

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 2017

The winter months of 2017 were fairly typical, but snowstorms continued well into mid-March. May started rather cold with below normal temperatures. June was warmer than average and that month also featured several flash floods. Later in the summer saw more typical temps with lower than typical rainfall.

Birders tallied 243 species in Worcester County in 2017. The Ross's Goose (or, possibly, geese) was the only species found in 2017 that was new for the County list. This sharp-looking and compact goose was first spotted in south County at the end of February. The bird then disappeared, and it, or another Ross's Goose, was later discovered in Southborough in mid-March. People may assume it is the same bird, but truthfully we cannot be sure. Ross's Geese were unknown in the state before the mid-1990s. In 1997 Ross's Geese began to appear in Massachusetts, first along the Connecticut River Valley. Two were spotted among a large flock of Snow Geese that had put down in Hatfield at the end of March in 1997. From then on, Ross's Geese have appeared in the state every few years, often in the Valley. Though single birds are most often noted, a flock of 8 adults was found at Arcadia MAS in Northampton in mid-March of 2009.

Another great find was the Tufted Duck found in mid-May in a small pond in Princeton, apparently "with" a small flock of Ring-necked Ducks. This bird has been declared the "second" record for the County. But that depends on how you keep reports. In 1995 Worcester County's first Tufted Duck was noted in a flock of scaup. A Tufted Duck was found in every year thereafter until 2002! The/A Tufted Duck was spotted between October and mid-March in those intervening years and was found in a variety of locations including West Waushacum, Wachusett Reservoir, Coachlace Pond, Lake Quinsigamond and Flint Pond. It has been assumed that all through those years, this was the same Tufted Duck, in that it usually appeared in a flock of scaup. In February 2003, a Tufted Duck was found among a flock of scaup at Bold Point in Providence, RI which is the southern terminus of the Blackstone National Corridor. Thereafter, until 2008, a Tufted Duck was found along the river feeding into James Turner Reservoir, East Providence. This is close to Bold Point and also part of the Blackstone National Corridor. If all those Worcester County reports are of the same Tufted Duck, then I wonder if the duck eventually left the County and suddenly began to appear south. The Blackstone River and adjacent ponds are a natural flyway north to south for waterfowl. Who can tell?

Other good finds included Eurasian Wigeon, Cattle Egret, a third report of Laughing Gull, another Red-necked Phalarope, a one-day-wonder Painted Bunting that appeared at a feeder, and finally a relatively co-operative LeConte's Sparrow at Bolton Flats. This bird was of state-wide interest. LeConte's are small, relatively colorful *Ammodramus* sparrows and notorious skulkers. They breed in wet grasslands in central Canada and northern mid-west. That this bird could be found in the acres of perfect habitat that comprise Bolton Flats in fall is amazing. But the fact that the bird could be refound for several days is nothing short of incredible. Though there are a small handful of reports for the County of LeConte's, this 2017 bird was the first that was fully documented with numerous photographs.

One of the most unusual bird sightings in the County for 2017 will not be found on the species list. While teaching an adult natural history class at Broad Meadow Brook, two of the students, Martin and Margaret Bowden, showed me some stunning photographs of an unusual male oriole that were just taken at their feeders 7-8 May. I recognized it as a tropical oriole, but could not identify the species and asked them to submit the photographs to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC). The bird was eventually identified as a Black-backed Oriole (*Icterus abeillei*), a species from Mexico.

Because of anomalies in the facial patterning, this was shown to be the very same bird that had appeared at feeders in Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania 31 January 2017-16 April, 2017. Interestingly, there was a later report of a Black-backed Oriole from Stamford, Connecticut 14 May 2017.

Though there is no question about the identification of the species, the record was not accepted by the MARC for several reasons. There is no history of vagrancy of this species and it is a species found in the caged bird trade. The Bowden's bird could therefore have had a captive origin. Records like this are fascinating and may later prove to be important. If future sightings occur well to the north of its range that may establish a pattern of vagrancy, and that may prove that this was a countable bird after all. But, for now, just tuck this sighting away and file it under "probable escape." What an exciting sighting for the Bowdens!

Another amazing year for County birding. Let's have an even more exciting 2018!

Mark Lynch

Annual Compilation

2017

Abbreviations: # (and others); ACC (Athol Christmas Count); BBC (Brookline Bird Club); Bird Obs. (Bird Observer); GOCC (Groton-Oxbow Christmas Count); IBA (Important Bird Area); MAS (Mass Audubon Society); NWR (National Wildlife Refuge); QCC (Quabbin Christmas Count); Res. (Reservoir); SCC (Sturbridge Christmas Count); SF (State Forest); 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*): Winter reports: Jan. 1 to Jan. 7 Westborough WMA 1 (v.o.). Two spring reports Mar. 28 Athol 25, also max., (B. Kamp, v.o.) and Apr. 12 Delaney WMA 2 (Dalconzo). Then, multiple fall reports from various observers from Oct. 17 Westborough WMA 7 (Faughnan) to Dec. 27 Sterling 1 (Bourinot).

ROSS'S GOOSE (*A. rossii*): First Worcester County Record. A single bird was first reported on Feb. 23 on Arcade Pond in Northbridge (Kittredge). It was then seen and photographed by multiple observers in the interim until the following day on nearby Whitins Pond. Two other reports, possibly the same bird, were reported in Southborough from Mar. 12 (Lynch & Carroll) to Mar. 13 (Garvey), and at the Westborough WMA from Mar. 28 (Robo) to the Mar. 30 (Furbish, Peacock).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*A. albifrons*): Three reports, possibly all the same bird: Nov. 2 in the Muschopauge Pond area in Rutland (Lynch & Carroll) until the next day (v.o.). Another report, Nov. 19 from Pine Hill Res. in Rutland (Lynch & Carroll). The last report was Dec. 8 from Paxton 1 (Jenkins).

BRANT (*Branta bernicla*): Multiple reports in fall only: Oct. 24 Gardner 1 (Kittredge) to Nov. 19 Quaboag IBA 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. Nov. 4 Lake Quinsigamond 4 (Dekker)

CANADA GOOSE (*B. canadensis*): Permanent resident. Max. Feb. 4 Clinton 1000 (Pirro) and Dec. 17 Wachusett Res. 950 (Robo).

MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*): Permanent resident. Max. Mar. 25 Westborough 80 (Abbott) and Dec. 8 Westborough 127 (Lynch & Carroll).

WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*): Two winter reports: Jan. 13 (Small) to Feb. 23 Gardner 1 (Pirro), and Jan 16 Clinton 2 (Abbott). Then, general arrival Feb. 24 Northbridge 4 (Caron) to year's end Clinton 3 (Robo). Max. Sept. 4 WRW 68 (Lynch & Carroll), Oct. 6 Paxton 104 (Jenkins), Oct. 29 Leesville Pond 42 (Lynch & Carroll), and Nov. 4 Broad Meadow Brook WS 45 (Gach).

- BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Spatula discors*):** Apr. 3 Bolton Flats 1 (Grant) to June 4 Bolton Flats 1 (Arena). Then, Aug. 27 Paxton 2 (Jenkins) to Oct. 4 Royalston 1 (LeBlanc). Max. Sept. 22 Hardwick 17 (Howes).
- NORTHERN SHOVELER (*S. clypeata*):** All reports: Mar. 25 Brookfield 6 (Lusignan), up to 6 birds reported from Bolton Flats from Apr 2 (v.o.) to Apr. 9 (Pirro), and Oct. 22 Holden 2 (Robo). Max. Apr. 3 Bolton Flats 11 (Grant).
- GADWALL (*Mareca strepera*):** A winter report from Coachlace Pond of up to 2 birds from Jan. 13 (B. Kamp, v.o.) to Feb. 19 (Kittredge). Then, in the spring, Apr. 8 Dexter Drumlin 2 (Lawson & Lawson, Robo) to Apr. 15 Bolton Flats 1 (Abbott, Lynch & Carroll). In the fall, Nov. 4 Northborough 1 (Abbott) to Dec. 16 Lake Quinsigamond 2 (deGraaf). Max. Apr. 8 Lancaster 8 (Abbott).
- EURASIAN WIGEON (*M. penelope*):** One report on Nov. 8 Southboro (Sudbury Res.) 1 female (Lynch & Carroll).
- AMERICAN WIGEON (*M. americana*):** A winter report on Jan. 31 Northborough 2 (Spahr), and either an early migrant or over-winterer on Feb. 25 Charlton 1 (Kittredge). Then, the main spring period from Mar. 8 Quaboag Pond 6 (Bourget) to May 13 Westborough WMA 1 (Lawson & Lawson). In the fall, Sept. 20 Clinton 1 (Robo) to Dec. 17 Worcester 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. Apr. 3 Bolton Flats 16 (Grant).
- MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*):** Permanent resident. Max. Dec. 1 Gardner 400 (Pirro) and Dec. 16 Lake Quinsigamond 380 (DeGraaf).
- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK (*A. rubripes*):** Permanent resident, but only scattered reports during breeding season. Max. Apr. 2 Bolton Flats 75 (Pirro) and Nov. 18 Holden 42 (Lynch & Carroll).
- NORTHERN PINTAIL (*A. acuta*):** Winter report Jan 12 to Feb 23 Gardner 1 (Pirro), either an early migrant or winter report Feb. 12 Clinton 1 (Abbott). In spring, Mar. 5 Bolton Flats 6, also max. (Pirro) to May 3 Gardner 1 (Pirro). In the fall, Oct. 17 Holden 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Dec. 26 Gardner 1 (Pirro).
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL (*A. crecca*):** Feb. 26 Sterling 2 (Pirro) to May 3 Royalston 2 (LeBlanc). Outside the normal period, a report of a single bird from May 16 to August 23 Westborough (Miller) and a pair was reported from Bolton Flats May 4 (Sowizral) to June 11 (Lockwood). In the fall, Aug. 25 Otter River SF 4 (Lynch & Carroll) to Dec. 16 Clinton 1 (Kittredge). Spring Max. Apr. 9 Bolton Flats 152 (Hodson). Fall Max. Oct. 30 Hardwick 30 (Howes).
- CANVASBACK (*Aythya valisineria*):** One report: Mar. 18 Westborough WMA 1 (v.o.) to Mar. 25 (Hodson, Dowling).
- RING-NECKED DUCK (*A. collaris*):** Scattered winter reports. Then, Feb. 12 Worcester 1 (Lynch & Carroll) and Feb. 17 Clinton 5 (B. Kamp) to May 15 Princeton 3 (N. Williams). Returning Sept. 18 Westborough WMA 1 (Robo) to Dec. 17 Douglas 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Spring max. Mar. 12 Westborough WMA 222 (Lynch & Carroll) and Mar. 26 Douglas 238 (Lynch & Carroll). An astounding max. of 2789 was counted on the Sudbury Reservoir in Southborough on Nov. 8 (Lynch & Carroll).
- TUFTED DUCK (*A. fuligula*):** Second Worcester County Record. May 14 (Pirro) to May 15 Keyes Brook Princeton (Pirro, v.o.). A male was discovered associating with 2 Ring-necked Ducks on May 14 (Pirro) and was enjoyed by various observers until the next day. The first report of the species was a male reported regularly and returning from 1995 to 2003 associating with Greater Scaup.

- GREATER SCAUP (*A. marila*):** Scattered winter reports until Feb. 26 Wachusett Res. 1 (Pirro). In spring, Mar. 13 Millbury 1 (Berard) to Apr. 23 Westborough WMA 1 (Slovin). Returning Oct. 4 Quaboag IBA 3 (Lynch & Carroll) to Dec. 19 Wachusett Res. 19 (Lynch & Carroll). Spring max. Mar. 23 Wachusett Res. 18 (Lynch & Carroll). Fall max. Nov. 18 Wachusett Res. 160 (Lynch & Carroll).
- LESSER SCAUP (*A. affinis*):** A winter report Jan. 1 Wachusett Res. 2 (Lynch & Carroll). In spring, Feb. 29 Westborough WMA up to 3 birds (Spahr, Kittredge) to Apr. 24 Quaboag Pond 3 (Bourget). Returning Sept. 30 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Dec. 12 Clinton 1 (Kittredge). Spring max. Mar. 1 Quaboag IBA 11 (Lynch & Carroll). Fall max. Nov. 18 Southborough 18 (Lynch & Carroll).
- SURF SCOTER (*Melanitta perspicillata*):** Six reports, all in the fall: Sept. 30 Quaboag Pond 2 (Lynch & Carroll) to Nov. 25 Wachusett Res. 1 (Pirro). Reported only from Wachusett Res., Quaboag Pond, and SuAsCo.
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (*M. fusca*):** Two spring reports, both from Quaboag Pond: May 15 a single bird, and May 22 three birds (Kittredge, Lynch & Carroll). In fall, 6 reports, all from Wachusett Res. from Oct. 24 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Dec. 19, also a single bird. Max. Nov. 4 Wachusett Res. 4 (Pirro). Reported only from Wachusett Res., and Quaboag Pond.
- BLACK SCOTER (*M. americana*):** Seven reports all in the fall from Oct. 25 Wachusett Res. 1 (Bourinot) to Nov. 5, also Wachusett Res. 1 (Young). Max. Oct. 27 Wachusett Res. 250 (Robo). Reported only from Wachusett Res., Crystal Lake, Mare Meadow Res., and Indian Lake.
- LONG-TAILED DUCK (*Clangula hyemalis*):** All reports: Oct. 27 Wachusett Res. 3 (Robo), Nov. 2 Bolton Flats. 1 (Kittredge), Nov. 4 Wachusett Res. 46 (Lynch & Carroll), and Nov. 11 Sterling 1 (Robo, Dowling).
- BUFFLEHEAD (*Bucephala albeola*):** Scattered winter reports until Feb. 4 Clinton 3 (Abbott). In spring Feb. 19 Clinton 1 (Kittredge) to May 11 Westborough WMA 2 (Kittredge). A single bird spent the summer and early fall at Wachusett Res. from May 14 (Robo) to Oct. 6 (Kittredge). Then, in the fall, Oct. 21 Wachusett Res. 2 (Dengler & Miller), to Dec. 17 Wachusett Res. 1 (Kittredge). Spring max. Mar. 25 Wachusett Res. 14 (Robo). Fall max. Nov. 8 Southborough 28 (Lynch & Carroll).
- COMMON GOLDENEYE (*B. clangula*):** Scattered winter reports until Feb. 24 West Boylston 1 (Caron). In spring, Feb. 26 Fitchburg, Sterling, Wachusett Res. 1, 1, 14 (all by Pirro) to Apr. 18 Quaboag IBA 1 (Lynch & Carroll), and a late May 14 Fitchburg 1 (Caron). In fall, Nov. 4 Wachusett Res. 2 (Lynch & Carroll), to Dec. 30 Wachusett Res. 30 (Dowling). Spring max. Mar. 5 Wachusett Res. 57 (Lynch & Carroll). Fall max. Nov. 23 Southborough 105 (Dowling).
- BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*B. islandica*):** Two reports: Nov. 5 Southborough 1 (Abbott, Kittredge) to Nov. 21 (eBird), and Dec. 16 Boylston 1 (Lynch & Carroll).
- HOODED MERGANSER (*Lophodytes cucullatus*):** Present year round. Max. Mar. 23 Westborough 200 (Schell), Mar. 20 Quaboag IBA 195 (Lynch & Carroll), Dec. 2 Quaboag IBA 240 (Lynch & Carroll).
- COMMON MERGANSER (*Mergus merganser*):** Present year round, but most reports until May 13 Gardner 1 (Englehardt) and WRW 1 (Lynch & Carroll). A very late May 28 Rutland SF 1 (eBird). Breeding usually occurs in westernmost Worcester County, but no young reported this year. Summer reports with 3 birds in Quabbin Res. June 29 (Robo, Howes), 15 reported July 20 (Robo), and an unusual July 26 Sterling 2 (eBird). Returning in fall Sept. 30

Quaboag IBA 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to year end. Max. Feb. 28 Westborough WMA 450 (Spahr), Mar. 4 Westborough WMA 600 (Spahr), Nov. 29 Quaboag IBA 658 (Lynch & Carroll).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*M. serrator*): All reports: up to 2 birds at Wachusett Res. Jan 15 (Pirro) to Feb. 5 (Bourinot), Mar. 29 Quaboag Pond 1 (Bourget), Apr. 9 Leominster 1 (Pirro), Nov. 4 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll), Nov. 8 Westborough 1 (Lynch & Carroll), Nov. 11 Indian Lake 1 (Lynch & Carroll) and 6 Wachusett Res. (Pirro). Finally, Nov. 29 Quaboag IBA 1 (Lynch & Carroll).

RUDDY DUCK (*Oxyura jamaicensis*): Only three spring reports: Mar. 3 Southborough 1 (Kittredge), Mar 13 Millbury 1 (Berard), and Mar. 20 Westborough WMA 3 (Garvey). Much stronger movement in fall, Oct. 4 Quaboag IBA 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Dec. 16 Lake Quinsigamond 6 (deGraaf) and Wachusett Res. 1 (Kittredge). Max. Nov. 15 Orlando's Pond, Charlton 19 (Lynch & Carroll).

RUFFED GROUSE (*Bonasa umbellus*): Permanent resident. Increasingly difficult to locate away from Quabbin and northwestern Worcester County. Max. July 3 Hardwick 12 (Howes), June 7 Rutland 8 (Caron), and Apr. 21 Gate 40 Quabbin Res. 6 (Mroz).

WILD TURKEY (*Meleagris gallopavo*): Permanent resident. Max. Mar. 25 Rutland 86 (Bourinot), Mar. 27 Templeton 71 (Pirro), and Dec. 14 SCC 184.

PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*): Mar. 12 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr) and Mar 25 Westborough WMA 1 (Dowling) to Apr. 18 Quaboag IBA 1 (Lynch & Carroll) and May 2 Westborough WMA 1 (Robo, Kittredge). Summer reports: Aug. 6 to Sept. 2 Royalston 1 (LeBlanc), and Sept. 9 (Hardwick). Returning, Sept. 19 Sterling 2 (Robo) to Nov. 20 Westborough WMA (Spahr). Spring Max. Apr. 16 Oxford 3 (Berard). Fall Max. Nov. 1 Westborough WMA 4 (Gervais).

HORNED GREBE (*Podiceps auritus*): Only one spring report: Apr. 18 Quaboag IBA 1 (Lynch & Carroll). In the fall, Oct. 1 Wachusett Res. 2 (Bourinot) to Dec. 4 Petersham 4, also max., (Lafley).

RED-NECKED GREBE (*P. grisegena*): One spring report: Feb. 2 Wachusett Res. 1 (Kittredge, Robo). A late summer report of a bird at Wachusett Res. Aug. 27 (Bourinot) to Sept. 10 (Dekker). In the fall: Sept. 20 Gardner 1 (Pirro), Oct. 25 Spencer 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Nov. 11 Wachusett Res. 1 (Pirro, Robo).

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*): Permanent resident. Max. Jan. 9 Athol 130 (Watkevich), Nov. 22 Templeton 150 (Pirro), Dec. 14 SCC 534, and Dec. 16 ACC 518.

MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaida macroura*): Permanent resident. Max. Nov. 14 Westborough WMA 140 (Miller), and Dec. 14 SCC 538.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus americanus*): Increased reports likely due to the gypsy moth invasion. May 13 Oxford 1 (Berard) to Aug. 20 Wachusett Meadows WS 1 (Dea). Max. June 10 Westborough WMA 8 (Brookline Bird Club).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO (*C. erythrophthalmus*): Increased reports likely due to the gypsy moth invasion. May 10 Broad Meadow Brook WS 1 (Liller) to Sept. 2 Wachusett Meadows WS 1 (Gallagher) and High Ridge WMA 1 (Pirro). Max. June 10 Brookfields 9 (Lynch & Carroll) and May 28 Westborough 9 (Miller).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK (*Chordeiles minor*): Early report: Apr. 28 Petersham 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Then, May 12 Lancaster 1 (Robo) to June 9 Southbridge 1 (Englehardt). A summer report July 31 Winchendon 1 (Englehardt). Spring max. May 21 Hardwick 20 (Howes).

- Then, Aug. 14 Worcester 2 (Kittredge) and Sterling 4 (Bourinot) to Sept. 16 Hardwick 1 (Howes). Fall max. Aug. 26 Leicester 122 (Lynch & Carroll) and Oxbow WMA 89 (BBC).
- EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL (*Antrostomus vociferous*):** Reported from four general areas: Lancaster, Leominster, North Brookfield, and Douglas. Apr. 18 North Brookfield 1 (J. Smith *vide* Jenkins) to Aug. 1 Wachusett Res. 3 (Robo). Max. May 25 Lancaster 8 (S. Williams) and June 23 North Brookfield 5 (Jenkins).
- CHIMNEY SWIFT (*Chaetura pelagica*):** Apr. 28 Athol 4 (LeBlanc) to Sept. 11 Westborough WMA 5 (Dengler & Miller). Max. May 3 Leominster 100 (Ammerman) and Aug. 19 Worcester 45 (Kittredge).
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus colubris*):** Apr. 24 Paxton 1 (Voorhis) to Sept. 25 Private Location 1 (Horman). Max. June 23 and Aug. 12 Private Location 10 (Huntington).
- KING RAIL (*Rallus elegans*):** Apr. 29 Bolton Flats 1 (Paulson) and May 18 Bolton Flats (Bourinot, B. Kamp).
- VIRGINIA RAIL (*R. limicola*):** Apr. 14 Bolton Flats 1 (Sowizral) to Aug. 27 Broad Meadow Brook WS 1 (Robo). Max. June 4 Bolton Flats 22 (Arena).
- SORA (*Porzana carolina*):** Apr. 15 Bolton Flats 1 (Arena) to Sept. 25 WRW 1 (Lynch & Carroll). The only summer reports were from Bolton Flats. Max. May 13 Broad Meadow Brook WS 2 (Lawson) and Aug. 27 Broad Meadow Brook WS 2 (Robo).
- COMMON GALLINULE (*Gallinula galeata*):** All reports from Bolton Flats: May 20 (Brookline Bird Club) 3, June 4 (Arena, Bourinot), up to 5 birds, and June 10 (Abbott) 1.
- AMERICAN COOT (*Fulica americana*):** A winter report: Jan. 1 to Jan. 9 up to 3 birds Westborough WMA (v.o.). In spring, all reports: Mar. 13 Westborough WMA 1 (Robo), Mar. 19 Bolton Flats 1 (Pirro), and Apr. 22 single birds at Westborough WMA (Gonzembach) and Bolton Flats (Murray). In fall, Oct. 25 Quaboag IBA 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Nov. 9 Lunenburg 3 (Miller).
- SANDHILL CRANE (*Antigone canadensis*):** Three reports: May 1 (v.o.) to May 4 Westborough WMA 1 (Heisen), Nov. 1 Uxbridge 1 (Robo), and Nov. 8 Barre 10 (Schilling).
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*):** One spring report May 20 Quabbin Res. 2 (Pirro). Southbound: Oct. 27 Quabbin Res. 1 (Howes) to Nov. 5 Bolton Flats 2 (Pirro). Max. Nov. 1 Bolton Flats 9 (Kittredge).
- SEMPALMATED PLOVER (*Charadrius semipalmatus*):** May 18 Bolton Flats 8 (B. Kamp) to June 5 Berlin 1 (Kittredge, Robo, Spahr). Max. May 23 Bolton Flats 15 (Lynch & Carroll).
- KILLDEER (*C. vociferus*):** Feb. 23 Westborough 2 (Dengler & Miller) and Bolton Flats 1 (Robo) to Nov. 11 Northborough 1 (Spahr). Lingers Nov. 29 Westborough 1 (Dengler & Miller), Dec. 16 ACC 1, and Dec. 24 Sterling 1 (v.o.). Spring max. Petersham 18 (Small). Fall max. Clinton 33 (Lynch & Carroll).
- DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*):** Spring: May 18 Bolton Flats 5 (B. Kamp) and May 27 Ekblaw Wildlife Sanctuary in Paxton 1 (Jenkins). Then, in the fall, nine reports beginning Oct. 14 Quabbin Res. 1 (Lafley) to Nov. 15 West Brookfield 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. Nov. 1 Bolton Flats 9 (Kittredge).
- LEAST SANDPIPER (*C. minutilla*):** Northbound: Apr. 28 Bolton Flats 6 (B. Kamp) to June 5 Berlin 1 (Miller, Kittredge, Robo). Spring max. Bolton Flats 150 (Lynch & Carroll). Southbound: July 19 Worcester 4 (Robo) to Sept. 9 Worcester 4 (Kittredge). Fall max. Aug. 29 Uxbridge 14 (Kittredge).

- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** (*C. fuscicollis*): Spring: May 13 (Johnson) to May 18 Bolton Flats 1 (Dowling, B. Kamp). Then, May 23, Bolton Flats up to 3 birds (Bourinot, Lynch & Carroll). One fall report on Nov. 15 West Brookfield 5 (Lynch & Carroll).
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER** (*C. melanotos*): Apr. 29 Bolton Flats 1 (Kittredge) to May 13 Bolton Flats 1 (Hodson) and West Boylston 1 (A. & J. Lawson). In the fall, Aug. 29 Uxbridge 4 (Kittredge) to Nov. 15 West Brookfield 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. Nov. 5 Lancaster 11 (Pirro).
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER** (*C. pusilla*): Three spring reports: May 15 Spencer 1 (Lynch & Carroll), May 23 Bolton Flats 10 (Bourinot, Lynch & Carroll), and May 31 (Kittredge#) to June 5 Berlin 1 (Kittredge#). In fall: Aug. 6 Petersham 1 (Lafley), Aug. 16 Worcester 1 (Kittredge), Aug. 27 Sterling 1 (Dekker), and Aug. 29 to Aug. 31 Uxbridge 1 (Kittredge#). Then, a late report on Nov. 9 West Brookfield 1 (Lynch & Carroll).
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** (*Limnodromus griseus*): One report: May 17 Bolton Flats 3 (Beattie).
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK** (*Scolopax minor*): Feb. 24 Rutland 1 (Purcell) to Nov. 20 New Braintree 1 (Robo). Max. Apr. 3 Athol 20 (Watkevich).
- WILSON'S SNIPES** (*Gallinago delicata*): Mar. 10 Bolton Flats 11 (Robo) to May 21 Hardwick 1 (Howes). Then, Aug. 27 Gardner 1 (Pirro) to Nov. 26 Bolton Flats 2 (Lockwood). Max. Apr. 17 Bolton Flats 24 (Sowrizar).
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER** (*Actitis macularius*): Apr. 24 Bolton Flats 1 (Kittredge) to Oct. 11 Paxton 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. May 23 Bolton Flats 21 (Lynch & Carroll).
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER** (*Tringa solitaria*): Apr. 28 Athol 1 (LeBlanc) and Bolton Flats 1 (B. Kamp, Sowrizar) to May 27 Oxford 1 (Stencel). Returning; July 14 Westborough 1 (Spahr) to Oct. 16 Harvard 1 (Gilmore, Grossman). Max. May 14 Bolton Flats 11 (Dowling).
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS** (*T. flavipes*): Apr. 28 Bolton Flats up to 8 birds (Ammerman, Sowrizar) to May 23 Bolton Flats 2 (Abbott, Bourinot). Then, July 19 Worcester 1 (Robo) to Nov. 3 Hardwick 1 (Howes). Max. Apr. 30 Bolton Flats 28 (Hodson).
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS** (*T. melanoleuca*): Apr. 13 Bolton Flats 2 (B. Kamp, v.o.) to June 5 Bolton Flats 3 (Robo). Returning July 20 Quabbin Res. 2 (Robo) to Nov. 16 West Brookfield 1 (Kittredge). Max. May 6 Bolton Flats 30 (Hoye).
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus lobatus*): Aug. 26 Warren 1 (Lynch & Carroll).
- BONAPARTE'S GULL** (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*): All reports: Apr. 7 to Apr. 9 Dexter Drumlin, Lancaster 2 (Kittredge, Robo#), Sept. 17 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll), Oct. 8 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll), Oct. 25 Wachusett Res. 3 (Kittredge, Bourinot) and Nov. 9 Brookfields 1 (Lynch & Carroll).
- LAUGHING GULL** (*Leucophaeus atricilla*): Third Worcester County Record. Sept. 6 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr).
- RING-BILLED GULL** (*Larus delawarensis*): Non-breeding permanent resident, but reduced numbers during summer. Max. Feb. 26 Dexter Drumlin 750 (Pirro), Apr. 8 Dexter Drumlin 750 (Dowling), and Dec. 16 WoCC 783. *Note*: The numbers of gulls has steadily declined in the county. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has increased the gull harassment program.
- HERRING GULL** (*L. argentatus*): Non-breeding permanent resident, but very scarce during summer. Max. Jan. 22 and Jan. 28 Lunenburg 650 (Pirro).
- ICELAND GULL** (*L. glaucoides*): Reported from five general locations in the first half: Jan. 1 to Mar. 22 Lake Chauncy 2 (Lawson#), Mar. 3 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll), Apr. 7

to Apr. 15 Dexter Drumlin, Lancaster, and Bolton Flats, Max. 4 (Kittredge, Robo, Sowizral#), Jan. 2 to Apr. 2 Lake Whalom, Lunenburg, Max. 5 (Pirro#), Jan. 15 to Apr. 6 Westminster 1 (Pirro). Reported from three general locations in the second half: Nov. 22 Gardner 2 (Pirro), Dec. 3 to Dec. 17 Lake Whalom, Lunenburg 1 (Pirro#), and Dec. 19 Westborough 1 (Williams).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*L. fuscus*): First half: Jan. 22 Lake Whalom, Lunenburg 1 (Pirro), Feb. 11 Lake Quinsigamond 1 (Lynch & Carroll), Feb. 23 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll), Apr. 7 Westminster 3, also max., (Pirro, Watkevich), one bird Apr. 8 (Robo, A. & J. Lawson) to Apr. 9 (Bourinot, Pirro) at Dexter Drumlin and Apr. 12 Lancaster 1 (Abbott). Second half: Sept. 6 Westborough WMA 2 (Spahr) and Nov. 13 Westminster 1 (Pirro).

GLAUCOUS GULL (*L. hyperboreus*): Only reported in the first half: Jan. 1 to Jan. 26 Westborough WMA 1 (Lynch & Carroll#), Jan. 22 to Apr. 2 Lake Whalom, Lunenburg 2 (Pirro#), and Mar. 4 Westminster 1 (Caron).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*L. marinus*): No summer reports. Reported in the first half in various locations to May 14 Westminster 1 (Caron). Second half reports Oct. 13 Fitchburg 2 (Markiewicz) to years-end. Max. Jan. 22 Lake Whalom, Lunenburg 138 (Pirro).

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*): Sept. 2 Wachusett Res. 6 (Bourinot).

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*): Two spring reports: Apr. 20 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll) and May 6 Wachusett Res. 12 (B. Kamp). Fall reports: Nov. 4 to Nov. 5 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll#), Nov. 5 to Nov. 6 Lunenburg 1 (Pirro#), Nov. 11 Wachusett Res. 1 (Pirro, Robo, Lynch & Carroll), Nov. 12 Quabbin Res. 1 (Lafley), Nov. 25 Wachusett Res. 1 (Pirro), and Dec. 1 to Dec. 3 Lunenburg 1 (Dengler, Miller#).

COMMON LOON (*G. immer*): Present year-round, but thinly reported in winter. Reported from beginning of year to Feb. 4 Wachusett Res. 7 (Pirro). Then, Feb. 26 Wachusett Res. 2 (Pirro). In the spring, Mar. 5 Wachusett Res. 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to May 30 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr). Breeding at Quabbin and Wachusett Res., and large lakes in northern Worcester County. Returning Sept. 24 Douglas 1 (Pedro) and Sept. 29 Westborough WMA (v.o.) to the end of the year. Max. May 6 Wachusett Res. 32 (Bourinot) and Nov. 5 Wachusett Res. 22 (Young).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax auratus*): Apr. 2 Bolton Flats 1 (Pirro) to Nov. 25 Wachusett Res. 2 (Pirro). Also, a late Dec. 16 Lake Quinsigamond 2 (deGraaf). Max. Oct. 24 Wachusett Res. 72 (Lynch & Carroll).

GREAT CORMORANT (*P. carbo*): Two reports, both by Lynch & Carroll: Oct. 25 Spencer 1 and Dec. 10 Holden 1.

AMERICAN BITTERN (*Botaurus lentiginosus*): Apr. 10 Ashburnham 3 (S. Williams) to June 23 Bolton Flats 1 (Robo). Max. June 4 Bolton Flats 4 (Arena).

LEAST BITTERN (*Ixobrychus exilis*): Early report on May 7 Westborough WMA 1 (Dowling). Then, May 21 Bolton Flats 1 (Dowling) to July 27 Quaboag IBA 1 (Lynch & Carroll). These were the only two locations reported. Max. June 4 Bolton Flats 4 (Arena).

GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*): Reported throughout the year, but sparse in winter. Increasing in number Mar. 24 Delaney WMA 21, also max., (Miller) and tailing off after Nov. 14 Worcester 5 (Abbott).

GREAT EGRET (*A. alba*): Spring reports: Mar. 30 Uxbridge 1 (Gauthier), Apr. 18 Westborough 2 (Rawdon), Apr. 22 Westborough WMA 1 (Slovin), May 6 Oxford 1 (Henry, Meleski), June 7 Winchendon 1 (Englehardt), and June 23 Wachusett Res. 1 (Kittredge,

- Robo). Fall period: Aug. 3 Uxbridge 1 (B. Kamp) and Aug. 11 Templeton 1 (LeBlanc) to Oct. 16 Leesville Pond 1 (Kittredge). Max. Aug. 3 Uxbridge 12 (Gauthier).
- SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*):** A single bird at South Meadow Pond in Clinton Sept. 9 to Sept. 18 (Bourinot, v.o.).
- LITTLE BLUE HERON (*E. caerulea*):** A single bird at Sterling Peat Sept. 28 (Lynch & Carroll) to Oct. 7 (Bourget, Dekker).
- CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*):** Apr. 17 WRW 1 (Shilling#).
- GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*):** Apr. 28 Athol 1 (LeBlanc) to Oct. 1 Sterling 1 (Schibley). Max. Aug. 19 Sterling 7 (Pirro).
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*):** All reports: July 11 Nashua River 1 (Monroe), Aug. 6 to Aug. 18 Coes Reservoir, Worcester 2, also max., (Kittredge, v.o.), and Aug. 4 Worcester 1 (B. Kamp).
- GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*):** All reports: Apr. 13 to Apr. 24 Bolton Flats 1 (B. Kamp, v.o.), and Aug. 4 Institute Park, Worcester 1 (Robo, Meleski).
- BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*):** Reported every month except Nov. Up to 17 birds (Miller) wintered in Blackstone through the end of Feb. (v.o.). Then, Feb. 5 Westborough 1 (Normandin) and Feb. 20 Northborough 3 (Abbott) to June 3 Clinton 1 (Bourinot). Six scattered summer reports, and three fall reports: Sept. 22 Millbury 1 (Lawson), Sept. 28 Hardwick 3 (Howes), and Oct. 18 also Hardwick 2 (Howes). Finally, an end of year winter report Dec. 21 Mt. Watatic 1 (Spahr).
- TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*):** Reported every month except Dec. Sparse general reports reported in the first half of the year except for Jan. 23 up to 23 birds wintering in Blackstone (Gove). General return beginning Feb. 17 Westborough 1 (Chapman) to Nov. 26 Uxbridge 3 (Gauthier). Max. Sept. 16 Mt. Watatic 80 (Pirro, Rusnica) and Oct. 23 Barre 243.
- OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*):** Mar. 26 Sturbridge 1 (Kesselheim) to Oct. 20 Bolton Flats 2 (Benedetto) and Nov. 11 Worcester 1 (Rees). Spring Max. Apr. 30 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 6. Fall Max. Sept. 22 Mt. Wachusett Hawk Watch 14.
- BALD EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*):** Reported throughout the year, some movement in spring and fall. Nesting locations included Wachusett Res., Quabbin Res., Quaboag Pond, Lake Shirley, and Webster Lake. Spring Max. Apr. 14 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 3. Fall Max. Sept. 10 Mt. Wachusett Hawk Watch 21.
- NORTHERN HARRIER (*Circus hudsonius*):** Scattered reports in winter. General return beginning Apr. 2 Bolton Flats, Oxbow NWR 1 (both by Pirro) to May 16 Lancaster 1 (eBird). Summer reports: June 4 Bolton Flats 1 (Abbott), Aug. 6 Mt. Watatic 1 (Bohrer), Aug. 19 Bolton Flats 1 (Lockwood), Aug. 19 to 20 Petersham 1 (Reidy, Small). Fall: Sept. 4 Quabbin Res. 1 (Lafley) to Nov. 12 Berlin 1 (Anderson). No spring Max. Fall Max. Sept. 22 Mt. Watatic Hawk Watch 5.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (*Accipiter striatus*):** Winter to May 13 High Ridge 1 (Pirro) and May 29 Princeton 1 (Dekker). Summer report June 15 Lake Wompanoag 1 (Pirro). Returning Aug. 22 Northbridge 1 (Hudson) to year's end. Spring max. Apr. 10 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 5. Fall Max. Sept. 16 Mt. Watatic Hawk Watch 35.
- COOPER'S HAWK (*A. cooperii*):** Present year round with numerous summer reports. No spring max. Fall Max. Sept. 10 Mt. Wachusett Hawk Watch 15.
- NORTHERN GOSHAWK (*A. gentilis*):** An uncommon permanent resident. Nine reports of single birds throughout the year at various locations, including the hawk watches. One spring

report Apr. 2 of a single bird from Barre during Hawk Watch. Only 1 adult reported during breeding season June 4 Royalston 1 (LeBlanc).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (*Buteo lineatus*): Reported throughout the year, but only scattered reports in winter. General return beginning Feb. 13 Spencer 1 (Monaco), with most migrants out by Nov. 8 Barre 2 (Schilling). No spring Max. Fall Max. Nov. 8 Mt. Wachusett Hawk Watch 6.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*B. platypterus*): Apr. 11 Athol 1 (LeBlanc) to Oct. 10 Worcester 1 (Robo). Spring Max. Apr. 17 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 114. Fall Max. Sept. 10 Mt. Watatic 1395 (Pirro, Rusnica), and Sept. 11 Mt. Wachusett Hawk Watch 4894.

RED-TAILED HAWK (*B. jamaicensis*): Permanent resident with some movement in the spring and fall. Spring Max. Apr. 2 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 15. Fall Max. Nov. 4 Barre Falls Hawk Watch 36 and same day Mt. Wachusett Hawk Watch 42.

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 consistently at this same location from Jan. 1 to Mar. 19. Then, one report in Aug. and two reports in Dec.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (*B. lagopus*): All reports: Jan. 5 Crane Swamp 1 (Spahr), Jan. 22 Bolton Flats 1 (Lynch & Carroll), Dec. 16 Leicester 1 (Paulson during WoCC), Dec. 17 Lancaster 1 (Paulson during GOCC), Dec. 24 Davis Farmland, Sterling 1 (v.o), and Sterling Peat the same day 1 (Gahagan).

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*): Only reported from Barre Falls Hawk Watch of single birds Apr. 9 and Nov. 15.

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops asio*): Permanent resident. More common in southern Worcester County. Max. Dec. 30 UCC 19.

GREAT HORNED OWL (*Bubo virginianus*): Permanent resident. Max Dec. 17 GOCC 13 and Dec. 30 QCC 13.

SNOWY OWL (*B. scandiacus*): Two reports: Nov. 12 Quabbin Res. (Lafley) and Dec. 11 Wachusett Res. (Robo).

BARRED OWL (*Strix varia*): Permanent resident. Max. Dec. 17 GOCC 13.

LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otus*): One report on Oct. 22 Hardwick 1 (Howes).

SHORT-EARED OWL (*A. flammeus*): One reported at Worcester Airport.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL (*Aegoleus acadicus*): Uncommon permanent resident. Max. Dec. 14 SCC 9.

BELTED KINGFISHER (*Megascops alcyon*): Reported in every month, but few winter reports. Max. Apr. 18 Spencer 4 (Lynch & Carroll), July 6 Westborough 4 (Abbott), Oct. 1 Wachusett Res. 5 (Bourinot) and Dec. 14 SCC 11.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*): One immature bird found in the Quaboag IBA during the SCC in 2016 and reported until Jan. 7 (Lynch & Carroll). Then, an adult bird was found Dec. 11 Lake Lashaway 1 (Lynch & Carroll).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*M. carolinus*): Permanent resident. Max. Jan. 5 Hubbardston 11 (Howes), Dec. 14 SCC 73, and Dec. 17 GOCC 79.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*): First half winter report Feb. 25 Worcester 1 (Gleason). Regular period Apr. 5 Sterling 1 (Fogel) to higher than usual reports from various locations at year's end. Max. Apr. 28 Royalston 16 (Lynch & Carroll).

DOWNY WOODPECKER (*Picoides pubescens*): Permanent resident. Max. Jan. 17 Ashburnham 23 (S. Williams), and Dec. 14 SCC 275.

- HAIRY WOODPECKER (*P. vellosis*):** Permanent resident. Max. Jan. 17 Ashburnham 11 (S. Williams), Dec. 14 SCC 51, and Dec. 30 QCC 58.
- NORTHERN FLICKER (*Colaptes auratus*):** Reported in every month, but local in winter. Max. Sept. 23 Broad Meadow Brook WS 10 (Kittredge), Oct. 3 Uxbridge 11 (Gauthier), Dec. 17 GOCC 20, and Dec. 30 UCC 15.
- PILEATED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus pileatus*):** Permanent resident. Max. Apr. 15 Quabbin Res. 5 (Hoye), Dec. 16 ACC 15, and Dec. 30 QCC 20.
- AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*):** Two winter reports; Jan 5 Westminster 1 (Caron) and Dec. 18 Lancaster 1 (Ammerman). During the usual period Mar. 1 Princeton 1 (Lusignan) to Oct. 19 Westborough 1 (Dengler & Miller). Max. Sept. 21 Mt. Wachusett Hawk Watch 21 and Mt. Watatic Hawk Watch 27.
- MERLIN (*F. columbarius*):** Six first half winter reports. Then, Apr. 10 Ashburnham 2 (S. Williams) to Nov. 19 Brookfields 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Three second half winter reports: Dec. 2 Broad Meadow Brook WS 1 (Gach, Robo), Dec. 14 SCC 1, and Dec. 17 GOCC 1. Max. Sept. 14 Mt. Watatic Hawk Watch 5.
- PEREGRINE FALCON (*F. peregrinus*):** Scattered reports throughout the year. The downtown Worcester nesting pair continued (v.o.). Max. Sept. 16 Mt. Wachusett Hawk Watch 6 (Hanke).
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER (*Contopus cooperi*):** Spring, May 17 WRW 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to June 4 Athol 1 (Forbes), with 7 interim reports all of single birds. Fall: Aug. 17 Worcester 1 (Jenkins#), Aug. 29 Paxton 1 (Jenkins), and Sept. 1 Worcester 1 (Gach, Gallagher).
- EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE (*C. virens*):** May 11 Worcester 2 (Bailey) to Sept. 29 Oxbow NWR 1 (Carlse). Max. June 4 Petersham 18 (Lynch & Carroll) and June 18 WRW 13 (Waters).
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax flaviventris*):** One report, Aug. 25 Otter River SF 1 (Lynch & Carroll).
- ALDER FLYCATCHER (*E. alnorum*):** May 17 Athol 1 (Watkevich) to Aug. 3 Royalston 4 (d'Entremont). Max. May 27 Royalston 7 (d'Entremont, LeBlanc) and June 18 WRW 7 (Waters).
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER (*E. traillii*):** May 12 Westborough 1 (Kittredge, Robo#) to Aug. 26 Westborough 2 (Kittredge). Max. May 20 Bolton Flats WMA 22 (BBC).
- LEAST FLYCATCHER (*E. minimus*):** Apr. 28 Royalston 4 (Lynch & Carroll) to Sept. 21 Westborough WMA 1 (Lawson, Spahr). Max. May 13 WRW 19 (Lynch & Carroll) and June 4 Petersham 17 (Lynch & Carroll).
- EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*):** Mar. 25 Westborough 1 (Dengler & Miller) to Nov. 4 Westborough WMA 1 (Jacobson, Marchessault). Max. May. 13 WRW 49 (Lynch & Carroll) and Sept. 13 Otter River SF 51 (Lynch & Carroll).
- GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*):** Apr. 29 Uxbridge, Worcester 2, 1 (Glagowski, Harrity) to Sept. 13 Westborough WMA 1 (Miller). Max. May 20 Bolton Flats WMA 8 (BBC) and June 28 Westborough 8 (Dengler & Miller).
- EASTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus tyrannus*):** Early report on Apr. 15 Bolton Flats WMA 1 (Arena). Then, Apr. 29 Westborough/Hardwick/Westborough WMA 2, 1, 2 (Gleason, Buelow, Slovin) to Sept. 10 Athol 1 (LeBlanc). Max. May 20 Bolton Flats 19 (BBC) and Aug. 19 Brookfields 23 (Lynch & Carroll).

NORTHERN SHRIKE (*Lanius borealis*): First half from Jan 1 Westborough, Wachusett Res. 1, 1 (J&A Lawson, Lynch & Carroll) to Mar. 30 Bolton Flats 1 (Dengler and Miller) with interim wide spread reports from various locales. Then, Oct. 22 Bolton Flats 1 (Johnson) to Oct. 24 Bolton Flats 1 (Caron).

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*): There was a single report with photograph on May 11 Westborough WMA 1 (Barndt).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*V. flavifrons*): Apr 24 Westborough WMA 1 (S. Williams, BBC) to Sept. 27 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr). Max. May 15, 16 Westborough WMA 5, 5 (Bourinot, Barndt), May 17 Bolton Flats 5 (Lynch & Carroll), June 10 Brookfields 6 (Lynch & Carroll).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO (*V. solitarius*): Apr. 13 Phillipston 3 (S. Williams) to Oct. 27 Worcester 1 (Gach). Max. Apr 24 WRW 18 (Lynch & Carroll) and June 4 Petersham 16 (Lynch & Carroll).

WARBLING VIREO (*V. gilvus*): Apr 24 Westborough WMA 1 (BBC) to Sept. 17 Westborough WMA (J. Lawson). Max. June 1 Brookfields 23 (Lynch & Carroll) and June 10 Westborough WMA 17 (BBC).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*V. philadelphicus*): Only in the fall, Aug 26 Warren 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Sept. 26 Uxbridge (Gauthier), with 6 interim reports of single birds from various locales.

RED-EYED VIREO (*V. olivaceus*): Apr 28 Athol 1 (LeBlanc) to Oct. 8 Worcester 1 (Robo), and Oct. 28 Rutland 1 (Caron). Max. June 4 Petersham 156 (Lynch & Carroll) and June 18 WRW 69 (Lynch & Carroll).

BLUE JAY (*Cyanocitta cristata*): Permanent resident. Max. Dec. 17 Lancaster 176 (Paulson), and Dec. 17 GOCC 676.

AMERICAN CROW (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*): Permanent resident. Max. Jan. 7 Worcester 1000 (J. Lawson) and Dec. 16 WoCC 3290.

FISH CROW (*C. ossifragus*): Present year-round in small numbers. Scattered reports primarily from lower elevations with notable counts: Jan 30 Blackstone 19 (Kittredge) and Feb 1 Blackstone 40 (Dengler & Miller).

COMMON RAVEN (*C. corax*): Permanent resident. Max. Aug 6 Royalston 28 (LeBlanc), Sept. 16 Mt. Watatic 38 and Sept. 24 Wachusett Mt. 41 (Kovner).

HORNED LARK (*Eremophila alpestris*): First half: Jan. 3 Lancaster 54 (Robo) to May 13 Sutton 5 (Berard) and June 1 Westborough WMA (BBC). Then, Oct. 23 Hardwick 3 (Robo) to Dec. 26 Sterling 24 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. Jan. 21 Rutland 200 (Abbott) and Dec. 14 East Brookfield 125 (Caron & Jenkins).

TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*): Mar. 25 Westborough, Brookfields 16, 4 (Abbott, Lynch & Carroll) to Sept. 10 Bolton Flats 1 (Young). Max. May 15 Brookfields 310 (Lynch & Carroll) and Sept. 3 Brookfields 570 (Lynch & Carroll).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*): Apr. 18 Westborough WMA 2 (Lapite) to Sept. 3 Wachusett Res. 2 (Lynch & Carroll), with max. June 3 Bolton Flats 11 (Offerman).

BANK SWALLOW (*Riparia riparia*): Apr. 22 Bolton Flats 1 (Hoye) to Sept. 3 Brookfields 3 (Lynch & Carroll) with max. May 14 Lunenburg 50 (Pirro).

CLIFF SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*): May 3 Royalston 1 (LeBlanc) to Sept. 3 Brookfields 2 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. May 15 Brookfields 4 (Lynch & Carroll). It has been several years since breeders have been reported in the county.

- BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*):** Apr. 8 Leicester 1 (Bailey) to Sept. 10 Mt. Watatic 3 (Pirro), with max. May 12 Brookfields 240 (Lynch & Carroll) and Sept. 3 Brookfields 250 (Lynch & Carroll).
- BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE (*Poecile atricapillus*):** Permanent resident. Max. Jan. 17 Ashburnham 620 (S. Williams) and Dec. 14 SCC 1169.
- TUFTED TITMOUSE (*Baeolophus bicolor*):** Permanent resident. Max. Jan. 17 Royalston 99 (S. Williams) and Dec. 14 SCC 867.
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*):** Present year-round. Max. Jan 15 Royalston 53 (S. Williams) and Aug. 11 Otter River SF 49 (Lynch & Carroll).
- WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*S. carolinensis*):** Permanent resident. Max. Jan. 17 Ashburnham 94 (S. Williams) and Dec. 14 SCC 353.
- BROWN CREEPER (*Certhia americana*):** Permanent resident. Max. Jan 17 Ashburnham 15 (S. Williams) and Dec. 14 SCC 16.
- HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*):** Apr. 22 Westborough WMA 1 (Abbott) to Oct. 13 Hardwick 1 (Howes). Max. June 1 Brookfields 20 (Lynch & Carroll). A very late bird in Dec. 17 Lancaster 1 (Paulson).
- WINTER WREN (*T. hiemalis*):** Reported during every month of the year, with the exception of Mar. Max. Apr. 29 Wachusett Mt. 3 (Pirro) and Dec. 3 Winchendon/Royalston 5 (Lynch & Carroll).
- MARSH WREN (*Cistothorus palustris*):** Apr. 15 Bolton Flats 1 (Arena) to Aug. 26 Warren 5 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. June 4 Bolton Flats 18 (Arena).
- CAROLINA WREN (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*):** Permanent resident, more numerous at lower elevations. Max. May 27 Bolton Flats 5 (Martin) and Dec. 14 SCC 29.
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Poliptila caerulea*):** Apr. 10 Sterling 1 (Robo) to Sept. 18 Southbridge 1 (McWhirter), with max. May 16 Westborough WMA 12 (Barndt).
- GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus satrapa*):** Present year-round, restricted breeding in spruce/hemlock stands. Breeding season reports June 18 WRW 9 (L. Waters) and June 30 Winchendon/Royalston 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. Dec. 16 Boylston 25 (Lynch & Carroll).
- RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*R. calendula*):** Spring, Apr. 10 Westborough 1 (Robo) to May 13 Worcester, Princeton 1, 1 (Hudson, Johnson). Max. Apr. 18 Brookfields 12 (Lynch & Carroll). Fall, Oct. 1 single birds reported from several locations to Nov. 11 Douglas 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Six reports in Dec. from Dec. 1 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr) to the Dec. 31 Uxbridge 1 (Lodi). Also present on three Christmas bird counts.
- EASTERN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia sialis*):** Permanent resident. Max. Nov. 2 Hardwick 30 (Howes) and Dec. 14 SCC 92.
- VEERY (*Catharus fuscescens*):** Apr. 3 Oxbow NWR, Westborough WMA 1, 1 (BBC, Gonzembach) to Sept. 13 Westborough WMA 1 (Kittredge), with max. June 25 WRW 40 (Lynch & Carroll).
- GRAY-CHEEKED/BICKNELL'S THRUSH:** May 17 North Brookfield 1 (Jenkins).
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*C. ustulatus*):** Spring, May 3 WRW 1 (Dowling) to May 29 Rutland 1 (Bourinot). Max. May 17 Lancaster 4 (Barndt) and Auburn Banding Station 4 (Blazis#). Only three fall reports: Sept. 16 Westborough 1 (Spahr), Sept. 27 High Ridge WMA 1 (Pirro) and Sept. 30 Worcester 1 (Robo).
- HERMIT THRUSH (*C. guttatus*):** Four reports of wintering birds. Spring arrival Apr. 5 Hardwick 1 (Howes and Robo) to Nov. 7 Westminster 1 (Caron), with scattered reports in Dec.

- WOOD THRUSH (*Hylocichla mustelina*):** Apr. 28 Worcester 1 (Robo) to Oct. 6 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr), with max. May 13 WRW 16 (Lynch & Carroll).
- AMERICAN ROBIN (*Turdus migratorius*):** Reported throughout the year. Max. Apr. 3 Brookfields 1013 (Lynch & Carroll).
- GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*):** Common breeder and spring to fall resident. First reported Apr. 24 Worcester 1 (Robo). Reported consistently through Nov. 11 Northborough 1 (Spahr). One winter report Dec. 7 Princeton (eBird). Max. June 1 Quaboag IBA 89 (Lynch & Carroll).
- BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*):** Apr. 14 Westborough 1 (Slovin) to Sept. 29 Westborough 1 (Spahr) and Oct. 22 Quaboag Pond 1 (Jenkins, Robo). Max. 4 by v.o. on several dates in Bolton.
- NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus polyglottos*):** Permanent resident. Max. Sept. 4 Uxbridge 8 (Gauthier).
- EUROPEAN STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*):** Permanent resident. Max. Nov. 11 Rutland 3000 (Lynch & Carroll) and Dec. 16 WoCC 1393.
- BOHEMIAN WAXWING (*Bombycilla garrulus*):** Not reported in county or the state every year. One report of 24 birds found by Pirro on Mar. 10 in Templeton.
- CEDAR WAXWING (*B. cedrorum*):** Permanent resident reported consistently throughout the year. Max. Dec. 16 ACC 305 and Dec. 30 QCC 244.
- HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*):** Permanent resident. Max. Dec. 16 Shrewsbury 262 (deGraaf), Dec. 14 West Brookfield 114 (Lynch & Carroll), and Dec 14 SCC 1223.
- AMERICAN PIPIT (*Anthus rubescens*):** First half of the year: Feb. 24 Northborough 1 (Spahr), Apr. 11 Templeton 1 (Pirro), and Mar. 9 Berlin 1 (Spahr). In fall, first reported Sept. 6 Westborough 1 (Spahr) to a late report: Dec. 17 Sutton 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. Oct. 19 Sutton 40 (Lynch & Carroll).
- EVENING GROSBEAK (*Coccothraustes verpertinus*):** Primarily small numbers with most reports from Hardwick and Royalston. Max. Nov. 5 Royalston 6 (LeBlanc). Jan. 16 Hardwick 4 (Barnes) through May 3 Royalston 1 (LeBlanc). Summer reports: July 21 Royalston 3 (LeBlanc) and Aug. 13 Royalston 2 (d'Entremont). Then, Dec. 5 Royalston 6 (Furbish & Peacock).
- HOUSE FINCH (*Haemorrhous mexicanus*):** Permanent resident. Max. Oct. 15 Westborough 300 (Forbes).
- PURPLE FINCH (*H. purpureus*):** Reported every month from Jan. 5 Ashburnham 4 (Caron), Royalston 4 (Williams) to Dec. 30 West Warren 1 (Evans). Most reports from Apr. 3 Templeton 2 (Pirro) to Sept. 29 Westborough 4 (Spahr & Sullivan). Max. Apr. 27 WRW 31 (Lynch & Carroll).
- COMMON REDPOLL (*Acanthis flammea*):** Two sightings reported: Jan. 4 Royalston 7 (Winstanley) and Mar. 5 Private Location 3 (Whelan).
- RED CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra*):** Seven reports from Ashburnham, Lancaster, Royalston, Templeton, and Millbury. Max. Jan. 4 Royalston 60 (Winstanley). May 23 Templeton 15 (Williams) and June 3 Lancaster 1 (Offerman). Then, Nov. 25 Millbury 1 (Berard and Berard), Dec. 15 and Dec. 21 Mt. Watatic, Ashburnham 3, 5 (Spahr).
- WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL (*L. leucoptera*):** Two reports: Dec. 15 Ashburnham 16 (Spahr) and Dec. 16 WoCC 1 (Paulson).

- PINE SISKIN (*Spinus pinus*):** One to two birds coming to feeder in Athol Jan. 4 to May 19 (Small) with a few sporadic reports from Royalston and Westminster. December reports: Dec. 12 Athol (Small) and Dec. 27 Royalston (Hoye).
- AMERICAN GOLDFINCH (*S. tristis*):** Permanent resident. Max. Jan. 21 Quaboag IBA 146 (Lynch & Carroll), Mar. 1 Athol 120 (Small) and Dec. 14 SCC 383.
- SNOW BUNTING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*):** Reported consistently through first half of the year: Jan. 1 Wachusett Res. 50 (Bourget & Johnson) to Mar. 23 Wachusett Res. 8 (Robo). In fall, Oct. 21 Bolton Flats 1 (Swain) through Dec. 26 Worcester Airport 26 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. Feb. 15 Wachusett Res. 90 (Robo).
- EASTERN TOWHEE (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*):** Apr. 10 Wachusett Meadows WS 1 (Robo) to Nov. 14 Westborough 1 (Spahr). Max. Aug. 25 Otter River SF 43 (Lynch & Carroll).
- AMERICAN TREE SPARROW (*Spizella arborea*):** Winter to Apr. 21 Paxton 1 (Jenkins). Max. Jan. 20 Westborough 47 (Spahr). Then, Nov. 5 Bolton Flats (Pirro) through year's end. Max. Dec. 5 Westborough 35 (Robo).
- CHIPPING SPARROW (*S. passerina*):** Widely reported Apr. 3 Athol (Watkevich) to Nov. 14 Westborough (Spahr) with max. Oct. 17 Westborough 125 (Spahr). Three Dec. reports: Dec. 5 Westborough (Robo), Dec. 17 Lancaster (Paulson) and Dec. 23 Berlin 3 (Gahagan).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*S. pallida*):** Individual birds reported from 3 locations: Sept. 23 Wachusett Mtn. 1 (Doherty), Oct. 5 to Nov. 3 Westborough 1 (Spahr#), and Nov. 19 Uxbridge 1 (Lynch & Carroll).
- FIELD SPARROW (*S. pusilla*):** Several winter reports: Jan. 8 Sturbridge 1 (Trimble#) and Feb. 24 Lancaster 1 (Robo). Then, Mar. 28 Uxbridge (Gauthier) to Nov. 8 Westborough (Miller). Max. July 9 Lancaster 10 (Swain). Several late Nov. and Dec. reports with latest Dec. 13 Sterling 3 (Gahagan).
- VESPER SPARROW (*Pooecetes gramineus*):** Numerous reports from breeding grounds in Lancaster or nearby Bolton flats: Apr. 8 (Dowling) to July 22 (DellaRoman, Skilling). Max. 5 at that location on July 22. One spring migrant Apr. 10 Quaboag IBA 1 (Lynch & Carroll).
- SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis*):** Regular period: Apr. 5 Westborough 1 (Miller) to Nov. 29 Westborough 1 (Miller & Dengler) with max. Oct. 19 Bolton Flats 50 (Rodriguez). Lingered birds Crane Swamp, Westborough Dec. 8, 16, 18 and 26 (Miller) and Dec. 16 WoCC (Paulson).
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (*Ammodramus savannarum*):** Reported from known breeding location in Lancaster. May 4 (Sovay) to max. 4 Jun. 3 (Offerman). Reports of individual birds from non-breeding locations: Jul. 22 Princeton (Cook), Aug. 16 Southborough (Garvey), Oct. 4 Wach. Res. (Robo) and a late report Dec. 14 North Brookfield (Robo).
- LECONTE'S SPARROW (*A. leconteii*):** First Worcester County Record. Reports of 1 bird at Bolton Flats from Oct. 16 (Grossman) through Oct. 22 (v.o.).
- FOX SPARROW (*Passerella iliaca*):** Spring reports: Feb. 26 Athol 1 (Small) to Apr. 21 Private Location 1 (Castriotto). Max. Mar. 14 Westminster 4 (Pirro) and Mar. 20 Quaboag IBA 4 (Lynch & Carroll). Fall reports: Oct. 20 Bolton Flats 1 (Loveless), Barre 1 (Spahr) to Dec. 31 Worcester 1 (Lynch & Carroll), and Northbridge 1 (Jenkins). Max. Nov. 14 Westborough 3 (Spahr).
- SONG SPARROW (*Melospiza melodia*):** Permanent resident. Spring max. Apr. 3 Quaboag IBA 87 (Lynch & Carroll). Fall max. Oct. 22 Bolton Flats 67 (Cook) and Dec. 14 SCC 114.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW (*M. lincolni*):** Sixteen reports of individual birds in spring: May 6 Wells State Park, Sturbridge (Barrett) to May 21 Bolton Flats (d'Entremont). In the fall:

Sept. 8 North Brookfield 2 (Jenkins) to Oct. 22 Westborough 1 (Miller) and Bolton Flats 2 (Jacques#). Max. Sept. 24 Westminster 7 (Pirro) and Westborough 7 (Spahr).

SWAMP SPARROW (*M. georgiana*): Scattered winter reports from Jan. 5 Westborough 2 (Spahr, Kittredge) to Mar. 30 Westborough 1 (Garvey). Then, Apr. 8 Westminster 2 (Pirro) to Dec. 27 Southborough 1 (eBird). Max. Oct. 22 Bolton Flats 99 (Lynch & Carroll).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (*Z. albicollis*): Reported throughout the year: Jan. 1 Westborough 2 (Bourget & Johnson) through May 24 Westborough (Gonzenbach) with max. Apr. 28 Athol 24 (LeBlanc). Only 12 reports during summer (breeding season) from Princeton, Royalston, Winchendon and WRW with max. Aug. 11 Otter River SF, Winchendon 25+ (Carroll & Lynch). Fall through year end Sept. 16 Bolton Flats 1 (Lockwood) to Dec. 31 Broad Meadow Brook WS 8 (Robo) with max Oct. 6 Westborough 110 (Spahr) and Dec. 14 SCC 160.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*): Spring migrant reports from May 3 Westborough 1 (Garvey) to May 16 Worcester 2 (Kittredge). Fall migrants from Sept. 24 Westminster 1 (Pirro#) to Nov. 1 Uxbridge 1 (Robo#). Max. Oct. 22 Bolton Flats 8 (Lynch & Carroll). Late report Dec. 17 Douglas 1 (Lynch & Carroll).

DARK-EYED JUNCO (*Junco hyemalis*): Widely reported Jan. 1 to mid-May with max. Jan. 7 Hardwick 152 (Howes). Breeding season reports from Asburnham, Princeton, Royalston, Westminster and Winchendon with a breeding max. July 6 Mt. Watatic, Ashburnham 5 (Miller). Sightings away from breeding areas starting Sept. 18 Oxbow NWR (Cook) to year's end. Max. Dec. 14 SCC 2007.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (*Icteria virens*): Two fall reports: Sept. 18 Westborough 1 (Spahr) and Oct. 13 Quaboag IBA 1 (Lynch & Carroll).

BOBOLINK (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*): May 2 Westborough 1 (Kittredge, Lawson, Robo) through Oct. 23 Uxbridge 2 (Kittredge) with max. July 17 Sibley Farm, Spencer 125 (Sulzer).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella magna*): Seventeen reports of sightings ranging from Mar. 23 Wachusett Res. 1 (Robo) to Oct. 20 Bolton Flats 1 (Robo). Max. June 11 Northborough 2 (Abbott). No confirmed breeding reports, but possible breeders at locations such as Worcester Airport, Dexter Drumlin, and Wachusett Res.

ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Icterus spurius*): Apr. 29 Uxbridge 1 (Gauthier) to July 30 Lancaster 1 (Cook). Max. of 4 reported at Westborough: May 12 (Spahr), May 20 (Jacob), May 28 (Spahr), and June 3 (Spahr#).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*I. galbula*): Apr. 28 Gardner 1 (Pirro) Apr. 28 Broad Meadow Brook WS 1 (Liller, Robo, Gallagher), Apr. 28 Westborough 1 (Williams) through Sept. 9 Westborough WMA (Lockwood). Max. May 12 Quaboag IBA 29 (Lynch & Carroll).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD (*Agelaius phoeniceus*): Good-size flocks (50+ birds) reported every month. Max. Mar. 5 Bolton Flats 1,000 (Pirro) and Apr. 5 Bolton Flats 1,500 (Lynch & Carroll).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD (*Molothrus ater*): Resident, but uncommon in winter: Jan. 7 Sterling 1 (Bourinot) to Dec. 24 Quaboag IBA 30 (Lynch & Carroll) with most reports submitted in the months of Apr. and May. Max. Apr. 5 from Crane Swamp, Westborough 90 (Miller).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus carolinus*): Several winter reports: Jan. 1 Westborough 2 (Bourget) to May 7 Broad Meadow Brook WS 1 (Kalani). Max. Apr. 28 Westborough 12

- (Williams). Then, fall sightings through year's end: Oct. 1 Westborough 1 (Kalani) to Dec. 6 Westborough 1 (Spahr). Max. Oct. 21 Bartlett Pond, Northborough 82 (Dowling).
- COMMON GRACKLE (*Quiscalus quiscalus*):** Reported every month with early spring max. Feb. 27 in Lancaster 15,000 (Berthoud, Freese & Weidemann) and Mar. 7 Bolton Flats 10,000 (Pirro) and fall max. Oct. 22 Westborough 1,200 (Schlotterbeck).
- OVENBIRD (*Seiurus aurocapilla*):** Apr. 28 Southborough 1 (Garvey) to Sept. 26 Royalston 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. May 13 WRW 191 (Lynch & Carroll).
- WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helmitheros vermivorum*):** Uncommon breeder in the county. Surprisingly few reports, only in May. May 11 Westborough 1 (Spahr) to May 24 Uxbridge 1 (B. Kamp).
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH (*Parkesia motacilla*):** Apr. 10 West Boylston 1 (Robo) to July 8 Westborough 1 (Spahr). Max. May 13 WRW 5 (Lynch & Carroll).
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (*P. novaboracensis*):** Apr. 23 Paxton 1 (Abbott) to Aug. 29 Gardner 1 (Pirro). Max. May 15 Westborough 6 (v.o.).
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora cyanoptera*):** Apr. 28 Athol 1 (LeBlanc) to Sept. 17 WRW 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. May 11 Westborough 14 (Barndt).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (*Mniotilta varia*):** Apr. 18 Westborough 1 (Robo) to Oct. 7 High Ridge WMA 1 (Pirro). Max. May 3 WRW (Dowling)
- TENNESSEE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis peregrina*):** This uncommon spring and fall migrant put in a good showing this year in Worcester County and southeastern New England. First reported on May 11 at two locations by Lynch & Carroll, Hope Cemetery 3 and Bancroft Tower Hill 2. Last spring report May 27 Holden 1 (B. Kamp). Southbound: Aug. 24 MAS Elm Hill 1 (Robo) to Oct. 7 Worcester 1 Robo. Max. Oct. 2 Athol 5 (LeBlanc).
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*O. celata*):** Multiple spring reports of a single bird from Westborough WMA: Apr. 24 (Williams) to May 16 (Bourinot). Several fall reports Sept. 16 Bolton Flats 1 (Lockwood) to Oct. 26 Bolton Flats 1 (Robo). One winter report Nov. 23 Sudbury Reservoir 1 (Dowling). Max. Oct. 22 Uxbridge 2 (Berard).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER (*O. ruficapilla*):** Consistent spring reports Apr. 28 Royalston 1 (LeBlanc) to June 8 Barre 1 (B. Kamp). Only one summer report June 30 Royalston 2 (Lynch & Carroll). In fall, Sept. 2 by v.o. to Oct. 11 Private Location 2 (eBird).
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*):** Generally uncommon fall migrant. Many reports from the Westborough WMA: Sept. 8 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr) to Oct. 5 Westborough WMA 1 (Spahr). The only other reports were of single birds at: Bolton Flats WMA, Lancaster WMA, WRW, and Otter River SF. Max. Sept. 21 Westborough WMA 3 (Spahr).
- MOURNING WARBLER (*Geothlypis philadelphia*):** Three birds were banded in spring and one in the fall: Auburn Banding Station (Blazis#). Two other reports: Sept. 7 and Sept. 20 both at Westborough WMA (Spahr).
- COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (*G. trichas*):** Apr. 28 Athol 1 (LeBlanc) to Nov. 2 Bolton Flats WMA 1 (Kittredge). Max. May 13 WRW 58 (Lynch & Carroll).
- AMERICAN REDSTART (*S. ruticilla*):** Arrival date Apr. 29, reported by v.o. Consistent reports of this breeder to Sept. 2 Athol 2 (LeBlanc). Max. June 4 Petersham 29 (Lynch & Carroll).
- CAPE MAY WARBLER (*S. tigrina*):** Relatively consistent reports from May 5 Hubbardston 1 (Robo) to May 17 WRW 2 (Lynch & Carroll). In fall, many reports Sept. 2 High Ridge WMA 1 (Pirro) to Oct. 11 Worcester 1 (Robo). Max. 2 birds reported on several occasions.

- NORTHERN PARULA (*S. americana*):** Arrival date Apr. 29, reported by v.o. Consistent reports to Oct. 12 Worcester 1 (Robo). Max. Sept. 17 WRW 15 (Lynch & Carroll).
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER (*S. magnolia*):** Arrival date May 3, reported by v.o. Consistent reports to Oct. 6 Athol 1 (LeBlanc). Max. WRW 9 (Lynch & Carroll).
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (*S. castanea*):** Well reported in spring: May 6 Worcester (Schain) to May 24 Worcester 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Three fall reports: Sept. 2 High Ridge WMA 1 (Pirro), Sept. 5 Royalston 1 (LeBlanc), and Sept. 13 Royalston 1 (Lynch & Carroll).
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*S. fusca*):** Apr. 28 Lancaster 1 (Johnson) to Sept. 13 Royalston 2 (Lynch & Carroll). Max. May 7 Mt. Watatic 10 (Young).
- YELLOW WARBLER (*S. petechia*):** Apr. 21 Westborough 1 (Spahr) to Oct. 2 Athol 1 (LeBlanc). Max. May 1 Quaboag IBA (Lynch & Carroll).
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*S. pensylvanica*):** Apr. 28 Athol (LeBlanc) to Sept. 30 Westborough 1 (Miller). Max. June 4 Petersham 55 (Lynch & Carroll).
- BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*S. striata*):** Spring, May 7 Wachusett Mountain State Park 1 (Spahr) to June 4 Petersham 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Early southbound movement with consistent reports Aug. 30 High Ridge WMA 1 (Robo) to Oct. 22 Lancaster 1 (Schlotterbeck). Fall max. Sept. 13 Royalston 158 (Lynch & Carroll).
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (*S. caerulescens*):** Apr. 27 WRW 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Oct. 22 Lancaster 1 (Lynch & Carroll), with max. May 18 Ashburnham 15 (Lynch & Carroll).
- PALM WARBLER (*S. palmarum*):** In the spring, Apr. 8 multiple reports to May 16 Grafton 1 (Harmon). Spring max. Apr. 15 Harvard 35 (Arena). Southbound: Sept. 10 Quabbin Reservoir Gate 37 (Lynch & Carroll) to Nov. 20 Westborough 1 (Spahr). Fall max. Sept. 30, Oct. 22 Worcester, Lancaster 26 (Robo, Lynch & Carroll).
- PINE WARBLER (*S. pinus*):** Mar. 25 Worcester 1 (Robinson) to Oct. 22 Lancaster 1 (Lynch & Carroll), and Dec. 31 Northbridge 1 (Jenkins & Ricker). Max. Sept. 11 WRW 132 (Lynch & Carroll).
- YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*S. coronata*):** Early report on Mar. 12 Southborough 1 (Lynch & Carroll). Then, consistent reports Apr. 10 Northborough 1 (Spahr) to Dec. 5 Royalston 2 (Peacock & Furbish). Max. Oct. 10 Lancaster 100 (Hoye).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER (*S. discolor*):** Arrival on Apr. 28 with multiple reports to Nov. 4 Westborough 1 (Marchessault). Max. May 13 Lancaster 13 (v.o.).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*S. virens*):** Arrival date Apr. 24 multiple reports to Oct. 6 Quabbin Gate 45, Petersham 1 (Howes). Max. May 4 Petersham 48 (Lynch & Carroll).
- CANADA WARBLER (*Cardellina canadensis*):** May 12 Otter River SF 1 (Lynch & Carroll) to Oct. 6 High Ridge WMA 1 (Pirro). Max. May 23 Petersham 6 (LeBlanc).
- WILSON'S WARBLER (*C. pusilla*):** Northbound: May 4 Worcester 1 (Kittredge) to May 27 Bolton 1 (Miller & Dengler). Then, Aug. 31 Gardner 1 (Pirro) to Sept. 29 Hardwick 1 (Howes). All reports of single birds.
- SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*):** Apr. 29 Southbridge 1 (Lawson) Quaboag IBA 2 (Lynch & Carroll) to Oct. 10 Worcester 2 (Robo). Max. June 18 WRW 20 and June 25 North Brookfield 20 (Lynch & Carroll).
- NORTHERN CARDINAL (*Cardinalis cardinalis*):** Permanent resident. Max. May 12 Quaboag IBA 39 (Lynch & Carroll) and Dec. 14 SCC 354.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*): Apr. 24 Paxton 1 (Jenkins) to Oct. 6 Westborough 1 (Spahr). Max. May 13 WRW 26 (Lynch & Carroll).

BLUE GROSBEAK (*Passerina caerulea*): Oct. 21 Uxbridge Community Gardens 1 (Robo).

INDIGO BUNTING (*P. cyanea*): May 1 Hardwick 1 (Barnes & Buelow) to Oct. 6 Athol 1 (LeBlanc) and Westborough 1 (Miller & Spahr); max. Sept. 4 and Sept. 24 Westminster 16 (Pirro). July 5 North Brookfield 11 (8 ad. 3 yng.) (Lynch & Carroll).

PAINTED BUNTING (*P. ciris*): Third Worcester County Record. May 25 Sterling 1 male (McDermott).

DICKCISSEL (*Spiza americana*): Sept. 10 Westborough 1 (Spahr) to Nov. 4 Westborough (Robo). Also one to two birds Oct. 18 to Oct. 23 at Uxbridge Community Gardens (v.o.).

The Editorial Committee would like to thank all those who reported sightings in Worcester County for 2017.

**WACHUSETT MEADOWS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
BREEDING SEASON CENSUS**

The Fifty-second Annual Forbush Bird Club Breeding Season Census of Wachusett Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary, Princeton, Mass; June, 2017.

Canada Goose 12, Mallard 1, Ruffed Grouse 1, Wild Turkey 8, Great Blue Heron 3, Turkey Vulture 5, Broad-winged Hawk 1, American Kestrel 1, Mourning Dove 9, Black-billed Cuckoo 1, Barred Owl 1, Chimney Swift 3, Ruby-throated Hummingbird 4, Red-bellied Woodpecker 2, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 14, Downy Woodpecker 2, Hairy Woodpecker 2, Northern Flicker 2, Pileated Woodpecker 3, Eastern Wood-Pewee 32, Alder Flycatcher 2, Willow Flycatcher 1, Empid Species 1, Least Flycatcher 1, Eastern Phoebe 9, Great Crested Flycatcher 7, Eastern Kingbird 4, Blue-headed Vireo 2, Warbling Vireo 1, Red-eyed Vireo 67, Blue Jay 29, American Crow 5, Common Raven 1, Tree Swallow 42, Barn Swallow 77, Black-capped Chickadee 47, Tufted Titmouse 21, Red-breasted Nuthatch 4, White-breasted Nuthatch 3, Brown Creeper 8, House Wren 3, Winter Wren 1, Eastern Bluebird 10, Veery 2, Hermit Thrush 12, Wood Thrush 1, American Robin 14, Gray Catbird 13, European Starling 2, Cedar Waxwing 14, Blue-winged Warbler 3, Yellow Warbler 17, Chestnut-sided Warbler 23, Black-throated Blue Warbler 4, Yellow-rumped Warbler 3, Black-throated Green Warbler 14, Blackburnian Warbler 4, Pine Warbler 9, Prairie Warbler 5, Black-and-white Warbler 18, American Redstart 14, Ovenbird 107, Louisiana Waterthrush 1, Common Yellowthroat 34, Eastern Towhee 14, Chipping Sparrow 12, Song Sparrow 14, Swamp Sparrow 7, White-throated Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager 17, Northern Cardinal 5, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1, Indigo Bunting 3, Bobolink 4, Red-winged Blackbird 50, Common Grackle 9, Brown-headed Cowbird 2, Baltimore Oriole 4, Purple Finch 1, American Goldfinch 26, House Sparrow 27.

Report submitted by: Dick Knowlton

**WORCESTER COUNTY CHRISTMAS COUNTS
2017**

Count Name:	Sturbridge	Athol*	Worcester	Groton-Oxbow**	Quabbin*	Uxbridge*	Westminster
Date:	14-Dec	16-Dec	16-Dec	17-Dec	30-Dec	30-Dec	4-Jan
	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2018
SPECIES							
Snow Goose			CW				
Canada Goose	947	52	1694	871	3	488	
Mute Swan	9		51	16		5	
Wood Duck	2		1	2		2	
Gadwall			4			1	
American Wigeon			1	1			
Mallard	727	120	1114	534	111	236	359
A. Black Duck	32	9	44	32	43	41	22
Northern Pintail		CW				CW	1
Gr-wing. Teal				CW			
Redhead			1				
Ring-neck. Duck	1		2			15	
Greater Scaup	7		CW				
W-w. Scoter			1		1		
Bufflehead	CW		CW				
Com. Goldeneye	4		99		2		
Barr. Goldeneye			1				
H. Merganser	125	27	172	20	30	8	
Com. Merganser	73	9	100		312	21	1
Ruddy Duck	CW		7				
R.-nck. Pheasant	2	6		1			2
Ruffed Grouse		4	1	1	10	CW	
Wild Turkey	184	138	133	87	151	114	141
Common Loon		1	7				
Horned Grebe		1					
D-c. Cormorant			2				
Gr. Blue Heron	1		4	3			
Turkey Vulture			1			4	
Golden Eagle		1					
Shrp-shn. Hawk	4	3	2	7	1	1	3
Cooper's Hawk	5	3	8	15	3	6	3
N. Goshawk			1	1			1

Count Name:	Sturbridge	Athol*	Worcester	Groton-Oxbow**	Quabbin*	Uxbridge*	Westminster
Accipiter sp.			1				
Bald Eagle	4	9	6	CW	21	CW	
Red.-shld. Hawk	5	1		1	4	1	1
RSxRT Hawk Hybrid			CW				
Red-tailed Hawk	49	19	45	47	23	31	14
Rgh-leg. Hawk			1	2			
Killdeer		1					
Ring-billed Gull	164	16	783	27	60	43	29
Herring Gull	11	11	75	422		6	19
Iceland Gull				1			1
Gr. Blk.-bck. Gull	CW		2	85			
Rock Pigeon	534	518	396	247	21	376	276
Mourning Dove	538	337	217	219	361	144	214
E. Screech-Owl	3		1	1	3	19	
Gr. Horned Owl	6	3	9	13	13	10	2
Snowy Owl			CW				
Barred Owl	8	3	1	13	5	2	5
N. Saw-whet Owl	9	5	1		4		1
Belted Kingfisher	11	1	5	8	2	1	
Red-h. Woodpecker	CW						
R-b. Woodpecker	73	55	47	79	37	30	52
Y-b. Sapsucker	3	1	4	1	2	CW	
Do. Woodpecker	275	115	83	95	139	165	103
H. Woodpecker	51	32	19	25	58	37	36
Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted)	13	1		20	3	15	1
Northern Flicker			3				
Pil. Woodpecker	11	15	9	14	20	3	4
Merlin	1			1			
Peregrine Falcon			2				
Blue Jay	653	564	490	676	297	228	523
American Crow	335	269	3290	779	131	197	256
Fish Crow			4				
Common Raven	17	35	7	9	20	8	8
Horned Lark	121	20	53				
Bl-c. Chickadee	1169	766	610	474	539	497	844
Tufted Titmouse	867	355	455	308	294	319	363
Red-br. Nuthatch	2	41	7		25		11
Wh.-br. Nuthatch	353	189	163	154	188	191	208

Count Name:	Sturbridge	Athol*	Worcester	Groton-Oxbow**	Quabbin*	Uxbridge*	Westminster
Brown Creeper	16	4	2	8	10	4	9
House Wren				1			
Winter Wren	6		4	6	4		1
Carolina Wren	29	10	6	15	1	24	3
Gold-cr. Kinglet	166	72	62	61	112	42	23
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	2	1	2			1	
Eastern Bluebird	92	44	50	75	28	51	47
Hermit Thrush	7	CW	4	6	4	4	2
American Robin	402	175	161	365	133	110	358
Gray Catbird	1				1		
N. Mockingbird	14	7	12	15	7	10	5
Euro. Starling	931	981	1393	401	644	393	218
American Pipit		CW					
Cedar Waxwing	164	305	90	118	244	109	83
Snow Bunting	2		48	12			
C. Yellowthroat	1			0			
Pine Warbler				1		1	
Yel-rump Warb.				CW		16	
Grasshopper Sp.	1			0			
A. Tree Sparrow	149	75	39	103	111	29	48
Chipping Sparrow				1			
Field Sparrow	1	1				10	
Fox Sparrow	4		4		1	2	
Dark-eyed Junco	2007	2451	1079	1168	1564	943	1017
White-cr. Sparrow	1						
Wh.-thr. Sparrow	160	69	40	73	114	32	19
Sav. Sparrow			1				
Song Sparrow	114	11	71	90	30	86	6
Swamp Sparrow	10	1	5	8		1	
N. Cardinal	354	158	131	144	135	178	121
Red-w. Blackbird	886			43	37	41	
Br-h. Cowbird	2			CW	58	18	
Rusty Blackbird	4	1	CW		1		
Com. Grackle	7	4	1	3			1
House Finch	217	114	74	171	14	106	68
Purple Finch	9	4	1	3	1		1
C. Redpoll				1			
W-w. Crossbill			1				
Pine Siskin		CW					
A. Goldfinch	383	617	260	300	299	157	238

Count Name:	Sturbridge	Athol*	Worcester	Groton-Oxbow**	Quabbin*	Uxbridge*	Westminster
House Sparrow	1223	451	957	392	808	751	550
Count Day Species	14774	9312	14738	8896	7298	6384	6322
Count Day Individuals	74	61	80	67	59	59	51

* = 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.

SAW-WHET OWL BANDING LOOKOUT ROCK, NORTHBRIDGE

After many years of banding and recording meticulous observations of the sex and age of the owls at Lookout Rock in Northbridge, the team of Strickland Wheelock, Beth Milke and Paul Milke has ended the activity. Many Forbush members visited the site and learned a lot about Saw-whet Owls up close. Thank you for braving the cold nights and your dedication.

Alan Marble

**AUBURN BIRDBANDING RESEARCH STATION
AUBURN SPORTSMAN'S CLUB
2017 CAPTURES**

Species	Spring	Fall	Total
Mourning Dove	1		1
Black-billed Cuckoo	1		1
Downy Woodpecker		7	7
Hairy Woodpecker		2	2
Traill's Flycatcher	7	1	8
Least Flycatcher	1		1
Eastern Phoebe	1	6	7
Tree Swallow	133		133
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4	5	9
Cedar Waxwing	1		1
Carolina Wren		1	1
House Wren	3	2	5
Gray Catbird	30	86	116
Eastern Bluebird	29	4	33
Veery	1	1	2
Swainson's Thrush	4	4	8
American Robin	5	13	18
Black-capped Chickadee	12	17	29
Tufted Titmouse	7	21	28
White-breasted Nuthatch		2	2
Blue Jay	2	2	4
Blue-headed Vireo		2	2
Warbling Vireo	4		4
Red-eyed Vireo	4	3	7
House Finch		2	2
American Goldfinch	8	4	12
Nashville Warbler		2	2
Northern Parula	1	2	3

Species	Spring	Fall	Total
Yellow Warbler	4		4
Magnolia Warbler	7	2	9
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2		2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	24	6	30
Pine Warbler	1	1	2
Palm Warbler	5		5
Blackpoll Warbler		3	3
Black-and-white Warbler	2	1	3
American Redstart	7	2	9
Ovenbird	4	2	6
Northern Waterthrush	2	2	4
Mourning Warbler	3	1	4
Common Yellowthroat	18	10	28
Wilson's Warbler	2		2
Canada Warbler	5	2	7
Eastern Towhee	1	1	2
Song Sparrow	1	4	5
Lincoln's Sparrow	2		2
Swamp Sparrow	4	4	8
White-throated Sparrow	1	7	8
Northern Cardinal	3	10	13
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	2	4
Red-winged Blackbird	8		8
Common Grackle	5		5
Baltimore Oriole	10		10

TOTALS – 53 Species	382	249	631
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Report Submitted by: Mark Blazis

2017 HAWK WATCH RESULTS

(All data from HawkCount)

Barre Falls Hawk Watch Spring 2017

Dates of observation: 18 dates from April 2 to May 3

Hours of observation: 60.3

Species	Season Total	Maximum: Date (#)
Black Vulture	0	---
Turkey Vulture	10	4/9 (3)
Osprey	21	4/30 (6)
Bald Eagle	10	4/14 (3)
Northern Harrier	0	---
Sharp-shinned Hawk	17	4/10 (5)
Cooper's Hawk	7	4/3 (2)
Northern Goshawk	1	4/2 (1)
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	4/2; 4/3 (1)
Broad-winged Hawk	263	4/17 (114)
Red-tailed Hawk	37	4/2 (15)
Rough-legged Hawk	0	---
Golden Eagle	1	4/9 (1)
American Kestrel	4	4/2 (2)
Merlin	0	---
Peregrine Falcon	0	---

Barre Falls Hawk Watch Fall 2017

Dates of observation: 54 dates from September 4 to November 18, 2017

Hours of observation: 256.0

Species	Season Total	Maximum: Date (#)
Black Vulture	2	10/23 (2)
Turkey Vulture	334	10/23 (243)
Osprey	39	9/4 (4)
Bald Eagle	52	9/10 (5)
Northern Harrier	8	10/23 (4)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	192	10/10 (24)
Cooper's Hawk	63	10/3 (8)
Northern Goshawk	1	10/27 (1)
Red-shouldered Hawk	16	10/11; 11/7 (3)
Broad-winged Hawk	2159	9/12 (635)
Red-tailed Hawk	153	11/4 (36)
Rough-legged Hawk	0	---
Golden Eagle	1	11/15 (1)
American Kestrel	41	9/17 (7)
Merlin	11	10/16 (3)
Peregrine Falcon	6	9/28 first (1); 10/11 last (1)

Mt. Wachusett Fall Hawk Watch 2017

Dates of observation: 58 dates from August 17 to November 14, 2017

Hours of observation: 327.75

Species	Season Total	Maximum: Date (#)
Black Vulture	1	9/10 (1)
Turkey Vulture	293	10/1 (55)
Osprey	144	9/22 (14)
Bald Eagle	117	9/10 (21)
Northern Harrier	23	11/4 (4)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	322	9/21 (27)
Cooper's Hawk	121	9/10 (15)
Northern Goshawk	1	10/2 (1)
Red-shouldered Hawk	14	11/8 (6)
Broad-winged Hawk	10,348	9/11 (4894)
Red-tailed Hawk	99	11/4 (42)
Rough-legged Hawk	0	---
Golden Eagle	0	---
American Kestrel	132	9/21 (21)
Merlin	19	9/28 (3)
Peregrine Falcon	37	9/16 (6)

Mt. Watatic Hawk Watch Fall 2017

Dates of observation: 11 dates from September 9 to 23, 2017

Hours of observation: 84.5

Species	Season Total	Maximum: Date (#)
Black Vulture	0	---
Turkey Vulture	1	9/23 (1)
Osprey	51	9/17 (8)
Bald Eagle	41	9/21 (10)
Northern Harrier	14	9/22 (5)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	178	9/16 (35)
Cooper's Hawk	33	9/21 (6)
Northern Goshawk	0	---
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	---
Broad-winged Hawk	5039	9/10 (1395)
Red-tailed Hawk	0	---
Rough-legged Hawk	0	---
Golden Eagle	0	---
American Kestrel	68	9/21 (27)
Merlin	22	9/14 (5)
Peregrine Falcon	1	9/16 (1)

RECORD OF FORBUSH BIRD CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR 2017

January	1	<p>Worcester and Vicinity Leader: John Shea. Observers: 10. Some highlights were: Common Goldeneye, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, and a Common Raven. We saw 21 species. We didn't see the Peregrine downtown but it is around.</p>
February	18	<p>Cape Ann Leaders: Deb and Dan Berard. Observers: 10. Weather: Sunny and breezy with a temperature of 38-44 degrees. 39 species were seen or heard during the trip with excellent and close looks at Thick-billed Murre.</p>
March	25	<p>Quaboag Pond and Vicinity Leaders: Rodney Jenkins. Observers: 7. Weather: Cloudy, cool. 40's. Highlights: 37 Wood Duck, Bald Eagle, a nice male Northern Harrier, 2 Killdeer, and a Wilson's Snipe, 4 Tree Swallows, and 60 Horned Larks. Species: 42.</p>
April	27	<p>86th Forbush Bird Club Annual Dinner and Business Meeting The 86th Annual Dinner and Business Meeting of the Forbush Bird Club were held on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at the Manor Restaurant in West Boylston with forty-six members and friends attending. The club President, Dick Knowlton opened the business meeting after the social hour at 7: 20 pm. Dick noted that the club has been active for 86 years in providing field trips, lecture programs, and participating in surveys such as Christmas Bird Counts and breeding bird surveys. The field trip participation has remained consistent over the past few years with an average of 11 participants per trip with high number of 28 at Mount Auburn and 23 on the last year's pelagic trip. Dick thanked all trip leaders and invited anyone who would be interested to lead a trip. Dick recognized the club officers and thanked them for their support. Dick also thanked Strickland Wheelock, Paul and Beth Milke, and 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.</p>

Officer's Reports

Secretary's Report was read by Deb Berard and accepted by the membership.

Treasurer's Report was read by Bart Kamp and accepted by the membership.

Dick announced that this year is a nomination and election year for the Executive Committee. He thanked Donna Schilling for her great job as 1st Vice President; completing the biannual calendar of events and converting it from a printed to an electronic calendar. She will be stepping down from that office and continuing on as Member-at-Large. He also thanked Kevin Bourinot who is stepping down from his 2nd Vice President position in which he has provided great variety of lecture programs.

Dick announced the nominations of the new 2 year Executive Board 2017-2019 as.

Dick Knowlton, President.

Diane Abbott, 1st Vice President

Bette Robo, 2nd Vice President

Deb Berard, Secretary

Bart Kamp, Treasurer

Donna Schilling, Jim Hogan, and Dave Grant, Members-at-Large

Dick asked if there were any nominations from the floor, there were none and voting and acceptance of the nomination took place.

Old Business

The Chickadee committee has informed Dick that the 2014, 2015, and 2016 issues of the Chickadee will be mailed late May.

New Business

The Mass Association of Bird Clubs met for the first time in April. All members expressed the same concerns and plan to meet again. Minutes of that meeting will be forwarded to Dick who in turn will send them out to the membership.

25 Year Membership Recognition Award

There were 3 members who reached the 25 year membership. Betty Lawson and Scott Ricker were not present but were acknowledged. Ed Banks was present and awarded his 25 year Certificate.

Announcements

Dick announced that this year's pelagic trip would be on Sunday, August 20, 2017 and Dick will send out information as he receives it.

Dick announced the upcoming events and encouraged all to participate if able.

The business meeting ended at 7: 40 pm and was followed by Kevin Bourinot introducing Dr. Andrew Vitz who presented "Engaging Birders to Promote Bird Conservation in Massachusetts."

Respectfully submitted, Deb Berard, Secretary

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| May | 7 | <p>North Worcester Parks
 Leader: Bette Robo. Observers: 11. This is a new trip on the Forbush calendar. Stops were at: Dodge Park, Greenhill Park, Burncoat Park. Species 51.</p> |
| May | 27 | <p>DCR-Kristof Farm, Sterling
 Leader: Dick and Peg Knowlton. Observers: 12. Weather: mostly sunny, mild, light winds. Species 42.</p> |
| June | 3 | <p>Ware River Watrshed IBA
 Leaders: Donna Schilling and Dave Grant. Observers: 15.
 Weather: Increasing clouds, 44 to 58 degrees; northwest wind 10 MPH. 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 twelve species of breeding warblers, an Osprey, one Red-shouldered Hawk, and the Barre Falls Common Ravens with four fledglings. A Barred Owl flew in and perched near Brigham Road, allowing everyone a splendid view. Species 68.</p> |
| June | 25 | <p>Wachusett Reservoir IBA
 Leader: Kevin Bourinot. Observers: 7. Weather: Temps started off at 60 and ended at 82°F with a light breeze throughout the day. We started with the traditional 2.8 mile hike to Wood Island. Lots of breeding activity with many recently fledged songbirds all around. Highlights were the Wood Island Common Loon pair with an adult on the nest and Bald Eagle pair with 2 very large young on the nest. We all had great looks at 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Bufflehead (non-breeding at Cemetery Island), Orchard Oriole, and a huge movement of young American Toads moving through the forest floor. Species: 60.</p> |

- July 16** **Birds & Butterflies with MA Butterfly Club, Leicester**
 Leader: Dolores Price. Weather: Sunny with a refreshing breeze, 72 to 85 degrees. Thirteen participants enjoyed a perfect summer morning for our annual Forbush Bird Club / Massachusetts Butterfly Club field trip in Leicester. Locations visited were Route 56 west of Worcester Airport, the path from Mulberry Street to the Friends Cemetery ("Spider Gates"), and the Mulberry Street field. A late stop after noon at the Leicester Recycling Center's hilltop field produced a Black-billed Cuckoo, an Indigo Bunting, and five additional butterfly species.
- September 2** **Wachusett Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary, Princeton**
 Leader: Joan Gallagher. Observers: 14. Weather: Sunny, 46 degrees to start ending with a sunny high of 67 degrees. Highlights: A Black-billed Cuckoo and a fall migrating Magnolia Warbler in the trees near the parking lot, while a short-tailed weasel crossed nearby. Two Common Loons called and flew over. A Monarch caterpillar was found eating on a milkweed plant. Species: 36.
- September 24** **Bolton Flats and Lancaster WMAs**
 Leader: Kevin Bourinot. Observers: 12. Weather: Sunny. Highlights: Common Raven, Northern Parula, Blackpoll Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow. Species: 43.
- October 1** **Wachusett Reservoir IBA**
 Leader: Kevin Bourinot. Stops included Thomas Basin, Sterling Peat, East and West Waushacum Lakes, and Reservoir Gates 36, 39, 17, and 25. Highlights: Bufflehead, 12 Common Loon, 2 Pied-billed Grebe, 2 Horned Grebe, 1 Little Blue Heron, Pectoral Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper. Species: 60.
- October 8** **New Braintree**
 Leaders: Rodney Jenkins. Observers: 7. Weather: Cloudy, breezy, 50's intermittent rain until 9:30 when the skies let loose and sent everyone home. Highlights: A terrible day for birding. A few had looks at a late Yellow Warbler just as the downpour began, but everyone had incredible views of a mother Black Bear with two cubs as they crossed the road 100 yards from the group. Species: 23.

October 22

Quaboag Pond and Vicinity

Leaders: Rodney Jenkins. Observers: 7. Weather: Sunny, cool start in the low 40's warming to mid low 60's. Highlights: 3 Pied-billed Grebes, 26 Ruddy Ducks, a late Brown Thrasher, Common Yellowthroat, and 1 Lincoln's Sparrow among a nice group of sparrows in the Wildlife Management Area. Species: 47.

November 18

Salisbury State Park and Parker River NWR

Leader: Dick Knowlton. Observers: 11. Weather: Started out fair and cool, warming to 40s with calm wind. Cloudy and light breeze in the p.m. Highlights: Red-necked Grebe, Peregrine Falcons, Red-throated Loon, 2 Short-eared Owls, 1 'Ipswich' Savannah Sparrow. Species: 56.