Shrike						1	
Blue Jay	856	471	394	216	231	436	439
American Crow	239	275	2871	117	158	192	236
Fish Crow			3				
Common Raven	1	76	16	10	15	20	6
Horned Lark		1	57				
Bl.-c. Chickadee	1895	1442	749	372	750	849	623
Tufted Titmouse	784	319	339	182	178	298	462
Red-br. Nuthatch	3	29	6	3	8	63	
Wh.-br. Nuthatch	437	292	180	100	171	199	214
Brown Creeper	21	11	8	4	9	14	2
Winter Wren	1		1		1		1
Marsh Wren			cw				
Carolina Wren	36	6	21		6	5	13
Golden-crowned Kinglet	22	23	8	13	9	28	10
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	1				1		2
Eastern Bluebird	151	29	64	40	53	54	99
Hermit Thrush	5	1	3		1	2	3
American Robin	1765	164	237	378	188	121	164
Gray Catbird	1	1		2	1		
Nor. Mockingbird	29	5	22	17	4	9	9
Euro. Starling	1683	958	1398	365	389	397	392
American Pipit			2				
Boh. Waxwing	cw						

Count Name:	Sturbridge	Athol*	Worcester	Groton-Oxbow**	Westminster	Quabbin*	Uxbridge
Cedar Waxwing	842	276	144	36	225	134	77
Snow Bunting			1				
Ovenbird	1						
Co. Yellowthroat							1
Y-r Warbler	1			1			
A. Tree Sparrow	117	72	39	100	42	41	70
Field Sparrow			1				28
Dark-eyed Junco	1563	851	719	528	275	791	825
Wh-thr. Sparrow	121	17	63	50	10	29	96
Sav. Sparrow			1	1			
Song Sparrow	103	16	65	67	9	16	104
Swamp Sparrow	6		3	1	1	1	2
Eastern Towhee	1						
Northern Cardinal	257	144	160	80	67	95	209
Red-w. Blackbird	1040			414			9
Br-h. Cowbird			6	4			23
Rusty Blackbird		5					2
Common Grackle	695			1			1
House Finch	267	134	174	92	64	25	88
Purple Finch	26	50	6	5	11	13	
Common Redpoll	CW	4					
Pine Siskin	6	1	6			7	
Am. Goldfinch	484	311	336	270	209	202	140
House Sparrow	1034	571	1276	350	615	641	873
Count Day Species	78	60	77	54	54	64	66
Count Day Individuals	18613	8203	16020	4802	5726	6275	6827

* = Count circle extends outside of Worcester County.

** = Center outside of Worcester County but portions of the circle are within the county.

CW = Birds seen during count week (the three days before and after the count) but not on count day.

**AUBURN BIRDBANDING RESEARCH STATION
AUBURN SPORTSMAN'S CLUB
2015 CAPTURES**

Species	Spring	Fall	Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl		20	20
Downy Woodpecker	1	17	18
Hairy Woodpecker	2	2	4
Northern Flicker		1	1
Pileated Woodpecker	1		1
Eastern Wood-Pewee		1	1
Trail's Flycatcher	4	5	9
Least Flycatcher	1		1
Eastern Phoebe	2	10	12
Great Crested Flycatcher	1		1
Eastern Kingbird	2		2
Tree Swallow	69	1	70
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	13	1	14
Cedar Waxwing	2		2
Carolina Wren	1	1	2
House Wren	2	6	8
Gray Catbird	41	158	199
Eastern Bluebird	60	9	69
Veery	7	7	14
Swainson's Thrush	3	1	4
Wood Thrush		7	7
American Robin	8	5	13
Black-capped Chickadee	9	51	60
Tufted Titmouse	5	29	34
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	12	14
Brown Creeper	1	2	3
Blue Jay	2	1	3
Blue-headed Vireo		1	1
Warbling Vireo	5	2	7
Red-eyed Vireo	6	5	11
Purple Finch	2	1	3
House Finch		7	7

Species	Spring	Fall	Total
American Goldfinch	4	23	27
Blue-winged Warbler	1		1
Nashville Warbler		1	1
Yellow Warbler	4		4
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	1	2
Magnolia Warbler	10	1	11
Black-throated Green Warbler		1	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	11		11
Pine Warbler	2	1	3
Prairie Warbler		1	1
Palm Warbler	4		4
Black-and-white Warbler	3	3	6
American Redstart	14	4	18
Ovenbird	3	5	8
Northern Waterthrush	6	4	10
Mourning Warbler	1		1
Common Yellowthroat	54	20	74
Wilson's Warbler	1		1
Canada Warbler	6	1	7
Scarlet Tanager	1		1
Eastern Towhee		1	1
Song Sparrow	6	7	13
Lincoln's Sparrow	1		1
Swamp Sparrow	12	2	14
White-throated Sparrow	22		22
Dark-eyed Junco	1	4	5
Northern Cardinal	7	7	14
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2		2
Red-winged Blackbird	8		8
Common Grackle	1		1
Baltimore Oriole	11		11

TOTALS – 63 Species	449	324	773
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Report Submitted by: Mark Blazis

**PASSERINE BANDING 2015
WEST HILL PARK, NORTHBRIDGE MA**

West Hill Park-West Hill Dam is a 567-acre complex operated by the Army Corps of Engineers along the West River in Northbridge and Uxbridge. The habitat includes woodland, field and marsh, which supports a diversity of bird species. Since 2001, the banding program has documented 98 species of passerines at West Hill Park during spring and fall migration.

SPRING 2015

An extended period of cold weather delayed spring songbird banding at West Hill Park. Mist nets were opened on 8 mornings May 22-June 5, 2015. Total netted: 82 birds of 29 species, including recaptures. There was no significant influx of birds during this period; on several mornings, there was a maximum of 12 birds of 9 species.

Highlights. Banded birds included: Yellow-throated Vireo, Great Crested Flycatcher, Magnolia Warbler, Scarlet Tanager (first breeding plumaged male netted at this banding station), and male Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Recaptures (birds banded at West Hill Park in prior years) included a Warbling Vireo (in its 5th year of life or older); a male E. Towhee (in its 7th year or older); and a Prairie Warbler in at least its TENTH year of life.

FALL 2015

Passerines were banded on the mornings of September 25 and 26 following a long period of very warm, humid weather. 30 birds of 9 species were netted, including a Northern Waterthrush and a returning American Goldfinch (banded at the Park in spring 2014).

Report submitted by Strickland Wheelock and Beth Milke.

NORTHBRIDGE BANDING RESULTS 2015

Species	Spring <u>5/22-6/5</u>	Fall <u>9/25-9/26</u>	Total
DOWNY WOODPECKER	1		1
WILLOW FLYCATCHER	1		1
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	1		1
YELLOW-THROATED VIREO	1		1
WARBLING VIREO	1		1
BLUE JAY	1	1	2
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	6	2	8
TUFTED TITMOUSE	1	2	3
AMERICAN ROBIN	4		4
GRAY CATBIRD	9	5	14
BROWN THRASHER	1		1
CEDAR WAXWING	1		1
YELLOW WARBLER	3		3
MAGNOLIA WARBLER	1		1
PINE WARBLER	1		1
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER	1		1

Species	Spring <u>5/22-6/5</u>	Fall <u>9/25-9/26</u>	Total
AMERICAN REDSTART	1		1
OVENBIRD	1		1
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH		1	1
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	2		2
SCARLET TANAGER	1		1
EASTERN TOWHEE	1		1
CHIPPING SPARROW	4	11	15
FIELD SPARROW	2		2
SONG SPARROW	1	1	2
SWAMP SPARROW		1	1
NORTHERN CARDINAL	4		4
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK	1		1
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	3		3
BALTIMORE ORIOLE	6		6
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	2		2

TOTAL BANDED	63	24	87
TOTAL BIRDS NETTED	83	30	113
TOTAL SPECIES NETTED	29	9	31

Report submitted by Strickland Wheelock and Beth Milke.

**Saw-whet Owl Banding 2015
Lookout Rock, Northbridge, MA**

Lookout Rock is a rocky elevation above the Blackstone River within the Blackstone River and Canal Heritage Park in Northbridge. The surrounding woods have been the site of a Northern Saw-whet Owl banding project since October 2003, in cooperation with Project Owl-net. These small owls pass through New England during October and November. The number of owls banded at the station varies considerably from year to year, ranging from 50 to 250.

Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded at Lookout Rock on 23 nights between October 14 and Nov 16, 2015. Warm temperatures, while a blessing for the banding team, probably were a factor in the small number of owls at the site this year--51 saw-whets were banded, and no owls banded at other stations were recaptured. The maximum number of owls per night was 6 on October 18 and November 2.

In comparison, last year's totals were 103 saw-whets banded plus 8 foreign recaptures.

A saw-whet banded at Lookout Rock in November of last year was netted at Drumlin Farm in Lincoln this season.

October Date	# Northern Saw-whet Owls Banded
10/14/15	1
10/15/15	0
10/16/15	2
10/17/15	2
10/18/15	6
10/20/15	4
10/21/15	2
10/23/15	1
10/24/15	2
10/25/15	2
10/30/15	3
10/31/15	4
OCT Total	29

November Date	# Northern Saw-whet Owls Banded
11/1/15	3
11/2/15	6
11/3/15	4
11/4/15	2
11/5/15	0
11/6/15	2
11/7/15	0
11/9/15	2
11/14/15	2
11/15/15	0
11/16/15	1
NOV Total	22

2015 Season Total	51
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Report submitted by Strickland Wheelock and Beth Milke

2015 Hawk Watch Results

(All data from Hawk Count)

Barre Falls Hawk Watch Spring 2015

Dates of observation: 16 dates from April 2 to May 6, 2015

Hours of observation: 69.0

Species	Season Total	Maximum: Date (#)
Black Vulture	0	---
Turkey Vulture	8	4/2 (8)
Osprey	53	4/13 (10)
Bald Eagle	15	4/15 (5)
Northern Harrier	5	4/13; 4/23 (2)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	35	5/4 (7)
Cooper's Hawk	4	4/2 (2)
Northern Goshawk	0	---
Red-shouldered Hawk	7	4/2 (4)
Broad-winged Hawk	281	4/16 (85)
Red-tailed Hawk	26	4/2 (10)
Rough-legged Hawk	1	4/2 (1)
Golden Eagle	1	4/16 (1)
American Kestrel	30	4/13 (5)
Merlin	6	4/13 (2)
Peregrine Falcon	1	4/29 (1)

Barre Falls Hawk Watch Fall 2015

Dates of observation: 53 dates from September 11 to November 21, 2015

Hours of observation: 234.8

Species	Season Total	Maximum: Date (#)
Black Vulture	0	---
Turkey Vulture	94	10/22 (52)
Osprey	62	9/16 (8)
Bald Eagle	48	10/1 (7)
Northern Harrier	20	9/16 (4)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	273	9/16 (24)
Cooper's Hawk	55	10/1 (7)
Northern Goshawk	3	10/22; 11/4; 11/9 (1)
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	Various (1)
Broad-winged Hawk	3131	9/16 (1089)
Red-tailed Hawk	113	11/2; 11/4 (11)
Rough-legged Hawk	0	---
Golden Eagle	3	10/19; 10/24; 11/15 (1)
American Kestrel	38	10/22 (6)
Merlin	11	Various (1)
Peregrine Falcon	9	10/22 (2)

Mt. Wachusett Fall Hawk Watch 2015

Dates of observation: 48 dates from August 14 to November 16, 2015

Hours of observation: 318.75

Species	Season Total	Maximum: Date (#)
Black Vulture	2	9/12; 10/8 (1)
Turkey Vulture	50	10/12 (16)
Osprey	206	9/17 (34)
Bald Eagle	158	9/15 (18)
Northern Harrier	23	Various (3)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	406	9/21 (38)
Cooper's Hawk	85	9/11; 9/24 (7)
Northern Goshawk	0	---
Red-shouldered Hawk	16	11/8 (4)
Broad-winged Hawk	11,205	9/17 (5433)
Red-tailed Hawk	42	11/8 (21)
Rough-legged Hawk	0	---
Golden Eagle	5	10/7 (2)
American Kestrel	121	9/21 (18)
Merlin	30	9/21 (5)
Peregrine Falcon	34	9/5; 9/11; 9/17 (4)

Mt. Watatic Hawk Watch Fall 2015

Dates of observation: 14 dates: September 5-26; October 18; December 12

Hours of observation: 106.5

Species	Season Total	Maximum: Date (#)
Black Vulture	0	---
Turkey Vulture	11	9/26 (5)
Osprey	72	9/26 (18)
Bald Eagle	60	9/14; 9/17 (8)
Northern Harrier	8	9/26 (3)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	282	9/26 (56)
Cooper's Hawk	79	9/17 (13)
Northern Goshawk	0	---
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	10/18 (2)
Broad-winged Hawk	5723	9/17 (2475)
Red-tailed Hawk	4	10/18 (4)
Rough-legged Hawk	0	---
Golden Eagle	0	---
American Kestrel	38	9/21 (11)
Merlin	45	9/21 (8)
Peregrine Falcon	8	9/19 (3)

Record of FORBUSH BIRD CLUB Activities for 2015

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| January | 1 | <p>Worcester and vicinity
 Leader: John Shea. Observers: 15. We saw 22 species including one weird goose. Some highlights: 1 Peregrine Falcon, 1 Red-tailed Hawk and 2 Gadwall. We saw a bird on the ice at Leesville Pond that looked like a Canada Goose with a Snow Goose head and neck.</p> |
| April | 4 | <p>Quaboag Pond and Vicinity
 Leader: Rodney Jenkins. Observers: 4. Species: 44.</p> |
| April | 10 | <p>Westborough WMA Woodcock Walk
 Leader: Laura Lane. Observers: 6. With the construction now complete on the new MassWildlife Headquarters, we met at the new building. The weather was in the 50's and overcast with a few sprinkles; but the rain held off. As the darkness fell the spring peepers, woodcock and Killdeer filled the spring air with sound. Highlights included a newly arrived Eastern Phoebe, a beaver and our target bird, the American Woodcock. Species: 18.</p> |
| April | 22 | <p>Shrewsbury Parks Earth Day Walk
 Leader: Mike Bellows. Observers: 7. Species: 9.</p> |
| April | 23 | <p>84th Forbush Bird Club Annual Dinner and Business Meeting
 The 84th Annual Dinner and Business Meeting of the Forbush Bird Club was held on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at the Manor Restaurant in West Boylston. The club President, Dick Knowlton opened the business meeting after the social hour with 66 members in attendance. Dick noted that the club has been active for 84 years in providing field trips, lecture programs, and participating in surveys such as Christmas Bird Counts and breeding bird surveys. During the last year club trips averaged 11 participants with high number of 30 at Mount Auburn. He noted that a few may have joined our group along the way. During the past year, we have added three all day trips: Sachuest Point NWR, Plymouth Pelagic Trip, and the Westport trip with Ocean State Bird Club. We participated in two research projects Wachusett Breeding Bird Survey and the Saw-whet Owl banding project. Over the past year we have had several interesting and educational lectures and have decided to change our regular meetings to 7 pm with a social get-together at 6: 30 pm. Dick recognized the club officers Donna Schilling, 1st Vice President who develops and distributes the club calendar twice a year; Paul Meleski, 2nd Vice President for organizing club programs; Bart Kamp, treasurer for caring for our "money" issues; Rich Quimby, secretary for keeping of the minutes; and for the support from the members-at-large Jim Hogan, Kevin</p> |

Bourinot and Dave Grant. He also thanked Chuck Caron, Chickadee editor along with his committee for producing the Chickadee. Dick thanked Strickland Wheelock, Beth Milke, Mark and Helen Blazis for their banding programs. He expressed his gratitude to Deb Cary and Sheryl Farnum for their support with the club's use of the sanctuary for our meetings; Rich Scarlett for management of our website; Kevin Bourinot and Alan Marble for supporting our Facebook page; and Rick Quimby for his maintenance of Central Mass bird sightings. He thanked Mike Bellows for the great work with the club's tee shirt sales.

Officer's Reports

Secretary's Report was read by Rick Quimby and accepted by the membership.

Treasurer's Report was read by Bart Kamp and accepted by the membership. It stated an ending balance of \$17,015.59.

Old Business

Last year there was discussion about converting our club to a non-profit organization to help curb expenses by eliminating property tax for Ekblaw Sanctuary. It was discovered that it is an expensive and complicated endeavor so would not be a profitable solution. It was decided to use other methods to reduce club expenses.

Executive Committee

Alan Marble has headed the Nominating committee for this year's look at the executive committee because members are at the end of the current term. Dick invited Alan to the podium so he could announce the committee's recommendations. Alan informed us that Dick Knowlton, President; Donna Schilling, 1st Vice President; Bart Kamp, Treasurer; and Jim Hogan and Dave Grant, Members at Large have all offered to continue in their positions. Alan stated that the committee discussed replacements for the open positions and he called and asked the candidates. He said that all the candidates accepted and were happy to be nominated. The new nominations are Kevin Bourinot, 2nd Vice President; Deb Berard, Secretary and Diane Abbott, member-at-large.

A motion was made to accept the nominations which were accepted.

Dick thanked Paul Meleski and Rick Quimby for all their help as officers.

25 Year Membership Awards

Joan Zumpfe received her 25 year certificate and Dick recognized her for her years of service stating she has held every officer position except treasurer.

Rick Quimby received his certificate and Dick recognized his contributions to the club as an officer but especially for his development and maintenance of Central Mass Bird Sightings.

New Business

Dick asked all to stay a few minutes at the end of the program so Diane Abbott could take a group photo.

Dick informed the group that he would continue to send out reminders of club events a few days ahead of time.

Dick announced that we had all received our last printed calendar of events. As a cost saving measure and a sign of the times, the calendar will now be sent electronically. If you do not have internet access the electronic calendar will be printed and mailed to members who have paid their dues. This will save the club significantly because it saves both printing and mailing costs.

Dick asked if there was any other new business.

Joan Zumpfe said that Dick had done a great job thanking all and wanted to thank Dick on behalf of all the members for the great job he's doing as president! Dick responded that it has been fun and he is enjoying it.

Announcements

5/3/15-Quabbin Reservoir Auto Trip led by Tom Pirro. Please note that there will be a trip but at the present time the roads in Quabbin are not accessible because of the heavy snow amounts we received. Emails will be sent out to describe the trip plans.

5/15/15-5/16/15-Mass Audubon Birdathon from 6pm-6pm. Please participate by birding or making a donation to show our appreciation for the use of the sanctuary and for the advocacy of Mass Audubon. You can support either Broad Meadow Brook or Wachusett Meadow.

6/14/15 Wachusett Meadow Breeding Bird Survey-Dick will be the compiler for this survey and would appreciate anyone who can help so the sanctuary gets good coverage.

8/16/15-The club will be offering a pelagic trip again this year because it was such a success last year. It will be preceded with an information lecture presented by Dan Berard on Thursday, August 13 at the sanctuary. All are welcome and the price will be set after we know how many will attend. Dick said he will be sending out an email with all the necessary information.

The business meeting ended and was followed by Paul Meleski introducing Geoff LeBaron from National Audubon who heads the Christmas Bird Counts, guides on the Audubon Odysseys, and many other related activities. He presented photos and stories from a voyage across the South Pacific that described the nature that thrives in the remote locations of the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Tristan da Cunha, and Western Cape Province, South Africa.

At the end of the presentation all gathered and Diane Abbott took a group photo! – Deb Berard, Secretary

- April 25 Sylvester Street, Worcester Airport**
Leader: Susan LaBree. Observers: 5. Weather: Sunny, windy and cold day for this walk. (In future years the location for this trip will probably have to change, as the city of Worcester is closing access to Sylvester Street for watershed protection reasons). Species: 46.
- May 1 Hodges Village**
Leader: Paul Meleski. Observers: 6. Weather: Sunny day, temperatures warming to the 60's and no wind. Species: 54.
- May 4 East Quabbin**
Leader: Tom Pirro. Observers: 8. We drove from gate 35 in New Salem through North Dana, Dana Center, the shoreline in what was once Greenwich, Ma. onto gate 43 and eventually exited at gate 45. Among 66 species the highlights were Common Loons, Bald Eagles, many Wood Thrushes, 12 species of wood warblers, and a Moose.
- May 9 Mt. Wachusett, Westminster**
Leader: Susan LaBree. Observers: 10. Weather: Overcast but clearing day. Species: 83.
- May 10 Mt. Auburn Cemetery**
Leader: Dan Berard. Observers: 27. Weather: Clear skies and 65 degree weather. Species: 72.
- May 16 Millbury/Sutton**
Leader: Alan Marble. Observers: 10. Weather: Overcast with temperatures in the 60's. 3 basic stops: the Millbury Bike Path, Oakhurst Rd, Sutton and the Brierly Pond Conservation Area in Millbury. Highlights: Black-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Meadowlarks, Pileated Woodpecker, Grasshopper Sparrows and Orchard Orioles. Species: 59.
- May 17 Buck Hill, Spencer**
Leader: Susan LaBree. Observers: 3. Weather: Nice sunny day with the temperature at 59 degrees. Species: 63.
- May 24 Upton State Forest**
Leader: Nick Paulson. Observers: More than 14. Species: 47.
- June 6 Barre Falls Dam and Rutland State Park**
Leaders: Donna Schilling and Dave Grant. Observers: 15. Weather: Cloudy to partly sunny, 55 to 68 degrees. Winds were light N/NE at the start, gusting to 20 mph by mid-morning. Locations visited were the Army Corps of Engineers property north of Barre Falls Dam, Brigham Road at the river's West Branch, Coldbrook Road, Reuben Walker Road at Stevens

Brook, Prison Camp Road, and Intervale Road at Longmeadow Brook. Highlights included a Brown Thrasher, Black-billed Cuckoo, and the Barre Falls Common Ravens. Ten species of breeding warblers were observed. Species: 54.

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|------------------|-----------|---|
| July | 19 | <p>Leicester -- Birds & Butterflies with Massachusetts Butterfly Club
 Leader: Dolores Price. Observers: 8. Weather: Very hot, sunny morning. Highlights included Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, and Bobolinks. Butterfly highlights included 30 Great Spangled Fritillaries, 1 Aphrodite Fritillary, 2 Monarchs, 2 Common Sootywings, and 1 Little Glassywing. Bird Species: 20. Butterfly Species: 23.</p> |
| August | 12 | <p>Night Heron Trip, Notre Dame Cemetery, Worcester, MA
 Leader: Dave Grant. Observers: 11. Weather: Pleasant warm evening with clear skies. Species: 25.</p> |
| August | 16 | <p>Forbush Bird Club Whale Watch Cruise
 Leaders: Dan Berard and Dick Knowlton. Sailed on Captain John's boat, from Plymouth. Weather - Excellent weather, clear skies, high visibility and calm waters. Highlights: Cory's Shearwater, Great Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Manx Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Northern Gannet, American Oystercatcher, Roseate Tern, Forster's Tern, Least Tern. Non-bird highlights: Humpback Whale, Atlantic White-sided Dolphin, Common Mola.</p> |
| September | 5 | <p>Wachusett Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary, Princeton
 Leader: Joan Gallagher. Observers: 12. Weather: Sunny, 60 degrees to start ending with a sunny high of 78 degrees. Species: 35. Highlights: Good close looks at two young Common Ravens, an immature Broad-winged Hawk that was a challenge to identify but luckily Donna & Dave were there. Eastern Phoebe were everywhere and a young porcupine slowly ascended a nearby tree.</p> |
| September | 15 | <p>Ekblaw Sanctuary, Paxton
 Leader: Rodney Jenkins. Observers: 4. This was a new trip for the club. This property is owned by Forbush Bird Club that consists of trails abutting Moore State Park in Paxton, Ma. Highlights: Great Blue Heron (1), Wood Duck (27), Blue-winged Teal(2), Ruffed Grouse (1), Great Horned Owl (2), Yellow-throated Vireo (1). Species: 25.</p> |
| September | 24 | <p>Bolton Flats WMA
 Leader: Kevin Bourinot. Observers: 8. Weather: Clear skies and windy. We started at the 117 entrance where we witnessed flights of American Robins and Red-winged Blackbirds leaving roosts. Overall land bird diversity was noticeably low compared to previous years. The BBC trip to Oxbow had a similar situation on this day. Sparrow numbers aren't up yet</p> |

and negative on shorebirds as the fields are not turned. We did have many Eastern Phoebe with the majority seen from the red barn entrance off route 110, and hawks were migrating throughout mid-morning.

Highlights: Osprey (1), Sharp-shinned Hawk (4), Cooper's Hawk (4), Broad-winged Hawk (4), Olive-sided Flycatcher (1), American Kestrel (3), Common Yellowthroat (17), Palm Warbler (11), Lincoln's Sparrow (5), Indigo Bunting (1), Bobolink (15). Species: 43.

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|----------------|-----------|---|
| October | 18 | <p>Wachusett Reservoir IBA</p> <p>Leader: Kevin Bourinot. Observers: 10. Weather: Low temps (starting at 38F), high winds, and occasional snow fall. Locations included River Road/Thomas Basin, Sterling Peat, West Waushacum Lake, The Quag, Central Mass Rail Trail (Sterling center entrance), East Waushacum Lake, Gates 36, 39, Mile Hill Road overlook, Gate 8, Gate 17, and Gate 25. We had a few pockets of (non-Yellow-rumped) migrant warblers, and yesterday's cold front definitely "put down" some migrants on the body of the reservoir. Highlights: White-winged Scoter (4 - 3m, 1f), Black Scoter (96) One skittish raft in the north. Taking off, flying around, and landing again, Common Loon (22), Horned Grebe (4), Red-necked Grebe (2), Bonaparte's Gull (1). Species: 57.</p> |
| October | 25 | <p>Quaboag Pond and Vicinity</p> <p>Leader: Rodney Jenkins. Observers: 1. Weather: Light rain and fog. The temp was 48 degrees and no other members participated. Species: 48</p> |