

YARD BIRDS

O.K. I've been dying to tell someone. I'm a beginning birder (this is about my third season of seriously trying to learn songs) and these are the feathered things that have visited our feeder, yard, and edges this spring:

Feeder:

House Finch	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Black-capped Chickadee	American Goldfinch
Tufted Titmouse	Downy or Hairy Woodpecker (not sure)
Nuthatch	

Yard:

Eastern Phoebe	Song Sparrow
Tree Swallow (using nest box)	White-throated Sparrow
Eastern Bluebird (being chased away from nest box by swallows)	Northern Cardinal
Yellow Warbler	Baltimore Oriole

Trees and field edges (our yard merges into a 3-acre field surrounded by woods):

Great Horned Owl	Black-throated Green Warbler (song)
Red-tailed Hawk	American Crow
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Ruffed Grouse (heard, and found dead beside the road near our house, wah!)
Blue Jay	Wild Turkey
Wood Thrush (song)	
Black-and-White Warbler	

That's all I can remember for now. It's been a fabulous spring!

Sally Shaw

Gill, MA 

Lois Cooper of Groveland has been feeding birds in her back yard since she moved into her new house in 1979. Lois is a serious birder and designed her home so that it literally opened up into the spacious back yard. About fifty foot square, the yard is mostly grass with a few low juniper bushes. There is a small deciduous tree in the center and a few other trees at the periphery. A low wooden fence edges the west side of the yard. Lois feeds every winter with a variety of feeders. In the summer she maintains two bird baths. Her yard is in close proximity to a state wildlife management area, and she still has forest that borders the back of her yard.

Lois Cooper's life yard list now stands exactly at 100. She counts flyovers, and she has had an impressive list of flyovers including Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon and, every late August, Common Nighthawks. The number 100 is probably unremarkable,

but the quality of the birds is first rate. Picking a top ten is difficult. To start at the top, the most exciting bird to visit her yard is uncontested. On the afternoon of November 8, 1993, Lois looked out in her yard to discover a Brambling pecking at her bird feed. (See *Bird Observer*, April 1994, Vol.22 No.2, p. 94). She has also had: Clay-colored Sparrow, Dickcissel, Cape May Warbler, Ovenbird, Wild Turkey, Northern Goshawk, Indigo Bunting, Canada Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Barred Owl, and Orchard Oriole.

Doug Chickering

Newbury, MA 

My property (about an acre) is sandwiched between Route 20 and the Massachusetts Turnpike. This is rather deceiving, however, since most of the area in which I live is wooded. My feeders are located at the back of my house about ten feet from the building. I have about a quarter acre of open space (grass) which is surrounded by trees. There is also a stream that runs at the boundary of grass and woods at the back of the property. The distance from the stream to the turnpike is about 200 yards and is all woods. The woods continue and are extensive on the other side of the Pike. The nearest buildings on either side of me are about 100 yards away. The woods are mostly deciduous but there are also quite a few pine and spruce trees.

This spring birds visiting my yard included: Northern Cardinal, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Gray Catbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Crow, Red-winged Blackbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, House Finch, Purple Finch, Dark-eyed Junco, Mourning Dove, Chipping Sparrow, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Baltimore Oriole, and American Goldfinch.

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