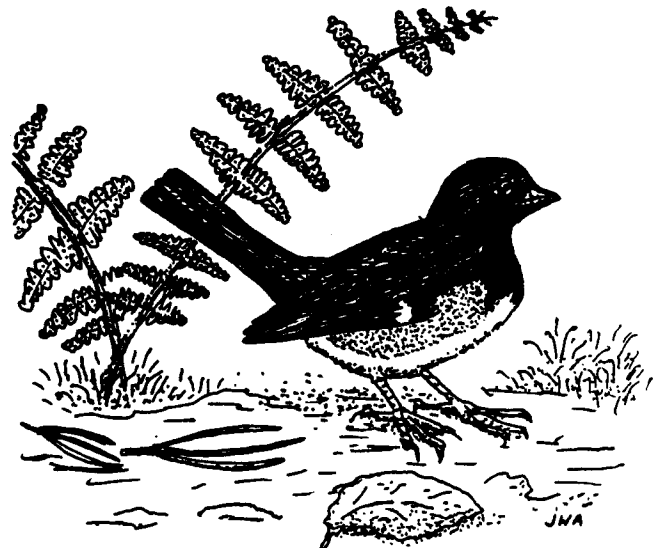


Birds of Whipple Hill- A Checklist



Rufous-sided Towhee

INTRODUCTION

The Whipple Hill Conservation Area is undoubtedly one of the best birding sites in Lexington. It is especially worth visiting during the spring migration when a variety of migrant landbirds are found on Whipple Hill itself and in the wooded edges east of Locke Pond. In April (and September) migrating hawks can be observed from the summit.

A variety of breeding birds are present at Whipple Hill. Unusual breeders such as Nashville Warbler and Black-and-white Warbler have been found on Whipple Hill itself. The cool ravines harbor Broad-winged Hawk, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Scarlet Tanager. Wood Ducks breed at Locke Pond and the marsh to its north. On the uplands to the east are found Indigo Bunting, Blue-winged Warbler, and Prairie Warbler. Great Horned Owls and Screech Owls are also present.

SPECIES CHECKLIST

This checklist lists all 112 species observed at Whipple Hill between 1980 and 1983. The first data column indicates the percentage of visits in which the given species was observed. This percentage is based upon 52 site visits to the Whipple Hill summit/Locke Pond area during the month of May. Visits averaged 70 minutes in duration. The second column provides the estimated number of breeding pairs of the species for the entire Whipple Hill site. This number is averaged over the years of the study. This data was collected by John Andrews as part of the Spring Migration Watch sponsored by Bird Observer magazine. For species that did not occur in May, the months of occurrence are noted in parenthesis (e.g., 2 June = two records in the month of June). See end of list for key to notes.

	%VISITS	PAIRS	NOTES		%VISITS	PAIRS	NOTES
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	1.9	-	N2	GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (1 Apr)	-	-	N2
GREAT BLUE HERON	1.9	-		ROCK DOVE	3.8	?	N2
GREEN-BACKED HERON	5.8	-		MOURNING DOVE	25.0	6	
CANADA GOOSE	1.9	-		BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO	9.6	2	
WOOD DUCK	25.0	3		YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	1.9	1	
AM. BLACK DUCK	1.9	-		EASTERN SCREECH OWL (April)	-	4	N1
MALLARD	59.6	3		GREAT HORNED OWL	1.9	1	N1
OSPREY (1 June, 1 Sept.)	-	-		COMMON NIGHTHAWK	1.9	-	N1
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	1.9	-		CHIMNEY SWIFT	7.7	-	
COOPER'S HAWK (1 April)	-	-		BELTED KINGFISHER (1 June)	-	-	
NORTHERN GOSHAWK (1 April)	-	-		YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER	1.9	-	
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	7.7	1		DOWNY WOODPECKER	44.2	8	
RED-TAILED HAWK	5.8	?		HAIRY WOODPECKER	13.5	2	
AMERICAN KESTREL	1.9	-		NORTHERN FLICKER	82.7	8	
RING-NECKED PHEASANT	94.2	12		OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER	3.8	-	
KILLDEER	1.9	-		EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE	17.3	3	
SOLITARY SANDPIPER	1.9	-		ALDER FLYCATCHER	1.9	-	
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	5.8	-		LEAST FLYCATCHER	5.8	-	
HERRING GULL	21.1	-	N2	EASTERN PHOEBE	7.7	?	

	%VISITS	PAIRS	NOTES		%VISITS	PAIRS	NOTES
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	53.8	3		CAPE MAY WARBLER	1.9	-	
EASTERN KINGBIRD	25.0	2		BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER	3.8	-	
TREE SWALLOW	7.7	0.5		YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	28.8	-	
N. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (1 June)	-	-		BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER	34.6	-	
BARN SWALLOW	17.3	0.5		BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER	7.7	-	
BLUE JAY	92.3	8		PRAIRIE WARBLER	11.5	1	
AMERICAN CROW	88.5	3	N2	PALM WARBLER	11.5	-	
FISH CROW	1.9	?		BLACKPOLL WARBLER	17.3	-	
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	82.7	12		BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER	57.7	1	
TUFTED TITMOUSE	57.7	4		AMERICAN REDSTART	32.7	-	
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	82.7	6		OVENBIRD	38.8	0.25	
BROWN CREEPER (Apr, Nov)	-	-		COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	51.9	8	
HOUSE WREN	21.2	4		CANADA WARBLER	13.5	-	
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (fall records)	-	-		YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (1 Oct.)	-	-	
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	5.8	-		SCARLET Tanager	28.8	1	
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER	1.9	-		NORTHERN CARDINAL	42.3	4	
VEERY	13.5	-		ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK	7.7	1	
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH	1.9	-		INDIGO BUNTING	7.1	2	N3
SWAINSON'S THRUSH	9.6	-		RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE	100.0	10	
HERMIT THRUSH	5.8	-		CHIPPING SPARROW	15.4	1	
WOOD THRUSH	7.7	-		FIELD SPARROW	78.8	4	
AMERICAN ROBIN	40.4	8		FOX SPARROW	1.9	-	
GRAY CATBIRD	38.5	12		SONG SPARROW	5.8	2	
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD	46.1	6		SWAMP SPARROW	1.9	-	
BROWN THRASHER	61.5	4		WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	7.7	-	
CEDAR WAXWING	3.8	2		DARK-EYED JUNCO	3.8	-	
EUROPEAN STARLING	100.0	20		RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	67.3	8	
SOLITARY VIREO	11.5	-		RUSTY BLACKBIRD	1.9	-	
WARBLING VIREO	3.8	-		COMMON GRACKLE	88.8	6	
RED-EYED VIREO	21.1	3		BROWN-HEADED COBIRD	75.0	5	
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	3.8	?	N3	ORCHARD ORIOLE (1 June)	-	0.5	
TENNESSEE WARBLER	19.2	-		NORTHERN ORIOLE	38.5	4	
NASHVILLE WARBLER	42.3	0.25		PURPLE FINCH	3.8	?	
NORTHERN PARULA	28.8	-		HOUSE FINCH	3.8	1	
YELLOW WARBLER	5.7	-		AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	19.2	2	
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	13.5	-		EVENING GROSBEAK	5.8	-	
MAGNOLIA WARBLER	23.1	-		HOUSE SPARROW	3.8	1	

TOTAL: 111 SPECIES OBSERVED ; 51 BREEDING SPECIES (ESTIMATED)
BEST DAY EVER: MAY 25, 1983 , 48 SPECIES OBSERVED IN ONE VISIT

KEY TO NOTES:

N1 = Species was probably undercounted due to inconspicuous or nocturnal habits.

N2 = Overflights or birds detectable far off-site were not consistently recorded for this species.

N3 = Portions of the site not normally covered in survey visits provide habitat in which this species may occur more frequently.

This checklist was prepared by John Andrews for

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