
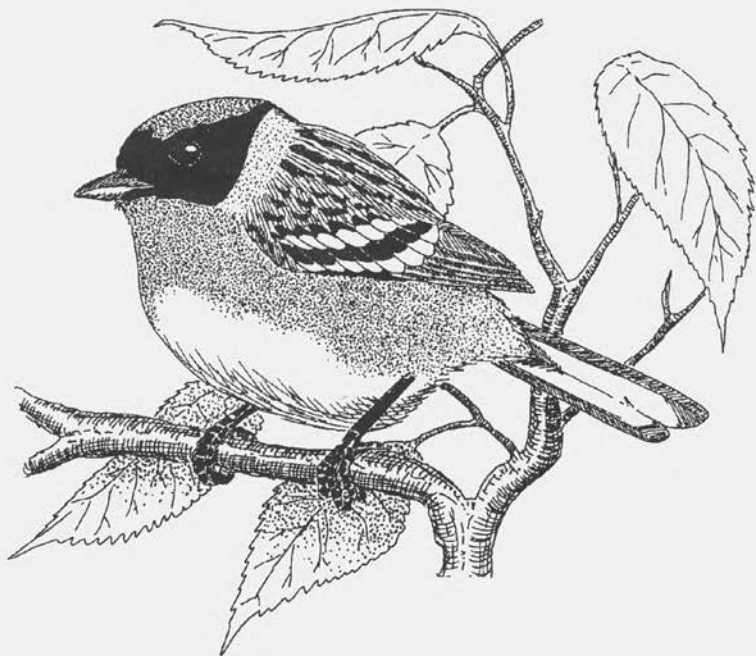


From the Editor

Remember May? Writing in the "Sightings" for this issue Bob Stymeist recalls the surprise storm that overtook Mass Audubon Birdathon birders on May 18. Over an inch of rain fell on Boston that day, "while in Worcester, a record low of 34 degrees, set in 1931, was broken when the thermometer leveled out at 33 degrees at noontime. It was also Worcester's latest snowfall on record. . . . In the higher elevations of northern Worcester County and in the Berkshires over two inches of snow was recorded. Birders were turned away from Mount Greylock where up to ten inches of snow closed the road."

Not all birders. Pushing on undaunted, spurred by the thought that it couldn't get any worse, Mark and Sheila Lynch were already on Mount Greylock that day as conditions deteriorated. In "A Tiny Bit of Olive and Grey Against a Field of White," Mark perfectly captures the mood of birding during this meteorological upheaval: "Every year while out birding, if you are very lucky, you will have a few experiences that will cause you to stop in your tracks and simply stare in amazement at the lives that birds lead. At these moments, you get a deep understanding, almost an empathetic epiphany, if you will, of how rigorous and dangerous birds' lives really are and how close they live to that fine edge between life and death."

Also, in this issue, two field notes that raise the bar on sitting still to a new level – Marj Rines' expanded account of "The Puddle," which first appeared last May as a Massbird post, and Henry Wiggin's diary of "Birdbath Birding." Enjoy. 



BAY-BREASTED WARBLER. GEORGE C. WEST