

# *The Woodcock*

## ANTIOCH BIRD CLUB

Founded 2016

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### **'The Woodcock' - What's in a Name?**

The first thing you likely noticed upon reading this newsletter is the brand-new title for our Wednesday Weekly update! 'The Woodcock', pays homage to the very first bird walk that was hosted by the newly-formed Antioch Bird Club back on April 1, 2016. Joined by a dozen AUNE students, ABC held a 'Woodcock Walk' along the Keene Bike Path at dusk to view displaying male American Woodcocks as they engaged in a sky dance above nearby Ash Brook Wetland. The trip was a huge success and the perfect catalyst for where we are today as a club. We felt there was no better bird to be our mascot than this uncommon, inconspicuous, upland shorebird.

Welcome to 'the Woodcock'. We hope you enjoy. ABC Logo (Draft) by Chad Witko (right).



### **ABC Monthly Update**

#### **ABC Birdathon in the Keene Sentinel**



**QUICK STUDIES:** Fundraiser was for the bi  
University New England

By Meg McIntyre Sentinel Staff Sep 24, 2017 (0)



On September 19th, Chad Witko and Steven Lamonde of ABC were interviewed by Meg McIntyre, staff writer, of the Keene Sentinel. The Sentinel was interested in ABC's 1st Annual Fall Birdathon held on September 11th and wanted to write an article about it for the education section of their Sunday edition. The article was eventually published on Sunday, September 24th, both online and in print. As of this publication, the article is still live on their website and can be accessed [here](https://www.facebook.com/AUNEBirdClub/).

## Library Scavenger Hunt

From September 18th to the 28th, ABC partnered with the Library for our third ever 'Library Scavenger Hunt'. Hidden among the books, journals, shelves, plants, and other resources of the library were 10 bird images that once found, had to be identified to species. Winners of the scavenger hunt were chosen from the students who correctly found and identified the most species, including this Townsend's Warbler hidden in a potted plant (right).



Despite this being our most challenging scavenger hunt to date, every species of bird was correctly identified this year, although not by a single person. It was challenging to say the least, but the winners prevailed in their efforts and were rewarded accordingly. For a photographic guide to the locations and answers of this year's challenge, please visit our Facebook [page](#). Congratulations to the winners (below) and thank you to all who participated. Continued thanks goes out to the AUNE Library for their obvious support.



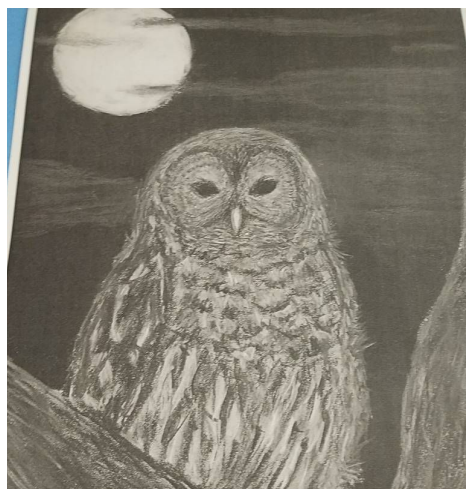
Winners (l-r): Cain Landry, Luciana Ranelli, John Dunham, Kat Lauer, and Kizette Ortiz-Vanger (not pictured).

## Spark Bird Art Project



Running concurrently with the Library Scavenger Hunt was our Spark Bird Art Project. A spark bird is THE bird that first gets a person interested in birding. With birders in the U.S. numbering in the tens of millions, it comes as no great surprise that every birder has a different story on how they first got interested in birds.

Despite having a comparatively small constituency of birders, ABC wanted to represent the 'birder origin' stories of our members. The Spark Bird Art Project showcased individuals' introduction to birding by establishing a temporary art installation where they could write or illustrate their spark bird story. With seven submissions and counting, the diversity of bird species and artistic mediums for this project was quite surprising. Final submissions included written word, watercolor, photograph, colored pencil, pen and ink, and charcoal, such as the Barred Owl piece by John Dunham of the writing center (right). The Spark Bird Project is located on the bulletin board situated across from the GIS Lab, adjacent to the Dance Studio, in the main hallway leading to the library. It will remain on display until at least Saturday, October 14th, so check it out before it disappears!



## Antioch Bird Club Instagram



The Antioch Bird Club is proud to announce that we are now on Instagram! If you are a part of this social media platform, please follow us @antiochbirdclub where we will share photos of club events and happenings! We also encourage you to connect with us through this platform and welcome your photos of club events or interesting bird sightings you might have seen on or off campus! #antiochbirdclub



## **October Schedule of Events**

### **Birds and Bagels**

October 14<sup>th</sup> (Sat)- 8 AM

Join us for a lazy morning of coffee, bagels, and birds! From the comfort of the library's couches and soft chairs, we will spend a relaxing morning watching the comings and goings of birds to the Antioch Bird Club feeders. All this will be done while we enjoy coffee and bagels from one of Keene's favorite shops. Leader(s): Chad Witko and Steven Lamonde. RSVP by October 13th.

### **Plum Island Fall Migrants**

October 15<sup>th</sup> (Sun)- All Day

Plum Island is one of the greatest locations to go birding in New England during the fall! Join us as we bird the various pools, pans, boardwalks, beachheads, thickets, and ocean overlooks of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge in Newbury, MA for waterfowl, shorebirds, seabirds, and raptors. Leader(s): Chad Witko and Steven Lamonde. RSVP by October 13th.

### **Bike Path Birds**

October 21<sup>st</sup> (Sat)- 8 AM

Like birding, but want to avoid driving to do so? Want to test your ID skills or learn common birds? This is the event for you! Accompany us for an easy stroll along the Keene Bike Path to Ash Brook Wetland and beyond. Despite remaining within the city limits of Keene, we will see a variety of habitats which hosts dozens of resident bird species and supplies hungry fall migrants with necessary food. Leader(s): Steven Lamonde. RSVP by October 20th.

## **Birds of AUNE**

### **Bird of the Month**



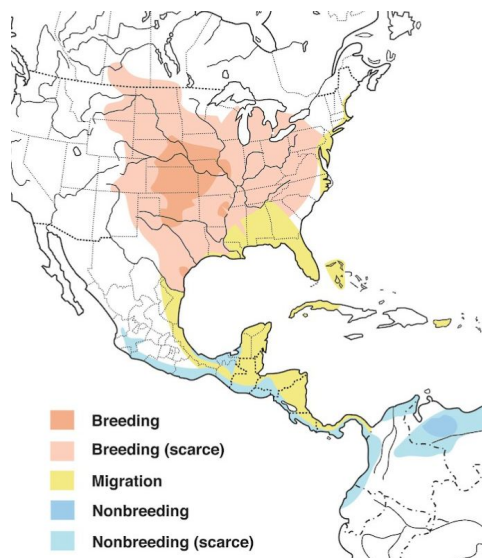
The ABC Bird of the month for October 2017 is the Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*)! This is a common species around the AUNE campus during the last week of September and the first few weeks of October. As these charismatic warblers migrate to points further south, they can often be abundant and easily viewed, providing wonderful photo opportunities such as this individual captured by Chad Witko (left). To learn more about Yellow-rumped Warblers aka "Butterbutts" aka "Yumpers", please read [here](#).

### **AUNE eBird Hotspot Update**

Over the last month (since September 7th), six new species of birds have officially been added to the AUNE campus [list](#), bringing the total to 107 species. The new additions are Prairie Warbler (September 7th), Pine Warbler (September 11th), Yellow-throated Vireo (September 15th), Cape May Warbler (September 22nd), Lincoln's Sparrow (October 2nd), and Dickcissel (October 2nd). For more on the Dickcissel, a super great find by Steven Lamonde, see below.

### Rare Bird Visits Campus!!!

On October 2nd, Steven Lamonde was out for his usual morning bird walk on the bike path next to campus. He was already have a good morning, having tallied 29 species of birds in under 15 minutes. Steven was just about to finish up and head inside, when something unfamiliar caught his eye: a Dickcissel!



The Dickcissel is a sparrow-like bird that lives in the lower Midwest and prairie region (see range map), and only a handful of them are found in New Hampshire during a given year. Although Steven didn't have his camera with him, he was able to snap a few photos with his iPod through his binoculars. After confirming his identification, Steven shared the news with other birders, a number of whom visited the bike bath over the past week to search for the bird.

On October 3rd, just a day later, TWO Dickcissels were found by Steven and local birder Wendy Ward. On this particular day, the Dickcissels proved to be quite photogenic, allowing Chad Witko an opportunity to take some great photographs which are featured here. Unfortunately, it appears as if these two birds have continued on with their migration efforts and haven't been observed since October 4th.



Highlighting the diversity of birds found on campus while helping to make the AUNE campus that much MORE of an eBIRD hotspot, these two individuals represent the only sightings of Dickcissel in Cheshire County for the entirety of 2017 to date.

**Our Next Meeting is Wednesday, November 1st, at 3:00 PM.**