

The Woodcock

ANTIOCH BIRD CLUB

Founded 2016

Volume 2 Number 5 May 2018



Winter Wren by Steven Lamonde

Birdsong fills the Spring air!

Spring migration has been ramping up for about 2 months now, and the early weeks of May will witness the climax of songbird movement. Most of our overwintering birds have departed for points north, and newcomers to southern New Hampshire announce their arrival with diverse songs. Listen for the thoughtful, clear notes of Blue-headed Vireo and rapid, high-pitched jumble of Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Keep an eye along forest edges for a rainbow of breeding plumages, from the red of the Scarlet Tanager to the palette of blues displayed by Tree Swallows, Indigo Buntings, and Black-throated Blue Warblers. As sunrise gets earlier and earlier, expect to start hearing the dawn chorus before your alarm rings in the morning (whether you like it or not!).

ABC News

Eastern Phoebe Contest Update



After much anticipation, the first Eastern Phoebe finally made its way to AUNE! This sighting was made early in the morning on April 13th, confirmed by multiple birders and a photo ID. The official winner of this competition for the Farm Cafe gift certificate with a guess of April 10th, was Shelley Viles! ABC would like to congratulate Shelley and thank all of those who entered the competition. The especially long-awaited arrival of spring made this a challenging date to approximate. Eastern Phoebes are now back in New Hampshire in abundance for all to see, hopefully signaling that spring is here to stay.

ABC Monthly Update

ABC Global Big Year Update

In April, a total of 475 species were observed, bringing our current total to **1044 species!** See Appendix I for the 122 species added in April. One new country, **Brazil**, was added to our effort, bringing our country total up to 14. So far, the United States leads the way with 387 species, followed by Kenya (247), Costa Rica (242), and Guayana (164). Within the United States, Big Year participants have submitted sightings from 19 states, and April additions include **North Carolina, Connecticut, and New Jersey**. Our **checklist total (1387)** increases steadily, and we have established a goal of 5,000 checklists by the year's end. Checklists have been submitted from **635 individual locations**, with AUNE leading the way at 139 checklists (10% of total). Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this endeavor so far! To check in on our progress or view photos, visit our [eBird profile page](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#). If you would like to get involved, check out our [event page](#) on Facebook, or [email](#) us!

Earth Day Weekend

Antioch Bird Club teamed with the Center for Tropical Ecology and Conservation for an exciting weekend promoting avian conservation around Earth Day. Club members engaged with Monadnock Food Co-op visitors on Saturday May 21st at the Monadnock Regional Earth Day festival about the importance of purchasing shade-grown coffee such as Dean's Beans, with tasting graciously provided by CTEC. Coffee grown in the shade of biodiverse, multi-tiered agroforests has been proven to conserve as well as create vital bird habitat which directly affects New Hampshire's beloved neotropical migrants. The club also rallied

attendees around the importance of sustainable fish purchases for the protection of seabirds. Anyone who would like more information on responsible seafood purchases can locate a Seafood Watch pocket guide in the entryway or student lounge areas, or visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch [website](#). ABC continued the educational effort at Meet the Mountain Day the following day, with the edition of a seasonal bird scavenger hunt for daring hikers. A large shoutout to CTEC and MERE for their enthusiasm and partnership in the effort to promote avian conservation in the region.

Horatio Colony Preserve: Bird Talk and Walk

On April 27th, Steven Lamonde and Chad Witko present a public talk on *Birds and Spring Migration in New Hampshire* at AUNE. Many club members attended, as well as other students and community members. The 75-minute talk covered a range of topics from migratory pathways to spring birding around Keene. Because the talk was hosted by the Horatio Colony Preserve, this evening event was followed by a morning bird walk on April 28th. Led by Steven and Chad, and assisted by many ABC members, the walk was a success! [16 species](#) were observed, including a soaring Red-shouldered Hawk, singing Blue-headed Vireos, and up-close looks at Ruby-crowned Kinglets. After attending ABC's talk and walk, the director of the Horatio Colony Preserve declared that this was the best bird outing the organization had ever hosted. Way to go, team!

Schedule of Events

No events are scheduled for the summer semester, but stay tuned for impromptu outings! Our Facebook page is the best place to stay up-to-date about ABC activities, events, and news.

Birds of AUNE

Bird of the Month



The ABC Bird of the Month for May is the Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*). This small *Empidonax* flycatcher is the smallest flycatcher in eastern North America. It can be identified by its grayish olive back, dusky breast, bold white eyering, and 2 white wing-bars. They tend to flit from perch to perch among dead branches in the middle to upper level of deciduous forest canopy. Least Flycatchers, although common, are experiencing a sharp decline due to

habitat loss. To learn more about this sparrow visit, check out its [species profile](#) on the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's website.

AUNE eBird Hotspot Update

April 19th saw the addition of a new species for campus: Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*)! A single individual was heard, then spotted by Steven Lamonde in the trees along the bike path. The next day, he and Jake Pipp found 2 Field Sparrows foraging in the grassy lawn on the south side of the library. This brings our campus total to 110 species. What bird will be next? Migration is in full swing, so keep your eyes open for new arrivals!

Appendix I: Species added to Big Year List in April (Taxonomic Order)

Common Ostrich	Elegant Trogon	Moustached Grass-Warbler
Comb Duck	Hemprich's Hornbill	Red-fronted Warbler
Spur-winged Goose	Von der Decken's Hornbill	Gray Wren-Warbler
Hottentot Teal	Little Bee-eater	Tawny-flanked Prinia
Cinnamon Teal	Northern Carmine Bee-eater	Rufous Chatterer
Red-billed Duck	Spot-flanked Barbet	Brown Babbler
Red-necked Francolin	Green Aracari	Bristle-crowned Starling
Saddle-billed Stork	Lesser Honeyguide	Ashy Starling
African Darter	Gila Woodpecker	Yellow-billed Oxpecker
American Bittern	Williamson's Sapsucker	Kenya Violet-backed
Goliath Heron	Cardinal Woodpecker	Sunbird
White-faced Ibis	Ringed Woodpecker	Hunter's Sunbird
White-backed Vulture	Fischer's Lovebird	Yellowish Pipit
Ruppell's Griffon	Yellow-collared Lovebird	Olive Warbler
Gray Hawk	Black-headed Parrot	Louisiana Waterthrush
Swainson's Hawk	Greater Pewee	Lucy's Warbler
Zone-tailed Hawk	Buff-breasted Flycatcher	Virginia's Warbler
Kori Bustard	Vermilion Flycatcher	Hooded Warbler
Virginia Rail	White-headed Marsh Tyrant	American Redstart
Sora	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Grace's Warbler
African Swamphen	Cassin's Kingbird	Hermit Warbler
American Oystercatcher	Eastern Kingbird	Red-faced Warbler
Long-toed Lapwing	White Helmetshrike	Lined Seedeater
Piping Plover	Brubru	Field Sparrow
White-browed Coucal	Three-streaked Tchagra	Lark Sparrow
Pied Cuckoo	Slate-colored Boubou	Swamp Sparrow
Black-bellied Cuckoo	Sulphur-breasted	Abert's Towhee
Dideric Cuckoo	Bushshrike	Lazuli Bunting
African Scops-Owl	Gray-headed Bushshrike	Crested Oropendola
Western Screech-Owl	Maggie Shrike	Hooded Oriole
Northern White-faced Owl	Buff-cheeked Greenlet	Rusty Blackbird
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	Bell's Vireo	Finsch's Euphonia
Pearl-spotted Owlet	Plumbeous Vireo	White-winged Crossbill
Elf Owl	Warbling Vireo	White-billed Buffalo-Weaver
Lesser Nighthawk	Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver
Common Poorwill	Red-capped Lark	Rufous-tailed Weaver
Lucifer Hummingbird	Purple Martin	Little Weaver
Black-chinned Hummingbird	Cliff Swallow	Southern Red Bishop
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Somali Tit	Fan-tailed Widowbird
Broad-billed Hummingbird	Pygmy Nuthatch	Jackson's Widowbird
Violet-crowned	Winter Wren	Green-winged Pytilia
Hummingbird	Bicolored Wren	Gray-headed Silverbill