

### JANUARY

A great time of year to get to know your feeder and resident birds. These are the hardy ones that stick it out through winter here in Vermont. Think feeder birds: Black-capped chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Northern Cardinal, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pileated, Downy & Hairy Woodpeckers, American Goldfinch, House Finch, Purple Finch, Blue Jay, Dark-eyed Junco, European Starling, Carolina Wren. Think winter residents: Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey. American Crows are fun in winter because they roost at night together in numbers that can reach the thousands. If you can find open water, you'll find ducks, gulls, and Bald Eagles. Plus, check out the winter visitors and winter irruptives listed in December.

### FEBRUARY

Much the same as January, but pay close attention. Once the days start to lengthen the resident birds will start singing more. And believe it or not, spring migration starts at the end of the month and not with robins. Look for the Red-winged blackbird, the true harbinger of spring!

**Week 3** - Red-winged Blackbird

**Week 4** - Brown-headed Cowbird, Ring-necked Duck

### MARCH

This is a key migration month for waterfowl and blackbirds, including the elusive Rusty Blackbird that migrates through to its primary breeding grounds up north.

**Week 1** - Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Killdeer, American Kestrel, Common Grackle

**Week 2** - Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Northern Harrier, Northern Flicker, Song Sparrow

**Week 3** - Snow Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Hooded Merganser, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Woodcock, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird

**Week 4** - Double-crested Cormorant, American Coot, Broad-winged Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Wilson's Snipe, Tree Swallow, Eastern Phoebe

### APRIL

Key players this month are herons, egrets, swallows, sparrows, and toward the end of the month, songbirds!

**Week 1** - Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, Bonaparte's Gull, Caspian Tern, Osprey, Merlin, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Fish Crow, Winter Wren, Chipping Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow

**Week 2** - American Bittern, Great Egret, Sandhill Crane, Black-crowned Night Heron, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler

**Week 3** - Green Heron, Snowy Egret, Virginia Rail, Sora, Caspian Tern, Blue-headed Vireo, Purple Martin, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Marsh Wren, Eastern Towhee, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush

**Week 4** - Black Tern, Common Tern, Common Moorhen, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, Black-bellied Plover, Chimney Swift, Eastern Kingbird, Bank Swallow, House Wren, Blue-gray

Gnatcatcher, Wood Thrush, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Brown Thrasher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak



## **MAY**

Peak migration! This is the golden time for birding before the leaves pop on the trees and when the greatest diversity of birds are arriving or passing through.

**Week 1** - Whip-poor-will, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Least Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Veery, Gray Catbird, Blue-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Prairie Warbler, American Redstart, Grasshopper Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, Bobolink, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole

**Week 2** - Semi-palmated Plover, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Bicknell's Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Sedge Wren, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Indigo Bunting

**Week 3** - Least Bittern, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Common Nighthawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Cerulean Warbler

**Week 4** - Sedge Wren

## **JUNE**

Leaf out occurs across the landscape making it more challenging to see birds and with nesting underway, many birds become quieter, but there's plenty of behaviors to watch for. Listening shifts to learning contact calls and begging calls from fledglings.

## **JULY**

Funny fledglings become a fabulous challenge to identify during this time of year. Listening continues with learning contact calls, begging calls from fledglings, and juveniles learning songs. And, believe it or not, fall migration begins for shorebirds.

## **AUGUST**

The start of migration for some songbirds and hawks.

## **SEPTEMBER**

Peak fall migration for warblers and hawks.

## **OCTOBER-NOVEMBER**

Great time to visit lakes and ponds to key in on the waterfowl migration, including loons and grebes.

## **DECEMBER**

Migration wraps up and winter species and irruptives take center stage. Birds that show-up for winter include: Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, Rough-legged Hawks, & Northern Shrikes. Winter irruptives or birds that are nomadic based on the food supply: Pine Siskins, Pine Grosbeaks, Evening Grosbeaks, Bohemian Waxwings, White-winged & Red-winged Crossbills, Common & Hoary Redpolls.