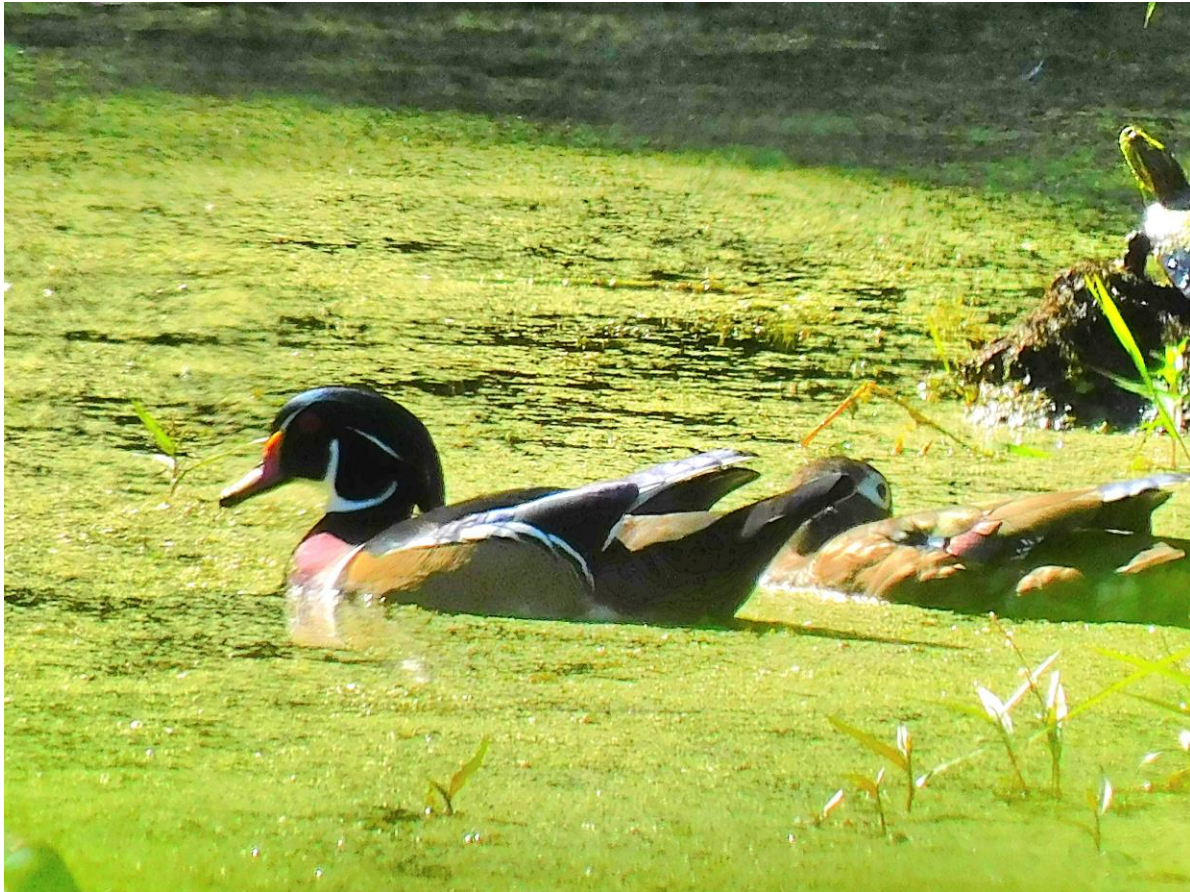


**BIRDS UTILIZING THE
LOWER FARMINGTON RIVER / SALMON BROOK
WILD AND SCENIC AREA**



Wood ducks breed in secluded areas like the Tariffville oxbow and occasionally will overwinter in the open waters found in the Farmington meadows.

Photo credit: Rick Naczi

Report prepared by
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September 2022

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BIRDS UTILIZING THE LOWER FARMINGTON RIVER / SALMON BROOK WILD AND SCENIC AREA



Nod Brook Wildlife Management Area, Avon

Photo credit: Sydnee Foster

Introduction

In May 2022, the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee entered into an agreement with Roaring Brook Nature Center to determine what bird species can be found in and are breeding in this Wild and Scenic area. The

Objectives of the study were as follows:

1. To survey bird species utilizing the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic area during the period May through August 2022.
2. To make note of threats to bird habitat along the River.
3. To make recommendations on how to maintain and/or enhance habitat in the study area.

It should be noted that this study provides a “snapshot” when it comes to the birds using the River corridor. Birds were surveyed only during the summer months of the study year, and only at certain locations. The study did not ascertain birds using the corridor during alternate seasons like winter or spring migration. It should also be noted that there are additional birds breeding along the River, including an active osprey nest in Farmington, visible from the vicinity of the Wooden Tap Restaurant, and a bald eagle nest in Simsbury. Because the River serves as a migration corridor, it also attracts what are known as “vagrants,” birds that may be blown in by unusual weather events, or that otherwise show up unexpectedly in a given area. An example would be the American avocet that appeared at Nod Brook Wildlife Management Area in Avon on July 11th and was gone the following day. This large shorebird is found coastally in the mid-Atlantic and southern states, and in the Midwest and west. It is a rare vagrant along the Connecticut coast and

this is only the second record of which I am aware in Hartford Count. This is but one of numerous records for unusual species that have appeared along the River over time.

Methodology:

The Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Area measures 62 miles. During the three-month survey period (late May – mid-August), 23 locations along the River were visited three times for a period of ten (10) minutes (total 30 minutes). Birds heard and seen were noted, along with evidence of breeding behavior, and a list of birds has been compiled along with evidence for nesting. Notes were taken with regard to potential threats to habitat, and recommendations have been included later in this report on how to enhance or maintain habitat along the River corridor. The first two visits were conducted during breeding season, and all three visits to Salmon Brook were completed by mid-July. This was done because, unlike the Farmington River, Salmon Brook is not a major migratory pathway. By holding off on the third River visits until mid-August, it was hoped to determine River usage by early fall migrants, and also, to determine any post-breeding dispersal of birds like herons that often fly up to hundreds of miles north following the nesting season. The birds may remain on the River for an extended time period prior to migrating south.

Bird sightings were logged into eBird and individual site visits for each site and visit are available on this platform maintained by the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology. They are also included as an appendix to this report. (Appendix A).

Acknowledgments

The author of this report wishes to thank the Loomis-Chaffee School for providing access to its Windsor Campus, where the Farmington River flows into the Connecticut River. The School also provided access to its property in East Hartland, where Salmon Brook abuts the Enders State Forest. Acknowledgements are also provided to Michael Whittlesey, who allowed access to his property bordering Rainbow Reservoir, and who assisted with some of the site visits in Windsor; and to John Weeks, who assisted with site visits along Salmon Brook. Both Mike Whittlesey and John Weeks are members of the Hartford Audubon Society and are experienced birders.



The Bald Eagle has increased as a breeding bird along Connecticut's major rivers. There are several active nests in the Farmington Valley area, and birds can now be seen pretty much anywhere along the Farmington River as they hunt for fish.

Photo credit: Jamie Meyer

Survey Points

Farmington River

1. Farmington River Greenway off Route 179, Burlington (BVFD #3 access)
2. Farmington Meadows, Meadow Road, Farmington (Larry Kolp Garden Plots access off Meadow Road)
3. Riverside Cemetery, Garden Street, Farmington
4. Fisher Meadow Recreation Area, Avon
5. Alsop Meadows, Avon (access off Route 10)
6. Nod Brook Wildlife Management Area, Avon-Simsbury (access off Route 10/202)
7. Rosedale Farm, Simsbury (off East Weatogue Street, requires walk to River)
8. River frontage east of Helen's Way, Simsbury Meadows (Off Iron Horse Blvd)
9. Hop Brook Landing, Simsbury (off Drake Hill Road, Town of Simsbury Park)
10. Simsbury Water Pollution Control Authority Plant, Simsbury (Off Drake Hill Road)
11. Curtiss Park, Simsbury (Tariffville, off Route 315)
12. Tariffville Park, Simsbury (Tariffville, off Main Street Ext.)
13. Farmington River Park, Bloomfield (off Tunxis Avenue)
14. 120 Hilltop Road, Windsor (Rainbow Reservoir – private property)
15. Rainbow Reservoir Boat Launch, Windsor (off Merriman Road)

16. Old River Road Park, Poquonnock section of Windsor (access off Route 159)
17. Mouth of the Farmington at Connecticut River (Loomis-Chaffee School, Windsor)

Salmon Brook

18. Headwaters of West Branch, Salmon Brook, E. Hartland where it crosses Route 179
19. Loomis Property, East Hartland (access from Pederson Road - private property)
20. Behind Holcomb Farm, Granby (access off Simbury Road)
21. Below Bridge, Barn Door Hills Road, McLean Game Refuge, Granby
22. Salmon Brook Park (at bridge), Granby (access off Route 10/202)
23. Granbrook Park, East Granby (access off Route 189)

Information About Each Survey Point:

Farmington River Sites

1. The Farmington River Greenway parallels the River. There is a wooded strip, bisected by the Greenway Trail. The wooded strip extends from Route 179 (and Route 4 to the east) to the River, with a paved trailway midway between the two. This area is protected by the Greenway on one side, but it is private property cross the River and its future is unknown. The River serves as a migration corridor for waterfowl, herons and other species. Currently this site is stable.
2. Farmington Meadows (Larry Kolp Community Garden Plots) is an expansive area that is extensively farmed. There are many birds in the agricultural fields, but these birds are here, not because of the River, but because of the farmland. The River does not freeze here, even in the dead of winter, and it is a winter hot spot for area birders. In past winters, vagrant geese including the rare Ross's Goose, have been observed in the vicinity. The area is also productive during fall migration hosting migrant songbirds of many species. Owned by the Town of Farmington, this area appears secure into the future. Much of the adjacent areas are leased to farmers. The area is large enough to support grassland birds, however, this would necessitate changes in mowing schedules, etc., often difficult for farmers trying to turn a profit.
3. Riverside Cemetery is just downriver from Site #2. This area does not freeze in winter and hosts a wide variety of winter waterfowl. Unusual species, including a harlequin duck, have drawn birders to this location at this season. This site is secure.
4. Fisher Meadow Recreation Area is a large Town of Avon owned property that includes extensive soccer fields and two large impoundments that host large numbers of geese and ducks during fall and spring migration. The Farmington River is located to the east of the recreation area and is accessed by a path leading directly to the River just north of the bridge across Old Farms Road. Invasive plants are a real concern along the riverbank and surrounding areas, and much of the native vegetation has been outcompeted by oriental bittersweet, winged euonymous (burning bush) and other invasives. Running in a direct south-north line, this section of the River is an important migration corridor. The properties to

- the east are privately owned and extend to the riverbank where some development is noticeable in the form of lawns, etc.
5. Alsop Meadows, near the juncture of Routes 44 and 10, is a quiet, wooded location owned by the Town of Avon. It is popular with walkers, including dog walkers, and was previously used as a put-in and take-out for group canoe trips. The vehicular bridge over Route 44 is noisy during peak traffic flow, however, this does not affect the birds that nest in the tall hardwoods that line both sides of the River at this site. The site is secure.
 6. Nod Brook Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is one of only a few locations in the state set aside specifically for dog training. It is also a prime location for people to walk (and run) their dogs, and pretty much anything goes here. Dog training can include the release of game birds that occasionally “escape” and persist in the area. The area includes two large impoundments adjacent to the River. These ponds are fished for bass. The heavy presence of dogs does cause problems for birds and other wildlife as there are no leash requirements. In spite of this, the area attracts a wide variety of species throughout the year and has hosted numerous rarities in all seasons. It should be noted the area is closed to the public during active dog training trials in which live ammunition is sometimes used. The area, owned by the State of Connecticut, is secure. It is not likely that any substantive changes to use of the area by dog owners will take place in the foreseeable future. In spite of these concerns, the area attracts a wide range of bird species in all seasons. Rarities recently discovered here include the aforementioned American avocet, red-necked grebe (spring 2022), yellow-breasted chat (fall 2021), and hoary redpoll (winter 2021).
 7. Rosedale Farm, off East Weatogue Street, is a working farm that includes a vineyard. It also maintains a farm store and runs events such as weddings. An approximately half mile trail leads to the River. The River provides irrigation to the farm fields. The development rights to the farm were purchased by the Simsbury Land Trust in 2004, and the future of this area is secure. It provides typical riverine habitat with deciduous trees lining both banks. Much of the opposite side of the River is owned by Simsbury Hopmeadow Street LLC, which turns out to be Dyno Nobel (formerly Ensign-Bickford). Although there are no current plans to develop the property, one must be concerned about the future. It should be noted there is so much contaminated waste in the area that a substantial amount of remediation would be required in order to develop this land. The River provides a good migration corridor both north and south in this area.
 8. The land between the end of Helen’s way and the Farmington River is an exceptional area with varied habitats within the floodplain of the Farmington River. While much of this land is owned by the State and the Town of Simsbury, that does not protect it from all forms of development. The dog park, Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center and soccer fields are examples of how wildlife habitat can be lost even in fragile, municipally owned areas. A great blue heron rookery was abandoned in 2021, quite likely due to condominium construction on

the north side of the marsh. Although not in the flood plan, the construction was in close enough proximity to the rookery that the birds abandoned it. The Town of Simsbury has floated ideas for expanded soccer fields in the past, and this could be a concern for the future.

9. Hope Brook Landing, the small Town of Simsbury park adjacent to the Old Drake Hill Bridge (The Flower Bridge) was the former home of Betty Hudson, a long time Simsbury resident and nature advocate. The house was torn down and the area is popular with walkers. The bridge provides nesting for eastern phoebes and, possibly for rock pigeons, although the larger car bridge just to the north is probably more attractive to the latter. This portion of the River provides a valuable north-south corridor and a gateway to less developed areas to the north. Located in close proximity to the center of Simsbury, there are concerns about continued and increasing development in this area. Potential development is also a concern in the following two sites.
10. The Simsbury Crew Boat House and Simsbury Sewage Treatment Plant are located just north of the Drake Hill Bridge (Site #8). Surrounded by deciduous trees, future expansion of the treatment plant, or additional recreational development for use of the River, could impact this site as could development across the River, although there is little likelihood that there is room for any development between the River and Riverside Road.
11. Curtiss Park is a Town of Simsbury Park, and there are plans to extend the bike trail through the park. The exact location of the trail may impact some of the nesting species, primarily songbirds. Another possible cause for concern might be the use of herbicides to eliminate poison ivy growing along the trail. This has been done in other towns. The land on the west side of the River is also owned by The Town of Simsbury, so an argument can be made for keeping this in open space. A unique feature of this site is the oxbow just north of the take out area for canoes. The oxbow is a completely different environment more reminiscent of a southern swamp. It provides habitat for herons, waterfowl and songbirds. There is also interesting history to explain the existence of the oxbow.
12. Tariffville Park is another Town of Simsbury Park downriver from Curtiss Park. It is a “slower” section of River that is not as heavily utilized, and thus, there are numerous songbirds that breed in the area. The land across the River is owned by Airport Realty Associates, so there may be concerns about the future with regard to development. There are plans to eventually extend the bike trail into Tariffville Park and then continue it into Bloomfield.
13. Farmington River Park is a quiet Bloomfield Park surrounded by deciduous woods. The opposite shore is steep and not a likely candidate for development. The area provides habitat for songbirds and can serve as a migration corridor in spring and fall.

14. 120 Hilltop Road, Windsor is a private residence that overlooks the middle of the 234-acre Rainbow Reservoir. The Reservoir was built to allow for hydropower generation, and now also serves as a recreation spot for boaters and fisherman. Motors are allowed and it is a popular area for jet skiers. Larger predatory birds including osprey, bald eagle and great blue heron are frequently observed on the reservoir. The land surrounding the reservoir is built out on one side and bordered by the Town of Windsor's Northwest Park on the other, so it is unlikely there will be any substantial change to this environment in the future.



Curtis Park, Simsbury Photo credit: Sydnee Foster

15. Rainbow Reservoir Boat Ramp is located downriver from site #13 near the end of the Reservoir at which point it flows over Rainbow Dam. There is a fishway at this dam providing passage for anadromous fish like salmon and shad. Unfortunately, lack of results ended the federal program to restore Atlantic salmon to the Farmington, although an occasional salmon does make it through the fishway. Other anadromous fish include alewives, shad and blueback herring. The boat ramp area receives substantial use during the warmer months. Double-crested cormorants will sit on the buoys near the end of the Reservoir, but are not known to breed here.
16. There is a small, unnamed park off Old River Road in a built up area of the Poquonnock section of Windsor. Immediately adjacent to this park is a cattail marsh that hosts several pair of red-winged blackbirds and other wetland songbirds. This area appears to be a post-breeding staging area for rough-winged swallows prior to their migration in August. The area appears secure into the future as the surrounding properties are already developed.
17. Loomis-Chafee School is a private boarding school located near the confluence of the Farmington and Connecticut Rivers. As such, it provides an important migratory corridor for many species. Adjacent to the River are substantial meadows/fields that are mowed in summer. Although there were no signs of grassland birds in the area, it did appear to be potential habitat for birds like bobolink, listed as a "Species of Special Concern" by the CT DEEP. Future use of this property is at the discretion of the school, but there are currently no plans to develop the area.

Salmon Brook Sites

Salmon Brook consists of an east branch and a west branch that converge near the center of Granby to form a larger, main stem. Salmon Brook eventually empties into the Farmington River across from Tariffville Park (site #11) in Simsbury. It is a major tributary of the Farmington and has been included in the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Designation. Several sites along the Brook were surveyed, in part, to provide examples of the wide diversity of habitats that occur from the headwaters of the Brook in East Hartland to sites in East Granby, in proximity to where the Brook empties into the Farmington. The upper reaches of Salmon Brook are faster moving, shaded and cooler than the main stem. The birds in these areas are characteristic of birdlife in the northwest hills, or what is known as the "western highlands." The lower section (main stem) of Salmon Brook is similar, habitat-wise, to the Farmington River.

18. The headwaters of the West Branch of Salmon Brook are located just west of Route 179 below the center of the village of East Hartland. The brook crosses Route 179, a major roadway, as a small trickle. Beyond Route 179, the land is currently undeveloped. Lot sizes are large, and while current trends do not point to development in this area, one cannot predict the future as the land is in private ownership.

19. The Loomis property can be accessed from Pedersen Road in East Hartland. It is an approximately half mile walk to Salmon Brook through mixed deciduous-hemlock forest. The Brook is cold and fast-moving, and the state-owned Enders State Forest is adjacent to this property, providing a large, unfragmented woodland habitat, ideal for forest dwelling songbirds. The birds found, and likely breeding here, are different from all other sites in this study. They include such species as winter wren, and several warbler species that utilize this habitat type. The property is owned by the Loomis-Chaffee School in Windsor, and currently there are no plans to alter the property in any way.
20. Holcomb Farm on Simsbury Road is owned by the Town of Granby. The Brook is accessed by walking behind the farm buildings and through two gates. Typical “farm” birds including European starling, house sparrow and others were not included in the surveys as these species are not found here because of the Brook. This holds true for other agricultural areas. There is an old bridge across the Brook at this location that was washed out in a storm and is now lying on the bank. This area is secure.
21. This site is accessed by parking by the bridge over Barndoor Hills Road and walking down to the Brook. Part of McLean Game Refuge, this area is in close proximity to homes, an old field, and mixed forest. As such, a wide variety of species can be seen and heard here from field birds like barn swallow and indigo bunting to woodland species like pileated woodpecker, eastern wood pewee and scarlet tanager. Part of the 4,400+ acre Refuge, the area is secure.
22. Salmon Brook Park is located just southwest of the center of Granby, and serves as this town’s primary recreation facility with playing fields, a swimming pond and more. The area gets a great deal of use, and dogs are allowed to swim in the Brook. The land to the west of the Brook is wooded and is contiguous with McLean Game Refuge. It is secure.
23. Granbook Park is a town owned park in East Granby. The Brook slows and widens at this location and joins the Farmington about two miles to the south across from Tariffville Park (site #11). The entire area is within the floodplain and there is brushy woodland habitat across the Brook from the Park. This area is secure.



Eastern Phoebes attach their moss and grass covered mud nests under bridges. A member of the flycatcher family, they can be seen flying out over the Farmington River to snare an insect, then retreating back to the same perch. Photo credit: Jamie Meyers

Birds Observed During the Study

The following species were observed on the three site visits to each of the 23 areas. Unless otherwise noted, these birds are likely to be breeding in the vicinity of the study area, or elsewhere along the River. The probability of breeding can be found in Appendix B. Birds are listed according to the most recent taxonomic order utilized by the American Ornithological Society, the American Birding Association and the Connecticut Ornithological Association. The results found during each of the individual site visits were noted on eBird, an online database maintained by the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology. A total of 82 species were seen or heard, and positively identified during the site visits. Birds noted as flyovers (birds that may be present, but do not breed along the Farmington River or Salmon Brook, are noted with the notation FO). Species most likely restricted to Salmon Brook and the northwest highlands as breeding birds are noted as (SB). Site visit results are found in Appendix A. (V) means vagrant, not usually expected in this area.

1. Canada Goose
2. Wood Duck
3. Mallard
4. Hooded Merganser
5. Common Merganser
6. Wild Turkey

7. Rock Pigeon
8. Mourning Dove
9. Chimney Swift (FO)
10. Ruby-throated Hummingbird
11. Killdeer
12. Spotted Sandpiper
13. Double-crested Cormorant (FO)
14. Great Blue Heron (FO)
15. Great Egret (FO)
16. Green Heron
17. Turkey Vulture (FO)
18. Osprey
19. Cooper's Hawk
20. Bald Eagle
21. Red-shouldered Hawk
22. Red-tailed Hawk
23. Barred Owl (SB)
24. Belted Kingfisher
25. Red-bellied Woodpecker
26. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
27. Downy Woodpecker
28. Northern Flicker
29. Pileated Woodpecker
30. Great Crested Flycatcher
31. Eastern Kingbird
32. Eastern Wood-Pewee
33. Willow Flycatcher
34. Eastern Phoebe
35. White-eyed Vireo (V)
36. Yellow-throated Vireo
37. Blue-headed Vireo (SB)
38. Warbling Vireo
39. Red-eyed Vireo
40. Blue Jay
41. American Crow
42. Tree Swallow
43. Northern Rough-winged Swallow
44. Barn Swallow
45. Black-capped Chickadee
46. Tufted Titmouse
47. White-breasted Nuthatch
48. House Wren
49. Winter Wren (SB)
50. Carolina Wren
51. Eastern Bluebird
52. Veery
53. Wood Thrush

54. American Robin
55. Gray Catbird
56. Northern Mockingbird
57. European Starling
58. Cedar Waxwing
59. House Sparrow
60. House Finch
61. American Goldfinch
62. Chipping Sparrow
63. Song Sparrow
64. Swamp Sparrow
65. Baltimore Oriole
66. Red-winged Blackbird
67. Brown-headed Cowbird
68. Common Grackle
69. Ovenbird
70. Louisiana Waterthrush
71. Black-and-white Warbler (SB)
72. Common Yellowthroat
73. American Redstart
74. Blackburnian Warbler (SB)
75. Black-throated Blue Warbler (SB)
76. Pine Warbler
77. Black-throated Green Warbler (SB)
78. Yellow Warbler
79. Scarlet Tanager
80. Northern Cardinal
81. Rose-breasted Grosbeak
82. Indigo Bunting



Gray Catbird is a common resident throughout the Farmington Valley. It nests in brushy thickets along the Farmington River. Photo credit: Jamie Meyers

Habitat Threats

1. Development continues to be a concern along the River corridor. Development does not have to be immediately adjacent to the River to have an effect on bird life. The construction of condominiums in Simsbury has already been alluded to as a possible cause of the abandonment of a great blue heron rookery. Continual development along the Route 10/202 corridor in Simsbury poses concern due to loss of habitat for both nesting and feeding. Examples include rampant condominium construction, the construction of storage facilities near Nod Brook Wildlife Management Area, and continual threats by the Town of Simsbury to expand recreational and cultural facilities into the floodplain. Much of the land along the River is privately owned and can be sold for development in the future. Privately owned land along Salmon Brook is similarly a concern in portions of Hartland and Granby.
2. Invasive Species is a very big concern throughout the state, and especially along the River corridor. Invasive, berry-producing plants often are planted by birds. Birds eat the berries, but do not digest the seeds, and subsequently “plant” them along the riverbanks. Among the most egregious of the invasives are Asiatic bittersweet, multiflora rose, Japanese barberry, and winged euonymus (burning bush). These invasives outcompete native plants that provide food sources for a wide range of animals. Native plants produce food not only for birds, but for the animals that birds

consume, most notably insects. Next to loss of habitat, invasive species are the greatest threat to biodiversity and there is an obvious relationship between nesting birds and a loss of their insect food during the nesting season. In addition to invasive plants, there are numerous other invasive organisms that affect biodiversity. Examples include hemlock woolly adelgids that are thinning hemlock stands along Salmon Brook, and emerald ash borers that are killing ash trees throughout Connecticut.

3. Pesticide use continues to be of great concern. Much has been written about the effects of neonicotinoids and bird reproduction. Growing use of commercial applicators like Mosquito Jo cannot but help to create additional issues for wildlife, both in terms of the possible physical or reproductive effects on the birds, and from loss of food supplies. There are locations along the River that have seen a massive reduction in insect numbers over the past decade, and this cannot help but have an impact on bird populations. The use of herbicides to eliminate poison ivy and other invasives is also of some concern as this practice can eliminate nesting sites, and also, food supplies by reducing both plant and insect food.
4. Other forms of pollution are concerning. In mid-August, Rainbow Reservoir in Windsor exhibited signs warning of algal blooms. These blooms can be toxic to people and to wildlife, including birds. A contributing factor in the growth of algal blooms is extreme temperatures. Climate change exacerbates periods of high temperature that contribute to algal growth.
5. Alteration of habitats by various River users can have unintended effects upon bird species. Mowing of fields prior to the fledging of young birds can have disastrous consequences for grassland bird species. In some cases, there is no success at all if mowing is not delayed until young birds can take flight to avoid the mowers. Overuse of certain areas by watercraft, fishing or other users can impair the ability of adult birds to feed young making for reduced nesting success.

With respect to fishing, use of lead weights and abandoned hooks and fishing line with which animals can become entangled are continuing concerns through the state. Another concern of this nature is helium balloons with attached strings that can snare wildlife.

Loose cats and dogs are an issue throughout the Watershed. However, special mention must be made of the dogs at Nod Brook Wildlife Management, one of two WMAs in Connecticut that are specifically utilized for field trials and dog training. Beyond planned activities, Nod Brook has become a “dogs first” area, where dogs are allowed to run, off-leash, at all times. There is no question that dogs do damage to wildlife, and there have been several incidents reported to me with respect to dogs chasing, even catching animals at Nod Brook.

6. Storm water and other non-point source pollution concerns.
7. Unchecked irrigation, improper fertilization, and other agricultural concerns.



Baltimore Orioles are relatively common breeders along the Farmington River, their woven nests attached to a drooping branch. Photo credit: Jamie Meyers

Enhancing Habitats For Birds

The following suggestions will enhance riverine habitats for birds and other wildlife along the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Area:

- Strengthen state and local regulations with respect to River setbacks for development.
- Adjust mowing schedules to allow young birds to be flighted prior to mowing.
- Add canisters in appropriate locations into which people can place unused fishing line, etc.
- Develop regulations concerning the spraying of certain chemicals in proximity to the River.
- Remove invasive plants and plant wildlife foods like hard and soft mast.
- Encourage people to maintain and expand riparian buffers and not mow close to the River.
- Encourage low impact, best use practices for landscaping, agricultural use, etc.

Conclusion

This study provides a snapshot of bird species that utilized the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook during the 2022 breeding season. The 82 species provide a representative sample of Connecticut breeding birds that would be expected in these habitats. It is likely that the vast majority of these birds return to these areas year after year to breed. Additional studies would bear this out. Surveying over a longer time period would, no doubt, add additional birds to the list. Other bird species will be found along the River during migration and in the winter season. Examples would include common nighthawk that stages annual migrations, sometimes in substantial numbers, in early fall, and various species of waterfowl that can be found in ice-free locations during the winter months. This report also addresses concerns with regard to habitat threats along the River. These threats have the potential to reduce the diversity of birdlife on the River, and must be monitored going forward. Several suggestions to enhance habitat for birds and other wildlife are mentioned at the Report's conclusion.

Jay Kaplan, Director
Roaring Brook Nature Center

Jay Kaplan Qualifications

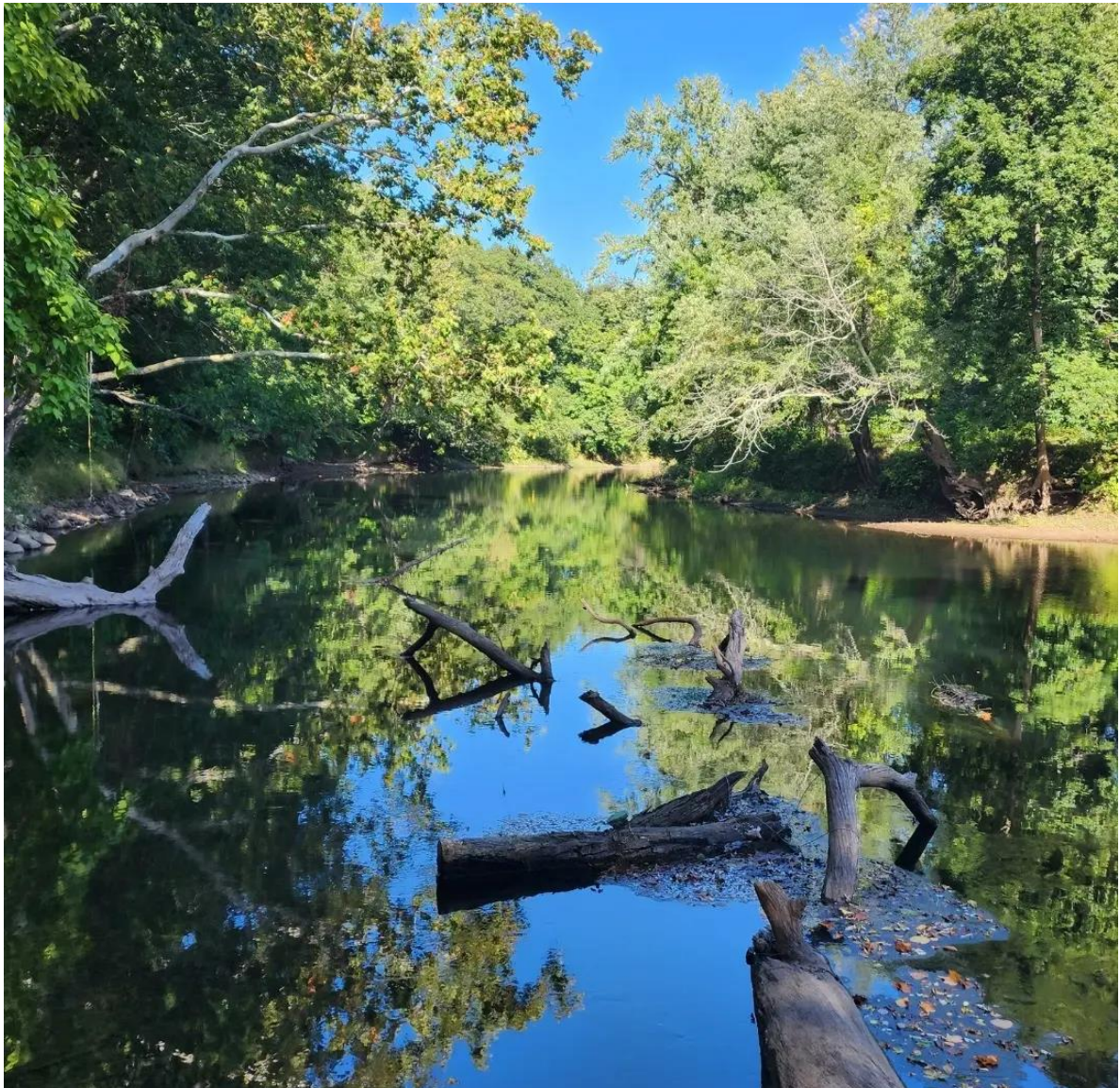
- Jay Kaplan is the longtime director of Roaring Brook Nature Center
- He is a past president of the Hartford Audubon Society and the Connecticut Ornithological Association and remains active with both organizations.
- He is the coordinator and compiler for the Hartford Christmas and Summer Bird Counts
- He serves as Chair of the COA's Avian Records Committee of Connecticut
- He is a long-time USFWS Breeding Bird Survey Route Leader.
- He has served as a trip leader for the Hartford Audubon Society, Cedar Hill Cemetery Association, Canton Land Conservation Trust, Farmington River Watershed Association and other organizations.
- He holds a BS in Conservation Education from Cornell University and an MS in Outdoor Education with a minor in Wildlife Science from The Pennsylvania State University.



Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge, Simsbury
Photo credit: Sydnee Foster

APPENDIX A

Site Surveys



Iron Horse Boulevard, Simsbury Photo credit: Rick Naczi

SURVEY 1

Date: 5/30/2022

Weather: Mostly Clear and sunny 62-67F

Stop #1 – BVFD #3 Route 179 0645-0655

Cars on Route 179

Invasives, including bittersweet, multiflora rose, Japanese knotweed, etc., are a concern here.

Birds include:

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Warbling Vireo

Tufted Titmouse

White-breasted Nuthatch

Veery

American Robin

Song Sparrow

Baltimore Oriole

American Redstart

Yellow Warbler

Northern Cardinal

Comments: sites were chosen, in part, by ease of access. This is not a complete list of birds found along the River. Examples of known species utilizing the River include an active nest of Osprey in Farmington on a tower across from the Wooden Tap restaurant, and a Bald Eagle nest in Simsbury at an undisclosed location to prevent access by public.

Stop #2: Town of Farmington, Larry Kolp Garden Plots 0721-0731

Flood plain, agricultural land

Migratory corridor in spring and fall

Birds include:

Mallard

Warbling Vireo

Eurasian Starling

Gray Catbird

Song Sparrow

Brown-headed Cowbird

Common Grackle

American Redstart

Yellow Warbler

Stop #3: Riverside Cemetery, Garden Street, Farmington 0739-0749

River does not freeze here in winter and this area has attracted unusual waterfowl including tundra swan, white-fronted geese, harlequin duck, etc.

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
Tufted Titmouse
Eurasian Starling
American Robin
Cedar Waxwing
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
American Redstart
Yellow Warbler
Northern Cardinal

Stop #4: Fisher Meadows, Avon 0807-0817

Adjacent to large public area with a large pond impoundment, soccer fields. It is a stopover area for migrant waterfowl, especially geese that can number over 1,000 in fall.

Invasives are an issue with winged euonymous, etc.

Birds include:

Canada Goose
Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested Flycatcher
Warbling Vireo
Eurasian Starling
Gray Catbird
American Robin
Cedar Waxwing
Song Sparrow
Common Yellowthroat
Northern Cardinal

Stop #5: Alsop Meadows, Avon 0830-0840

Quiet except for traffic going over the Route 44 bridge

Birds include:

Hairy Woodpecker
Common Flicker
Eastern Wood Pewee
Great Crested Flycatcher
Warbling Vireo
Blue Jay
White-breasted Nuthatch
Gray Catbird
Song Sparrow
Baltimore Oriole
Common Grackle
Northern Cardinal

Stop #6: Nod Brook Wildlife Management Area, Avon-Simsbury line 0901-0911

Impoundments for fishing. Dog training site. Many people walk dogs there, off leash.
On occasion, non-native birds released for dog training.

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Spotted Sandpiper
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Great Crested Flycatcher
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Baltimore Oriole
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Common Yellowthroat
Yellow Warbler
Northern Cardinal

SURVEY 2

Date: 6/5/2022

Weather: Mostly Clear and sunny 52-63F

Stop #1 – Rosedale Farm 0640-0650

Active agriculture in floodplain

Simsbury Land Trust Trail goes from farm to River. Around farm buildings are mourning doves, northern mockingbird, chipping sparrow, house sparrow, Eurasian starling, red-winged blackbird

Birds include: (along River Trail)

Cooper's Hawk
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
American Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Gray Catbird
American Robin
Song Sparrow
Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Grackle
Common Yellowthroat

Stop #2: Old Drake Hill Bridge 0718-0728

Birds include:

Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Great Blue Heron
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Great Crested Flycatcher
Warbling Vireo
American Crow
Common Raven
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Gray Catbird
American Robin

American Goldfinch
Chipping Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Grackle

Stop #3: Simsbury Crew Boat House 0734-0744

Birds include:

Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
American Crow
Tufted Titmouse
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow
White-breasted Nuthatch
Gray Catbird
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Chipping Sparrow
Baltimore Oriole
Common Grackle
Northern Cardinal

Stop #4: East of Helen's Way, Simsbury 0746-0757

Very large open space area owned by Town of Simsbury and/or and State of CT. Includes, swamp, marsh, upland woodland areas, and fields in various stages of succession. Concerns about future incursions into open space for more soccer fields, etc. A small great blue heron rookery appears to be abandoned (perhaps due to noise from adjacent band shell that holds large outdoor summer concerts, but more likely from condominium construction just to the north of the rookery).

Dumpster at end of Phelps Lane at the start of Helen's Way attracts large number of starlings, and also fish crows.

Birds include:

Pileated Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Willow Flycatcher
White-eyed Vireo (rare visitor)
Warbling Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
Gray Catbird

Veery
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Blue-winged Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Stop #5: Curtiss Park, Tariffville 0826-0836

Adjacent to soccer field and oxbow east of soccer field.

Birds include:

Turkey Vulture
Red-shouldered Hawk (calling)
Warbling Vireo
Blue Jay
Tree Swallow
Eurasian Starling
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Common Yellowthroat
Yellow Warbler

Stop #6: Tariffville Park, Tariffville 0906-0916

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Chimney Swift
Spotted Sandpiper
Great Blue Heron
Eastern Wood Pewee
Warbling Vireo
Gray Catbird
American Robin
Song Sparrow
Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Yellowthroat
Yellow Warbler

SURVEY 3

Date: 6/18/2022

Weather: Overcast to mostly cloudy and windy (15-20 mph) 55-60 degrees

Salmon Brook Surveys

Stop #1 – Route 179 – culvert below East Hartland Center 0631-0641

Beginnings of west branch of Salmon Brook. Several small streams merge to form west branch of Salmon Brook. Wind is a factor this morning

Birds include:

Downy Woodpecker
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Tufted Titmouse
American Goldfinch
Ovenbird
American Redstart
Northern Cardinal

Stop #2: Loomis Property (at boundary of Enders State Forest) E.Hartland 0713-0723

Significant forested area with little public visitation. Deer hunting in season. Owned by Loomis-Chaffee School, Windsor.

Birds include:

Red-eyed Vireo
Tufted Titmouse
Blue Jay
Winter Wren
Veery
Ovenbird
Blackburnian Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Scarlet Tanager

Stop #3: Holcomb Farm, Granby 0805-0815 (wind is a factor)

Birds include:

Turkey Vulture
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Common Raven
American Robin
Chipping Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Ovenbird

Stop #4: Barn Door Hills Road Bridge, Granby 0835-0845

Birds include:

Double-crested Cormorant (flyover)
Turkey Vulture
Red-tailed Hawk (pair)
Belted Kingfisher
Pileated Woodpecker
Blue Jay
Tufted Titmouse
Rough-winged Swallow
Tree Swallow
Barn Swallow
Carolina Wren
Veery
American Goldfinch
Chipping Sparrow
Louisiana Waterthrush
Common Yellowthroat
American Redstart
Scarlet Tanager

Stop #5: Salmon Brook Park, Granby 0903-0913

On bridge adjacent to McLean Game Refuge boundary.

Birds include:

Warbling Vireo
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Common Grackle
Ovenbird

American Redstart
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Northern Cardinal

Stop #6: Granbrook Park, East Granby 0928-0938

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Spotted Sandpiper
Black-capped Chickadee
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Gray Catbird
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Baltimore Oriole
Yellow Warbler

SURVEY 4

Date: 6/25/2022

Weather: Mostly Clear and sunny 63-73F

Stop #1 – Farmington River Park, Bloomfield 0636-0646

Small Town Park along River. Wooded

Birds include: (along River Trail)

Red-eyed Vireo

Common Raven

Tufted Titmouse

White-breasted Nuthatch

House Wren

Gray Catbird

Veery

Wood Thrush

American Robin

Chipping Sparrow

Ovenbird

Scarlet Tanager

Norther Cardinal

Stop #2: Rainbow Reservoir (120 Hilltop Road, Windsor) 0708-0718

Middle of Rainbow Reservoir from private residence

Birds include:

Mourning Dove

Great Blue Heron

Bald Eagle

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

Eastern Kingbird

Blue Jay

White-breasted Nuthatch

Carolina Wren

American Robin

American Goldfinch

Song Sparrow

Common Grackle

Stop #3: Old River Road, Poquonnock (Windsor) 0750-0800

Small, unnamed park near Route 75.

Birds include:

Common Merganser
Mourning Dove
Great Blue Heron
Eastern Kingbird
Warbling Vireo
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Tree Swallow
Gray Catbird
American Robin
Song Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Yellow Warbler
Northern Cardinal

Stop #4: Loomis-Chaffee School, Windsor 0827-0837

Behind school down path to mouth of Farmington just prior to flowing into the Connecticut River. Unmowed fields adjacent to small woodland strip bordering River

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Warbling Vireo
White-breasted Nuthatch
Gray Catbird
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Chipping Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Baltimore Oriole
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Common Yellowthroat

Stop #5: Rainbow Reservoir #2 (Boat Launch) 0905-0915

Late in morning, not very busy today. Wooded adjacent to reservoir.

Birds include:

Eastern Wood Pewee

Eastern Phoebe

Great Crested Flycatcher

Red-eyed Vireo

Blue Jay

Tufted Titmouse

Gray Catbird

American Robin

Common Grackle

SURVEY 5

Date: 7/2/2022

Weather: Overcast, light shower at Stop #4 70F

Stop #1 – BVFD #3 Route 179 0630-0640

Birds include:

Hooded Merganser (3 ducklings)
Great Blue Heron (2)
Downy Woodpecker
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Eastern Kingbird
Blue Jay
White-breasted Nuthatch
Rough-winged Swallow
American Robin
Song Sparrow
Common Grackle
Yellow Warbler
American Redstart
Common Yellowthroat

Comments: Mention post-breeding dispersal for herons. Pairs of e. kingbird and rough-winged swallows indicate breeding. Note presence of hooded merganser ducklings

Stop #2: Town of Farmington, Larry Kolp Garden Plots 0705-0715

Birds include:

Killdeer
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Warbling Vireo
Tree Swallow
American Robin
Cedar Waxwing
House Finch
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Yellow Warbler

Comments: adjacent farm fields are loaded with robins, starlings, grackles not included in bird list. Killdeer was included.

Stop #3: Riverside Cemetery, Garden Street, Farmington 0726-0736

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Common Flicker
Warbling Vireo
Blue Jay
Black-capped Chickadee
Gray Catbird
American Robin
Chipping Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Northern Cardinal

Stop #4: Fisher Meadows, Avon 0750-0800

Light rain slower may have influenced bird activity

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Blue Jay
American Crow
White-breasted Nuthatch
Gray Catbird
Song Sparrow
Ovenbird
Common Yellowthroat

Stop #5: Alsop Meadows, Avon 0830-0840815-08250

Birds include:

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Gray Catbird
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Common Grackle
Common Yellowthroat

Note: Large garden/open area south of viewing site held many additional birds.

Stop #6: Nod Brook Wildlife Management Area, Avon-Simsbury line

Closed today for dog training with live ammunition.

SURVEY 6

Date: 7/3/2022

Weather: Overcast to mostly cloudy and calm 65-72 degrees

Salmon Brook Surveys

Stop #1 – Route 179 – culvert below East Hartland Center 0626-0636

Birds include:

Wild Turkey
Downy Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Red-eyed Vireo
American Crow
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Gray Catbird
Chipping Sparrow
Northern Cardinal

Stop #2: Loomis Property (at boundary of Enders State Forest) , E.Hartland 0720-0730

Birds include:

Blue-headed Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Tufted Titmouse
Winter Wren
Veery
Ovenbird
Blackburnian Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Pine Warbler

Stop #3: Holcomb Farm, Granby 0810-0820

Birds include:

Red-eyed Vireo
American Robin
Chipping Sparrow
Song Sparrow

Stop #4: Barn Door Hills Road Bridge, Granby 0832-0842

Birds include:

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Wood Pewee
Red-eyed Vireo
American Crow
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Wood Thrush
American Goldfinch
Ovenbird
Louisiana Waterthrush
Common Yellowthroat
Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal

Stop #5: Salmon Brook Park, Granby 0902-0912

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Eastern Wood Pewee
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Kingbird
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
American Crow
Tree Swallow
White-breasted Nuthatch
Gray Catbird
Chipping Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Common Grackle
American Redstart
Pine Warbler

Stop #6: Granbrook Park, East Granby 0925-0935

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Bald Eagle
Belted Kingfisher

Gray Catbird
Wood Thrush
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Chipping Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Brown-headed Cowbird
American Redstart
Scarlet Tanager

SURVEY 7

Date: 7/3/2022

Weather: Mostly Clear and sunny 63-65F

Stop #1: Nod Brook Wildlife Management Area, Avon-Simsbury line 0701-0711

Birds include:

Killdeer
Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Great Crested Flycatcher
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
Tree Swallow
White-breasted Nuthatch
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Common Yellowthroat

Stop #2 – Rosedale Farm 0735-0745

Did not include birds along the fields like killdeer family, barn swallows, bluebirds.
Except where corn fields come right down to the River. Cornfields are loaded with red-winged blackbirds that are now staging there

Birds include: (along River Trail)

Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Great Crested Flycatcher
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Gray Catbird
American Robin
Song Sparrow
Baltimore Oriole
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle

Northern Cardinal

SURVEY 8

Date: 7/9/2022

Weather: Clearing and eventually sunny 62-67F

Stop #1: East of Helen's Way, Simsbury 0625-0635

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
American Crow
Gray Catbird
American Robin
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Common Yellowthroat
Yellow Warbler

Stop #2: Old Drake Hill Bridge 0645-0655

Birds include:

Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Chimney Swift
Downy Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested Flycatcher
Warbling Vireo
American Crow
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Common Grackle

Stop #3: Simsbury Crew Boat House 0703-0713

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Warbling Vireo

American Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch
Wood Thrush
American Robin
Cedar Waxwing
American Goldfinch
Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Grackle
Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal

Stop #4: Curtiss Park, Tariffville 0725-0735.

Birds include:

Downy Woodpecker
Blue Jay
White-breasted Nuthatch
Gray Catbird
American Robin
Song Sparrow
Common Grackle
Northern Cardinal

Stop #5: Tariffville Park, Tariffville 0750-0800

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Kingbird
Warbling Vireo
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Gray Catbird
Wood Thrush
American Robin
Cedar Waxwing
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Common Grackle
American Redstart
Northern Cardinal

SURVEY 9

Date: 7/10/2022

Weather: Clear and sunny 58-65F

Stop #1 – Farmington River Park, Bloomfield 0615-0625

Birds include: (along River Trail)

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Eastern Wood Pewee

Gray Catbird

Wood Thrush

American Robin

American Goldfinch

Chipping Sparrow

Stop #2: Rainbow Reservoir #2 (Boat Launch) 0645-0655

Birds include:

Great Blue Heron

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Eastern Phoebe

Red-eyed Vireo

Tufted Titmouse

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Tree Swallow

Gray Catbird

American Robin

American Goldfinch

Song Sparrow

Stop #3: Rainbow Reservoir #1 (120 Hilltop Road, Windsor) 0714-0724

Birds include:

Belted Kingfisher

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Blue Jay

Black-capped Chickadee

Barn Swallow

Gray Catbird

Wood Thrush

Song Sparrow

Common Grackle

Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal

Stop #4: Old River Road, Poquonnock (Windsor) 0750-0800

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Eastern Kingbird
Warbling Vireo
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Eurasian Starling
Song Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Common Yellowthroat
Yellow Warbler

Stop #5: Loomis-Chaffee School, Windsor 0827-0837

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Eastern Phoebe
Warbling Vireo
Blue Jay
Carolina Wren
Eurasian Starling
Gray Catbird
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Common Yellowthroat
Northern Cardinal

SURVEY 10

Date: 7/14/2022

Weather: foggy becoming hazy to clear and calm 65-75 degrees

Salmon Brook Surveys

Stop #1 – Route 179 – culvert below East Hartland Center 0618-063.8

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Barred Owl
Downy Woodpecker
Red-eyed Vireo
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
American Robin
American Goldfinch

Stop #2: Loomis Property (at boundary of Enders State Forest) , E.Hartland 0715-0725

Birds include:

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Blue-headed Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
Black-capped Chickadee
Winter Wren
Veery
Wood Thrush
Chipping Sparrow
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Scarlet Tanager

Stop #3: Holcomb Farm, Granby 0756-0806

Birds include:

Downy Woodpecker
Eastern Wood Pewee
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
American Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse

White-breasted Nuthatch
American Goldfinch
American Redstart
Northern Cardinal

Stop #4: Barn Door Hills Road Bridge, Granby 0814-0824

Birds include:

Eastern Wood Pewee
Red-eyed Vireo
Black-capped Chickadee
Tree Swallow
White-breasted Nuthatch
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Chipping Sparrow
Common Yellowthroat
Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Indigo Bunting

Stop #5: Salmon Brook Park, Granby 0854-0904

Birds include:

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Eastern Wood Pewee
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Carolina Wren
Gray Catbird
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Chipping Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Ovenbird
Black-and-white Warbler
Northern Cardinal

Stop #6: Granbrook Park, East Granby 0925-0935

Birds include:

Redsh-shouldered hawk

Warbling Vireo

Blue Jay

American Crow

Gray Catbird

American Robin

House Finch

American Goldfinch

Chipping Sparrow

Song Sparrow

Louisiana Waterthrush

Northern Cardinal

SURVEY 11

Date: 8/13/22

Weather: Mostly Clear and sunny 55-67F

Notes: This third round of surveys was done at the conclusion of the breeding season for most species. Goldfinches are breeding now, but other species like waterfowl are beginning to congregate in their post-breeding locations. Many songbirds are already beginning their long southward migration and have left the area.

Stop #1 – BVFD #3 Route 179 0658-0708

Birds include:

Wood Duck
Common Merganser
Spotted sandpiper
Bald Eagle
Hairy Woodpecker
Eastern Wood Pewee
Blue Jay
American Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Gray Catbird
American Robin
American Goldfinch

Stop #2: Town of Farmington, Larry Kolp Garden Plots 0727-0737

Migratory corridor in spring and fall – geese and ducks beginning to congregate

Birds include:

Canada Goose
Mallard
Great Egret (post breeding dispersal)
Eastern Phoebe
Eastern Kingbird
Gray Catbird
American Robin
American Goldfinch

Stop #3: Riverside Cemetery, Garden Street, Farmington 0745-0755

Birds include:

Canada Goose
Mourning Dove
Killdeer
Osprey
Eastern Kingbird
Blue Jay
Tufted Titmouse
Eurasian Starling
Gray Catbird
American Robin
American Goldfinch

Stop #4: Fisher Meadows, Avon 0814-0824

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Blue Jay
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Northern Cardinal

Stop #5: Alsop Meadows, Avon 0837-0847

Birds include:

Eastern Phoebe
Eastern Kingbird
Blue Jay
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
American Goldfinch

Stop #6: Nod Brook Wildlife Management Area, Avon-Simsbury line 0903-0913

Birds include:

Mallard
Mourning Dove
Osprey
Belted Kingfisher
American Goldfinch

SURVEY 12

Date: 8/14/2022

Weather: Mostly Clear and sunny 63-73F

Stop #1 – Farmington River Park, Bloomfield 0636-0646

Small Town Park along River. Wooded

Birds include: (along River Trail)

Red-eyed Vireo

Common Raven

Tufted Titmouse

White-breasted Nuthatch

House Wren

Gray Catbird

Veery

Wood Thrush

American Robin

Chipping Sparrow

Ovenbird

Scarlet Tanager

Norther Cardinal

Stop #2: Rainbow Reservoir (120 Hilltop Road, Windsor) 0708-0718

Middle of Rainbow Reservoir from private residence

Birds include:

Mourning Dove

Great Blue Heron

Bald Eagle

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

Eastern Kingbird

Blue Jay

White-breasted Nuthatch

Carolina Wren

American Robin

American Goldfinch

Song Sparrow

Common Grackle

Stop #3: Old River Road, Poquonnock (Windsor) 0750-0800

Small, unnamed park near Route 75.

Birds include:

Common Merganser
Mourning Dove
Great Blue Heron
Eastern Kingbird
Warbling Vireo
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Tree Swallow
Gray Catbird
American Robin
Song Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Yellow Warbler
Northern Cardinal

Stop #4: Loomis-Chaffee School, Windsor 0827-0837

Behind school down path to mouth of Farmington just prior to flowing into the Connecticut River. Unmowed fields adjacent to small woodland strip bordering River

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Warbling Vireo
White-breasted Nuthatch
Gray Catbird
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Chipping Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Baltimore Oriole
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Common Yellowthroat

Stop #5: Rainbow Reservoir #2 (Boat Launch) 0905-0915

Late in morning, not very busy today. Wooded adjacent to reservoir.

Birds include:

Eastern Wood Pewee
Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested Flycatcher
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
Tufted Titmouse
Gray Catbird
American Robin
Common Grackle

SURVEY 13

Date: 8/14/2022

Weather: Clear and sunny F54-64F

Note that most neotropical migrants are no longer being seen or heard. They certainly are no longer singing. An exception to this is eastern wood pewee, heard singing from multiple locations both on and off the River.

Stop #1 – Farmington River Park, Bloomfield 0628-0638

Birds include: (along River Trail)

Canada Goose (flyover)
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Great Crested Flycatcher
Blue Jay
American Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
American Robin
American Goldfinch

Stop #2: Rainbow Reservoir (120 Hilltop Road, Windsor) 0657-0707

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Downy Woodpecker
Blue Jay
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
American Goldfinch

Stop #3: Rainbow Reservoir #2 (Boat Ramp off Merriman Road)

NOTE: Signage posted warning about toxic blue-green algae, toxic to people and wildlife

Birds include:

Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker

Eastern Wood Pewee
Eastern Kingbird
Blue Jay
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Tree Swallow
White-breasted Nuthatch
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird (flyover)
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Baltimore Oriole

Stop #4: Old River Road, Poquonnock (Windsor) 0752-0802

Birds include:

Killdeer
Great Blue Heron
Green Heron
Downy Woodpecker
Blue Jay
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
White-breasted Nuthatch
House Wren
Carolina Wren
Gray Catbird
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Baltimore Oriole
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Northern Cardinal

Stop #5: Loomis-Chaffee School, Windsor 0824-0834

Birds include:

Bald Eagle
Belted Kingfisher
Downy Woodpecker
House Wren
European Starling
Gray Catbird
American Robin
Cedar Waxwing
American Goldfinch

Song Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird

SURVEY 14

Date: 8/15/2022

Weather: Mostly Clear and sunny 55-62F

Stop #1 – Rosedale Farm 0633-0643

Birds include: (along River Trail)

Osprey
Red-tailed Hawk
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Eastern Wood Pewee
Blue Jay
House Wren
Gray Catbird
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Northern Cardinal

Stop #2: Old Drake Hill Bridge 0703-0713

Birds include:

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Great Blue Heron
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Blue Jay
Gray Catbird
House Sparrow
American Goldfinch
Common Grackle
Northern Cardinal

Stop #3: Simsbury Crew Boat House 0719-0729

Birds include:

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Yellow-throated Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
Tufted Titmouse
Carolina Wren

Gray Catbird
Northern Cardinal

Stop #4: East of Helen's Way, Simsbury 0738-0748

Birds include:

Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
White-breasted Nuthatch
Gray Catbird
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Common Yellowthroat
Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Stop #5: Curtiss Park, Tariffville 0807-0817

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Eastern Wood Pewee
Eastern Phoebe
Blue Jay
American Crow
Tufted Titmouse
Barn Swallow
White-breasted Nuthatch
Gray Catbird
American Robin
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow

Stop #6: Tariffville Park, Tariffville 0827-0837

Birds include:

Mourning Dove
Great Blue Heron
Eastern Wood Pewee
Yellow-throated Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Gray Catbird
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Northern Cardinal

APPENDIX B

Probability of Breeding

The following species were observed on the three site visits to each of the 23 areas. It is likely that a majority of these species breed in the area. However, according to the parameters utilized in the recently completed Connecticut Breeding Bird Atlas, birds cannot be confirmed as breeding unless certain observations are made. Birds may be classified as “possible,” “probable,” or “confirmed” breeders. It should be noted additional observations at these and other sites are required to confirm many of the species found below. At some time, their status may be upgraded to probable or confirmed.

1. Canada Goose (confirmed)
2. Wood Duck (confirmed)
3. Mallard (confirmed)
4. Hooded Merganser (confirmed)
5. Common Merganser (confirmed)
6. Wild Turkey (confirmed)
7. Rock Pigeon (confirmed)
8. Mourning Dove (confirmed)
9. Chimney Swift (FO)
10. Ruby-throated Hummingbird (possible)
11. Killdeer (confirmed)
12. Spotted Sandpiper (probable)
13. Double-crested Cormorant (FO)
14. Great Blue Heron (FO)
15. Great Egret (FO)
16. Green Heron (possible)
17. Turkey Vulture (FO)
18. Osprey (confirmed)
19. Cooper’s Hawk (possible)
20. Bald Eagle (confirmed)
21. Red-shouldered Hawk (probable)
22. Red-tailed Hawk (probable)
23. Barred Owl (SB) (probable)
24. Belted Kingfisher (probable)
25. Red-bellied Woodpecker (probable)
26. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (confirmed)
27. Downy Woodpecker (confirmed)
28. Northern Flicker (probable)
29. Pileated Woodpecker (probable)
30. Great Crested Flycatcher (probable)
31. Eastern Kingbird (probable)
32. Eastern Wood-Pewee (probable)
33. Willow Flycatcher (probable)
34. Eastern Phoebe (confirmed)
35. White-eyed Vireo (V)

36. Yellow-throated Vireo (possible)
37. Blue-headed Vireo (SB) (probable)
38. Warbling Vireo (probable)
39. Red-eyed Vireo (probable)
40. Blue Jay (probable)
41. American Crow (confirmed)
42. Tree Swallow (confirmed)
43. Northern Rough-winged Swallow (confirmed)
44. Barn Swallow (probable)
45. Black-capped Chickadee (confirmed)
46. Tufted Titmouse (confirmed)
47. White-breasted Nuthatch (probable)
48. House Wren (probable)
49. Winter Wren (SB) (probable)
50. Carolina Wren (probable)
51. Eastern Bluebird (probable)
52. Veery (probable)
53. Wood Thrush (probable)
54. American Robin (confirmed)
55. Gray Catbird (confirmed)
56. Northern Mockingbird (FO)
57. European Starling (confirmed)
58. Cedar Waxwing (confirmed)
59. House Sparrow (possible)
60. House Finch (probable)
61. American Goldfinch (confirmed)
62. Chipping Sparrow (probable)
63. Song Sparrow (confirmed)
64. Swamp Sparrow (probable)
65. Baltimore Oriole (probable)
66. Red-winged Blackbird (confirmed)
67. Brown-headed Cowbird (probable)
68. Common Grackle (confirmed)
69. Ovenbird (probable)
70. Louisiana Waterthrush (probable)
71. Black-and-white Warbler (SB) (probable)
72. Common Yellowthroat (confirmed)
73. American Redstart (probable)
74. Blackburnian Warbler (SB) (probable)
75. Black-throated Blue Warbler (SB)(probable)
76. Pine Warbler (probable)
77. Black-throated Green Warbler (SB) (probable)
78. Yellow Warbler (probable)
79. Scarlet Tanager (probable)
80. Northern Cardinal (confirmed)
81. Rose-breasted Grosbeak (possible)
82. Indigo Bunting (probable)

Breeding Codes

(taken from the recently completed Connecticut Breeding Bird Atlas Protocols 2018-2021)

POSSIBLE BREEDING

H-Individual(s) of species (male or female) observed in suitable breeding habitat during the breeding season. Be cautious during migration periods when birds may just be passing through or may linger at wintering sites.

S-Singing bird present or breeding calls heard in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat.

PROBABLE BREEDING

M-Multiple singing males observed in suitable breeding habitat. This code is designed to identify species that are sufficiently common that they are likely to be breeding. By North American atlasing convention this code should be used in cases when you have detected at least 7 singing males in suitable breeding habitat within your block. If you find singing birds in the same location at least a week apart, or detect birds counter-singing in response to each other, then code T for territorial behavior would be more appropriate.

P-Pair observed together in suitable nesting habitat during the breeding season. Note that this code should not be used simply because two individuals of a species are seen in the same place. Use it when there is a male and female that are interacting with one another. Also be aware that some migratory species will pair before reaching the breeding grounds (e.g., many waterfowl).

T-Permanent breeding territory presumed due to territorial song, the occurrence of an adult bird, or defensive territorial behaviors (e.g., chasing individuals of the same species), at the same location in breeding habitat and season, on at least two occasions seven days or more apart. A male American Robin chasing another falls under this code, as would two males counter-singing against each. Some species, especially raptors and hummingbirds, exhibit territorial behavior in defense of feeding areas, favorite perches, etc. even while wintering or migrating, so be careful to limit use of this code to cases where defense is likely linked to nesting.

C-Courtship or display behaviors, indicating interaction between a male and a female, including courtship feeding or copulation.

N-Visiting probable nest site, but no further evidence obtained. This code is especially useful for cavity-nesters, for which it may be difficult to discern whether visits to a cavity confirm occupancy.

A-Agitated behavior or anxiety calls of an adult, indicating a nest site or recently-fledged young in the vicinity. A pair of birds circling just above your head or a Northern Goshawk distress call falls into this category. Do not include this code if agitated behavior was induced by "pishing" or using taped calls (note that use of tapes is generally discouraged to reduce the risk of disturbance).

B-Nest building by wrens or excavation of holes by woodpeckers and wrens. Woodpeckers and other cavity excavators usually make only one nest hole, but will make other holes for roosting. Wrens, including unmated males, will make nests that are intended to attract mates and which may not be used for breeding. Consequently, nest building by these species does not confirm breeding (see also NB, below).

CONFIRMED BREEDING

PE-Physiological evidence in the form of a brood patch on an adult female or a cloacal protuberance on an adult male. These features are usually detectable only when the bird is in the hand, and will be used primarily by banders. Care should be taken not to use this code for birds that may be nesting in a different block (e.g., if a banding station is close to a block boundary, or if the bird is a species that could travel a long distance from its nest).

CN-Adults seen carrying nesting material (e.g. sticks, grass, mud, cobwebs). This code can be used with all species except wrens, which build dummy nests that are not used for nesting.

NB-Nest building at the nest site. Do not use for wrens or woodpeckers (see B, above).

DD-Distraction display, defense of unknown nest or young, or injury feigning. Used if adult bird is seen trying to lead people away from a nest or young. Commonly seen in most ground nesters (e.g. Killdeer, Ovenbird). Also use this code for active defense such as a Cooper's Hawk diving at you. Do not use this code for agitated behavior (see A, above).

UN-Used nests or eggshells found within atlas years. Unless carefully identified, use this code only for unmistakable egg shells and nests that were used during the atlas period. If you are unsure about the identity of an unoccupied nest, or about whether it was used recently, don't use this code. Do not use this code for species that build multiple nests in a breeding season, such as Marsh Wren. Do not collect nests, because some species roost in them year-round and because it is illegal to collect nests or eggs without a permit.

FL-Recently-fledged young of nidicolous species (those that stay in the nest for a while after hatch) or downy young of nidifugous species (those that leave almost immediately after hatching, e.g., ducks and shorebirds) including those incapable of sustained flight.

Take care with use of this code for older fledglings or those seen close to a block boundary; the code should not be used unless you have reasonable confidence that the fledgling was hatched within the block. A duck brood on an isolated pond would merit this code, but older ducklings on a river may not. Note too that barely fledged blackbirds and swallows can fly considerable distances. The presence of young cowbirds confirms both the cowbird and the host.

ON-Adults entering, occupying (e.g. sitting on nest), or leaving a nest site in circumstances indicating an occupied nest.

CF-Adult carrying food for the young. Be cautious when using this code. Birds flying more than a few meters or hopping around with beaks full of food are usually taking it to a nest, but avoid using the code for birds with food for their own consumption. Do not use the code for raptors (hawks, eagles, osprey, falcons), corvids (jays, ravens, crows), or kingfishers, which often carry food some distance before eating it themselves. Generally, avoid using it for species like terns, which may carry food from distances far from the nest and might be seen in a block in which they are not nesting.

FY-Adult feeding young (out of the nest). Young cowbirds begging for food confirm both the cowbird and the host.

FS-Adult carrying fecal sac. Many passerines keep their nests clean by carrying fecal sacs produced by their nestlings away from the nest. Fecal sacs generally appear as a gleaming white blob in the bird's bill.

NE-Nest containing egg(s). Unless you see an attending adult, the same warnings under the UN code apply here. Cowbird eggs confirm both the cowbird and the host. If you find an active nest, be careful not to linger nearby or to make repeated visits, or you may risk disturbing the birds.

NY-Nest with young seen or heard. Use only when you actually see or hear the young. A cowbird chick in a nest confirms both the cowbird and the host. If you find an active nest, be careful not to linger nearby or to make repeated visits, or you may risk disturbing the birds.

