



Friends of MOUNT AUBURN

580 Mount Auburn Street | Cambridge, MA 02138

CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

The following birds have been recorded at Mount Auburn Cemetery. Each species' abundance is listed for the four seasons: spring (**Sp**), March-May; summer (**Su**), June-August; fall (**F**), September-November; and winter (**W**), December-February. This Checklist was prepared with assistance from Robert H. Stymeist based on bird sightings compiled over the last four decades

Key: a = abundant almost always seen symbol ^ = usually seen flying overhead
 c = common commonly encountered symbol * = breeds or has bred at Mount Auburn in recent decades
 u = uncommon not often encountered symbol # = hybrid
 r = rare rarely encountered
 x = extraordinary not seen every year

SPECIES	Sp	Su	F	W	SPECIES	Sp	Su	F	W
_____ Canada Goose *	a	a	a	c	_____ Semipalmated Sandpiper			r	
_____ Wood Duck	u	r	u		_____ Western Sandpiper			x	
_____ American Black Duck	u	u	u	u	_____ Wilson's Snipe	u			
_____ Mallard *	a	a	a	u	_____ American Woodcock	u			
_____ Green-winged Teal	r		r		_____ Laughing Gull	r			
_____ Hooded Merganser	u	r	u	r	_____ Ring-billed Gull	c	u	c	c
_____ Common Merganser	r				_____ Herring Gull	c	c	c	c
_____ Red-breasted Merganser	r				_____ Great Black-backed Gull	u		u	u
_____ Ring-necked Pheasant *	u	u	u	u	_____ Rock Pigeon *	a	a	a	c
_____ Northern Bobwhite	r				_____ Mourning Dove *	c	c	c	c
_____ Red-throated Loon ^	u				_____ Black-billed Cuckoo	u	r		
_____ Common Loon ^	c				_____ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	u	r		
_____ Pied-billed Grebe			u		_____ Barn Owl	r	r	r	r
_____ Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	c		_____ Eastern Screech-Owl *	c	c	c	c
_____ Great Cormorant ^			r		_____ Great Horned Owl	u	u	u	u
_____ American Bittern	r				_____ Snowy Owl				r
_____ Great Blue Heron	c	u	c	u	_____ Barred Owl	r		r	r
_____ Great Egret ^	r				_____ Long-eared Owl	r			r
_____ Snowy Egret ^	r				_____ Northern Saw-whet Owl	r			r
_____ Green Heron	c		u		_____ Common Nighthawk	u	u	u	
_____ Black-crowned Night-Heron	c	u			_____ Chuck-will's-widow	x			
_____ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	r				_____ Whip-poor-will	r			
_____ Glossy Ibis ^	r				_____ Chimney Swift *	c	c	u	
_____ Turkey Vulture ^	u		u		_____ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	u	r	u	
_____ Osprey	u		u		_____ Belted Kingfisher *	c	c	c	u
_____ Northern Harrier ^	r		r		_____ Red-headed Woodpecker	r			
_____ Sharp-shinned Hawk	u		u	u	_____ Red-bellied Woodpecker	r	r	r	r
_____ Cooper's Hawk	u	u	u	u	_____ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u		u	
_____ Northern Goshawk	r			r	_____ Downy Woodpecker *	c	c	c	c
_____ Red-shouldered Hawk	r				_____ Hairy Woodpecker	r	r	r	r
_____ Broad-winged Hawk	u	u	u		_____ Northern Flicker *	c	c	c	r
_____ Red-tailed Hawk *	c	c	c	c	_____ Olive-sided Flycatcher	u			
_____ Rough-legged Hawk				r	_____ Eastern Wood-Pewee *	c	u		
_____ American Kestrel	u	u	u	u	_____ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	r		r	
_____ Merlin	u		u	u	_____ Acadian Flycatcher	r			
_____ Peregrine Falcon	r	r	r	r	_____ Alder Flycatcher	r			
_____ Black-bellied Plover ^	r				_____ Willow Flycatcher	r			
_____ American Golden-Plover ^	r				_____ Least Flycatcher	u		r	
_____ Killdeer	u				_____ Eastern Phoebe *	c	c	c	
_____ Greater Yellowlegs ^	r				_____ Great Crested Flycatcher *	u	u	u	
_____ Solitary Sandpiper	u		u		_____ Eastern Kingbird *	c	c	u	
_____ Spotted Sandpiper	u	u	u		_____ Northern Shrike				r

SPECIES	Sp	Su	F	W	SPECIES	Sp	Su	F	W
White-eyed Vireo	r				Prairie Warbler	u		u	
Yellow-throated Vireo	r				Palm Warbler	c		u	
Blue-headed Vireo	u		u		Bay-breasted Warbler	u		u	
Warbling Vireo *	c	c	r		Blackpoll Warbler	c		c	
Philadelphia Vireo	x		r		Cerulean Warbler	r			
Red-eyed Vireo *	c	c	u		Black-and-white Warbler	c		c	
Blue Jay *	c	c	c	c	American Redstart	c		u	
American Crow *	a	a	a	a	Prothonotary Warbler	x			
Fish Crow *	c	u	u	r	Worm-eating Warbler	r		r	
Purple Martin	r				Ovenbird	c		u	
Tree Swallow *	c	c	c		Northern Waterthrush	u		u	
N. Rough-winged Swallow *	u	u			Louisiana Waterthrush	r			
Bank Swallow	u	u			Kentucky Warbler	x			
Cliff Swallow	r				Connecticut Warbler	x		x	
Barn Swallow	c	u	u		Mourning Warbler	r	r	r	
Black-capped Chickadee *	c	c	c	c	Common Yellowthroat *	c	u	c	
Tufted Titmouse *	c	c	c	c	Hooded Warbler	r		r	
Red-breasted Nuthatch *	u	r	u	u	Wilson's Warbler	u		u	
White-breasted Nuthatch *	c	c	c	c	Canada Warbler	u		u	
Brown Creeper	u	u	u	u	Yellow-breasted Chat	r		r	
Carolina Wren	r	r	r	r	Summer Tanager	x			
House Wren *	c	c	c		Scarlet Tanager	u	u	u	
Winter Wren	r		r		Western Tanager	x			
Marsh Wren	r				Eastern Towhee	u	u	u	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	u		u	u	American Tree Sparrow	u		u	u
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c		u		Chipping Sparrow *	c	c	c	r
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	u		u		Field Sparrow	u		u	
Eastern Bluebird	r	r			Vesper Sparrow	r		r	
Veery	u	u			Savannah Sparrow	u		u	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	r				Sharp-tailed Sparrow	x			
Bicknell's Thrush	r				Fox Sparrow	u		u	r
Swainson's Thrush	u		u		Song Sparrow *	c	c	c	u
Hermit Thrush	u		u		Lincoln's Sparrow	u		u	
Wood Thrush	c	u			Swamp Sparrow *	c	u	c	r
American Robin *	a	a	a	u	White-throated Sparrow	c		c	u
Gray Catbird *	c	c	c		White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	
Northern Mockingbird *	c	c	c	c	Dark-eyed Junco	c		c	c
Brown Thrasher	u	u	u		Northern Cardinal *	c	c	c	c
European Starling *	a	a	a	a	Rose-breasted Grosbeak *	c	c	u	
American Pipit	r				Blue Grosbeak	x		x	
Cedar Waxwing *	c	c	c	u	Indigo Bunting *	u		u	
Blue-winged Warbler	u		u		Dickcissel			r	
Golden-winged Warbler	r				Bobolink	r		r	
"Brewster's" Warbler #	r				Red-winged Blackbird *	c	c	c	r
"Lawrence's" Warbler #	x				Eastern Meadowlark	u	r	u	
Tennessee Warbler	u		u		Rusty Blackbird	u		u	
Orange-crowned Warbler	r		r		Common Grackle *	c	c	c	
Nashville Warbler	u		u		Brown-headed Cowbird *	c	c	c	r
Northern Parula	u		u		Orchard Oriole *	u	u		
Yellow Warbler *	c	u	u		Baltimore Oriole *	c	c	u	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	u		u		Purple Finch	u	r	u	u
Magnolia Warbler	u		u		House Finch *	c	c	c	c
Cape May Warbler	r		u		Red Crossbill	r		r	r
Black-throated Blue Warbler	u		u		White-winged Crossbill	r		r	r
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c		Common Redpoll	r		r	r
Black-throated Green Warbler	u		u		Pine Siskin *	u		u	u
Blackburnian Warbler	u		u		American Goldfinch *	c	c	c	c
Yellow-throated Warbler	x				Evening Grosbeak	u		u	u
Pine Warbler	u		u		House Sparrow *	a	a	a	a

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BIRDS RECORDED ON VERY FEW OCCASIONS

Greater White-fronted Goose (March 5, 2000 flyover); Snow Goose (flyover); Mute Swan (flyovers April 14, 2000; April 13, 2003. April 30, 2004 & May 1, 2005); American Wigeon; Blue-winged Teal (April 25, 2001); Northern Pintail (Nov. 5, 2002); Ring-necked Duck; Long-tailed Duck; Bufflehead; Ruffed Grouse (Nov. 10, 1993 & May 2, 2000); Wild Turkey (1996 & 1998 & 2005); Least Bittern (May 7, 1976); Little Blue Heron (April 29, 1974); Bald Eagle (April 8, 2004 & March 27, 2005); White-winged Dove (April 22 – May 1, 2005); Pileated Woodpecker (flyovers May 15, 1971; April 1980; April 14 & 24, 1999; & 1 other report); Ash-throated Flycatcher (Nov. 28 & Dec. 5-14, 1998); Black-throated Gray Warbler (September 27 – October 2, 2000); Townsend's Warbler (*first* state record, a male on May 4, 1978); Hermit Warbler (*first* state record, a singing male on May 16, 1964); Clay-colored Sparrow (1981); Brewer's Sparrow (*only* state record, immature male collected on Dec. 15, 1873); Golden-crowned Sparrow (April 27 – May 10, 1966); Yellow-headed Blackbird; Bullock's Oriole.

Species names and taxonomic order are from the Forty-fourth supplement to the *A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds*. www.aou.org/aou/birdlist.html

If you have comments, questions, additions or corrections, please contact us at:
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MOUNT AUBURN AND THE BIRDS OF THE AREA

From William Brewster (1851-1919), *The Birds of the Cambridge Region of Massachusetts*, 1906: Mount Auburn – or Sweet Auburn, as it was formerly called – was one of Nuttall's favorite haunts. Its abrupt heights and deep hollows were covered in his time by heavy and perhaps primeval forest, frequented by sportsmen in pursuit of game and by troops of children looking for nuts or the shy hepaticas which bloomed in early spring on some of the sunnier slopes. Its summer fauna, also rich and varied, included one species of especial interest, viz., the Olive-sided Flycatcher, which Nuttall found breeding near Mount Auburn before 1832, and which continues to nest in the same locality 1867 to 1879.

From Ludlow Griscom ("patron saint of modern American birdwatching," 1890-1959, buried on Palm Avenue), unpublished manuscript, circa 1940:

. . . thanks to careful planting and planning, the cemetery grounds are more attractive than ever. If Brewster could revisit the cemetery today, he would deplore the scarcity of nesting and wintering birds, and the abundance of Starlings and English Sparrow, but he would rub his eyes in amazement at the spectacular concentrations of rare warblers, as nothing even remotely approximating them were known during the decades of his field work.

Griscom described Mount Auburn Cemetery as one of the most advantageous stations for the migration of land birds in eastern Massachusetts. From the birds' point of view, the Cemetery is primarily a piece of woodland, providing a haven of food, water and shelter. Migrating birds swarm to the Cemetery. Mount Auburn "appears as a green oasis in a vast desert and they make for it, as the best place they can see below them" when they put down at dawn for food and rest after a night's migration.

For over a century, Mount Auburn has made improvements to the landscape to attract and protect resident and migrating birds and each year hundreds of bird watchers visit to take in the beauty and variety of birds that can be found here. In 2002, Mass Audubon awarded Mount Auburn the status of an *Important Bird Area*. Please consider making a donation to the Friends of Mount Auburn so that we may continue to enhance bird habitat as well as the visitor experience. *Thank you.*



Cedar Waxwing by Clare Walker Leslie

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