



Silvio O. Conte Wildlife Refuge – Fannie Stebbins Unit Bird Checklist

INTRODUCTION

Beginning more than 50 years ago, members of the Allen Bird Club worked to acquire approximately 330 acres of land between Interstate 91 and the Connecticut River in Longmeadow, Massachusetts. This property became known as the Fannie Stebbins Memorial Wildlife Refuge. In 2017 the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service incorporated this land as the Stebbins Division of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. The area, including an additional 1000+ acres of land owned by the Town of Longmeadow (including conservation land), private landowners (including homeowners, farmers and a yacht club), encompasses one of the largest remaining patches of floodplain forests and wetlands along this heavily human-impacted section of the Connecticut River. It is subject to periodic flooding that is representative of this habitat. Swamps, ponded water, brooks, vegetated wetlands, meadows that are maintained by mowing, hardwood forest, sandbars, riverbank, and an island are all featured here. A portion of this site has been designated as a National Landmark.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The wetlands provide breeding habitat for marsh birds and stop-over habitat for migratory waterfowl. During summer and fall the shoreline offers shallows and sandbars for resting and feeding gulls, raptors, shorebirds, and herons. The woodlands and brushy areas provide important habitat for many species of breeding, migratory, and wintering land birds. This site has one of the highest concentrations of breeding Wood Ducks in western Massachusetts, and supports a high diversity of land birds, including 227 regularly occurring species and 49 species that have been recorded at least once. Christmas Bird Counts and spring bird census data have been continuously recorded since 1951.

OTHER FLORA OR FAUNA OF SIGNIFICANCE

Endangered, threatened, and special-concern flora include: Winged Monkey-flower, Narrow-leaved Spring-beauty, Slender Blue-eyed Grass, and Wild Black Currant.

FOUR BIRDING HOTSPOTS

1. Stebbins Division Trails

Color-coded trails provide access to riparian wooded areas along the Connecticut River. Habitats include fields, small ponds, brooks, marshes, and floodplain forest. Watch for warblers, vireos, thrushes, tanagers, orioles, flycatchers, and other songbirds, as well as herons, egrets, swallows, and six species of woodpeckers.

2. Longmeadow Sandbar

During fall migration and low water levels in the Connecticut River, shorebird species may be observed. Geese, ducks, and wading birds are also present at times. Bald eagles and peregrine falcons regularly patrol the river. *NOTE – location of sandbar parking area slightly north of indicated map number

3. West Road Fields

Depending on the season, a wide variety of species may be present. In the fall, especially after the fields are flooded, shorebirds, ducks, and geese congregate here. In addition, sparrows are easily observed from West Road feeding on seeds. Winter brings larks, buntings, longspurs, and hawks. Swallows and swifts can be abundant in the springtime.

4. Pondside Road

Ducks, geese, swans, kingfishers, and wading birds are easily seen at the ponds. Occasionally other species such as cormorants, coots, gallinules, and shorebirds occur. Songbirds, particularly during spring migration, are found in the trees that line the road.

USER NOTES

The birds listed are likely to be seen on the refuge and in adjoining areas.

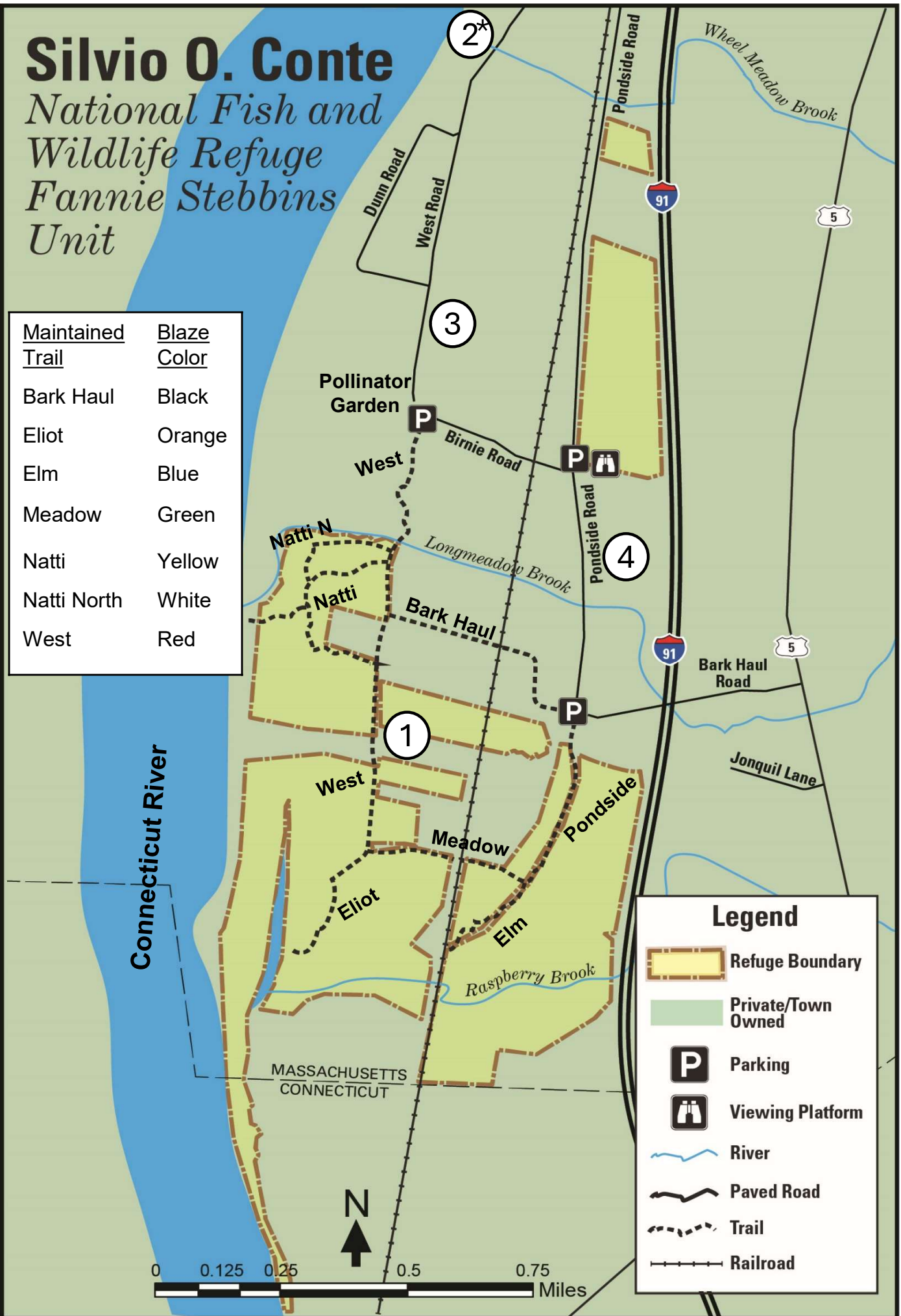
The numbers and species of birds that can be seen vary by season. The best time to view neo-tropic migrants and summer residents is in mid-April through May, when deciduous trees have not fully leafed out. Approximately 75 species breed on or near the refuge during summer. The following list contains 259 species that have been observed on or near the refuge. This list is in accordance with the 7th edition of the American Ornithological Society checklist.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This checklist was modeled after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service checklist of birds for the Nulhegan Division of the Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge. We wish to thank the Allen Bird Club and the Massachusetts Audubon Society for information used in the Introduction, Ornithological Significance, and Other Flora or Fauna of Significance sections of the checklist. Our data for the checklist itself came from two sources: bar graph data from eBird for the hotspots mentioned, and an earlier bird checklist of the area compiled by the Seth Kellogg. Helpful comments and suggestions were provided by local birders Kathy Conway and Michelle Keane-Moore, and Jennifer Falcone supplied the map.

Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Fannie Stebbins Unit

Maintained Trail	Blaze Color
Bark Haul	Black
Eliot	Orange
Elm	Blue
Meadow	Green
Natti	Yellow
Natti North	White
West	Red



Legend

- Refuge Boundary
- Private/Town Owned
- Parking
- Viewing Platform
- River
- Paved Road
- Trail
- Railroad

	Sp	S	F	W	St	
Snow Goose	3		2	2	m	_____
Ross' Goose				1	m	_____
Greater White-fronted Goose	2		2	2	m	_____
Pink-footed Goose	1		1	1	m	_____
Brant			1		m	_____
Barnacle Goose				1	m	_____
Cackling Goose	1		3	3	m	_____
Canada Goose	5	5	5	5	b	_____
Mute Swan	5	5	5	5	b	_____
Wood Duck	5	5	5	3	b	_____
Blue-winged Teal	3	2	4		m	_____
Northern Shoveler	3	2	4	2	nb	_____
Gadwall	3		3	3	m	_____
Eurasian Wigeon	1				m	_____
American Wigeon	4		4	3	m	_____
Mallard	5	5	5	5	b	_____
American Black Duck	5	3	5	5	b	_____
Northern Pintail	4		4	4	m	_____
Green-winged Teal	5	2	5	3	nb	_____
Redhead			1		m	_____
Canvasback	1		1		m	_____
Ring-necked Duck	5		3	2	m	_____
Greater Scaup	2		2		m	_____
Lesser Scaup	3				m	_____
White-winged Scoter	1		1		m	_____
Bufflehead	2		2	2	m	_____
Harlequin Duck				1	m	_____
Common Goldeneye	3		3	4	m	_____
Barrow's Goldeneye				2	m	_____
Hooded Merganser	3	2	3	3	b	_____
Common Merganser	4	3	4	4	pr	_____
Red-breasted Merganser			1		m	_____
Ruddy Duck	2		2	2	m	_____
Wild Turkey	3	2	3	3	pr	_____
Ruffed Grouse	1	1	1	1	nb	_____
Rock Pigeon	3	3	3	3	pr	_____
Mourning Dove	5	5	5	5	b	_____
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3	3	3		sr	_____
Black-billed Cuckoo	3	3	3		sr	_____
Common Nighthawk	3	2	4		m	_____
Chimney Swift	5	5	5		b	_____
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4	4	4		b	_____
Virginia Rail	3	3	3	1	b	_____
Sora	2	2	2		sr	_____
Common Gallinule	3		3		m	_____
American Coot	4	2	5		m	_____
Purple Gallinule			1		m	_____
Sandhill Crane	1		1		m	_____
Black-bellied Plover	3	2	3		m	_____
American Golden-Plover			3		m	_____
Killdeer	5	5	5	3	b	_____
Semipalmated Plover	4	3	4	1	m	_____
Upland Sandpiper			1		m	_____
Whimbrel			1		m	_____
Hudsonian Godwit			1		m	_____
Short-billed Dowitcher	2	2			m	_____
American Woodcock	4	3	3	2	b	_____
Wilson's Snipe	4	2	4	1	m	_____
Wilson's Phalarope			1		m	_____
Red Phalarope			1		m	_____

Key to the Checklist

Season

Sp	Spring	March 16 - May 31
S	Summer	June 1 - August 15
F	Fall	August 16 - November 15
W	Winter	November 16 - March 15
St	Status	

Relative Abundance

Abundance codes indicate likelihood of observing species in appropriate habitat.

5	Very Good - Excellent (80-100%)
4	Good - Very Good (60-80%)
3	Fair - Good (40-60%)
2	Poor - Fair (20-40%)
1	Very Poor - Poor (0-20%)

Status

m	migrant	not considered a breeder
pr	permanent resident	assumed to breed
sr	summer resident	not known to breed
wr	winter resident	not known to breed
b	breeder	breeds on or near refuge
i	irruptive	numbers fluctuate erratically, usually based on food availability
nb	nonbreeder	may be seen any season of the year, but not considered a breeder

Bird Checklist

Silvio O. Conte - Stebbins Unit

National Fish and Wildlife Refuge



Red-necked Phalarope		1	m	_____	Belted Kingfisher	5	5	5	4	b	_____		
Spotted Sandpiper	5	5	5	b	_____	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4	2	4	4	nb	_____	
Solitary Sandpiper	4	2	4	m	_____	Red-headed Woodpecker	1		1	1	m	_____	
Lesser Yellowlegs	4	2	4	m	_____	Red-bellied Woodpecker	5	5	5	5	b	_____	
Greater Yellowlegs	4	2	4	m	_____	Downy Woodpecker	5	5	5	5	b	_____	
Ruddy Turnstone	1	1	1	m	_____	Hairy Woodpecker	5	5	5	5	b	_____	
Stilt Sandpiper			2	m	_____	Pileated Woodpecker	4	4	4	4	b	_____	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			2	m	_____	Northern Flicker	5	5	5	4	b	_____	
Sanderling	1	1	2	m	_____	American Kestrel	3	2	3	2	nb	_____	
Dunlin	3	1	3	m	_____	Merlin	3	2	3	3	nb	_____	
Baird's Sandpiper			3	m	_____	Peregrine Falcon	3	3	3	3	nb	_____	
White-rumped Sandpiper	2	1	3	m	_____	Olive-sided Flycatcher	1		2		m	_____	
Least Sandpiper	4	3	4	m	_____	Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	4	2		b	_____	
Pectoral Sandpiper	3	1	4	m	_____	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1		2		m	_____	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	4	3	4	m	_____	Alder Flycatcher	2	2			m	_____	
Sabine's Gull			1	m	_____	Willow Flycatcher	4	4			b	_____	
Bonaparte's Gull	2	2	2	m	_____	Least Flycatcher	3	3	3		sr	_____	
Laughing Gull		1	1	m	_____	Eastern Phoebe	5	5	4	1	b	_____	
Franklin's Gull			1	m	_____	Great Crested Flycatcher	5	4	4		b	_____	
Ring-billed Gull	5	4	5	5	nb	_____	Eastern Kingbird	5	5	4	b	_____	
American Herring Gull	4	3	4	4	nb	_____	White-eyed Vireo	2		2	m	_____	
Great Black-backed Gull	3	1	3	3	nb	_____	Yellow-throated Vireo	3	3	3	b	_____	
Glaucous Gull			1	m	_____	Blue-headed Vireo	4	3	4		m	_____	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1		1	1	m	_____	Philadelphia Vireo			2	m	_____	
Iceland Gull	1		2	m	_____	Warbling Vireo	5	5	4		b	_____	
Caspian Tern		1		m	_____	Red-eyed Vireo	4	4	4		b	_____	
Pied-billed Grebe	4	1	4	1	nb	_____	Northern Shrike			2	i	_____	
Horned Grebe	1			m	_____	Blue Jay	5	5	5	5	b	_____	
Red-necked Grebe			1	m	_____	American Crow	5	5	5	5	pr	_____	
Common Loon	2		1	m	_____	Fish Crow	3	3	3	2	pr	_____	
Double-crested Cormorant	4	3	4	1	nb	_____	Common Raven	3	3	3	3	nb	_____
Glossy Ibis	1			m	_____	Black-capped Chickadee	5	5	5	5	b	_____	
American Bittern	2	2		sr	_____	Tufted Titmouse	5	5	5	5	b	_____	
Least Bittern	2	3	2	b	_____	Horned Lark	2		3	4	wr	_____	
Black-crowned Night-Heron		2	2	m	_____	Bank Swallow	4	4	4		sr	_____	
Little Blue Heron	1	1	2	m	_____	Tree Swallow	5	5	5		b	_____	
Snowy Egret	2	1	2	m	_____	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	4	4	4		sr	_____	
Green Heron	4	4	4	b	_____	Barn Swallow	3	3	3		sr	_____	
Western Cattle Egret		1		m	_____	Cliff Swallow	2		2		m	_____	
Great Egret	3	3	4	m	_____	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5		4	3	m	_____	
Great Blue Heron	5	5	5	4	pr	_____	Golden-crowned Kinglet	4		4	4	wr	_____
American White Pelican			1	m	_____	White-breasted Nuthatch	5	5	5	5	b	_____	
Black Vulture	1		2	1	m	_____	Red-breasted Nuthatch	3		3	3	i	_____
Turkey Vulture	4	4	4	2	nb	_____	Brown Creeper	4	4	4	4	b	_____
Osprey	4	4	4	b	_____	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4	3	4		b	_____	
Golden Eagle			1	m	_____	Northern House Wren	5	5	5		b	_____	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	1	3	3	m	_____	Winter Wren	3	1	3	3	wr	_____
Cooper's Hawk	4	3	4	4	pr	_____	Marsh Wren	2		2		m	_____
American Goshawk			1	m	_____	Carolina Wren	5	5	5	5	pr	_____	
Northern Harrier	3		3	3	m	_____	European Starling	4	4	4	4	pr	_____
Bald Eagle	5	5	5	5	b	_____	Gray Catbird	5	5	5	3	b	_____
Broad-winged Hawk	3	3	3		nb	_____	Brown Thrasher	4	3	4	2	b	_____
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	3	4	4	b	_____	Northern Mockingbird	4	4	4	4	pr	_____
Red-tailed Hawk	5	4	5	5	b	_____	Eastern Bluebird	5	5	5	5	pr	_____
Rough-legged Hawk			1	i	_____	Varied Thrush				1	i	_____	
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	2	3	3	pr	_____	Veery	5	4	4		b	_____
Snowy Owl			1	i	_____	Swainson's Thrush	4		4		m	_____	
Great Horned Owl	3	3	3	3	pr	_____	Hermit Thrush	4	3	4	3	nb	_____
Barred Owl	3	3	3	3	pr	_____	Wood Thrush	5	5	4		b	_____
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1			m	_____	American Robin	5	5	5	5	pr	_____	

Cedar Waxwing	5	5	5	4	pr	_____
House Sparrow	5	5	5	5	pr	_____
American Pipit	2		3	3	wr	_____
Evening Grosbeak			1		i	_____
Pine Grosbeak				1	i	_____
House Finch	5	5	5	5	pr	_____
Purple Finch	3	2	3	3	nb	_____
Redpoll	2			2	i	_____
Red Crossbill				1	i	_____
Pine Siskin	1		2	2	i	_____
American Goldfinch	5	5	5	5	pr	_____
Lapland Longspur				2	i	_____
Snow Bunting				2	wr	_____
Grasshopper Sparrow	1				m	_____
Chipping Sparrow	4	4	3		b	_____
Clay-colored Sparrow			2	2	m	_____
Field Sparrow	4	3	4	3	b	_____
Lark Sparrow				1	m	_____
American Tree Sparrow	4			5	wr	_____
Fox Sparrow	4		4	3	m	_____
Dark-eyed Junco	4		4	3	wr	_____
White-crowned Sparrow	3		4	3	m	_____
White-throated Sparrow	5	1	5	5	wr	_____
Vesper Sparrow	3		3		m	_____
LeConte's Sparrow				1	m	_____
Nelson's Sparrow				1	m	_____
Savannah Sparrow	5	4	5	4	pr	_____
Song Sparrow	5	5	5	5	b	_____
Lincoln's Sparrow	3		4	2	m	_____
Swamp Sparrow	5	5	5	4	pr	_____
Eastern Towhee	3	2	3	2	b	_____
Yellow-headed Blackbird				1	m	_____
Bobolink	3	3	3		m	_____
Eastern Meadowlark	2		2		m	_____
Orchard Oriole	2	2	1		sr	_____
Baltimore Oriole	5	5	4		b	_____
Red-winged Blackbird	5	5	5	4	b	_____
Brown-headed Cowbird	5	4	4	2	b	_____
Rusty Blackbird	4		4	3	m	_____
Common Grackle	5	5	5	3	b	_____
Ovenbird	5	4	4		b	_____
Worm-eating Warbler	2		2		m	_____
Louisiana Waterthrush	4				m	_____
Northern Waterthrush	5	2	4		b	_____
Golden-winged Warbler	1				m	_____
Blue-winged Warbler	4	3	2		b	_____
Black-and-white Warbler	5	3	4		b	_____
Prothonotary Warbler	1				m	_____
Tennessee Warbler	4		3		m	_____
Orange-crowned Warbler				2	m	_____
Nashville Warbler	4	2	4		m	_____
Connecticut Warbler				2	m	_____
Mourning Warbler	2	1	1		m	_____
Common Yellowthroat	5	5	5	2	b	_____
Hooded Warbler	1				m	_____
American Redstart	5	4	5		b	_____

Cape May Warbler	3		3		m	_____
Cerulean Warbler	1				m	_____
Northern Parula	5	2	5		m	_____
Magnolia Warbler	4		4		m	_____
Bay-breasted Warbler	3		3		m	_____
Blackburnian Warbler	3		3		m	_____
Yellow Warbler	5	5	4		b	_____
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4	2	4		m	_____
Blackpoll Warbler	4		4		m	_____
Black-throated Blue Warbler	4	1	3		m	_____
Palm Warbler	5		4		m	_____
Pine Warbler	4	1	4		m	_____
Yellow-rumped Warbler	5	3	5	4	nb	_____
Yellow-throated Warbler	1				m	_____
Prairie Warbler	4		3		m	_____
Black-throated Green Warbler	4	1	4		m	_____
Canada Warbler	4		4		m	_____
Wilson's Warbler	4		3		m	_____
Scarlet Tanager	4	3	4		m	_____
Northern Cardinal	5	5	5	5	b	_____
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5	5	4		b	_____
Blue Grosbeak				1	m	_____
Indigo Bunting	4	4	4		b	_____
Dickcissel				2	m	_____

Checklist compiled in 2026 by Mike Caronna and Vince Yurkunas