New Hampshire: Warblers & Bicknell's Thrush | Species List June 6 – 11, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



With Steve Shunk & Michael Good and participants: Mary Emma, Lee, Marria, Shelli, Margo, and Michael

Compiled by Steve Shunk

HO = Heard only, definitively, by guide and others

GO = Seen or heard and IDed by guide only

(#) = Number of days tallied for the 6-day tour

Summary:

Bicknell's Thrushes galore; 15 breeding warbler species; copulating Black-billed Cuckoos; displaying Bobolink; nesting Piping Plovers; beaver at close range; pink lady's slipper orchids; stunning White Mountain panoramas; and a Peregrine Falcon taking a Rock Pigeon in mid-air at eye level! Our second annual trip to New Hampshire and southern Maine left our whole group with a passel of fantastic memories. We went to seen Bicknell's Thrush on the iconic Mt. Washington, along with a host of northeastern warblers, and we finished with so much more. The list below will take you through our wildlife encounters. And hopefully it will inspire you to join us next year!

Locations Visited:

- Day 1—Portland, ME, waterfront.
- Day 2—Wells Reserve at Laudholm Farm; Clambake Restaurant at Scarborough Marsh; Martin's Point at RE/MAX; Gilsland Farm Audubon Center.
- Day 3—Pelreco Bldg at Scarborough Marsh; Pine Point; Higgins Beach; Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary/Saco River.
- Day 4—Mt. Washington Auto Road (MWAR); Great Glen Trails (GGT); Pinkham Notch.
- Day 5—GGT; Dolly Copp Rd.; Moose Brook State Park; Lost Pond Trail; Barnes Field Campground.
- Day 6—GGT; MWAR Radiator Springs to Summit.

A few notes on key birding sites. Highlighted site names link to single eBird lists for those sites; note that we visited some of the sites multiple times and so there were multiple eBird lists.

The <u>Mt. Washington Auto Road</u> was a primary objective of the tour, giving us excellent looks multiple times—at Bicknell's Thrush, as well as other boreal forest specialties like Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Boreal Chickadee, Blackpoll Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow. Our first venture up the road was pretty stormy; though we found the thrush, the weather beat us off the mountain, requiring a second visit. That second day was glorious, and this is when we found most of the target birds and spent time at the summit.

<u>The Great Glen Trails</u> are a network of paths leading from the Glen House Hotel. One could spend days exploring these trails, and many of our bird species on the trip were only seen here. The

warblers were the big highlight and included multiple Chestnut-sideds, parulas, redstarts, Ovenbirds, and Black-throated Blues. This was also our best spot for Pileated Woodpecker, Philadelphia Vireo, and Alder Flycatcher.

<u>Wells Reserve at Laudholm Farm</u> was added to the tour route after scouting it last year, and it was a major bonus. Habitats here range from grassland to mixed woodlands and a productive tidal estuary at the mouth of the Little River. The morning here included Bobolinks displaying in open meadows, our only Eastern Towhees of the trip, and nesting Piping Plovers and Least Terns.

Another bonus from the opening days of the trip was <u>Scarborough Marsh</u>. This expansive protected wetland is well-known for its nesting population of Saltmarsh Sparrows; we saw ours while having lunch at the Clambake Restaurant! The marsh also produced our only American Black Ducks of the trip, and the mouth of the estuary hosted a nice mixed flock of Common and Roseate Terns.

Finally, the tiny <u>Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary</u> was our introduction to New Hampshire. This protected deciduous woodland follows the Saco River and hosts an abundance of nesting birds, including a busy colony of Bank Swallows. We also found both Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos—the first of which we saw carrying nesting material and the second copulating! We had our best looks at Indigo Bunting here, plus several Veerys and Chestnut-sided Warblers.

Let's get to the list!

BIRDS (115 species recorded, including 6 HO and 2 GO):

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae

- **Canada Goose** *Branta Canadensis*—(3) After seeing a few at Laudholm Farm early in the trip, we saw a flock of varying size regularly in the meadows of the Great Glen Trails.
- Mallard Anas platyrhynchos—(3) We sorted through some possible Mallard x Black Duck hybrids at Scarborough Marsh, seeing at least one 'real' Mallard, then we had six fly over at Pinkham Notch in the mountains.

American Black Duck Anas rubripes—(1) Two seen well at the Pelreco Building on Scarborough Marsh.

- **Common Eider** Somateria mollissima—(3) We saw some good-sized flocks of eiders, twice in the 30s, mostly mothers with broods of the season, but we had to work hard for good looks at adult males with a few seen off Martin's Point and at least one at Higgins Beach.
- **Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser*—(2) Speedy flyovers seen twice over the Peabody River from the Great Glen Trails.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo*—(2) We had a few at Laudholm Farm and a few at Gilsland Farm, then one seen near the bottom of the MWAR.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*—(3) Seen in urban Portland, including 15 at Pine Point. **Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura*—(2) A few seen at Laudholm Farm and two at Gilsland Farm.

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae

- Yellow-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus americanus—(1) Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary came through for the cuckoos; on our way out we saw a Yellow-billed carrying nesting material.
- Black-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus erythropthalmus—(1) We followed one bird around for a bit at Dahl and then a second bird appeared and we watched them *very briefly* copulate!

SWIFTS: Apodidae

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica*—(4) Seen and heard overhead, mostly in the mountains and occasionally right in front of the hotel.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae

Ruby-throated Hummingbird Archilochus colubris—(4) No great looks, and mostly fleeting glimpses; seen perched by GO at Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary, then two on Dolly Copp Rd.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae

- **Semipalmated Plover** *Caradrius semipalmatus*—(2) Seen twice, with two birds at the mouth of the Little River and another at the Scarborough Marsh Pelreco Building.
- **Piping Plover** *Charadrius melodus*—(1) We had a great time watching three nesting pairs at the mouth of the Little River, including two of them doing a nest exchange.

Killdeer Charadrius vociferous—(1) One seen/heard by one client at Pine Point Beach.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*—(1) Two seen well at the Scarborough Marsh Pelreco Building. **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*—(1) Two birds on the beach near the Little River mouth.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*—(1) One bird seen perched on a piling in the Little River and another flyby at the beach there.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*—(1) We ran into a late migrating flock of 42 birds feeding in the tidal pools at the mouth of the Little River.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*—(2) One at the Little River mouth and six at Higgins Beach.

- Herring Gull Larus argentatus—(3) Four at the Little River mouth, three from the Clambake Restaurant, and another at Pine Point.
- **Great Black-backed Gull** Larus marinus—(3) Four at the Little River mouth, then again at Pine Point and Higgins Beach.
- **Least Tern** *Sternula antillarum*—(2) While watching Piping Plovers and Bonaparte's Gulls, we couldn't avoid being distracted by the cloud of 100+ courting terns at the Little River mouth; also six at Higgins Beach.
- **Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*—(1) On a rainy morning we watched a mixed flock of terns feeding near the mouth of the Nonesuch River; at least eight Roseates seemed to generally stick together.
- **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*—(1) Along with the Roseates, we had 20+ Common Terns feeding near the mouth of the Nonesuch River.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*—(3) We saw small numbers near the seashore, with two at the Little River mouth and five at Pine Point.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae

Great Blue Heron Ardea Herodias—(1) One was in the ponds near Pinkham Notch, in the mountains.

- **Great Egret** Ardea alba—(2) We saw three upstream on the Little River, three from the Clambake Restaurant, and one more at Higgins Beach.
- **Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*—(1) Seen by one client on Scarborough Marsh.

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae

Glossy Ibis Plegadis falcinellus—(2) Individuals seen in two locations on Scarborough Marsh.

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—(3) Vultures were sparse, with a couple seen flying near the coast and one in the mountains.

OSPREY: Pandionidae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*—(1) On our very first evening, from the Portland waterfront, we saw an Osprey flying over the bay.

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae

Sharp-shinned Hawk Accipiter striatus—(2) We saw two Sharpies early in the trip, including one at Laudhold Farm.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*—(1) One bird seen at Laudholm Farm.

Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus*—(1) We found one bird at Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*—(2) We had flyover kingfishers along the Peabody river at Dolly Copp Rd. and from the Great Glen Trails.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae

- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Sphyrapicus varius—(2) We had fleeting glimpses of two birds on Dolly Copp Rd., then good looks at a pair at Moose Brook State Park.
- **Red-bellied Woodpecker** *Melanerpes carolinus*—(1) One bird Heard by GO from the fringes of Scarborough Marsh.
- **Downy Woodpecker** *Dryobates pubescens*—(1) One bird seen at Gilsland Farm.
- Hairy Woodpecker Dryobates villosus—(2) HO once and then seen well from the Great Glen Trails.
 Northern Flicker Colaptes auratus—(2) One seen at Gilsland Farm and another by client-only in the mountains.
 Pileated Woodpecker Dryocopus pileatus—(3) We enjoyed a couple encounters with a pair of birds on the Great Glen Trails, and then another on Dolly Copp Rd.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*—(1) First evening of the trip. We walk out onto the waterfront, casually waiting for our dinner reservation, watching Rock Pigeons on the pier, when suddenly a Peregrine swoops down in front of us at light speed and snatches a pigeon from mid-air, carrying it off to a nearby rooftop. Great experience!

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae

- **Eastern Wood-Pewee** *Contopus virens*—(2) One singing and another seen at Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary, then another heard singing from the Great Glen Trails.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Empidonax flaviventris—(1) On our last day in the mountains, we enjoyed blue skies for our final drive up Mt. Washington. We got out of the van at the Appalachian Trail crossing and I heard the flycatcher; after a short walk down the trail, we finally found an opening in the forest where we could watch him singing from the treetops. Fun highlight.
- Alder Flycatcher Empidonax alnorum—(4) We had distant scope views of one Alder Flycatcher at Laudholm Farm, and then had one singing regularly on our walks on the Great Glen Trails.
- Least Flycatcher Empidonax minimus—(1) One bird found singing from a thicket along the creek at Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary.

Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe*—(3) We had a phoebe at Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary and another along the Great Glen Trails, but our best encounter was with a pair at close range at Moose Brook State Park.

Great Crested Flycatcher Myiarchus crinitus—(1) One bird was HO at Laudholm Farm.

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*—(2) Seen twice by one client on the Great Glen Trails.

VIREOS: Vireonidae

Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitarius*—(2) We had a couple at Moose Brook State Park and another on the MWAR.
 Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus*—(2) We worked hard for good looks at this bird, and then we refound it singing in the same territory on another day.

Warbling Vireo Vireo gilvus—(1) One bird was seen at Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*—(4) One of our most widespread songbirds, from the coast to the mountains, with two or three birds seen in several locations.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae

- **Blue Jay** *Cyanocitta cristata*—(3) Single birds found at Laudholm and Gilsland Farms, and then again on the Great Glen Trails.
- American Crow Corvus brachyrhynchos—(6) Widespread and common, from the Portland Waterfront to Pinkham Notch.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae

- Black-capped Chickadee Poecile atricapillus—(3) Pairs and small flocks seen in several locations, from the lowlands to the mountains.
- **Boreal Chickadee** *Poecile hudsonicus*—(1) We were very happy to find this target species on our last day on the MWAR. Good looks had by all.

Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor*—(2) HO in two locations in the coastal region.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae

- **Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*—(5) Our most widespread swallow, seen from Scarborough Marsh to the Great Glen Trails.
- **Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia*—(1) Fun encounter with a colony nesting in the bank of the Saco River at Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*—(4) Only seen occasionally, with a couple at Gilsland Farm and Scarborough Marsh, and then GO on the MWAR.

KINGLETS: Regulidae

Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa*—(2) At least three seen along Dolly Copp Rd., and then HO on the MWAR.

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta Canadensis*—(3) Mostly HO, including Great Glen Trails, Moose Brook, MWAR, then two on Dolly Copp Rd. and seen at Barnes Field Campgroud.

White-breasted Nuthatch Sitta carolinensis—(1) One bird seen at Gilsland Farm.

TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae

Brown Creeper Certhia Americana—(1) One bird seen on the Lost Pond Trail.

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Polioptila caerulea—(1) One seen at Laudholm Farm.

WRENS: Troglodytidae

- House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*—(2) Only seen early in the trip, including singles at Laudholm and Gilsland Farms and two at Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Winter Wren *Troglodytes hiemalis*—(2) Seen at Dolly Copp Rd. and Moose Brook State Park, and then that lovely song HO on the MWAR.

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturndae

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*—(3) Seen at the Portland Waterfront and Laudholm Farm, and then again from the Clambake Restaurant.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*—(3) One seen at Laudholm Farm and two at Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary, then one seen by a client on day four.

Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum*—(1) Only a fleeting glimpse at Laudholm Farm.

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*—(2) Singles seen at Laudholm Farm and Scarborough Marsh.

THRUSHES: Turdidae

- Eastern Bluebird Sialia sialis—(3) One seen at Laudholm Farm, four at Gilsland Farm, and then one at the bottom of the MWAR.
- **Veery** *Catharus fuscescens*—(1) Kind of a crazy experience with at least five birds—some of them singing—at Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **Bicknell's Thrush** *Catharus bicknelli*—(2) Our number one target bird of the trip gave us multiple encounters, mostly around the Signal Corps curve on the MWAR. On our first trip up the mountain, it was misting and windy when we arrived at the parking area, but we heard a couple of birds singing, and finally, as the mist turned to rain, we saw one in the stunted spruce stand next to the road; for a brief moment it flew to a rock and perched for us in the open. On our second mountain drive, the weather was beautiful. After exploring and lunch at the summit, we took our time on the way down looking for Boreal Chickadee. At a pretty little alcove near Radiator Spring, we found a few chickadees, as well as Blackpoll Warbler and White-throated Sparrow, and we heard multiple Bicknell's singing in the trees around us. Finally, one perched in a tall tree in the open and allowed excellent views for all.
- Swainson's Thrush Catharus ustulatus—(4) I guess we were satisfied with its ethereal song, because we heard Swainson's Thrushes on four different days in multiple locations but didn't take the time to call one in; HO multiple times on the Great Glen Trails and once at Moose Brook.

Hermit Thrush Catharus guttatus—(1) One client saw this third Catharus species on the MWAR.

American Robin Turdus migratorius—(5) Robins were widespread and fairy common, including two at Laudholm Farm and three at Moose Brook State Park, as well as being regular fixtures on the Great Glen Trails.

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*—(3) Waxwings were guide- and client-only, tallied as HO at Laudholm Farm, Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary, and on the Great Glen Trails.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae

House Sparrow Passer domesticus—(3) Only found in the coastal lowlands, with a couple each at Laudholm and Gilsland Farms, and another from the Clambake Restaurant.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae

- House Finch Haemorhous mexicanus—(2) Only seen along the coast, with three at Laudholm Farm and four at Scarborough Marsh.
- **Purple Finch** *Haemorhous purpureus*—(2) First seen briefly at Pinkham Notch and then with good looks, including a bright male at Moose Brook State Park.
- American Goldfinch Spinus tristis—(3) Seen well at Laudholm and Gilsland Farms, then three at Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary and flyovers at the Great Glen Trails.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae

- **Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerine*—(4) First at Laudholm Farm, then regularly on the Great Glen Trails and four at Moose Brook State Park.
- Dark-eyed Junco Junco hyemalis-(2) 'Slate-colored' Juncos were seen well on both trips up the MWAR.
- White-throated Sparrow Zonotrichia albicollis—(3) This boreal specialty sang it's lovely song regularly along the Great Glen Trails; we heard it again on Dolly Copp Rd. and then saw two on our second trip up the MWAR.
- Saltmarsh Sparrow Ammospiza caudacuta—(1) Excellent looks at close range from our lunch booths at the Clambake Restaurant!
- **Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia*—(5) By far the most widespread sparrow, with multiple birds seen at Laudholm and Gilsland Farms, Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary, and Great Glen Trails.
- Swamp Sparrow Melospiza georgiana—(3) Seen and heard regularly from the small marsh on the Great Glen Trails.

Eastern Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*—(1) Only seen on our first full day, with three at Laudholm.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*—(1) We had fun watching male Bobolinks display at Laudholm Farm. **Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus Galbula*—(1) Heard by GO at Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary.

Red-winged Blackbird Agelaius phoeniceus—(3) A few here and there, with three at the Clambake Restaurant, two at Gilsland Farm, and a couple on the Great Glen Trails.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*—(1) Somewhat surprisingly, only seen at Gilsland Farm.

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula*—(2) A few near the coast and two at Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae

A note about warblers—Delightfully, warblers were singing nearly everywhere we went, especially at our mountain sites. Once we all had good looks at each species and felt comfortable with their songs, we often chose to leave them as HO upon further encounters later in the trip.

- **Ovenbird** Seiurus aurocapilla—(3) Common in the mountains, seen and heard regularly on the Great Glen Trails, with six along Dolly Copp Rd. and several scattered elsewhere.
- **Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*—(3) Singles seen and heard from the coast to the mountains, with our first at Laudholm Farm, and then others at Great Glen Trails, Dolly Copp, and Moose Brook State Park.
- **Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*—(5) Widespread, from Laudholm Farm to Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary and the Great Glen Trails.
- American Redstart Setophaga ruticilla—(4) Fairly common, with three at Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary, two at Moose Brook State Park, and multiple birds on the Great Glen Trails.
- **Cape May Warbler** Setophaga tegrina—(1) One of our only two HO warblers, the Cape May was heard by all on the Great Glen Trails had been reported earlier by others on the very same location.

Northern Parula Setophaga Americana—(3) Multiple encounters on the Great Glen Trails.

Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia*—(2) Also HO twice on the Great Glen Trails.

- **Blackburnian Warbler** *Setophaga fusca*—(2) Though only found on two days, we all enjoyed excellent looks on the Great Glen Trails, Dolly Copp Rd., and Moose Brook State Park.
- Yellow Warbler Setophaga petechial—(2) Only found at lower elevations, with individuals at Laudholm Farm, Scarborough Marsh, and Dahl Sanctuary.
- **Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Setophaga pensylvanica*—(5) 2 Laudholm Farm, 4 Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary, 2-3 Great Glen Trails x3,
- Blackpoll Warbler Setophaga striata—(2) HO MWAR x2,

Black-throated Blue Warbler Setophaga caerulescens—(1) 2 Great Glen Trails,

Pine Warbler Setophaga pinus—(2) Laudholm Farm, Moose Brook State Park,

Yellow-rumped Warbler Setophaga coronate—(3) GO Great Glen Trails x2, Dolly Copp Rd., MWAR,

Black-throated Green Warbler Setophaga virens—(3) Great Glen Trails x3, Dolly Copp Rd., Pinkham Notch,

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae

Northern Cardinal Cardinalis cardinalis—(1) Only found at Laudholm and Gilsland Farms.

Indigo Bunting Passerina cyanea—(4) We had or first looks at Dahl Sanctuary, and then they were a daily fixture on the Great Glen Trails.

MAMMALS

Eastern Chipmunk *Tamias striatus*—(3)

Woodchuck Marmota monax—(1)

Eastern Gray Squirrel Sciurus carolinensis—(1)

Eastern Red Squirrel Tamiasciurus hudsonicus—(2)

Red Fox Vulpes vulpes—(2)

- North American Beaver Castor Canadensis—(1) We had an amazing encounter with a beaver. On our return hike from Lost Pond, one of us stopped suddenly and alerted the group to a fat beaver feeding in a small brook. We watched it for some time, and then it swam right under the footbridge a couple times before loudly slapping his tail and splashing us on the bridge!
- Northern Flying Squirrel Glaucomys sabrinus—(1) We also enjoyed an unexpected experience with a flying squirrel, when one individual bopped around the rocks right next to the Mt. Washington Visitor Center and then proceeded to feed right in front of us on some food scrap in the path. One staff member informed us that the squirrels had become a nuisance, getting into the buildings and wreaking various sorts of havoc.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Spring Peeper Pseudacris crucifer Northern Gray Treefrog Hyla versicolor Green Frog Rana clamitans

ARTHROPODS & GASTROPOD

Viceroy Limenitis archippus Spring Azure Celastrina Iadon Monarch Danaus plexippus Common Ringlet Coenonympha tullia Canadian Tiger Swallowtail Papilio canadensis Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Papilio glaucus Spongy Moth Lymantria dispar—(caterpillar) Chalk-fronted Corporal Ladona julia Common Whitetail Plathemis Lydia American Rubyspot Hetaerina Americana Six-spotted Green Tiger Beetle Cicindela sexguttata Goldenrod Crab Spider Misumena vatia Western Dusky Slug Arion sp. (probably A. subfuscus, but maybe Hedgehog Slug, A. intermedius)